

RALEIGH RAG 172

News

March /April 2020



EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that I rewrite our editorial, but the corona virus has overtaken any planning we or indeed the country might have had and demands we focus instead on keeping ourselves and those around us safe and supported.

So, the positive first.

The PCC has launched their initiative to offer anybody the help they might need, as long it is within their gift and can be provided safely. Shopping, prescriptions, advice and limited practical help subject of course to the health of all concerned.

Obviously visiting is not appropriate but signing up to the village email service is a great way to start, just send your address to...john@bcogroup.co.uk to get the latest information.

Or call John on 47428 or Rosemary on 47156 for any other more immediate help but please be respectful of the time of.

We have just received a suggestion from Carol Lazarus to start a WhatsApp group to keep lines of communication open and current if you would like to join then Carol is available on carol@thelazarusfamily.com

Please do not struggle on if you are alone or in need the village .The community will do all in its power to help, but only if you ask!

Call 999 or 111 for medical emergencies or advice.

As you might expect all church services are suspended until further notice. As is the Plant sale although some of the material will be on display outside Val and Marks home so go and take a look.

Chairman Brian has also asked that all Village Hall events have been suspended until further notice.

Whilst the loss of these features of our community life will be missed, I am sure this is the best way to limit the inadvertent spread of this virus and hopefully will hasten our return to normal life.

But, and I do labour this point if you think any of us can help you through the next few week please do make contact through any of the routes outlined in this editorial,

Stay safe

The RAG team

Useful Telephone Nos

**HONITON
CORONAVIRUS
INFORMATION
LINE :**

01404 384050

Mon – Fri 10.00 –
16.00

TRIP : 01404 46529
For meal deliveries
for the vulnerable

**DEVON
FREEWHEELERS:
0300 800 0109**
For prescription
deliveries

**KINGS CENTRE
FOODBANK :
01404 43800**

*Volunteers are also
needed for a wide
variety of support. If
you can help, please
contact the Advice
Line : 01404 384050*



Church News

Who would have thought only a month or so ago that we would be in the position we find ourselves in today? 'Unprecedented in our lifetime' sounds a bit of an understatement when we look at photographs of deserted mainline railway stations, empty high streets and bare supermarket shelves. Life seems to be 'on hold'.

The recommendation to stay isolated will apply to many readers of The Rag and, in following government advice there is a suspension of church services for as long as the current situation lasts. St Nicholas' Church itself will however be open each day for anyone who would like to go and spend a few quiet moments of contemplation. Please feel free to take advantage of its space and quietness.

In spite of Storm Denis the Snowdrop Tea went ahead as planned and there is a report in this edition of the Raleigh Rag.

If you have passed the church recently you will have seen that work is well under way regarding the path and water project. The old path has been dug up – sadly no Anglo-Saxon coins embedded in its depths (!), a water pipe has been laid and we are now awaiting the tarmac. In due course a resin surface will complete the new look. We are enormously grateful to James and Sara Evans for the gift of a tap, as well as for the kitchen units which they had previously donated. It will be so convenient to have running water in the tower although it may be some months before we can celebrate the project's completion and make an inaugural cup of tea.

Meanwhile as many of us remain within the confines of our homes our hope is that all will stay well until such time as we can meet up again as a village community.

Rosemary and Ruth

STOP PRESS

Sadly the Church is no longer open, as all places of worship have been asked to close.

Storm in a Snowdrop Teacup

Before the current Coronavirus storm you may recall there were other more conventional storms. As if we had not already had sufficient rain Storm Denis hit on the weekend of our annual Snowdrop Tea. Both roads to Combe Raleigh via Langford Bridge and Clapper Lane were flooded and there were concerns that we might not be able to host the event. Local radio warned of the flooded roads, but said they were passable with care. More rain on the Sunday morning brought more worries, but in a reminder not to cry before you are hit the rain stopped and we had a dry afternoon with even a little sunshine.

It was a slow start and we were already beginning to plan what we would do with all the uneaten cake and unsold snowdrops when a trickle of visitors began to arrive. Very soon the church was buzzing with activity, cake eating and tea drinking while Val hardly let anyone out before they had bought Snowdrops and or primulas. Anyone who managed to get past Val unscathed was then ambushed in the porch, all in the nicest way you understand. In the end, with 71 visitors clicked in by Rosemary, we were down by only about a third on last year.



As always, we had snowdrops left and we planned a stall outside St Paul's church for the following Saturday, but guess what? More torrential rain knocked that idea on the head. Emails around the various East Devon towers and word of mouth saw enquiries continue to come in. I was even stopped in the middle of lunch in a local eatery by someone asking if I still had snowdrops for sale. Finally, all 2,500 snowdrops were sold.

After all expenses a profit of £548-32 was made which the ringers have donated to St Nicholas' Church to help with the cost of the new path and bringing water into the church. We are extremely grateful to all those who braved the storms to make this another successful event, thank you all.

Trevor Hitchcock



Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2020 in the village hall

Present:-

Mr B. Churchill – Chairman

Cllr C. Brown – EDDC

Cllr I Chubb - DCC

Together with 10 local government electors of the Parish: -

Mr D Jackson Mrs G Jackson Mr A Groombridge Mrs V Brabrook

Mrs M Hall Mr A Hall Mrs K Churchill Mr D Rosewell

Mrs H Trim Mr J Brabrook

Also present: Mr S. Machin

60/2020 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Mrs S Sexton Mr R Sexton Mr J Evans Mr A Joules

Mrs M Joules Mr E Lazarus Mrs C Lazarus Mrs R Mapleston

Mr J Mapleston Mr C Padget Mrs C Padget Mrs G Compton

Mr J Hatch Mr M Lowe Mr B Trim

61/2020 Minutes of Last Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Meetings of 14 January 2020, which had previously been circulated, were approved and the Minutes signed by the Chairman **62/2020 Matters Arising**

Further to Minute 56/2020[1], it was reported that both Kay Churchill and John Brabrook had declined to accept the honoraria previously approved by the Parish Meeting.

63/2020 Planning Application 20/0260FUL – Tower View Farm Combe Raleigh

The applicant's agent, Sheamus Machin, was present at the Meeting to respond to the matters raised by those present. The Meeting was advised that the property would be subject to an agricultural tie. Following discussion, it was recommended by David Jackson, seconded by Alex Groombridge and agreed by the Meeting that the Planning Authority be recommended to approve the planning application.

64/2020 Any other Business.

Concern over the flooding at Clapper Lane and Langford Road was again raised by the Meeting. Cllr Iain Chubb will arrange to meet with the DCC engineers responsible for overseeing these roads to establish what remedial works can be undertaken to alleviate the problem.

65/2020 There being no other business the Meeting ended at 8.05pm

Brian Churchill - Chairman.



Blackdown Hills Transition Group

The Transition Group Repair Café participated in the National Big Fix on Feb 15th. I was well prepared having found two broken garden tools, a pitchfork and a garden fork both requiring new handles. Burning out the old broken handles in a garden fire I then acquired new handles from the local hardware shop and took them to the Repair Café. David the repairer readily accepted them but cautioned that he wouldn't be able to fix them on the day but would during the week. I filled out the appropriate forms. The following Wednesday David called me to let me know the forks had new handles and were awaiting collection from his porch in Hemyock. There was no fee just a request to make a donation to the Transition Group at the next Repair Café. The forks once painted up and handles oiled look brand new. Thank you David.

But what a great day the Big Fix was. Some basic data collected on the day:

The incoming receptionists recorded 249 registration forms, however several of these contained more than one item, especially in the case of knife sharpening. The total of actual items which the Volunteer Repairers actually handled was 363.

Of this total 289 items were actually repaired or fixed, with another 17 items taken offsite to repair and 18 items required parts and advice was given, leaving only 39 items that could not be repaired

38 Volunteer Repairers were present at this event, together with 10 In Admin and 24 assisting either on the Floor or helping out in the Café providing bacon rolls, tea coffee and donated homemade cakes.

None of the volunteers receives and remuneration giving their time and knowledge free to the events.

Tools repaired and/or Sharpened – 132, Electrical items - 55, Items requiring Sewing – 65, Furniture and Wooden Items - 10 ,Computers and the like - 8

Bicycles – 8 and Miscellaneous Items (including clocks and watches, jewellery, ceramics etc.) - 85

Customers came from all the Villages and Towns in the Vicinity.

105 in a 5 mile radius of Hemyock and the remainder of 258 further afield.

A big thank you to all who attended, and especially all the volunteers.

One of the associated benefits of all the Repair Cafes has been that we have been able to plough back into local environmental community sustainable projects £1500 of money donated. Eight applications were received following publicity for up to £250 grants. Going to press the final decisions have yet to be made but likely beneficiaries are local schools and environmental projects.

Other transition projects to look out for:

Apple days this year so far confirmed. The first will be at the Holman Clavel Public House on Sunday 4th October from midday to 4pm. Upottery Playing Fields will be hosting a fundraising apple day on Sunday 11th October 12.00 to 4.00pm at Glebe Park, Aller Rd, Upottery EX14 9RH. Finally, Stentwood Farm, Dunkeswell EX14 4RW will be the venue for one day this year on Saturday 25th October from 11am to 5pm

For more information and to volunteer your help, please email Stephan Lehner at blackdownhillsrc@gmail.com or phone 0771 546 0783. All details are on our website at <http://www.blackdownhillstransition.net> .

FUN EASTER FACTS

Easter is undoubtedly going to feel very strange this year, for almost all of us the strangest we have ever known. So that we don't quite feel this festival season is being eradicated from the calendar, here are some facts and figures that may inform and amuse.

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The name Easter comes from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess, originally of the dawn. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honour.

Easter is now celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon which happens on or after March 21, the Spring Equinox. Therefore, it can occur on any Sunday from March 22nd through to April 25th.

One theory of the origins of hot cross buns suggests that they originated in the 14th century in the city St Albans in Hertfordshire. The story goes that a certain monk from St Albans Abbey, Brother Thomas Roccliffe, developed a recipe for Alban Buns which he distributed to the poor on Good Friday.

Easter eggs are a very old tradition going way back before Christianity. Eggs after all are a symbol of spring and new life. Later customs concerning eggs were linked with Easter because the egg provided a fresh and powerful symbol of the Resurrection and the transformation of death into life.

In medieval times a festival of egg throwing was held in church, during which the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choirboys. It was then tossed from one choirboy to the next and whoever held the egg when the clock struck 12 was the winner and retained the egg.

The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by Fry's. Approximately 80 million chocolate eggs are sold annually in the UK.

Every child in the UK receives an average of 8.8 Easter eggs every year – double their recommended calorie intake for a whole week!



The custom of the Easter egg hunt however, comes from Germany. Some suggest that its origins date back to the late 16th century, when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organised egg hunts for his congregation. The men would hide the eggs for the women and children to find.

According to the Guinness Book of Records the largest ever Easter egg hunt was in

Florida, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 when 9,753 children searched for 501,000 eggs.

Easter Bonnets are a throwback to the days when the people denied themselves the pleasure of wearing finery for the duration of Lent. By tradition, it was obligatory (or at least lucky) for churchgoers to wear some bright new piece of clothing - at least an Easter bonnet, if not a complete new outfit. The first bonnets were actually circles or wreaths of leaves and spring flowers but the tradition eventually developed into the wearing of extravagant hats often decorated with spring flowers.

The Easter Bunny (also called the Easter Rabbit or Easter Hare) is a folkloric figure and symbol of [Easter](#). Originating among German [Lutherans](#), the "Easter Hare" originally played the role of a judge, evaluating whether children were good or disobedient in behaviour at the start of the season of [Eastertide](#).

Simnel cake has been eaten since medieval times as both a rich, sweet treat and a symbolic ritual. The fruit cake is topped with eleven marzipan balls to represent the eleven apostles of Christ, minus Judas.

Easter biscuits are a traditional British cuisine gift, given to guests on Easter Sunday. Originating from the West Country, they are made from flour, butter, egg yolk, baking powder and sugar. Lightly spiced, the currant-studded soft and round biscuits have a soft, biscuity, sugary crunch.

Rosemary Mapleston

## EASTER BISCUITS

### Ingredients

100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened

75g/2¾oz caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling

1 free-range egg, separated

1 small lemon, finely grated zest only

200g/7oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting

50g/1¾oz currants

1-2 tsp milk



### Method

Preheat the oven 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Line three baking trays with baking paper.

Beat the butter and sugar together until well combined and fluffy. Add the egg yolk and lemon zest. Sift in the flour and mix well. Stir in the currants and enough milk to make a fairly soft dough.

Knead the dough on a floured work surface and, using a rolling pin, roll it out until 5mm/¼in thick. Using a 6cm/2½in fluted cutter, cut out 24 rounds. Transfer to the baking trays using a palette knife and bake for 8 minutes.

Lightly beat the egg white using a fork.

Remove the biscuits from the oven and brush the tops with the beaten egg white. Sprinkle over caster sugar and return to the oven for 5 minutes, or until pale golden brown and cooked though. Leave to cool on the trays for a few minutes, then carefully lift onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Rosemary Mapleston



## Important - Combe Raleigh Village Communications

If you are not at present notified by email of Parish Meetings, road closures, and other relevant bits of information, both urgent and perhaps less so, and would like to be kept in the loop, please let John Brabrook know your e-mail details – [john@bcogroup.co.uk](mailto:john@bcogroup.co.uk) . John is temporarily organising the agenda and dates for the Parish Meetings – if you would like to take over this important role, please speak to John on 47428. It's a marvellous opportunity to get to know the other occupants of the village better.

And whilst we are on the subject of communications, could I ask you please to check your details on the Village Telephone Directory, and if you would like to make any alterations, additions (perhaps your mobile number?) or deletions please let Mark or Val Moran know – [markmoran@btinternet.com](mailto:markmoran@btinternet.com), or by phone 41107. Whilst we have tried to keep the list as up to date as possible, we are aware that since the last major revision several houses in the village have changed hands, and we do not have all that information. So please do get in touch and help us keep the list accurate. If you can't lay hands on your Directory, let us know and we will let you have a new one.

Val M

### *Protect the people you love and support Hospiscare.*

*Generous solicitors across Exeter, Mid and East Devon will be giving their time and expertise in May so you can have your Will prepared or updated. Instead of paying the usual solicitor's fee, make an appropriate donation to Hospiscare at your appointment.*

*Appointments fill up quickly, so call 01392 688020 or email [fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk) now to receive a list of participating solicitors as soon as it becomes available in April.*

*Book your appointment from Monday 20 April.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support. love and support Hospiscare.*

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*Book your appointment from Monday 20 April.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support*

## New residents move into village.

Not really news of course, but these residents are of the four-legged kind. They are quite secretive and move about after dark, and very few folk have met them...enough of this!

Our image shows evidence that the River Otter beavers have moved up the River Luv, our eastern boundary and it is believed up the tributary under Uxford Bridge, the stream we walk when "beating the bounds". A camera trap set for several weeks failed to catch sight of them I am told .

Appearing below Ottery 12 years ago and subsequently reinforced to give genetic diversity it seems they like East Devon. The future of the colony is being reviewed as I write. Like all reintroductions the coming years will prove if this was wise or not, as they have no natural predators certainly when fully grown. They can live for 10 to 20 years.

There is no denying the effect they have had on visitor numbers to their river Otter habitat.

David Jackson





**Thanks so much!**

Hall Chairman Brian offers a small token of appreciation to James and Sara Evans to show our gratitude for the gift of our lovely new unit to the hall kitchen.

This unit has done service as a demonstration item at their German Kitchen showroom and comes fully equipped with every modern attachment.

Brian said "This is such a good addition to our hall. Thank you!"

Advice from our Neighbourhood  
Watch Co-ordinator



Have you seen a pop-up from PayPal inviting you to download their new app? Beware! It's probably a fake intended to trick you into downloading malware. If you need or want to update a PayPal app for your mobile device, go to the relevant App store and find it there.

If anyone has clicked on the link, they will probably need to do some sort of deep clean of their device, e.g. Housecall, which is available free for PCs and laptops, although I don't know of any for mobile devices. However, if you search the internet there will be recommendations of antivirus apps for your particular type of device, i.e. iPhone / iPad / androids, which can root out and destroy malware and other viruses.

**UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PEOPLE WILL TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF ANY SITUATION!!!**

Scam [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) texts being sent out - scammers hijack the thread of official UK government Coronavirus alert service -saying that they need to pay a fine after being recorded as leaving their home on three occasions. Do not click links. Also, further texts being sent telling recipient they were owed a £258 goodwill payment from HMRC and need to follow link. Also, text from Trading Standards telling recipient all UK RESIDENTS BEING ISSUED WITH PAYMENT OF £558 as government's fight against Coronavirus - also follow link. See Daily Mail website for full info.

Thanks, Rob Sexton



## St Nicholas Combe Raleigh Plant Sale 2020

With things as they are now, it will come as no surprise that our village Plant Sale, planned for May 10th, has had to join the long sad list of occasions which have to be cancelled. It is obviously far too hazardous to have large groups of people in the marquee and the church.

This of course leaves us with the question of what do we do with the plants we have already grown and potted?

Our hope at the moment is to have a smaller than usual selection of plants available for sale in the drive at Thatchers, over at least Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May. This will not be “staffed” but will operate on an honesty box basis, with the plants either priced or offered for a contribution. The hope is that people will either walk or drive into the village, and stroll up to Thatchers and see what is on offer. All proceeds will as usual go to the upkeep of our village church, so we do urge you to come and have a look.

Further details will be found nearer the time on the village website [www.comberaleigh.org](http://www.comberaleigh.org), posters on the noticeboards, and by email.

### **STOP PRESS**

The experimental plant sale we had last week was great success – taking over £120. And it brought a smile to people’s faces as they walked down the lane...

Thank you for your support for the sale over the last several years – we hope that you will be able to support us again in May.

Val M

This Raleigh Rag Newsletter is produced by the RR team : David Jackson Mark & Val Moran and Michelle .Kennedy.

If you have any items you would like to include for future editions please email Michelle on : [tidewater56@live.com](mailto:tidewater56@live.com), or Val, on [markmoran@btinternet.com](mailto:markmoran@btinternet.com)

The newsletter will be published on an ad hoc basis as we get information and items in, and will also be available on the website:

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