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MARCH 2021

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martlesham monthly

MARCH 2021

THIS MONTH'S PHOTOGRAPH .

Daffodils growing on Eagle way
by Alan Powell

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If you are pondering on filling in the consultation for the alteration of the A12, look inside for information to help you.

There is also plenty to read on gardening, wildlife and planting trees, as well as clubs that have gone online. MHL continue their series on the history of the Martlesham Heath development.

The libraries are opening with a Select & Collect service, although the mobile library is not yet able to resume. Kesgrave Library give details on how this works.

Remember to put the date in your diary for next month's Parish Meeting which will go online this year.

1ST MARTLESHAM SCOUTS

For all enquiries regarding joining the groups please contact
Timandra Howell
martleshamscouts.thowell@yahoo.com.
Becoming a helper or hiring of the Scout HQ please contact Rachel Pennick
01473 610437

GIRLGUIDING MARTLESHAM

Currently we have

1 Rainbow Unit (ages 5-7), 3 Brownie Packs (ages 7-10), 2 Guide Companies (ages 10-14) & 1 Ranger Unit (ages 14-18) meeting around the Parish.

If you are interested in joining as a member or helping as a volunteer, please contact Jo at
jo.d@btinternet.com (Martlesham) or
www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested (HQ).

Come join the fun & start your Guiding adventure today!

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

The mobile service and home library services remain suspended

Woodbridge Library is open for Select&Collect, Kesgrave Library by appointment (see inside)

You can download and stream free eBooks, eAudio, magazines, newspapers, films, documentaries and music.

Suffolk Libraries is also running events online to enjoy from home at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/whats-on> and via Suffolk Libraries YouTube channel.

Customer service for Suffolk Libraries is available Mon-Fri 9-5pm, closed bank holidays. Leave a message out of these hours.

01473 351249
help@suffolklibraries.co.uk

POLICE

In case of emergencies please always call 999.

In non-emergency situations call the new number 101.

E-mail: the Safer Neighbourhood Team
Woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

Martlesham Community Responders are a group of 3 volunteers (funded entirely by donations) who are trained to provide first aid and resuscitation skills. We provide a first response to many 999 calls received by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust within Martlesham, Martlesham Heath, Waldringfield, Newbourne and Brightwell, in support of and until the arrival of an emergency ambulance.

For further details contact Johnny Dixon
01473 622160(johnny.dixon@btinternet.com)

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**Latest copy date is the
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Or deliver your copy to
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In order to standardise the publication of telephone numbers, all contributors are asked to include their STD code with their telephone number. Contributors are also requested to limit their articles to approximately 250 words.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the Martlesham Monthly are those of the contributors and are not necessarily supported by the editor.

MARTLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

STAY AT HOME 

PROTECT THE NHS

 **save lives**

The Suffolk and North East Essex Vaccination Service website www.sneevaccine.org.uk gives local people a single, comprehensive and accurate source of information on Covid-19 and the roll out of vaccinations. Please go for your vaccination when contacted.

It was good to see the number of cases falling in our area in February but we all still need to remain vigilant and remember "Hands, Face, Space".

For the latest government information on coronavirus, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus

A12 Scheme (A14 "Seven Hills" to A1152 Woods Lane) – Suffolk County Council (SCC) Public Consultation

SCC is proposing improvements to the A12 between the A14 at Seven Hills and the A1152 at Wood Lane ("the A12 Scheme"). A public consultation began on 09 February and runs to Friday 19 March 2021.

The aim of the A12 Scheme is to enhance highway capacity at the A12 junctions between the A14 Seven Hills and the A1152 Woods Lane. Proposals include a new section of dualled road and new walking/cycling and public transport facilities. These are significant proposals affecting Martlesham so we strongly encourage our residents to respond to this consultation.

All details are available at

[**www.suffolk.gov.uk/A12improvements**](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/A12improvements)

There is still an opportunity to join a public virtual event on Wednesday 03 March at 6pm to hear a presentation and then ask questions – details and link are on the SCC webpage.

Budget/Precept 2021/2022

At its meeting on 20 January, the Council set a budget of £149,530 for 2021/22 and a precept (parish council element of council tax charges) of £145,000. This does represent an increase from £61.18 to £63.14 per annum per average household (amounts vary according to your housing band). The Parish Council was mindful of additional financial pressures some parishioners might be facing due to

the pandemic but had to weigh this against a drop in its level of general reserves. It therefore considered the increase of just £1.96 per year for an average household acceptable, although it will appear as a 3.2% increase in the precept. Full details of the budget setting process and the Council's risk assessment on the level of general reserves are available in the minutes, which are published on our website.

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Sadly, we continue to receive reports of ASB, of vandalism to property and graffiti, which have to be fixed at a cost to you the taxpayer. We urge you to report any non-emergency incidents by phoning 101 or using the police on-line reporting tool:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>

As always, in an emergency, ring 999.

Two Parish Councillor vacancies

Are you over 18 and live or work in our area? Do you want to make a difference to people's quality of life? Then please consider joining the parish council. There is a wide variety of topics you can get involved with ranging from caring for our environment, planning issues, play provision, transport & highways issues to policy making and finance. You don't need to be an expert in any field (although it might help!), only a genuine interest in looking after your local area. We do not give allowances but out of pocket expenses are paid.

All our meetings are currently held on-line, and the staff are working from home but despite that we have recruited 3 new councillors in the past year who have been busy supporting our work & bringing forward fresh projects to benefit our parish. Please get in touch with the Clerk if you are interested.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be different this year. For the first time we plan to hold a virtual parish meeting on 21 April 2021, at 7.30pm on-line. Come along to find out what your council has been doing and what is happening locally; put the date in your diary now! There will be more news about this next month.

Martlesham Village Fete cancelled in 2021

The fete is unfortunately cancelled again this year. Please watch out for media updates regarding 2022.

Virtual Meetings

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: WEDNESDAY 03 MARCH, 7.30PM

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE: WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH, 7.30PM

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: WEDNESDAY 07 APRIL, 7.30PM

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC FORUM AT THESE MEETINGS.

To join any of these meetings, please contact the Clerk, see below, no later than 5pm the day before the meeting to receive an invitation or see our website or noticeboards for further details.

Contacting the Council

Clerk to Martlesham Parish Council, Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, Woodbridge IP12 4PB

Telephone: 01473 612632 – please leave a message if no reply and we will get back to you as necessary

e-mail: clerk@martleshamcouncil.org.uk (best way to contact us)

website: <http://martlesham.onesuffolk.net>

Please "Follow Us" on our Facebook page which is @Martlesham Parish. The full address is <https://www.facebook.com/MartleshamParish>

From your Conservative District Councillor Chris Blundell

The Pandemic. It is great to be able to report that this most upsetting event is nearing the point where we can all begin to believe that an end is in sight. However, I still feel for those who have suffered and continue I pray that this deadly virus will soon be a thing of the past.

Almost every week I receive reports and statistics on the progress that is being made in both combatting the illness and support that is being given to businesses and individuals.

Grants, Funding and Business matters.

ESC has now completed the issuing of the £9.3m one-off Closed Business Lockdown payments of up to £9k for businesses in the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sectors. In total since the launch of a plethora of new business grants in November 2020, ESC has allocated almost £20m to businesses struggling due to enforced closure or severe restrictions on trading. Since the beginning of the Pandemic over 8,700 payments have been made totalling £86m in grants.

There is an enormous amount of voluntary work that is helping many persons and families to whom I wish to add mine and ESC's grateful thanks.

Communities and Supporting Residents.

There were 13 referrals through 'Home but Not Alone' in the last seven days to 27th January 2021. The focus of the Communities Team has been on packing our EAST (Everyone Active, Supported, Together) bags. These are aimed at older people who live alone and are potentially isolated and lonely. The Bags include resistance bands and exercise cards, a water bottle, a reusable hand warmer, a specially compiled puzzle book, recipe card and ingredients, freezer boxes, face mask, face wash, wellbeing CD, seeds and food and drink treats kindly provided by Adnams.

Recovery.

A report setting out ESC's response to ensuring a strong economic recovery will be considered at an extraordinary Scrutiny Committee on 18th February. The report analyses the impact of the pandemic on the local economy, our initial response and long-term recovery that is focussed on the strategic economic growth programs ESC established pre-pandemic. Some adaptations of these programs have taken place as a result of the severe trading restrictions; however, the fundamentals remain that in order to drive a strong recovery we need a robust and ambitious economic growth program that covers the whole district, all our key and emerging sectors that will benefit all sections of our communities.

Highways.

Suffolk County Council in conjunction with the HMG Highways have now launched a consultation on modifications to the roundabouts on the A12 between the Seven Hills roundabout and the Woods Lane roundabout at Melton.

Also, it is proposed to dual the remaining section of single carriageway highway between the Seckford roundabout and the Grundisburgh Road roundabout adjacent to Dobbies Garden Centre. The purpose of the modifications is to help reduced congestion that may be exacerbated because of future developments. Of the eight roundabouts that exist along this stretch of highway it is also proposed to introduce a number of crossing points for both cyclists and walkers particularly in the Martlesham area. However, of great concern to me and some other District Councillors is the additional proposal to introduce traffic signal controls at the roundabouts. What has not been included in the consultation is the proposed traffic light controlled 'T' junction that will form the main access point to the Brightwell Lakes development.

It is also proposed to widen the foot



bridge that crosses the A12 from Eagle Way to the Leisure Centre on the retail park. Concern has also been expressed by the various authorities with respect to accessibility in the future between Brightwell Lakes, Martlesham, Kesgrave and Ipswich particularly for cyclists and walkers. To make this link it is proposed to either create an underpass or bridge that will pass from the Brightwell Lakes side of the A12 across to either Eagle Way or create a pathway through Longstrops, i.e., the field between the southern end of Martlesham Heath and the woodland. It is worth noting that there is still extant a bridleway through Longstrops.

The consultation on these proposals will run from 9th February to 19th March 2021.

To participate in the consultation, go to: www.suffolk.gov.uk/A12improvements.

Community Partnership

Finally, I would like to remind all our readers that the CP is still active and is still focussed on the environment and rural transport issues. I am pleased to report that funding has been secured for a minibus to operate between Campse Ashe Rail Station and the local towns; Saxmundham, Wickham Market, Framlingham and stops in between. The company doing this known as 'Katch'.

If you would like to have further information on any of the foregoing topics or any other East Suffolk Council matter please contact me by email at chris.blundell@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Otherwise by phone on 01473 622716



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A12 consultation

A link to the consultation can be found in the Blogs of the MHHL website, please take time to study the proposals and respond to SCC via their website. All responses need to be in by 19th March 2021

New Trees and Tree maintenance

We have recently planted six new trees as part of our replacement programme where we have lost trees around the village through disease or damage. These include Willow, Hazel, Rowan and Wild pear. We have just completed the latest round of tree maintenance in the village, areas include Heathfield, Parkers Place, Westland, Forest Lane and Birch Woods where the footpaths have been widened on the main routes.

New Dog Signs

The new dog signs are now in position on the North Green.

No Car Parking on Grass

Due to parking by delivery vans on grass verges in Manor Road we have installed some wooden bollards to protect this green. This is a reminder that we regularly receive complaints involving vehicles parking on the grass. Can we please ask you to inform any contractors working on your house to respect this covenant.

Control Tower Damage

Unfortunately, we have had several incidents late at night where damage has been caused to the Control Tower. These incidents include white paint thrown over the building, two windows have been broken and the supporting poles snapped. These matters have been reported to the police who are going to patrol the area more often. We are now looking into installing CCTV at the Control Tower.

Fly-Tipping

There have also been two occasions of fly-tipping where someone has deposited large amounts of gravel on our land opposite Gorseland School. We suspect this is from nearby and have had to pay the removal.

MHHL Website

We do have a website that sets out what MHHL deals with for your future reference at <http://mhhl.co.uk>. It can be a useful tool especially around planning applications and the covenants as these remain the responsibility of Grainger's. MHHL does not deal with footpaths and therefore any overgrowing foliage from private gardens reducing the width can be reported to Suffolk County Council via their online reporting tools as can gritting issues when it is icy.

Village of Vision? (4 of 6)

Gillian Darley (AJ Information Library, September 1979)

With planning permission granted and road wrangles left behind the translation of the village into reality could begin. Of course, historically, villages grew up on, not away from, main routes; they were sited close to water, good land and sources of building materials. Martlesham Heath, very much a blasted heath of sandy soil bearing gorse, birch and scrub as natural vegetation, is the antithesis of a typical village site.

Christopher Parker's insistence that the place should bear relationship to traditional East Anglian villages becomes curious viewed against the realities of the site. Approaching from Ipswich along the main road the building type is exclusively that of the 1930s ribbon development bungalow or villa. The distinction between Kesgrave, then Martlesham (the original village of that name) is only made by the road signs. The suburbs of Ipswich overspill along the roadside, to be then emulated by the villages.

Not a glimpse of traditional materials, not a glimpse of the forms of vernacular architecture in this area can be got to key the place into its locality. Instead, taking the link road, there is a sudden heap of tiled roofs ahead. Bright colourwashes punctuate the monotone of the heath. Driving in on the spine road one passes groups of houses clustered each side of the road to the left while ahead, off to the right, is another such group. At first glimpse nothing much distinguishes one hamlet from the next; housing by now familiar enough in Essex and elsewhere by its simple forms, predictable range of materials and tight plan on the site.

The car park is by the village centre and on the green. This vast expanse ('big enough for County Cricket') is the most visible amenity and planning in the early phases concentrated on maximising it. "Unfortunately, flat as a billiard table, with no mature vegetation whatsoever, the green is not quite the visual asset it might be. In fact, in windy, winter conditions its prairie-like dimensions make it more of a liability than an asset.

Christopher Parker, who in many respects holds the traditional village mantle of squire,' decided to draw on a consortium of, originally, three architectural practices. This, he considered, would introduce the essential element of a village, its lack of uniformity.

Clifford Culpin remained in charge of the master plan and designed Hamlet F [Lark Rise, Swan Close, Avocet Lane] and the neighbouring village centre-the first phase of the scheme. Peter Barefoot and Partners was landscape consultant and was given Hamlet G [Warren Lane]. Mathews Ryan was responsible for Hamlet L [Coopers Road].

Determining the exact nature of the design brief proves rather a puzzling quest. It seems to have evolved in discussion between Parker and Culpins, in acknowledged response to the 'just-published Essex Design Guide. The local authority, Suffolk Coastal District Council from 1974, found itself in the happy position of dealing with developers whose attitude to design was far more rigid than its own; in Parker's words 'a conscientious developer can exercise stronger control than any planning officer could do or dares to'. The architectural forms were to be varied within a certain range, similarly the materials. Culpins, the first to test the temperature of the water, looked long and hard at the Essex Design Guide 'and then, with some skill, put together Hamlet F/1.

Undoubtedly the best feature of its work is the relationship made between housing and the green. By pushing some of it hard up against the peripheral path and then, unexpectedly, dropping the houses back to give long front gardens, the spatial variety works to good effect. This can be clearly demonstrated by comparing the hamlet across the green, G [Warren Lane]. Here the houses are placed fair and square in their plots, sited entirely in relation to the cul-de-sac in their midst. Seen from the green they make little sense and the furthest line makes an uncomfortably bulky ridge through the hamlet, a rigid block of steep-pitched roofs which dislocates the grouping.

Hamlet L [Coopers Road], which was systematically pushed down-market and therefore consists of very spare housing indeed, has no direct benefit from the green. This being the case the housing, some of it in terraces, forms up as a street attempting to turn its back on the omnipresent PO Research Establishment tower, a rather menacing Big Brother for a country village. There is a slight curve in the street and the hamlet is quite cohesive- despite the ugliest garages in any of the hamlets.

As the showpiece phase of the village Culpin's original sector of Hamlet F [Lark Rise, Swan Close, Avocet Lane] seems to have been constructed on the maxim 'nothing but the best'. It had a generous range of high quality materials at its disposal and also a

Continued on next page

BRIGHT STARS

Do you have or care for pre-school aged children? Would you like to receive our Bright Stars Activities sheets?

Bright Stars normally runs free fun Activity Sessions for Pre-school aged children with their parents, grandparents, friends, family and/or carers at St Michael's Church Centre, Martlesham Heath, on the 2nd and 4th Monday mornings of each month during term time. They usually involve singing, games, making crafts to take home and telling stories from the Bible.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, we are unfortunately not able to meet in person, so instead we are keeping in touch remotely. We are sending out activity sheets by email and/or post for the children to enjoy doing with their family and/or carers. We are currently exploring the story of Creation which has included making hanging sun, moon and stars as well as having a go at a spot the difference – how many extra plants had grown in the second picture!

If you have or look after a child/children of pre-school age and would like to receive our sheets, please give us a call on the telephone number below; we look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like further information please contact: Sonya & Maureen Burrows
Tel.01473 625196



GORSELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HEDGEHOG NURSERY

At the time of writing this article, we are currently enjoying a few snow days, just prior to February half term. As things stand, we look forward to welcoming all of our children and families back to school in March. We have supported all of our children with their learning either in school or through online lessons, including P.E. and music, as well as reading, during the lockdown and it will be lovely to have them all back in school again.

Year 6 have recently learnt how to use Jamboard on Google classroom and have been creating monsters, and writing and sharing poems about them on there, while Year 2 have been learning how to say their body parts in French and singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" en Francais!

At Hedgehog Nursery, we have been growing our curious little minds. The snow brought wonderful opportunities to be mathematicians with comparing the weights of different buckets of snow and how deep the drifts were; being artists with our coloured water in spray bottles to add our mark to the brilliant white snow backdrop and to be scientists, finding out the best ways to rescue our frozen friends from the pots of ice!

Through our play, we have been storytelling 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?' We learnt it so well that we invented our own version with characters around our garden. A large packing box arrived which we soon made good use of. We designed a magical bus that could go anywhere, wheels and horns and a comfortable interior was crafted! The story 'Naughty Bus' helped us to think of our own journeys but without being too naughty!

We cannot wait for new friends to start so we can show them all around our wonderful learning space. We are also looking forward to brighter weather to start cracking on with our new allotment style garden.

If you are looking for a Nursery for your 3 or 4 year old, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the School Office on 01473 623790 for further details.

We hope that you and your families continue to stay safe.

Elizabeth Leonard
School Secretary



MHHLVillage of Vision? Continued from previous page

much greater range of house types was tolerated here than elsewhere. This included blocks of flats and maisonettes-one of the few ingredients for the kind of mix that was hoped for and, it might seem, not wholeheartedly planned for. The older people and single individuals living in these three-storey blocks on the green dilute the preponderance of young married couples with small children-they are, in the words of the secretary of the Neighbourhood Association, 'the saviours' of the community.

With its relatively large scheme, Culpin's aimed at variety and occasional eye-catchers, what Philip Vallis terms 'oddities'-for example a steep pitched little detached house, one of which is glimpsed down an alley under a bridge linking two houses. Bricks of many hues, rendered colour washed walling and varied roof tiling all contribute to the village scheme. Such juggling, both in siting and finishes, produces an often jumpy overall effect; it tends to the self-conscious (and, in particular, modern pargetting is an aberration) but from time to time the efforts

tell and are justifiable.

Later on the expensive materials, the walls and fencing, disappear-even on the more expensive sites. On Hamlet E [Manor Road], now under construction, a local firm (Hoopers) have produced a range of somewhat sickly colour washed houses (no rendering here) at relatively low cost. Unable to resist 'vernacularising' its minimal designs a rash of crinkly barge boards has broken out-even over the blank gable of the double porch. Parker's iron-clad design standards seem to have suffered by the variety of architects involved; the second phase of Culpin's Hamlet F/2, enclosing the end of the green is proof of the superior expertise of that practice within this area. With much more limited materials the effect is still assured. In the village as a whole-the architectural diversity hoped for has tended to mediocrity-the lines are already too firmly drawn.

Inevitably price has determined more than the simple question of materials and finish. It also determines location-it is noticeable that Hamlet L [Coopers Road] finds itself furthest from the village green, closest to the

threatening form of the PO Research Establishment tower and closest to the link road running through the site. Developers know well that people pay high prices for location-it is a factor which comes well ahead of their concern with tile colours or wall finishes. Similarly the lowest end of the price scale determines somewhat meagre garden areas; despite the considerable open spaces in the village, garden plots constitute an extravagance which can only be, recompensed by grading them according to house prices. Given the importance of the overall environment in a scheme such as this, the architects working in the cheapest sector are constrained by this aspect-nothing makes a simple house look meaner than inadequate surrounding space.

Contact and further Information

If there are any issues that you feel that need attention please do not hesitate to contact Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd by leaving a voicemail on 01473 612207 or by email to <mailto:martleshamheathhouseholders@gmail.com> or by post to Martlesham Heath Householders Ltd, PO Box 897, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 9PB.



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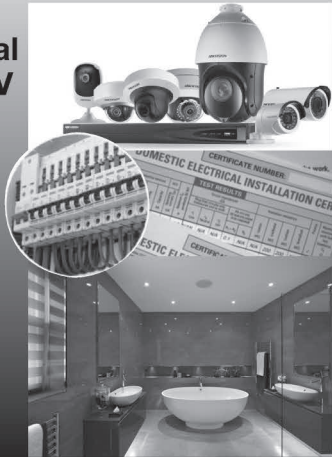


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Martlesham Climate Action

Trees could be our most powerful weapons in the fight against climate change

According to the UK's largest woodland conservation charity 'The Woodland Trust', native trees are one of the best ways to tackle the climate crisis. The Woodland Trust's view is that:

- Trees and woods are a valuable carbon store as are the soils upon which they stand;
- Trees have the virtue of removing atmospheric carbon dioxide as they grow, so help counter the effects of global warming;
- Trees deliver multiple co-benefits relevant to adapting to climate change, such as helping to reduce urban heat island effects and mitigating river and surface flooding, which themselves have a carbon cost;
- Trees are a sustainable source of biomass energy;
- Both standing and fallen trees are valuable ecological habitats.

Trees and woodlands across our region are facing a variety of pressures including tree disease, tree pests, pollution and ash dieback. 'Combined with the effects of acute oak decline and pollution this might equate to a hugely worrying total of 2 million trees disappearing from the landscape of Essex and Suffolk over the next 10 to 15 years'.
(suffolktreewardens.org.uk)

Planting new trees and hedgerows is therefore vital; to replace those trees and hedgerows that we are losing, to promote biodiversity and to help improve resilience to climate change.

In December 2020 the government allocated £3.9 million of new funding to help reach its target of planting 30,000 hectares per year of new trees across the UK by 2025.

What can we do to help in Martlesham?

You may have read in the November edition of 'Martlesham Monthly' that, along with many other Parish Councils, Martlesham has declared a climate emergency and set up a Parish Council working group 'Martlesham Climate Action' to promote and drive new and existing initiatives which focus on 'reducing our carbon footprint and enhancing biodiversity'.

The Woodland Trust and Suffolk Tree Warden Network have launched several schemes to encourage landowners, individuals, schools and communities to plant trees by offering free and subsidised trees and hedging. For example, if you have an old or diseased tree, then you might consider replacing it with a new one. Typical varieties include Silver Birch, Oak, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hazel, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Wild Rose, Blackthorn and Hawthorn. The saplings are usually supplied as bare root stock in November or December for planting over the winter. They are supplied with guards and stakes and planting them is very straightforward (see picture below). They need little attention other than watering occasionally in dry spells until they become established.



SPEAK EASY MARTLESHAM

Speak Easy is part of Toastmasters International, and we offer public speaking opportunities. We provide a fun and supportive forum to speak, and to evaluate.

When we are not facing a pandemic, we usually meet at Richard's Room in Martlesham, but for now we are finding our online Zoom format really effective. It also enables us to include guests from further afield - giving us the opportunity to be even more inclusive!

When we can get back to our meeting place, we also hope to offer hybrid meetings - with a small group meeting in person, linked to a Zoom call. We look forward to being able to offer the best of both worlds, when it is safe and permitted to do so.

Guests are welcome to join Speak Easy to see what we have to offer, and to take part if you would like. We hope you will choose to become a member, whether to beat public speaking nerves, develop your abilities, enter competitions, or help us run the club!

Speak Easy meetings are held on alternate Thursdays. Our next meetings are 4th March, 18th March and 1st April

Join at 7:00pm for a 7:15pm start and finishing at 9:30pm

Speak Easy is an inclusive and diverse group, open to anyone 18 years or over.

If you would like any further information, or to attend one of our online meetings please contact Adam Green:

Adam Green: vppr@speak-easy.org.uk
or www.speak-easy.org.uk
or find us on Facebook: *Speak Easy Martlesham*

The Tree Council is asking young people to become Tree Champions by applying for their school to join the Tree Council's #ForceForNature.

If you would like to support any of these initiatives, then do have a look at the following websites or e-mail Martlesham Climate Action at martleshamclimateaction@btinternet.com

Further Reading

<https://martleshamclimateaction.onesuffolk.net/contact-us/>
woodlandtrust.org.uk
suffolktreewardens.org.uk
treecouncil.org.uk
gov.uk/government/news/39-million-to-drive-innovative-tree-planting



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FOR PATIENTS OF MARTLESHAM HEATH AND THE BIRCHES GP SURGERIES

I am writing this as heavy snow is falling in early February. The good news is that the Covid-19 vaccination programme has been going very well and we thank all those at The Grove in Felixstowe, including many volunteers, who are working hard to deliver these for our patients. Thank you also to all those patients who are taking themselves or others to Felixstowe in order to receive their vaccinations.

There is also a completely separate booking system, inviting patients to visit one of the big vaccination centres now operating in Ipswich and elsewhere. These are not GP led, so you may receive an NHS letter from that system as well as an invitation to attend The Grove. It's up to you which invitation you accept – not both obviously.

Martlesham PPG has assisted the Martlesham Heath surgery in purchasing some floor standing social distancing screens for the waiting room. These were kindly funded by Martlesham Parish Council. We are most grateful for their support.

*Prue - Chair, Martlesham Heath PPG
(in collaboration with the chair of The Birches PPG)*

'SOUND ON' IPSWICH AND DISTRICT TALKING NEWSPAPER

If you are a blind or partially sighted person, or a relative or friend of a person with sight loss, you may be interested to know about us.

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Our service is free of charge and this can include a USB player if you need one.

We'd love you to join us . If you'd like to know more, please contact our chairperson Pam Pelling on 07772324317 pam.pelling@yahoo.co.uk or Tim or Rachel Pennick 01473 610437 tim.pennick@btinternet.com

MARTLESHAM LADIES CLUB

Although St. Valentine's Day has come and gone; do you know who St. Valentine was? Legend has it he was born in 226AD in Terri, Italy. While he was in prison he befriended his jailer's daughter, healing her blindness and sending her a letter signed 'from your Valentine' Maybe that is where the saying 'Love is blind' comes from; and perhaps this started the custom of sending letters and cards to those we love.

Perhaps we can begin to see some light at the end of our Covid tunnel. The days are longer and more Spring like and with the wonderful vaccine roll out, everyday life may start to return to normal. Until we can hold meetings face to face we must use all the modern technology we have available to keep in touch and stay positive.

To find out more about our future plans and have a chat, contact Doreen Boar 01473 622768

MARTLESHAM BRASS 'Making Music Fun in East Anglia'

As I write this report in early February, we are still in lockdown and sadly all band activities are currently suspended. There is light at the end of the tunnel with the good news of the vaccine rollout, although I am sure that the tunnel will have a few bends in it before we get to the end! We will await guidance from the Government and Brass Bands England, and will only restart rehearsals and performances when it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile, some of our members are still rehearsing, and you can view our videos on the Martlesham Brass Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MartleshamBrass>)

When band activities fully resume, we will be happy to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us, with or without experience.

Liz Howard. (Publicity Officer)
e_m_howard@talk21.com
01473 625617.

Registered Charity No.1100922. Visit our website www.martleshambrass.co.uk

KESGRAVE LIBRARY NEWS

Exciting news - Kesgrave Library reopened on Tuesday 16th February, offering our Select and Collect service by appointment.

Select & Collect – This service is open to any age group and has proved very popular. Staff select a variety of books for customers, based on the information you give us about the types of books and authors that you like to read. Staff can also reserve in any items for you if they are not available at Kesgrave.

The Select & Collect service can be accessed in the following ways: a form is available on the Suffolk Libraries website, which once completed is submitted to Kesgrave Library. Staff will then ring customers to book in an appointment to collect their requested items. For customers who would like to contact the library directly, please ring us on 01473 626103 during our opening hours or email kesgrave.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Reservation System - Customers are now able to place reservations again on the Suffolk Libraries website. This is a free service and enables you to order up to 25 items at any time. To place a reservation, you will need your long library card number and your pin number. You will also be asked which library you would like your items delivered to. Once they arrive, you will be notified. Please ring or email to book an appointment for collection.

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Thursday 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Friday 10.00 - 1.00 p.m./2.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Saturday 10.00 - 1.00 p.m.

SUNDAY CLOSED

Facebook - Staff will also continue to post information and activities on the Kesgrave Library Facebook page. Please 'Like' and 'Follow' our page for up-to-date information.

Face Masks – When arriving to collect your items, staff will place them on a table in the foyer and open the main doors. Please can we remind customers that it is a mandatory requirement that they wear a face mask which covers their nose and mouth when collecting their requests. Thank you for your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Thank you for all your support

Maggie Lusher Kesgrave Library Manager

Tel: 01473 626103

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

GARDENING IN MARCH

March is the time of new growth; every plant emerges from the winter as the lighter days and warmth from the sun triggers the spring burst, this is the time that all vegetation grows the most.

The energy that is needed to foliate and produce buds, leaves then flowers come

MARTLESHAM ART GROUP

Martlesham Art Group is in hibernation at the moment but still exists and is ready to spring to life again when circumstances permit. We dare to dream that may be in the late Spring or early Summer.

Perhaps you have started creating art work during the past year of lockdowns or maybe you are a seasoned painter who would enjoy spending time with like minded people. In either scenario Martlesham Art Group could be for you.

We are a small, friendly group of varying artistic abilities who meet to paint together on Friday afternoons in The Pavilion, Martlesham Heath. The session is not tutor led but inspiration and learning, if required, come from each other. Knowing you have a set time simply to be creative is relaxing and liberating.

At present we have space for a few more members. If you would like to know more please give me a call on 01473 659257. My name is Diane and I would be delighted to chat with you about Martlesham Art Group.

WOOLLY WONDERS

Although, of course, we have missed meeting for sociable knitting and crocheting during recent months, some of us have continued meeting virtually, thanks to our weekly Zoom calls.

We want to thank everyone who has very generously donated yarn and needles recently. All donations are much appreciated and are put to good use.

Since Christmas we have been knitting hats, gloves and scarves for Ipswich Outreach who run the Ipswich Soup kitchen. We've also made squares and blankets for palliative care patients and glove puppets for use by therapists who work with abused children. Our fundraising efforts have also benefited the local branch of Guide Dogs. So we've been keeping busy and look forward to meeting in person as soon as it's safe to do so.

Rachel Pennick Tel: 01473 610437

from the soil. The winter rain supplies the moisture in the soil for the nutrients to seep into, then the roots take it up, producing the energy for the plants to use, exploding with foliage, flowers and growth. Therefore, putting a good mulch on the top of your soil helps this process; the worms, nematodes, fungi and bacteria will work the decaying debris into the soil making nutrients available for the plants, and that layer of nutritious soil will feed the sub layers of soil as the water gravitates down.

On the heath we have sandy soil, pure sand below in some places. Water drains quickly, leaching out nutrients, so keeping a good supply of organic material on the surface is greatly beneficial, especially in the long run, use organic compost, mulches and bark. If you need a quick fix, then general granular fertilisers can be useful. Chuck it about like chicken feed around your plants and again in midsummer if need be, it can quickly aid the balance of nutrients in the soil to help your plants grow strong and healthy, you'll see the difference!

Keeping plants with plenty of nutrients will help in pest and disease control. Roses are a prime example, they need a lot of energy to grow in the year and produce flowers for our enjoyment. But they soon can wither and get poorly due to lack of nutrients in the soil and not enough water to be able to take it up, that is why they do better on heavier soils. If you do want to grow them then keep that organic layer on top and use good water retention methods like bark or stones to keep a steady moisture control.

Last summer we had an extremely hot period of weather when the garden suffered from

overheating! The grass dried out and regular watering was needed for the pots and shallow rooted plants. Water conservation is important, it will save on your water bill but also it is not good to overuse water in drought periods. Using the right plants helps and newly planted trees and shrubs will need watering for the first 2-3 years to help them get established. Watering established trees and shrubs will not benefit them as you want to encourage roots to go down and search for water, not come to the surface. Unless they are showing drought symptoms then only water and do it properly so there is enough water for it to seep deep into the ground. Evening is best as gravity will take the water down before the sun comes up and pulls it out.

At this time of year putting on a good amount of bark or a mulch (chunky mix of organic material) can seal in the winter rains and aid water retention in the soil for the rest of the year, cutting down your water usage. Also shading the ground from the sun will stop it sucking up the water to the surface and depriving the plants. Designing your borders with suitable plants that join and shade the ground is a good way to achieve this and the more trees and shrubs we have in the garden will provide so much more for the environment, aiding birdlife, insects and filtering pollution and noise.

Whatever size of garden you have and whatever style of gardener you are, you can fill it up with trees and shrubs to provide a bundle of habitats for all living creatures and for you to enjoy too.

*Susannah Sharman – Garden Art
gardenartdesign.co.uk*





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Birchwood Primary School

At our last OFSTED inspection, the inspection team judged every area possible to be Outstanding. This follows over a decade of staff diligence and commitment in shaping and refining our curriculum offer:

"Pupils are taught a highly stimulating curriculum which is both broad and balanced. They have many and varied opportunities to study and hone their skills. The learning environment in lessons enables pupils to thrive and develop into self assured, confident individuals. Pupils have exceptionally positive attitudes to learning. They take huge pride in their work and are keen to show their successes both inside and outside of school" (OFSTED October 2016).

- Outcomes for pupils are excellent. Pupils enter the school in Reception with broadly average achievement. As a result of the outstanding Quality of Education, pupils exit Birchwood with achievement above that of their peers nationally. Often, significantly above in terms of both progress and attainment. Impact is far greater than simply test results. Birchwood is one of only 2 school DEFRA approved egg production units in the UK! The children record daily egg production, label and market the eggs, produce weekly spreadsheets on profit v outgoings, order food and materials and care for the flock. This gives them first hand business 'life experience,' before transferring to Secondary school.
- We offer an extensive range of additional clubs, activities and support and extension programmes for children to participate in and our staff team constantly research and embrace new initiatives.

Our vision statement underpins all that we do.

"Passionate about learning."

If you would like to find out more about our school or arrange a visit, please contact the office

Valiant Road, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 3SP

Telephone (01473) 610701

Email admin@birchwood.suffolk.sch.uk

Website www.birchwoodprimary.co.uk





Portal Woodland Conservation Group

Unfortunately, all upcoming events have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. However, if you would like to sign up or get in touch, we are always pleased to welcome new faces.

New volunteers of all ages and abilities are always welcome. No experience needed. For further information, please contact us at pwcg.martlesham@gmail.com, phone: 01473 612632 or visit our website: pwcg.onesuffolk.net or join our members' Facebook Group by messaging Duncan Sweeting.

Stephen Corley, Chairman

Photo:

Mystical Portal Woods

By Jane Dixon

Martlesham Conservation Group

As announced in last month's Martlesham Monthly, the Group has been awarded a grant from the East Suffolk Council Local Community Partnership that covers Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford, & Fynn Valley.

We applied for the grant in order to purchase a new brushcutter, as our two existing brushcutters are about 30 years old and showing signs of age. The Group would like to express its grateful thanks to the Local Community Partnership for the award of the grant; the new brushcutter will play an invaluable part in the practical conservation work on all the wildlife sites in Martlesham that the group helps to maintain.

The Greenways team completed work on the Martlesham Heath SSSI during January, recreating more open areas for wildlife and maintaining open paths for emergency vehicle and public access. Our thanks go to them for the good work carried out.

We are concerned about the proposals put forward by Suffolk County Council in their consultation on changes to the A12. On the Suffolk County Council website search for the following consultation.

A12 improvements: A14 'Seven Hills' to A1152 Woods Lane | Suffolk County Council

One of the proposals involves building a footpath and cycle path which will cross Martlesham Heath SSSI. This would result not only in a direct loss of habitat, but also additional footfall on the SSSI from people coming from the Brightwell Lakes development, which will have a detrimental impact on the habitat and wildlife due to additional disturbance. Please consider submitting your views about this proposed route. We need to stand up for our local wildlife. Submissions are required by March 12th so there is not much time.

The cold snowy weather in February was an unusual interlude in recent years but resulted in winter bird visitors moving around the village with flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares in the open spaces but also dropping into gardens to feed on whatever berries and fruits they could find. However, March is a month of transition in which migrating birds that arrived for the winter may depart and summer migrants such as the Chiff Chaff may begin to occupy our local woodlands and heath, particularly in the second half of the month or later especially if the month is cold. The Chiff Chaff is a small bird that has a cheerful repetitive song usually sung from fairly high up on a tree. This bird can sometimes over-winter in this country nowadays, if the weather is milder. In April, other migrants with more varied song such as the Nightingale and Whitethroat should arrive. Please listen out for these birds on our heaths and woodlands this year, and enjoy the rich soundscape of their

birdsong.

More wildflowers should emerge to colour our heath and woodland during March. Lesser Celandines will turn their bright yellow petals to the sun like miniature suns themselves, carpeting the grassy ground in some places.

The gorse sporadically flowers through all times of the year but in spring should surge into a profusion of yellow flowers perhaps reaching its peak of brightness in April, providing an attractive source of nectar to early insects.

Reptiles may also emerge in early March onwards to bask in brightly lit spots building up their bodily energy through the sun's radiation.

We are fortunate to have a lovely range of wildlife habitats close to and within our village from the estuarine habitat of Martlesham Creek to meadows, woodland and lowland heath(the rarest type of habitat in Europe). The late winter/early spring is a great time to experience all these habitats as changes become more evident.

We hope to resume regular work parties when conditions with respect to Covid allow.

Please get in touch with your wildlife observations or if you are interested in our activities, via the phone number below or via our e-mail martleshamconservationgrp84@gmail.com.

Phil Smith 01473 625630

FOOD POP UP SHOP

Our next Pop Up Shop will be held at

St Michael's, Martlesham Heath,
next to the Green,

on Sunday 14 March from 1-2pm.

Unfortunately we are still not allowed to serve refreshments and there will be a one-way system in operation so you will come in at the main door and leave via one of the fire doors onto the Green.

Please note, you must wear a facemask to make use of the Pop Up Shop.

If you see the banner on the front of the church, you know we'll be open on Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you soon.
Rev Margaret Rittman.

Hope for the future

This week I went a walk up to St Mary's Church and saw the beautiful covering of snowdrops in the churchyard. By the time this article is published, the snowdrops will be a fond memory and the crocus will have taken over, with the spikes of daffodils ready for the next stage of spring.

I think the spring flowers, more than any others, give us that sense of hope for the impending warmer weather and lighter evenings – perhaps even a holiday! This year, of course, that hope extends even further as the vaccinations against Covid are rolled out and we can hope for a time when we will be able to move around freely once more, although I think it will be even longer before we drop the facemasks and hand gel!

We can be pretty certain that our hopes for long, warm summer days will definitely come to pass, but the bible has a different definition for hope. The writer to the Romans wrote '*but if we see what we hope for, then it is not really hope. For who of us hopes for something we see?*' Let's face it, if we know what's coming, it's really wishful thinking, and although the hope God gives us isn't specific, it does promise a future of security and certainty, and that is definitely worth looking forward to.

Rev Margaret Rittman

Martlesham with Brightwell



Martlesham Community Hall - we're a Community Test Centre!

a rapid (lateral flow) test, to see if they have the virus. You can find out more details on the SCC website (search for "COVID-19 asymptomatic testing").

This means the Community Hall will be in use - for the community at large - from mid-February until the end of March provisionally. We'd previously decided to keep the venues closed until at least then anyway.

We've had problems with the wooden parquet floor in the Richards Room lifting recently. The floor is now nearly 30 years old and is past its best. However a very generous donation from local charity Martlesham

Community Council means we'll be replacing the floor whilst we're closed. Our thanks to them.

We're still looking forward to the success of the vaccine roll-out and a gradual return to normality during the second quarter of 2021. However until we know dates and what restrictions will be removed when, we can't yet give reopening dates etc.

You can check our website mchall.org.uk for updates.

You can also contact us with any general queries, via our website contact form or call us/leave a message on 01473 623203.

With the Community Hall and Richards Room having to remain closed for normal hires for now, we're very pleased to have been chosen by Suffolk County Council (Public Health) as a Community Test Program (Test Centre) location. These centres are primarily for people without obvious COVID-19 symptoms who still have to travel to a work place to get

MARTLESHAM VILLAGE HALL TOP STREET

Although we have regular bookings for evenings throughout the year, morning and afternoon sessions are available.

The hall is ideal for small groups who need to meet at a reasonable cost, discount for residents of Martlesham.

For any queries or bookings please contact 01473 623655.

THE MARTLESHAM HEATH PAVILION

Martlesham Heath Pavilion is a great location for children's parties at the weekend.

You can check availability and book the Pavilion online at:

martlesham.org.uk/pavilion

Alternatively, please contact the booking secretary:

email: bookingsecmhp@gmail.com
phone: 07732 199712

MARTLESHAM COMMUNITY HALL AND RICHARDS ROOM

You can find out about our venues at our website—mchall.org.uk.

You can check hire rates, if they're available and make an online booking request.

Alternatively you can call our Booking Secretary on 01473 623203.

If leaving a message, please speak slowly and repeat your telephone number.

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Church phone 01473 612659 (rest day Friday)

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Revd Margaret Rittman Woodlea, The Street, Martlesham
07914 771061 (working days: Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday)

CURATE: The Revd Christine Pinder 3 Mayfields, Martlesham Heath
07555 748345 (working days: Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday)

READERS: Carolyn Smith 74 Heathfield, Martlesham Heath
Malcolm Rittman Woodlea, The Street, Martlesham

ELDERS: Janet Foster janetwf33@gmail.com
Margaret Rollins 9 Angela Close, Martlesham 01473 623868
Simon Smith 11 Squires Lane, Martlesham Heath 01473 612410 (evening only)
Liz Welham 23 Deben Avenue, Martlesham Heath 01473 622709
Lynn Wilder Kenton, Nr Debenham 01728 860627

Services for the Month

Online

on Facebook and YouTube. Search for 'Martlesham Benefice'

Sunday 7th March	10am All Age Holy Communion	<i>During the current crisis, all public worship services in our church buildings are suspended</i>
	5pm Zoom After Hours	
Sunday 14th March	10am All Age Holy Communion	<i>Face to face services will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.</i>
	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 21st March	10am Family Zoom	<i>For up to date news and support follow us on our Facebook page or contact a member of our ministry team (details above)</i>
	7pm Zoom Reflecting with God	
	10am Palm Sunday Service	
Sunday 28th March	10am Palm Sunday Service	<i>Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.</i>

A warm welcome awaits you at all our services online.

It would be helpful if you could contact Toby by the Saturday before for Zoom codes.

Midweek Services Wednesdays 10am Morning Prayer on Facebook and YouTube

Prayer Diary Please include the following as an addition to your daily prayers:

March

- 5 take time to reflect & pray on this World Day of Prayer
- 6 that the healing power of Christ may help those suffering from disease
- 7 for those experiencing the loss of a loved one
- 8 for the wellbeing of all women on International Women's Day
- 9 give thanks for the kindness of others in difficult times
- 10 for the residents of Alban Square
- 11 for everyone suffering financial hardship
- 12 for all those with Mental Health issues
- 13 for all Healthcare workers
- 14 give thanks for all Mothers
- 15 for all teachers & all who work in schools & nurseries
- 16 that governments around the world will make wise decisions for the benefit of all
- 17 give thanks for the life and work of St Patrick
- 18 for the residents of Angela Close
- 19 Red Nose Day: for all involved & for those who will benefit

- 20 help us to care for all the natural world
 - 21 that we may be receptive to Jesus' teaching
 - 22 give thanks for all administering Covid vaccinations
 - 23 that we may forgive others & be forgiven ourselves
 - 24 for the residents of Avocet Lane
 - 25 give thanks for the loving presence of Christ in our lives
 - 26 for all who work for the Social Care of others
 - 27 for all engaged in Police work
 - 28 take time to reflect & pray about the events of Holy Week
 - 29 for all who feel lonely at this time
 - 30 for children and young people
 - 31 for the residents of Bader Court
- April**
- 1 for all those experiencing poverty
 - 2 for all those who suffer persecution
 - 3 for peace around the world
 - 4 joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Christ



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