

# Beckham

Bulletin

VILLAGES EAST & WEST

ISSUE 13, SUMMER 2020

Solar Community Fund  
update & news  
[www.eastandwestbeckham.org](http://www.eastandwestbeckham.org)



## A Big THANK YOU!

There are many of you in our community who deserve special thanks for a variety of reasons - as you have been volunteering, or working very hard in difficult circumstances or even 'staying in' when you would prefer to have been 'out and about' during the Covid19 pandemic. There have been many tributes to the NHS and key workers and the wave of rainbows have brightened up our environment over the past several months. This one above, on a fence in Church Road, is a lasting reminder to stay positive!



Above: Mel and daughter  
Kerri modelling the scrub sets!

**The Bodham & Beckham 'Good Neighbour'** scheme coordinated by Mrs Mel Clarke in Bodham is a lifeline for many during the pandemic and reaches out to many residents in Bodham, Lower Bodham, East and West Beckham. After leaflets were initially distributed to residents supplying contact details where help is found, the team have been fulfilling shopping trips and prescriptions, making phone calls and sending letters to ensure people are OK, walking your dog and even cooking meals for some in need. If you need help and don't feel safe to go out yourself then remember the Good Neighbour volunteers are still working for you despite the relaxing of the Covid19 guidelines. (Mel's contact details are on the back page. If you need her team - don't be shy!)

While in lockdown and especially when PPE was in short supply Mel and others have also been organising & sewing up laundry bags, scrub hats, sets of scrubs, face masks and knitted Covid19 heart pairs, ear guards (photo below right - wearing a mask all day puts pressure on your

ears!) and blankets for care homes and premature baby units. A regular weekly email is sent out by Mel to update residents on the contact list and supply useful information including the direct shopping delivery services from local suppliers, which have come into their own during this time.





(Photo Left) Is just one week of post - things made or letters written - on Mel's table waiting until the CT Baker's mobile shop & Post Office visits on Tuesday lunchtime in Bodham!



The face masks in the photos (2 styles - full or pleated) are available **free from Mel** to anyone in the villages, although if you want to make a donation please do, it will be used to buy the plastic bags and tape for the masks and will all go through the Good Neighbour Scheme account. Mel is also appealing for old adult t-shirts. If misshapen or stained it doesn't matter as they are sliced into thin strips, stretched and used as the tape for face masks. The more they can produce from old items through recycling, the less money spent.



So far (numbers as at 6/7/20), here is the list of things produced! Well done to all who have, and continue, to contribute - fantastic work!



Full Sets of Scrubs with Laundry Bags x 20  
 Preemie Blankets x 9  
 Laundry Bags x 109  
 Pairs of Hearts x 600  
 Ear Guards x 671  
 Scrub Hats x 48  
 Scrub Tops with Laundry Bags x 5  
 Full Size Blankets x 9  
 Pleated Face Protectors x 138  
 Full Face Masks x 41



**The Village Van** mobile shop had been a welcome consequence of 'Covid lockdown'.

Vendor Tom, with Claude (his trusty 1973 Citroen van) started a delivery round of North Norfolk villages, as his normal street-food business was curtailed by Government restrictions. Outside West Beckham Church at 1.30pm, on a Thursday, became a regular meeting place and several residents were introduced to others as a result! In addition, the supply of preordered fruit and veg boxes or delicious fresh produce from local suppliers, like Sharrington strawberries, Mrs Temples cheeses and store cupboard options like Letheringsett Mill flour, among many others, were available to buy on the day!



We will miss Tom along with his helpers, Sarah and Holly, who have now returned to their regular work - so we have to say goodbye and we wish them well for the future.

If you are in need of a catering company contact:

HELLO@NEALLSKITCHEN.COM  
 or phone Tom on 07761606328.



2020 commemorates the passing of 75 years since VE day (8th May) and later this summer victory over Japan and an end to fighting in Asia. As the locally planned VE day celebrations were during a period of strict lockdown, most celebrations were cancelled. The Village Hall was sadly unable to host the planned event.



**RAF West Beckham** is part of our village heritage and as such the SCFC would like to fund an information board to be erected in the Bodham and Beckham Village Hall.

Do you or your family have any personal memories of the RAF Camp (site A - Operations), the station Commander - band leader Marius B Winter or the dances held in Bodham Village Hall known as the 'Bodham Hops'? Or maybe the billets in Marl Pitt WAAF camp in Lower Bodham (site B) or (site C), the Old Workhouse (Beckham Palace) home to the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1940, followed by Military police and then RAF Regiment. We would love to hear from you and any help you could provide in making this memoir as interesting as possible.



RAF West Beckham (1938 - 1958) was a radar site with 4 metal transmitter pylons 360ft high (110m) and 4 wooden receiver pylons 240ft high (73m) creating the link in a Chain Home system across the East coast of the UK during the war and cold war. In 1942 a Wellington bomber crashed into one of the wooden towers tragically killing all 3 airmen in the fire that followed.

Contact Julia Dovey if you have any memories or information that could be used. Her contact details are on the back page.

(Thanks to resident Mike Digby for use of photos he has collected re RAF West Beckham)

## A NEW VILLAGE SIGN AT WEST BECKHAM FOR 2020



The old 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. The old sign has been taken down during lockdown (have you noticed?) in preparation for the installation of the new cast aluminium sign. Pictured is the new sign in Chestnut Farm Barn having made its journey from Suffolk with Pam and Harry Stebbings from The Village Sign People, the creators!



The new sign will be installed as soon as possible and without 'fuss'. Originally the commissioning Solar Community Fund Committee and Beckham Parish Council hoped to hold a party/grand unveiling event but due to these current Covid 19 times it was felt better to invite you to go individually and admire the sign whenever you can. Maybe later we can have that celebration party?!

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.



Thanks to Geoff Place and Stuart Thurtle for putting up and taking down both West Beckham signs and installing the bench seat opposite the bus stop. There is now somewhere to rest, in the fresh air, while waiting for the bus! (A wood bench will be installed inside the protection of the shelter, asap).



Also in East Beckham, last year, the metal 'relief' Village Sign and the wooden post were refurbished by its creator, ex Beckham Councillor, Roy Simpson. The village sign is located at the bottom of Gibbets Lane in East Beckham, along with the 'You are Here' map board and opposite the yellow box defibrillator.

Roy now lives in Gresham but was generous to do this work for free. Many many thanks Roy - it looks lovely!





## East Beckham Allotments

The allotments are flourishing with 2 new active allotment holders.

Some allotment holders have taken the decision to protect their plots with perimeter fencing and some with raised beds with more localised netting. There are reasons... as it is always a battle of minimising the damage to crops from pests, weeds and weather! In late Spring - frosts and cold winds knocked back potatoes and beans if you were too eager.

The allotments can now boast poly tunnels, several scarecrows and bee hives too!

There are still spaces available if you would like to join in. The cost of a full plot is £20pa.

Get in touch with Kathryn Lord (see details back page) to enquire.



..... and the cricket season has definitely begun!

The **Felbeck Trust** management plan for the old West Beckham allotments is a briefly summarised below. 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.

- \* improve boundary hedges, achieved through a combination of laying and gapping-up - providing shelter and nesting sites for farmland birds like the turtle dove (**already started**)
- \* install vehicle & pedestrian gates at entrance to site (**installed**)
- \* create areas of wildflower meadows using existing seed-bank, green haying or seeds / plugs as appropriate and introducing an appropriate mowing regime (**mowed areas and some left to seed**)
- \* create and maintain permissive paths, providing access whilst protecting habitat
- \* plant areas of woodland with native species to diversify the habitat (**350 trees already planted**)
- \* 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 a bird feeding station and viewing screen (**as seen here**)



It rained and rained when the volunteers turned up to dig out dock weeds so instead they built a bird feeding station which you can view from the entrance gate. However, the rain didn't stop play on 14th Jan 2020 the first 2020 volunteer work-party at West Beckham Old Allotments. This intrepid band of volunteers did some 'dock bashing' and digging up, and then sowed Yellow Rattle and grass seed in the disturbed areas to assist in the site restoration. The battle against the docks may take some time, but already the site has moved on from when they first acquired it from the Parish Council.

Opposite you can see the progress they have made flailing sections of long grass and clearing by it hand rake - removing the nutrients, as poor soil has the best meadow flowers! Next year there maybe a Scything Competition!? Fancy exhibiting your inner Poldark? Future work parties will tackle some of the hedgerow ivy and they plan to install a source of water in the from of a shallow pond.

Excellent work, THANK YOU! making our villages special and helping to join up wildlife corridors.





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](http://www.felbecktrust.org.uk)

A brief reminder of the Country Code - a short 'Covid-19' version

### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



A special plea to dog owners walking in and around our lovely local foot paths. Please bag and take home your dog poo and dispose of it, as we do not have dedicated dog waste bins in our parish due to the high on-going costs to dispose of hazardous waste. (Don't use other residents grey bins either please).

If for whatever reason you cannot 'bag it and carry it' then please be prepared to 'bury it', rather than leave exposed for others to find.

Also walkers - Livestock may be around, even if you don't see them - please make sure the gate is firmly closed behind you!

And please, please, don't leave your litter behind to spoil the beautiful countryside.

A big THANK YOU goes to Tony McKay in East Beckham, who regularly picks up litter that others drop along the roads and foot paths in the area - much appreciated Tony!



Many thanks for your cooperation - these are all recent examples happening in our Parish - before visitors arrived from afar!

### ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS:

Hedge and tree trimming on your property boundary gives clearance to the road and neighbours - please arrange after any birds have fledged - The Country Code says 31st July means cutting back can begin.  
THANK YOU



### Great News!

The Wheatsheaf is open for business and there is plenty of space for everyone to enjoy themselves. Visit Peter and Linda Musson and be assured of a warm welcome.

Telephone 01263 822110

### Cancelled Event 2020

Unfortunately the Horticultural Show at  
Bodham & Beckham Village Hall is cancelled.  
.....So, until next year!



### Would you like to help or have more input into what happens in the Parish?

The **Solar Community Fund Committee** (SCFC) meets informally, but regularly, every 2 months. This meeting has recently been held virtually, by using Zoom! It means you don't need to leave home and can join in as long as you have a phone, tablet or ipad, laptop or computer. If you would like to join in our next meeting on **Thursday 27th August at 7PM**, put the date/time in your diary and get in touch with our Clerk, John Stibbons, who will give you the required password and meeting ID so you can join us.

#### Contacts

- ❖ Julia Dovey 01263 825457 [jld@postmaster.co.uk](mailto:jld@postmaster.co.uk) The White House, Church Road, (The Street), West Beckham
- ❖ Kathryn Lord 07711070417 [kathryn.lord@me.com](mailto:kathryn.lord@me.com) 2 Hall Farm Cottages, Church Rd, West Beckham
- ❖ John Stibbons 01263 577397 [johnstibbons@gmail.com](mailto:johnstibbons@gmail.com) (Parish Council Clerk)
- ❖ Mel Clarke 01263 588840 07884 365192 (Our Good Neighbour Co-Ordinator)