

Riverside News



Issue 28 – Summer Edition 2021

Welcome from the editor!

Hi everyone,

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this bumper Summer Edition of the Riverside News.

I am pleased to continue our **Getting to Know...** section with a national treasure!

I hope you also enjoy the new **Rambling On** feature of a walk in Fordham. This will be an ongoing feature, so if you have a favourite trek around the area, why not send it in?

As always, this is our community newsletter so please send in any ideas, information and articles you would like to see featured.

You can email me at **hilgayparishnews@gmail.com**

Happy reading!

Developing a more sustainable community

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Thanks to all of our contributors to this issue, especially Hilgay Parish Council for their support.

Your Parish Matters

CHAIR REPORT

Your Parish council has been active in the last few months, and we would like to also welcome two new members to the Parish council:

Zara Hipsey
Mandi Warren

We are working hard to address the local issues that affect the residents of the Parish and Colin, the Parish maintenance man, is working hard to clear village pathways and the ever-growing foliage around the parish.

It has been great to see the activity around the War Memorial and I think we all cannot wait to see the fencing removed and the war memorial back where it belongs.

It's with the help of the Parish council that has seen potholes filled, pathways cleared by the Rangers teams and new LED lighting installed around the village to replace the old orange lighting.

We know we have more to do and more to plan for and we would welcome all suggestions and ideas.

The Hilgay Parish is a great community and working together I am sure that we can make the community even better.

I would like to thank Natalie the Editor of the Riverside News, for the work in producing this bumper Summer Edition and you will see the Autumn edition coming out in the next 3 months so get your articles to the Editor as soon as you can.

So, go and enjoy the summer and if you are near the Riverside Hilgay or the River front in Ten Mile please have fun, clear up after yourself and play safe.

Graham Carter, Parish Council Chairman



Parish Council Meetings

We are pleased to announce that Parish Council meetings can now take place in person, at Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank Village Halls on alternate months.

Please continue to check your Village Hall websites and noticeboards for updates.

All meetings are due to start at 7.00pm

The next meeting is on 01-07-21 in Ten Mile Bank, followed by:

05-08-21 (TBC)

02-09-21

07-10-21

04-11-21

02-12-21

If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Clerk: hilgayparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Hilgay & Ten Mile Bank Parish Councillors

Name	Telephone	email
Hilgay Ward		
Graham Carter - Chairman	07841 715464	
Annabel Charlesworth - Vice Chair	01366 377 218	annabelaundry@hotmail.com
Elaine Hall	07979 846755	elaine@tenmilebank.com
Peter Bates	01366 387 988	
Norman Highnam	07443 430195	norman.highnam@outlook.com
Jane Heatrick	01366 387 953	kipperheatrick@icloud.com
Peter Carter	01366 387 687	
Susan Annan	01366 385 303	Susanannan5@yahoo.co.uk
Zara Hipsey	07943 911505	zhipsey@gmail.com

Ten Mile Bank Ward

Ryan Coogan	01366 377 912	cldr@cogan.email
Andy Greening	07980 813806	uax6@btinternet.com
Mandi Warren	07915 350152	cldrwarrentmb@yahoo.com

Parish Council Staff

Diane Farrow - Clerk	07706 345156	hilgayparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk
Colin Wills – Maintenance Officer	07760 390 848	

Committees

Data Protection	Graham Carter, Ryan Coogan
Finance & Resources.	Ryan Coogan
Planning Policy	Elaine Hall, Graham Carter, Jane Heatrick

Working Groups

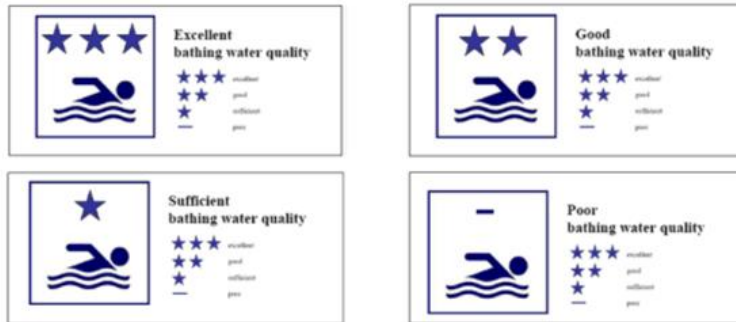
Allotments	Peter Bates, Elaine Hall, Gillian Harris
Footpaths	Gillian Harris, Annabel Charlesworth, Elaine Hall, Susan Annan
Land Holdings	Graham Carter
Records	
Meadow Garden, Hilgay	Annabel Charlesworth, Gillian Harris
War Memorial Refurbishment	Peter Bates, Ray Houghton, Graham Carter, Norman Highnam

Your County & Borough Councillors

County Councillor – Martin Storey Cllr.martin.storey@west-norfolk.gov.uk	01842 828016 & 07850 866854
Borough Councillor – Alan Holmes Cllr.alan.holmes@west-norfolk.gov.uk	01366 380 606 & 07885 258418

Proposed Application for Designated bathing water the River Wissey and Hilgay Riverside field.

We are investigating the process to get the River Wissey and the Riverside field area of Hilgay classed as designated bathing water.



If we do then it means that legally the river will be tested for water quality and signage will be erected to declare the water quality for swimming etc.

It will also mean that Hilgay could be the 2nd location in the country where a river is declared as safe bathing waters. (All other areas are coastal)

However, we have some hoops to jump through to get the area legally protected for the safety of the local community and all the visiting friends and families that use the Riverside field and its facilities.

The Parish Council need to get the landowners approval and the backing of the Borough council who will then be legally responsible for the signage as they already are on the coast beaches at places like Hunstanton but only once the river is adopted.

The call for evidence is as follows –

Evidence needed for designation

User surveys

You need to provide user surveys which have been carried out during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September) at peak use times (weekends, bank holidays and school holiday periods).

They should cover a minimum of 20 days, including 10 weekend or bank holiday days. Half of all survey days must be during school holiday periods.

You should carry out your survey when you expect high numbers of users. This could be during the warmest part of the day.

You must show a breakdown of the number of:

- Swimmers
- children paddling
- other beach and water users

Defra counts adults swimming and children both swimming and paddling as bathers.

Facilities at the area

Provide information about any facilities at the site that support and promote bathing, such as:

- Ease of access to the site
- Public toilets
- Changing facilities
- Parking or public transport
- Lifeguards
- First aid service
- Cafes, shops or kiosks

Local consultation

Provide evidence of consultation during the bathing season with local groups that may be affected by designation, for example:

- Bathers and other water users
- Owners of beach or waterside facilities
- Owners and operators of beach or waterside businesses
- Residents of the closest town or village
- Local environmental and civic groups and the chamber of commerce
- Neighbourhood and community representative groups
- Parish and town councils (where they are not the land owner)
- Local tourist office or other local tourism body
- Local regeneration office or other local regeneration body
- County, borough, district or unitary authority (where they are not the land owner)

So not a simple task but one that is achievable and will, we believe, benefit the community as a whole.

We would like to hear the views of the local residents and the local businesses on the thoughts of the proposed application – good and bad.

Please send all comments to The Parish Clerk – Diane Farrow:

hilgayparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

We would be grateful to get all responses back by the 19th July 2021



Getting to Know... Stephen Fry



Our intrepid reporter caught up with Stephen Fry – actor, presenter, author and national treasure, for the second round of our new Getting to Know You series...

Why did you become an actor and a writer?

It's like the old joke: Q: How do you get an elephant off the stage? A: You can't, it's in his blood. I remember when I was very small going to see a pantomime (in East Dereham). When Buttons asked if any children want to join him on stage, my brother (like most normal human beings) tried to hide under the seat. I leapt up in the air with my hand up squeaking to be noticed. As soon as I saw performers I wanted to be one. As for writing, It just seemed so natural to use this astounding gift we've all been given as humans to its utmost. I suppose when some people learn to walk and then run, they feel the need for speed and want to become athletes. As soon as I could speak, I wanted to stretch language everywhere it could go and use it for my working life.

What do you like best about Norfolk?

The people have quiet stoical strength combined with fabulous humour, (or "hoomer" I should say). But the coastline too of course. I love that it's not on the way to anywhere. I love that it isn't like the Cotswolds, full of people like me.

Can you share your most memorable moment as an actor?

Hm... interesting one. I suppose the opportunity to play Oscar Wilde is hard to beat. Every day to go to the film set, climb into those marvellous clothes and attempt to embody so remarkable a person. Goodness. I knew I wouldn't get many opportunities like that...

Who do you look up to and respect the most?

People who don't complain, who brighten up a room, who cope with what life throws at them. Not by any means necessarily well-known people. You wouldn't know their names, but they are the ones I would like to be when I grow up.

If you could go back in time, where would you go to?

Such an interesting question. I think anything earlier than about 1885 would distress me on account of the smell and the disease, which sounds a bit finicky, but frankly... before its great sewerage system was installed, London would have been pretty horrid. So, I would go for London in about 1895. The London of Sherlock Holmes, but also of Oscar Wilde. A London packed with people from all over the world, technology that would shrink that world and transform it is just around the corner. The telephone, car, film and flight are all less than ten years away. The Old Queen's still on her throne, but music hall, theatre and the newspaper and magazine industries are thriving. Art and design are exploding with imaginative daring.

What is your favourite film?

Gosh, that changes every day. Today let's say I'm in the mood for either *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* or *Kind Hearts and Coronets*. But how could I leave out *Red River* or *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*? Or *The Godfather* and *The Third Man* So hard to choose...

What's your favourite food?

Scrambled eggs on toast with shaved white truffle would do me very nicely every day.

Interview by Norman

From Councillor Alan Holmes

Borough Councillor for the Hilgay Ward of Hilgay Parish

Borough Council Matters

Well: Summer is here at last. But Covid 19 does not seem to have noticed. As I write, infections are starting to go up again, alarmingly quickly. Free day postponed until at least July. Hmm.

Be Careful; follow the guidelines – face-hands-masks-distance – and get vaccinated.

Flooding

I wrote last time about my concerns. Since then, we have all received a flyer about flooding jointly produced by Norfolk County Council (NCC) and the newly established Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA). It contains lots of good advice and guidance. Read it and keep it handy for next Autumn: and if you have thrown it away try the NCC website flooding pages. One key new phone number to get on your mobile is the new Norfolk Flooding Hotline number: 0344 800 8013. And remember if you are in immediate danger from flooding: ring 999.

This is a start to getting better coordination and coverage for those who are in potential danger. One organisation covering the whole county and drawing all the key players together is exactly what I was hoping for.

Finally, the Environment Agency have produced The Future Fens – Flood Risk Management baseline report. The Association of Drainage Boards are hosting the document (for technical reasons EA can't). See it here: www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/future-fens/. Pretty much a must read for anyone who wishes their family to live here for the foreseeable future and beyond.

Borough Council

We have a new Mayor, Cllr Harry Humphrey and a new Leader of the Council Cllr Stuart Dark. Both were appointed/elected at the first face to face Full Council meeting since February 2020.

The format of the last meeting was far from perfect, and we will have to repeat it in July as the dropping of restrictions will not now have happened. Other panels and committees have been meeting in hybrid form with some Cllrs and officers appearing remotely as do the public who wish to attend. That has proved equally difficult as the tech does not provide a good solution, even with a smaller group of virtual and actual attendees.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock, recently visited. He acknowledged the severe problem, but we will still not know until Dec at the earliest whether the QEH will be rebuilt or renewed: if at all. Borough Councillors are all lobbying hard. You can also write to our MP Liz Truss, or Mr Hancock telling them that we need progress now, not at the end of this year.

King's Lynn Town Fund Plan

You may have read that King's Lynn has won £25m from the government for its Town Plan. Not quite. The Borough Council has been invited to submit further, more detailed plans to secure some or all of this **TAXPAYER** funding for a variety of King's Lynn projects. It is a good start for Lynn but not as definite as some would have you believe. Meanwhile, the rest of us in the Borough will hope that some of the benefits will trickle down to us.

Enjoy the Summer months, **Alan Holmes**



General Matters



Hilgay Meadow

Hilgay Meadow on the Cemetery land is blooming with wildflowers, poppies, oxeye daisies, ragged robin, cornflowers along with native grasses which provide a haven for butterflies, bees, insects of all sorts and other wildlife.

Please do pay it a visit if you can. The Parish Council for Hilgay and TMB whose project it is would be delighted.

Many millions of acres of meadow have been lost over the last century but now villages and councils all over the county are now recreating these habitats on road verges and pieces of land like ours in Hilgay.



Raymond Alfred Houghton

Raymond Alfred Houghton (Ray) was born on the 22nd August 1933 he lived in Ten Mile Bank all his life finishing up just two doors from where he was born.

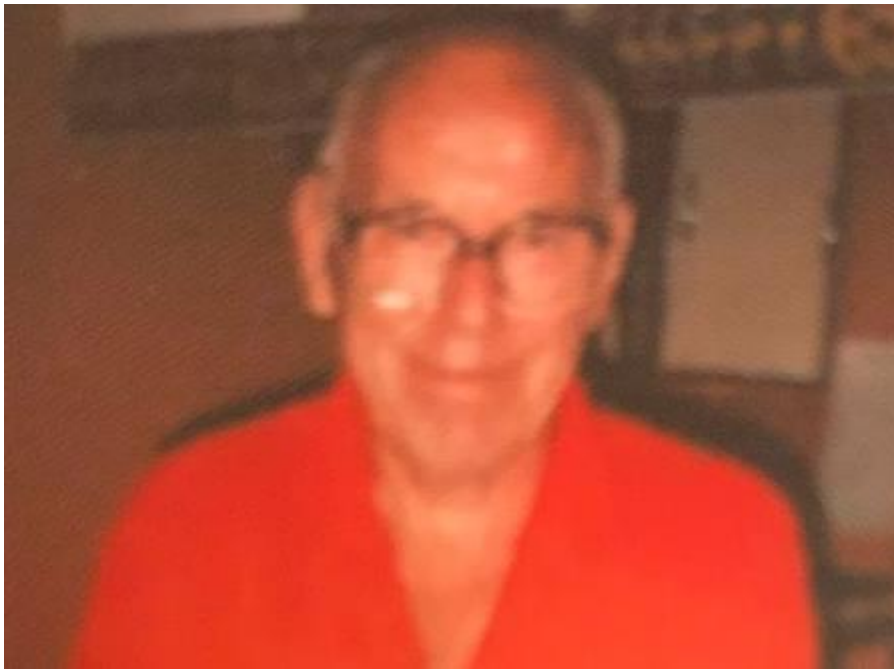
His was a life of service to his family and community, he served as a Parish Councillor for over 50 years as his Father before him, many as Chairman, equally the same amount of time as a School Governor and Chairman, he like his Father attended Ten Mile Bank School as did his children.

He had a deep attachment to the School and as a builder by profession gave many hours of time and materials to assist where ever he could.

He was also a trustee of the Feoffees for many years and gave great service to them.

Ray would do all he could to help anyone who needed assistance and the Parish Council thank him for all his service to our community, he will be greatly missed.

By Colin Wills



**Have you got some news or a story you'd like to share with your neighbours?
We want to hear from you!**
Email hilgayparishnews@gmail.com

Hilgay War Memorial – preparing for another 100 years and more



For almost 100 years the Memorial has stood in the heart of the Hilgay Village and over time weather has taken its toll on the structure.

Your Parish Council has been planning for a full refurbishment of the structure and its crumbling foundations for a number of years. In April, we agreed the proposal to start the process.

Taking advice from a leading conservational structural engineer, Wright Consulting, and working alongside a renowned stonemason company called Fairhaven Stone – the project got under way.

The first job was to remove the old structure and dig inspection pits underneath to access the foundation and to calculate the new foundation requirements.



Next, was to take the old Memorial away to be cleaned and damaged stones replaced and in the absence of the Memorial the new foundation has been laid to the exact instructions and calculations of the structural engineer.



Now the new base has been laid, we need to sit and wait for 28 days to allow the area to settle – prior to the refitting of the Memorial itself.

But as part of the program, we are also replacing the old concrete posts install c1930s and the old kerbs stone between the posts, all to be replaced with a stone similar to the existing Memorial itself and refitting of the chain between the posts.

We are aiming for project completion date of July 16th.

But it does not end there.

To protect the Memorial the Parish Council is in talks with Historic England and the process to have the Memorial registered as a historical monument has started and will take about 3 weeks after the monument is back on its foundations. This will give it listed status.

Our aim is to have a rededication event and we have already had offers to make the event memorable, respectful and social from people like:

- Hilgay Silver Band
- Royal British Legion
- Air Cadets
- St Marys Church
- RAF Marham
- USA Cemetery Madingley

Final date to be confirmed but if you wish to be part of it then please let us know by emailing

hilgayparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Hilgay Parish Council.

Mental health support available for the public

- It's important that we look after our mental wellbeing during this time – for tips and advice visit www.everymindmatters.co.uk.
- If you are worried about your own mental health and wellbeing call First Response, a free 24/7 helpline offering immediate support, on 0808 196 3494.
- 11 to 25 year olds in Norfolk and Waveney can get support and online counselling via www.Kooth.com. The service provides support or advice on any topic, including managing your feelings during the pandemic.
- JustOneNorfolk has a wealth of information and links to support the health and wellbeing of your family: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk.



Hilgay Village Hall

Working for the Community



Hilgay Village Hall is re-opening and needs you - yes YOU!!!

Hilgay Village Hall will be re-opening for bookings and events from 19-07-21 (Covid restrictions allowing). We are hoping to re-launch and host all your favourite events including:

- Hilgay Book Sale (likely October 2021)
- Film Nights
- Coffee Mornings
- Quiz Nights
- Yoga (already running on a Wednesday)

In addition we would like to get the Toddler Group running again - a grant is available to aid the start-up of this.

HOWEVER - the Village Hall is just an empty building without the support and commitment from the people it serves (ie YOU) to get involved, suggest ideas and attend events.

Maybe lockdown has made you focus more on your family and community and re-evaluate your priorities?

Maybe you want to get more involved in Hilgay Village life?

Maybe you have developed a new interest or have some exciting ideas for future groups or events in the Village Hall?

If so, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE - let us know.

The Village Hall Committee meets throughout the year and would really benefit from your ideas and / or involvement. The Village Hall is a wonderful resource for Hilgay. Now we are coming out of lockdown, this is the perfect opportunity to look at new ideas and invite more people to get involved in bringing the building at the heart of our community to life again.

The Village Hall facilities include:

- Covid hand sanitisation
- Air conditioning
- Free wi-fi
- Projection equipment
- Catering facilities
- Entertainment and Alcohol Licences
- Bar area
- Outside enclosed courtyard
- Inside toilets
- very competitive rates

Please contact **Di on 07900582887** if you have any ideas for events / groups or want to get involved (text or voice messages only please)

Kim on 01366-385234 for any booking enquiries

PLEASE NOTE we are considering shutting down the Hilgay Village Hall website and opening up a Facebook page (linked to the Hilgay Social Facebook page) - please keep an eye out for any updates.

Hilgay Village Hall is owned and maintained by Hilgay United Charities (The Feoffees) and run by a volunteer management committee on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the community.

Hilgay Methodist Church

Serving God and Serving the Community



CONTACTS

Revd Paul Critchley 01366 388766 (For enquiries about baptisms, marriages, bereavements, or funerals)

Mrs Pauline Driver – Church Steward 387317 (Bookings and details of Guild Meetings)

Mrs Lesley Dent – Church Council Secretary 387337 (Enquiries about church events)

WORSHIP

Currently we only hold two services a month. There will be services on:

- 13th June
- 27th June
- 11th July
- 25th July
- 8th August
- 22nd August

For further details of services, please look at our noticeboard or contact me Lesley Dent on 01366 387337.



At the time of writing, we are still following all the guidelines pertaining to masks, hygiene, fresh air and social distancing. As the church is now set out café style with small tables and chairs in “bubbles”, we started having tea and coffee again after our services on 30th May. We all bring our own mugs, which we place on trays labelled tea or coffee before the service. When they have been filled, we collect them. Wrapped biscuits are also provided!

DIARY DATES

Thursday, June 24th 10.00 -11.30 a.m.

We are hoping to hold a coffee morning depending on the regulations at the time. If you would like to book a “bubble”, please contact Lesley Dent on the number above.

150th Anniversary of Hilgay Methodist Chapel

The chapel was opened on 7th October 1871. Village life was very different then. At the time, the road leading to Ely, Cambridge and London went right through the village but the only traffic was horse drawn.

The previous year, the Education Act had laid the foundation for compulsory primary education nationwide. However, the school on the current site, was not opened until 1904.

Many changes have occurred since 1871 but the chapel is still open for worship and community use.

We haven't finalised our plans to celebrate this special anniversary. However, we very much hope to be able to hold an open day on Saturday, 4th September 2021 and a service at 3p.m. on Sunday, 5th September followed by an afternoon tea.

Hilgay All Saints Church

Serving God and Serving the Community

The Church (All Saints) is a large and handsome edifice approached by a long avenue of lime trees. It was restored and partly rebuilt in 1862-3 at the cost of about £2200, of which about half was given by the late rector, £100 by Mrs W L Jones, the lady of the manor, £60 by the Church Building Society, and the remainder by subscription and mortgage on the church estates, which has now been entirely paid off.

In 1872 the church was much improved by handsome standard duplex lamps, a dossal and hangings at the altar, and pendants to the lectern and pulpit have since been beautifully worked by Mrs Stocks. In 1881 the Rev Canon Beechey presented to the church a sweet-toned and handsomely decorated organ with three manuals and two and a half octaves of pedals, valued at £300. And the fine avenue of limes has been much beautified by the addition of a chaste strong oak lych gate at each end, at a cost of £160, the gift of Miss Beechey. A gilt cross and vase have also been presented by Major Champion Jones.

It now comprises a nave and chancel in the Decorated style, a south aisle of the Perpendicular period, and a square tower (rebuilt of brick in 1794) containing eight bells and a clock with two faces. The floor is paved with red and black tiles, and the church is finished throughout with low open seats of oak, every alternate one having a finely carved finial, copied from ancient examples still preserved in the building. The chancel is enclosed by a dwarf stone wall with a central opening. Its floor rises by five steps to the communion table, which is of good design; and it contains sedilia for three priests, open stalls for the choir, and recess filled by the organ.

At the east end of the aisle is a chantry, or chapel, belonging to the lord of the manor, and enclosed by some old open screenwork. It contains a piscina and several monuments, one of which is to Henry Hawe, to whom the manor of Woodhall was given by Henry VIII at the dissolution of the monasteries. Within the entrance to the tower is another portion of screenwork, furnished with handsome drapery presented by Miss Fowlis, who also presented the elegant altar-cloth. The font is circular and of bold but chaste design. It is of stone supported by shafts of Kilkenny marble. The beautiful pulpit is also circular, the upper part being of red veined alabaster, supported on an exquisitely sculptured arcade of Caen stone, beneath which the material is again alabaster, inlaid with green cement, and discs of Jasper in a fine diaper pattern; the lower portion consists of a thick central column, surrounded by smaller ones of red Mansfield stone. The roofs are of Memel fir, well carved, and of high pitch. A curious incised slab and many relics of the ancient sedilia, gable crosses etc, were found in the walls during the restorations, and have been carefully preserved or copied.

The church is partly lighted by electric light supplied from the rectory. The register dates from 1583. The Rectory, valued in KB at £10, and now £1600, is in the patronage of Hertford College, Oxford. The present rector, instituted in 1872, is Canon St Vincent Beechey MA, who has a good residence and about 86 acres of glebe.

Watch the notice board for upcoming services.



Riverside Federation

Hilgay & Ten Mile Bank School

Local schools, Hilgay Riverside Academy and Ten Mile bank Riverside Academy, have students excited and happy about things that happen daily and what is going to happen.

In Reception, they enjoy things like, role-playing: ice cream shop owners and buyers; pretending to be teachers and more. In the outside play area, they play in the sand-pit making, sand castles, houses and huts. They also enjoy the mud kitchen and the water kitchen. As well as playing, they also look forward to certain lessons. Lessons that the vast majority of the class are excited for are, P.E., art, maths, ICT and sounds write. In KS1, the years one and two enjoy things similar to the likes of the younger children. When they come into school, their teacher sometimes gives them colouring as their early morning work. At Hilgay, even through the pandemic, they have socially distanced so they could sing the 'Good Morning' song.

In the next phase up we have the years 3 and 4. This class were excited for coming back to school. Last term they made pencil cases for their Design and Technology subject. They have been enjoying their cricket in P.E and their experiments in Science. The majority of the children have been enjoying playing football on large field just outside the school grounds. In their music lessons, they are participating in the Bucket Beats event held by the Norfolk Music Hub.

In Upper KS2, children have liked to do Art were they have studied about the brass Benin plaques and they made their own cardboard plaques of bugs. The whole group enjoyed when The Young'uns helped them write a song about the village hall, which used to be a workhouse, over zoom. Most of the class like learning about space; in reading were they read the book race to space as well as in science were they are learning about the Big Bang. Most of the class are extremely excited to go on Residential at Norfolk lakes from Monday 28th to Wednesday. The Year Fives are excited to wear hoodies in Year 6 because wearing them makes them stand out from the rest of the school. Some of the Year 6s are excited about the leaver's assembly as it indicates that they are growing up. In contrast, some Year 6s are upset about leaving primary school because they were there for their entire childhood.

In conclusion, this federation has planned plenty of exciting opportunities and challenges for the students by showing the children respect.

By Nikolas, Sapphire and Lucy – Year 6



Could you be a school governor?

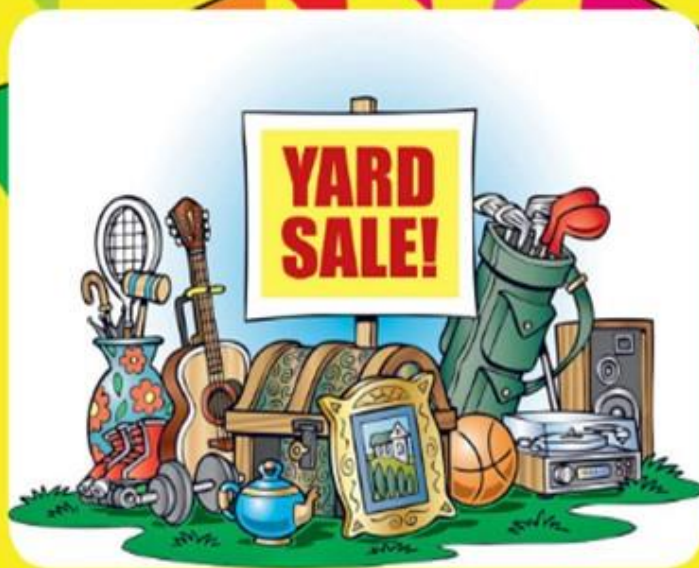
Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank Riverside Academies (Riverside Federation) are looking for new governors from the community.

School governors have different skills, knowledge and experience. The business of the school is progressed by the governors working together in the best interests of the school children.

Every governor is expected to contribute to the conduct of school business and every governor can expect to learn something new.

Training will be provided.

Contact Mrs Turner, Executive Head Teacher for further details
head@hilgayriverside.norfolk.sch.uk or 01366 377310



HILGAY YARD SALE

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE

9 AM - 2PM

**COME AND BROWSE AROUND OUR VILLAGE
AND GRAB A BARGAIN!**

MAPS FOR SALE 9-12

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A SELLER,
PLEASE CALL SONIA - 07792 072259
OR EMAIL sonia.dudzik@yahoo.co.uk**

**ALL PROFITS RAISED GO TO FRIENDS OF HILGAY
RIVERSIDE ACADEMY**

**PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY. THERE ARE
NO PUBLIC TOILETS AVAILABLE**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

St Mark's, Ten Mile Bank

HAPPY 175TH BIRTHDAY



Having been built in 1846, St Mark's is this year celebrating its 175th birthday. We had hoped to hold some events in order to celebrate this milestone, but lock downs stopped all plans!



Proverbs 9:11

For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Services are held at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

Hilgay United Charities (The Feoffees)

Annual Report 2020

Hilgay Feoffee Charity was founded by the will of the Reverend Nicholas Spencer in 1701 and was regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners in 1871.

Originally operating as two separate charities, it is now run as one consolidated entity – **Hilgay United Charities (No. 208898)**. Its annual returns can be found online at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk

The income of the Charity is derived from land rents, the hire of moorings on the River Wissey and funds invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund. No external fundraising is carried out. The Charity is tasked with the following:

- The maintenance and insurance of all Charity land and property in good order
- The provision of grants to both village schools to purchase additional items such as books, computers and play equipment
- The provision of Apprenticeship Grants to local young people to purchase books or equipment for further education and training
- Providing assistance to local residents with fuel costs in the winter months
- The provision and maintenance of Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank Village Halls
- Providing occasional grants for projects that benefit the local community

In the last 10 years, The Charity has made grants totalling over £80,000.

In 2020, substantial grants were made to equip both village schools with new laptop computers; grants were provided to assist young people in apprenticeships and further education; a number of residents received help with winter fuel costs and grants were made to local organisations including Hilgay Silver Band for refurbishment of their practice room.

The trustees wish to thank the volunteers and management committee who give freely of their time to manage both village halls for the benefit of the community.

The Charity operates solely within the Parish of Hilgay with Ten Mile Bank. Its work is overseen by a body of 10 Trustees, who meet three times a year. There are currently six Trustees from Hilgay and four from Ten Mile Bank. Four of the Trustees are also Parish Councillors. The Charity is administered by the Clerk – Mr Anthony Hall. The current Chairman is Mr Brian Charlesworth of Wood Hall, Hilgay and the Vice-Chairman is Mr Colin Wills of Ten Mile Bank.

Rambling on...

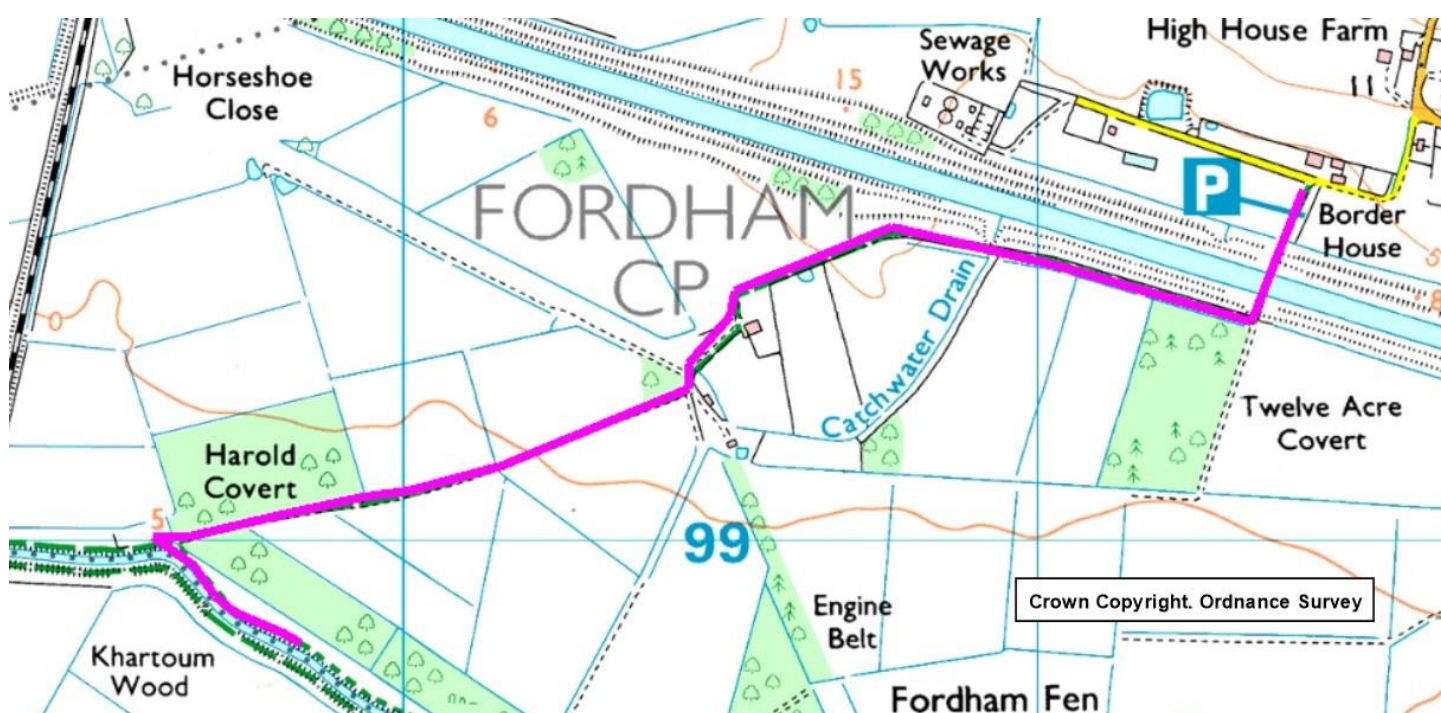
A new section of the Riverside News for our keen walkers!

Submit your favourite walk by emailing hilgayparishnews@gmail.com

Fordham Fen – A walk to the Wissey and back

Distance: 3 miles. Time: 1 to 1.5 hrs

Start and Finish at Fordham Car Park - National Grid Reference. TL 614995



From Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank, take the A10 north towards Downham Market. After crossing the Cut-off Channel bridge, take the road on the left signposted “By Road” then immediately after the delightful little church of St Mary, turn left again. The lane turns to the right and after about 100 yds turn left into the track for the little car park. Here there is a sign stating “Fenn Lane Footpath and Bridleway”. Park your car and walk along the unmade track towards the bridge over the tree-lined Cut-off Channel. As this is a bridleway, cycling is also permitted.

The Cut-off Channel was built in the 1950s and 60s as part of flood defence measures, taking water away from the rivers Wissey, Lark and Little Ouse. During the summer it is used as part of a scheme to supply drinking water to Essex. Many types of water bird can be seen from the bridge including Grebes, Cormorants, Ducks, Swans and, if you are very lucky, a Kingfisher.

Immediately after the bridge, the track turns sharp right, running between the banks of the channel and Twelve Acre Covert where game and woodland birds can be heard in the trees. After crossing the Catchwater Drain, the track turns southwest across the Fen with flat, cultivated fields on both sides and views across to Hilgay on your left. The track, between hawthorn hedges, turns to the left in front of some farm sheds and then slightly to the right before a track leading to a house on the left. Stay on the main track, keeping a small wood with a tin shed in it to the right.

For the next 500 or so yards, there are open fields to right and left where you are more than likely to see muntjac, hares and the occasional fox. The wood ahead on the right is Harold Covert where, in the spring, lies a carpet of daffodils while buzzards and rooks circle overhead. A little further on, the tall trees of Khartoum Wood come into view on the left, laid out in straight plantation lines. As you come out of the trees, there are views across the fields to the right towards the London to King's Lynn railway line.

Ahead, climb up through a wooden gate to the north bank of the River Wissey, along which a footpath continues; left to Hilgay and right, under the railway bridge to the Great Ouse and Denver Sluice. A few yards along the bank to the left is a gap in the tall, waving reeds. This is a 48-hour mooring of the Great Ouse Boating Association and a pleasant place to sit for a while before retracing your steps to the car park at Fordham.

On your way back, as you come out of the woods, look over the fen to the right to see the roof of a pump house which used to contain at first a steam and then a diesel engine. It was built in 1847 by Edward Roger Pratt of Ryston Hall to drain his estate.

The route described is on a public bridleway. All other tracks, woods and land are private property. Please ensure that you stay on the track and keep dogs under control to protect the wildlife.

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The Bicentenary of the Eau Brink Cut

Kathy Saunders

Two hundred years ago, Hilgay residents were looking forward to a more secure future. As long as anyone remembered, their livelihoods could be lost at random by floods from the River Great Ouse which ruined vast areas of rich farmland, animals and homes.

Local landowners wanted to straighten the river's course to speed its flow and improve drainage, but this met bitter opposition from merchants who argued a straight river would result in currents so violent that ships in Kings Lynn's harbour would be endangered, together with the vital transport system provided by barges on the River Great Ouse and its tributaries.

After much argument, Parliament authorised the Eau Brink Cut and a bridge at Kings Lynn in 1795, but progress stalled due to shortage of funds and Napoleon's threat to invade Britain. Thousands of Fenland men left to fight but they returned to unemployment and an agricultural slump. Soon, corn prices were so high that many saw their families going hungry and food riots broke out. In 1816, Downham Market magistrate John Thurlow Dering of Crow Hall, Denver, had to read the Riot Act to disperse a hostile mob who chased him through the streets. Dozens of men and women were arrested by the Upwell Yeomanry. An unfortunate few were sent for trial in Norwich where despite many appeals for clemency, two were executed, five were transported to Australia and several sentenced to hard labour.

To counteract wide social unrest, the Government eventually provided funds to employ men on public works, and the Eau Brink Cut went ahead. The shallow semi-circular course of the River Great Ouse around Marshland was directed into a short straight channel from Eau Brink at Wiggenhall and conveyed directly to King's Lynn and out to sea. The bridge opened on 28th June 1821, and the Eau Brink Cut on July 31st 1821, both to great celebration.

In *Three Million Wheelbarrows*, the River Great Ouse tells of its resistance to man's control, describing the frailty of those humans who tried to control its troublesome waters. Now, the river continues to offer a cautionary message about the consequences of man's activities on our environment.

Three Million Wheelbarrows - The story of the Eau Brink Cut, by Kathleen Saunders, will be available from local village stores and <https://bitternbooks.co.uk/> or Mousehold Press <https://www.mousehold-press.co.uk>

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

HILGAY

Hilgay Riverside Academy	Office	01366 387 685
Friends of Hilgay Riverside Academy	Hayley Burton	07748 164536
St John's Ambulance	Peter Taylor	01366 324 558
Parents & Toddlers	Cheryl Nadin-Hurley	07305 314 886
Hilgay Silver Band (free tuition & instruments available)	Shona Lidgely	07885 712636
Hilgay Good Companions Club (over 55s Club)		
Hilgay Methodist Church	Pauline & David Driver Lesley Dent	01366 387 317 01366 387 337
Hilgay Carpet Bowls	Val Gooding	01366 385 806
All Saints' PCC	Peter Bates	01366 387 988
All Saints' Church	Priest in Charge – Fr James Mather	01366 382 187
Hilgay Playing Field/River Field	Colin Wills	01366 377 743

TEN MILE BANK

Ten Mile Bank Riverside Academy	Office	01366 377 310
Friends of Ten Mile Bank Academy	Jessica Rolph	01366 377 774
Ten Mile Bank Village Hall Bookings	Jill Field	01366 377 640
St Mark's Church Ten Mile Bank	Father Alan Davies	01553 810 675

OTHER CONTACTS

Hilgay Parish Council Clerk	Diane Farrow	07706 345156 hilgayparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk
Hilgay United Charities	Tony Hall	hilgay.feoffees@aol.com 07900 518153
Neighbourhood Watch (Hilgay)	Nigel Congdon	07798 700561 ncongdon@hotmail.co.uk
Neighbourhood Watch (Ten Mile Bank)	Colin Wells	07760 390848 c.wills669@btinternet.com

If you think a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of County Lines, criminal or sexual exploitation in Norfolk:

- Call 0344 800 8020 and speak to someone at Norfolk Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS)
- Ring 101 to speak to Norfolk Police - Operation Gravity.
- **In an emergency always dial 999.**
- Ring 0800 555 111 for Crime stoppers or contact them via the Crime stoppers website

The ROSE Campaign (Reaching Out on Sexual Exploitation) is a registered charity that can also help.

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Elizabeth regularly holds surgeries across the constituency and attends meetings with Parish Councils. She can be contacted via email, post or telephone to help you with any enquiries or to make surgery appointments.

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Riverside News Advertising

The Parish Council have decided that as from 01 June 2020 if you would like to advertise for the next year the advertising rates for Riverside News will be as Follows:

Quarter page advert	£20 a year for up to 6 issues
Half Page Advert	£30 a year for up to 6 issues
Full Page Advert	£40 a year for up to 6 issues
Charity Event	£5 an advert
New Business	One free advert
Hilgay Cinema	Free full-page advert per issue
Hilgay Village Hall	Free full-page advert per issue

Commercial adverts for activities in Riverside Academy premises will be charged according to the size of the advert.

No deductions will be made for pro rata requests.

The Parish Council will start invoicing at the beginning of May 2021 for payment by 30th June 2021. They will remain mindful of payment terms given the current climate on an individual basis.