



HARDWICK

HAPPENINGS



October 2020

VILLAGE DATABASE

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Community Association:

Anne Jones jeffandanne23@gmail.com 01954 211417

Community Car Scheme:

Nicky Kerr 07464 052 521

Gill Stott 07464 069 483

Lizzie Coe 07387 395 296

Community Primary School:

Headteacher: Mr James Hoban and Ms Cate Thompson 01954 210070

www.hardwickandcambourne.primary.co.uk

Community Speed Watch: Alan Everitt csw.hardwick@gmail.com 07739322905

County Councillor: Lina Nieto Lina.Nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 0740 2351821

Doctors' Surgeries:

Surgery/Dispensary 58 Green End, Comberton 01223 262500/262399

Surgery/Dispensary 58 Green End, 01223 262500/262399

Bourn Surgery 25 Alms Hill, Bourn 01954 719313

Child & Family Nurses: 01954 282830

District Councillor: Grenville Chamberlain grenville_c@hotmail.com 01954 210040

Evangelical Church: Hardwickevangelical@gmail.com

Co-Ministers: Steve & Kate Gaze 01954 211900/212556

Secretary: Liz Pamplin hardwickevangelical@gmail.com

General:

Community Education Office: CVC 01223 264721

Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery: 169 St Neots Rd 01954 210250

Cambridge Water Co (supply): 01223 403000

Anglian Water (sewerage): 08457 145145

Eastern Electricity: 0800 7 838 838

Gas Emergency: 0800 111 999

Guides: Janet Hayman hardwickguides@gmail.com

Rainbows: Jane Muncey 1hardwickrainbows@gmail.com 01954 210570

Guiding information www.Girlguiding.org.uk

Hardwick Happenings: Eds Peter Cornwell Howard Baker
hardwickhappenings@gmail.com

Hardwick pre school: hardwick.preschool@yahoo.co.uk 01954 212823

Member of Parliament: Anthony Brown



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Hardwick Happenings

October 2020

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EDITORIAL

Thanks to Daniel Baker for the cover photos from the front garden of Chris and Elaine Randall and to Bob Davey and Stella Joyner for photos elsewhere. Bob's fabulous 'sunrise over Hardwick' (P22) was taken over the road from the village sign on a morning when he ventured out for an (extremely) early bike ride.



The long-awaited Cabin at St Mary's is now up- and- running and on P 18 Clare Bigg gives a run-down of what is available and the groups which have already booked. The idea of a building there was first broached at the time when Andrew McKearney was rector here, approximately twenty five years ago. Long-awaited indeed.

The village diary has been substituted again for this issue but we are intending to see it return for the November edition. Let Anne Jones have your dates, even if you are still meeting via zoom.

Thanks to Trevor Allen for writing about his experience of lockdown. I am always very conscious of this magazine becoming an historical document once it hits the streets. People in the future will treasure his reflections and how the lockdown affected everyday life in Hardwick and the painting will certainly make it feel more poignant.

Great to have the first contribution from our new MP. In this sense he is certainly 'standing on the shoulders of a giant'.

Peter

Keep caring for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Face coverings are compulsory
in enclosed public spaces

This includes shops, supermarkets,
shopping centres, enclosed transport hubs
and on public transport

Don't leave home without yours

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our schools
are safe
spaces

Cambridgeshire schools have been risk assessed and are following all government safety measures. We will be open and we will be safe.

We can't wait to see you!

#BackToSchoolSafely

My experience of lockdown

Trevor Allen

I have to say I thank God that my experience over recent months is one of lockdown not Coronavirus. I felt compelled to express it somehow visually and the result I called 'Pandemic Dichotomy'. I sometimes try my hand with acrylics but this work is like nothing I've done before; strange times mean strange paintings. What I have personally felt the most is the peace, quiet and tranquillity of life generally. It has reminded me of Sundays before the Sunday trading act of 1994. It does, however, have an undeniable surreal element to it.

It's on the edges of this, when entering the public arena, a supermarket or shop for example, that there comes a disturbance to the tranquil state. One senses a very real hint of danger as you know the dreaded virus could be lurking.

But some, particularly the NHS heroes, are the ones in the thick of the battle on the front line some of whom have fallen and my heart goes out to their families and of others who they sadly were unable to save. Then, of course, there has been the added desperately tragic situation of relatives unable to be close to their dying family member. My painting doesn't come near to relaying that but it is mainly about my own experience in picture symbolism.



The negative aspects of this time for me pale into insignificance with those just mentioned. Being retired also means the impact was less for me than those working and families with young children. Cancelled holidays is a minor irritation. It is mostly the isolation from loved ones I've found hard. But thankfully of late we have been able to meet up with our sons and families – a real joy! Although it's great to have the technology of Zoom, it is a poor second best to the real thing and I long to meet again, hug and worship together with my church family. In the meantime we are praying for a breakthrough on the vaccine front.



JEZ 2020

St Mary's Church, Hardwick



St Mary's, Hardwick, is part of the Lordsbridge Team of Churches, and the diocese of Ely
www.stmaryshardwick.org.uk "St Mary's Church, Hardwick" 

Vicar: Revd Canon Alison Myers, Tel: 01954 212815; Email: alisonmyers@lordsbridge.org
The Rectory, 50, Main Street, Hardwick, Cambridge CB23 7QS
Assistant Ministers: Revd Howard Bigg & Clare Bigg; Revd Paul Garnell

Sunday services in October (unless guidance changes):

9.30am 4th and 18th October

Simple communion service in church

30-40 mins; conducted under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

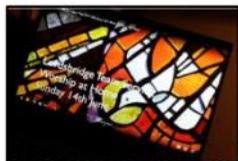
9.30am 11th and 25th October

Simple 'Service of the Word' in church

30-40 mins; conducted under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

'Worship at Home' podcast and downloadable PDF

Details via church website and at www.lordsbridge.org



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Services outdoors. If the weather is good, we may continue to meet outdoors under the trees in the churchyard. Bring something to sit on if you can; a few chairs will be available.

Services indoors & face coverings. Please bring a face covering for services indoors. These are now mandatory indoors in places of worship.

Children and families. As part of our 'Worship at Home' resources each week we are providing a sheet

of children and family 'Pic n Mix' activities. You can receive this by subscribing to the mailing list or checking the church Facebook group.

Church building open. The church building is usually open for personal visits and private prayer from 9am - 6pm on Thursdays and on Sundays after the morning service. The gaps between these times, and the arrangement of the furniture in the building, enable our volunteers to keep the building Covid-safe.

Pastoral care. Please contact Clare if you or someone you know would like us to be in touch (via phone or email at the moment): cebigg53@gmail.com; 211673.

DailyHope, an initiative of the Church of England is available for those who can't easily access services and prayers online.

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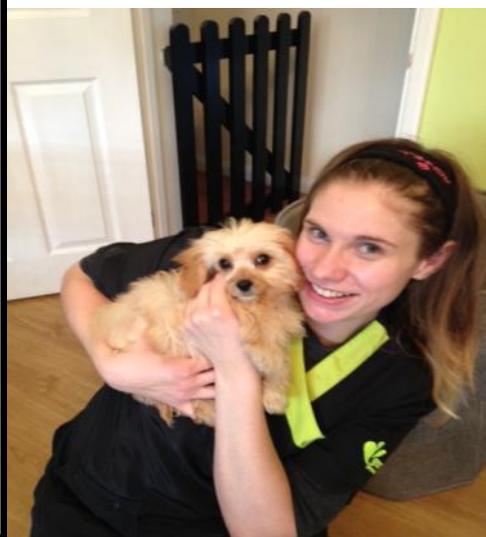
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The Cabin at St Mary's

The new Cabin at St Mary's is now up and running! It is situated off the track which leads to the playground and allotments behind St Mary's Church on Main St. It is a fantastic facility for the village and we are grateful to all the Hardwick residents who have given their time, money and talents to this project.



We have a lovely light hall with patio doors out to the garden area. There is also a meeting room and fitted kitchen. It will be a great venue for groups to meet and families to celebrate for decades to come. In these Covid times, use has to be somewhat restricted but we are cautiously opening for hire.





Please go to our website <https://stmaryshardwick.org.uk> for further details and to download the lettings policy and Covid information.

Please note that the landscaping is not yet complete so the outside space is not available to use at present.

Our building partners, The Coulson Group, have done a fantastic job. We are also grateful to our grant funders: Amey, FCC Communities, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, The Shone Trust, The Allchurches Trust, Cambridgeshire Rural Fund and South Cambs Community Chest.



What's Going On in The Cabin at St Mary's?

So far we have planned
(if current restrictions allow):

Pilates on Monday and Friday mornings

Yoga on Tuesday evenings

Colour Wheel on alternate Tuesday afternoons

A support group for pregnant women and mothers with non-mobile babies planned for Thursday mornings starting from November 12th

WI activity groups will happen on alternate Tuesday afternoons.

The Tuesday Mornings at St Mary's toddler group will restart as soon as allowed.

Brownies will meet on Mondays as soon as they are allowed.

Cabin Creative Arts on alternate Thursday afternoons

A couple of book clubs.

For contact details, see the back page.

What else?

If you would like to run a community group in The Cabin, please get in touch! We are especially interested in hosting groups which support vulnerable and/or potentially isolated people. All hirers will have to provide their own Covid risk assessment. Bookings for birthday parties etc are not currently being taken.

Clare Bigg

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Sunrise over Hardwick
Photos by Bob Davey





Under 13s playing against Gt Shelford



Hardwick & Caldecote Cricket and the Pandemic

When the lockdown started on March 23rd, I was due to fly out for a Caribbean holiday to charge up my batteries for the start of a new cricket season. This was immediately cancelled. There were warnings already as our indoor training sessions were cancelled because of the potential virus risk. Initially I thought that that was it for the season, given what had happened in Italy and Spain.

Fortunately the club was given the clearance from our governing body that we could resume maintaining the cricket playing surface in the hope that there may be some cricket this year. The weather improved with dry sunny conditions and still no chance of cricket. The cricket square at Caldecote

was looking really good in May, but could not be used. More dry sunny weather moved in to June and there were some relaxation on the sport allowing one to ones in the nets. At that time the nets could not be used because they needed a lot of maintenance. The club asked for some help from the Parish Council which was gratefully received and the nets were made good.

I should point out that no funds were coming from our members because nothing was being offered to them so we couldn't just ask them for their membership fees.

Suddenly we were told we could run a cricket net with 6 people and so the first session was arranged for 17th June and guess what, it rained so no cricket that day. The next day another session was arranged which did go ahead. Due to covid 19 rules we had to supply a ball to every player, protective kit (helmet, gloves, pads and bat) from our supply so that no one shared equipment. Word got around and more juniors applied to join in. Still we had no indication that cricket matches could resume. Training twenty children took four hours rather than a single hour because of the conditions, so we had to organise a booking system to ensure it was available to people when they wanted it. This was done and to date it has been booked more than 400 times, so it has been heavily used.

Finally we had the go ahead to run cricket matches and train in bigger groups. However the rules we had to apply were introduced to limit the transmission of the virus.

We had to wash our hands or apply gel prior to the game or training. Every 20 mins or 6 overs played more gel use and at the end of the session/game all players had to have a further gel hand wash. All equipment was then disinfected if it was used communally such as stumps, bails, cones etc.

This year we were able to run an under 13 team with players from last year, but we wanted to get enough juniors to run an under 10 team. I think that because of the lack of team sports being offered we had a reasonable number of under 10s wanting to join the team which we were able to do. At Caldecote the pavilion was not allowed to open, but there is an outside toilet so with lots of disinfectant games could be run.

The under 13 team played and lost heavily to Gt Shelford and Coton, but when they played Cambourne they came very close to a win losing by 7 runs.

The under 10 team played and beat Coton, and Cambourne, but lost to Over CC on a very damp Sunday afternoon.

We also ran several inter club games during the week and at the training sessions and we could see lots of improvements in the players.

At the time of writing we are just at the end of our season, but we were able to run an AllStars cricket program for 5 - 8 year olds, just one of ten programs in the County. There were fewer juniors in this program but we hope that this is just a blip due to the current circumstances.

These are very strange times, but from the responses from parents and children they have enjoyed the experience and it must be better than always playing on an x-box or playstation.

We hope that in 2021 the season may be a bit more normal but no one can predict the future all we can do is hope. One hope is that we can run some indoor cricket sessions after Christmas. We shall have to wait and see. And I did get a full refund from my holiday!

Chris Fuller

Hardwick Covid Snake

Sadly, the Covid Snake was vandalised on Saurday, September 12th by visitors to our village. We are hoping to reinstate it permanently, very soon. So, if you painted a stone, please retrieve it from the tennis courts, if it is still there. If you cannot find your stone, perhaps you would like to paint another. If you never painted one, now is your chance to show your artistic skills! In due course you will told what we are going to do with them but details have to be finalised. Watch this space!



Anne Jones

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Coronavirus



This is just a short note to inform you that Hardwick Neighbourhood Watch is not just here to try and make the village a better and safer place to live, but is here to be aware of vulnerable people. I am sure most of you keep an eye on your neighbours to make sure they are okay, especially in this difficult time. And it is quite possible that we may have to go back to lockdown. Whether we do or not remember NHW can help. If you require your medicines contact me, I cover the Bourn prescription run and can collect other items.

Regarding security don't forget you can get the Bobby Scheme by contacting the police on 101. They can supply alarms for your house and garage and they have TV simulators. Use 999 for a crime in progress, 101 for none emergency. Also on line type in Cambs police and follow the links. You can leave a message or talk on line.

You can contact me, Ashley Shepherd, 01954 211532

ahshepherd@hotmail.co.uk

The Guides and Rangers have continued to meet over the summer holidays on Zoom. This might change in the future and following guidance from Girlguiding HQ.

During the summer Zoom meetings the Guides have had fun doing activities from the Adventures at Home (<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home>) which have included: pressing flowers; making bunting; making sorbet using ice, fruit juice and a plastic bag; and making slime. The Rangers – who during the Zoom meetings meet after the Guides – have continued to do Unit Meeting Activities, including making a code decipher and trying to create a code for the rest to decipher which didn't always work that well – especially when one of the girls had one too many sections so used! as the extra section, which threw off their code to decipher!!

Since the end of August/ beginning of September, we've been able to meet face to face outside. We are only allowed to have 15 of us and to be socially distanced, but this proved to be popular, so we have had 3 more outdoor meetings. We've had a picnic each meeting, and did different activities. The first picnic, although not cold or wet, was extremely windy and made being heard hard. The others the weather was more on our side. We met near the new community building by the Church – which looks very impressive. During these weeks the Guides and Rangers met at different locations by the Church due to numbers.

The Guides had a picnic each week, giving them time to catch up with each other. The first week the activity they did was a mini sports event which involved an egg and spoon race and a sack race – with a pretend sack. Some of the girls found it difficult to imagine what they would have to do if they were in a sack. The second week they made flying discs using paper plates. Some of them managed to make them fly really far!

Last week they did a Unit Meeting Activity where they were encouraged to look at and think about stereotyping. We also had our first socially distanced promise ceremony, which went well and got the girl's parents even more involved which is always lovely J

The Rangers also met for picnics and after spending most of the time catching up, they tried to attract moths with two different methods. One putting up a sheet with a light to attract them (making the Church yard look like we were having a Halloween party early!) the other was to mix going off fruit, coke together and paint it onto wood or brick to attract moths as this mimics their food. Neither were overly successful. We thought it might have been due to it not being dark enough, so the following week we tried again – they were determined – this time it definitely got dark but we still didn't attract many. We are thinking that with it cooling down the moths might not be as active, or maybe the bats have got the moths first.



Guides are aged 10 - 14 years old, and Rangers are aged 14 - 18 years old.

If you would like to know more about Guides or Rangers (or are younger and would like your name to go on our joining list) please get in touch. Email hardwickguides@gmail.com

Kirsty Orange and Janet Hayman Guide and Ranger leaders

St Mary's Church Plant & Produce stall

Again, a huge thank you to all those who have given plants and produce and to those who have bought items. We have now raised over £650 (including moneys raised from the Tea Time Trail)

We have definitely increased the amount and variety of produce on the stall and now have jams and chutneys (and even the occasional cake) together with fresh fruit and vegetables. We hope to continue with the stall, so please do stop by the porch and see what is on offer.



Sue Cornwell

From your Parish Council...

Did you know that:

1. There is a new Communication and Engagement Working Group which has been formed, to look into how to improve on the above between the Parish council and the community. The group would welcome input from residents on the matter. Please contact a.joolia@hardwick-cambs.org.uk or the parish clerk.
2. There is also a new Working Group on Highways and Road Safety with the mission to improve the road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users throughout the village and lobby County Highways Officers to improve the quality of our footpaths and roads. If you would like to suggest areas that require attention, please contact a.everitt@hardwick-cambs.org.uk or p.joslin@hardwick-cambs.org.uk
3. During the Covid pandemic, the Parish Council has been holding meetings online, on Zoom. This means that residents (and the general public) can attend these meetings safely from their home, or wherever there is internet access. Details for the login are found on the Meeting Agenda on the Village website (<https://www.hardwick-cambs.org.uk>).
4. Again due to the Covid pandemic, the Parish Council has not held its Annual Parish Meeting this year, which is usually in May of every year. But Full Council meetings are happening every 4th Tuesday of the month.
5. There are currently casual vacancies to join the Parish Council. So if you are keen to be involved and contribute to the community, now is a very exciting time to submit an application. You can find more information on the Village website, or contact one of the councillors, or the clerk.



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Hardwick Network



Hardwick Network volunteers are still active and ready to help people unable to get out and about due to COVID-19!

As we head into autumn and winter it is likely that cases of COVID-19 will increase and we might be able to get out and about less – either through self-isolating or because vulnerable and older people may wish to avoid busy places such as shops and pharmacies.

The Hardwick Network volunteers can provide support to those who can't get out over the next few months by shopping for groceries, collecting prescription medications, or offering social contact on the phone or email.

What to do if you need help

Contact the person on your '#HardwickViralKindness' postcard that you received earlier in the year (like the one below):

Hello! If you're unable to get out or stuck at home, I can help...

My name is _____

I live locally at _____

My phone number is _____

If you are on your own either because you're self-isolating due to COVID-19 or because you're anxious/worried about going out in the current environment, I can help with:

Collecting shopping Posting mail

A friendly phone call Urgent supplies

Just tick or call me and I'll do my best to help you out. THANKS

If you have lost the card, can't remember who to contact, or are new to the village, please contact me using the details at the end of this article and I will put you in touch with someone who can help.

What to do if you would like to volunteer

If you would like to volunteer with the Network please do get in touch! We are always looking for more people to provide regular or ad hoc support to the people in our village.

You can offer as much or as little time as you like during times of the week that suit you. You might also make some new friends amongst the other volunteers!

How to find out more

Take a look at our website: www.hardwicknetwork.co.uk! It contains lots of useful information about local resources available during COVID-19 as well as other volunteering opportunities should you have some time to support others.

Food and Essential Items Fund

In addition, don't forget that Hardwick Network, in collaboration with Hardwick Evangelical Church, has a 'Food and Essential Items Fund' available to people in the village. This fund is for residents of Hardwick who, due to changes in their situation caused by COVID-19, are unable to buy food or other essential household items. If you would like to find out more or apply for funding, please contact Hardwick Network using the details at the end of the article, or Steve Gaze (stevegaze@gmail.com). All communication and information will be treated confidentially.

Ruth Enge, Hardwick Network Coordinator
07814 358181
hardwick.network@gmail.com

In my last report I mentioned we were hoping to have a Summer Reunion in August! –well Covid and yet even newer restrictions have put paid to that. Those of you who have read the last HH will have noticed that our WI has found a way round the “rules of engagement” and have held fortnightly gatherings (limited of course) in members gardens/gazebos and perhaps conservatories!

The approaching colder weather will stop this – unless members bring their own hot water bottles and wear thermal underwear and shelter under umbrellas – so we will have to resort to other venues– potentially the newly opened Cabin at St Marys.

Our last speaker was our very own District Councillor, Grenville Chamberlain who gave an interesting account of his life as a councillor and of his work with various planning departments and local authorities. How many of us would volunteer to become a DC anyway–it requires dedication and plenty of energy to deal with the vagaries of modern life.

The speaker we have booked for this month is Mrs Irena Spence who will be talking about her work as a Street Pastor in Cambridge. We have been very fortunate to get speakers who are prepared to do their talk through Zoom and despite a few technical issues (mostly broadband inadequacies!) all our members have been able to rise to the challenge – some more than others!! So a new chapter of our lives is starting to emerge with the shape of things to come – the “new normal” ; to this end our WI has started a Walking Group and an Art Group and our usual “Cuppa-Cake- Chat” which are proving to be very popular. Our committee meetings and members meetings are conducted through Zoom – we have acquired a longer term payment contract for Zoom as who knows how long these restrictions will last? It is sad that we have all been unable to meet within the WI –we all need contact with people and this separation that has been forced upon us will eventually come to an end; Let’s hope it is not too far away.

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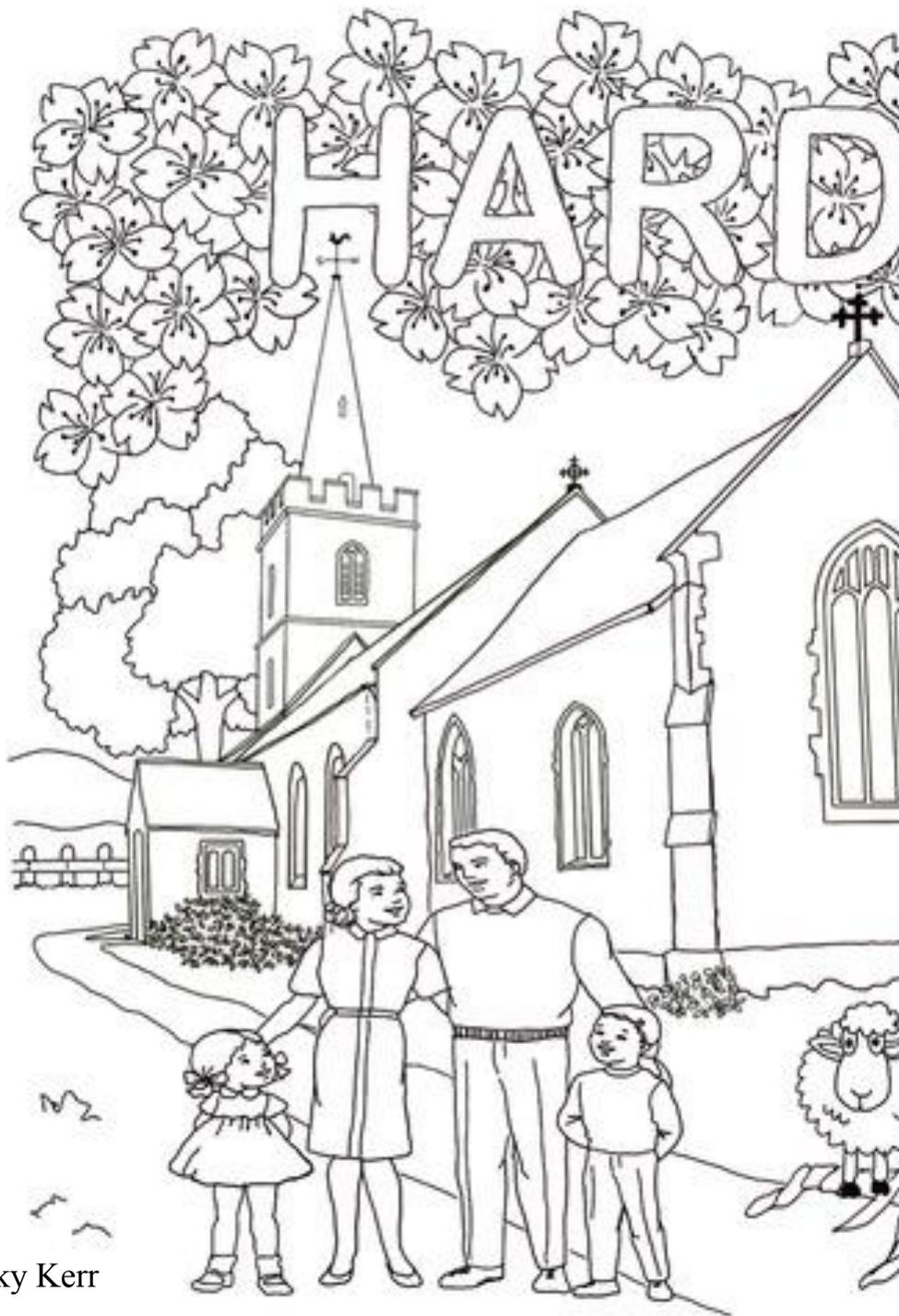


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Nicky Kerr



Comberton Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Tel: 0345 045 5225

Monday: 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Wednesday: 2.00 – 6.00 pm

As I write this article, we are still working to our revised opening times, 10.00am until 2.00pm on Mondays and 2.00pm until 6.00pm on Wednesdays. The following outlines the service we are providing currently, but please do check the Library pages on the County Council website and the Library Service media platforms for any changes, as these will be publicised as soon as they are known. Although our current service is not what we are used to, Comberton Library staff still look forward to seeing you as you return and collect your books, or use the IT facilities.

There is still no browsing of the shelves, and in order to maintain a safe environment for both our customers and staff we are operating a queueing system, as necessary, outside the library, to maintain social distancing. You are able to return books and collect items, which will have been issued already to your library card. Specific titles can be reserved online from home in the normal way, although reservations for picture books have been suspended. Our Select and Collect Request Service enables you to request a selection of books based on your preference. Staff will choose books based on the information provided and the stock available in the library. Please use the online form, available via www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library to make your requests. If you do not have internet access, you can call Customer Services on 0345 045 5225, and the staff there will forward your request to the library. We will contact you to let you know when your items are available to collect.

Access to the IT facilities is available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45 minute appointment per day per customer. Again this is to allow safe access and time for cleaning between customers. Printing and photocopying are available, but, as there is no cash handling, you will need change to drop into the photocopier coin box, 20p per page of A4 black and white and 75p per colour page. Printing costs are the same and can be paid for by dropping the change into the library's donation box.

We are delighted to announce that there will be an Autumn season of The Library Presents 'In Your House' beginning this month. Included will be outdoor performances, interactive installations in library windows, a radio play and plenty of fantastic performances and workshops to enjoy online. There will be theatre, music, dance, comedy and magic, and workshops will be for both adults and families. Full details of what's on offer will be available on The Library Presents page of our website, where you can also sign up to receive The Library Presents newsletter, or, if you use social media, like and follow @TheLibraryPresents on Facebook or Instagram. As the nights draw in, we hope that you will find plenty to keep you informed and entertained.

Results Day – but not as they knew it

A-Level and GCSE students faced arguably the strangest, yet somehow most dramatic summer of their lives. The tension was ramped up as their destiny would be decided using algorithms. But after uproar around the A-Level results, the government switched to predicted grades for GCSE students and overturned final grade decisions around A-Levels.

Chelsie and Caitlin Alderman, 18 and 16, of Grace Crescent, both received their results this summer, but the journey to their final marks was not without drama. Chelsie achieved three Bs in her biology, chemistry and maths A-Levels and Caitlin passed five subjects which were a combination of BTECs and GCSEs, including maths, science, art, English and health and social care. Here, they tell **Daniel Baker** about their rollercoaster ride.

On the controversial algorithm which was scrapped by the government:

CHELSIE: With the algorithm, I got CCC but with predicted grades I got BBB. We were appealing the algorithm, but on the Monday (after results day) they were put up to predicted grades. I was at work when I got my results by email. It had my teacher's grades in one column and my actual grades in another and all three had been put down.

I was more frustrated than upset because there was nothing I could do to stop the government's algorithm. I never understood what was going on as I feel they lowered state school grades to make private schools look good.

CAITLIN: The algorithm isn't fair because they don't know how you're working and don't know how much work could have been done in that time.

I was protected as this was all sorted out by the time I'd got my results, so I got my predicted grades and I was happy because those grades were what would and did get me passes and I worked for it. My grades didn't get put down, but my mum and I were getting ready to appeal in case that happened.

On using predicted grades as an alternative:

CHELSIE: The fairest way was using teacher's predicted grades as they know the students and subjects and have seen people come and go for years. They had to give evidence for their predicted grades so they weren't just plucked out of the air.

A lot of my friends had their first choice university places taken away from them, but they got them back because of teacher's predicted grades. If the exams had been done online, everyone would have cheated as parents can't invigilate and none of my subjects had coursework. We expected it as it had already happened in Scotland.

CAITLIN: I didn't see anyone on results day, so getting my results didn't seem important and also because of lockdown, I wasn't able to sit the GCSE exams.



It was hard working out how these results should be scored with what's going on, but using predicted grades was the best way of doing it. I had coursework for my two BTECs which account for 75% and I had already taken the exams. It was hard working from home as I didn't have a teacher to help and you had to wait for them to email back.

On the anger aimed at the government because of results:

CHELSIE: No-one was to know what was going to happen. Don't have a fireplace salesman as an Education Secretary and listen to the teachers as they know what they're doing.

But people make mistakes and I think he only had so long to think about it and it got to a week before and quickly decided this without much thought. Teachers set up meetings to get appeals ready which they worked on and the head of sixth form was up until 11pm answering emails.

On their futures:

CHELSIE: I haven't applied to university yet. I'm taking a gap year and might go to Anglia Ruskin to do nursing.

CAITLIN: I'm going to Comberton Sixth Form to do Health and Social Care and there was a feeling of 'thank goodness' as I was worried at first.

The government's response

Following the results days, the government issued an apology to students affected with Boris Johnson saying at the time that the focus 'has been and will be ensuring that students can move on to the next phase and ensuring kids can get back to school'.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson was also apologetic, insisting in late August he would be focusing on 'putting problems right'. Mr Williamson faced calls to resign after the fiasco, but was rumoured to have had a request to step down rejected by the Prime Minister.

Dear Readers

Out and about. Colleges and The River Cam, Cambridge

As we all have lots of spare time on our hands why not take a 5.5mile walk exploring Cambridge. You will be surprised what hidden treasures we have in our City.

City circuit exploring Cambridge's green spaces and threading its way between various colleges and university buildings, showcasing their impressive architecture. It also follows a stretch of the River Cam lined with the university boathouses. Stella Joyner

Starts at

The walk starts from the corner of Parker's Piece, an area of green space in the heart of the city.

Ends at

Parker's Piece, Cambridge (TL 455579)

Getting there

Regular services to Cambridge via rail, National Express and local buses. Park and ride available if arriving by car (parking free, £3 day return bus ticket).

Route instructions

[1] START at the corner of Parker's Piece, an area of green space in the heart of the city. The spot is widely regarded as the birthplace of the laws of modern football. Follow the path diagonally across the middle of the common, past a large cast-iron lamp post at the path junction, commonly known as Reality Checkpoint. From the outset an interesting mix of architecture is apparent, including grand Georgian buildings, as well as contemporary architecture like the Cambridge Fire Station. After crossing the common, turn left onto Parkside. Cross the road opposite number 25 Parkside, which during WWII became a home for Jewish youths; refugees from Nazi Germany. Continue ahead onto Parker Street. The Georgian redbrick building on the left is part of Emmanuel College.

[2] Turn right into Christ's Pieces, another city park, and take the path straight ahead. Turn right at the path junction. Turn left out of the park, crossing the road at the church. Cross at the roundabout to enter Midsummer Common, where fairs and public events are often held. Take the path ahead. On reaching the River Cam, turn left to walk alongside the river. Many Cambridge University college boathouses line the opposite bank. Continue along the riverbank, walking beneath a bridge and past the Fort St George Pub. To your left is Jesus Green Lido.

[3] Turn left at the lock towards the Tourist Information Centre, crossing Jesus Green with tennis courts on your right. Turn left out of the green along Park Parade. Turn right onto Lower Park St. Follow the road round to the left, passing the Maypole Pub. Turn right along Round Church Street and cross over onto St John's Street. On your right is St John's College.(A) Turn right along Trinity Lane, passing Gonville and Caius College,(B) then right along Garret Hostel Lane to pass Trinity College and return to the river.

(A) St John's College is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge founded by the Tudor matriarch Lady Margaret Beaufort. In constitutional terms, the college is a charitable corporation established by a charter dated 9 April 1511. The aims of the college, as specified by its statutes, are the promotion of education, religion, learning and research. It is one of the larger Oxbridge colleges in terms of student numbers.

(B) Caius is one of the oldest and largest colleges of the University of Cambridge. Founded in 1348, the College combines the best of Cambridge tradition with 21st century teaching and research.

[4] Cross the bridge over the Cam. Cross the road and continue ahead along a path lined with box hedges. Turn left into the Cambridge University Library campus. Walk past the library, cross over the road and go through the Sedgewick Site. Turn left along the road. Turn right past Ridley Hall (C)and .

go left as the road bends right.

(C) Ridley Hall is a theological college located in Sidgwick Avenue in Cambridge in the United Kingdom, which trains men and women intending to take Holy Orders, as deacon or priest of the Church of England, and members of the laity working with children and young people, as lay pioneers and within a pastoral capacity such as lay chaplaincy.

[5] Emerge opposite the Granta pub and cross the road, continuing ahead past the Mill Works restaurant. Turn right behind the Mill Works alongside a stream. Cross the road and continue through a hand gate. At the path junction, take the second left over the green footbridge. This area is known as Coe Fen and was a popular swimming spot on the River Cam until the lido was built at Jesus Green in 1923. The late-Victorian Hodson's Folly was once the designated women's bathing place. Continue past the folly, following the path as it bends sharp left beneath the trees.

[6] Exit the common and walk along Granta Place. Pass The Mill Pub, turning immediately right up Mill Lane. Pass the famous Fitzbillies bakery and cross the road onto Pembroke Street. At the end of Downing Street turn right onto St Andrew's Street. At the end of St Andrew's Street, by the traffic lights, turn left into Parker's Piece. Take right hand path and follow it to path junction. Here turn right and continue ahead to return to your starting point



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Hardwick Football Club



Hardwick 1st Team and Reserves are now playing league matches and there is a match on the Recreation ground most Saturdays @3pm until the clocks change, when KO time will be 2pm.

Please see below the fixtures for the forthcoming weeks. On behalf of the teams, your support is appreciated.

SAT 19TH SEPT - HARDWICK FC 1ST VS HOUGHTON & WYTON 1ST

SAT 26TH SEPT - HARDWICK FC RESERVES VS KEDINGTON FC 1ST

SAT 3RD OCT - HARDWICK FC 1ST TEAM VS CHERRY HINTON RESERVES

SAT 10TH OCT - HARDWICK FC 1ST TEAM VS LAKENHEATH FC RESERVES

SAT 17 OCT - HARDWICK FC 1ST TEAM VS C U P RESERVES

SAT 24 OCT - HARDWICK FC RESERVES VS SAWSTON YOUTH MEN 1ST

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Forward planning for the Hardwick plant exchange

Sometimes on visiting garden centres my heart sinks at the exorbitant cost of plants and shrubs, often leaving empty handed as the sum of money to fill just a patch of soil with five or six plants is too much. So.....I have walked around my garden, made a note of some, but by no means all of the plants/shrubs within. All this being with a view to mentally noting what cuttings and plant divisions I could take and make, therefore creating a good number of plants for very little cost (you will be surprised how many different plants you have).

The new plants could then be taken to a Hardwick village 'plant exchange' next spring, where we could either swap our plants for new varieties we don't have ourselves or indeed purchase new plants, for those who have no 'swapsies'.

Taking cuttings is often unbelievably easy and you will be proud of your offerings to enhance someone else's garden and indeed introduce new plants to your own (don't forget to label them).

Please have a wander around your patch, do a bit of research, if necessary, as to what you could take cuttings of if you are unsure, and set the 'plant exchange' process in motion. Dates and venue to be arranged and I look forward to seeing you there.

Carole Oakes

P.S. saving seeds from some of this years' vegetables (either those brought from the supermarket or home grown) i.e. peppers, courgettes, butternut squash, pumpkin and runner beans etc., will mean you will not need to buy these seeds next year!

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Hedgehogs in Hardwick Part 2

Hedgehogs are solitary animals. Male and female only come together to mate. The male takes no part in rearing the young.

British Hedgehogs are now officially classified as vulnerable to extinction. The natural habitats for our native animals are rapidly declining, causing massive falls in populations of many species including hedgehogs. Because we have lost about 90% of our meadows and hedgerows hedgehogs are coming to rely more and more on surviving in urban areas: gardens, parks, and so on. They search for food and shelter. It is often necessary for them to cross roads. Landscapes are being fenced off into ever smaller fragments. It is estimated that hedgehog numbers have dropped by 95% since the 1950s. As an endangered species hedgehogs are protected by law.

How can we help them? We can create a hedgehog highway if everyone with a garden cuts a 13cm hole (5inches) in the bottom of the garden fence allowing hedgehogs to move freely between gardens. If you leave a wild patch in part of your garden this will help them to find food and shelter. Don't clear away all the leaves in Autumn; dry leaves and dry grass make good bedding. British Housebuilders, Bovis Homes have agreed with the BHPS (see below) to install hedgehog highways whenever possible in housing developments.

If you plan a bonfire, move the pile to be burned just before setting fire to it to ensure that hedgehogs are not nesting in it. If you are turning a heap of compost take

care, as it is possible to kill a baby hedgehog. This is less of a problem in October/November as most hoglets will have left their mother by then, and adults have not started to hibernate. If you accidentally disturb a nest with an adult hedgehog in it replace the nesting material so that the hedgehog can repair the nest or build another.

If you have a pond build a ramp so that if hedgehogs fall in they can climb out again. If you are making a pond have a gentle slope on at least one side. Keep drain holes covered; this stops both leaves and hedgehogs blocking the drain. Try not to use netting or, if you do, keep it about a foot above the ground so that hedgehogs do not become caught in it.

When cutting long grass and tidying up wild patches take great care. Long grass and wild patches are ideal places for a hedgehog to nest. Hedgehogs have day nests in which to safely spend the hours of daylight. Females need nests in which to give birth to their babies. Mowers and strimmers can seriously injure a nesting hedgehog.

If you wish to provide a hedgehog with a home you can make one or several places sell them, including pet shops and the RSPB. Meadow hay for bedding is available in pet shops.

Try not to use slug pellets as they are poisonous. Use an alternative if possible. If you need to use them, read the instructions carefully and remove dead slugs and snails as soon as possible.

There seem to be a lot of dos and don'ts, but taking care is well worthwhile if hedgehogs come to your garden. Encourage them by ensuring there is a fresh supply of water available, and leave a dish of food somewhere where the hedgehog can get it, but not the local cats! Put it under something low! Tinned meat will go off after several hours so any uneaten food should be removed. Dry food as mentioned in Part 1 is easier to manage.

Hedgehogs sometimes wake from hibernation in winter during a warm spell. If you see one put out a dish of food and some water each day until it starts hibernating again.

If you come across a hedgehog in trouble there are several organisations which can help. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) is probably the best place to start. The BHPS publishes a series of leaflets with lots of helpful information.

Gillian Lang

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Shropshire. SY8 3PL.

WWW.britishhedgehogs.org.uk Phone: 01584 890801

THE COLOUR WHEEL



HARDWICK MINDFUL COLOURING GROUP

I am pleased to announce that I am once again able to host the Colour Wheel by following stringent COVID-19 Government regulations.

With a lot of thought, I have decided to move the Colour Wheel to a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm. We will meet in the new Cabin at St Mary's, next to the church as it will be more conducive to our group. We will meet on the 22 September and then every second week after that.

I will still provide all the material which will be cleaned before and after, I will also provide tea and coffee with some cake & biscuits. If however you feel that you would be safer bringing your own, that will be great. A £3 donation would be very welcome.

As we are only allowed 12 people to meet inside the hall from different households, I would need you to please email or text me if you would like to attend so that we do not over subscribe the numbers. Also please send the word out if you know of someone who would like to join in.

Contact person: Nicky Kerr 075 3942 9394 / kerranica@gmail.com

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We started by visiting the walled garden. Divided into lots of small characterful

rooms and beautifully designed, they rank among the best in the country. The dahlias were spectacular, as good as those at Angelsey Abbey

Our attention was diverted by sculptures by Richard Long (above) and Jeppe Hein (below) Both have their own garden space and the latter is set in a pond. A jet of water pushes burning paraffin up to about two and a half metres. Watching the water and the flames blowing in the wind was captivating for



all of us. After the walled garden we took our picnic into the fields where there was plenty of space and few people. Close to the picnic spot was a massive stumpery built in a circle and unlike the Wimpole stumpery, it was in the middle of the field.

From there we went into the part of the garden in front of the house to see the exhibition of sculptures by Anish Kapoor, one of the leading sculptors of the modern era. Of the three pieces immediately in front of the house it was the



untitled one in onyx which caught my attention. The superb polished outer surface almost glowed and contrasted with the textures of the house behind it. The huge cantilevered rectangle surrounded by the shadows created a mysterious effect. This was modern sculpture miles away from the purity of the curves of Hepworth and Arp but equally impressive and pure in its geometry. Kapoor's sky mirror (below) looked like a massive shaving mirror sunk into the ground, the convex front reflects the movement of the clouds, birds etc whilst the concave back is pointed towards the viewing public. Made of polished steel it dwarfs the humans around it.

Our visit was completed with walking up to the ha ha to see Richard Long's full moon circle, worth the entrance money by itself.

We spent over four hours there and hadn't seen half of it. We had missed out the exhibition in the stables and all the work in the house.

(Anish Kapoor at Houghton Hall finishes on the 1st of November.) **Peter Cornwell**





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I have been out and about across the constituency over the last few weeks, seeing first-hand some of the fantastic work being done by residents as well as understanding the troubles that many have faced. From tackling flooding in Bar Hill to meeting with innovating local businesses in Oakington to sneaking a behind-the-scenes look at IWM Duxfords latest exhibits, it has been a genuine pleasure to be back out and about. Scroll down to see just a snapshot of my visits over the past few weeks, and how that is translating into action both locally and in Westminster.

I also had the chance, one or two times, to help out by eating out! I was delighted to see that over 122,000 meals have been claimed for by the 107 restaurants, cafes and pubs in our area, proof that local people are supporting out local businesses. I have no doubt that there are businesses in South Cambridgeshire today which, without this brilliant scheme, may not have made it through the summer. I hope local people will continue to support them in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, in the House of Commons we are back where MPs belong – scrutinising legislation and holding the government to account. You will read below of attempts to hold defecting MPs to account and calling out the undemocratic behaviour of Extinction Rebellion. With the spectre of Brexit raising its head, have no doubt that this Parliament will continue to hold the Government to account.

However, while I am glad to be looking forward, conquering this invisible enemy remains a key part of our lives. Please do continue to follow social distancing requirements and wear masks when prompted.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about your local area, please do email me at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk or go to my website www.anthonybrowne.org.

Anthony Browne MP



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SNIPPETS

Since the great lockdown began I have been out eight times: twice to the doctor's surgery, once to the pub, once to the allotment, once to the garden centre, once for a HH planning meeting which was held on the seat outside St Mary's, once for a one-night stay in Norwich, and more recently, to Cambridge. I used to go to Cambridge once a week so It was strange going back after an absence of over six months. There were no seats in the Grand Arcade and pedestrians were required to pretend they were cars and follow the arrows directing them where to go. Face masks were required in some places, cafes were observing social distancing. I have seen many changes in society over the last fifty years ago and most of them happened gradually. But this virus was (to most of us) totally unexpected and has brought about massive and sudden changes.

It seems that a lot of good programmes are on channels other than BBC and ITV but that we can rely on the main channels for good drama. BBC have recently shown an adaptation of *A Suitable Boy* and now

ITV have now come up with *The Singapore Grip*.

A Suitable Boy is an enormously long novel by Vikram Seth which was amazingly condensed into six episodes. It must have been a fraction of the original story and had so many characters that at times I found myself asking 'Who's he?' It managed to show events that happened after India's independence, as well as the main

story line about a family looking for a suitable husband for their daughter.

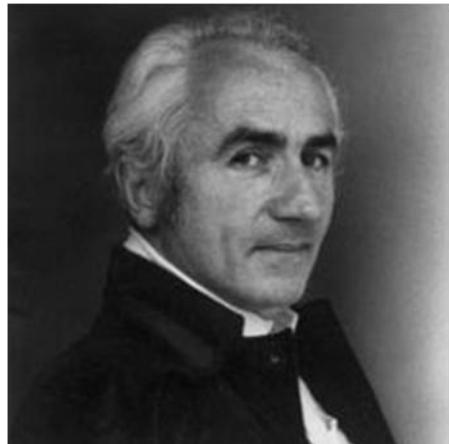
The Singapore Grip is based on the novel by J.G. Farrell. A double winner of the Booker Prize but long forgotten in literary circles, he was born in Liverpool to an Irish family who moved back to Dublin at the end of World War Two. At the ceremony for the award of his first Booker Prize in 1973 he attacked the Booker company for their ill-treatment of their workers.

The success of the first award enabled him to buy a cottage in rural Ireland where he spent time fishing and rock climbing. He was found drowned there at the age of forty-four and the Coroner recorded an open verdict.

I am currently reading his novel *The Siege of Krishnapur* and love his easy flowing style, with no forced metaphors, no overblown literary effects and plenty of gentle humour. His biographer says of him, ‘Jim had a unique way of blending history and comedy with a characteristic melancholy,’ and a local farmer remembers him as ‘a very nice gentleman.’



Vikram Seth



J.G.Farrell

And now there's talk of a second lock-down. Bring it on, I say. Obviously there are no ex-teachers in Mr Johnson's cabinet because any teacher knows, if you're going to give an instruction you keep it simple. 'Tomorrow you must all bring your sports equipment.' Not, '...except those who... and those who...and those who...' The lock-down was simple, no exceptions (except Mr Johnson's chief adviser). People could choose to disobey the rules but they couldn't say, 'I thought you said...'

The lock-down massively reduced the virus. The lock-down was eased and the virus came back. Answer: bring back the lock-down.

Howard Baker

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The Food Bank at St Mary's

helping to provide emergency food for people in crisis.

People in the UK go hungry for various reasons such as redundancy or unexpected bills on a low income. A box of food makes a huge difference, particularly to families with children who seem to be hardest hit. Foodbanks also help to prevent crime, evictions, family breakdowns and problems of mental health.

Donations of non-perishable, in-date foods are taken to the distribution centres where it is sorted, dates checked and items packed in boxes ready for people in need. Foodbanks work with doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with food-bank vouchers. These vouchers are then taken to a centre where they are redeemed for 3 days emergency food and other necessary items.

Volunteers give clients a free hot drink or meal, talk to them and are able to direct people to agencies able to help solve longer-term problems.

The Cambridge foodbank opened in 2010 and in 2019, 9243 boxes were given to people in crisis.

The foodbank in the porch at St Mary's has been very well supported.

Thank you again to all those who have contributed. We have now taken seven car loads of donations to the Cambridge distribution centre. At the moment, the most needed items include custard, coffee, nuts, sugar, snack bars, long-life juices, sweetcorn, long-life puddings, rice, toiletries, household products, hand sanitiser and nappies.

Please don't stop donating - we intend to keep the box in the porch.

More people have needed to use foodbanks this year because of Covid-19. Predictions are that more people will be made redundant after the furlough scheme ends and research from the Trussel Trust, who support the 428 foodbanks in the UK, estimates that there will be a 61% increase in need this winter, which means 6 emergency foodboxes being handed out every minute.

Food for thought!

VILLAGE PEOPLE 32

Nigel Macguire interviewed by Howard Baker

Nigel was born in Plymouth. His parents' families were based there, his father was serving in the merchant navy and they moved from there to London when his father took a role at Shell Oil's office in London and then to Hampshire. After living a year in New Orleans whilst his father worked on a project for Shell, Nigel went to boarding school in Somerset and took a place at Warwick University to study law, after which he took a gap year during which it was his aim to hike the Appalachian Trail in the U.S.A, a 2,150 mile mountain walk up the east coast of America from Georgia to Maine. To finance this he worked for six months at a supply warehouse for Tesco's. This was hard work, moving heavy crates. Finally, he achieved his ambition and arrived in the U.S.A. He started the trail in winter in the southern Appalachians, and walked through the seasons to finish in late summer on Mount Katahdin, Maine at the end of August. He returned to the U.K. and spent a year at Law School in Guildford, worked in London to fund a second six months, snowboarding in Canada, then



Photo: Nigel on Mount Katahdin at the end of the Appalatian Trail

hiking on Kauai, Hawaii, and then avoiding hungry black bears on the John Muir Trail in California. Whilst short, the John Muir Trail was challenging both mentally, he saw no other person for three weeks, and physically, most of the trail was above the snow line of 10,000 ft. But it was beautiful- Ansel Adams country, and finishing in Yosemite National Park.

On his return home he took a job with a law firm in Cambridge as a trainee solicitor, before qualifying and specialising as a property litigator. This involves settling disputes often between commercial landlords and tenants.

There are no flamboyant court appearances, just quiet discussions, mediations, in an office since in most cases both parties are keen to settle their disputes.



He met his wife Sharon in Cambridge 2003 and they married in 2006 and moved to Hardwick. To the question, ‘Why Hardwick?’ he replies, ‘because it’s a lovely village, there’s a strong sense of community and plenty of open space nearby.’ Nigel is a Partner at Ashtons Legal in Cambridge, a parent governor at Hardwick and Cam-bourne Community Primary School, his children William and Cerys’ school. Nigel also coaches u8s at Cambridge Rugby Club.

Groups & Organisations in Hardwick (updated Sept 2020)

Group/Organisation	Venue	Day	Time	Contact	Other details
Pilates	Cabin at St Mary's	Mon	10.30am – 11.30am	Lauren Daynes Lauren.daynes@aol.co.uk	
Brownies	Cabin at St Mary's	Mon	5.30pm – 7pm	Michelle Teague hardwickbrownies@hotmail.co.uk	Girls 7-10 yrs
Scouts	Scout & Guide Hut	Mon	7pm – 9pm	Paul Wooldridge Tel:01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 10.6–14 yrs
Jazzercise	Hardwick School	Mon	7.45pm	Danajazzercise@cambridge@gmail.com Tel: 07760624609	Age 16+ any gender
Tuesday Mornings at St Mary's	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	9.30am – 11am	Clare Bigg cebigg53@gmail.com	For parents, carers & their under 5s
Colour Wheel	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	2pm – 4pm	Nicky Kerr kerranica@gmail.com	Alternate weeks
Rainbows	Scout & Guide Hut	Tues	4.30pm–5.30pm	Jane Muncey lhardwickrainbows@gmail.com	Girls 5 - 7 yrs
Yoga	Cabin at St Mary's	Tues	6.15pm – 7.15pm	Michelle Veenman michelle.veenman@googlemail.com	
Guides	Scout & Guide Hut	Tues	6.30pm–8.30pm	Janet Hayman hardwickguides@gmail.com	Girls 10 - 15 yrs
Hardwick Parish Council	Zoom	Tues	7pm – 9.30pm	Gail Stoehr, Clerk to the Council hardwickpc@lgs-services.co.uk 01954 210241	4 th Tues in the month Hardwick-cambs.org.uk
Explorers	Scout & Guide Hut	Wed	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Paul Wooldridge Tel:01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 14 – 18 yrs
W.I.	Zoom	Wed	7.30pm – 10pm	Anne Jones jeffandanne23@gmail.com	3 rd Wed in the month
Mums & Babes	Cabin at St Mary's	Thurs	10.30am - midday	Ali Marcus Alison.marcus140@gmail.com	
Cabin Creative Arts	Cabin at St Mary's	Thurs	2pm – 4pm	Thelma Westbury tpwestbury@gmail.com	Alternate weeks
Friendship Club	HSSC	Thurs	2pm – 5pm	Joan Segrave Raj067@hotmail.co.uk	Adults over 50
Cubs	Scout & Guide Hut	Thurs	6.15pm – 7.45pm	Paul Wooldridge Tel:01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 8 – 10.6 yrs
Pilates	Cabin at St Mary's	Fri	10.45am – 11.45am	Lauren Daynes Lauren.daynes@aol.co.uk	
Beavers	Scout & Guide Hut	Fri	5pm – 6pm	Paul Wooldridge 01954 210711 Razz.scouts@gmail.com	Boys & girls 6 - 8 years
Pippin's Community Café	Hardwick School	Sat	10am - midday	Anne Jones jeffandanne23@gmail.com	1 st Sat in the month
St Mary's Church	St Mary's Church	Sun	9.30am-10.30am	Rev Alison Myers alisonmyers@lordsbridge.org	
Evangelical Church	Hardwick School	Sun	10.30am	Steve & Kate Gaze Minister.hechurch@gmail.com	
Sunday Club	Cabin at St Mary's	Sun 1 st & 3 rd	9.30am – 10.30am	Peter Cornwell pccornwell@icloud.com	Reception - Yr 13
Hardwick & Caldecote Cricket Club				Chris Fuller Tel: 07557 388229 chris55fuller@gmail.com	Adults & children over 5 yrs
Hardwick Football Club				Kris Edwards hardwickfc@gmail.com	
Hardwick Pre-School	Hardwick School	Mon-Fri	9.15am–3.15pm (Term time)	Sharon Griffiths hardwick.preschool@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01954 212823	http://www.hardwick-preschool.btck.co.uk
3.15 Club	Hardwick School	Mon-Fri	3.15pm – 6pm (Term time)	Sharon Turner hardwick3.15club@hotmail.co.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Hardwick School	Advertised in Hardwick Happenings & Facebook		Ashley Shepherd ahshepherd@hotmail.com	

To my knowledge all those in red are up and running in October

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