

# Parish News

St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden

50p

May 2020



**St Peter and St Paul, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NZ,  
Berkhamsted Team**

**Revd John Russell**

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**[www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk](http://www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk)**

**Facebook: [stpeterstpaulittgadd](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstpaulittgadd)**

We are in the Berkhamsted Team Ministry with Great Berkhamsted, Great Gaddesden and Nettleden with Potten End. Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Banns, Weddings, Funerals and Memorials in the Churchyard should be made to the above-mentioned email address. Messages can also be left with the Churchwardens. If the Vicarage telephone is on the answering service please leave a message. It will be attended to as soon as possible. To contact The Berkhamsted Team, please call The Parish Office on 01442 878227.

***All are welcome to our House of God. All have their place in His Kingdom and their part to play in His work***

Phone numbers preceded by code 01442 except Heather Tisbury and Nikki Warr

CHURCHWARDENS:	Mrs B Sheard, Golden Valley Cottage	843591
	Mr M Carver, Windyridge	842658
READERS:	Mrs G Moore	842054
	Mr A Archer	842397
	Mrs H Tisbury	01582 842807
PCC OFFICERS:	Treasurer: Mr A Webster	843157
	Secretary: Mrs N Warr	07990 503263

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**Normal Sunday**

9 am Sung Eucharist (with Sunday School)

6 pm Sung Evensong (not 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month**

*or sometimes switched with another Sunday for a particular occasion*

9 am Café Church or Family Service (no Sunday School)

If there is no Eucharist at 9am one will be provided at another time or in one of the other churches

**5th Sunday**

9 am Joint Sung Eucharist at one of the three churches

6 pm Sung Evensong

**WEEKDAY SERVICE:**

**Thursday** 10am Said Eucharist

**BELL RINGING:**

Sunday 8.30 am Practice: Tuesday 8.00 pm

Tower Captain – Mrs Virginia Westmacott LG 842428

**CHOIR PRACTICE:**

Friday 7 pm – Mr John Leonhardt LG 843550

**LITTLE GADDESSEN**

We welcome all children aged 4 – 11. Contact the Head Teacher,

**C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL:**

for more information on 01442 842464 or

[admin@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk)

**PARISH NEWS EDITORS:**

Mrs H Hockings, Mr D Nowell-Withers, Dr N Murray, Mr M Walsham

See inside back page for contact details.

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**

Mr James Mitchell

LG 842710

**WEEKLY UPDATES:**

PEW SHEET distributed in church each Sunday. Items for inclusion

should be sent to Helene Hockings, [a\\_dmin-church@outlook.com](mailto:a_dmin-church@outlook.com)

by 9 am on each **Thursday**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:**

Helene Hockings on [a\\_dmin-church@outlook.com](mailto:a_dmin-church@outlook.com) or 01442 842493

Vol 43 No.05

My dear Friends,

It is approaching a month since I have seen many of you. Our last Sunday together was the 15<sup>th</sup> March and I'm missing you! We have been through Mothering Sunday, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday and even Easter Day and we have several weeks to go yet, I think.

How will these months be remembered? They certainly won't be forgotten; my generation and those born post 1945 will have never experienced anything quite like this pandemic. We have been through some dark times certainly in succeeding years, but not since the Second World War have we as a country, faced an event which affects every single household in the country.

Make no mistake, we are extraordinarily lucky to be living where we do. We have a commodity which those in inner cities can only dream of and that is space. I pray especially for those in highrise flats and close-packed streets and ask you to do the same.

Our situation doesn't mean we are not affected by Corona, far from it, many of us will have loved ones – family and friends who work for the NHS, or on the land, the building trade and many other essential services who face the reality of Corona every single day; they too need our prayers.

I also hope and pray that good can come out of what we are facing; one thing is pretty much certain, things will not be the same again and we are all being changed by these events. The question is are we being changed for the better? I believe that God will bring positive opportunities for us all and the challenge will be whether we are prepared to grasp these opportunities. God works in this world in partnership with us: we are the instruments through whom much of what he purposes for this world can and will be achieved. So we need to be open to God's promptings, which no doubt will come to us in a variety of forms, whether from within our own hearts or from listening and talking with others.

It's clear that the church as we know it is going to be changed – hopefully for the better. I hope we can be more open and flexible in the situation we shall find ourselves in over the weeks and months that lie ahead. One thing which has become clear is that even though we all love our church buildings and want to care for them and use, meeting there and sharing worship together, they are not essential to our being the Church of God. Another thing that's very clear, God will use all means at his disposal to continue his work. I have learned to live stream and record sermons and short talks; I have come to realise how useful these current forms of communication are. Far more people are engaging on some level with the church and I hope with God, than has been the case ever in my ministry.

Where will this all lead in the future? We shall see. God is clearly not afraid of technology and nor should we be.

I ask you to pray for me as I continue to pray for you, each in your vocation and ministry.

I am yours in Christ,  
John.

***From the Registers:***

21st April

Graveside Funeral

Michael Gordon Stinton

## Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be collecting free donations for St Peter and St Paul's? Especially at this time of Coronavirus self-isolation and closed churches, when we are mostly only able to buy goods on-line, it would be most helpful if you could contribute to the Church's finances.

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, Ocado, Boden, John Lewis, and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterandstpaulsg/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to the easyfundraising website first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to the church.

There are no catches or hidden charges and we would be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

### COVID QUEUEING.

As I shuffle along the snaking Covid queue,  
My mind, as usual, gets to thinking.  
I'm fine for lentils, so can I have baked beans in lieu?  
(All that vino collapse! try to stop the clinking).

Whilst waiting in line outside the Village store,  
(It's a more congenial queue for sure),  
It's where we hang out now, instead of pub and Village hall,  
And a big improvement on Tesco's rolling maul.

Maintaining 2 metres means you often have to shout,  
(And do be sure to blurt no secrets out).

Knowing that the garage is full of loo rolls, booze and sanitiser,  
Imbues a sense of security as you at last, make it to the checkout's safety visor.

Josie Jeffrey

## SKYLARKS

Is it just that it's April or are there more skylarks this lockdown spring? Perhaps it's because our exercise outings often take us across the huge fields around here - and this year these fields are even more attractive to skylarks than usual, as there's still a lot of stubble and thus seeds and insects. Sometimes the sky seems full of singing larks, just a wonderful sound, and while the welcome absence of aircraft noise these days must help, I don't think that's the only explanation. Skylark numbers have been declining for at least forty years so hopefully a change is under way. At least we don't eat larks in this country nowadays - in the mid-19th century enormous numbers were netted in this area, up to 48,000 a year, mostly destined for Leadenhall market. There was even a specific recipe, the Dunstable Way.

Strictly, the skylark's song doesn't compare with several others: blackbird, song thrush, nightingale. I think what makes the song so terrific is the context - there's generally no competition as the skylark likes to be in the middle of the biggest open space possible, preferably with no hedges, trees or telegraph poles, and the fact that it sings so well and so strongly for such a long time while all the time flying, indeed while ascending two or three hundred feet in the air. There's a special pleasure in lying on one's back and trying to locate the bird against a great open sky while the song pours out; it's no wonder that so many poets have been inspired. Here are the first three verses of the most famous:

From: **To a Skylark** (Percy Bysshe Shelley 1792 - 1822)

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!  
Bird thou never wert,  
That from Heaven, or near it,  
Pourest thy full heart  
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

Higher still and higher  
From the earth thou springest  
Like a cloud of fire;  
The blue deep thou wingest,  
And singing, still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.

In the golden lightning  
Of the sunken sun,  
O'er which clouds are bright'ning,  
Thou dost float and run;  
Like an unbodied joy whose race is just begun.

George Meredith's **The Lark Ascending** is a perfect depiction of the bird's song; the whole poem is written as over 120 lines with just a single break. It stimulated Ralph Vaughan Williams to compose one of the glories of English music, for solo violin and orchestra.

He rises and begins to round,  
He drops the silver chain of sound  
Of many links without a break,  
In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake,  
All intervolv'd and spreading wide,  
Like water-dimples down a tide  
Where ripple ripple overcurls  
And eddy into eddy whirls;

A more modern take is **Skylarks**, classic Ted Hughes which really captures the sheer physicality of the song flight:

The lark begins to go up  
Like a warning  
As if the globe were uneasy –  
Barrel-chested for heights,  
Like an Indian of the high Andes  
A whippet head, barbed like a hunting arrow,

But leaden  
With muscle  
For the struggle  
Against  
Earth's centre,

And leaden  
For ballast  
In the rocketing storms of the breath.

Lead  
Like a bullet  
To supplant  
Life from its centre.

Among the many other poems featuring skylarks, I particularly admire Isaac Rosenberg's **Returning, we hear the larks**, written in 1918 shortly before he was killed at the Somme. He writes of troops returning from a night patrol in the hell of no man's land and suddenly hearing the ascending lark:

Sombre the night is.  
And though we have our lives, we know  
What sinister threat lurks there.  
Dragging these anguished limbs we only know  
This poison-blasted track opens on our camp –  
On a little safe sleep.

But hark! Joy – joy – strange joy.  
Lo! Heights of nights ringing with unseen larks.  
Music showering our upturned list'ning faces.  
Death could drop from the dark  
As easily as song -  
But song only dropped  
Like a blind man's dreams on the sand  
By dangerous tides,  
Like a girl's dark hair for she dreams no ruins lie there,  
Or her kisses where a serpent hides.

I can't think of a better time than now to hear skylarks singing.

Nick Murray

## CHURCH CHECKING

Many thanks to all those who are visiting the church in the mornings and evenings to check that all is well by walking round the outside of the building and around the churchyard. It is very necessary that the church is being looked after and, more particularly, is seen to be even though the building itself is shut. I am sure it will give hope and encouragement to others. Many thanks.

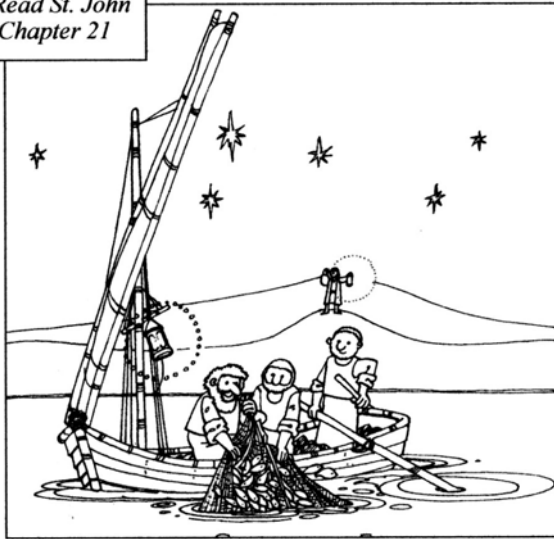
Barbara Sheard



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

**AFTER EASTER** Jesus kept appearing to his disciples, but at odd times and in unexpected places. In this story from St. John, chapter 21, the disciples learnt that if they **DETSURT** \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and **DEYEBO** \_\_\_\_\_ him, then they could do things which they thought were impossible. This would be important later on.

Read St. John  
Chapter 21



The disciples had been fishing all night long, but caught nothing. As they drew near the shore in the early morning, very downhearted, they saw a man. He asked them if they had had a good night's fishing, and they told him how bad it had been. Then he told them to throw out their net on the right side of the boat. They did as he said, and were astonished. The net was so full of big fish that they could not pull it into the boat, and the net did not break open.

The man on the shore had lit a fire and he told them to bring some of the fish which he cooked for breakfast. He broke some bread and gave it to them with the fish, then they knew it was Jesus.

After breakfast Jesus had a message for Peter. Peter had denied 3 times that he knew Jesus when he had been arrested. He was bitterly ashamed of himself for that.

*Fill in the answers to the clues opposite to find out what happened.*

## ST. JOHN chapter 21

1. The disciples went fishing with	<input type="text"/>	v.3
2. How many went fishing?	<input type="text"/>	v.2
3. They fished from a	<input type="text"/>	v.3
4. They fished with a	<input type="text"/>	v.6
5. They fished until early	<input type="text"/>	v.4
6. They caught no	<input type="text"/>	v.5
7. The man on the shore was	<input type="text"/>	v.4
8. They could see a charcoal	<input type="text"/>	v.9
9. Peter heard it was the	<input type="text"/>	v.7
10. They had fish and	<input type="text"/>	v.9
11. The net was full of	<input type="text"/> fish.	v.11
12. Peter's other name was	<input type="text"/>	v.15
13. Jesus asked, "Do you	<input type="text"/> me?"	v.16
14. Jesus said, "Take care of my	<input type="text"/>	v.16
15. This is in the Book of	<input type="text"/>	

## CULTURE VULTURES

What with all the TV programmes about country vets and farming, when I saw a rather stout ewe laying down in a field I was passing en route from the weekly Waitrose queue, I had an instant urge to stop the car and rush across to assist in what looked like (to my expert eye, obv.) an imminent birth. Luckily I controlled myself and got home to deliver only my own weekly shop and Bede Court newspapers.

Something else I have been noticing is the huge increase in red kites locally; down at the Dagnall allotments there are a couple of pairs circling and swooping all the time. I do feel that the RSPB in its macho love of raptors and other large birds of prey told us porkies when they released imported birds around the M40 in Bucks and informing us that they didn't go for smaller songbirds, just carrion and possibly small mammals. I think that their Mums must have been frightened by Chris Packham (he wanted our national bird to be a sparrow hawk) otherwise, why would the smaller birds stop singing and hide when kites appear? They don't do that for Kestrels, which are also becoming a rare sight due to the kites' first dibs on said small mammals.

There is no doubt that they take ground nesting birds (as if they are not already beleaguered enough) and fledglings of all the others. The RSPB just state that this obviously proves that we have a healthy and diverse bird population. Not true, the reason there are so many kites and corvids (magpies, crows etc, not a deadly virus we would wish away) is all the road kill and because there are more and more of them, they still scoff smaller birds.

Looking on the bright side, less traffic means that there is less pollution, noise and road kill, although silly show off pheasants are taking a bit of a hammering. There was a deer at the side of Ringshall hill and previously, by the number of bodies that according to my absolutely, scientific Road Kill Index would show badgers as pretty prevalent locally. Also, due to the lack of visitors to local woodland and nature reserves such as College Lake, they will be enjoying the lack of attention from us and roadside wildflowers will benefit also. As cats are supposed to be kept in, perhaps that will assist the hedgerow birds such as the finches, blackbirds, song thrushes, robins and tits to have a better chance at survival.

Reasons to be cheerful also include the Spring awakening as green foliage appears from nowhere, as it always does, lots of blackthorn blossom (just as well as there won't be much sloe gin left anywhere by Autumn), the wild cherry blossom and prunus varieties. And, earlier than usual, the bluebells started to appear before the end of April. I also saw small tortoiseshells, peacocks, orange tips and brimstone butterflies. So, plenty to cheer us up and to look forward to and at least the kites aren't as predatory as the 5 sea eagles around the Isle of Wight. There were six released originally but one went awol to Kent via Essex, but with any luck we won't be seeing one over the canal any time soon. But that's just me, always looking on the bright side.

Josie Jeffrey

## NUMBER PUZZLE

There are spaces in the diagram for ten two-digit numbers.

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Rules:

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1. Each box must be filled in with one digit.
2. Every digit from 0 to 9 must be used exactly twice.
3. Each pair must show a different prime number.
4. Single-digit primes can be entered using a leading zero.

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Information:

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There are TWO correct solutions

Prime numbers are whole numbers which cannot be divided exactly by any other whole number. e.g. 97 cannot be divided, so it is a prime; 99 can be divided by 3, 9, 11 and 33, so it is not a prime.

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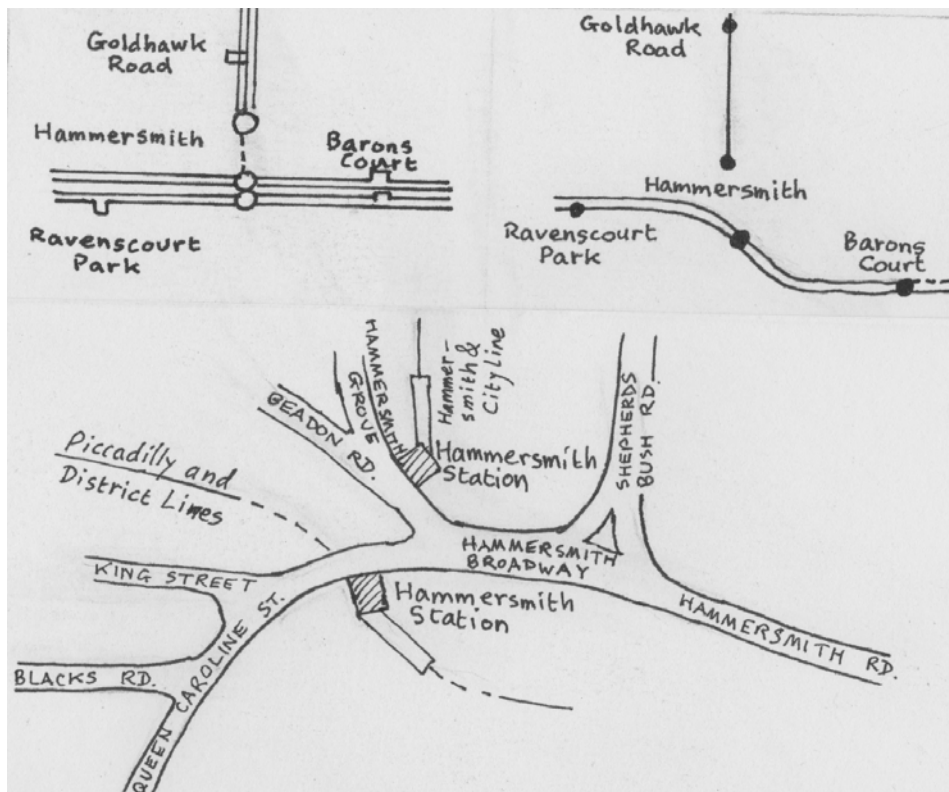
The solutions are on page 14

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## UNDERGROUND OVERGROUND No.8 Hammersmith

DIAGRAM on the Tube map

More realistic map is much the same



The walk between the two Hammersmith stations is fairly short (about 200 yards) but there are several busy roads. The convergence of these on the short length called Hammersmith Broadway makes it difficult to see which road name ends where. The stations are both at ground level.

Starting at the Piccadilly and District station exit you do best by turning right for a bit. You should be able to see the other station entrance and find a place to cross the road and then turn left. Various parts of these road junctions are controlled by traffic lights. Make your way to the Hammersmith and City Line Station.

If starting at the Hammersmith and City Line station exit, turn left and you should be able to see the other station and work out how to cross over to it.

*John Leonhardt*  
*with apologies if this is a bit vague as I am unable to go back to Paddington.*

## **The Thomas Field Hall - Vestry@50**

You will not be surprised that starting the building works at the beginning of April has not happened. This is for two reasons: one is that the Diocese has closed down all non-essential building work while the churches are closed and the other is that our builder is uncertain about the reliability of his workforce and supply of materials, all due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However the position is changing constantly as the results of the lockdown are seen and we are hopeful that the situation may improve sufficiently to allow work to be started in a few weeks time. If that is so then the major part of the building works will still be carried out in the summer months when the weather should be good, progress will be easier and the building should be finished not too far beyond the original completion date; at least that is what we must pray for.

Barbara Sheard

## **Lockdown Help**

Assuming that we will still be in lockdown for the month of May, please do remember that if you are self-isolating at home, there are people in the village who are more than happy to help you should you require it. Every household was given a card naming the person in your area who is happy to provide assistance. If you have mislaid this card with the contact details, please do contact Sarah Gall ([sarahgaddesden@aol.com](mailto:sarahgaddesden@aol.com)) who will be able to give you your volunteer's name and contact details.

The shop is also happy to take telephone orders for shopping which they can then deliver. Contact them on 842448.

## **More Sightseeing from Home during the lockdown and other things to do**

### **The Louvre, Paris ([www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr))**

See some of the artwork shown at the Louvre.

### **The Vatican Museums ([www.museivaticani.va](http://www.museivaticani.va))**

Click on a 360° visual and virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel and Raphael's Rooms, to name but two. Visit some of their other collections including Greek and Roman antiquities or Byzantine-Medieval Art.

### **The National Trust ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk))**

There are many ways of helping us all pass the time on this website – activities for children and adults alike, stories of how the tulip became the world's most coveted flower, learning different bird songs and much more.

### **The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) ([www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org))**

Go on a virtual tour of this museum and visit the Félix Fénéon Exhibition and listen to the curator talking about putting on the exhibition.

### **Cooking ideas ([bbcgoodfood.com](http://bbcgoodfood.com))**

There are lots of sections to this website – recipes using one specific ingredient or collections of the month listings including the 'Top 20 spring', 'Healthy spring' and 'slow cooker' recipes. Alternatively, try [www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk](http://www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk) for other ideas.

### **Revisit the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games**

Go to YouTube to relive the incredible opening ceremony and exciting sporting action.

### **English Cricket ([www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk))**

Watch Ben Stokes' incredible innings of the 2019 World Cup or follow tips or other challenges that players are doing to keep well and fit during the lockdown.

### **Solutions to the puzzle on page 11:**

The numbers, which can be in any order, are:

02 05 23 41 47 59 61 67 83 89

or alternatively substitute 29 and 53 for 23 and 59.

## Prayer Page

God of hope,  
in these times of change,  
unite our nation  
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, there will be no church services at our three Parish Churches for the foreseeable future.**

**However, there will be a live-streamed Eucharist Service every Sunday morning at 9.30am.**

**Please see our Church websites and facebook pages for up-to-date information and details of how to join the on-line service.**

**[www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk](http://www.littlegaddesdenchurch.org.uk)**

**Facebook: [stpeterstpaulittgadd](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstpaulittgadd)**

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**Deadline Date for next edition of Magazine: Sunday 17th May 2020**