



# Madingley News

DECEMBER 2020



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## FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the Winter 2020 issue of *Madingley News*. We normally report recent and future activities in and around the Village, but since our March edition everything has changed. Although Christmas will be very different this year, we should like to send seasonal greetings to all our readers.

The next issue of *Madingley News* will be published on 10th March 2021 and the copy deadline for receipt of articles, photographs (jpeg attachments of 1MB or more in size please) and advertisements is 10th February. We look forward to receiving your news and illustrations.

**Roger and Lesley Buckley** – email: [madingley.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:madingley.newsletter@gmail.com) – telephone: 01954 211276

## MADINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



Charles Crichton-Stuart

At the time of writing this, the United Kingdom had just entered another period of lockdown. This meant the Parish Council had to reconsider issues we had hoped were behind us.

### Parish Council Meetings

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Parish Council meetings will remain virtual for the time being. We are using the Zoom platform to hold the meetings but there is a phone-in option for people who are not able to connect. Future meeting dates, links to electronically join meetings and the minutes of past meetings can of course all be found on the Parish website (<http://www.madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk>)

### Care for the Vulnerable

The formal 'Hub' structures introduced nationally in the first lockdown have not been re-started. The Parish Council has therefore not been re-issued with the contact details of those who were, for whatever reason, considered vulnerable. I would therefore ask that if you become aware of someone in the Parish who might need help please do let any member of the Parish Council know and we will see what actions might be organised.

### The Playground

With deep regret the Parish Council has taken the decision to once again close the playground. It is hoped that this closure will only last as long

as the shutdown. The Parish Council will review that decision when we re-emerge into the 'Tiered' system.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have been so diligently cleaning the playground equipment (for COVID-19 prevention purposes) up to this point. The playground is such an important part of the Village and the ability to keep it open over the Summer was greatly appreciated by parents and children alike.

### John Freegard

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to John Freegard. I am sure that John is well known to many of you in the Parish. For those that don't know John, he is not only a fantastic Tree Surgeon and Landscaping Consultant but also someone who has continually gone out of his way to help the Parish through the provision of guidance on arboreal matters and stepping in to give free practical help as well. In the last few months alone John has repaired a section of the playground fence after it was hit by a vehicle and, more visibly, repaired the bench outside the gates of Madingley Hall (beside the post box). If you have had the chance to see the bench since it was reinstalled (after being stored and varnished by Chis Baldwin. Thank you too, Chis...) I think you will agree that he has done a tremendous job of repairing the bench.



A well-earned rest: Chris Baldwin and John Freegard relax on the restored bench



## Parish Council Vacancies

After co-opting Dr. Victoria Keevil on to the Parish Council a few months ago, I am pleased to announce that we have had a volunteer for the last place on the Council. Louise Peters was co-opted at the Parish Council meeting on 18th November.

## New Clerk

It is a pleasure to record that Karen Peck has taken over the role of Clerk to the Parish Council following the resignation of Sarah Etherington-Meech.

## Call for Sites

The Parish Council has decided to form a Working Party to focus on the recently proposed development sites within the Village\*.

## Charles Crichton-Stuart

Chairman, Madingley Parish Council

*\*see also Tom Bygott's report on page 14 – Eds*

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be:

Wednesday 20th January at 7.30pm

Wednesday 18th March at 7.30pm

These will be virtual meetings conducted via Zoom. To join either meeting, please contact the Parish Council Clerk.

## Cllr Victoria Keevil writes:

My husband and I first lived in Madingley in 2012 and we were struck by the sense of community in the Village. Indeed, we remain very grateful to the many members of the Parish who helped us settle into Cambridgeshire life back then, after we ambitiously decided to get married and relocate within a couple of months. This involved moving a business for my husband and learning the ropes at Addenbrooke's Hospital, as well as finishing a PhD at the University of Cambridge, for me.



After a short time away we were lucky enough to move back to the Village in 2015 and make

Madingley our permanent home. We have since welcomed our daughter and have come to value the beautiful surroundings that we live in even more, as we watch her grow up. I am delighted to be able to serve on the Madingley Parish Council and I am looking forward to working with Charles, Joan, Fiona and Louise, along with our new Parish Council Clerk, to help make our community and its public spaces work for everyone.

## The Cambourne to Cambridge Busway Cllr Fiona Naughton writes:

Readers of the *Cambridge Independent* will have noticed that the Mayor has come up with a new 'indicative' route for the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge which he tried to get past the Transport Committee of the Combined Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Authority at a meeting on 4th November. The context is that Coton successfully objected to a busway which would have cut their village in half and dropped commuters in Grange Road, without any clear idea of where they would go from there.

The new proposal is for buses to come off the A428 at Highfield Farm and cut across fields left intact since medieval times, passing behind the houses in Granary Court and crossing the A428 on a new bridge. The busway would then carve through the 800 Wood and cross Cambridge Road near Trinity Cottages, before sweeping through fields in full view of the American Cemetery. A second new bridge would then be required to cross the M11 near Eddington.

Fortunately, it seems that the Mayor received no supporting votes for his proposal. Nevertheless, the Parish Council is putting together a document to remind him of the reasons why a northern route through the 800 Wood was discounted by the Greater Cambridge Partnership on two previous occasions: in 2016 and, later, in 2019.

We are currently living in a time of dramatically altered work patterns, some of which will undoubtedly affect the way we travel in the future. This is not a time to carve up more of our countryside to meet pre-pandemic traffic patterns but an occasion to reflect on what the mobility needs of the post-pandemic future are likely to be, and to consider what sensible (and sensitive) approaches to meeting those needs might be.

The Editors have tried in good faith to establish the accuracy of the material used, including images, in this Newsletter. Any breaches of copyright are unintentional and are regretted.

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

**Coton School** 01954 210339

**County Councillor**

Lina Nieto 07402 351821

**District Councillors (Girton Ward)**

Tom Bygott 07765 475513

Douglas de Lacey 01223 565219

**Madingley History Group**

Sue Baldwin 01954 210766

**Stephen Perse Foundation**

**Nursery** 01954 210309

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Chris Baldwin 01954 210766

**Madingley Parish Church website**

<http://www.madingleychurch.org>

**The Revd Christine Barrow** 01223 575089

**The Revd Michael Bigg** 01954 332040

[vicar@madingleychurch.org](mailto:vicar@madingleychurch.org)

**Parish Church Wardens**

Jo Wallace-Hadrill 01954 488428

Tony Conway 07795 820331

[a.l.conway@icloud.com](mailto:a.l.conway@icloud.com)

**Church Secretary**

Sue Baldwin 01954 210766

**Parish Councillors**

Charles Crichton-Stuart/Chairman:

[chair@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chair@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Fiona Naughton/Vice-Chair:

[cllr.naughton@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:cllr.naughton@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Joan Stevenson-Hinde: [cllr.stevenson-hinde@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:cllr.stevenson-hinde@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Victoria Keevil:

[cllr.keevil@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:cllr.keevil@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Louise Peters: email address to follow

**Parish Council Clerk**

Karen Peck

[clerk@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Madingley Parish website**

<http://www.madingleyparishcouncil.org.uk>

**Village Hall Committee**

Chris Baldwin 01954 210766

**Police Emergency** 999

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Community Officer 101

(PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher)

**Sports & Social Club**

Mark Carter 07718 762230

**Cricket Club**

Philip Done

[madingleycc@gmail.com](mailto:madingleycc@gmail.com) 07929 772082

**Madingley Toad Rescue**

William Seale 01223 316561

## CHURCH NEWS



The Revd Michael Bigg with the church keys

I've now been in post for several months and it's been heartening to see the church community in Madingley in action. Since my institution on 13th September I've been leading a weekly service of Morning Prayer on Thursdays and have enjoyed the contributions of many members of the congregation. It has also been delightful to lead and preach on the fourth Sunday of every month and, despite the challenging times we're living through, there is always a good turnout.

It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Stephen and Archdeacon Alex for my institution. It was a very special service and we were very glad to see so many of the Madingley church family, as well as representatives of the local community.



The Revd Bigg and the Bishop of Ely

Bishop Stephen commended the successful West End Development Project as an excellent example of a development that is both highly useful and also very sensitive to the building. Well done to all!



We are grateful to Elizabeth Seale who stood down as Church Warden at the Annual Meeting this year. She has served the church hugely in recent years and continues to do so through her warm welcome and gift for prayer. We are delighted to welcome Tony Conway as the new Church Warden, who brings a wealth of experience and good humour to the role.



Presentations to Elizabeth Seale by Church Wardens Jo Wallace-Hadrill and Tony Conway

I have also been very thankful to see a good working relationship between the church and the Village. In particular we owe a debt of gratitude to Garry Heslop for taking a day to clear out the rainwater goods at the church and also to remove cobwebs and dust from within the building. It's wonderful to have people who can contribute in practical ways like this in order to keep the building maintained for generations to come. Thank you, Garry!

By this point in the year I would normally have had details of Christmas services and events in my diary for several months already. However, this year has made preparations rather difficult! At the time of writing (9th November) we have a variety of plans, **but please do visit the church website ([www.madingleychurch.org](http://www.madingleychurch.org)) for up-to-date details of what's happening.**

- **DIY Carol Service** – We cannot enjoy singing our favourite Christmas Carols together as we normally would this year, but we plan to leave the church open with some high-quality recordings of favourite carols playing during the week beginning 21st December. Please come along and spend some time listening (sing along quietly if you like) and reflecting on the Christmas story. Further details on the church website.

- **Zoom Christingle** – Our usual Christingle service is not possible to do safely in person. However, we'll be working with St Andrew's Girton to do an online Zoom Christingle for all the family. It is currently planned that there'll be two opportunities to do this: **Tuesday 22nd December at 4pm** and **Christmas Eve at 3pm**. We are hoping to make DIY Christingle Kits (oranges not included) available for people to collect in due course. Full details are available at <http://bit.ly/christingle2020> (or click the link on the church website). Please note that you will need to **sign up** for this in advance on the website in order to get the service details emailed to you – visit the website for details!
- **Midnight (in Bethlehem) Mass** – The little town of Bethlehem is in a time zone two hours ahead of us. Our "Midnight" Communion will be timed to coincide with Midnight in Bethlehem, so begins at **10pm** in order that you can get home at a reasonable hour. (There'll also be an 11:30pm Midnight Communion in Girton if you prefer.)
- **Christmas Day Service** – There will be a family service on Christmas Day at 10am. All welcome!

As we approach a Christmas season that will be very different I have been reflecting once again on the story of the baby in a manger. In her poem *BC/AD*, the Quaker poet U A Fanthorpe paints a picture of the way in which the coming of Jesus was wonderfully unexpected; the way in which 'before' turned into 'after' as the joy of heaven came to earth. She finishes with the lines:

*And this was the moment  
When a few farm workers and three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect  
Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
Into the kingdom of heaven.*

The image of the shepherds and wise men walking "haphazard by starlight straight / into the kingdom of heaven" strikes me as capturing perfectly the way in which joy can steal upon us unawares as we go about our lives. It is my prayer that this Christmas you will be surprised by joy in some unexpected way, in spite of the gloom we currently experience, as we remember again the proclamation of the angels: "Peace on earth! Good-will towards men!" God is with us. Or, as St John wrote: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

**The Revd Michael Bigg**

## MADINGLEY VILLAGE HALL

Following the easing of the first lockdown, the Committee had arranged some limited Autumn activities which we judged could be undertaken safely. Jenny Sanders re-started the Monday art classes, the Madingley Stephen Perse School used the Hall on Wednesdays for pre-school gymnastics and the Hall was used for small-scale dance practice and socially distanced meetings where permissible.

As I write this we have just gone into a new phase of COVID-19 lockdown so the Hall activities have been limited to the Stephen Perse School only. It is very disheartening to see the Hall closed and unable to be used by our local community.

I hope that it will be possible for hirers to return soon – enquiries about bookings welcome!

### Chris Baldwin

Chairman, Madingley Village Hall Trust  
e: [chrisbaldwin1000@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbaldwin1000@gmail.com)  
t: 01954 210766

## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



Our Village Speedwatch Team has been in place for five years, thanks to sterling support from our local team of volunteers. However, since March, COVID-19 risks and restrictions have reduced options for running surveys here.

After a noticeable reduction in Village through-traffic – and traffic speeds – after the initial lockdown and Summer months, in September and October we informally observed increasing motor traffic volumes and higher speeds. But it has been heartening to continue seeing so many cyclists here.

Village through-traffic levels will continue to be observed during the latest national lockdown and annual seasonal break. It is anticipated that there is likely to be a corresponding reduction in traffic, resulting in the quieter, cleaner street environment most residents prefer.

### Speedwatch Secretariat

## MADINGLEY CRICKET CLUB

Having won our first two games in the reduced season, we next played Camden at Elsworth. Roger (41) and El Gato (59) put on 97, with Puneet adding 43 we passed 200. Despite early

wickets, Camden replied strongly with a rapid 90 runs for the third wicket, and completed the chase in the final over. GK took three wickets for 23 and Saad three for 25 in a losing cause.

The next game against Cambridge NCI was reduced to T20 format due to the poor weather. We committed the mistake of not batting out the overs, finishing all out for 111 with one over spare; not helped by four run outs! Luke (24), Wasim (24) and Vinesh (26) top-scored. NCI started aggressively and successfully chased the total with two overs to spare, despite Javaid's superb three wickets for 9 runs and Wasim taking two for 21.

The following day at Grantchester we repeated the same mistake of not capitalising on a good start, slipping from 102 for 2 to 150 all out. Neshers top scored with 54, with Roger (26) and Saqib (25) supporting. An 88-run opening stand took the contest away from us, and Grantchester won with four overs and five wickets remaining.

The final game was a league 'play off' at Sutton. Hitesh chose to field, and we faced a curious situation where the opposition chose to preserve wickets over scoring runs. Kevlar bowled a single 8-over spell for just 13 runs, and Wasim took 1 for 16 in two spells, as Sutton reached 139 for 6 wickets. Luke (30) provided a solid platform, Q top-scored with 45 and Puneet took us to the brink before a comedy last-minute collapse allowed Saad and captain Hitesh to see us home.

We welcome players of all abilities, so please do get in touch if you are keen for some cricket. Obviously times are currently uncertain, but we are hoping to get a full season of play next year. We will aim to start indoor nets early in the new year, when restrictions are lifted.

### Philip Done, Secretary

website: <http://madingley.play-cricket.com/> and Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/madingleycc/>

## A SEAN CONNERY AERIAL TRIBUTE – seen over Madingley on 4th November



Photograph: Liz Arnold



## NEWS FROM MADINGLEY HALL



Erecting the scaffolding over the Hall

Photograph: Chris Baldwin

It's been a busy and creative time at Madingley Hall. Prior to the second lockdown, the launch of our Sunday lunches in the Dining Hall was very successful and we were receiving lots of positive feedback, mainly about portion size and yummy puds! Likewise, the À La Carte dining experience, café and garden talks were all proving popular. The café is still operational (subject to and in line with Government guidelines) from 8am to 4pm, seven days a week, and the gardens remain open too. Please feel free to come to Madingley Hall to grab a drink or snack and enjoy the gardens. We hope that the Sunday lunches and À La Carte dining can return in the next few weeks.

Our range of home-cooked meals can be ordered for delivery or collection. We have also developed a selection of food hampers, from basics like greengrocery and dairy packs to Christmas gift hampers. All of these can be ordered on our recently-launched website for takeaway and deliveries:

<https://madingleyhall.mobo2go.co.uk/>

Local residents may have noticed the scaffolding being erected over the past few weeks. This is a project led by University Estates Management and being carried out by F A Valiant & Son Ltd to repair and refurbish the roof of the main hall with localised repairs to the substrate and timber structure. The work is scheduled to be

completed by the end of April 2021 at a cost of around half a million pounds.

In other news, we're pleased to share with you the details of our first Virtual Winter Festival of Learning, taking place from 18th-29th January 2021. We're offering a diverse collection of exciting week-long courses and open-access talks, all delivered online, from Business and Biotechnology to Poetry and Politics. Sign up to join a global community of likeminded people and learn from expert academics:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/virtualwinter>

As ever, we are continuing to expand our portfolio of online courses. Courses are varied, ranging from Creative Writing to Coaching, and you can benefit from peer-to-peer support and engage in stimulating discussion with your classmates and tutors. Discover the range of remotely delivered short courses at

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/remote-short-courses>

and explore our online courses at

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/online>

This is also the time of year when our award-bearing courses open for applications. We offer courses in subjects such as History of Art, Creative Writing and Archaeology to Business, Coaching and Infectious Diseases and more. Taught by leading academics, these courses are part-time and flexible, allowing you to combine

study with other commitments. In a first for Cambridge, you will also now find our online courses on the globally-leading edX platform. Take a look at one example at <https://www.edx.org/course/writing-successfully-for-the-stage> You can explore our complete list of award-bearing qualifications, from Undergraduate all the way through to MSt level, at <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/qualifications>

We will continue to keep you updated with news and events throughout the year. As always, we look forward to seeing you, virtually or face-to-face, very soon.

**Dr James Gazzard**

Director, Institute of Continuing Education

### Notes from the Head Gardener:

It has been lovely to see people enjoying the garden through the Summer with the short talks and demonstrations being well received. The first lockdown was accompanied by glorious Spring weather. Sadly, the second lockdown is of a waterier nature with an above average Autumn rainfall turning our clay soils sodden and wet. Perhaps it is appropriate to continue the watery theme albeit with positive outcomes.

### The Courtyard Pond

Commencing in August the Garden Team emptied, cleaned and refilled the Courtyard Pond which was last done in 1989-1990. This also included the hand excavation of a large hole in the lawn to access and replace broken valves in the pipework which feeds the pond from the Top Pond. All the ornamental ponds and associated pipework within the garden were built by Colonel Walter Harding between 1908 and 1914. I continue to be in awe and admiration of him, his energy, vision, and achievements at the Hall are quite astonishing and we continue to benefit from this today. The valve work was undertaken by Miles Water Engineering from Suffolk.

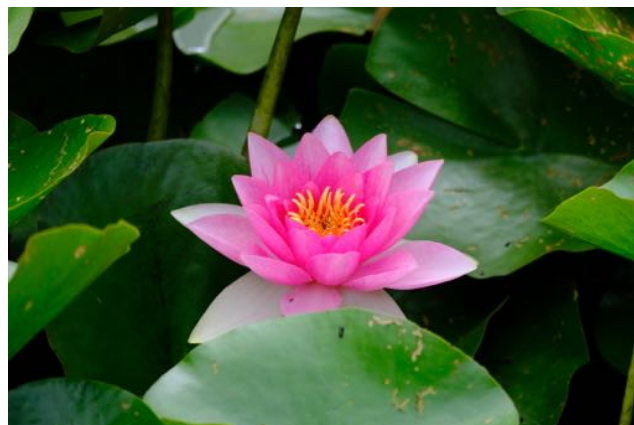
### The Lower Lake

This coincided with repairing the sluice/dam at the north end of the 'S' shaped Lower Lake, using bentonite, a type of clay which can absorb water and provide an effective seal. Miles undertook the dredging of this pond in 2003 and the Top Pond in 2006. More recently they have dredged the lake at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and this year have undertaken a project to prevent egress of water from Hobson's Conduit into the Botanic Garden. They have been creating the water features at the new Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at

Bridgewater, Manchester so we have been in illustrious company!

### Waterlilies

The emptying of the pond was assisted by Dan from the University Farm, bringing their sludge gulper to pump it out. The considerable mass of waterlilies was removed, divided and some replanted. The range remains the same with a pink and white theme. All the varieties are classified as medium or medium/strong growers.



*N. 'Masaniello'*

(photo Colm Sheppard)

We found the peony flowered *Nymphaea* 'Masaniello' stronger and more successful than the double *N. 'Madame Wilfron Gonnere'* in the pink range and *N. 'Marliacea Albida'* stronger than *N. 'Albatross'* (synonymous with *N. 'Hermine'*) in the white flowering.



*N. 'Mme Wilfron Gonnere'*

(photo Colm Sheppard)

Waterlilies require still, undisturbed water which the Courtyard Pond offers. You may have noticed in the Croquet Lawn Pond that the waterlilies have moved to the edges of the pond away from the disturbance caused by the fountain.

Hopefully within a year or two, the waterlilies will have re-established and the pond will be back to its best. Colonel Harding would have expected nothing less!

**Richard Gant**

Head Gardener



## MADINGLEY BRICK PITS COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE POND RESTORATION

During October we undertook restoration work at Madingley Brick Pits, which is designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS).



The smallest pond – before (photo Lucy Jenkins)

The work included dredging out and re-profiling the smallest pond nearest the road, clearing vegetation that was shading all three ponds on their southern side, and dredging as much of the two larger ponds as could be reached with the excavator from the then cleared edges.



The smallest pond – after (photo Peter Wilderspin)

The work to the small pond was funded by Natural England as part of their Great Crested Newt District Level Licencing Program, a project coordinated by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). The additional work was funded by the University as part of its Biodiversity Action Plan. We are very grateful for John Wiseman's assistance in enabling the works to proceed.

The work was undertaken by Lattenbury Services of Godmanchester.

### **Peter Wilderspin**

Rural Surveyor, University of Cambridge

A comprehensive history of the Madingley Brick Pits by Dr David Coombe and two of his students was published in *Nature in Cambridgeshire* No 32 (1990), available at:

<https://www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk/volumes/nature-in-cambs-vol-32-1990.pdf>

## NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN PERSE PRE-PREP

Our Madingley nursery has now been open since the start of September and I am pleased to say the children have settled brilliantly into their surroundings. We have always found that the house-like, cosy feel of the old building has meant children find it very easy to transition from home to school and this continues to be the case with our very young children. From September we have welcomed babies as young as 10 months old and they spend their days taking part in a variety of activities from exploring a mountain of shredded paper to sliding down the indoor slide. This time of year is always full of opportunities to learn about different cultures and celebrations and the nursery classes have taken part in making printed poppies for Remembrance Day and decorating elephants for Diwali.

Our Kindergarten and Reception children have had some beautiful Autumnal days for their Forest School lessons in 800 Wood and Madingley park. The topic this term for our older classes has been 'Build it brick by brick'. Kindergarten children took the lead in their learning and decided that they really wanted to build a castle. So after thinking through their ideas they constructed an enormous box castle.



The castle

The end result provided some wonderful role play opportunities! The Reception children really embraced pretending to be real builders and were so excited when they got to use 'real'

tools. They learnt how to use them safely and all showed a real sense of achievement when they managed to hammer the nail all the way into the wood.



A highlight of the term has been the way that the children have worked so well in collaboration with the others in their bubble. The children quickly learnt that ‘a builder can’t complete the job alone, it’s much easier as a team’ and as a result created some amazing structures together!

**Sarah Holyoake**  
Head of Early Years  
Stephen Perse Foundation

### THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS ARRIVAL OF HALLOWEEN TREATS AT NUMBER 7 CHURCH LANE

With Halloween night being deliberately trick and treat-less, we were thrilled to discover a bag of treats left on our doorstep with no idea who might have left them there for us. Needless to say we were terrified to eat them, but they did look oh so yummy. Juliet and James were prepared to be our guineapigs. It turns out they were delicious! Thank you so much for the thoughtful gesture, whoever you are...



Also, thanks to the fun pumpkins on The Avenue for the lollies!

Juliet, James, Francis and Christine Jiggins

### INITIATIVE AIMS TO ‘DOUBLE NATURE’ ACROSS REGION



This Autumn, Natural Cambridgeshire held a virtual event to launch its ambitious action plan for doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green space across the region in order to create a world-class environment.

The initiative aims to ‘Double Nature’ throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, offering the opportunity for everyone who lives, works, and visits the region to enjoy happier and healthier lifestyles by establishing a significant long-term recovery of nature and a world-class environment. Its aims will support public health, climate change adaptation and mitigation and help to promote the area.

Attendees heard from keynote speakers Dame Fiona Reynolds and Lord Chris Smith, as well as learning about further regional initiatives to enhance the environment.

Natural Cambridgeshire is the Local Nature Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing our region’s natural environment and achieving the highest level of environmental outcomes to benefit people, wildlife, and local landscapes.

Further details:

[www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk](http://www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk)

#### ROYAL MAIL COLLECTION TIMES

From the small box near No. 31, High Street  
Monday to Friday: 4.15pm  
Saturday: 11.45am

From the pillar box near Madingley Hall gates  
Monday to Friday: 9.00am  
Saturday: 7.00am

From Monday to Friday, a later collection (7.00pm) is made from Cambridge Mail Centre, Clifton Road, Cambridge CB1 7AJ



## NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN CEMETERY

### 'You mean there's bodies?'

It was prior to Veterans Day that I heard this cry. In October, a few years ago, I had taken a group of young US service personnel on a tour among the headstones before a ceremony run-through. As usual, I was retelling the stories of the individual soldiers, sailors, and airmen who had died just over 70 years ago. After the rehearsal a group of us stood chatting. At some point, even after all my explanations, the penny dropped for this young lady – there are bodies!

I have thought about this comment a lot since then. Had I not explained things properly? Had I not spoken clearly? Could I possibly have left out a huge chunk of my introduction to the site? I was perplexed, but as time went on I realised that it is common knowledge that there is no one buried here! 'How could that be?', I pondered. The clue is surely in the name – 'CEMETERY' – and the definition, according to the Oxford English Dictionary is:

*'...an area set apart for or containing graves, tombs, or funeral urns, especially one that is not a churchyard; burial ground; graveyard.'*

Somehow, a number of visitors to this site, and people who know about it, had come to believe that the headstones are purely part of a 30 acre memorial. These individuals are absolutely adamant that they know this for a fact. Others think it is all part of some gigantic conspiracy theory; that the American Battle Monuments Commission and the American Government are trying to hide something. Perhaps I can straighten out some of these fictions.

The young lady that I spoke of earlier had failed to internalise what she had been told, and she was resistant to the idea that there could still be Americans laid to rest in these grounds – the headstones are not just memorials but grave markers. The new knowledge was perturbing – hence her exclamation – and she was forced to think critically about what she perceived as a different reality.

But, from where does the perception that this is not a true cemetery arise?

Once the Americans joined the Allies in December 1941, it was obvious that there would be casualties and that there would need to be temporary cemeteries. Initially, all Americans were buried at Brookwood, Surrey. This is the site of ABMC's permanent First World War cemetery, where there was land available. The temporary cemetery for Northern Ireland was at Lisnabreeny, Castlereagh. The third site was on Madingley Hill.

The first Cambridge burial was that of Jack Flinn on 7th December 1943. The young men and women were usually buried within two or three days, arriving by truck or train (Histon). A funeral for 20 or 30 was not unusual, because of the attrition from some strategic air raids over Europe. The final wartime burial was in 1946, by which time Jack had been joined by close to 6,000 comrades.



Burial of Col Ben Rimmerman and Capt William Maguire (died 11th August 1945) at Cambridge

As a 'rule of thumb', Brookwood took the burials for those who died south of an east/west line drawn through London. Cambridge took those who died to the north.

Another conspiracy theory is one that swirls around Exercise Tiger. This rehearsal for the D-Day landings took place at the end of April 1944 at Slapton Sands, Devon. Things went very badly wrong and 900 soldiers and sailors died. Those that were recovered were buried at Brookwood, and almost completely filled the remaining space. Soon after this Brookwood closed and all further mainland burials were at Madingley.

Because of the sensitivity of information about the rehearsals for D-Day, the news of this tragic loss of life was kept quiet. On the one hand, the tragedy would have caused a drop in morale; and on the other, we could not allow intelligence of Allied plans to leak to the enemy. Families were initially told in May, that the men were missing in action; and they were only told in August that the men had in fact died.

After the war, it was decided to make Cambridge the permanent cemetery. All the families of those Americans buried in the UK received a letter asking two questions; would they like their loved one repatriated; or buried in Britain on Madingley Hill, at what was to become Cambridge American Cemetery?

This is where conspiracists say – they dug up those boys and no one knows where they are.

Well, yes, they were dug up, to be repatriated or brought here, at the express wishes of their next of kin. From Brookwood and Histon stations the coffins were transported to Cardiff docks to be loaded onto 'Victory' ships, bound for New York. Some of this work was done at night in order to maintain dignity and to spare the local people. Britain was vastly in debt after the war and could not afford to bring her own soldiers home, and no one wanted to make this too obvious to the cemetery's neighbours.

The men and women who were re-interred here were laid out according to the plans of the landscape architects. The curved design is known as 'theatre style' and earned the Olmsted Brothers (Brookline, Mass.) the accolade of a Grade I landscape.

So, in answer to that young servicewoman, who is the legacy of the men and women commemorated here – yes! Under the headstones lie at rest the remains of 3,812 Americans...with the occasional exception!

#### **Suzie Harrison**

American Battle Monuments Commission  
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial

### **HOSPICE CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SCHEME RETURNS**

The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme, sponsored by Cooke, Curtis & Co (Trumpington) and Cyber Business Growth (Royston), will be back in January.

Plans are being put in place so that the Scheme can still operate within the boundaries of Government restrictions, and hopes are that – thanks to the support of the Council, Just Helping and numerous local businesses and volunteers – 2021's collection will be the greatest success yet, with hopes of raising £40,000 for the Hospice. Last year the Hospice's volunteers collected over 2,500 trees and raised over £36,000!

Taking into account COVID-19-secure guidelines, a team of 70+ volunteers will be collecting trees from postcode areas: CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4, CB5, CB22, CB23, CB24 and, CB21 between Thursday 7th and Sunday 10th January. In exchange a donation to the Hospice would be warmly welcomed.

After costs, 90% of the monies raised will go to the Hospice which provides essential support and end of life care to adults living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition – and the remaining 10% will be donated to The Rotary Club of Cambridge to be

distributed amongst further local good causes.



The trees will be chipped at temporary drop off points and used to lay down as mulch or taken away to local waste recycling centres for composting.

Register your tree from 15th November at [arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling](http://arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling) or call 01223 675888 for more information, or to volunteer a few hours of your time in the New Year. Registrations will close at 10.00am on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

### **NEWS FROM OUR MP, ANTHONY BROWNE**



#### **Funding supports vulnerable children and families**

Cambridgeshire County Council is to receive £1,459,490.26 from Government to provide food and supplies for vulnerable households, as part of a £170 million package. An extension of the school Holiday and Food Programme has also been announced.

The COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme has been introduced to ensure local families get the help they need with food and bills this Winter. It builds on the £63 million already provided to councils this year to assist those struggling to buy essentials.

A further £220 million will be invested in extending the Holiday and Food Programme until next Christmas, meaning that all children eligible for Free School Meals will have the option to join a holiday-time programme that provides healthy food and fun activities during



the Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays next year.

Anthony Browne said: "This extra £1.4 million for Cambridgeshire County Council will ensure local families which need extra support with food and bills this Winter can access it, which is very welcome news. I'm also pleased that the Prime Minister has announced the extension of the Holiday and Food Programme."

I remain available via [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk) Please don't hesitate to reach out if you think I can help.

**Anthony Browne MP**

## **NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR, LINA NIETO**



### **Comberton Village College**

Recently I attended an online meeting with Anthony Browne MP and CVC students focussing on the environment which generated some high quality discussion. Following the meeting I put the students in touch with researchers from Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) who are planning some focus groups with young people on tackling climate change.

### **Investing in our Libraries**

As part of the business plan the County Council has agreed £1,172k for the installation of Open Access technology across 31 library sites in the County, initially nine hubs and then extended to 22 other libraries.

The technology allows for additional access to the libraries during unstaffed hours. The bids operate on the basis that they will provide greater access to the library estate where currently 60% is unused during a typical 9-5 working week.

### **Lina Nieto**

Mobile: 07402 351821

E-mail: [Lina.Nieto@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lina.Nieto@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CllrLinaNieto/>

## **NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, DOUGLAS DE LACEY**



### **Parish Council funding**

It is disappointing to learn that some Councillors have accused our officers of malpractice, claiming they broke the law by withholding funds from Parish Councils. The truth is that at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak we faced a cash-flow problem as we worked to save lives and livelihoods; officers therefore asked Parishes if they would mind a short deferral in our payments to them. Those who objected were paid on time; the others very shortly afterwards and by mutual consent. Attacks on our hard-working officers are to be deplored.

### **New Board for Eddington**

The University is proposing to disband the Board which manages the Eddington site and replace it with a new Board to manage all the University estates. There was a formal Discussion on the proposals at which I spoke. It was an opportunity to expose some of the many failings of the current management of the Eddington development, and I hope that whether or not the new Board is approved the University will address them.

### **Memorial tree**

As Chairman I was due to plant a memorial tree to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This has had to be postponed at least until December, and possibly indefinitely.

### **First electric bin lorry**

It was very exciting to see my blue bin emptied into our first all-electric waste lorry. Its purchase is part of our drive to reduce emissions and air pollution. At £400,000 it is more expensive than its diesel counterparts but the whole-life costs should be lower, quite apart from its other benefits. We hope to replace the rest of the fleet in due course.

### **Cllr Douglas de Lacey**

[cllr.delacey@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.delacey@scambs.gov.uk)

01223 565219

## NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, TOM BYGOTT



### Call for Sites

This Autumn, responses were published to a Call for Sites, with developers and landowners submitting 658 suggestions across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

These cover over 16,000 hectares of land and estimate that the sites could hold 170,000 to 200,000 houses, and around 5.8 square km of employment and other floorspace. There was also a Call for Green Sites which yielded an even larger area, nearly 29,000 hectares, including the entire Cambridge Green Belt.

Smaller sites proposed in Madingley include three sites totalling 3.2 hectares for between 20 and 50 houses and up to 20,000 sq m of floor space for other uses. In addition, Trinity College has proposed building 4,200 houses on almost the entire area bounded by the M11, A428 and the American Cemetery. This is one of the finest areas of countryside in England and we owe it to those who sacrificed their lives for us to preserve the rural setting of the cemetery in perpetuity.

It is important to note that many more sites have come forward district-wide than necessary, so only a small proportion are likely to proceed; they comprise one sixth of the area of the district and three times the number of houses already built.

However, the next public consultation won't occur until Autumn 2021. It is extremely irresponsible for the councils to publish a full list of sites with a full year before the time when local residents can have their say. The contents of this list will create a great deal of anxiety and distress in our villages, before action can be taken to reject the most egregious suggestions.

### Reform of the planning system

With the flaws in our current system on display through the Call for Sites, the question arises whether there is a better way.

To understand the proposed changes, it is also necessary to read the report of the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, at

[tinyurl.com/LivingWithBeauty](https://tinyurl.com/LivingWithBeauty) which explains some of the cryptic phrases in the consultation, such as 'fast track to beauty' and 'gentle densification', which are considerable departures from meanings in the English language, as we currently understand it.

The report starts well, with the proposition that traditional architecture, in its many and varied forms, is superior and more highly regarded by most people than the modernist style that has held sway for the past century. The report's authors have a vision for Georgian squares, of the kind that grace central London, replacing ugly twentieth century buildings. There have been some successes of this style of redevelopment, such as Paternoster Square and Richmond Riverside.

'Gentle densification' means demolishing low density areas and replacing them with buildings of a 'gentle density', namely town houses and apartments up to five stories. There may be some places in the uglier parts of London, Milton Keynes or failed new towns where this might be an improvement, but it would be a disaster if this were allowed to happen in our villages.

In politics, there is a concept called pluralism, where people are free to choose from a variety of different beliefs. Architecture and town planning need this as well, with many different types and styles of building and people free to vote with their feet. Village houses are needed for people who want to have children or who like gardening, with high rise apartments and city centre living for those who want something else.

I would like to wish everyone in Madingley a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Cllr Tom Bygott

[cllr@bygott.net](mailto:cllr@bygott.net) / 07765 475 513

#### 'WEDNESDAY B' BIN COLLECTIONS

##### December

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 9th  | BLACK          |
| 16th | BLUE and GREEN |
| 23rd | BLACK          |

##### January 2021

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 2nd (Saturday)  | BLUE           |
| 8th (Friday)    | BLACK          |
| 14th (Thursday) | BLUE and GREEN |
| 20th            | BLACK          |
| 27th            | BLUE           |

##### February

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 3rd  | BLACK          |
| 10th | BLUE and GREEN |
| 17th | BLACK          |
| 24th | BLUE           |

##### March

|     |       |
|-----|-------|
| 3rd | BLACK |
|-----|-------|



## BUSES BETWEEN MADINGLEY AND CAMBRIDGE

Outbound services pick up in Cambridge Road adjacent to the Madingley Hall gates roundabout and arrive at Drummer Street Bus Station. Inbound services begin at Drummer Street Bus Station and stop in the High Street near the Village Hall.

### Whippet Coaches Bus No. 8 (Monday to Saturday only)

Outbound:

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Madingley | Drummer Street (Bay 3) |
| 10.03     | 10.25                  |
| 11.33     | 11.55                  |
| 15.03     | 15.25                  |

Inbound:

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Drummer Street (Bay 3) | Madingley |
| 10.30                  | 10.49     |
| 13.00                  | 13.19     |
| 16.30                  | 16.49     |

### Stagecoach 4 bus

The Stagecoach 4 bus stops by request outside Madingley Mulch ('Coton, Inglewood') and runs every 20 minutes or so between Cambourne and Cambridge, starting before 7.00am. Please see the Stagecoach website for details: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/east/4/cambridge-cambourne/xeao004.o>

### Madingley Road Park & Ride

The Madingley Park & Ride service goes to Stop S3, on St. Andrew's Street outside Grand Arcade, and leaves from there also. Outbound times are as follows:

Monday to Saturday: 07.00 to 20.30 (every 10 minutes until 18.10; then 18.30; then every 30 minutes until 20.30). Sunday and Public Holidays: 08.50 to 17.50 (every 10 minutes)

(Inbound services: Monday to Saturday: 07.20 to 20.50; Sunday and Public Holidays: 09.10 to 18.10)

A daily Park & Ride ticket costs £3. Each paying adult can also take up to three under-16s free.

Charges are made for parking at Cambridge Park & Ride sites, although the first 18 hours are now free:

- 1 to 18 hours: FREE
- 18 to 24 hours: £10
- 24 to 48 hours: £20
- 48 to 72 hours: £30

(Advance purchase and season tickets are available at: <http://cambridgeparkandride.info/pricing.shtml>)

Concessionary fare pass holders can travel free on Park & Ride services after 9.30am, Monday to Friday, and all day during weekends and Bank Holidays.



Madingley Road Park & Ride route map

**Whippet Coaches Bus Route U** (Universal) runs from just outside the south-east corner of Madingley Park & Ride (Eddington Avenue), to Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (Addenbrooke's, New Royal Papworth and Rosie Maternity Hospitals).

Details from: <http://www.go-whippet.co.uk/new-route-u/>



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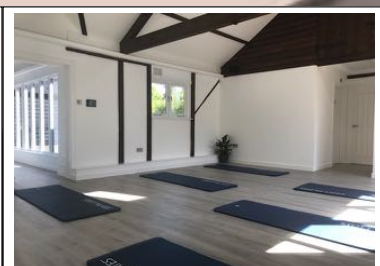
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