# East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News

# **March 2021**



Silhouettes at sunrise by the River Otter. David White

Please send articles to: ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

Available online at www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/east-budleigh-parish-magazine



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The information in this edition is correct at the time of printing. For the very latest updates please visit <u>www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/</u>

### March View from the Vicarage...

Dear friends,

The whole of March falls within the Christian season of lent which is a time of sober reflection on what really matters in life and also a time of testing. This year those important subjects seem to have been exercising us for almost exactly a year now when we have all been thrown into the deep-end in one great expended season of soul searching and introspection. What my experience has taught me is that personal freedom, human contact and chance contacts are very important to me but I have also learned that slowing down, observing and listening to nature and walking regularly are things I have gained.

Lent, of course is a purely voluntary time of reflection that one chooses but the lockdown is a situation that has been forced upon us. Acceptance is a concept that looms large in Buddhism but also has its equivalence in Christianity too, and in fact all religions that genuinely seek after Truth. Knowing the difference between accepting what cannot be changed and having the courage to change for the better those things that can be changed was the subject of one of the best-known Christian prayers by Reinhold Neibuhr, well-loved as much outside Christianity as it is within it because it strikes a chord of truth within most people who hear it. The "serenity prayer".

God, grant me the Serenity To accept the things I cannot change... Courage to change the things I can, And Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will. That I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Love and peace, Martin

Pastoral

Care

If you know of anyone vulnerable or living alone – whether they come to church or not – who would appreciate being contacted, please phone the

Raleigh Mission Community Pastoral Team Leader - Jenny Steele on 443133 or Lynda Bunting from All Saints, East Budleigh on 446731.

**The Church Matters .......** greatly to us during the present lock down, not only in physical attendance within the building, but equally through Stephen and Maria's technological wizardry over the airwaves. We also express our gratitude to the several volunteers who operate the laptop each Sunday projecting our Service onto the screen, thereby avoiding touching paper. So far this year, attendance in Church has fluctuated between 15 and 22; then, of course, add-in those attending virtually at home each Sunday. All this shows the wisdom of the decision at the beginning of the year by the consensus of opinion to maintain our Sunday Holy Communion. And, of course, there is the Morning Prayer at 10.00am on Wednesdays under the auspices of Reverend Margaret and Mike Scrivener, and Sue Pyne via Zoom and similar electronic know-how.

As we travel through Lent, let us pray for an easing of restrictions and the re-opening of schools and colleges.

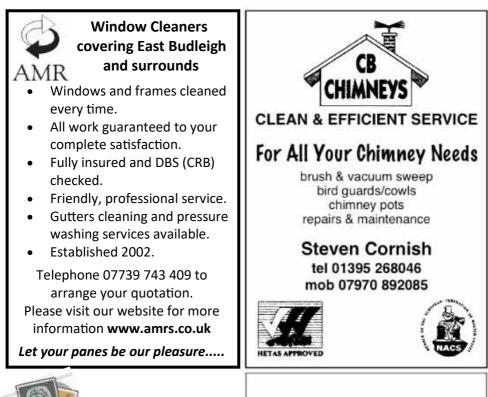
As a footnote for Lent: if any reader of this column knows of anyone within our community who would welcome a phone call; an e-mail; or a socially distanced masked chat, please let the Churchwardens know, and we will do our best to arrange it.

Marilyn Hobbs and John Neligan ...... Churchwardens.

#### **Christian Response to Eastern Europe**

During lockdown the Square Circle have been busily knitting, a perfect occupation in the circumstances. Blankets and woolly garments are beginning to pile up (in my cupboard) ready to be displayed at the Scarecrow Festival if it takes place this year.

The latest newsletter from CR2EE tells that in the brief period between lockdowns, two very laden lorries made it to Moldova with nearly 30 tonnes of aid which included 11 tonnes of shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts. It may become more problematic to get the lorries through to Moldova now Brexit has taken place but every effort will be made so that clothes and other aid we normally send will reach this very poor country. Money has been sent for the people to purchase wood for their fires as the winters are bitterly cold. We try and do our best to support CR2EE and all the good work they do. As you read this there are chocolate egg filled Easter chicks for sale in the shop for you to buy now. The money raised will either buy us more wool or be sent as a donation . Remember, this local charity is run entirely by volunteers, even the lorry drivers . No one is paid a salary showing how worthwhile it is for us to continue to support CR2EE. Janet Lovett



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### The Friends of All Saints East Budleigh...

Thank you to those who contribute to our fundraising efforts by supporting the monthly raffle and we welcome our recent new 200 Club members.

**The 'Friends of East Budleigh Church' run a monthly raffle** throughout the year to help raise funds for the upkeep of the church and churchyard.

Three winning numbers are drawn at the shop at the end of each month with three cash prizes of £40, £20 and £10;

January 2021 winners:1stHolly Johns2ndPenny Kurowski3rdElizabeth Smith

If you would like to subscribe for the 200 Club for the remainder of 2021, please send your name, address, telephone number and email together with a cheque for £10 per number (£1 per month until the end of 2021) made payable to 'PCC All Saints East Budleigh', c/o Angie Canning, Stores Cottage, 14 High Street East Budleigh EX9 7DY

If you would prefer to pay by direct bank transfer, please email <u>friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk</u>

and ask for a 200 club form which will give you all the details you need.

#### Valentine gifts

Thank you to everyone who supported our Valentine gift delivery. This initiative increased our funds by a much needed £100 and raised many smiles as we knocked on doors, and socially distanced, distributed the gift packages. See pictures on page 15.

#### Next meeting

We are due to meet again at the end of February, after the deadline date for this magazine. On the agenda will be fundraising opportunities for the rest of the year in line with the latest Covid guidance. The committee has some new ideas, but as always, we are interested to hear any thoughts you have, please send any suggestions to <u>friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk</u>

Thank you - The Friends of All Saints, Committee

### **Our Churchyards**

Do you have a drone? ... Can you draw maps?... As we have mentioned, we have started a project to list all the memorials in the Churchyards, including the inscriptions, before they are lost forever due to erosion, memorials falling over and/or getting buried under grass etc.

Plea for help: We do have a map of the site but accurately marking the position of each plot is beyond us. We would love to have accurate map of the Churchyard, with the positions of all the plots marked. This would be of benefit during the project and afterwards so that the memorials can be found easily. Is there anyone who has the knowledge/ technology to help us out with surveying the site and drawing up a map?

#### Spring is on its way ...

In addition to the snowdrops, we now have primroses, crocuses and wild daffodils (at the time of writing in mid-February) and by March there will be lots more flowering. The Churchyard is a wonderful green haven in our village with plenty to look at and, when the weather is not too cold, places to sit and enjoy the relaxing environment, marvel at nature and enjoy the surrounding countryside. A new bench was put in the Churchyard behind the Shed by the Harlock family in remembrance of Christine (nee Leslie) and Commander William Mark Harlock RN, married at All Saints' Church in 1951, as their parents used to enjoy the views from there.

#### Caring for God's Acre Zoom Talks ...

Caring for God's acre (CfGA) is running monthly webinars which are open to all details can be found at www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/getinvolved/find-a-session/webinars/

In addition to earlier ones about memorials, we have joined in "What's so special about Burial Grounds", "The Five Steps to Creating Your Management Plan for the Burial Ground" and "Blooming and Beautiful" - these are interesting, give us the chance to chat with others managing churchyards and get some new ideas about what we could do.

#### **Churchyard Volunteering**

We will see what we are allowed to do in the months ahead... in normal times we meet by the shed in the old Churchyard at 10am on the 3rd Friday of the month. Get in touch with us (details below) or check out our webpage

www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/ churchyard-working-party.html if you would like to join us, all are very welcome. We send email updates to regular working party members. Thanks to individuals who are taking their exercise in the churchyard and helping keep it beautiful.

#### CPRE Devon's Best Churchyard Competition 2021

On 28th January, we received our personalised invite to enter this competition from Penny mills, Director, in which she added, "We do hope that you will be able to support our competition once again - we very much appreciate your support - and we shall look forward to visiting East Budleigh!".

We still have a good story to tell about the last year despite the pandemic: the great work done by our volunteers; the recording of the memorials; the sighting of so many flowering plants, lichens, mosses, fungi and trees; bats flying around; and the variety of birds, mammals, insects and reptiles.

#### Please visit and enjoy the Churchyards – they are wonderfully peaceful places for quiet contemplation and a haven for wildlife

Penny and Paul Kurowski. Tel: 01395 742942; churchyard.as@rmcommunity.co.uk.

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### East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council

By the time you read this, trees will have been planted along the path of the trail below the phone mast and in nearby fields. They are very small, but with protection, will soon grow away. Planting will be done with the assistance and advice of Clinton Devon Estates. We hope to set up the other components of the Nature Trail when the weather and Covid permits in the Spring. Our Public Conveniences have been refurbished and will open on 1st April 2021. The changes will reduce our need for electricity whilst maintaining a high level of hygiene. Meanwhile, we again surprised some of our residents who live alone, with a small gift. We have had a very positive response to these gestures, which help residents to know we are looking out for them and lifts the spirits.

Councillor Fiona Ward is also very occupied in making plans for more trees and wildflowers in the Parish, assisted by a generous donation from the Otter Valley Association, for which we thank them. Councillor John Tresidder continues to investigate ideas for reducing our Carbon Footprint and would welcome ideas and support from residents.

We enclose a flyer about the Local Plan, kindly sponsored by District Councillor Alan Dent, so that you can participate in decisions for development in East Devon. Everyone's opinion is important.

Judith Venning, Clerk to East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council clerk@ eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk





The green shoots of the coming season are most certainly making an appearance now! As Christina Rossetti so beautifully wrote 'There is no time like spring, when life's alive with everything'. With those words as our inspiration the team are moving forward and ready to canvas the opinion of the community, to see what we could do to improve the facilities at the village hall. It is a valuable resource and the last year has given us all time to think and reflect on what's really important in our lives.

Please find enclosed within this magazine a survey which we would really like you to fill out. The village hall is a real asset to everyone in the area; therefore it's really important to us that we hear the views from those within our community. Hopefully we can then make changes that will benefit everyone. You can either return your completed survey to the box located outside the village shop, or alternatively you can email your response to:-VHRefurbishment@gmail.com

If you are shielding and would like your survey collected please call Joe Murphy on 07834 995878 and he will arrange to collect it for you.

All responses to be returned by 31st March 2021 please. We look forward to reading your completed forms - Thank you!

The Village Hall Refurbishment Project



For half-term Lockdown a PE Personal Challenge was set. To practise and complete ten challenges and submit your scores with some photos

of you completing your Lockdown PE Challenge. These tasks were suitable for all primary school ages and came with instructions to adapt them for different ages.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the exciting things happening in school. Search for - Drake's CofE Primary School

### East Budleigh in Bloom

Spring is on its way with spring flowers appearing all over the village. Hopefully, the bitterly cold wind and weather is behind us and we can get back to gardening! The plant sale, at the time of writing, is planned for Saturday 22 May, so if you are able to put aside plants, cuttings and so forth, we would be most grateful. We are looking at holding an Open Gardens Day for all to enjoy. We have a

provisional date for your diaries of 27 June. Watch this space!

We have more herbs on order for the Village Herb Garden, which will be planted around the end of April. The wooden plaque is now in place to encourage everyone to pick herbs to savour and enjoy.

If you have any queries please contact the secretary, Jon Roseway, 01395 488739. Keep safe, keep smiling and keep enjoying your gardens.



# East Budleigh Community Shop Annual Report

2020 has been an extraordinary year and presented the shop with a number of challenges. The shop has continued to support the community by remaining open and ensuring the village had access to essential supplies when even the large retailers were struggling.

Firstly, I want to thank our management team of Mel Ferrers, Anne Davies, and Liz Dearsley. Their dedication, commitment and hard work during the first lockdown was exceptional. I know that their efforts were greatly appreciated from the positive feedback we have received from many of our customers

During the first lockdown we suffered an attempted break-in which was demoralising given the problems we were already facing. Shortly afterwards the EPOS system (till) died and had to be replaced. Despite these set-backs we managed to maintain a free collection and delivery service throughout the first lock down.

In this financial year, our sales totalled £203,375 (£218,557 last year) a remarkable result given that there was a significant drop in sales during the first lockdown. However, since lockdown finished, sales have been very buoyant as our many customers have supported us by doing more of their shopping in the village. The average sales per transaction has doubled and sales have averaged over £20,000 for the last 3 months. Gross profit has been significantly lower this year £32,259 (£43,528 last year) giving us a profit margin of around 15.9% (19.9% last year). Last year we had profit levels that lead to a significant increase in our cash reserves. To avoid continuing to generate too much surplus cash it was decided to absorb price increases thereby benefitting customers.

After meeting all our overheads, we achieved a small deficit of £1,718 (profit of £6,973 last year). We were fortunate to receive a small business Covid grant from East Devon Council for £10,000. This enabled us to cover the increased cost of running the shop during lockdown and make the necessary preparations to re-open.

Since the last AGM Judith Venning has stepped down from the committee. As many of you will know, Judith is now the Clerk to the Parish Council and has had to give priority to this role during the pandemic. Judith has been on the committee for many years including a spell as Chairman and has always been a valued and valuable member of the team. Her contributions managing the IT for the shop and paying suppliers has been essential for the smooth running of the business. I am pleased that Stuart Laws has agreed to join the committee and use his expertise to provide us with much needed IT support.

As always a big thank you must go to all our volunteers without whose help and support we wouldn't have a viable village shop. I know many were frustrated by not being able to help more during lockdown but we had to prioritise the safety of the management team to ensure we could continue to remain open. Some of our volunteers are still shielding but hopefully the vaccination programme will, in due course, enable us to welcome them back.

Last year I reported that we were discussing plans with the Village Hall as to how we can work together to improve our facilities and create a space where people can meet informally. Understandably these discussions have stalled but we will start again when circumstances allow.

#### Paul Smith, "Chair" of the Shop Management Committee

#### Friends of All Saints Valentine's delivery-

It was a grey and overcast day when bright red hearts sprung up all over the Village notifying the upcoming arrival of the Valentine's Day Gifts organised by the Friends of All Saints. Orders flowed in, roses were bought and three teams worked to make up over 50 gifts and deliver - in flurries of snowflakes! It was lovely to see the surprise and smiles on faces. The event raised over £100 but more importantly spread a little love and joy, totally priceless. Thank you for your support.



On sale at Bicton Gardens





Daffodils and village sunset by Peter Bowler





The Garria Eliptica (left) has the longest tassels that I have ever seen, nearly a foot long. The weather must have suited them this year, **Peter Bowler** 



#### Local wildlife by David White





This squirrel removed the skin from the peanut before eating!

The unfortunate mole was trying to escape rising flood water. When it came to the surface, a hungry heron was waiting!

Dunlin & reflection

A Pintail Drake





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# **Example 7** gilbertstephens

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Thanks Tom, the hard work from you and your team coupled with your expert knowledge and ideas is transforming "Seaway" from a rather nice garden to something stunning that we know we will enjoy for many years.

#### Dorothy & David, Exmouth

'I have no reservation in recommending that if anyone has a jungle which they want transformed into a garden, then these are the people to do it.'

#### P.W Frewn- Smith, Exmouth

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January; Ant and Sarah House along with Terry Cantlon, Chair of the Hall Committee (photo), planted new and infill mixed native species hedges at the Hall. The mixes comprise of hawthorn, field maple, hazel, holly, beech

# Yettington Village Hall



and dog rose and the material was sourced from local growers Perrie Hale Nursery in Honiton. The aim is to establish biodiverse and robust hedges at the perimeters whilst maintaining views into and out of the site. Maggie Quant

WI winning Witch Hazel - see page 23 for details;





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### East Budleigh with Bicton Women's' Institute

We hope that all our members are keeping well & that many of you have now at least had your first vaccination.

Your Committee are still keeping in touch, although we haven't been able to hold a meting since the Autumn.

Hopefully we will soon be out of this Lockdown and our lives can resume some sort of normality. After much deliberation & consultation with members, we have made the decision to hold future meetings in the afternoon of the second Thursday each month, from September.

Signs of Spring are definitely all around us with Primroses, Daffodils, Snowdrops and many other flowers & buds now appearing and we can also look forward to Easter.

Penny Kurowski won the January Flower of the Month with her lovely yellow Witch Hazel - see picture on page 21.

If anyone reading this is interested in joining our WI please phone our President Pam Terry for information - Tel: 01395 742015 Keep safe everyone.

**Rosemary Jerrard** 



A walk by the old railway line

A recipe for Spring... as new shoots start to creep through, it's time to swap those hearty root vegetables for spring ingredients, lighter, crisper and – delicious.

# Garlic and herb buttered chicken with braised lettuce

### Ingredients

100g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for braising 4 large garlic cloves, crushed Large bunch fresh flatleaf parsley, roughly chopped Large bunch fresh chives, roughly chopped 4 free-range British chicken breasts, skin on Olive oil for frying and drizzling 2 tbsp icing sugar 4 baby gem lettuces, halved lengthways 4 banana shallots, halved 150g baby carrots 200g British free-range smoked bacon lardons 200ml dry white wine 500ml good quality fresh chicken stock 250g frozen petit pois peas Juice ½ lemon

Recipe from Delicious Magazine www.deliciousmagazine .co.uk/collections/spring -recipes/

### Method

In a medium bowl, mix together the butter, 2 of the garlic cloves and half the fresh herbs. Make a small incision into the centre of each chicken breast, but don't go all the way through. Push equal amounts of the butter into the openings, then squeeze the chicken together to close. Cover, then chill for 20 minutes. Heat a glug of oil in a large sauté pan over a high heat. Put the icing sugar on a plate. Coat the cut side of each lettuce half in the sugar, then add them, cut-side down, to the pan. Sear for 1-2 minutes until caramelised, then remove from the pan and set aside.

Heat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas 7. In the same pan, over a medium heat, add a little more oil and the shallots, carrots and bacon lardons, then fry for 10-15 minutes until they soften and colour a little. Add the garlic and wine, then turn up the heat and bubble for 2-3 minutes. Add the stock, then turn down the heat to very low and simmer for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile heat a large ovenproof frying pan with a little oil. Add the chicken breasts, skin-side down, and cook for 5 minutes or until golden. Turn them over and fry again for another 2-3minutes. Transfer the pan with the chicken to the oven and roast for 10-15 minutes until cooked through (the juices will run clear when pierced in the thickest part with a skewer).

For the last 5 minutes of the roasting time, add the lettuce and peas to the stock mixture with a squeeze of lemon juice and the remaining herbs, then season. To serve, sit the chicken on top of the vegetables and stock, then pour over the buttery, herby cooking juices.

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An Estate update as the countryside turns from winter to spring.

Many paths, lanes and local routes have become very muddy with all the extra feet, bike tyres, hooves, and paws making the most of them this winter. Warmer March weather and hopefully less restrictions should ensure the worst affected tracks dry out and we can get out more easily and spot the first signs of spring.

#### **Clinton Farms**

As we head towards the end of winter all the milking cows are still housed, although we do have some young stock out grazing grass and winter brassica crops. Calving is underway in earnest on our spring calving herd at Dalditch Farm and will continue until April. By then the whole herd will have calved and we hope they will be out grazing our lush new season pastures, hitting peak milk production in May and June. We are also preparing for spring on the arable side of the farm, taking advantage of dry spells with slurry and muck spreading to enrich our soil organically. The plough is also out turning the ground for our spring cereal crops that will be used to feed the cows next winter.

#### **River Otter**

The Otter seems determined to adjust its course into the flood plain south of Otterton. A temporary closure between Otterton Bridge and Clamour Bridge will enable Devon County Council contractors to reinstate the footpath. During the repair work walkers can bypass the closed section via Park Lane. Ground works for the Lower Otter Restoration will commence this month. Drilling rigs to make detailed assessment of ground conditions, may be seen and an aluminium trackway will be installed to allow vehicles to move up and down the site in all conditions.

#### Pebblebed Heaths

The heaths remain busy. Data suggests some paths have seen a five-fold increase in walkers when compared to 2018. However, the conservation team are pleased the Pebblebeds have been able to absorb some of the visitor pressure from other areas, keeping local communities safer. There is still space and solitude to be found if that is what vou need. Winter felling and clearing work is drawing to a close as we look forward to seeing the birds, insects and reptiles emerging, to make the most of the different habitats our rangers and volunteers have worked hard to get into the best possible condition.

Horse riders use the heaths regularly, having the right to use all commons owned by Clinton Devon Estates, not just bridleways. If you own a dog, pay close attention, call your dog to heel if you meet a horse and use a lead if required. The excuse that your dog is 'playing' because they are not used to horses is not acceptable and puts both the horse and the rider at risk. Expect to meet horses, cyclists and families with young children anywhere and teach your dog good manners. All visitors are encouraged to share these important open spaces with consideration and understanding.

#### East Budleigh

In a joint landscape project between the Estate and East Budleigh Parish Council, 25 oak trees have been planted in hedges with the support of John and Dan Smith at Wynards Farm. The oaks will replace trees lost from farm hedgerows, due to ash dieback. We had hoped to host a planting event with village volunteers and pupils from Drake's School, but sadly it was not appropriate to bring people together at this time. However, the trees are in the ground and growing and will be a living legacy for the village and its residents in the future.

kate.ponting@clintondevon.com 01395 443881 www.clintondevon.com www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk

### Gardening Tips for March

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

- 1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- 2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- 3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- 4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- 5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
- 6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)

7. Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems

- 8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- 9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters

10. Prune bush and climbing roses



Inspiring everyone to grow

### EAST BUDLEIGH COLLABORATION GROUP

The Group is remaining vigilant for any opportunities to provide support to our residents. We currently have representatives from the Parish Council, All Saints Church, the Village Hall, Community Shop and Drake's School and within the groups are links to many of the other groups in the Parish. Chris Dearsley (Chair, Village Hall) volunteered to join the Budleigh Covid 19 Support Group as part of our desire to be involved with the wider community. At their recent meeting, the Budleigh group received updates from the local surgery on vaccine matters and from the Budleigh Hub on their service to deliver hot meals. 18 households received assistance with food vouchers and other forms of support.

Judith Venning, (Clerk to the Parish Council) attends regular meetings set up by Devon Communities. Members include groups in Otterton, Ottery St. Mary, the Budleigh Hub and others. In these areas there are food banks, support for those with Mental Health issues plus the local ring and ride scheme. The focus is on trying to offer support to all those in need at this time, including those newly in need due to issues caused by the pandemic.

Sandbag Day has been cancelled, as it proved a little impractical to organise in these times, but sandbags are available on request.

If anyone wants information on how to access assistance, both for individuals and businesses, then please contact the Parish Clerk. clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk

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# **COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME**

#### Brief Summary of the Scheme

The Department of Work & Pensions have provided a fund to County Councils and Unitary Authorities across England under the Scheme 'COVID Winter Grant Scheme'. The aim is to support vulnerable households with the cost of fuel or food due to the continuing hardships caused by Covid-19.

Citizens Advice are thrilled to be working on behalf of Devon County Council to help Devon residents in need.

t will be prioritised for those for whom a payment will help mitigate the risk of self-disconnection. It can include working families, single-household families, older people - anyone who is in need of fuel support so long as they are eligible.

We will be able to provide vouchers, top up smart meters online or make payments to online fuel accounts

#### Who are the Citizens Advice

We are an independent charity and part of the National Citizens Advice network, providing free, confidential and impartial advice. Advice provided includes

- Universal Credit Debt & Money Benefits

- er sonal

- Housing Consumer Legal & Civil Redundancy & Employment Disability Benefits

Last year we helped over 5,000 local people to access the help they needed, dealing with over 12,500 issues which cover a broad spectrum of advice needs. We helped our clients achieve income gains of £2.5 million in 2019-20, and gains of £1.8 million so far in 2020-21.

We also campaign for changes in law and policy where we can see a need evidenced through our work with clients. In this we support work by Citizens Advice nationally and by other voluntary organisations.

We deal not just with the immediate issue but with the underlying issues as well. This means that we are able to help in both the short and the longer term.





### RSPB Aylesbeare Common

Over the last month, we've had a big project in one of our mires to occupy working on improving the habitat for our colony of Southern Damselfly. Southern Damselflies are one of our reserve's priority species, elsewhere in the UK their population has seen a consistent decline, and although the colony on Aylesbeare is stable, it has not really spread out into the suitable surrounding habitat. This is probably due to a swathe of dense black bog rush that hangs over the runnels in the heath – blocking the waterways that the damselflies use to traverse the mire. Southern Damselflies are relatively weak fliers and cannot easily fly over grasses or tall scrub, so combined with how restricted they are with their habitat requirements, colonies can find it hard to establish and grow. Hopefully, by opening up the runnels within the mire and removing any overstood scrub, our existing colony will begin to spread out and colonise a larger area of habitat, which will lead to a larger and more sustainable population in the long term (although this may take several years).

Elsewhere on Aylesbeare, in another lovely wet patch of heathland, we have been cutting out young pine saplings (which in some areas have become quite dense). While our native Scot's pine is a lovely tree, and one that we might expect to see on a heathland, each tree produces hundreds of seeds that if left unchecked would soon start their own plantation. The majority have now been cut and burnt, but we have left some to grow into features, and eventually they will go on to provide an important habitat for some of our birds and insects. There are also half a dozen roadside ash along the A3052 which have dieback and need felling to maintain public safety along this busy road. You may have noticed our team have made a start felling these, and will hopefully have dealt with them all before the end of March

A final point to mention is about parking. There is a car park provided across the road from the main entrance at Joney's Cross, but there is no parking on the nature reserve itself – and this includes any of the tracks and grass verges. This is to protect the nature reserve and the species found here – you may see our staff or volunteers parked on some of the tracks with signs in their cars, but we are careful to minimise any disturbance caused by our vehicles, which it is not possible to do if there are dozens of cars from visitors all parked in a similar spot. There are also 15 ponies on the reserve who are very curious and enjoy a good scratch on whatever is available (including parked cars) and they may damage wing mirrors or wiper blades. While it may be frustrating when the car park is full, and we are thrilled that you have chosen to visit our reserve, please refrain from parking on the nature reserve and come back to visit us another time.

#### Species Feature:

This month's star isn't a bird at all – I want to shed some light on our very own carnivorous plant, the sundew. Sundews (Drosera) small, perennial plants, with bright green leaves that grow in a rosette form at the base and are covered in sticky red 'hairs'. Their white flowers are only around 5mm across, with between 5-8 petals (usually 6), on a stem rising above the height of the leaves. Sundews flower from June to August, but are only open briefly in the height of the sunshine. These

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ALSO AT BRIDGWATER & MINEHEAD

From page 30...

plants are specially adapted to the water-logged, acidic soils of bogs and heathlands where the nutrient content of the soil is poor. Sundews are able to supplement their nutrient intake by trapping and digesting small insects, attracted by the plant's sweet secretions. When an insect lands to investigate, they are trapped by the sticky hairs on the leaf, which is extremely sensitive and dextrous, and able to roll up around the unfortunate insect. The sundew then releases enzymes to digest the prey item, and the resulting nutrient soup is absorbed by the plant to fuel its own growth – allowing the plant to be largely independent of soilbound nutrients and thrive where other plants cannot. The largest threat to sundews in the UK is habitat destruction, including the draining of wet heaths/bogs for agricultural uses, peat harvesting, and the loss of traditional management practises which leads to scrub encroachment. The sundew has evolved specifically to live in these wet, poor soils, and cannot cope with drier or richer conditions where it is easily outcompeted by other plants which are better able to access nutrients from the soil.



### Who's who in East Budleigh & Bicton

Vicar - Rev'd Martin Jacques -01395 443473 / 07795 025 016 vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk

Associate Priest – Rev'd Karen Young 01395 488121 associatepriest@rmcommunity.co.uk

Churchwardens -Marilyn Hobbs 01395 488739 John Neligan 01395 442781 churchwarden.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

RMC Administrator -Fran Mills - 01395 443397 raleighmc@gmail.com The office at St Peters church is open; Mon 1-3, Tues-Thurs 10-12 & Fri 10-2.

Parochial Church Council -Secretary -Fran Mills - 01395 443397 pccsecretary.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

**Treasurer -**Maria Malinowska 07773 218582

Bellringers Captain -Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

Organist - Geoff Aplin 01395 442951

**Church Hall bookings** – 01395 443609 or church office 01395 443397

Parish News ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk

# Services at All Saints East Budleigh in March

If guidelines allow, we will continue to hold a spoken Holy Communion service at All Saints Church each Sunday;

### Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion

This service will be live streamed and can be watched in actual time and is available to watch afterwards. Please visit

https://app.faith.online/p/organizations/RmDbLUElb

The phone number to call to listen to the service as always is 01395 891035.

The phone number is a local number (01395) so you will be charged at the local rate if you are dialling from the local area.

If you are dialling from a mobile phone the call may be included in your allowance depending on your calling plan.

and Morning Prayer by Zoom each Wednesday

# Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer on Zoom

For more details about joining this service of Morning Prayer - please contact

Rev. Margaret Scrivener 07867 556 225 or marscriv@gmail.com

For the latest service information;

www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk

### East Budleigh Church Hall

The church hall has lovely views across the village and surrounding countryside. It has a modern kitchen and is available to hire for functions and activities. Please contact: Richard Slade 01395 443609 or church office 01395 443397

# Next edition of the Parish News

Please send items for the April 2021 issue of the magazine to ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk by 6pm on Monday 15th March. Thank you



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