

Village Voice



April 2021
22nd Great Year
Vol 22-01

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Village Voice

April 2021

Issue: 242

This Magazine is a Community Enterprise professionally printed by Blackwell Print - but written, edited and delivered free - entirely by volunteers. After printing costs, any profits from the Magazine are paid out in the form of grants to community organisations and groups in our circulation area.

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We welcome your news, views, letters and articles and photographs for publication. No anonymous items will be accepted. If you have a complaint please write to Adrian Myers, Chairman, Village Voice Board by post at 49 Heather Gardens, Belton NR31 9PP

YOUR VILLAGE VOICE

The closing date for all items for the May 2021 edition of Village Voice is 21st April 2021.

All contributions to
beltonveditor@gmail.com and
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Please produce information in Arial Rich Text and images as jpeg files 1meg max. Please do not embed images in your text.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



This April issue marks the beginning of Village Voice's 22nd year of publication. For a small magazine that is distributed free and run by volunteers, this is a creditable achievement. It has only been possible to persevere in this endeavor because of the tremendous support we have received from the readers, advertisers and well wishers of this magazine and I am very grateful to all of you for that. Though delivered only to homes within Belton, Browston, Burgh Castle, Fritton and St Olaves, the Village Voice today has an on-line reach that is far higher than its print circulation of 3500 and there are signs that this will grow further.

Our cover story this month does not make for pleasant reading. The vandalism at Burgh Castle Fort is a matter of shame for all of us and one sincerely hopes that those responsible will be held to account. Please do pass on any information you may have on this to the police. On a happier note, this month's issue features some of the winners of the 2020 Village Voice writing competition. It was a matter of some personal satisfaction that there were almost 200 entries this year, a record for us. Piers Colby was the winner in the category for adults. His short story, Lorica and those from Anita Abel, Jill Waters and Lesley Chalmers that won special commendations appear in this issue. There will be more to come in the next few months. Allow me to mention Maisie's charming poem which features in the report from Moorlands Academy and Rithik Anvar's thoughtful book review of The White Tiger, both well worth a read.

Finally, all best wishes for a very happy Easter and please don't forget, this is the magazine's April issue. More about that next month.

Professor Regi T Alexander
Editor

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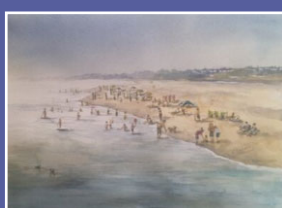
Read the latest newsletter from CPRE

The value of all green and wild areas has been underlined by recent pandemic restrictions, with the need for accessible parks, open spaces, wild areas and green corridors close to urban areas more important than ever.

CPRE Norfolk is calling again for the creation of a Green Belt for Norwich to provide robust protection for precious green spaces around our fine city. Our vision for the Green Belt for Norwich is on the green wedges model, whereby protected green corridors would radiate from the city into the surrounding countryside, providing long-term access to green space for Norwich residents.

Read more about what we have been doing in the latest edition of our newsletter, Norfolk Voice.

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

APRIL DIARY DATES - Councils

Belton with Browston PC

Tuesday April 6th (7pm) Zoom

To take part in the meeting contact the Parish Clerk on beltonparish@yahoo.co.uk

Burgh Castle PC

Monday April 12th (7.30pm) Zoom

To take part in the meeting contact the Parish Clerk on burghcastleclerk@gmail.com

Belton and Browston Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday April 20th (7pm) Zoom

To take part in the meeting contact the Parish Clerk on beltonparish@yahoo.co.uk.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2020

There is just time to submit a nomination for the parish Councils Citizen of the year in Belton and Browston as the closing date is April 4th

To make a nomination send the persons name and address together with the specific details of your nomination which can be for help and assistance to an individual or with a group or organisation based in the Parish to Kate Ruddock, Parish Clerk, Belton with Browston Parish Council, 56 Victoria Road, Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth, NR31 6EF

As well as being open to residents of Belton with Browston the award will be available to non residents of the parish provided the work for which that person is nominated is within the parish, anybody who has received an award covering the previous two years will not be eligible. Nominations can be for more than one person for the same service/good deed. (Parish Councillors cannot be nominated).

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING Belton and Browston

All Parish Councillors, County Councillor Andy Grant, Borough Councillors Tracy Cameron and Adrian Myers, Kate Ruddock the Parish Clerk and two members of the public were present at the 'remote' meeting of Belton with Browston Parish Council on March 2nd, Michael Graystone was in the chair.

County Councillor Grant reported, following that the recent New Road flooding, Norfolk County Council will be attending to the soakaways and the road has been placed on the list for drainage improvements. A group of members will inspect the new cycle path and an adjacent landowner will be asked to remove broken fencing which is a potential hazard. All hedges in the parish that were due to be cut by the County Council have been done except the one at Bell Lane footpath. Councillor Grant was thanked for getting the work on the cycle track and at Stepshort completed. The Councillor also reported on a new fund for trees and shrubs that will be available later in the year which could be used for

replacement planting at the Bell Lane field. Councillor Grant thanked members for their support over the last four years (he is not seeking re-election in the Lothingland ward at the May County Council elections).

Borough Councillor Myers reported 3% council tax rise for the Borough Council, 3.99% for the County and 5.86% for Norfolk Police.

Members again discussed the New Road Sports Field fence and after clarification from contractors agreed on replacement of a large section by Waveney Fencing, the lowest of four quotes received.

There were no objections to three planning applications, The Willows, Cherry Lane, Browston (side and porch extensions), 25 Station Road South (front porch), and 55 Station Road South (annexe extension). Members objected to a retrospective application for a building used as reception at Swallow Park on Beccles Road and also objected to plans for a four bedroomed guest annexe and swimming pool at Oak Tree Barn off Beccles Road, there were concerns that this could be used commercially and set a precedent. There was a further objection against retrospective approval for an extension and wet room at 14 The Staithe as there had not been any buildings regulations consent. It was noted that the refused application for a two-bedroom bungalow at 'Farewell Hales' on Stepshort had been taken to appeal by the applicant.

Clearance of shrubs at Bell Lane had been delayed a week due to equipment issues and the dyke clearance off Sandy Lane is still delayed as the ground is too wet for the equipment needed there.

The chairman will identify possible locations for extra grit bins in the vicinity of Bell Lane and report back.

A plaque in memory of former chairman Peter Nichols will be installed at the New Road centre once wording details are confirmed.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday April 20th with the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday May 4th, the next monthly Council meeting will be on Tuesday April 6th. All meetings will commence at 7pm and be held remotely using Zoom, for joining details contact the Parish Clerk at beltonparish@yahoo.co.uk

NEW BELTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

At the March meeting of Belton with Browston Parish Council three new councillors were co-opted to bring the council back to its full strength of 13 members for the first time in at least four years. The new councillors are Stuart Bridges, David Mills and Gemma Searby.

At the same meeting Councillor Nathan Brown was elected to fill the vacant position of Vice Chairman.



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COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

We should all have had our Council Tax bills by now and many of you in Belton, Browston and Burgh Castle may be surprised to see that there has been a small increase on the Parish Council section of the totals. It had originally been published that the two councils had gone for a 'no change' figure. This is because the Borough Council takes the Parish Council's total and divides it into a total of properties that they have calculated are likely to yield a tax payment. In each case they have calculated that this will be slightly smaller than last year, hence the increase. In the case of Fritton and St Olaves, although the Parish Council agreed a small increase, this has worked out larger than the council would have expected as the Borough Council have decided that seven less properties are likely to yield a tax than in the 2020/21 financial year.

THE WELCOME HOME FUND Village Project Ideas Wanted

In 1945 the Belton Welcome Home Fund was set up by Parishioners to welcome home Servicemen and women who served in World War 2. The resultant fund raising activities paid for the purchase in 1947 of the Bell Lane Playing field. Money was added to the fund when some of the site was sold in 1968 to facilitate the building of the Waveney School.

The Parish Council, as Trustees of the fund, are looking for a small project, with a limited amount of funding to make improvements to an area within the village that would be of benefit to all residents. Consideration should be given to the location of any suggested venture, plus costs involved.

The Charitable Trust has criteria that it must adhere to, in summary: "The object of the Charity is, in the interests of social welfare, to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of Belton and Browston by the provision and maintenance of a recreation ground or recreation grounds and the provision of general charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Belton and Browston."

Please can all suggestions be e-mailed to the Charities Secretary, Mrs

Kate Ruddock at beltonparish@yahoo.co.uk or posted to 56 Victoria Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, NE31 6EF by April 30th. 2021.

Please note any agreed suggestion would be subject to the approval by the Charity Commission.

FORT VANDALISM

There was substantial vandalism at the Burgh Castle Roman Fort overnight on Friday / Saturday March 5th/6th when there was damage to gates, litter bins, the donation box, the nature viewing area and much more. This has put a further strain on the funds of Norfolk Archaeological Trust who manage the monument. They are already proposing (see last month's VV) the implementation of car parking charges to help cover a shortfall in funding caused mainly by a massive reduction in outside funding grants for land management.

A report on Facebook on the Saturday morning brought condemnation and words of disgust from many local residents and this was echoed by Burgh Castle Parish Council at their March meeting on the Monday evening. Norfolk Police have been informed. Do you know anything that can help catch these offenders?

If you have any information, please contact Norfolk Police on 101 as soon as possible.

(Our thanks to Simon Wainwright for the photographs).



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A WORD FROM YOUR LOCAL MP AND COUNCILLORS



BRANDON LEWIS MP writes

No one could fail to be moved by the distressing murder of Sarah Everard. The subsequent news reports made us stop and think about attitudes and safety in modern Britain. Quite rightly politicians are expected to respond and take appropriate action. However, I'm alarmed at how some politicians have played party political games with the situation. Instead of supporting the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill last month, the Labour Party voted against it playing politics rather than voting to keep people safe.

As a former policing minister, I know how important it is that our police and courts have a full arsenal of powers to protect individuals and our communities. That's why, I was proud to vote for these new laws. It introduces measures that would double maximum sentences for common assault and battery

against emergency workers, to protect those who work to keep us safe. It will stop the minority of protesters who seek to use mob rule to stop the public from going about their lawful activities. The law is changed so that desecration of war memorials and vandalism of graves and tributes is treated as seriously as criminal damage with a higher monetary value. It introduces Whole Life Orders for the premeditated murder of a child – so that courts can make sure people convicted of the vilest of crimes spend the rest of their lives behind bars. And there are new life sentences for killer drivers who cause fatal accidents while racing or while drunk

By voting against the Bill, some politicians have tried to block tougher sentences for child murderers and sex offenders, killer drivers and more support for society's most vulnerable. They voted against tougher sentences for the most violent criminals shows whose side that party are on. As Great Yarmouth's Member of Parliament I will continue to work to keep people safe by standing for the law-abiding majority, not the criminal minority, so that everyone can live their lives free from the fear of crime.

ADRIAN MYERS Borough Councillor

Given that it is International Women's Day on the 8th of March, I thought I might add something different to the conversation. So, I have written a short piece about the contribution that women made in the second world war regarding their role in the Special Operation Executive.

According to records there were some 39 to 41 female SOE field operatives. By field operatives, I mean they were working in German held territory under cover. A very dangerous position to be in, especially in war time.

SOE was far ahead of contemporary attitudes in its use of women in armed combat. Although women were first considered only as couriers in the field or as wireless operators or administrative staff in Britain, those sent into the field were trained to use weapons and in unarmed combat. Most were commissioned into either the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) or the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Women often assumed leadership roles in the field. Pearl Witherington became the organiser (leader) of a highly successful resistance network in France. Early in the war, American Virginia Hall functioned as the unofficial nerve centre of several SOE networks in Vichy France. The Gestapo gave Nancy Grace August Wake the nickname "the white mouse" because of her uncanny ability to evade capture. Many women agents such as Odette Hallows or Violette Szabo were decorated for bravery, posthumously in Szabo's case. Of SOE's 41 (or 39 in some estimates) female agents serving in Section F (France) sixteen did not survive with twelve killed or executed in Nazi concentration camps.

It took a considerable amount of bravery by these women to put themselves not in the front line, but behind the enemies.



There have been several films about the women of the SOE they are:

Carve Her Name with Pride	1958
A Call to Spy	2019
Charlotte Gray	2001
Female Agents	2008

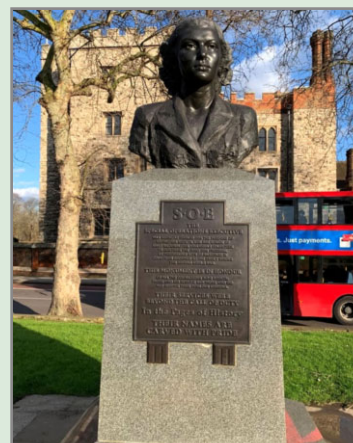
The Monument to S.O.E Agents, Lambeth Palace Road, London. Unveiled in 2009, this memorial to the SOE agents of World War II on the banks of the River Thames is a lasting tribute to the men and women of the Special Operations Executive, a secret organisation which operated behind enemy lines during World War II.

Now the snow has gone, the bin collections should be back to normal. There was some confusion regarding when and which ones were going to be emptied. Although there was information on the borough website which was updated regularly, I appreciate that some residents were unable to access the site because they did not have a computer or internet connection. In the future, perhaps

communication updates could be sent to the Parish council clerks so that they can distribute the information via parish councillors. I am sure that this is something that can be actioned if the situation arises again.

I continue to work from home attending virtual meetings. My contact details is as always 07824 313792 or cllr.adrian.myers@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Adrian Myers Independent Lothingland Ward.



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THE MALCOLM METCALF COLUMN

Malcolm Metcalf is the past president of the Great Yarmouth Naturalists Society. His Nature Notes is one of the Village Voice's longest standing and best loved columns.

He can be contacted on 01493 661138.

You can also write to him at 43 Magdalen Way, Gorleston, NR31 7BW or on 43ironhorse@gmail.com

REDWINGS & "LEONIES WOOD"

Gloria and Brian Swan of Burgh Castle had some very special visitors to their garden during that very cold weather in February, a party of 8 Redwings (*Turdus ilicus*). These birds devoured the entire supply of berries on two trees growing in their garden within a few visits. The Redwing is a



passage migrant and winter visitor to marshes, farmland and suburban gardens, especially in hard weather.

Redwings are a little smaller than the Song Thrush, their wings are not red, as its name applies but the rich red is on their flanks. They have a very prominent cream coloured stripe over their eyes and the breast is not spotted but striped. In flight the chestnut underwing coverts are conspicuous. In winter Song Thrushes are usually seen in ones or twos, whereas Redwings tend to occur in flocks.

Redwings suffer severely in cold weather and any prolonged snowfall results in large numbers of underweight birds struggling to find enough food to stay alive. Most of the small breeding stock in the U.K. are in Scotland, where in 1925 the first breeding occurred. In 1968 20 pairs were recorded in Wester Ros.

Their choice of habitat is wide, including Birch, Oak, Willow scrub, Alder, and tree stumps. There has been one account of just a solitary nest being found in eastern Kent. Their nest has the same appearance as that of the Song Thrush, but unlike the Song Thrush the Redwing puts an inner lining of fine grasses within the mud cup. 4-5 blue eggs, with black markings are laid.

Redwings like to roost in Rhododendrons or dense Shrubberies. A Redwing ringed at Cley Norfolk in October was

recovered in Spain two months later. Another ringed near Norwich in December 1959 was reported in Portugal in November 1961. While a bird ringed in Latvian S.S.R. was recovered in Acle the following February. And one ringed in Dersingham Norfolk in October in 1966 was shot in Pau, France a month later. (Credit for the Redwing photo is to Gareth Peacock)

On February 27th. Chris Dowsett invited me to his "LEONIES WOOD" in Burgh Castle to see his Snowdrops, what a surprise awaited me, over 2 acres with thousands of them in bloom, my photo shows just a small section of this magic carpet of flowers. Luckily it was a glorious sunny, mild day.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) flower between February and



March. One of its local names is 'Snow Piercer'. This describes how the flower pushes its head above the earth or snow and brightens woodlands, the flowers provide an early feast for bees, which pollinate them. Nectar is obtained from the green-spotted inner petals. Snowdrops are absent in Orkney and Shetland.

During our walk Chris told me he had observed 40 Little Egrets on a nearby Marsh during the cold spell we had. Some of these will be nesting in his Alder trees in late spring. Already preparing nests were 6 Herons standing like sentries in Alder trees. Within couple of weeks there will be 20 Heron nests. Several Rooks were getting ready to nest and it is expected there will be 100 nests in total.

Tamara Betts from Station Road Belton, rang to say she hadn't heard a Song Thrush singing since December.

AN ADVANTAGE TO LISTENING TO POP MUSIC

The Village Voice has found some interesting scientific work that has been carried out in the USA.

After many years of research, it has been concluded that young people who listen to high frequency pop music are far less likely to be bitten by insects especially gnats and mosquitos.

The question was asked. Why? Following a wide questionnaire sent out to over 50,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 30, across many US states, nearly 89% of the 43,000 replies said that they listened to high frequency pop music regularly.

Professor R. A. Schmidt from a well known US University, who undertook this study, discovered that the young people set up a self-body vibration in their skin related to the music frequency they listened

to. These frequencies are very similar to those of small electronic units on sale that emit a high pitched sound to deter biting insects.

He also concluded that the sound level does not need to be high for this to happen. Hence there is no danger to hearing.

The skin condition that allows this effect to happen is related to LIPAR which is a skin condition that is well known for producing itchy skin in humans.

Although much more work is required to investigate this effect it is expected to see a take up with older people listening to this kind of music, especially before going on holiday to areas that suffer from biting insects. For more information go to <http://ohiouni.com/liparskin> to read the full investigation report.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Bill Richmond		01493 780822
Robert Goffin		07526 201088
Bridget Lawrence		01493 780160
Terry Ladbroke		01493 782213

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	Lee Staff	01493 782326
	Nigel Light	07860 759076
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	Ian Walpole	01493 290910
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	Nathan Brown	07771 731235
	Darren Buckworth	07932 760391
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Chair	Brian Swan	01493 780776

BURGH CASTLE VILLAGE HALL:

Margaret Greenacre	01493 780126
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FRITTON AND ST OLAVES PARISH COUNCIL:

Clerk	Mrs Kate Ruddock	01493 602960
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GT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

Adrian Myers	07824 313792
Tracie Cameron	07968 882240

COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

Andy Grant	07833 083903
<i>Lothingland Ward which covers Belton/Fritton/St Olaves</i>	
Carl Smith	01493 662176
<i>Member for Breydon Ward which covers Burgh Castle</i>	

Norfolk Highways

Jonathan Taylor	01603 224200 or 0344 800 8020
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

Brandon Lewis	01493 854550
---------------	--------------

Gt Yarmouth Borough Council	01493 856100
Police	101 non emergency
Fire	999

BELTON:

Rev	Rosie Bunn	01493 780210
Church Pantry	Marion Chilvers	78101 493474
Moorlands Academy Reception		01493 780007
Ormiston Academy		01493 662966
Compass Centre		01493 923122
Well Being Pharmacy		01493 222299

ACTIVITY GROUPS:

Belton Community Choir	01493 780586
Allotments Parish Clerk	01493 602960
Scouts/Beavers, Jane Clarke	07572 882177
Community Car scheme	07767 063986

James Paget Hospital

Doctors	Millwood Surgery	01493 444484
Dentist	J Plummer	01493 662717

Block Drains Anglia water	0845 791 9155
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BT Customer Services	0800 800 150
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Essex & Suffolk Water	0345 782 0999
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Clean water supply emergency

Uk Power Network	105
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Gas leak	0800 111999
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Vets	Haven Practice	01493 416700
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Samaritans	0330 094 5717
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POLICE ENGAGEMENT OFFICER:

Daisy Woodward-Smith	07917 642073
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NEW ROAD SPORTS & LEISURE CENTRE:

BeeBops	Beckie	07934 276167
Camera Club		07867 636387
Musical Movers	Amanda	07974 173216
Belton Bowmen	Duncan	01493 780148
Yoga	Lexi	07841 985767
Pilates	Jan	07766 103141
Belton Football Club		07771 731235
Bohemians Football Club		01502 732690
up4fitness	Sallyann	07599 044806
Stroke Group	Sue Casey	01493 781846
Premier Room Booking		01493 602960
Belton Judo	Dominic	07977 432756
Belton Fun Day		07841 716677

REV ROSIE WRITES



The first Easter Day dawned and great sadness and grief was felt by the family, friends and disciples of Jesus. He had been crucified and buried hurriedly on the Friday, before the Jewish holy day began. Then there was a whole day of waiting through Saturday, until they could visit the tomb on the Sunday to tend to the preparation of his body for burial in accordance with their custom. For some in our community there will be unfinished business in terms of grief in bereavement because funerals and wakes have not been able to be held in the usual way, and the waiting has been prolonged.

But, on Easter Sunday, when the women arrived at Jesus' tomb, they found the stone rolled away, and the tomb empty. Jesus was not there! There was quite a bit of to-ing and fro-ing. The women go back and tell the disciples what they have seen. Peter and another disciple run to the tomb, to discover what the women have told them – that the grave clothes are there, but no Jesus. There is confusion and disbelief. For some of us, the loss of a friend or relative seems almost unreal; we haven't been able to see family and friends, so we are left in a strange place in our bereavement, as if feeling it is unreal.

On that Easter morning it is Mary Magdalene, weeping in the garden, in the vicinity of the tomb, who stumbles across the person she believes to be the gardener, asking if he knows where they have put Jesus. In answer to her questions, she hears her name spoken, "Mary!" and she recognises Jesus' voice. He is alive! He is there with her! And she reaches out to him, but is told that he has yet to return to Father God (in heaven) and she is to go and tell the disciples that he is alive and returning to Father God. She does this, but the disciples don't believe what the women say.

Later that day, Jesus joins two of the disciples who have given up on Jerusalem and are returning home on the Emmaus Road. He walks with them, talks to them about what has happened recently in Jerusalem and explains what the Bible scriptures say about Jesus, his death and life. These two recognise Jesus only when he breaks the bread in the meal they are to share, and it leads to them hurrying back to Jerusalem to tell their story and experience to Jesus' followers.

Having turned up at the place where the disciples were hiding for fear of the Jewish leaders, and told everyone there what has happened, Jesus appears to them all (except Thomas). He just appears in the room and they think he's a ghost! But Jesus encourages them to touch him; to look at his hands and his feet (showing evidence of crucifixion marks) and to give him some fish to eat (which he eats), and he gives them understanding of teaching of the scriptures. How "the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations...." Can

you imagine how those disciples felt when they saw Jesus alive – standing in front of them? Jesus is alive, and for forty days he comes and goes, teaching them and encouraging them, but then ascends back into heaven, where he remains.

The passage from John's gospel (chapter 14) that is often read at funerals helps us in understanding what happens. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

The resurrection, the rising of Christ from the dead, is key to what Christians believe. It is the foundation of Christian hope: the belief and expectation that Jesus will return to take us to be with him, either at the end of time or when we pass away from life here on earth. Jesus' death and resurrection opened up the possibility of eternal life for each one of us. It is a hope Christians have, from the trust and belief we have in Jesus. So Easter is a most significant time of celebration.

I don't know how you celebrate Easter, but I'm sure many of you will be enjoying an Easter egg or two. When you break your hollow egg open, perhaps you will remember the empty tomb of Jesus, and be reminded of the joy of the disciples in discovering Jesus alive, and the hope we have now, for life beyond the grave. Hope is so important for each one of us. May your hope be found in Jesus this Easter.

There will be a service in both All Saints, Belton and St Peter & St Paul, Burgh Castle, as well as a live-streamed service from Belton on Facebook Live. Come and join us and join in our joyful celebrations.

Stay Safe, Bless you. Rosie Bunn

EASTER DAY

Services in Church

9.30am Holy Communion
St Peter & St Paul, Burgh Castle

10.30am Family Communion
All Saints, Belton

GOOD FRIDAY

Services on-line

10am St Peter & St Paul, Burgh Castle

11.30am All Saints, Belton

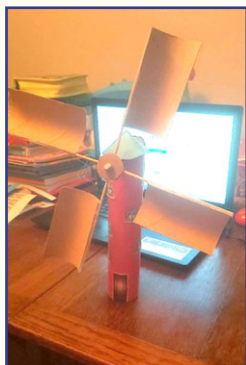
Further information: www.allsaintsbelton.org.uk
or ☎ Rev Rosie Bunn 01493 780210

1st BELTON SCOUT GROUP



BEAVERS

The Beavers this last month have been busy doing their builder's badge. To complete this, they had to draw a plan of what they were going to do, prepare a list of materials and make a machine that worked using recycling materials. We had cars, windmills and helicopters. As part of



their creative badge they made a working Lego model. We are all looking forward to meeting face to face after Easter, fingers crossed. Looking forward, there are spaces at Beavers. If you have a young person 6 years or about to be 6 years and are interested please contact Brown Beaver (Jane) on 07975 533572.



CUBS

The Cubs this month on zoom meeting have been working on their Our World Challenge. This included celebrating with Incas of Peru and making a flute-like instrument out of straws to celebrate their festival of light, discussing pollution of plastic in rivers, lakes and seas and what we could do about it and building a world landmark out of things we recycle at home. We will end this term completing our chef's activity badge and ticking off part of our Skills Challenge by learning a new skill when we make fresh pasta and a simple tomato sauce on zoom.

SCOUTS

Some of the Scouts have been joining in with the Cubs for the Zoom meeting. Would you be interested in helping to support the Scout section? You don't need to help every week, just whenever you are able to help. We are looking for a team of people to support them. For more information, please contact John (Gov) Group Scout Leader on 07443 567326.

GROUP

Paper Collection next on Saturday 10th April 2021 please have your paper outside property by 8.45am ready for collection, or can be dropped at 6 Station Rd North, Belton any time. May's collection Saturday 8th May 2021.

We would be grateful to receive any books for our sales. They can either be dropped at 6 Station Rd North, Belton or phone 01493 780965.

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Belton Activity Morning

April 2021 will be a major turning point in stepping forward away from the massive restrictions we have had to live with over the last year.

The online exercise classes by Zoom on a Monday morning have been very beneficial to those who have been able to join in. Just a 30 minute session helps to keep the momentum of being up and ready for exercise on Mondays. We join up again on Zoom at 11.30 am to have our Coffee time together, it's great to catch up and see people especially if you live on your own.

Although the lifting of the restrictions is a great step forward, many people will be reluctant to resume activities they once were involved with.

With this in mind and providing we don't see a rise of Covid infections, from Monday April 12th organised outdoor activities can resume.

Sallyann has provisionally booked New Road sports centre field for the popular Monday morning Nordic Walk & talk sessions from Monday 12th April 2021.

Members are requested to bring their own refreshments.

Dates for these walk & talk sessions are April 12th, 19th & 26th and the times have not been confirmed yet.

If you are interested in coming along you will have to book and so need to contact Sallyann first.

Whilst we are not allowed to exercise indoors as a group, it is planned the online exercise session and coffee time may continue.

As we come out of Lockdown 3, we will be governed by the 4 step road map to returning to some normality, however it will not be the same as before and we will have to adapt and evolve if we want to participate in any group activity in the future.

At this moment in time Sallyann is not planning to far ahead and May 17th is when we may be able to resume indoor classes, but let's not run before we can walk.

So if in doubt contact Sallyann via email up4fitness@gmail.com or telephone 07599 044806 or private message Sallyann through messenger on my Facebook pages Sallyann Protheroe and up4fitness Thank you

Sallyann

BELTON JUDO CLUB

LATEST UPDATED NEWS

CONCERNING THE JUDO CLUB:



Due to the latest Covid-19 lockdown rules, Belton Judo Club (Dominic King Judo & MMA Academy) is unable to run any actual Judo sessions at present but the positive news is that at last we can be cautiously optimistic about the future.

At the time of writing this update, as we always have to say, subject to the latest government guidelines at the time, we will be able to get back to normal, full-contact Judo from Monday June 21st so potentially we will start running our sessions at Belton from Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd (New road centre has already been booked so this is as certain as we can be that this will actually happen!!) Monday sessions at Corton still to be confirmed subject to registration of interest.

Dominic is presently running Zoom sessions for any members that wish to take part but as the plan is to get back to proper Judo sessions from June, he is hoping to be able to get as many members as possible into the May Zoom sessions to help them to prepare for returning to actual Judo sessions that we all know and love. Anyone wishing to take part in any of these sessions, please contact Dominic for details.

Dominic also runs a YouTube channel available to all during these difficult times called "World Class Happiness". It is a spin-off from his book of the same name (available on Amazon) and it is well worth a look. You can subscribe and get regular positive messages to help you through this pandemic and life in general. You can also join the Facebook group of the same name and also join the group and like the page titled "Dominic King Judo & MMA Academy", You will find regular training videos and advice on these which will prove useful to keep ticking over until we can all get back to "normal"!

More great news!! Our excellent Judo club is open to all from complete novices up to top level competitive fighters and from the beginning of May, anyone wishing to give it a try can join in the Zoom sessions free of charge to prepare to start fully in June. (new starters get the first TWO sessions free of charge) Just contact Dominic if you are interested and he will give you all the details that you need. (the YouTube and Facebook mentioned above are obviously open to all, not just club members)

Anyone wanting further details of any future sessions can contact Dominic on 07977 432756 or email on dominic@fightingfitjudo.co.uk or contact him via Facebook or WhatsApp

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Local dog trainer is a finalist in national Awards

Elite K9 Academy has been shortlisted for the Animal Star Awards and is a finalist in the Dog trainer/Behaviourist category. Debbie Betts is a qualified dog trainer with the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers (IMDT) and an approved Instructor with KAD (Kids Around Dogs) and has been running her dog training business since 2018.

In Debbie's words "Honoured, humbled and excited to have been nominated and then shortlisted as a finalist"

Based in St Olaves Debbie offers a range of training programmes from pre puppy/puppy programmes, settling in a rehomed/new dog, confidence walks, enrichment discovery sessions to accompanied group walks. Utilising Zoom is a major plus especially for nervous dogs, so there is no added stress by Debbie being in their safe space. During lockdown, Zoom sessions have helped many guardians to start their journeys with their dogs.

Debbie organised and single handed ran an online photographic dog show last winter for Service Dogs UK and raised over £500 for the charity. She has also hosted free online Zoom sessions with a consent based groomer as the speaker and also Ask a Trainer sessions.

The Animal Star Awards were founded by Mary Burgess in 2016 because she wanted to recognise animals and humans alike for going above and beyond. The ASA as they are affectionally known as, also raises awareness and gives financial support to small animal charities.

The winners were announced via a virtual awards ceremony on March 28th. ASA website details are



www.animalstarawards.com

Elite K9 Academy can be found on www.discoverelite.co.uk and Debbie offers a free 15min discovery call to discuss the best way to help you and your dog. Email is debs@elitek9academy.aco.uk and phone number 07515 118077

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ENTUA

(East Norfolk Transport Users Association) is a voluntary independent body which monitors bus and rail provision in the East Norfolk Area. To learn more about us please visit our website www.entua.org.uk

On January, 20th, 2021 ENTUA sent three pages of comments to Greater Anglia as part of their consultation on the December 2021 timetable.

We point out "Compared to Kings Lynn, another major town of Norfolk, all of Great Yarmouth's outward bound services terminate at Norwich, whereas those from Kings Lynn offer destinations to Ely, Cambridge and London without changing trains. Even Lowestoft, a major town oaf North Suffolk, is promised (according to the franchise submission) four direct services each weekday to London"

We suggest "it is highly probable that the majority of passengers using the rail service from Great Yarmouth travel to destinations beyond Norwich" This demand can be catered for by extending a Great Yarmouth – Norwich service every two hours to Cambridge and Stansted Airport.

In addition, a twice daily Great Yarmouth – Peterborough service would be particularly useful for holidaymakers in the summer. Such a link could either be provided by Greater Anglia's Stadler trains or by extending East Midlands Railways' Norwich to Liverpool Lime Street services.

We consider there is scope for some additional trains to and from Great Yarmouth, and these extra trains should run via Reedham. At the moment, there are not enough weekday services connecting Cantley and Reedham to Great Yarmouth.

The re-introduction of at least one or two direct services from Great Yarmouth to London Liverpool Street would "reinvigorate interest and patronage for passengers using the line and again would prove very popular during the summer months" Such a link could be provided via Norwich or by starting at least two of the Lowestoft –London trains from Great Yarmouth, reversing at Reedham to Lowestoft in the morning, with return services following the opposite pattern later in the day.

The Greater Anglia consultation document raised the possibility of later evening trains. ENTUA has responded by suggesting an additional

train leaving Norwich at about 23.45, which would cater for passengers attending theatre shows and other evening events. The last train in their current timetable leaves Norwich for Great Yarmouth at 23.00.

To sum up, "ENTUA would prefer a half-hour service between Great Yarmouth and Norwich, but we are realistic enough that this may not be viable throughout the day. ENTUA places greater emphasis on trains going to destinations beyond Norwich, to eliminate at least one change in the journey to places further afield ... We look forward to the time when passengers can enjoy the full benefits of our local railway, especially the luxury of the recently introduced Stadler units."

While it has not been possible for the ENTUA Committee to meet during the various stages of lockdown, we have maintained contact. Naturally there has not been much happening with regards to any major events regarding buses and trains, however ENTUA has managed to produce, print and circulate issues of its quarterly newsletter to its membership. We had previously used desktop publishing to produce the newsletter, but due to restrictions on mixing households, we have contracted this work out to a printer which has proved more cost-effective. We are looking forward to a time when we can not only resume our Committee meetings, but also our Annual Public Meeting in August, plus of course, direct dialogue with representatives from the bus and train operators.

As far as Belton is concerned we are grateful to First Eastern Counties for maintaining our ½ hourly weekday service on the X11. Hopefully as time and restrictions removal progress and patronage increases, we will see the re-introduction of through X11 services from Belton to Norwich via James Paget Hospital and Great Yarmouth.

ENTUA always welcomes new members, all we ask is a minimum annual donation of £5.00 which helps us cover the cost of our very informative quarterly newsletter and the hiring of venues for public meetings. To join please write to ENTUA, 18 Wensum Way, Belton, NR31 9NY

TONY GRICE

CRIME FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Nos.</u>	<u>What could this entail</u>
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	2	Harassment, alarm or distress is caused in a non-crime incident.
Burglary Business and Community	1	
Domestic	2	Domestic incidents where a crime has not occurred. Parties are aged 16 or over and have been intimate partners or family members regardless of sexuality.
Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	1	Public order offences e.g. from a verbal altercation to offences just short of violence.

We are working in partnership with Norfolk County Council Trading Standards. If you are cold called we offer the following advice:

- If someone cold calls at your property, remember it is your doorstep so your decision whether you even answer the door

- Think about your home security, make sure other doors to your property are locked before answering the front door
- If the person is offering services or trying to sell something politely but confidently say you are not interested and close the door
- If the person is claiming to represent an authority, organisation or charity ask to see ID. If ID is offered, ask if you can take it to check its validity. If you are given the ID close the door and contact the company or organisation on the ID by a number you find online. DO NOT use information on the ID, it could be fake. If no ID is offered, the caller refuses to let you check it, or you can not verify it is genuine politely but confidently say you are not interested and close the door.
- As the cold caller leaves, if you can safely from inside your property watch and see:

Do they go to call at neighbouring properties? Do they return to a vehicle, is it sign written, note down the registration plate, make and model? Are they alone or working with others? Note down a description of the cold caller, why they were calling, who were they representing. You can report doorstep cold calling incidents to us via our partners the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133 or to Norfolk Constabulary on 101 or www.norfolk.police.uk. If you feel threatened or have concerns for vulnerable neighbours always dial 999.

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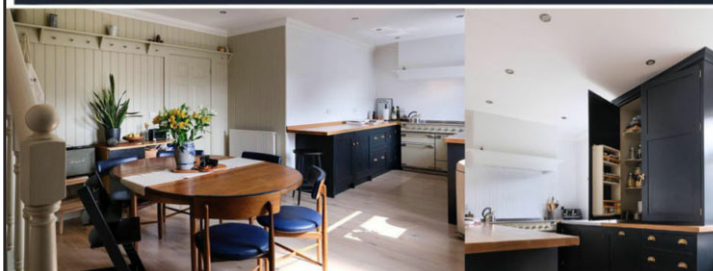


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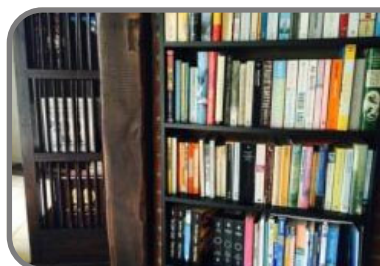
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Do you enjoy reading? Do you enjoy sharing your thoughts with others who enjoy reading? It doesn't matter whether you are an aspiring critic or an established one. This column in the Village Voice invites book lovers to write about the books that have touched them. From fiction to poetry, biographies to travelogues. We would love to hear your thoughts. No genre is off limits. Please send in your contributions to beltonvveditor@gmail.com

THE WHITE TIGER

BY
ARAVIND
ADIGA

Reviewed by Rithik Anvar

Published in 2008, Aravind Adiga's debut novel *White Tiger* is a darkly captivating tale told by an inimitable narrator. It is a story that combines fiery wisdom, scorching anticipation and ambiguous values. The narrator and protagonist, Balram Halwai is a tangled character. A philosopher, servant, criminal and entrepreneur, Balram tells us over the course of seven nights by the scattered light of a preposterous chandelier, how he came to be a success in life. It is a journey that he undertakes with little, but his wits to support him.

Balram sees India as split up into two: Daylight and Darkness. He was born in the Darkness, in a village where his father, a rickshaw puller, died of tuberculosis. Balram makes his way to Delhi, where Mr. Ashok, the landlord's son, and his America-turned wife, Pinky live. He watches as his bosses bribe foreign ministers for tax cuts, bargain for women, drink expensive single-malts, facilitate dirty tricks and enrich themselves in an amoral universe, often at the expense of the poor and the dispossessed. To describe this treatment of the poor in India, Balram uses the powerful metaphor of the rooster coop. He describes the coop where roosters watch on as their compatriots are slaughtered one by one within their eyesight and yet not one attempts to breakout or rebel. In fact, he contends that the rooster coop of the poor is guarded from inside. In a culture that has normalized servitude, the poor themselves cut down each other, in particular those who attempt to break out.

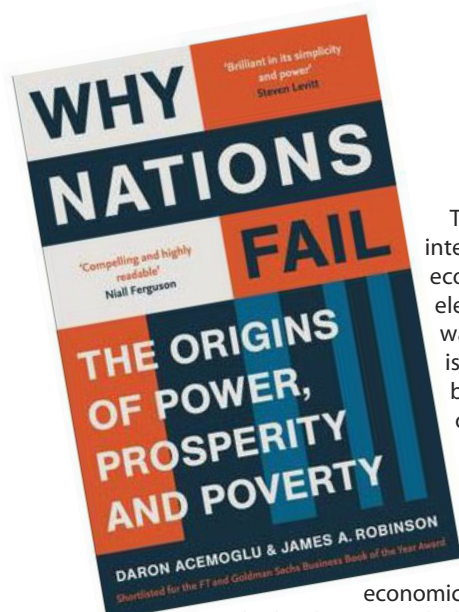
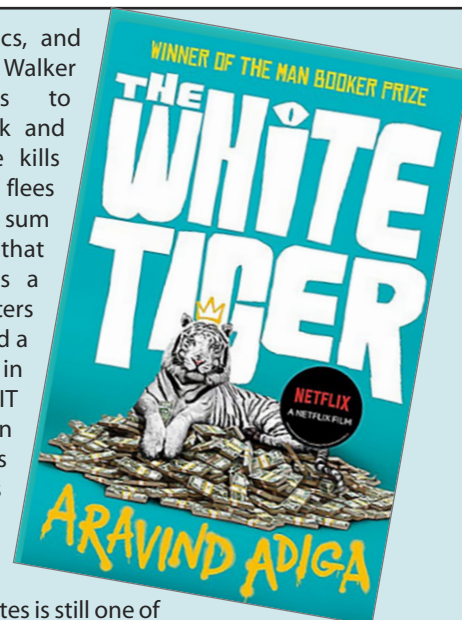
The story is an account of how Balram plans his journey out of the coop. He starts with tricks like siphoning off his boss's petrol, dealing

with crooked mechanics, and selling empty Johnnie Walker Black Label bottles to bootleggers. On a dark and rainy day in Delhi, he kills Ashok, his employer and flees to Bangalore with a large sum of money. The money that Ashok was carrying as a bribe for powerful ministers is used by Balram to fund a new taxi company in Bangalore, ferrying IT professionals in multinational companies and is used to bribe his way through the maze of political corruption there. He thrives, but the terrain in which he operates is still one of

injustice, deprivation, and misery. Using stark and unsentimental language, Balram's account tears away the façade of a lustrous and prosperous country, instead exposing the darkness that haunts even those who make it to the daylight.

It is a story that happens in an emerging economy and yet one cannot escape the thought that the 'rooster coop that is guarded from inside' where the poor cut each other down because of an internalized sense of servitude is one which finds resonance in many developed economies too. It is this resonance perhaps that led to this book winning the Man Booker Prize in 2008.

(White Tiger is published in paperback by Atlantic Books and is available from £7.37)



WHY NATIONS FAIL: THE ORIGINS OF POWER, PROSPERITY, AND POVERTY

BY DARON ACEMOGLU & JAMES A ROBINSON

Reviewed by Daniel Tharian

This book, bound to be of interest to any student of economics addresses, in an elegantly straightforward way, the question of why it is that some nations become prosperous while others remain poor. It proposes that a nation's prosperity is not entirely pre-ordained, but one that is determined by the nature of its economic and political institutions.

The book starts with the example of two towns, Nogales in Arizona, USA and Nogales in Sonora, Mexico. The authors contrast the economic prosperity of the former with the deprivation that characterises the latter. The conventional theories of geographical, cultural

or knowledge base variations would not sufficiently explain this contrast in prosperity. The variations between North and South Korea now or indeed East and West Germany in the past, highlight the same issue.

The authors contend that these differences are mediated by institutional differences- not just economic but also political. Inclusive economic institutions with an emphasis on a respect for private property laws, developed banking facilities and strong public education systems lead on to prosperity. This process is supplemented by inclusive political systems, the hallmark of which is pluralism.

Further, the authors say that that the divergence between inclusive or extractive institutional paths can be based on single events. For example, it is the Black Death in Europe that led to the move away from the extractive political and economic system that was feudalism to one where labour developed an intrinsic value. When faced with these critical, single events different societies take divergent paths and that has a bearing on their future prosperity.

(Why Nations Fail is published in paperback by Profile Books and available from £9.82)

Village Voice 2020 Writing Competition Winners

LORICA

Piers Colby

(Winner of the Village Voice Writing Competition 2020 in the category for adults)

They meet in the ruins as the salt-reeds sing and the thin string of night spins soft into morning.

High on the land above the shrouded marsh, the first, the elder, a streak of dark scratched out from the violet sky. Old Fursey, hell-burned, saint of visions, stands ankle-deep in the wet grass. Behind him the old stones glow and the look-wracked trees leer dead-struck into the waning starlight. His weak bones glare sharp through a thin cloak whipped back by the dawn wind, and in his aged eyes bright fire burns.

He waits.

The breeze comes from the east. It races low and hunts under the hedgerows and out across the open ground ahead. It shivers through the high, coarse grass and leaps off into the dewy air where the land slopes down to the far treeline that glows purple in the first light.

Old Fursey, long-burned, whose eyes are full of the company of Heaven; who laid down monastery-stones in the cold hollows left by the heavy hooves of cavalry in the dread winters when Sigebert held the throne; who came once from the green hills of Ireland and who saw paradise and death; Old Fursey, now, waits.

The sky lightens. Alone on the soft earth, still, he waits. Long moments creep low over the open field. He breathes hot steam into the new morning.

The arms of God be around my shoulders. The touch of the Holy Spirit upon my head.



Day breaks, dew-studded and shining. It shatters the last shades of night into shards of gold and green that splinter out over the dark trees. A stranger climbs from the low ground that tumbles into white fog over the water. He moves up the slope, bent forward, head down. He parts the mist as a sword.

Welcome, Praetorian. Welcome, Sebastian, guard-captain. Welcome, you who bore arms for Emperors, for bloody-handed Diocletian and Maximian.

High through the wet grass strides long-dead Sebastian, lit by the light of the rising day and young-faced, as if fresh from the legion. He straightens as he hears the upper ground, and tall, shines ivory-pale in the white electricity of morning, his crimson robe pinned back into the wind.

Now he stops, and stands; still, and in silence, he stares up into the brightening dome of Heaven, and the new sun blushes him with gold. From three punctures, his arrows spike: from breast, side and thigh, and from his wounds he glows.

Fursey, who walked in fire, turns back to stare into the deep shadows between the stones, and a horse comes unled from the gloom. It moves softly into the ancient fort, its breath a silver cloud in the cold dawn, its grey stippled haunches rippling with each slow step that brushes long through the high grass. The horse comes to him, and as he reaches to take it by the nose, he feels its warmth.

And now Fursey, who waited high on the wet land for the stranger from across the sea, walks down to meet him with the horse that he leads by the nose. And Sebastian, struck deep with arrows, who was bound and shot, and beaten to death beneath the blood-red sun of Rome, rises, and climbs up upon its back.

Sebastian, protector, surrogate in suffering; who draws shafts of sickness into his own alabaster flesh; who bore the plagues of Italy, and was a martyr in his own time, looks across to where the light of the sky is faint. The still-sleeping village lies dark on the horizon, sheltering in the low ground. In the shadowed streets, lamps are yet to burn and the hope of day is not yet seen.

In the long night, someone had called for him.

St Sebastian, guard and defend me morning and evening, every minute of every hour whilst I am still of sound mind.

He dips his head, spurs his horse and rides into the morning.

MINT

Jill Waters

(Special commendation, Village Voice Writing Competition 2020 in the category for adults)

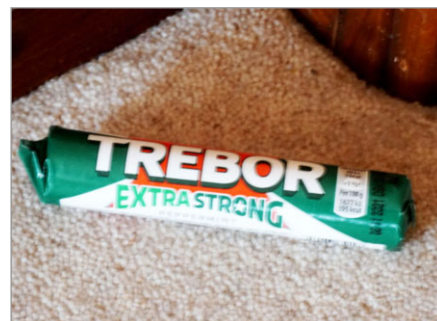
Alice stood, hands on hips, and looked around. That was it. Finished. Done. Her life was now in boxes, surrounding her like some kind of fort - the fragile walls of a cardboard castle. How she longed to crawl inside and pretend she was seven again. Outside she could hear the voices of the removal men, loading the truck. Just a quick vacuum around and that would be it. Lugging the Dyson into the now empty living room she bent down to reach the socket.

Only then did she notice it, hidden in the corner beneath a tangle of dust and cobwebs. A mint. More specifically, an Extra Strong Mint. She picked it up, that perfect circle of flavoured sugar, and made a futile attempt at wiping off the years of fluff. She wondered how long it had been there, nestled in its cosy hiding place. Bringing it to her nose and breathing in, she was instantly transported as the years fell away - to a time when summers seemed endless, Christmasses were magical, and life was like a fleecy blanket wrapped around her

shoulders. A time when her parents were alive and her dad was still the man she'd always believed him to be.

He'd never gone anywhere without his roll of mints.

His addiction had started when he'd given up smoking when she was about nine, and continued as a flawed disguise to the fact that he'd secretly given up giving up smoking. She saw again the room as it had been - sitting with her Pa, listening to the radio, sharing mints and drinking tea so strong it stained your teeth. Where had time gone? He'd been dead three years and yet she still felt his presence. Still felt the anger that he'd left her with such a mess. Only now was she getting to grip with his debts, his catastrophic mismanagement of just about everything, and all the stuff he'd hidden from her, far more successfully than his continued tobacco habit. She'd been left with nothing. He'd gambled and drunk away



not only her inheritance, such as it would have been, but also her home and her memories of him. Consumed by resentment and fury, her only comfort was that her mum had died before the truth came to light.

She looked down at the sweet - how could one forgotten and seemingly insignificant object evoke so much? A disc of flavoured sugar. Rolling it between her fingers, she sat on the windowsill, now empty of the plants and pictures that had gathered dust in the years since her mum had gone, and gathered her thoughts. Although the mint made her nostalgic for happier times - the times of carefree 'ignorance is bliss' - it also made her angry. Angry that she'd been deceived, angry that she hadn't really known her dad, angry that he'd died and left her alone. Especially angry at her own naivety and willingness to believe his half-truths and the times he'd 'forgotten' his wallet, or 'lost' a piece of her mum's jewellery.

So here she was, a middle-aged 'spinster of the parish' about to

move out of the only home she'd ever known, a home that she'd been forced to sell to settle debts that weren't her own. She'd spent so much time caring for her parents that she didn't seem to have any real friends, although her colleagues had been supportive in helping her find a place to rent. It may be 'compact and bijou', but she could afford it, and she was sure it would soon feel like hers.

Wrapping her fingers around the mint, Alice carefully folded it into a tissue and dropped it into her bag. She knew that she should bin it, but couldn't quite bring herself to. Like the mint, her memories of her dad had remained hidden and slowly become covered in fluff. Yet, if she tried hard enough, she could still remember that, just like the mint, her life had had so much more flavour with him still in it.

Forgetting the Hoovering, Alice closed the door behind her, not looking back as she walked down the path. She'd go to the shop on the corner - she felt the need for a roll of mints.

THE SALE

Anita Abel

(Special commendation, Village Voice Writing Competition 2020 in the category for adults)

Next week was Spring Half Term and because Charlie was going to be at home bored all week, mum had arranged for him to go and stay with his Granny in Norfolk. Charlie was very excited and wanted to get organised, so he



scrambled into the attic to get his suitcase. His mum waited at the bottom of the hatch nervously as Charlie's voice echoed down the hatch, "Look what I've found". He leant over to show his mum One Eye, his treasured bear. Charlie was only 10 years old but he had played with the teddy until he was 6.

Both the case and the treasured bear appeared as Charlie climbed back down from the attic. Charlie sat down next to his mum as she told him all about One Eye and how special he was to the family after nearly 100 years. "Granny gave me him on my 4th birthday and he only had one eye then," explained Mum.

"Doesn't Granny need a new hip?" questioned Charlie, thinking about everything his Mum had told him. "Yes," replied Mum, "why do you ask?"

"I will sell One Eye and give the money to Granny so she can get a new hip!" exclaimed Charlie. Mum was so surprised and gently told Charlie that poor One Eye would not be worth anywhere near the amount they would need to buy a new hip. "They cost about £12,000" explained Mum.

"Yes, I know, but One Eye is worth that," said Charlie, "I saw it on Antiques Road Show." Shocked, Mum agreed to take the bear to be valued at the auction rooms in town. She knew how much Charlie loved watching the programme.

The following Saturday they caught the number 6 bus into town and visited Mr Higgins at the auction room. Mum explained that they would like One Eye to be valued. As Charlie opened his bag and took out the bear which he had wrapped up in a small blanket, Mr Higgins' eyes lit up in amazement.

"I have only ever seen one of these before and it sold for about £7,500 and that was quite a few years ago" said Mr Higgins.

"I told you Mum," squealed Charlie in excitement, hardly

controlling himself. Mr Higgins was intrigued as to how Charlie knew it was so valuable, so Charlie told him all about the Antiques Road show and how he saw a bear with a tag on saying "Harris and Toby", just like One Eye.

"You are a clever lad," Mr Higgins told Charlie, "I think you might be an auctioneer when you grow up."

"Yes, I hope so!" replied Charlie.

After much discussion between Mr Higgins and mum, it was agreed that One Eye would be put in the May auction. They agreed to put a reserve price of £8,000 on him but Charlie butted in angrily and said "No! The reserve must be at least £10,000 otherwise I am not selling him." Following a small debate, Mr Higgins and mum agreed with Charlie.

The next two months seemed like forever but Charlie knew that they needed to do lots of advertising for the bear. The May auction was always the highlight of the year and was definitely worth the wait.

At last, the day arrived and Charlie and his mum were up early, ready to go into town. The auction started at 11am and was packed with eager people. Charlie knew that this was going to be a fun day and thought that One Eye was in a good position to be auctioned.

1:20pm arrived and it was time for lot number 67, One Eye. He was displayed to the audience alongside a description of his history. Mr Higgins started the proceedings in telling all that the auction was also going out online. He opened the bidding at £6,000 and soon there was the movement of a newspaper, the nod of a head, and a raise of a hand as the bidding quickly increased. £7,500 - £8,000 - £8,500 and soon it was £12,500. Charlie was like a cat on cinders with his ears red hot.

After another two bids from online, One Eye was finally sold for £14,750 to a man in the auction room. No one had predicted that One Eye would make such a lot of money and Charlie was so full of joy that he was jumping up and down and yelling with delight.

During this joy Charlie had not noticed a man, dressed very casually, walk over to him. "Excuse me young man, I can see you are a very happy lad, can you tell me why?" Charlie spluttered out his reason for selling his wonderful and much loved bear, so that his Granny could afford to have a new hip.

The man's name was Peter and he said to Charlie, "You must have a heart of gold and a precious Granny. I will give you back One Eye to keep and you can then take him to Granny and tell her that One Eye has paid for her to have her hip operation." "Not me but One Eye!!"

With tears running down his face, Charlie glanced at his Mum and then back at the man. "Isn't the world a wonderful place? Thank you, thank you."

A SPRINGERS TAIL

Lesley Chalmers

(Special commendation, Village Voice Writing Competition 2020 in the category for adults)

As the nights began to pull in and the shadows became longer, Sylvie knew the hunting season would soon begin. This was the time she loved, the large pheasants were now fair game and the chase was on. Lennie had as yet never been on a hunt but he had seen a few birds and rabbits in the long grasses which grow in the fields near where they always set up camp.



Lennie was 10 months old now and no longer an easy target for Sylvie to push about, he had grown thick and strong over the summer his muscles rippled when he ran. He could sense the excitement in Sylvie as the autumn days approached.

As their Dad was ready and opening the gate both dogs so excited they tried to nose the gate open faster and pushed each other out of the way to be the first one through. They couldn't jump into the back of the 4x4 quick enough and nearly sent each other

flying backwards out of the door again.

When they got to their destination they were allowed to run about for ten minutes and please themselves so they would use their energy and excitement up and finally listen to the commands they were told. Sylvie was silent but ran about with grace looking in the grass and smelling the air, Lennie still unsure but excited anyway ran about and leaped around the banks and hedges. The frost was still on the ground as it was still very early. Leaves were crisp and made crackling noises as they ran about.

Then they were called to heel and told to flush, away they went into the hedges and long grass scenting the air Sylvie showing Lennie how to get the job done, she was agile and alert and already she had found the scent of several rabbits and a pheasant. Lennie followed and together they helped their Dad to find the birds. Soon it became apparent Sylvie was an expert flushing dog but Lennie was strong and better at retrieving the birds brought down by the gun, he would carry them proudly and present them to his Dad without causing any harm to the bird or rabbit, Sylvie worked hard she put up game and rabbits, jumped across streams and pushed her way through hedges and brambles.

All too soon it was time to return home, and Lennie's first hunting trip was over, once home the dogs were checked through for burrs and thorns, and cleaned and dried their feet were checked and all was well. They enjoyed their dinner and were soon asleep in their beds but their dreams were full of the chase and Lennie had never been so tired in his short life but how content he felt. Neither dog could wait to smell the guns again even if only in their dreams.



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MOORLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

Back to School (Again)

As I write this, school has been fully open to all pupils again for just over a week. Once more, I have been incredibly impressed with how the children have returned to school. Beaming smiles and laughter were two features of the entry into school during the first few days and it hasn't let up yet.

We've managed to get back into routines quickly with the children. We've set high expectations and the children have responded appropriately. For many of the children, there was a near three month gap between leaving school at Christmas and returning in March. However, as one member of staff said to me "I'm amazed by how they've come back, it's just like they've been away for the weekend." Of course, we know that things don't always come to the surface straight away and that everybody will have had different experiences over the last year, but we are prepared to do whatever it takes to support our children.

We know that there now needs to be a purposeful period of carefully planned recovery in school. We know that many parents will be anxious about what their children have missed out on, both academically and socially, despite everyone's best efforts with home-schooling. As a team, we feel that it is important to move forward in a measured way, assessing carefully and reviewing regularly. We also know that children are incredibly resilient and that they will recover from this time. It's our job to ensure that we are as proactive and enabling as possible in this process.

Finally, a couple of months ago, we published a great poem by Rowan about Carp fishing. Just before the lockdown, a teacher shared with me another amazing, positive, life-affirming poem by Maisie in Year 6 and I intended to submit it to The Village Voice. Sadly, the lockdown got in the way, but I wanted to make that right and share this incredible piece of work with you.

MY FAVOURITE PLACE

A patch of green grass
Flowing like the sea,
A few leaves at a time
Falling off the tree.

Two familiar birds
Flying with the wind strong,
Chirping happily
As if singing a song.

The way the wind blows,
Possessing the trees,
To make them go the same way,
To make them follow his lead.

Quietly but loudly,
The cars go by,
Hidden by the bushes,
Invisible to my eyes.

A rainbow of flowers
Representing every colour,
Making all the plain things
Look even duller.

This place takes all your worries
And shoves them down the drain,
So just relax a bit
And leave behind your brain.

By Maisie



A SPRINGER'S TAIL

Lesley Chalmers





DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

Elizabeth Myhill

Literally there are 1,000's of Patio and Hanging Baskets available at this time of year and every year the industry brings out more! Some plants have a new colour whilst others are complete new varieties. Here are some recommended to try this coming season. Remember that none of these plants will withstand frost but if you have a glasshouse or conservatory or are prepared to cover with fleece, newspapers or net then it's good to get started early. I will begin making my baskets about the middle March and they will not be grown in a heated glasshouse!

Begonia Solenia:

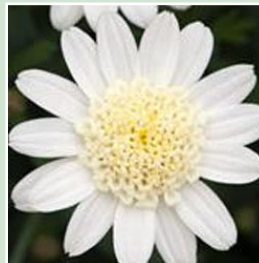
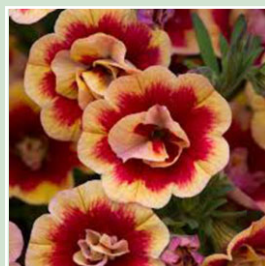


Blooming Season: Summer Plant
Habit: Mounded Water: Medium
Fertilize: Every two weeks Spacing: 10 - 12" (25 - 30cm) Height: 10 - 12" (25 - 30cm) Width: 10 - 12" (25 - 30cm)
Exposure: Partial Sun General
Information: This robust begonia produces double flowers in

abundance, all summer long above lush green foliage. Colours Apricot, Light Pink, Red Orange, Yellow. Ideal for pots and containers.

Calibrachoa (Million Bells) Double Can-Can OrangeTastic:

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Argythanthemum Madeira Crested White. (Daisy):

Place in full sun. Ht 45cm Spacing 45cm. Keep frost free until mid-May. Flowering from June-November if dead-headed regularly. Makes a good cut flower:

Petunia Raspberry Star:

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Best Wishes and Happy Gardening - Liz Myhill

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VILLAGE HALLS TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL MAY 17th

National charity, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) has issued new information to help village halls make sense of the latest announcements about the lifting of national lockdown restrictions.

Contrary to the government's announcement on 22 February, village halls will not be able to reopen after Easter, except for a small number of permitted activities such as Elections.

England's 10,000+ rural community buildings will instead have to wait until 17 May before they can be hired out for many functions including exercise classes, coffee mornings, performances and celebrations such as weddings and birthday parties.

Information issued by the charity is informed by government guidance published 25 February which sits at odds with earlier ministerial statements.

We hope the information we have published today will help to clarify

the situation for the army of volunteers who manage England's Village Halls

Deborah Clarke, ACRE's Rural Evidence and Village Halls Manager explained: "We hope the information we have published today will help to clarify the situation for the army of volunteers who manage England's village halls. Many will no doubt be disappointed they cannot reopen after the Easter break, despite what the Prime Minister previously indicated. This may be a blessing in disguise however as they now have more time to prepare for resuming activities in the summer when it is safe to do so."



The JGI Trustees

Another month gone and still not back in the hall. But, there is a small light at the end of a long tunnel. If the Out of Lock Down Road Map goes as plan it is hoped to open the hall again on Monday 17th May. Many groups have shown their interest in returning to their weekly activities as soon as they can.

The hall will open just for polling day on Thursday 6th May.

The hall has been well maintained during the lock down period so it will welcome you when you return.

If you are a group leader and would like to meet at the hall please get in touch as soon as possible to ensure the time and day you would like is available. We can only hold on to free slots for a limited period.

Now that the Village Voice is delivered again, watch this space for up to date news.

For more information or details about the hall please contact Bill on 01493 780822.

YOGA

Yoga at the John Green should hopefully be able to recommence on May 17th and 18th. Two classes will continue to be held until we are allowed to increase numbers per session. Due to this unfortunately at the present time we unable to accept any new members.

Masks will still be required to be worn until we are on our mats.

Look forward to seeing you all

Julie

LINE DANCING

Hi everyone

Hope you are all well. It seems like we will be starting dancing again this summer.

I will be holding 2 mornings a week. If you are interested please let me know so I can book you in. If road map goes as plan it will be week starting 17th May.

Stay safe

Jane 07788 408801

Wednesday Morning Drop In

We all still wait in anticipation that if the hall opens in May we will be able to meet again and catch up with everyone. Although we try to keep in contact with as many people as possible it is not the same as physically meeting and chatting to each other. If the road map goes as plan it looks like we will be able to meet again from Wednesday 19th May.

Bill and I are looking forward to that day so we can find out how everyone has been coping over the past 3 to 4 months. Please call me for a chat if you would like to on 01493 780822

Sue Richmond

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DIAL has been very busy since our last update with lots of people contacting us for help and support on a wide range of issues. As we look to move out of Lockdown DIAL is getting ready to open its doors again for face to face appointments as from the 12th April 2021. Strict social distancing measures will be in place at our offices with no waiting area, appointments being staggered, facemasks to be worn and were possible only one person to attend the appointment. We will still be offering phone appointments so don't worry you can still access our help and support.

We hope to be able to return to the JGI as soon as safe to do so and will keep you posted as to when this will be.

In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us for help and advice as we offer a wide range of services such as:

- Struggling to pay your bills and put food on the table? Please contact us as we are here to help support you to sort out any financial problems you may have.
- Struggling to afford ever increasing heating bills and unable to heat your home then contact Anji on 01493 856900 who will be able to provide you with energy advice
- Can't work due to a long-term illness or disability, and need benefits advice?
- Feeling left behind because you don't know how to use your phone/tablet or laptop on the internet?
- Need a helping hand to find a job? Please phone and ask for Lisa or Ian
- Need Sanitary Products? Please contact our reception and you can collect free of charge and without any questions.

- Have women's health issues and don't know who to turn to? Call the office and ask for Maria who will help and support you to access new groups to improve confidence or support to attend a medical appointment.

All of our advice and support is confidential, free and impartial and we are available Monday - Friday 9am until 5pm and can be contacted on 01493856900 where one of our staff will be happy to help and advise you. Please do not sit and worry as help is only a phone call away so please pick up the phone.

We look forward to hearing from you and for now please stay safe and stay at home to protect both yourselves and the NHS.

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OLD PHOTOS



Can anyone put a year when the old photo of Berry's Delivery by horse and cart was taken?



This was flooding in the summer of July 2016



Answer to last month's picture question

**Lodge Fire
April 2016**

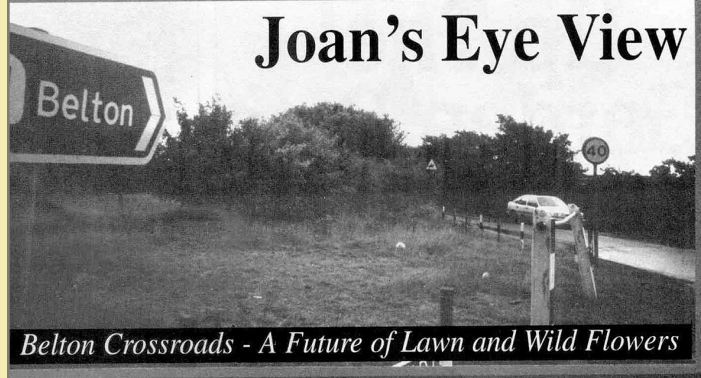
Does anyone have a relative on this photograph that we obtained from Sue Casey after she acquired it from the Kings Head as it closed?

If so please get in touch with the Village Voice and let us know the history.



Village Voice April 2001

Joan's Eye View



Belton Crossroads - A Future of Lawn and Wild Flowers

- The Community and Environment Committee have had another look around the village.
 - Fly tipping of garden refuse into hedgerows continues unabated - the worst examples in Belton being New Road, Church Lane and Sandy Lane.
 - Another problem - made worse by the rain is the habit of some horse riders cutting across village greens. Rectory Corner seems to be taking on the status of a bridlepath.
 - Similar concerns arise with cars driving on verges and greens, churning the grass up into a quagmire.
 - Surely we should count ourselves fortunate to have rural hedgerows and green spaces - and therefore avoid their destruction.
 - Our new Community Caretaker is working hard to keep the Bell Lane field clean and tidy. We are plagued by broken glass (even by the kids slide). Can everybody pick up bottles they see - and pop them in a waste bin.
 - The Foot and Mouth notices have virtually put the countryside out of bounds.
 - There is a Norfolk County Council help line on 01603 222077.
 - Plans are progressing for naturalistic landscaping of village open spaces. The old crossroads entrance to the village will be tidied, lawned and seeded with wild flowers. A bluebell copse has been suggested for the Back Lane/Beccles Road junction. We hope low level shrubs would be a way of deterring cars from parking on open green areas.
- Joan Eggleston is Chairman of the Parish Council Community and Environment Committee. (Tel: 01493 780192).**

From your Village Voice 20 years ago this month

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We will run your advert for 3 months but please let us know if you sold it so we can remove the advert.

(Commercial entries charged at 25p per word)

PLEASE NOTE

The Village Voice now have new people taking on the different roles to get the Village Voice published. This applies to the Village Free Ads as well.

The new contact information is in the header of this page and you can now send your smalls in by TEXT as well.

May edition deadline for entries is April 21st.

WANTED

6 x Concrete paving slabs, size 3ft x 2ft x 2" Can collect. Tel: 07754 116272

This month ads are in **BLACK**

2nd month ads in **DARK BLUE**

3rd month ads in **DARK RED** -

(these will not be in the next edition)

For Sale

Swivel Chair and Stool £60 ono. **Double** Sheets from £3 per pair. **Assorted** Ladies wear 14-16, 18-20 vgc from £2 each. **Assorted** Men's wear sizes 44-48 hardly worn from £2.

Sewing Machine, table top Frista & Rossmann vgc £60. **Lawnmower** petrol, Webb 4 stroke OHV 350 £70 ono Tel: 01493 781355

Electric Bike 5 months old selling as now not required. Starts with peddling. Was £999.99 new. Now £850 ono Buyer collects. Tel: 07796 787462

Super 8 and Standard 8 Cine projector with spools. Free to a good home. Tel: 07950 039455

2 x Honda fiberglass side luggage panniers + 2 x luggage chrome/silver racks (unknown for which make) £30.00. Tel: 07754 116272

Mobility Scooter. Road King, black, good condition, service history, 2 new tyres, Captain seat. £400. Tel: 01493 780710

Cash Drawer, metal, 7 section cash tray, 3 keys. £35. **Myers** 620 Mk 2 Heavy Duty Paper Cutter. £75. **Tree** Loppers. Sturdy wooden handles. £15. **Pet** Carrier. Medium size.

Brown and Cream. Used once. £17. **Hard** Plastic Pet Bed. Medium size. Very good condition. £12. **Steel** Step Up - 1 Step. Tubular steel with rubber mat platform. Good Condition. £20. Tel: 01493 781094.

Rapid Bike carrier suitable for both estate and saloon cars. Can carry 2 adult bikes £15 ono. **½" Drive** Torque wrench with 5" extension, ½ to ¾ adaptor, range 28 to 210 newton metres £10. Tel: 01493 603860

Urban escape 4 person tunnel tent used twice plus double off the ground camp bed £130 pet and smoke free VGC. **Gents** mountain bike v g c little used red £60. **Tefal** Optigrill VGC little used £30. Tel: 01493 600926 or 07818 688396

Henk Guth framed signed prints "Ormiston Gorge and Ayers Rock" 26" x 18" £30 pair.

Deborah Jones framed print "Nursery Days" 19" x 23" £10. **Players** frames cigarette cards, Struggle for existence 1923 set of 25 £10. Tel: 07980 815499

Assorted Dolls of Barbie and Monster High £1 each. **Delonghi** Roto Fryer £10. Tel: 01493 780737

Fire surround, light coloured wood. Size 46" wide x 44" high x 7" deep. As new £50.00

2 x 5 arm chrome ceiling lights (with bulbs) £15 each

4 ft headboard in grey fabric, as new, £30.00

Wooden coffee table with glass top 24" x 18" £25.00

4" padded toilet seat, new still in box £20.00

3 x 4'6" divan beds - free. Buyer to collect Tel: 01493 781815 or 07922 042571

2 Sanyo 40watt 8 ohm Speakers £5 each Tel: 07871 220779

Garden table with umbrella plus 4 folding chairs with cushions £60 call 01493 789516

Samsung 40 inch smart TV with stand and remote selling as upgraded to larger TV £100 ono. Tel: 01493 781071

Jole LX child's stroller, colour navy with rainwear £20. Tel: 01493 440314

Lloyd Loom lusty laundry box, hinged lid original condition £20. Tel: 07980 815499

Tuggies for dogs Selling for Valgrays Border Collie Rescue centre. Various colours. Some are straight and some have handles £5 each. Collect from Belton. Tel: 07788 408801

Mrs Beeton's Household Management 1949, 1632 pages and 16 colour plates plus 18 pages of adverts £20. **Folio** Society 1996 Jane Austen boxed set of 7 titles £20. Tel: 07980

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st April – Maundy Thursday
7pm - Belton & Burgh Castle Churches
Together – on line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live.

A special service remembering the events of Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday.

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday

10am – Burgh Castle - A reflective service for Good Friday – on line on Amazon Chime

11.30am – All Saints Belton – A reflective service for Good Friday - on line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live (*subject to current restrictions*)

Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

9.30am – Burgh Castle
Holy Communion – in church (*following*

government guidelines)

10.30am – All Saints Belton

Holy Communion – in church and on line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live (*following government guidelines*)

Sunday 11th April – Easter 2

9.30am – Burgh Castle

Morning Prayer – on line on Amazon Chime

10.30am – All Saints Belton

Morning Celebration – on-line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live

Sunday 18th April – Easter 3

9.30am – Burgh Castle

Morning Prayer with APCM – on line on Amazon Chime

10.30am – All Saints Belton

Morning Celebration – on-line on Amazon

Chime and Facebook Live

Sunday 25th March – Easter 4

9.30am – Burgh Castle

Morning Prayer – on line on Amazon Chime

10.30am – All Saints Belton

Morning Celebration with APCM – on-line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live

Sunday 2nd May – Easter 5

9.30am – Burgh Castle

Holy Communion – in church or Morning Prayer – on line on Amazon Chime (TBC)

10.30am – All Saints Belton

Morning Celebration – on-line on Amazon Chime and Facebook Live

4-5pm – All Saints Belton

All-Age Messy Church – either in church or on line on Amazon Chime (to be confirmed) (*subject to current restrictions*)

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