

Graveley Matters

May 2020

Dear Neighbours,

How things change in the space of just a few months.

For one thing we are all becoming percussion instrumentalists! Well, that might be a flattering way to describe the din created around Graveley every Thursday evening as villagers thank all those people involved in keeping us healthy and the country functioning, by bashing pots and pans, bin lids and watering cans. Good effort Graveley!

This Friday we had meant to be coming together as a village, partying around Pondside in celebration of VE75 Day. Sadly, that cannot happen now.

Danielle Galvin has proposed the following. She thought, how about we all from our doorsteps, driveways, the Highstreet, Pondside, Waggon & Horses carpark or from the road you live in, observing the social distancing rules, raise a toast to the Heroes of WWII at 3pm on Friday.

Finally, if my intel is correct, garden waste and food caddy collections will resume from 11th May.

Keep safe everyone.

Emma Hogg
emmafc@hotmail.com

Thank you for the contributions of photos and articles for this month's edition.



St. Mary's Church Services

Dave is uploading regular messages and services to YouTube.

Search on YouTube: St Nicholas, Stevenage to access the channel.



Rector: Dave Brown (01438) 213587, revdmbrown@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Janet Singleton (01438) 813863 and Hilary Thompson (01438) 720771

Can't go to the museums. Let them come to you!

Given the restrictions we are currently under, why not get your cultural fix by trying some of virtual tours? You can tour the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy in the morning and then pop over to Cairo to look over The Pyramids in the afternoon.

Thank you to Janet Firth for this article. Click on the links below (or copy and paste into your own browser) and see for yourself.

Uffizi Gallery, Florence

<https://www.virtualuffizi.com/map-%26-virtual-tour.html>

Look for Madonna with the Long Neck. It is officially called "Madonna and Child with Angels and St Jerome". But you can guess how the name came about.

Acropolis, Greece

acropolisvirtualtour.gr (download app for iPad)

The Acropolis was so well built in 13th century BC that parts still survive today. Take a virtual tour and look for The Parthenon.

Museum of Natural History, Washington DC

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

Look for The Gneiss. A slab of beautiful patterned rock (in the Geology, Gems and Minerals: Hope Diamond, section 1) originally formed 9 miles beneath what is now Sri Lanka. Gneiss is used for counter tops and to face buildings.

The Pyramids, Egypt

3dmekanlar.com/en/the-pyramids

Instead of a modest headstone or plaque when they died The Egyptian Pharaohs preferred Pyramids, several hundred feet tall.

Look for The Great Pyramid of Keops. At 481 ft it was the tallest building in the world until Lincoln Cathedral overtook it in 1311.

It is thought the pyramid shape was chosen because it mimics the angle of the sun's rays through clouds (the Pharaohs wanted to join the sun god after death).



Machu Picchu, Peru

youvisit.com/tour/machupicchu

The site was a royal estate for the Emperor Pachacuti, built in the 15th-century by The Inca atop an 8000ft mountain.

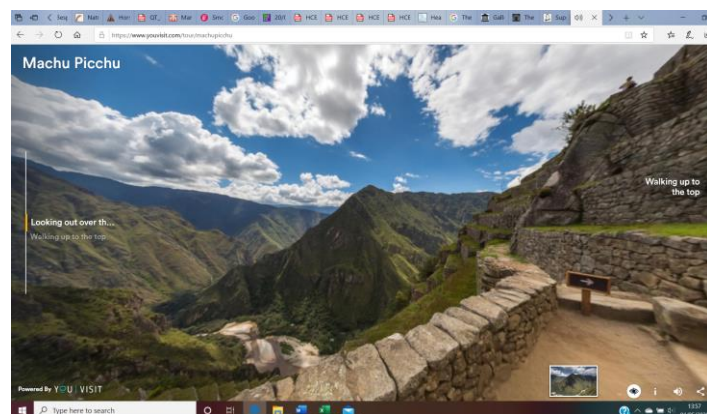
Look for The Overlook, which relates that Machu Picchu was so well constructed it has survived earthquakes which destroyed buildings in the nearby city of Cusco.

Its lawns are kept neatly trimmed by llamas and alpacas.

The British Museum, London

blog.britishmuseum.org/how-to-explore-the-british-museum-from-home/

This popular destination can be explored by Google Street View! Galleries are accessible by virtual tours on the Museum's website.



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*Amy Hobbs, MAFHP, MCFHP
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Out and about around Graveley

Graveley Village support.

If anyone needs help or support in these difficult times there is a group of volunteer villagers who are willing to help you out with shopping and the collection of medicines etc.

Please contact:

- Helen Lumley tel: 07583 867696, email: helenconnor2@btinternet.com
- Gill Shenoy tel: 07990 584678, email: gillshenoy@hotmail.com

We will do our best to find someone who can help.

Extra volunteers, willing to be on the village list of helpers, are always appreciated. If you can offer help, please send your details Gill or Helen.



Thank you to Desiree Scott for planting the area in front of the village hall. It looks very cheerful with the spring colours.

Assistance is also available through North Herts and Stevenage Community Transport Scheme, who can help with collecting and delivering prescriptions and food deliveries.

01462 689402
<http://www.nhcvstransport.org.uk>

Wanted: Rent of a single, secure garage to store old car for 6 – 12 months.

Please contact Greg Hutton.

**greg_hutton@hotmail.com
07908 884042**

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Village diary

The regular village clubs have all been suspended until further notice. This also applies to the Parish Council.

Graveley contacts and organisations

Graveley Village Website: www.graveley.org.uk

MP for Hitchin and Harpenden: Bim Afolami.
bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk

County Councillor: Mr Steve Jarvis.
steve@stevejarvis.org.uk. 26 High Street, Graveley,
Hitchin, SG4 7LA. 01438 727122

North Herts District Councillors: Mr George Davies,
George.Davies@north-herts.gov.uk. Mr Terry Tyler,
07868 016401, terry-tyler@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Chair: Martin Griffin,
Martin.Griffin@finedata.com

Parish Clerk: Danielle Galvan,
Parishclerk@graveley.org.uk

Graveley Cricket Club Secretary: Mrs P Logan, 01438
355089

Bell Ringing: Peter Bracey, Tower Captain, 01438
350082

Report fly tipping: Call Urbaser 0800 3286023

Graveley Village Hall bookings: Beverley Dean,
bdeangvh@mail.com, 07543 610908

**To report a crime, dial 999 for emergencies and 101
for urgent matters to discuss over the phone.**

Area sergeant: Guy.Westwood@herts.pnn.police.uk

PCSO (rural): Becki O'Driscoll,
Becki.odriscoll@herts.pnn.police.uk, 01438 757645



The Waggon and Horses

Take away menus have changed since our last publication so please contact the pub or check online for delicious food options.

Phone: 01438 367658

Web: <http://thewaggongraveley.co.uk>

Email: thewaggongraveley@gmail.com

Becky has sent in a heap of general knowledge questions to keep the grey matter active during lockdown! Here are the first five. Answers on the last page.

1. **The News:** A rare 50p featuring which detective sold for £6,000 on eBay last month?
2. **Pot Luck:** The Central Broward Regional Park in Florida is the only professional sports stadium in the USA dedicated entirely to which sport – is it cricket or rugby?
3. **Pop Music:** What song was Michael Jackson performing at the BRITS when Jarvis Cocker invaded the stage?
4. **Business:** Which cigarette brand also manufacture Hamlet cigars?
5. **The News:** Which telephone retailer closed all of their 531 stores last month?

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Notes from the Countryside

Wildlife report

Our Blue Tit has started to build a nest in our observation box, it is really interesting to see her nip in and out. She has finished bringing bits of grass and is now bringing in feathers that she collects in the garden. There seem to be more early butterflies on the wing this year. We have spotted Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Brimstone, Comma, Orange Tip and large White. Our Swallows are not back yet, last year they came back on the 24th April, so a day or two to go yet as I write on the 9th.

Farming report

We have finished Spring drilling and the early sown crops are starting to emerge. After what I wrote last Month, I am sure that you will be amused to know that we now badly need a good shower of rain. We have one or two patches where the Winter sown crops have completely failed and these we have re-drilled with Spring Oats. Our fields of Winter beans are looking quite good and it is good to hear that they are likely to be wanted. There is a demand for top quality beans from Egypt for human consumption and the rest will be in demand for animal feed. We are up to date with our fertilizer and spraying programme.

The last of the cows has now calved and the next thing they are looking forward to is being turned out to grass. This always causes wild excitement as the old mums skip and kick their heels in the air in a most un-ladylike fashion! The calves are all looking fit and well and are strong enough to take the flush of milk that spring grass will produce from the cows.

My new hens are doing very well. You may remember that our bull escaped and knocked down my hen run, inevitably this meant that the fox got hold of them. The poor things were getting to the end of their lives in any case, but it was sad to see them go. I now have a new hen run and managed to buy 5 point of lay pullets. It took them about 4 weeks to settle in and now they are laying 9 or 10 eggs a day. The modern hybrid hen is a remarkably reliable egg layer and very calm as well. During the War, my Father tried keeping White Leghorn hens, they were good layers, but also very

flighty and it only took a low flying aircraft to upset them and put them off laying for weeks.

Garden report

At last I have been able to get onto my Vegetable garden. The unceasing rain during the Winter Months and very little frost had meant that I had been unable to do any digging. Now the dry weather has come and the beds are like concrete on top, the Winter rains having put the surface down solid. I have been forking over the beds, but this has resulted in large clods of earth that take a lot of breaking down to a seed bed. I find that a 2 hour soak from a sprinkler, and then leaving for 24 hours helps to break down the clods. I leave one bed un-dug for the growing of Cabbages etc. as they prefer solid land. All my potatoes are in the ground and I have sown Lettuces, Carrots, beetroot and leeks outside and sweetcorn in the greenhouse.

**Harry Bott
Benington**



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Sadly, the plans the village and Parish Council had made to celebrate VE75 Day are not able to take place. I know many neighbours in the village will mark the day in their own way and will look forward to walking around the village on Friday 8th May to see the flags and bunting and send good wishes to each other.

Margaret Preston kindly sent in this wonderful poem. We do not know exactly when it was written by the Mrs. Hills of Graveley, but likely it was during the war and her prose references many of the men whose names appear on the Role of Honour and Memorial Plaque in the church.

Village Epic

***Composed by a 73 years' old invalid
Mrs. Hills of Graveley, Herts***

Our Roll of Honour lists contain
The name of Colonel Dixon Spa in,
And the names of many more,
Including the Colonel's son-in-law.

Our Graveley boys go one by one
Overseas to fight the Hun;
Just on forty, I am told,
And they are all brave warriors bold,

There's Hills and Hewitts, Bob and Jack,
Four Hares are on old Hitler's track;
Lieut. Owens, Sgt. Pilot Pratt –
All Graveley folk are proud of that.

Partridge, Adams, Hitchins, Cox,
Of Presland boys there's quite a lot;
Fyson, Davis, Pettit, Beals
Will help lay Hitler by the heels.

There's Fensome, Worboys, Eversham, Smith
All joined up and fighting fit;
If more are wanted they will go
To share the honours and beat the foe.

The ladies fair are doing their bit
Misses Jebb, Gardiner, Thody, Brett;
Four bright Starrs all do shine
Canteen workers doing fine.

Two dear boys their life has gone
And another a prisoner with the Hun;
They represent the Services all –
It hurt, but proudly they answered the call.

All went without a squirm or pain;
Let's hope they'll soon be home again
To join in all the fun and glee,
When every country shall be free.

Our Home Guards too are up-to-date,
Always on duty – never late;
Special police their job they do,
Patrolling all the village through.

Then there is our factory here,
Where girls are working with good cheer
Making lights that shine so merrily
That we should not in darkness be.

When headed by our Canon Jebb
Our fire guards never lose their head;
With stirrup pump, water, and sand,
At duty's call the take their stand.



LOCAL WAR MEMORIES AUGUST 1944

This is an account of the war memories of Denis Gray, the brother of the late Pamela Baltruschat whom most villagers will remember as she was a regular contributor to Graveley Matters for many years.

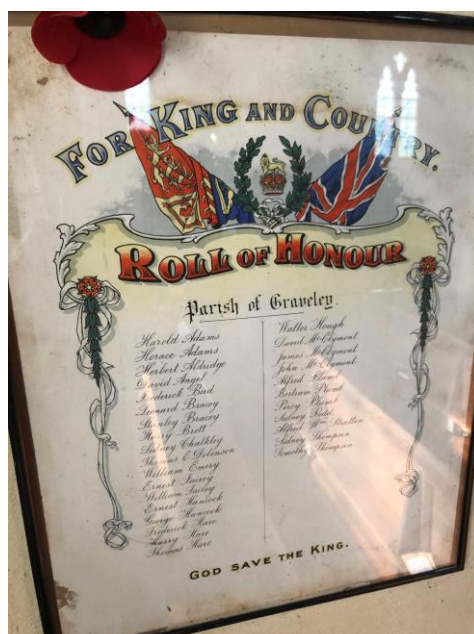
Denis was 10 years old in August 1944 and lived with his family at the 'Nook' (now called Crow End), Rectory End, Graveley. His father, Jesse, was the local ARP warden and Denis was one of five children. Denis and his brother Derrick worked for T.W.Franklin of Graveley Hall Farm next to the church and the church clock was the time piece for everything that happened on the farm. Denis started work at six years old helping with the harvest.

In August 1944 Denis was helping with the harvest together with his brother and the full time staff of men too old for the services. The church clock struck 7 but it was too damp to start harvesting so they all sat outside the cart shed and had a snack. Denis had two hunks of bread and bottled cold tea wrapped in a sock. As they sat eating they heard planes approaching. The noise became very loud and the slates on the farm building shook and the ground vibrated. The horses in the yard were very frightened but they were tied down so they couldn't bolt.

Denis and Derrick stood on the yard wall looking towards Weston. There were many planes flying in formation. A twin engine P38 Lightning was flying at twice the speed of the bombers, weaving and turning in a clockwise direction then catching up with the lead bombers again. The P38 turned again and collided with a bomber and took the left hand wing and one engine off. The bomber then looped wing over wing in a downward spiral between the oncoming formation. It was sometime before it collided with a bomber on the lower level. Debris was falling from the impact. As for the P38 again debris was falling in a stream from this. The impact action catapulted down but not over Weston but more in a southward direction. Parachutes were coming from one plane.

The boys and men then continued bringing in the harvest until midday. It was a Saturday and work then finished for the week and so they were then able to run towards Weston to see what had happened. They found wreckage scattered over a large area and American personnel were on site. The Americans told the boys that sadly the airmen in the planes had not survived.

Sourced by Alan Lines



Roll of Honour and Memorial Plaque, St Mary's Church, Graveley.

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

For all village hall enquiries, please contact:

Beverley Dean
bdeangvh@mail.com
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Quiz answers:
(1) Sherlock Holmes, (2) Cricket, (3) Earth
Song, (4) Benson & Hedges, (5)
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GRAVELEY'S BIN SCHEDULE

12th and 27th May = GARDEN WASTE AND RECYCLING (including blue box for paper).

5th and 19th May and 2nd June = REFUSE BIN

Garden waste and food caddy collection will start again from 11th May.

- The BROWN FOOD CADDY bin is collected each week.
- Please dispose of old batteries in specialist bins located at shops and supermarkets or you can place them in a bag on top of the recycling bin.
- Textiles, such as old clothes, paired shoes, towels and bed linen will be collected if placed in a carrier bag next to your recycling on collection day
- Extra recycling: You may place additional recycling out for collection next to your grey bin in a recyclable cardboard box or reusable plastic storage box.

In current times, Graveley Matters is distributed by chain-email. Please forward to anyone in our community you think will be interested.

DONATIONS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GRAVELEY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Copy deadline by the 20th of the month to Emma Hogg, emmafc@hotmail.com