

## Beckingham Church Clock

I am writing to give you an update on the restoration of the church tower clock. Following David Webb's funeral there was a wonderful response of gifts given in his memory that has enabled us to move ahead with the work. The church is a grade 1 listed building and we have to get permission for almost any work we do on it, including repair of the clock. The process is slow and begins with getting advice from the diocesan clock advisor. We have now done that. The main problem is that diocesan clock advisors begin with the assumption that the most important thing is conservation of an old mechanism. We believe that it is not a practical proposition in our case. There are several reasons for that. The existing mechanism probably dates from between 1820 and 1840. It was weight driven and controlled by a pendulum. The clock had to be wound up by hand at regular intervals. The mechanism was modified in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to be directly driven by an electric motor, which worked through the old mechanism. That failed more than 25 years ago. We want to replace this modified mechanism with an electrical direct drive to the hands, bypassing the old mechanism. To restore the old mechanism with the old electrical drive would not be restoring the original, while returning to the weight drive would mean either winding by hand or fitting an electrical winding attachment. We are not in favour of getting a volunteer to wind the clock regularly and an electrical auto-winder is not authentic. There are some rather old quotations we have for these restorations of the original which are very, very much higher than the quote we have for our proposed direct drive. We are now moving the process on by applying for permission to do the work.

## New Church Burglar Alarm

There is work that has been done to the church which you should know about. We managed to get grants to cover the cost of a new roof alarm to protect the lead, and this has now been installed. The old alarm was not recognised by our insurers. This meant that if we had had a lead theft, the insurers would only have paid a small amount towards the cost of replacement, and that would not have covered the full cost; with this new system, the full cost of a theft is covered. The new system will also be more convenient than the old one, that means that we can use the church (when lockdown is over) without switching off the roof alarm. The old system was linked to an intruder alarm so when the building was used the roof alarm had to be turned off. If the new system is triggered by a person on the roof, a strobe light in the tower comes on, a siren and recorded voice sounds and one of our keyholders is called to check the site and call the police if necessary. Apologies to those who live nearby, but the siren and voice sound for only 30 seconds while the strobe lights flash for only 2 minutes. If the person who triggered the alarm is still on the roof then, of course, the sequence will repeat. If they have left then the system re-sets itself.



We are very grateful that a resident in the village recently spotted the strobe light on and got in touch. It was during the installation process and the installers were briefly testing the lights. It is good to know that the people of Beckingham are keeping an eye on things. THANK YOU.

Vic Rampton

# The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle



March 2021

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*Thank you Captain Tom*

## A Holiday at Great-Aunt Sally's

They don't make holidays like that anymore.

If I hadn't been looking peaky because my brother had been killed in a lorry accident and I was missing him, and also my Mother was soon to be confined, I should never have gone on that holiday, but Mother said "I'll write to Great-Aunt Sally to see if she'll have you for a bit".

Now, I was only 8 years old and really scared when I knew I'd have to go alone, but children did as they were told in those days, and as my small cardboard suitcase was packed my chief worry was whether I could take "Ninny". She was a rag doll who had accompanied me everywhere since I was a baby.

Mother took me by train as far as Newark and then put me in the care of the Carrier who would take me in his carrier's cart, along with fat shopping ladies and their market produce, which seemed to take up so much room, as far as Beckingham.

.....It was a crooked little cottage, very old, and I think had been two or even three smaller cottages. Walls had been knocked out and doors blocked up and there were strange little passage ways leading to nowhere. Aunt said it had once been an Inn because in one of the outhouses there were pew type benches round the walls and the brick floor had a hollow trodden out by many boots passing over it. It was a happy cottage



and I used to think the walls still held the laughing and singing that must have taken place there.....

.....No wonder that when the village had water piped to it with little taps standing on the edge of the road outside, that Aunt would never use it because it was 'artificial water' and she preferred her own. They never wasted a drop because in the corner of the scullery was a small earthenware sink. It had a hole in the middle and a rubber pipe and all water drained into a bucket underneath and was used to water the garden.....

*For Annie Greatorex's full story see the Latest news on the website at [beckinghamvillage.co.uk/](http://beckinghamvillage.co.uk/)*

## Social Club News - February 2021

The current COVID 19 restrictions have meant that the Social Club remains closed and will continue to be so until these are relaxed to a level at which it will be possible to re-open. Members can rest assured that the Management Committee are watching the situation carefully and will meet as soon as it appears possible to re-open. We will then map out the way forward, hopefully including a number of special events to help us to get back to some normality. Members will be kept informed of developments via email and the club notice board outside the village hall



### Volunteers wanted!

The remnant of the Old A17, unused by traffic since the construction of the bypass, now provides a pleasant walk for residents. Unfortunately over time the former road surface has narrowed to such an extent that it is difficult to pass through some sections without getting caught up on the intruding shrubs and trees. We are looking for a small band of volunteers (subject of course to some relaxation of the current COVID restrictions) to cut back the undergrowth where necessary so that we can all enjoy easy walking through the remainder of the year.

Would those willing to offer help please let Phil Wells have their contact details. (Mobile 07930990950 or email: [pandj.wells@btinternet.com](mailto:pandj.wells@btinternet.com))



My name is Josh Battram. I am an amateur metal detectorist with a passion for discovering our local history.

Through my pastime and researching more about the past of where we live, I feel a great sense of heritage and appreciation for the land we live in and how we came to be.

What was life like back then? And what did the local land look like?

In metal detecting and recovering items that our predecessors have left behind creates small bridges to the past to aid our understanding in answering these questions and fully discovering the history of our land.

It is not all that long ago that I took up my hobby but I have had a long-standing interest with a view to getting into it when I could.

So far in my relatively short time of detecting I have come across a couple of interesting objects. A button dating from WW2 and a collection of old coins.

Continuing to undertake the hobby through the pandemic has helped give me sense of purpose during these difficult times and I would like to thank the Parish Council who have kindly allowed me permission to metal detect at Beckingham playing field. I look forward exploring what history it may hold. If you have an interest in metal detecting or would be interested in finding out more about your land please feel free to get in touch with me. Joshua Battram <joshbattram@gmail.com>



All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome The deadline for the next June 2021 issue is May 21st 2021

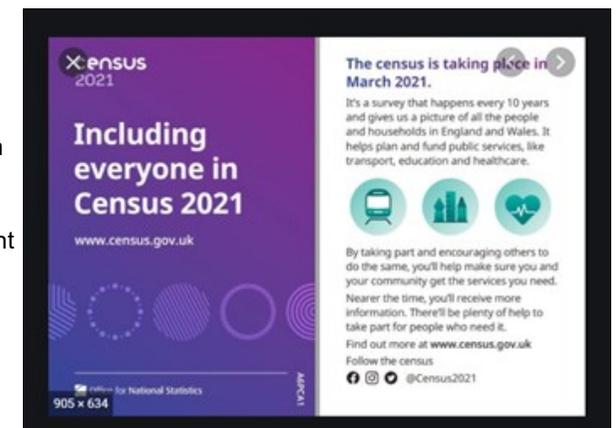
Greetings fellow Beckinghamites from the sunny sands of the Middle East. Hopefully by the time you are all reading this I will be either safely back in the gloriously green countryside of Lincolnshire (subject to the RAF transport aircraft being on time....I can but dream!), or very close to being. Yes, my time in the sun is nearly over and my 6 months (according to my darling wife 'playtime') is nearly at an end. It has been a strange 6 months which started with teaching Americans to play cricket whilst quarantining, remembering those that have gone before us and never returned and then being surrounded by lots of Santa's in the sand.

Although I have been away many times before this is the first for several years and certainly the first against such a backdrop of uncertainty. When I left at the end of Aug 20, we had hope that things were improving, and that Christmas might well be the party to mark the end. Sadly, this didn't happen and as we sat here 1000's of miles away I think my colleagues and I out here realised that just for once being on 'detachment' was better than being at home. Please don't get me wrong I would have come home in a heartbeat, but as Jane has mentioned to me on numerous occasions, 'only you could go to war and be better off than the rest of us!'

Now being at war is clearly not what's happening here. I truly believe that what you have all had to face, not just in the last 6 months, but for the last year and is worthy of any number of medals. This has, indeed, been a year of sadness and frustration. Sadness in that we have lost so many to this terrible disease and frustration in that just as we think we are on top of things, the goal posts change again. Someone the other day said that this was a year that they could never get back. They are right, but I would ask would you want to. One of the things that makes us who we are as human beings is our ability to look forward, to plan for the future, or in the immortal words of Captain James T Kirk, 'To boldly go where no one has gone before' (I was more of a Jean Luc Picard man myself but...). But it's not just about planning it's about enjoying what we have, when we have it.

Therefore, as the sun sets on my adventure, take care Beckingham and thank you all for the support you've given Jane and Gill since I've been away, it really has meant the world to me knowing she was surrounded by the best people living in the best village.

Scottie





Dear All,

In the church calendar we are now in the season of Lent as we pick up our crosses and walk with Jesus to the cross. At this time especially I am always reminded of Mel Gibson's controversial film, 'The Passion of Christ' which featured one powerful scene which portrays a bloodied and weakened Jesus, on the way to crucifixion, falling beneath the weight of his cross before his mother Mary. Through their shared pain and suffering Jesus looks up at his mother and says, 'behold, I make all things new'.

Mel Gibson is quoting Revelation 21:5, where the risen, glorified Christ speaks from the throne of heaven, but his use of artistic licence reveals Gibson's grasp of the truth, Jesus is not a victim but the victor. The resurrected Christ changes the cross from an instrument of torture into a symbol of victory. The victory of the cross makes all things new.

Lent for many is seen as a time to be morose or to give things up that we crave all the 40 days we do so. But I like to see it as a time for reflection, renewal and space to grow my relationship with Jesus. One of the ways I do that is in prayer and most of you will now have received the booklet which we have posted through your doors just before Lent encouraging you to pray even if you've never tried before. Why not give it a go – you never know what might happen. Also there is an invite to come and tie a ribbon on the church gates which will symbolise something different for everyone; maybe remembrance, thanksgiving, hopefulness, or a certain prayer you want God to hear.

As we walk through Lent with our eyes firmly fixed on the cross of Good Friday, we can also get a glimpse of the empty tomb not too far in the distance. Through the cross we enter into new life and a new relationship with God and with one another. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the old order has passed away and a new order, a new light, a new life, has come into the world. God calls each one of us to share in this new life.

The true meaning of Easter, the gift of new life, is so easily lost amongst the gifts of chocolate eggs, bunches of flowers and pretty cards. The spiritual message of Easter is often forgotten by the distraction of other matters going on in our world at this time.

But during this time I urge you to take some time out, set aside some time for spiritual reflection and prayer on the true meaning of Easter. Look beyond the hype and pressures of commercialisation to the real message of this season. But if you do, be warned, it could change your life. Jesus Christ is still making all things new!

Rev Chris  
01400 679081/ 07949870701

Our churches are still open for individual private prayer at this time so please feel welcome to come and sit awhile: St Swithun's - Thursdays 10-4pm / St Chad's – Mondays 10-4pm/St Helen's – Saturdays 10-4pm / All Saint's – Sundays 10-4pm

**Regular services (online):**

Tuesday (CW) and Friday (BCP) 10am – Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.30am – Service of the Word

Sunday's 1030am – Holy Communion

BCP Communion – 0900am – every third Sunday of the month.

**Easter Services** – at the point of writing this we do not know what the guidelines will be for Easter but rest assured we will be marking it as normal whether that be online or in person so please keep an eye out for the posters to let you know.

If you would like to join us for any of these services please contact me and I can give you the link or talk you through – it's not hard I promise and you can even join via the telephone.

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