



# News & Views



THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR PAPWORTH EVERARD



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

DECEMBER 2020

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## USEFUL CONTACTS

### NEWS & VIEWS

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**PAPWORTH COMMUNITY GROUP**  
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papworthcommunityweb@gmail.com  
07469 876467

## E-mail to the Editors

Dear Papworth News and Views,

Just to let you know how wonderful your Papworth News and Views magazine is. I always look forward to my monthly copy.

It is so valuable to the local community, many people are old and/or disabled, and many people are isolated and lonely.

Your magazine is a very important antidote providing valuable information such as updates from the G.P. Surgery, the Papworth Community Support Group, Information from the Parish Council, the new Community Lifeline Service, comfort from Nigel di Castiglione (Team Rector.) The magazine is so especially valuable at the moment.

Also your magazine provides lots of information about village clubs and societies and useful advertisements from local goods and services.

I hope very much that you can find new volunteers to edit the magazine (unfortunately I don't have the ability.) I also hope that please, please you can carry on just for the time being if no-body is able to step forward.

News and Views are what makes Papworth such a special place to live.

Best wishes . . . RH

## Notice from the Editors . . . N & V Future ?

As most of you are aware, as editors we are looking to retire, at present no one has come forward and rather than close the publication completely we would like to offer the following solution.

We have spent the last 15 years producing this publication and we have enjoyed it immensely. However, like all things it needs change with the times, not by going solely on-line or being just an electronic publication, there is still a requirement for the printed word, even more so in the current situation.

What it requires to start with, is a small editorial team that can gather the content on a monthly basis, and then help us to display, arrange and check that the content is shown in a modern and efficient way.

This is not to say we are unhappy with what we receive at present, far from it, if it wasn't for all our current contributors and their support we would not have been able to do what we have done so far, and for that we should all be extremely grateful.

What is needed is a small team of enthusiasts, old and young, to work with us to ensure that we improve on a product that covers a wider range of what the village requires.

Once this team is established it can then move forward with the News & Views and gradually we will take a back seat, but being there to support when and if required.

Please feel free to contact us on adverts@pendrill.net

## BIN COLLECTION DATES

|                 |   |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Thu 10 Dec 2020 |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| Thu 17 Dec 2020 | ✓ |   |   |
| Thu 24 Dec 2020 |   | ✓ |   |
| Mon 4 Jan 2021  | ✓ |   |   |
| Sat 9 Jan 2021  |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fri 15 Jan 2021 | ✓ |   |   |

*Please Note: dates highlighted in light red denote different collection day*

## CONTACT DETAILS NEWS & VIEWS

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News & Views - Papworth Everard

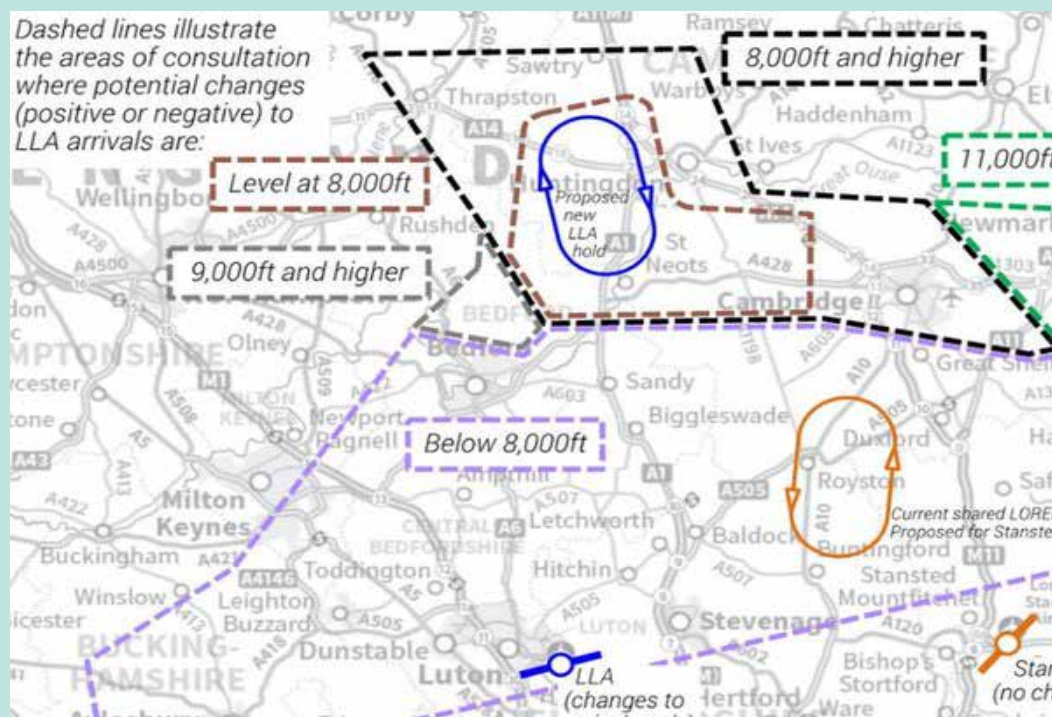
**Editorial deadline for next edition is 30th December**

*Cover Picture "Robin or a Victorian Postman (see page 16 for details)" taken by the Editors*

# PAPWORTH EVERARD PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Clerk: Sarah Cruse  
Telephone: (01480) 830360  
E-mail: [clerk@papwortheverardpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@papwortheverardpc.org.uk)

## London Luton Airport – Proposed Flight Path Changes



On October 19th 2020, a public consultation co-sponsored by London Luton Airport (LLA) and National Air Traffic Services (NATS) was launched for review and comment.

Together, LLA and NATS are responsible for low level flight arrivals into Luton Airport and NATS is the main navigation service provider for the United Kingdom.

Changes are proposed to the flightpaths into Luton Airport and to create a new holding area, known as 'stack', to serve the airport, to ensure that the operations for Luton and Stansted do not have an impact on each other. The current airspace design for Stansted and Luton has been relatively unchanged for decades, despite them being two of the five busiest airports in the UK and seeing a significant growth in low fare holidays flying out of both in recent years. Due to their geographical locations being close together it requires a high level of complex manoeuvres on the part of air traffic controllers to manage flights sharing the same approach route, and two holding stacks, as Luton and Stansted currently do. Any arrival delay or disruption at one airport causes unnecessary arrival delay to the other because the flows are so closely shared.

The proposal seeks to introduce a new holding pattern situated in airspace between Alconbury and St Neots that allows the separation for routes into LLA from those going into Stansted. The holding pattern is needed when air traffic is busy, so planes fly in a pre-defined formation until they are cleared to continue with their descent to land. LLA and NATS feel it is time to simplify things - looking to the future, when flights return to pre-pandemic levels coupled with anticipated growth in flight numbers, the airspace design needs to be fit for purpose.

There is no proposal to change the way aircraft depart from Luton, nor would there be changes to the way Stansted arrivals and departures fly.

### There are two options:

**OPTION 1:** create a new airborne holding pattern for LLA arrivals above 8,000 feet and maintain a similar method as currently used, to take them down towards the runway, managing flight instructions manually. This is known as vectoring. This reduces complexity and minimises the change from today's flightpaths at lower altitudes.

**OPTION 2:** vectoring as in Option 1 but the holding pattern this time will be at 8,000 feet and above, with a number of predetermined arrival flightpaths to which planes will automatically fly without intervention by air traffic controllers. This would reduce air traffic complexity more than Option 1 and is the preferred option.

The new holding zone and associated flight paths could impact the airspace above Papworth and it is possible there could be a noticeable change in the frequency of planes overhead and increase in aircraft noise.

When you view the virtual exhibition (see link below) you will be able to see details of the proposed changes. There is a tool for you to put in your post code and you will find what impact, if any, there is likely to be. Also, you will see an executive summary outlining the proposal along with maps and videos.

[https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6\\_luton\\_arrivals/](https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6_luton_arrivals/)

The consultation period is set to run for 15 weeks and 5 days, closing, Friday February 5th 2021 and we would encourage you to take a look at the consultation details and submit any comments you may have.

A formal Airport Change Proposal is expected to be submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority in June 2021. If approved, implementation is planned from February 2022.

## Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council currently has 11 Councillors but still has vacancies for 2 more to bring us up to the full complement of 13.

Why not make it your New Year's Resolution to step up and get involved!

If you have a real interest in the village or are a newcomer and want to get more involved, why not call for a chat and see if it's for you?

We are looking for people who can rise to the challenge and make a commitment to improving the quality of life

*Continued on page 4*

Page 3

*PEPC Report continued from page 3*

for everybody in our village, no matter what your age or experience.

Knowledge and previous experience aren't essential, training is available and existing members have a wealth of experience they are willing to share. The essential element is enthusiasm and a willingness to be an active member of our team to make a difference to our village.

We hold 11 Parish Council meetings per year and in addition you will be required to become a member of one or more of our sub-committees (Amenities and Playing Fields, Village Hall, Planning) and will be able to get involved in working groups looking at specific projects if you wish.

There is more information about what the council does and eligibility criteria for becoming a Councillor on the Parish Council website [www.papwortheverardpc.org.uk](http://www.papwortheverardpc.org.uk)

If you think you have what it takes to make a difference, have any questions or would like an informal discussion with the Clerk or an existing Councillor about what the role entails, we'd love to hear from you.

## PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS AND CHRISTMAS COVER

The Parish Clerk is currently working from home, so working patterns may vary, but you can still email your queries to the Clerk [clerk@papwortheverardpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@papwortheverardpc.org.uk) or leave a voicemail on the office phone 01480 830360, which is checked periodically.

The office will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December and will reopen in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Over the period between Christmas and New Year, calls and emails will be monitored and urgent queries responded to as necessary.

At the time of writing, the Village Hall is currently closed due to the current COVID-19 situation but enquiries still can be made via the online enquiry form on the Parish Council Website, by emailing the Bookings Clerk, Clare Taylor, at [villagehall@papwortheverardpc.org.uk](mailto:villagehall@papwortheverardpc.org.uk) or by leaving a message on 07841014414.

Although Christmas this year won't be quite the same as we're all used to, the Parish Council would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year !

Keep well and stay safe !



# Papworth Pumpkin Hunt!

This October half term, Papworth went potty for pumpkins as they joined in with our pumpkin hunt. With trick or treating on hold this year, the Papworth Community Group wanted to offer some extra fun to families so one of our dedicated committee members put up over 50 pumpkins all around the village! Those who got in touch were also emailed a personalised certificate. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Kim

Chair, Papworth Everard Community Group

[www.papworthcommunity.co.uk](http://www.papworthcommunity.co.uk)





**Papworth Everard Community Group are determined to give everyone a reason to smile this Christmas. We are working on a range of projects both to support the most vulnerable and isolated members of our community and also to bring everyone together for some Christmas cheer.**

We are working with:

Pendragon Primary School, Sing Papworth, Papworth Scouts, Papworth WI, Friends, Papworth Parish Council, AVEVA, Papworth Trust ...plus many other individual volunteers from Papworth!

**Christmas Hampers**  
**Winter Wonderland Walk**  
**Handmade Cards & Decorations**  
**Additional Village Christmas Trees**  
**Doorstep Christmas Sing Song**  
**Laptops for families & school**  
**Christmas Posters**

Want to get involved?

- \* Check out our website.
- \* Watch out on Papworth Everard Living (Facebook) for updates and ways to get involved.
- \* Get in touch (email below).

(Please note, we are not in need of donations of food or gifts at this time.)

**Together we can make**  
**Christmas 2020 special**

[www.papworthcommunity.co.uk](http://www.papworthcommunity.co.uk)

Email: [papworthcommunityweb@gmail.com](mailto:papworthcommunityweb@gmail.com)

# Church Notices

## St Peter's Church Services

Please see the Poster on page 7 for the services in December

Team Services will continue on Zoom and by Phone.

See the team website for details

Details and link to our ZOOM services can be found on the team web site: [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org).

## Roman Catholic Mass

(Latin Rite)

**Every Saturday at 5.00 pm**

Please consult our parish website for other times and more information

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



**Nigel di Castiglione**

Team Rector

## Christmas is coming

The question is not "Will it be a white Christmas?" but "What sort of Christmas will it be?" I am writing this article in the middle of November; we can't work out yet what will be permitted or possible. At the end of the 'annus horribilis', in many homes it will be especially hard if families and friends are not allowed to get together at Christmas. Nevertheless, it is not all bad news; good is emerging and can't be denied.

For example, the uncertainty reminds us many people face Christmas without family and friends every year. For once our empathy can be more realistic; if this makes us more thoughtful, kinder and generous with our hospitality to others in years to come, that can only be a good thing.

The efforts made by government and local authorities to provide some sort of housing for those who are homeless should be applauded. I have noticed, also, the significant and spontaneous increase during 2020 of people donating food and money to help the work of local foodbanks; demand is at unprecedented levels this year. This is a tangible way many of us can do something practical that makes a difference. Thank you. Please keep it up in the months to come as more people face redundancy and the meltdown of their businesses with all the consequential hardship this leads to.

It is highly probable we won't be able to have Carol Services and the like which do so much to bring communities together and remind us of the story of Jesus' birth which changed the course of human history for all people. If absence makes the heart grow fonder in terms of people we love, maybe this year the absence of being able to sing carols and re-tell the Christmas story together will create a hunger for renewed engagement with these things in years to come. We are spiritual people and are less than human if we are not spiritually fed.

When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had found their world turned upside down in the space of a few months. This included a need to flee the country soon after he was born to avoid the slaughter of young children unleashed by a despotic ruler fearing news of a new King of the Jews. Decades later their story of Jesus' supernatural conception was usually treated with scepticism or even contempt. Thankfully this was not the overriding memory they carried.

The Bible records how Mary guarded like treasure what was said to her and of her child by those who knew and believed the truth about Jesus. She knew Joseph had come to believe her story; she saw the wonder some very ordinary shepherds felt as they saw her child; she had the gifts brought by the Magi in recognition of what God was doing through Jesus. Christmas 2020 may turn out to be much quieter than normal. That too can be an unexpected gift – that Christmas is at best the celebration of the Christ who remains ready to enter our hearts, receive our worship and establish his peace among us.



## Hilton Methodist Church

*The Methodist Church building at Hilton may be closed but the church is still open online.*

For the time being, we are holding our services via Zoom every Sunday morning at 9:45am. The services last for about 30 minutes and anyone is welcome to join us. Why not join us on Zoom for one of our services? If you would like to join us for worship, you will need a Zoom app on your computer, phone or tablet. The ID number you will need in order to participate can be obtained from Sandy Monk on 830273.

There is also an online service at 10:30am, which is usually led by Rev Nick Witham. That can be accessed via the St Ives Methodist Church Facebook page. It lasts for about 50 minutes.

In addition, each week, there is a recorded service that can be accessed by phone at any time on 01480 597118

### Additional Christmas Services

|                      |                                      |                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>December 8th</b>  | Ecumenical Toy Service (Zoom)        | <b>7:30pm</b>  |
| <b>December 13th</b> | Nativity Service (Zoom)              | <b>10:30am</b> |
| <b>December 20th</b> | Circuit Carol Service (Zoom)         | <b>5:00pm</b>  |
| <b>December 24th</b> | Circuit Christmas Eve Service (Zoom) | <b>3:30 pm</b> |
| <b>December 25th</b> | Christmas Day Service (Zoom)         | <b>10:00am</b> |
| <b>December 25th</b> | Christmas Puppet Show (Facebook)     | <b>4:00pm</b>  |

Happy Christmas and a peacefilled New Year  
from the Papworth Team Churches



### Christingle Service

3pm on Sunday 20th December  
Short service outside Church  
Bring your torches and phones  
to 'shine a light'  
Households to maintain social  
distance.  
Please bring your torches and  
phones so we can 'shine a light'.

### Crib Service

This year, we have not been able  
to send the Holy Family round  
the village to stay at different  
homes in preparation of our  
Crib Service on Christmas Eve.  
The service will, however, still  
go ahead at 3pm and everyone  
is invited. To accommodate  
numbers and allow singing we  
will meet outside

We hope and pray that in these unusual times  
you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas!

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December ~10.30am, Holy Communion  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December ~ 3.00pm, open-air Christingle  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December ~ 3.00pm, ~ open-air Crib Service  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December ~ 10.30am – Holy Communion for Christmas

Zoom services on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am - Morning Worship and 6.00pm, Evening Prayer  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm, Evening Prayer  
(to join visit [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org) )

All services and events are Subject to Covid 19 restrictions

## News from Papworth Surgery



### Flu vaccinations

We have already immunised more people this year than we have done in other years, but there are still some who perhaps ought to have it, who have not. These are everyone over 65, and those under 65 who have conditions affecting the heart, lung, kidneys, liver or brain (such as previous stroke). If this applies to you, please either come and have the vaccine, or let us know that you don't want it, if you have not done so already.

In addition, we have had the go-ahead to offer a flu vaccine to all those over 50 who would not normally be eligible. Please book via reception.

### Covid vaccinations

There has been a good deal of press coverage of this recently, but it does look like there are some very effective vaccines coming on stream soon. Trials on safety are still to complete as I write this at the end of November, but I am led to believe that we will have some vaccine to administer to those most at risk this side of Christmas. The initial groups to be offered the vaccine will be those in Care Homes and staff in Care Homes; those over 80 will come next, and then progressively younger age groups. Because vaccine is delivered in multiples of 975, and all doses need to be used within 5 days once received at a Practice, we are going to coordinate with Practices in Huntingdon to offer immunisations. So, our patients may well be offered a vaccination at one of the Huntingdon GP Surgery premises. It is likely that there will be some mass vaccination centres (like the Covid Test centres) too, later on.

There are 3 vaccines in the offing, and they do differ from one another. In each case, 2 doses are needed, 3-4 weeks apart; it is important to receive 2 doses of the same vaccine.

### Help with Low Mood

Because of the restrictions on people's lives, especially the elderly, but also the youth, mood can be low. Some tips to keep in a better frame of mind include:

Get outside each day if possible, especially if it's sunny. Admire beautiful frosty mornings!

Take some exercise on at least 3 days a week, preferably outside... even if the weather is damp or grey. Is it time to do couch to 5K?

Don't resort to drinking too much; alcohol is a depressant.

Try not to over work. If working from home it may be tempting to work long hours.

Talk to real people, not just zoom calls! Humans are social creatures, and whilst zoom/ skype etc are OK for business meetings and keeping in touch, nothing beats actually seeing real people.

If you have been shut up with family members for weeks, remember that your children are only loaned to you... they will be grown up and off before you know it!

If not working, try to find a reason to get up. Helping others in some way will really boost your own mood.

Of course GPs can help too if you are pretty down; and you might like to look at <https://www.keep-your-head.com/>, a website run by the NHS Mental Health locally, with lots of tips and links to other organisations who can help you.



## Friends of Pendragon Primary School

The Friends of Pendragon are pleased to be able to share some of our fundraising events with you, which are open to the whole village to join in with.

We usually host a Christmas Raffle, which this year is being run online. You can purchase tickets via the link below for the chance to win our top prize of £100, very kindly donated again by Steve Fakes of SF Mortgages. We also have 4 lovely hampers to win, full details are available on the website.

Tickets cost 50p each, and last entries are December 11th.

<https://raffall.com/146192/enter-raffale-to-win-top-prize-of-100-or-a-hamper-hosted-by-friends-of-pendragon>



## Merry Christmas from Elsworth Pre-School

We are looking forward to spreading some festive cheer around the village in our Elsworth festive Display Competition and Trail on 5th and 6th December, please join us for a socially distanced and Covid-Secure Christmas celebration. Details can be found at <https://www.elsworthpreschool.org/events>

At Pre-School we are currently exploring Christmas traditions and learning about the Christmas story with a role-play stable, Christmas songs and crafts. As always we are led by the children so who knows what else the next few weeks will bring! You can see



more about what we're doing in the newsletter section of our website or on the Elsworth Pre-School Facebook page.

We are excited to begin our Forest Friday sessions in January in the Fardell's Lane Nature reserve, these will follow the Forest School Principles and ethos as our Forest School leader



completes her training. We would like to thank Paul Harding and Neil Kenny for all of their support with preparing and maintaining the nature reserve so that we can use this fantastic local woodland area.

We currently have spaces available! We have found that parents who visit and meet our fully-qualified, caring and attentive team choose Elsworth Pre-School for their children. Unfortunately we cannot offer visits in the usual way due to Covid-19 restrictions but we are always available for a chat.

If you're interested in registering your child for Pre-School then please contact our manager Julie, email [elsworthpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:elsworthpreschool@outlook.com), phone 01954 268050. See [elsworthpreschool.org](http://elsworthpreschool.org) for more information.



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PAPWORTH  
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## December Article

As every gardener in Papworth Everard will testify, Cambridge Clay is hard work to dig. In summer it sets like concrete and in winter it sticks to your spade and weighs a ton. There are various ways to break up the clay though, mainly involving digging in either home-made compost, commercial compost, soil improver or manure. A cheap natural compost though is green manure. There are various green manures and all have their different uses, but they all add more to the soil than they remove by growing. Late Autumn/early winter is a great time to plant "winter" green manure.

The one we are using is a mix of Ryegrass and Winter Tares.

The Ryegrass has deep roots that penetrate the clay and pull up minerals that have washed too deep for most plants to use. The Winter



Tares help pull nitrogen from the air and store it in their root nodules.

The way to use green manure is to plant from seeds, let them grow to a good size, then before they flower (although we don't mind some flowering as the insects love them), you chop them back hard with a strimmer or shears and then you

dig both the top growth and the roots in. Ideally you end up with a lovely dug over bed with no green leaves showing (and if you do end up with no green showing, you are doing far better than me !!!). You need to wait 4 weeks and then plant your next crop.

The top growth and roots rapidly compost down and help break up the soil. The nitrogen the manure has trapped in the soil is slowly released and your next crop is far better for it. The green manure also stops any weeds from growing on your plot all winter.

The final good thing with the green manure over winter is that it uses up water, and up the allotments, excess water over winter is a problem until you have improved your soil well enough to let water penetrate the clay.

## RE-PLAY PAPWORTH

With the current restrictions in place, we are not going to be able to run the Sunday afternoon vinyl sessions in the Courtyard café for a while. With the recent vaccine news, we hope to see you soon.

Christmas music can divide opinion, nobody really needs to hear *I Wish It Could Be Step Into Christmas* Everybody again, but it doesn't have to be bad. Here are some Festive Favourites at Play Papworth HQ you might not have heard before.

### Various Artists - A Christmas Gift For You

Try to ignore producer Phil Spector's name and enjoy the 60s Girl Group Motown-alike wall of sound. Surely the greatest Christmas pop album of all time.

### She & Him - A Very She & Him Christmas

'She' is actress Zooey Deschanel & 'He' is Alt. folk-rocker M. Ward. Together they have recorded three albums, and two wonderful albums of festive acoustic pop covers.

### The Torero Band - Tijuana Christmas

1968 British session musicians recorded as a cash-in, in the style of Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass. But they managed to out-groove Herb. What better winter warmer than parping Mexicana brass?

### The Ventures - The Ventures' Christmas Album

1965 Surf-Rock (think: The Shadows) instrumental carols, each with a twist – a quote from 60s pop hits by the likes of The Beatles, The Searchers and their own hit *Walk Don't Run*.

Page 12

### Various Artists - Ze Xmas Record

1981 compilation of New York New Wave acts like Kid Creole, Was (Not Was) and (Blondie-soundalikes) The Waitresses with possibly the greatest festive pop hit, *Christmas Wrapping*.

### The Retrospective Soundtrack Players – It's a Wonderful Christmas Carol

Inspired 2014 musical adaptation of the *It's A Wonderful Life* film and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Indie-rock stars Chris T-T, Frank Tuner and Ben Marwood have cameo roles as the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. TRSP's singer-songwriter, Kyle D. Evans, performed his maths-based musical comedy show in the Courtyard back in pre-Covid December 2019.

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*Wishing you all a  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year*

## PAPWORTH CRAFT GROUP

MEETINGS EVERY FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS OF THE MONTH

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### NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The end of this very strange and bewildering year is drawing to a close and many normal leisure activities are still on hold. There seems little prospect of the resumption of the Papworth Craft Group's twice-monthly sessions until Easter at the earliest. Lockdown is due to come to an end shortly before the delivery of this edition of the News and Views, but arrangements for Christmas are uncertain for many families. Perhaps there can be a midsummer celebration, assuming that the promised vaccine programme is underway and the virus is taking a summer break.

The absence of any meetings has meant, of course, that everyone in the group is crafting at home and unable to see what the others are doing. Chatting about one's latest project on the phone is not the same as showing it to the group. It now seems a luxury to enjoy the companionable dynamic of the group, chatting, helping, being wowed by the skill of the

## Varrier Jones Social Club

Well here we go again – nothing much has changed for many of us, lock down has been lockdown since March really. Christmas is fast approaching – hope you are all getting yourselves ready, not quite sure for what yet but whatever it is we need to be ready. Ho Ho Ho!!

Jenny has been hard at work and has now got next year's entertainment sorted – well done her and we sincerely hope that we will be able to attend at least some of these events. No doubt the entertainers are as anxious as us to be able to come to visit us. Jenny hopes to have the Programme printed shortly and we will get it out to you all as soon as we can.

One more Garden update: We are still getting runner beans, just a few but they make a nice addition to our other vegies. Oops - Update on Update – Sorry, just noticed that the beans have gone – Grandson has been around when I wasn't looking and done one of the jobs on his list, so no more beans this year!!

Hope you are all keeping well and staying in touch with family and friends. HELP - I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has anything they think might be of interest and would like to share with our Members. Give me a ring: 01480 830338

The Committee Members send their best wishes to you all – Take care and stay safe until we can meet again. Remember, if you need a chat, you can always contact one of the Committee Members, we would be pleased to hear from you.

So, make a note that when we are all "free" again to come and join us? Make some new friends or catch up with some old ones for an afternoon of entertainment and chat. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month. Start time is 1.30pm in The Studio, Pendrill Court. Admission is £3 for Members, £4 for Visitors. The Annual Membership is only £5. Where else could you get anything like this for the price?

Merry  
Christmas



maker of a beautifully finished item. The inability to attend group meetings would have been unimaginable a year ago. The quotidian has been turned on its head. However, we can look forward to the time when normal life resumes. Without doubt, activities that were taken for granted pre COVID-19 will excite us afresh. This writer is so looking forward to meeting up with the members of the Papworth Craft Group in 2021. Hopefully, there will be much to catch up on and there will be lots of wonderful projects to admire.

A Call for Yarn (a paragraph from last month's column that you may have missed)

Our large yarn stash has been used up, (one member has been working constantly on blankets since the beginning of lockdown, and very fine they are too!), but if you have yarn that you do not want please contact Rosalind Parnell by email at [parnellrh@aol.com](mailto:parnellrh@aol.com). If you would like to knit some squares during the long evenings, they should be 20 cm x 20 cm ( 8 inches x 8 inches) with the ends sewn in please. ( The joining of the squares is extremely hampered if all the ends from the squares have to be sewn in first).

A Message to the Editors on Behalf of the Papworth Craft Group

The editors of the 'News and Views', Peter and Janet Dobson, are standing down after sixteen years. Their encouragement to place monthly advertisements for the Papworth Craft Group in the 'News and Views', pointing out that it is a community project, increased our membership very substantially, bringing together people who ordinarily would not have encountered one another. Lives are the richer for this coming together, crafting away in the library twice a month. A huge thank you to Peter and Janet, for publishing the 'News and Views' every month, come what may. They have provided our community with a publication that serves us all, keeping us updated with what is going on in our village. The 'News and Views' has become a village institution and that is all thanks to Peter and Janet. Good luck with your future endeavours!

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to everyone and hopefully a healthy 2021.

Note from the Editors: Thanks for your kind words Rosalind. Our retirement is on hold at present, please see an update on Page 2.



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# Nature Diary

## December

by Holly Blue

Winter has arrived and we are still in a lock down situation of some sort. We can still get outside though, just don't forget your wellies.

Why do we like Robins on our Christmas Cards? Robins and winter always seem to go together.

This, like many of our Christmas traditions goes back to the Victorian Times. Victorian postmen wore red uniforms and the Robin on our Christmas Card is thought to symbolise the postman in his red uniform delivering the cards. Well who Knew.....probably lots of you.

In Winter we seem to see a lot more of the Robin. It could be that there are more of them around.

Due to shortage of food, Robins from Scandinavia are known to migrate to join our Robins for the winter. These birds can be slightly paler than our own and a little less tame. We are lucky to see and hear Robins all year in this country and both male and female Robins sing all year round from early morning and into the evening, usually marking out their territories, and can very often be seen and heard in the glow a street light if that said light is in their territory.

Over the Christmas period robins will be looking for mates, the males venturing into other Robins territories and being very vocal about it. By mid January most have paired up and the females no longer feel the need to sing quite so much.. Breeding season usually starts around March and they can sometimes have two or three broods a year.

If you being kept awake at night by eerie screams and calls, it's not ghosts, it is the Papworth Foxes establishing breeding territories and trying to attract mates. Their screams can be very loud and high pitched, and can sometimes sound like a human crying for help. A bit scary at times. They are just communicating with each other and will calm down by the end of January. So nothing to worry about.



This time of year Starlings flock together and fill the air with their "murmurations" at dusk. This is a spectacular sight of many hundreds sometimes thousands of birds flying together as if one body, dancing in the sky. The noise is incredible and then suddenly, as if one of them has said

"enough", they all flock down together to roost and it is all over until the next evening. Its all about safety in numbers, it's hard for a predator to target one bird in a flock of thousands, and also many bodies help keep each other warm at night. In past years I have watched them at Fen Drayton RSPB. They like to land in the Reed beds.

Just as the first Swallows are the sign of Summer, the arrival of the Redwings and Fieldfares are a sign that winter is here. They arrive when the temperature starts to drop in their Scandinavian homeland.

The Redwing is the smallest of our Thrushes and get their name from the red patches under their wings.

The Feild fare is larger with a slate grey head. The name means traveller – through - the fields, and this is what they do in large flocks.



Both species like to feed along mixed hedgerows, feeding on hawthorn berries, rowan, holly and rose hips. A good place to spot them in vast numbers, is in the hedgerows along the Eltisley and Yelling roads.

If you are looking for a family trip out it is always worth going to the Wetlands Centre at Welney to see the Welney Swans and other visiting migrants. Hundreds of Whooper Swans from Iceland and Bewick swans from Russia arrive on these wetlands to spend the winter. You can see them from the comfort of a warm heated viewing area or walk the reserve, wellies are definitely needed. At certain times of the day the birds are fed and you can witness them close up as they fly in from near by farmland to spend the night.



You can also feed yourself in the Cafe, or buy gifts from the shop.

The centre itself is still open but certain restrictions are in place and you now have to book. Current updates and information can be found on their website. [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk). Remember to keep getting out, we have many walks around the village. You don't have to go far. It may be winter with shorter gloomier days but there is always something to see. It is good for the soul.

Hoping you all have a peaceful Christmas this year and you and yours stay safe, stay healthy and well.





# HOPE FARM'S FARMING CALENDAR UPDATE

By the time you read this article, we hope that the drilling is complete, with cover crops also planted to protect and improve the quality of the soil. Winter bird seed mixes are in evidence, especially on land to the north west of the farm close to Elsworth, and by Slepewood in Knapwell. The wildflower margins, which play such an important role in increasing the biodiversity of the land, have now all been cut and baled - to allow an opportunity for the new seeds to germinate in the Spring.



Anyone out walking along the edges of the fields over the last few weeks will have seen an abundance of brightly-coloured berries in the hedgerows, ideal for the returning winter thrushes, redwing and fieldfare. These include sloes, blackberries and hawthorn berries.

All of the conservation work that Hope Farm carries out each year is still very much underway this year, despite the fact that it sadly hasn't been possible to showcase this to locals with our Open Farm Sunday event. This year, as we celebrate 20 years of RSPB ownership of the farm, it has also not been possible to commemorate this special anniversary on site with the initial investors, as planned. Instead, a series of webinars has been arranged, which outline the lessons we have learnt from the farm and further afield in wildlife-friendly and sustainable farming. If you would like to attend any of these webinars, please see the list of forthcoming events on the Farm Wildlife website [www.farmwildlife.info/events](http://www.farmwildlife.info/events).



Of particular note at Hope Farm over the last two decades is the remarkable increase in arable bird populations. Hope Farm has seen four-times more skylarks over the last 20 years. This has been achieved through simple research solutions designed to optimise skylark plots, as well as provisions of winter habitat, which have both successfully enabled the birds to survive, feed and breed. This effective research has fed into the development of a wider stewardship scheme. The 'shrill delight' of the call of the skylark can now be heard all year round here, rather than just in the summer months! Just last week, I was walking across a winter wheat field that we direct drilled into a big tall cover crop (grown to a maintain green cover of plants between crops planted for harvest). After walking through a few fields of winter wheat drilled into bare soil, that had a few hares across them, it was amazing to see the sheer amount of birds using the cover cropped field as habitat. 50 skylarks flushed after walking only 50m into the field! We are still learning all the time on the farm, with these new techniques. We're still on a learning journey to incorporate these new methods into farming here, but it is rewarding to see the difference it makes for nature.

Similarly, grey partridge have returned to Hope Farm and are now holding their



territories each year. During surveys in 2019, Hope Farm recorded all 16 Farmland Bird Index (FBI) species, putting Hope Farm in the top 1% of UK sites for FBI, and the top site for bird species in Cambridgeshire. Despite the fact that Hope Farm utilises wildlife-friendly techniques to ensure the protection of all types of wildlife species, these techniques are not implemented at the expense of profit on the farm – Hope Farm still maintains a stable profit by attaining further income from currently EU funded Countryside Stewardship Schemes. Fingers crossed our current government continues to support this work positively in the future. Our future direction at the farm is to find ongoing solutions to current and future arable farming challenges, without the need to take any further land out of crop production. We strive to demonstrate innovative answers to agricultural and societal problems, such as soil degradation and the use of inorganic fertilisers that impact on our carbon footprint at least. The evidence-based research will stand as a resource to ensure that wildlife-friendly and sustainable farming activities feed into a strong Agricultural Bill, with the environment at the heart of its policies. If you would like to see a copy of the 2019 Hope Farm annual review please take a look on our website.



# Christmas Past . . . Looking forward to doing this again



## On Your Door Step - Photos from Papworth Residents

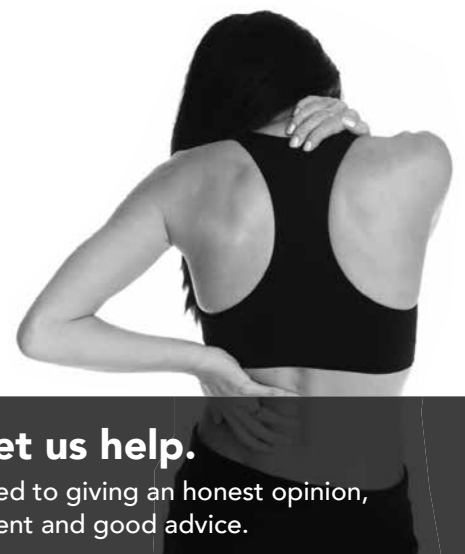


Winter woodland or the light at the end of the tunnel - Stu Proudfoot



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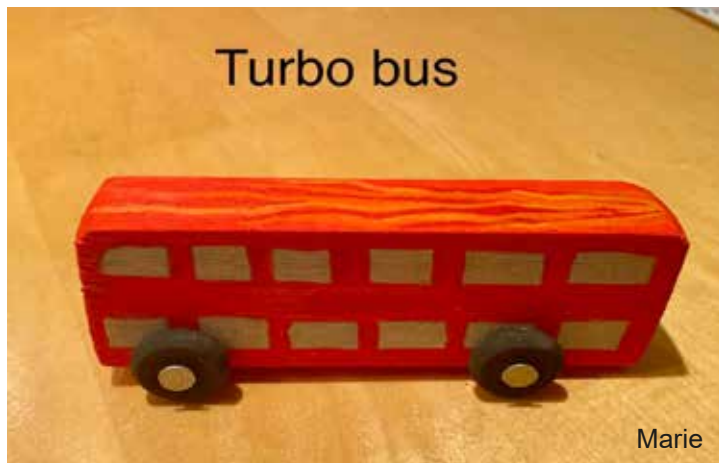
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# 1st Papworth Scout Group



We are unfortunately back to meeting on-line for most of the month

We did manage to squeeze in night hike from Cambourne to Papworth before lockdown came,



which turned out to be a very muddy affair. Since back on-line we have completed a Harry Potter themed escape room, designed, and built pinewood derby cars, ready to race when we can get back together and started to work on our map reading skills.

Before the end of the year we have a final Christmas, baking session planned and hopefully some fun to end the year.

Hopefully in 2021 we can get back to some kind of normality.



## Santa is coming on the 15th December

The Papworth Scouts in conjunction with the Round Table will be bringing Santa to Papworth on Tuesday 15th Dec

Like in previous years Santa will travel around the village to see everyone.

Given the current guidelines we ask that you maintain socially distanced if you come out to see him.

We are still waiting for the green light from Boris to proceed so watch out for the Facebook announcements. You will also be able to track him on the night at. <https://huntingdonroundtable.co.uk/santa/>

Due to covid rules we will not be collecting on the night.



## theWI Papworth Everard Womens Institute

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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Committee and Members of Papworth Everard WI wish everyone in Papworth and the surrounding area a very Joyful, Peaceful and Healthy Christmas and hope we can all look forward to a much improved 2021.

2020 has been a most difficult year for everyone and unfortunately, like everyone else, our WI have been unable to meet as a group since February. However, weekly quizzes, poems, art, crafts via the email to the members continue to keep in touch, together with phone calls which are especially important to those members who may live alone or are unable to leave home due to health issues. Hopefully with the latest news on vaccines we can all look forward to meeting again in the Spring of 2021.



**KEEP WELL AND SAFE EVERYBODY**

