

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 17***

***Thank you to those who have sent in contributions this week. They are much appreciated! - do keep them coming please. Lovely to have a contribution from Fenstanton this week! Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com***

***If you are not nifty with a keyboard simply ring 01480 350787 and let Alan or Chris know***

### ***News from Jean Ding in Fenstanton.....***

#### **MY CHARITY STALL**

At the start of lockdown in March our regular Book Sale was cancelled, so I decided to put books and jigsaws on a small table outside my house, at 28 Bell Lane Fenstanton.

Since then I have had it out daily, weather permitting.

So far I have given £1000 to Church and £300 to Macmillan Cancer support, the next charity to receive money will be Arthur Rank Hospice.

I couldn't have done this without the support of the villagers giving me goodies to sell. Paperback books, jigsaws and plants are the best sellers, I also have my Jams on sale.



This has kept me busy and happy as I have met new people to the village, I consider myself very lucky as otherwise what would I have done!

#### **A message from Martin Ballard who is now recovering at home after his emergency surgery.....**

“ A huge thank you to all for their prayers and concern expressed since I took off rather suddenly and painfully for Addenbrookes a week ago today. I'm pleased to report that the offending item has been removed and I am relieved to be recovering well at home, TV cricket is helping in the process!

I am lucky indeed with my family and friends, I'll try not to test them out again.! “ Grateful thanks Martin

## **Bruce Rowling - artist and superb draughtsman—a tribute from Stewart Denham**

*Last month we received the sad news of the death of Bruce Rowling, a brilliant artist and superb draughtsman who approached his subjects with a unique graphic and often humorous style. Bruce exhibited his work in our church in 1980 and I'd like to share a special memory I have of him from that occasion.*

*In the two months following the re-opening of our building in 1980, a full programme of events took place, giving the local community the opportunity to experience the new building at first hand. One very popular event was an exhibition of 60 paintings and drawings by Bruce Rowling, who had been sketching and painting in and around St Ives for a number of years.*

*I remember Bruce and his exhibition very well indeed because I had been tasked with helping Bruce to mount the exhibition in the Centrum. It was to open on a Saturday and we began assembling everything on the Thursday evening before. We continued on through Friday and finished at 4am in the early hours of Saturday, the day of the opening!*

*It was at 3.30am ( I remember the time exactly) that I plucked up courage to ask Bruce if I might have 'first choice to buy' on a couple of paintings that I had picked out as very special. I am pleased to say that Bruce agreed and Liz and I have taken delight in them at home ever since. Bruce and I came together only for the two or three days to mount the exhibition. I do remember what a very enjoyable experience that was - if somewhat exhausting over that last two days! Bruce was marvellous company and great fun to be with - and of course a superb artist and draughtsman.*

*Liz and I now have four cherished paintings by Bruce - and we consider his painting of St Ives Bridge and Chapel to be one of the very best images of the bridge ever created - and we would like to share it with you here. Thank you Bruce. **Stewart***



***Every morning another Morning Glory....***



***And every evening my daughter-in-law,  
Chanda, takes a moonlit stroll round our beautiful  
lake.....*** **Char**

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the reopening of the Free Church**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-opening of the Free Church following major alterations. We were hoping to have a weekend of celebrations but obviously this cannot happen due to Covid 19. Instead there will be a special edition of Inspire put together by the publicity team with assistance from Stewart and others. Mary Anthony keeps our archive but would like contributions from other people as well. Please send articles photos, memories etc to Mary and also copy to the office by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

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**Barbara Duffett**

## BAKING QUEEN

Mary Berry baking queen

Your recipes are many,

And so far I have had success

And hardly spent a penny!

When I was younger I could bake

And mostly it was good,

English menus I produced

Like good old Yorkshire pud.

The time went on and I met Geoff

Who cooks so very well,

T'was about that time mine went pear-shaped,

But why I couldn't tell?

My baking went right off the scale

T'was either good or bad,

The Christmas pudding made one year

Was only ate by Dad.

Brought up in War years, food was scarce,

You ate what you could get,

I begged him leave it please, but no!

I never will forget.

As we all sat and watched in awe,

And I sat in disgrace,

He drank the pudding liquefied

You should have seen his face!

You see I'd got complacent

And I hadn't taken care,

I'd also started altering

Ingredients here and there.

But Mary, I'm more careful now

And nothing's left to waste,

I thank you for your help and tips

And most of all the taste!

cc IRENE CARTER

## The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13:1-23 *from Babs Moore*

I had heard this read on a podcast not long before I was working in my garden and thinking about it as I was removing a corn crop from my window boxes. It was not thorns that were choking my plants but corn and it was well rooted and looked very healthy so ended up having to "mow" it with scissors as was doing too much damage to the roots of the plants I wanted, when I was trying to pull the corn out.

I was remembering what my late mother used to say, "there is no such things as a weed, just a plant growing where it is not wanted" I would never describe corn as a weed but I was removing it whilst weeding my window boxes. So where did all this corn comes from? The answer is my feathered friends and they have also "planted" many sunflowers around the garden including the one in the picture which certainly should not be where it is! I left that where it was and transplanted others because sunflowers bring brightness and joy to the garden and I will leave the seed heads on into the autumn for the birds to enjoy.

I am now working from home in my caravan on the drive just for a change of scene and to give myself a 10m commute out of the house after 5 months of not going anywhere to work and have hung some seed feeders in the tree by the caravan window. I have been privileged to watch young blue tits on the mixed seed feeder behaving like spoilt children picking seeds out and throwing them away with a flick of their beaks if they are not what they want and then enjoying whichever is the seeds they do like. Often 3-4 are discarded before one is selected, amazing to watch. So who is the sower and which are the weeds? I think my garden birds are planting their own seeds for future harvest, some on hard ground (paving stones and window sills), some on good ground (flowers beds under bird feeders that are regularly watered) and some amongst thick undergrowth where there is little light and much competition!



## ***Musings from our Musician.....***

A memory from a far-distant Christmas in my home church in Surrey. We were busy in the choir rehearsing some "Messiah" items for the Candlelight service and grappling with the long fast runs in "For unto us a Child is Born".

These runs in all four voice parts are meant to represent the utter joy and elation felt by mankind at the birth of the Christchild.

I tried to encourage something along these lines by suggesting we try make our singing 'light and frothy'. Our basso profundo in the corner who had long since been unable to whisper, declared 'i need notice in advance about ' Light and Frothy' as right now I am too full of baked beans"

**Brian Lodde**

## **Snatching a holiday**

We thought we'd share our short break with you as holidays are rare right now and could become even more difficult to achieve. Working throughout lockdown, Nev in particular needed a break. Just a caravan by the coast," he suggested. "We don't need to mix with other people. We'll take books and play Scrabble." So we booked a week on the Lincolnshire coast north of Skegness. Prices were reasonable for a six berth static caravan for the time of year but we paid for insurance in the event of a sudden government clamp down on travel.



As it turned out, our daughter and her extended family decided to come too, but stayed in a separate caravan some way away on the same large site. This involved a youngster and this



altered our style of holiday. Visits to animal parks, to explore marine wildlife, sessions on bouncy castles and slides and hours of simple fun on the beach replaced a more sedate vacation. No books read at all, we were far too busy keeping an eye on the little girl, and the rest of the family. No Scrabble in the long warm and well-lit evenings, but enjoyable chats over shared meals including outdoor barbeques.. We followed the rules of social distancing, using hand sanitizers, washing with soaps and often wore face-

masks, not just in the shops. Not everyone did, though, so a spike arising from holidaymakers to that county could occur at any time.

Nev and I explored towns including Alford and Horncastle. We drove into the Lincolnshire Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We spotted a few indications of occupation by the Romans and relics from the English Civil War in the area. We also loved the swan pedalos, Nev and his beach team built some super sandcastles decorated



by an array of beachcombed treasures, and we basked in the balmy weather. A real break, releasing tension and reinvigorating ourselves, and now we are ready to help with unlockdowning our church.

**Sally Runham**