

Beckham

Bulletin

VILLAGES EAST & WEST

ISSUE 12, AUTUMN 2019

Solar Community Fund update & news

www.eastandwestbeckham.org



The last Bulletin was in Spring 2019 and in this edition we are catching up with a few things we have completed. Hip Hip Hooray!

We also have news of the allotments (East and West), the summer Horticultural Show, design of the village sign for West Beckham, forthcoming events for your diary, the results of a local Bat survey (timely for halloween!), a new exercise class, hedge trimming request, & news of Lefty's Lane in East Beckham.

And.... lookout for a questionnaire coming in November from the Bodham Parish Council asking for opinions and data on a potential community village shop.

Are YOU related?

Our Beckham website was contacted by Carol English (all the way from the USA) who is keen to seek out her Norfolk ancestors! Below Carol writes about the family. She is visiting in June 2020 and would love to meet up. If you would like to see the family research so far, Carol emailed a large document for anyone who is interested. Get in touch with kathryn.lord@me.com if you would like an email copy.



In 1856, George Bird, who was born in West Beckham in 1814, emigrated to America and settled in the Nebraska Territory. Aboard the Caravan as they sailed from Liverpool to America, George connected with Elizabeth Thirtle of East Ruston, and they were married in Iowa, enroute to their destination, Florence, a village now incorporated within Omaha, Nebraska. They travelled with a group of Mormon converts, but unlike most who went on to Utah, they stayed in Nebraska and made it their home, eventually disassociating themselves from that group.

SHIP: THE CARAVAN



George left behind his entire family – parents Thomas & Elizabeth Miller Bird as well siblings Keeler, Henry, Sarah and James. Of those, Keeler and his family moved to Durham in the 1850s, Sarah married Benjamin Dale of Baconsthorpe, prospering there. We know nothing of Henry beyond his birth, but James stayed in West Beckham, marrying Hannah Ransome. James and Hannah are buried in West Beckham cemetery. Of James and Hannah's life we know little, but we do know of two daughters: Mary Ann, who married James Risborough and Sarah who married Stephen Woodhouse. Both families lived in Overstrand where they worked as agricultural laborers, gardeners and in service. A son of James and Hannah, James William, emigrated to Australia, a fact that is noted in the margins of the West Beckham church register.

A small group of "cousins", descendants of George Bird, will be touring the villages connected with his life in early June 2020. We are hoping to have a short time in each village to meet with local history-buffs and genealogists and perhaps discover new connections. We will be bringing with us information about George's life in America and hope to share that story, too. If any from your village or environs would like to be a part of this get-together, please let me know: Carol English – ckkenglish@aol.com

A NEW VILLAGE SIGN FOR 2020

PHOTOS: The current West Beckham Village sign was unveiled on Wednesday, 18th December, 1984. It was the idea of the members of the Bodham & District WI and in 1980 a donation using the profits from a savings fund began a series of fund raisers to pay for the new sign. The sign was 'visualised' by a sub-

committee after a great deal of research into the history of the village; asking villagers, digging into the County Archives, and even the Ministry of Defence records. Mr Paul Hilliard was commissioned to realise the design and carve in wood - both sides with a different design. One side showing the medieval times with peasants reaping the harvest with sickles and the old Church in the background. The second side reflected modern agricultural changes, grain silos, the current flint Church (created from ruins of East and West Beckham churches) and 2 of the radio towers from RAF West Beckham, a Chain Home radar station in World War 2.

DRAWINGS: These are the newer designs which have been commissioned by the Solar Community Fund Committee and Beckham Parish Council. The old wooden sign is unfortunately rotting away so a new cast metal sign will be created. As much work was originally researched for the signs only very small updates have been made - to make it easier to cast and hopefully to correct the accuracy of the original idea. In addition, on the 'modern' side we have changed the WI symbol shield to reflect the solar fund sponsorship and added some lovely West Beckham daffodils!

For all of you who would like to find out more about the signs, the shields and discs are explained in more detail on the village website.





Since the last Bulletin in Spring, the old pump at the Church has been installed (May 1st 2019) after thorough refurbishment by Tim Driver and Nigel Roe. Here are a few photos showing the installation; priming the pump with water so a vacuum is created and the water pumps into the 'ceremonial pail'.



Finally, in mid August, East Beckham Allotment track and Car Park had a long awaited treatment to improve the surface and access.



The water harvesting station at the East allotment that started it's build in Spring was also completed and helped get allotments though the very dry summer of 2019. This will be extended to catch even more water during 2020.



Hedge-cutting Season - a message from East and West Beckham Parish Council

Could all residents with hedges on the road-side please ensure that the vegetation is well clear of the road? It is now the landowner's responsibility to ensure that hedges are trimmed and sight lines from drives crossing verges are clear.
Thank you for helping to contribute to road safety in the village.



Horticultural Show Village Hall Saturday 27 July 2019



What a massive turn out of produce at the 2019 Horticultural Show, but there is always room for more of you to enter! There were 225 entries this year (in 2018 it was 209). Such a variety of classes and entries - something for everyone to take part in, whatever age you are!



Winners from the Beckham's included Emilia Batt for her lovely watercolour painting (above) - Best in Children's Section and winner of the Helen Bruford Trophy. Julia Dovey for her excellent baking - Victoria Sponge, 6 Fairy Cakes, and Oat Crunch Biscuits - (I can vouch for those. Delicious! ED). Sally Clarke who won the H. H. Wright Plate for Best entry of Potatoes, amongst many other firsts - e.g. seriously good looking carrots! (My carrots with 2nd ticket are pictured behind



Sally's!) I also have a top tip for a winning 1st in a class; which I did with my winning entry of a Spaghetti Squash - yes I did! Tip: be the only entry in a class!! ED

The show raised £884.01 (2018: £737.50) for the **Over 70's Christmas Lunch**. This will take place on Saturday 14th December. If you have reached this magical age, and live in Beckham or Bodham you are invited to join this social event at the Village Hall. If you have not attended before and want to find out more about it, please ring Jackie on 01263 588743 or email peter.bedell@btopenworld.com

Winners of Silverware

Billy Cooper Memorial Cup
Harry Bruford Trophy
Tracy Toyn Trophy
J McNeil Wilson Shield
Betty Earnshaw Memorial Cup
Helen Bruford Cup
Madeline Prince Memorial Shield
Daphne Wright Memorial Shield
G Wright Rose Bowl
Granville Wright Memorial Shield
Simon Burton-Pye Trophy
Red Hart Shield
H H Wright Plate
The Bodham Shield
Elsie Wesson Cup
Bill Cubitt Memorial Shield
Ted Prince Tankard
Mik Godfrey Cup

- Best Entry in Show
- Best in Section 1 (Flowers)
- Best in Section 2 (Fruit and Vegetables)
- Best in Section 3 (Domestic)
- Best in Section 4 (Handicrafts)
- Best in Section 5 (Children's Corner)
- Best item of Needlecraft
- Best Flowering Pot Plant
- Best Individual Rose
- Best Entry of Dahlias
- Best Entry of Gladioli
- Best Floral Display
- Best Entry of Potatoes
- Best Collection of Vegetables
- Best Entry of Tomatoes
- Best Entry of Soft Fruits
- Most Points in the Show
- Best Runner Beans

Barbara Dunkerley
Mary Cubitt
Karen Wright
Wendy Seward
Barbara Dunkerley
Emilia Batt
Barbara Dunkerley
Brenda Alexander
Brenda Alexander
Gill Matthams
Joyce Kinsley
Mary Cubitt
Sally Clarke
Karen Wright
Alan Prince
Pauline Harmer
Brenda Alexander
Joyce Kinsley



Barbara Dunkerley being presented with the Billy Cooper Memorial Cup, by Rosie Alford (nee Cooper) for Best Entry in the Show - this splendid piece of embroidery (Rt). The following page is a montage of some of the winners!





Next year it could be you holding silverware. Just enter and you may surprise yourself !?

The Parish Council accepted the **Felbeck Trust** management plan for the old West Beckham allotments and this is a brief summary of things they intend to do or have already completed! All work is planned and completed by Felbeck Trust volunteers, underpinned with a rigorous species monitoring programme and risk-assessed to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

Habitat Management Plan West Beckham Old Allotments

- * improve boundary hedges, achieved through a combination of laying and gapping-up - providing shelter and nesting sites for farmland birds
- * install vehicle & pedestrian gates at entrance to site
- * create areas of wildflower meadows using existing seed-bank, green haying or seeds / plugs as appropriate and introducing an appropriate mowing regime
- * create and maintain permissive paths, providing access whilst protecting habitat
- * plant areas of woodland with native species to diversify the habitat
- * construct and install rustic seating
- * erection and maintenance of bird-boxes and bat-boxes where appropriate
- * encouraging areas of tussock grass to provide small mammal habitat
- * restore ghost ponds / excavate scrapes where suitable, working with Norfolk Pond Project
- * erect relevant interpretive signage, subject to funding and any approvals
- * install bird feeding station and viewing screen, subject to funding



new trees planted



Felbeck Trust volunteers also spent some time on their recent visit pulling up bracken at the 'Village Green' on Sheringham Road. This is to ensure the snowdrops are visible when they pop up to greet us in 2020.

If you would like to volunteer and help the Felbeck Trust improve our green spaces, why not contact the Felbeck Trust at www.felbecktrust.org.uk/contact



A Village Shop in Bodham?

Bodham Parish Council are investigating the possibility of how a village shop could be reinstated.

Bodham Parish Councillor Callum Ringer says: "For lots of villages a shop is a vital lifeline and for some, especially those without transport, it is an important connection with the world beyond their front door. It is a meeting place, communication centre and an important lynchpin of village life. Much of the appeal of our villages rests on its sense of community. It is the reason many people have moved here and remain here. The return of a shop would, we feel, greatly enhance that community spirit. A questionnaire is the first step. We need to know your views on what might be provided and what would receive your support".

There will be a questionnaire delivered to your door sometime in November and we hope you will complete this to help with the research and consideration needed to make a viable community shop. Would people living in Beckham use and support a community shop in Bodham? If so, for what and how often? Please complete the forthcoming questionnaire, as a positive, or even a negative response will provide vital data.

For the last 5 years David McNeight and Kathryn Lord have been volunteering for the Norfolk Bat Survey. It means setting up recording equipment over 3 nights. Here is a summary of the main findings from the bat survey in area 'TG1439' a kilometre square on the West/East Beckham border.

The total number of recordings per night:

21 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep
9,901	1,697	2,165

Bat species detected:

Provisional analysis of the recordings detected the following species. The numbers relate to the number of bat passes rather than the number of individual bats.

Species Total number of passes (all nights)

Barbastelle 13, Brown long-eared bat 22, Common pipistrelle 2670, Daubenton's bat 8, Natterer's bat 28, Noctule 48, Serotine 32, Soprano pipistrelle 41. Also details of recordings that could not be assigned with confidence to a single species, Leisler's bat or Noctule 6, Myotis species 17, Pipistrelle species 794

Note: Pipistrelle species = this refers to a recording of a bat in the genus *Pipistrellus* that cannot be identified to species. In the UK, possible species include Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Nathusius' Pipistrelle. Myotis species = this refers to a recording of a bat in the genus *Myotis* that cannot be identified with confidence to species. In the UK this includes Natterer's, Daubenton's, Whiskered, Brandt's, Alcaho bat and Bechstein's bat. Provisional analysis also detected possible songs of 1 bush-cricket species.

Norfolk Bat Survey



photo John Dixon

If you would like to see more information/pictures about the different bats recorded in the survey go to the Beckham website www.eastandwestbeckham.org/groups/nature to see the survey in full. This also shows the sound patterns and timings of the bat passes each night of the survey.



Lefty's Lane, East Beckham

A big 'thank you' to all those who took the time to complete Evidence of Use forms to accompany the claim to extend the public right of way along the complete route of Lefty's Lane from Red Barn lane to Gresham Road. Norfolk County Council have accepted the claim and as it was originally a public road it will, when all the legal details are complete, become a 'Restricted Byway' open for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

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Move it or Lose it was launched in 2010 by fitness expert and columnist, Julie Robinson who has developed an award-winning range of DVDs and exercise products to promote active ageing. She has since developed the FABS exercise programme in conjunction with Professor Janet Lord at the Centre for Healthy Ageing Research at the University of Birmingham. She was also involved with the filming of BBC documentary *How to Stay Young* (2016).

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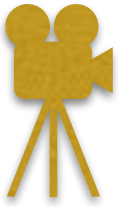
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BODHAM & BECKHAM VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB



Wednesday 30th October – 7.00pm: Sometimes it is hard to find the right words **‘SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER’** 2019 (12) starring Bill Nighy, Sam Riley, Jenny Agutter, Alice Lowe, Tim McInnerny and Alexei Sayle. Alan is a stylish tailor with moves as sharp as his suits. He has spent years searching tirelessly for his missing son Michael who stormed out over a game of Scrabble. With a body to identify and his family torn apart, Alan must repair the relationship with his youngest son Peter and solve the mystery of an online player who he thinks could be Michael, so he can finally move on and reunite his family.
Review: *SOMETIMES Outstanding, ALWAYS Interesting, NEVER Less Than Excellent!*

Wednesday 13th November – 7.00pm: Everyone in the World Has Forgotten The Beatles. Everyone Except Jack... **‘YESTERDAY’** 2019 (15) starring Himesh Patel, Lily James and Ed Sheeran as himself (sort of). A struggling musician realises he's the only person on Earth who can remember The Beatles after waking up in an alternate timeline where they never existed.

With scenes filmed all around Suffolk in Halesworth, Dunwich, Shingle Street, Latitude Festival and Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. Crowd Scene in Gorleston.

Review: *Another great Richard Curtis film recommended. Feel-good film with Ed Sheeran.*

Wednesday 27th November – 7.00pm: The Incredible True Story of Bert Trautmann **‘THE KEEPER’** 2019 (15) starring David Kross, Freya Mavor, John Henshaw, Dave Johns, Gary Lewis and Dervla Kirwan. The Keeper tells the incredible true story of Bert Trautmann (David Kross), a German soldier and prisoner of war who, against a backdrop of British post-war protest and prejudice, secures the position of goalkeeper at Manchester City, and in doing so becomes a footballing icon.

Wednesday 11th December – 7.00pm: “An Ingenious Comedy” **‘THE FAMILY MAN’** 2000 (15) starring Nicholas Cage and Tea Leoni. A fast-lane investment broker, offered the opportunity to see how the other half lives, wakes up to find that his sports car and girlfriend have become a mini-van and wife.

Review: Great family movie with a very meaningful story. Original, fascinating and thought provoking.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served prior to the screening so please arrive slightly earlier than normal. The Film Club wishes you all a Very Happy Christmas and A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

& For those who would like cheering up in New Year....

Wednesday 8th January 2020 – 7.00pm: “If you’re a fan of the 1994 version, then you will love Disney’s live remake!” **‘THE LION KING’** 2019 (PG)

Review: A good remake but the original is still King.

Wednesday 22nd January – 7.00pm “Based on the True Story of Journalist MARIE COLVIN” **‘A PRIVATE WAR’** 2019 (15) starring Rosamund Pike, Jamie Dornan and Stanley Tucci.

One of the most celebrated war correspondents of our time, Marie Colvin is an utterly fearless and rebellious spirit, driven to the frontline of conflicts across the globe to give voice to the voiceless.

Review: Brave Beyond Words.

BODHAM AND BECKHAM OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Saturday 14th December 12.00 for 12.30pm

Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of November.

If you have reached this magical age, live in Bodham or Beckham, and have not attended before, please ring Jackie on 01263 588743 or email peter.bedell@btopenworld.com to find out more and to book your place by 4th December latest.



Another Date for your Diary! BYO (drinks and nibbles) CHRISTMAS QUIZ takes place on

Friday 6th December in the Village Hall. 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Table of four £3.00 per entrant. Come along and join in the fun – all proceeds towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. For a table please contact Harry Bruford on 588122 email : hbruford@aol.com

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