

# Beckham

VILLAGES EAST & WEST

Bulletin

ISSUE 14, SPRING 2021

## Solar Community Fund update

[www.eastandwestbeckham.org](http://www.eastandwestbeckham.org)



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Bodham and Beckham Community Noticeboard



The last Bulletin issued was back in Summer 2020. The Solar Community Fund Committee and Parish Council meetings have continued to meet regularly throughout the Lockdowns, Covid Pandemic and snowy weather - via Zoom. We have not had such 'excited' meetings as the media worthy Handforth Parish Council and the now notorious Jackie Weaver from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, thank goodness!

If you would like to get involved in the Solar Community Fund Committee please get in touch, or attend our Parish Council meetings as a member of the public. It is likely the Parish Council meetings will be returning to face to face meetings in the Village Hall after May, although this will depend on Government regulations.

On the back page is a summary of the spend so far by the Solar Community Fund Committee - we are now more than half way through the yearly contributions.

Plus coming in the next few weeks a leaflet with very exciting proposals for Affordable Housing in West Beckham by Broadland Housing Association. Unfortunately not ready in time to come with this edition.



### Snow pictures!

Church Road (above) makes its mark again with this great 'snow family', but dressed for sunshine?!

And lovely snow drops which have been seen in wonderful drifts in many locations this year.



A photo taken from a favourite view point looking out to sea, in Sheringham Park. (above)

The Village Sign was installed at the end of 2020. An information board has been created and installed in the Bus Shelter with explanations of the symbolism of the shields. A QR Code will also be placed on the post or base for a quick link with the Village website for a digital reference.

# WEST BECKHAM VILLAGE SIGN

A village sign was first designed and put up in West Beckham in 1984 following the fundraising efforts of the Bodham and District Women's Institute. The sign was double-sided reflecting the farming life of the village both in medieval times and the modern day. The wooden sign was restored by a local resident, Ray Smith, for the millennium in 2000 but had started to weather badly. This new sign has been financed from the Solar Fund in 2020.

## North Side Medieval Beckham

The village name comes from Beocca's homestead: OE Beocca+ham (homestead).



Farmer harvesting and his wife gleaning.

Roundels represent the Erpingham Union Workhouse (Beckham Palace) built in 1851, with a begging bowl and coins.

The arms of Mautby originally in the west window of the original church in West Beckham.

The Women's Institute Logo in 1984.

## South Side Modern Beckham

The modern church of St Helen and All Saints, built from the materials from the two ruined churches and consecrated in 1891.



The original church of All Saints.

Roundels show the Norwich silver chalice used in the church (right) and the assay marks on the base dated 1549 (left).

The arms of Sir Roger de Beckham Kt 1379 originally displayed in a window in St Helen's church East Beckham.

The golden cross of St Helen.

New symbol created to highlight the Solar Farm sponsorship.

Two pylons represent RAF West Beckham — one of the 'chain — home' radar stations in World War 2 and now the site of telecomms towers.

Corn bins and tractor ploughing represent modern farming.

The year the sign was finished and installed.

The symbol of All Saints.





An information display on **RAF West Beckham** is being created for the Village Hall. Using words and pictures it will record an important period in Parish history when the defence of the country used radar in a network across the country.

This photo was recently uncovered and was taken mid 1950s showing the masts (4 metal and 4 wooden) plus the strawberry pickers working the adjacent fields.

Do you have any interesting photos in your records that we can store on the website for posterity?



During this winter's longer Lockdown, it became evident local schools had students in our Parish trying to work from home who were in need of hardware (laptops) and internet connectivity to help their continued education.



The SCFC/Parish Council reached out to the North Norfolk Academy and Sheringham Community and Gresham Primary Schools to see what could be done to help. As a result, a very worthwhile donation of £2,000 was made to help students within the Beckham Parish who were in need - during lockdown and beyond.

This letter was received from the Head Master and CEO of the North Norfolk Academy Trust to say thank you.

A little present was arranged for the **Good Neighbour Scheme** volunteers at Christmas to say a very 'BIG Thank You' for all their hard work. They are still working on your behalf and are happy to deliver prescriptions or food or do whatever they can to help.

Contact Mel Clarke, the Co Ordinator, 01263 588840 or by email on [melclarke58@gmail.com](mailto:melclarke58@gmail.com) and she will also send you a very useful weekly update for local services and support that is available.



## West Beckham Old Allotments by Peter Maingay of the Felbeck Trust

Reading recent Beckham Bulletins has shown me how well-informed Bulletin readers are about the work Felbeck Trust is carrying out at West Beckham Old Allotments (which we refer to as WBOA!), from the initial suggestion in your Spring 2019 issue that FT might be interested in managing the site, via the Autumn 2019 issue with its list of the Trust's plans for the site, to the summer 2020 issue, with its brief summary of how far we have got with each part of our plan. So now it is **our** turn to give you a picture of where we are now, in the middle of this long lockdown. Inevitably, restrictions have meant that work parties have been limited, small and with volunteers well spread out. And now all work parties have been suspended, except for volunteers working in household bubbles.

Last summer, representatives of Felbeck Trust met the RSPB's 'Operation Turtle Dove' Project Officer for Lincolnshire & Norfolk to make an assessment of the WBOA site and to receive advice about how the existing habitat could be improved to encourage potential breeding. According to the RSPB, Turtle Dove is the fastest declining UK breeding bird species – down 93% since the 1970s and threatened with global extinction. The recent decline is



due to a combination of factors, including: loss of habitat, changes in agriculture – affecting food supply – hunting, disease, and climate change. The RSPB is so concerned about the decline that it has established Operation Turtle Dove to deliver conservation action that addresses each of these factors and which, hopefully, will reverse this trajectory towards extinction.

The report was favourable, concluding that 'although the site does not currently have visiting Turtle Dove, its potential to do so is evident ... and its proximity to Turtle Dove sightings in the area is encouraging ... I think you can say with confidence that the site ... has good potential to attract Turtle Dove, and that they may breed there ... within the next few years, if the recommended actions are put in place.' With this encouragement,



Felbeck Trust – with the support of Beckham Parish Council – has embarked on a programme of selective habitat management work.

Turtle Doves are fussy parents and require the right conditions to breed: a combination of tall dense Hawthorn and Blackthorn hedges (3m+ in height), interspersed with native climbers for the nest site, an abundance of annual agricultural weed seeds to feed the young, and a water supply suitable for drinking and bathing. As the youngsters don't stray far from the nest in the first few weeks of life, all these requirements must be found within a maximum range of 300m.

So, what have we done to provide the best possible conditions for Turtle Dove?

Among the original aims in our overall plan for managing the site was the restoration of ghost ponds, but when we discovered that there were in fact no ghost ponds on the site, we had to change our plans! However, with water on site a prerequisite for attracting Turtle Dove, we decided to create a pond from scratch. So, during November and December, with only two volunteers working at a time, the pond was dug, layer by layer, with the topsoil deposited beside the pond to create a butterfly bank to the north of the pond.

Volunteers then laid a pipe from the large water butt next to the shed to the pond, and laid a large pond liner which, at the time of writing, still







has to be trimmed and tidied. And the pond is now steadily filling with water!

We have also planted some native trees to create thicker hedges, as well as thickets and copses. We have planted a wide variety of species

that are attractive to wildlife, including **Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, Rowan, Birch, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Oak, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Sweet Chestnut, Ash, Alder and Willow**. Most of the saplings have been generously supplied by North Norfolk District Council.

Perhaps the most important single factor affecting Turtle Dove breeding success rates is the availability of a suitable food source to restore health to returning migrants, from late April onwards. A specific range of early seeding weeds – which have become scarce with changing agricultural practices – are essential to ensure that the adults are in prime condition for the beginning of the breeding season. In some areas, a Spring supplementary feeding programme has shown potential promise. We have therefore seeded about 200 patches with annual agricultural weed seeds such as



**Black Medick, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Scarlet Pimpernel and Red Clover (shown right - clockwise from top left).**

We'll need to wait a while for the hedges and copses to grow and for the weed seeds to come up but, with luck, it shouldn't be long before we might, just possibly, see Turtle Dove at WBOA!

**A final note:** In light of the specific habitat requirements of Turtle Dove, and their sensitivity to disturbance from both humans and especially dogs, as well as the development of the wildflower meadow, trustees hope to have achieved the best balance for local residents and wildlife by introducing the following restrictions:



From **1 April 2021** pedestrian access will be to Phase 1 (Wildflower Meadow – the right hand side from the gate) only, with **no access for dogs**. People will be asked to keep to the new walking trail. There will be **no access at all to Phase 2** (the left hand side) - except for Felbeck Trust approved species surveyors.



Between **1 September 2021 and 1st April 2022** access will be permitted to both Phases 1 & 2. **Visitors will be asked to keep to the paths, with dogs allowed on short leads.**





And, if you feel like volunteering with **The Felbeck Trust** when we come out of lockdown, please contact **Peter Maingay**, the **Volunteer Co-ordinator**, at [petmai6@hotmail.com](mailto:petmai6@hotmail.com) They would love to have some Beckham volunteers helping

out at our three Beckham sites, or even further afield!  
Photo right - the completed pond with liner covers and the wild flower bank in the background.



### The Red Hart "Lockdown Shop"

As I'm sure you are all aware Bodham's Red Hart Inn opened as a temporary village shop during 'Lockdown' but with the Government guidelines to open up business in April they will close this facility on Sunday 4th April.

I'm sure all who found the convenience of the local shop will be very sad and would like to thank them for all their help during this period. We all look forward to them resuming as a local pub with restaurant open. We wish them Good Luck for the forthcoming season!

### Bodham & Beckham Community Shop Project:

The Bodham & Beckham community shop project is making good progress. The steering committee for the project is currently in the process of registering as Community Benefit Society (CBS). This is registered with the financial conducts authority and sponsored by

community shop specialists The Plunkett Foundation. In due course, residents will be able to buy a share in the community shop and become a member.

#### However..... WE NEED A TREASURER!

We are looking for a volunteer to take on this role. It may suit someone with accountancy or bookkeeping experience but that is not a prerequisite as training and support is on hand. The Steering committee is in talks with a local housing association over a potential shop site in the centre of Bodham however until we have a treasurer, we cannot progress any further. The shop will be owned and run by, and for the benefit of, the community. We have a golden opportunity to restore a shop service and it would be a terrible shame if it were not to come about because no one came forward to fill this role. There are 800+ people across Bodham and East & West Beckham – we only need 1 of those people to take this role on. Please don't assume someone else will! For an informal chat about the role or to put yourself forward please email [callumringer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:callumringer@yahoo.co.uk) or call 07824 381519.

There will be much organisational work to do between now and then – particularly fundraising; and there will be an opportunity for all residents of Bodham and East & West Beckham to buy a share over the coming months, so watch this space!

Callum Ringer – Chair [callumringer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:callumringer@yahoo.co.uk) 07824381519

Tracy Toyn – E&W Beckham representative – [tracy.t@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tracy.t@tiscali.co.uk) - 07733039433

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW

**GET READY! Bodham and Beckham Horticultural show date is planned on Saturday 24th July and more details of classes etc will be provided closer to the date**





How can you keep your river healthy and clean? **Norfolk Rivers Trust** provide advice to help maintain the health of our globally rare chalk streams and lowland rivers in Norfolk. In times of drought and hot weather it is especially important because of the wildlife our rivers support. Endangered white clawed crayfish, brown trout, eels, and water voles are just a few of the iconic species at risk in Norfolk and you can do your bit to help protect them.



**Water users:** if you use the rivers and streams to dog walk, kayak, fish or even swim in, you could be spreading invasive species which are estimated to cost the British economy £1.7 billion a year. Our native crayfish, the white clawed crayfish are close to extinction due to a crayfish plague carried on invasive crayfish, angling nets and water sports equipment. Apart from this, there are animals and plants which are highly invasive and extremely damaging to our rivers and wildlife. The animals and their eggs latch on to dog fur, wellington boots and nets, and plant roots or seeds can be carried on paddle boards, fishing nets and any other equipment. For this reason, it is absolutely essential that after every trip to the river or lake you follow the **Check. Clean. Dry** procedure. Check your equipment for any obvious animals. Clean your equipment with hot soapy water. Dry your equipment for at least 48 hours before entering another watercourse.

If you are a landowner with riparian land and would like to talk to Norfolk Rivers Trust about restoration and rewilding please do get in touch. They offer a wide range of services including surveys, restoration and management advice. Email [info@norfolkriverstrust.org](mailto:info@norfolkriverstrust.org)

**Norfolk Rivers Trust, Unit 7B Bayfield Brecks, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7DZ, Tel: 01263 711299**

**Report to the Environment Agency via their 24/7 hotline 0800 80 70 60**

**Report to Anglian Water via online form at [www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/report-an-issue](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/report-an-issue), or call their 24/7 hotline on 03457 145 145**

**Healthwatch Norfolk** are launching a project, alongside Healthwatch Suffolk, to find out how people affected by cancer have accessed their appointments during the pandemic. They are working with the people in charge of cancer services in Norfolk to help shape the way appointments are accessed in the future, so it is vital that they get as much feedback as possible to get the patient's opinion. If you live in Norfolk and have had a cancer diagnosis, referral or treatment since March 2020, Healthwatch Norfolk would like your help.



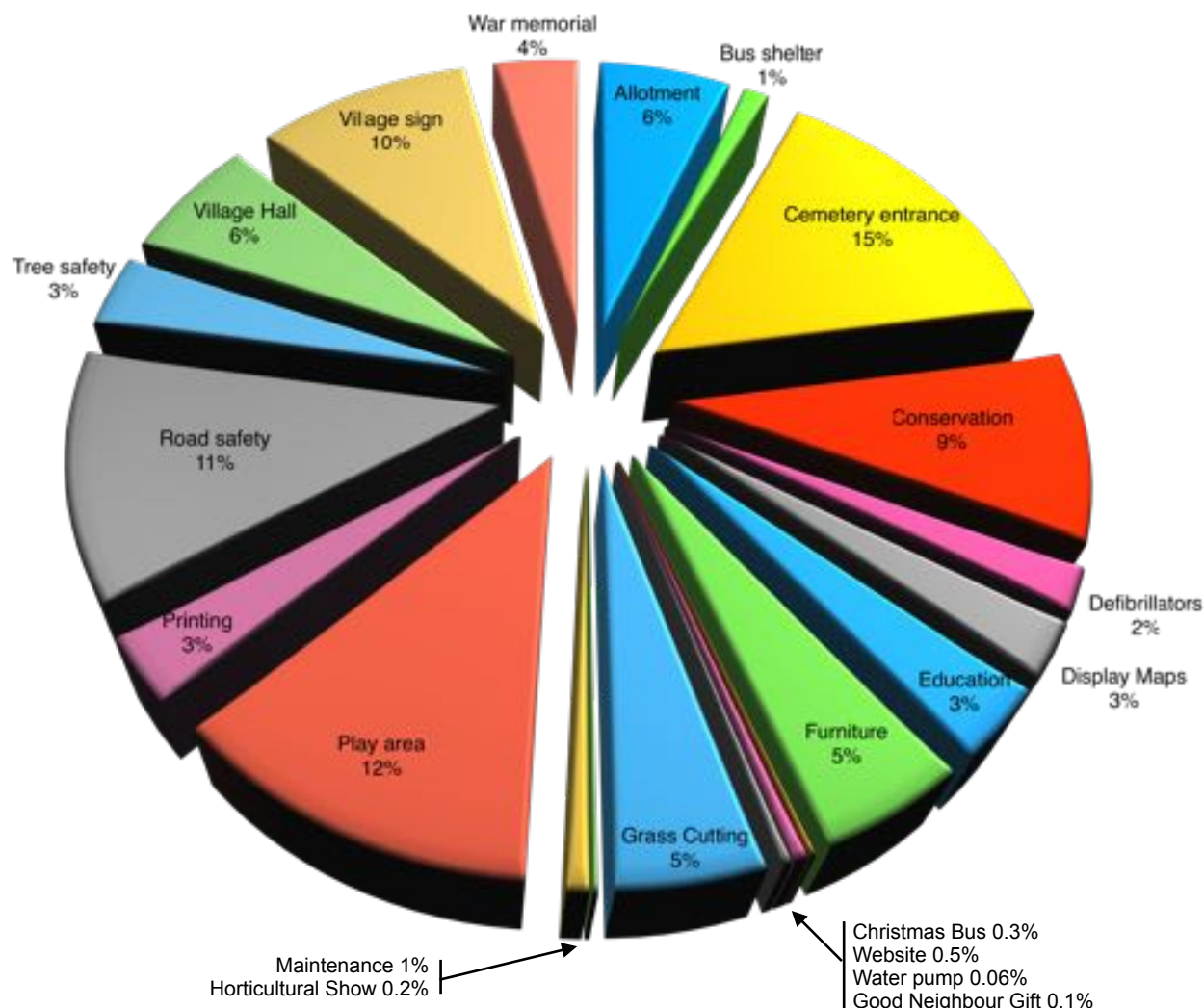
Whether you have had virtual appointments (by phone or video call, for example), in-person appointments, or a combination of both your experiences could help shape future provisions. If you would be prepared to help with this important piece of work, please contact Healthwatch Norfolk by calling 0808 1689669, or emailing [enquiries@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk). Alternatively, the survey can be completed online by visiting [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/cancerappointments/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/cancerappointments/)

Healthwatch Norfolk and Healthwatch Suffolk are the independent voices for patients and service users in our counties. They gather your views of health and social care services to ensure they are heard by the people in charge. For more information about what they do, visit our websites [www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk) and [www.healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk).



**Hall Farm Solar Array** was completed in 2014 and is one of the most productive arrays in the county, able to generate 11.4MW peak. The company who owns and manages it, 'Bluefield', has been contributing an annual income to the Parish, as agreed for a 10 year period. The amount received so far over 7 years is £79,288 so we have a further 3 years to go before this income stops. This is a summary of the varied spend, directed by those original questionnaires received by you the Parishioners and organised by the SCF Committee. So far £58,859 (as at end March 2021) has been spent in total on the following areas:

Allotment   Bus shelter   Cemetery entrance   Conservation   Defibrillators   Display Maps   Education   Furniture  
 GNS   Water pump   Website   Xmas bus   Grass Cutting   Horticultural Show   Maintenance   Play area  
 Printing   Road safety   Tree safety   Village Hall   Village sign   War memorial



As you can see a broad selection has been made to ensure as many wishes could be achieved.  
 NOTE: 'Education 3%' is for the laptop provision at NNAT (see page 3)

Our allotment year begins on 25th March each year. There are allotment plots available at East Beckham Allotment. The rental is £20.00 p.a. for a FULL plot (size 30 feet x 80 feet) and 1/2 plots are also available. If you would like one (or more than one) get in touch with Kathryn Lord (contact details below)

## Contacts

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- ❖ 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)