Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter

March 2019



A note from the editor

With the recent summer like sunshine it has been the perfect time for a walk in the local area. We are really blessed with the views of the marshes, Swale as well as our historic buildings including both local churches. However, litter in the verges of roads and paths really does spoil the areas as well as being a threat for nature. So please do help keep the village tidy in any way you can.

An advance notice, there will be no newsletter for May, so please send in any articles for inclusion in the April edition that will cover May also.

As always get in touch at: graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com

All Saints' Church

Everyone is welcome to all our services and events

3 March

8 am	Holy Communion	Boughton Church
10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church

6 March ~ Ash Wednesday

8 pm	Holy Communion	St Barnabas

10 March

8 am	Holy Communion	Graveney Church
10 am	Sung Communion	Boughton Church
10 am	Morning Worship	Hernhill Church

16 March

5.50 pm wessy church st barriabas	3.30 pm	Messy Church	St Barnabas
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17 March

8 am	Holy Communion	Hernhill Church
10 am	Morning Worship	Boughton Church
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Graveney Church

24 March ~ benefice service

10 am Sung Communion Bough	nton Church
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31 March ~ Mothering Sunday

10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church

4.30 pm	Special service	St Barnabas
7 April		
8 am	Holy Communion	Boughton Church
10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church

St Barnabas is in Boughton Street, Boughton Church is in South Street, Boughton

Clergy letter

'If the insects go we go' is one of the headlines of a scientific review of insect numbers that was published last month. It suggests that 40% of species are undergoing 'dramatic rates of decline' around the world, bees, ants and beetles are disappearing eight times faster than mammals, birds or reptiles. One-third of insect species are classed as endangered. The cause is intensive agriculture, pesticides and climate change.

Insects make up the majority of creatures that live on land, and we as well as other species need them. These small creatures provide food for birds, bats and small mammals; they pollinate around 75% of the crops in the world; they replenish soils and keep pest numbers in check. The authors of the review are concerned about the impact of insect decline up along the food chain. With many species of birds, reptiles and fish depending on insects as their main food source there is a knock on effect, it's likely that these species may also be wiped out as a result.

So often we think we can live independently on this planet but we can't, our very existence is bound up in a world wide web that depends, not on computers, but on millions of tiny creatures.

That set me thinking about the importance of the small. Someone, and it may be St David, whose day is 1 March, said 'Do the small things' and from Mother Teresa, 'Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love.' The small things matter, from the smile or the thank you to the piece of litter picked up in the street or holding the door open for someone else. They just take a moment of thoughtfulness and concern for another.

Lent begins on 6 March, you may like to make it a time when you actively think about the small things you do. Are there small changes you could make in your life that would actually have quite an impact in the long term? Perhaps change the cleaning products you buy or increase the amount of plastic you say 'no' to. Could you also make Lent special by giving a little more time to God?

'I live to enjoy life by the littlest things, feeling the grass between my toes, breathing fresh air, watching the wind sway the trees, enjoying the company of loved ones, a deep conversation, getting lost in a good book, going for a walk in nature, watching my kids grow up. Just the feeling itself of being alive, the absolute amazing fact that we are here right now, breathing, thinking, doing.' Marigold Wellington

Lent Lunches

You are all invited to come to a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread, fresh fruit and hot drinks, in St Barnabas,

Boughton Street, every Wednesday in Lent starting 13 March, noon to 1.30 pm. Donations welcome in aid of Bishop Trevor's Lent Appeal.

'The mystery of God'

Our Lent course this year is 'The mystery of God' where we will delve more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God's plan of salvation.

The course grew out of a statement that in turn came out of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, 'We believe in a Church that is more concerned with the mystery that is God than with its own success.' The course includes The Mystery of Good and Evil, The Mystery of God's Glory, The Mystery of Sin, Suffering and Hope, and The Mystery of Love and Sacrifice. Our Sunday sermons will also tie in with the Lent topics but you don't need to attend church on Sundays to be part of a group.

You are all welcome to join a group but please do register with Jean (01227 751410, jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk) as the groups have limited space.

Monday afternoon, 2.30 - 4 pm at Susan Hamilton's, 14 Colonel's Lane, Boughton, led by Alison Smith, and Wendy Montague.

Tuesday afternoon, 2.30 - 4 pm at the Vicarage led by Jean

Friday morning, 10.30 am - noon, at Keith's, 1 Field End Place, Boughton, led by Keith

Concert with the Snowdown Colliery Band on April 27th 2019 in the evening at All Saints Church - £10 per ticket with light refreshments.

Parish Council News

The following is an edited summary of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 14th January at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attended by 6 Councillors, Councillor George Bobbin (Borough Councillor), the Clerk and one members of the public.

Matters Arising:

Letters regarding fireworks have been sent and comments logged by Swale Borough Council ("SBC").

No further news on the overpayment to SSE.

Crime reports were summarised.

Response to a library consultation, KFRS consultation and SBC Corporate plan were sent.

Rural Team numbers were forwarded.

Local Landscape Designation Review details were forwarded.

A letter was sent to S&A Nurseries, hi-vis jackets are now being worn

Crime Report:

The Neighbourhood Watch report and the Rural Crime Team report have been received. There is now a contact number for the Rural Crime Team and four dedicated officers in this area. There has been a burglary at a commercial property in Hernhill and other burglaries nearby recently.

Cleve Hill Solar Park:

A report from GREAT was read out. The draft initial expression of interest was agreed, with some minor amendments. It was agreed not to engage the planning consultant at this stage. A letter has gone to all councillors on the SBC planning committee and to Faversham TC.

Streetlighting:

A suggested schedule for replacement to LEDs had been received from Streetlights but more clarification was felt necessary. It was agreed that Councillor Mitchell would liaise with Streetlights regarding a replacement schedule

Finial signs at the school:

Quotes are awaited for the signs.

Landscaping around village sign:

The original contractor no longer wishes to do the work. A meeting is being held with a new contractor this week.

Donations to Kent Air Ambulance and Citizens Advice:

It was agreed to donate £60 to each of the Kent Air Ambulance and the Citizens Advice Bureau under \$137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Correspondence:

Councillor Boggia expressed an interest in the National Association of Local Councils newsletters.

Finance:

The draft budget prepared by the working party was considered and agreed at £12525. This includes £2500 for streetlighting replacements and £1500 for costs related to opposing Cleve Hill Solar Park. The expected income from sources other than the precept is £1398. The precept was agreed at £11,127, in order to cover the entire budget.

The financial statement and bank reconciliation were reviewed and accepted. A number of small payments were approved.

Due to a bank error, the original mandate needs updating to a different type. The recent request to add signatories cannot be actioned until this is done. Interest was expressed in moving to a bank which allows online banking with two signatories for payments. It was agreed to investigate this further and not complete the new mandate in the meantime.

Planning:

Graveney level crossing, Monkshill Road – Installation of two red light violation cameras at Graveney level crossing, together with ancillary signage. It was agreed to comment with no

objection but to query the need for this in a rural area and to ask whether the poles could be green or grey rather than yellow.

Graveney & Goodnestone Trust:

Nothing to report. The next meeting is in March.

Councillor Reports:

Councillor Stewart: Will follow up on the possibility of getting the millennium panel put on a new bench. A car is regularly parking at the junction of Head Hill Road and Sandbanks Lane.

Councillor Boggia: Lots of bottles are being thrown into verges and fields. The signs currently being used by GREAT could be used to discourage this.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors:

Councillor Bobbin: Councillor Bobbin still has £450 grant money left but applications must be in by February. It was agreed to apply for funding for the bench if it can be replaced and the millennium panel used.

Any Other Business:

It was agreed to put an article in the newsletter regarding dog fouling. The footpath warden has requested and been sent disc signs to replace those missing from local footpaths. The fire hydrant checks are up to date.

Next Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

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The following is an edited summary of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held Monday 11th February at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attended by 4 Councillors, the Clerk and one members of the public.

Streetlights:

Councillor Mitchell had obtained some clarification from Streetlights regarding replacement lanterns. The current Sox lanterns are being phased out and it was agreed that the SL7 (currently being trialled on column 2) gives adequate light so it should be used for future replacements. It was agreed to replace the lights on columns 11 and 12 in Sandbanks Lane with two new SL7 lanterns, at 31W, in warm white.

Planning:

Langdon Manor, Head Hill Road — part demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a single storey rear extension, with internal alterations including insertion of 2no. rear dormers to second floor, and a detached double garage. Creation of a new vehicle access and single driveway from Head Hill Road. It was noted that the access way has already been approved. There will be no real visible difference at the front of the house and the footprint is only being increased by a small amount. The property is not listed, but is in the conservation area. It was agreed to comment in favour of the application.

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road – demolition of existing domestic shed and replaced with a new outbuilding consisting of a garage/garden store with hobby room/games room above (revision to 17/506524). The proposal is for a fairly large increase in size and to make the building two storeys high, but it is a long way from the road. It was thought that one of the drawings had been labelled incorrectly with 'west' and 'east' elevations and agreed to seek clarification on this. Subject to this being the case, it was agreed to comment in favour of the application but to request that the building not be used for residential purposes.

Swale Borough Council will no longer be providing hard copies of planning applications from 18th April, unless the PC pays a fee. Maidstone Borough Council are trialling a similar system, but parishes have been invited to volunteer. Concerns were expressed about the decision being taken with no consultation, that smaller parishes and councillors not able to use a computer would be penalised, that the budget had already been set for the year and that planning application fees should cover the cost of printing hard copies. It was agreed to make representation to SBC and KALC covering these points.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned for a short public session. The Cleve Hill Solar Park application was discussed and it was noted that SBC is only a consultee, not a decision maker in the process.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

A Message from your County Councillor

January is a Month I'm always pleased to see the back of, not least this year. It has been a month of goodbyes, including three funerals, all very different but all sad in their own way. The last of these was Selling resident Jenny Duncan actually held on the first day of February. There is no way I can do justice to Jenny and her many 'roles' in our community, Authorised Lay Minister, Member of the Church Choir, former Parish Councillor and so very much more. So many gaps left to fill. Her Funeral in Selling Church, standing room only, was accompanied by the steady drip of water. Some miscreants having climbed on the roof the night before and removed the lead from the south aisle. My thoughts regarding the perpetrators is hardly Christian.

On the other hand, and far less importantly in the greater scheme of things, has been the news from the Caribbean of the England Cricket Team being "blown away" by the Windies (where have we heard that before!). Meanwhile the football team I have supported since childhood, Spurs, loses two key players to injury and is bundled out of both Cup Competitions.

Every Committee seems to wish to meet in January, most days I have had a full diary from early morning till mid to late evening. Far too many to list or describe. Highlights have included meetings with two Cabinet Ministers, Treasury Secretary Liz Truss who came down to Faversham to speak, and Local Government Secretary of State James Brokenshire. I

journeyed to London with Sittingbourne & Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson to talk to the Secretary of State about the underfunding of improvements to the M2 and A249 and Swale's consequent inability to access other funds. We seemed to get a very good hearing and I was impressed with his knowledge of the issues. Now we await tangible results.

Alongside the usual plethora of meetings of Home to School Transport Appeal Panels, KCC Commissioning Boards, etc. have been others of great importance. Those included Kent County Council Leaders, Kent Health Overview and Committee where I was able to quiz the Commissioning Group on their abysmal performance in Sittingbourne & Sheppey, not least on Doctor numbers. A follow up meeting is in the diary for early February. There were also meetings of Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, Greater North Kent Leaders and a Meeting of South East England Councils, held in London, which was themed around the potential impacts of Brexit on the South East of England especially its Local Authorities.

I would highlight a recent meeting of Kent County Councils Regulation Committee which I chaired and will share with you part of the Officers Report to that Meeting although I am legally constrained from allocating it to any particular case:

"It is evident that traditional planning enforcement powers (especially at the County Council level) tend to be restrictive, slow and labour intensive, or rely heavily on the outcome of formal public enquiries with a typical timescale in excess of twelve months. It is evident that these powers are unable to meet in full the sophisticated challenge of apparent and fast-

moving organised crime. Land ownership held in Trust, 'revolving door' Companies/Directors, money laundering and the physical barricading of sites with associated intimidation are becoming a common pattern of behaviour and operation. In my view financial investigation on the Public Sector side is required along with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, action against alleged landfill tax evasion, Company malpractice and other financial avenues."

Many residents may feel they can recognise the site to which the quote applies! The same site was the subject of a recent summons from the Environment Agency supported by Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council. Unfortunately, the trial has been delayed and is currently scheduled for the end of March.

Locally I have attended Parish Council Meetings at Tunstall, Newnham, Eastling, Bapchild, Oare, Dunkirk and Teynham this month.

STOP PRESS

My annual 'Participatory Budgeting' to allocate local Member's Grant monies was held at Teynham Village Hall on Saturday 2nd February with near record attendance. Among the sixteen successful bids were ones from the following:

- Teynham Scout Group for security fencing
- Throwley Parish Council for a Defibrillator
- Painters Forstal Community Association for an Ecological Survey for proposed Village Hall
- Milstead Parish Council for a Defibrillator

- Teynham Parish Council for a Commercial Dishwasher for Community Hall
- Selling Village Hall Committee for replacement lighting
- Newnham Church for a hearing Loop for Community events, Concerts, etc
- Doddington Newsletter for a replace printer
- Bredgar Parish Council for Recreation Ground Fencing
- St Peter & St Paul Lynsted, to establish a Wildflower Meadow in the Churchyard

Andrew Bowles

Email: abjs@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07778629879

Four Horseshoes Pub

Hi Everyone,

Carvery continues to be as popular as ever and we are being told that it is the talk of Faversham which is great, booking is now essential as we are constantly having to turn people away.

Our latest offering lunchtimes from midday until 4pm is Five for a Fiver Menu, originally offered to our club members Knit & Natter, Banjo Club, Bridge Club & Ukelele Club other dinners starting to ask if they were able to order, it is now available to all.

We are Celebrating St Patrick's Day on Sunday 17th March with Live Music from Atlantach Werp Trio who will be playing Irish & Country Music with an Open Mic option also available, this all starts from 16:00hrs Carvery open as usual from Midday.

Our Special Mother's Day Carvery is booking up now £15 for 2 Courses or £18 for 3 Courses we expect to be sold out soon so book early to avoid disappointment [This is a Bookings Only Day].

Our next Fun Quiz Night is on Thursday 28th March 2019, new teams or individuals can join existing teams everyone welcome.

We look forward to seeing you soon

Best

Steve, Kim, Lisa, Daniel & Baby Dolly





News from GREAT



The Development Consent Order (DCO)

A great number of registrations were sent to the National Inspectorate before the 28th January – in total 867 entries were received from individuals, groups, organisations, political parties and statutory bodies - representing a considerable number of individuals in Faversham, Seasalter, Graveney, Whitstable and beyond.

Marie King analysed each response and found that more than 97% were against the development –the 'sheep' were duly updated by Tom!

GREAT members have written to KCC to highlight the uninformed response that was sent by their Planning department in response to the DCO . KCC appeared to be in almost complete agreement with the developers and stated views that the professionals did not agree with. One particularly concerning factor is KCC's belief that the additional traffic will not be an issue --- so we have invited them for a visit to the village as we assume they have never been here.

GREAT's collaboration with Helen Whately:

Helen Whately met with the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE), RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust on Friday, 15 February. Unbeknown to most, this event was promoted by her office as a protest meeting which we were not aware of until after the event.

GREAT had been invited to attend the meeting and we made sure that the Agencies got a bird's eye view of the proposed land to be developed --- everyone went up Graveney Church's tower as this best showed the devastation that the solar development would have on the beautiful landscape. This was also evident from our drone video which we showed at the meeting in the village hall.

At this meeting the agencies explained that the ecological impacts were not necessarily going to stop the development going ahead – but despite this there was a positive and objective discussion on what other factors we can use to influence the planning decision.

One suggestion was around the missed opportunity for wildlife, particularly with the deferred EA managed realignment strategy. The EA's Medway Estuary and Swale Coastal Flood and Erosion Strategy (MEASS) aims to protect people, property, designated habitats and agricultural land from flooding. This strategy identified the proposed Cleve Hill site as one of the top-ranking sites for managed realignment in the area to create intertidal habitat. The EA's plans cover a significantly larger area than the solar park would but, as they do not have the power of compulsory purchase for this land, it would require the landowner's support. This may prove challenging in view of the significant financial benefits the landowner is likely to gain from the Cleve Hill Solar Park plans.

In addition to this, Natural England plans to make the Saxon Shore Way a National Trail, which we understand will be announced later this year. This will provide opportunities to bring more tourism and income to the area but this would be

completely spoiled if the solar park went ahead – who wants to walk alongside solar panels?

More discussions are needed with the organisations but their thoughts were that these could be positive campaigns for us to consider, presenting them as constructive and better alternatives to the solar park. We believe most people would prefer to see the site returned to its original wetland status than have a solar farm built on it, as it would enhance the wildlife habitat rather than destroy, reduce or remove it.

Read more about the meeting with Helen here:

Faversham News 21/2/19 page 4

Kent MP joins residents to protest against Faversham solar park www.kentonline.co.uk

https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/kent-mp-joins-residents-to-protest-against-faversham-solar-park-plans-24365/

Tasks to be completed to highlight other more constructive possibilities for Graveney Marshes:

We will be having a meeting with the RSPB's Campaign Manager to get some hints and tips on how we could extend our campaign. Some initial views on the types of activities we could consider include:

•Telling a pictorial story of the 1,000 Brent geese using the site as the visual proof that they use it – the RSPB can't find any pictures like this but we're sure that one (or a number) of people will have this. Please share with us if you do!

- The picture of the site in snow or mist, preferably taken on the same day as the geese are there, to show how amazing the site is.
- •Other picture stories about the campaign, e.g.
- °campaigners meeting in The Sportsman to start to pull together an alternative vision for Graveney Marshes
- °Graveney campaigners visiting the largest solar farm in Britain so far which is much smaller than the one planned for Graveney

Other collaborations:

There are opportunities to work with other groups in the area. These include the Regeneration of the Creek --- because who would want to look at a mega industrial zone if the Creek Heritage is redeveloped.

Another group is Uproare - Oare against the extension of the recycling plant, the increase of traffic on small country roads and the pollution of Oare – which resonates with some of our issues.

Incidentally, the Parish Council have written to Swale Planning to question the activities of East Kent Recycling (EKR) next to London Array in Graveney. EKR manage the Oare recycling plant!

In addition, **Chris Packham**, announced the launch of Wild Justice – a not for profit organisation set up to take legal cases against public bodies on behalf of wildlife on the 13th February. Visit www.wildjustice.org.uk to find out more and

follow @wildjustice_org on Twitter. Please let Chris know about the monstrous proposal for the Graveney Marshes. Getting his support would be invaluable.

And finally, there is an update meeting with statutory agencies and the developers on the 6th March which we will be attending.

We thank you for your continued support and hope we can rely on this in the future. We need to continue to fight the application as this goes down the National Inspectorate planning route, and if we are going to pursue an extended campaign which highlights the positive alternatives then we need to get moving!

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Thought of the Month

Hello

Anne Kreer

IF YOU DON'T speak to strangers,

You'll never make new friends,

So break the ice,

And say "hello"

See what a glow it lends

To skies that have been overcast,

To heavens that were so grey;

Just say "hello" to strangers,

And make new friends today.

Village Hall Events and Notices

Wednesday Club - Meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, 2:00pm at the Village Hall. Tea, cake, bingo and chat. Subs £1.00. Lifts are available to the hall if needed.

Contacts:

Penny Foster 01795 538732 or Trish Timms 07926 351628

Graveney Art Group

First and Third Monday of each month, 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Back at the village hall, from October. Refreshments and good company. All for £4.00 per morning. If you wish to know more contact:

Val on 07866 984 678



Neighbourhood Watch

Please be safe: DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLOCKED

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR WINDOWS OPEN WHILE YOU ARE

AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE OUTBUILDINGS UNLOCKED

DO NOT LEAVE TOOLS OR MACHINERY IN PLAIN SIGHT

REPORT ALL INSTANCES TO THE POLICE

Use 999 if it is urgent or 101 if it is after the fact. After you have reported it to the police, notify

Neighbourhood Watch - Mr. Kevin Castle

Contact: 07749 736669 - kevincastle@btinternet.com

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ABBEY UKULELE CLUBS

Meet as follows:

The Four Horseshoes Pub

Graveney

WEDNESDAYS - Banjo Club

fortnightly - 2pm – 4pm

William Gibbs Court

Orchard Place, Faversham every **THURSDAY** 1pm – 2.45pm

The Four Horseshoes Pub

<u>Graveney</u>

FRIDAYS - Weekly 2pm - 4pm

Beginners & players all welcome

For more information please contact

JANET & KEITH 01795 530854

janetipayne47@gmail.com

http://janetipayne.wix.com/abbeyukeplayers



A Thank You

The trees and shrubs around and in the vicinity of the Village Hall have now been cut back and tidied up. This area is now spic and span due to the hard work and dedication over several days by Colin Relf.

In light of his efforts, particularly during the current cold spell, a thank you is greatly deserved.

F G Chapman MBE

Four Horseshoes Park



Elizabeth Wilson-Smith Chartered Physiotherapist

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KCC – Bus Portal Feedback

During last summer's Big Conversation with residents, many people told us that they didn't know who to give feedback to about bus services. To make this clearer, we have launched a Bus Feedback Portal. It includes information about how to make a formal complaint or compliment about bus services and who to contact in the event that bus users experience problems. It also includes a feedback form for residents to let us know about their experiences of using buses and the quality of service provided. We will use the feedback that we get a greater understanding of what types of problems bus users experience and to spot trends about the areas or on which services they arise. We will use this information to inform the conversations that we have with bus operators through our Quality Bus Partnerships or more generally and help improve things for bus users.

KCC is encouraging people to use the form to let us know about their experience of using buses and the quality of service provided. A link to the portal if provided below.

www.kent.gov.uk/busfeedback

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Woman's Institute

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors always very welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events:

March 13th - Easter Card Making - Lyn Fitzgerald - Graveney Village Hall 7.30pm.

April 10th - Bee Keeping - Colin Relph.

For further information contact: Teresa Bowles on 07966

Articles for this Newsletter

Please also get in contact if you would also like to receive a pdf of the newsletter via email every month. Versions of current and prior editions are available on the Parish website:

www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

If you are missing a copy, please email, alternatively spare copies are available at All Saints Church, The Freewheel Pub and Mallards Farm Shop.

Adverts are welcome at a cost of £2 per half page. Please get in contact via the above email or on 07410 500 855, to discuss placing an ad.