

BAYLHAM NEWS

Issue No 5 | July 2020

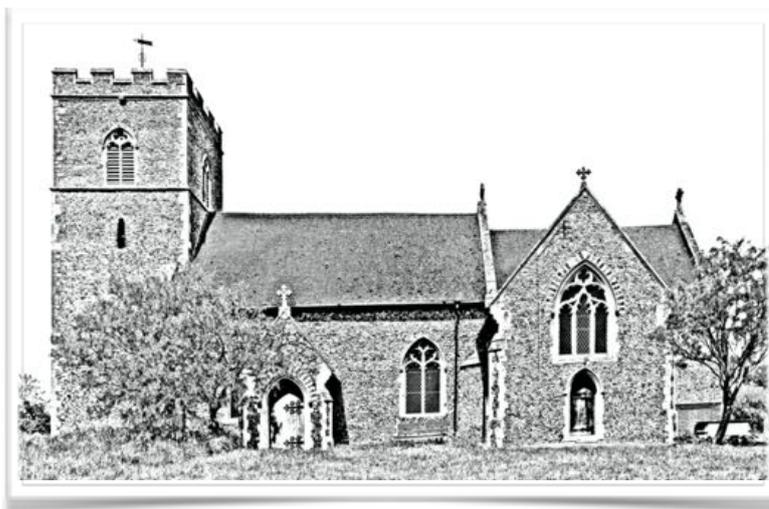
Orchids and White Streaks



A photograph taken in early July in Baylham showing Pyramidal Orchids growing in species rich grassland. This site benefits from being left uncut or grazed from early April to late August allowing the Orchids to set seed. The number of Pyramidal Orchids at this site continues to increase year on year with around 40 flowering spikes recorded this year. The wet winter weather, followed by drought like conditions during spring, did not seem to affect the plants at this site in Baylham, and there were also good displays on roadside verges in Suffolk.



I am pleased to report that in mid July, two White-letter Hairstreak butterflies were recorded on the brambles around the common. You may recall my article in last year's newsletter on this protected species, so hopefully we may now have a little colony.
Paul Gilson



Parish Meeting Chairman's Report

Well, it is good to be back after such a long break, now that 'In Touch' has resumed its publication.

On the one hand so much has happened, and yet on the other, so little, as so many of us have been largely confined to home. Sadly this will remain the case in the near future for village activities in the Village Hall. However, the Village Hall committee has decided to seek views on an outdoor, socially distanced, coffee morning on the 29th August. The committee would love to hear your views. Speak to Anneke, Paul, Kay, Mila or Wendy or post your comments on our Facebook forum.

Our long delayed AGM will however have to await a change in government guidance.

NHS 72nd birthday.



Ron kindly took it upon himself to organise a socially distanced 'clap' around the village hall at the appointed time of 5.00pm. It was obviously the first time for months that we have had the opportunity to get together, albeit in something of a spread out group along Upper Street



Glow Worms

A bit of natural good news for a change: went on a glow-worm hunt



last night & found 12 from Church Lane corner to the corner where Baylham Hall drive turns off. All but 2 were on the South facing bank, some deep in nettles, others in more bare patches. Though very small, their fluorescent yellowy green glow is unmistakable.

The females live in rough grassy places, hiding in the roots by day and climbing up a little to glow at night, but I have seen them in flowerbeds, garden shrubs & mown grass! So have a look where you live. Warm, fairly still nights are best over the next few weeks.

If you are lucky, and somewhere different to the lane section I walked, please let me know.

For more information see: glowworms.org.uk

Glow-worms are seriously declining in numbers nationally so ours are very special. If you would like to help these vulnerable insects survive please turn off your outside lights for the next week or so (cover the solar cells to deactivate solar lights) as these are believed to distract the males from flying to find the flightless females tiny lights.

Rosie Blake
patandrosie@btinternet.com

Britain's Big Butterfly Count

People in Britain are being urged to help determine if summer 2020 is the best for butterflies for a quarter of a century by joining the world's most popular insect survey.

The Big Butterfly Count began on Friday 17th July but lasts until the 9th August, with people asked to spend 15 minutes in a park, garden, field or wood, counting the butterflies they see. For all details see: <https://butterfly-conservation.org>.

but 5.00 came around and the NHS got a well deserved clap of appreciation from the assembled.

Planning Appeals. Although the planning inspectorate continues to function, there are long delays. There is no news on the 'Church Lane' appeal. The 'Affordable Housing' appeal has been given a provisional date for a public hearing on the 9/10th September. Quite how the hearing will run is not clear, but I understand it will be by video link. Once I receive confirmation on both who can attend (if it is restricted) and how people can attend, I will use this newsletter to communicate the details.

The appeal for a dwelling to be built on Back Lane between Fairview and Walnut Tree Farm has been dismissed. The dismissal decision can be read on MSDC's planning web site. This dismissal does have some implications for housing development within the Parish. Bearing in mind that this is 'planning', and so there are all kinds of caveats which I will come back to, the broad thrust of the dismissal is clear. In effect, any application for market* housing that is more than a few hundred metres from the B1113 will be refused. This is consistent with MSDC's planning policy and the government's national planning framework. Baylham is a hamlet community which falls outside the council's designated land supply, is in the countryside, is functionally isolated, and enjoys a landscape and ecology that is worthy of protection. This is unlikely to change.

However, I previously mentioned caveats, and the main one is material change. Were either the government or MSDC to revise their policy then any previous (resubmitted) or new applications would be considered according to the new revision. There are others, but I will not list them here. Give me a call if you want to know more.

Whilst the overwhelming majority of those in Baylham will welcome the decision, this will not apply to all. For anyone who has a desire to build market (or indeed any other) housing within the parish, it is strongly recommended that they use the option to discuss any proposal with the planning department first. Advice will be given on the likelihood of success, and indeed if there are any changes that can be made to the proposal that may improve its chances. Applicants do not need to act on this advice, but if they go ahead anyway it may save possible acute disappointment down the road.

*Market housing that which is not otherwise categorised as permitted development or a government defined exception site.

Litter Pick

Sadly, as has all too graphically been seen on the national news, this nation has a significant minority of citizens who consider anywhere outside their 'property' as a legitimate rubbish bin. These "citizens" have also been pretty active along the B1113 and so there will be another litter pick on Sunday afternoon the 9th August. This time however, we will not be fighting with the undergrowth. The intention is to just pick up what can be seen from the path between the Gt Blakenham sign and as far towards Needham as we get in a couple of hours. Anyone interested should meet at the village hall at 2.30 or about 2.45 in the car park outside Gipping Construction in the small business park. In the unlikely event (hopefully) it is wet, we will postpone until the following Sunday.

Thanks to Rosie and Paul for such a nice ecological feel to this newsletter and as always, if you have any comments or want to communicate anything via the newsletter then please let me know.

Keven Thomas - Chair of the Parish Meeting