

Report for Bawdsey Parish 2020

2020 was a year like no other with the arrival of the global pandemic, Covid-19. A national lockdown was finally called by Prime Minister Johnson on March 23rd although many village events had already been cancelled as the impact of the virus began to be felt locally. Residents were ordered to stay at home, gatherings were banned, and all non-essential retail was closed. Restrictions lasted until July when things began to open up once again. Such an unprecedented event revealed the resilience of small villages such as Bawdsey where a group of volunteers quickly came together and shopped and collected prescriptions for the more vulnerable members of the community.

But at the beginning of the year, no one could imagine that 2020 would be so disruptive, and village life carried on very much as before.

January:

New Year's Day Swim. This took place on a bright, cold morning at Bawdsey Quay when over 10 swimmers bravely faced the chilly waters of the Deben. £268.07 was collected for the rare cancer charity, Chordoma. At the hut on the Quay, Harbour Master, John White, and his wife served mulled wine and mince pies in aid of the Felixstowe Coastal Patrol, raising £1,600. The ferry took visitors over the river to the hamlet of Felixstowe Ferry and on the Bawdsey side, the Boat Quay café also did a brisk trade.



Swimmers and well-wishers at Bawdsey Beach on January 1st

Resurfacing of the pavement on The Street: 750 metres of broken up pavement along The Street was repaired and resurfaced over the month of January making it much safer for pedestrians. Heavy vehicles from Scottish Power and agricultural vehicles had damaged the pavement over the years. The photo below on the left shows how it looked like before.



Meetings: Storm Brendan brought strong winds and heavy rain to the UK and Ireland on 13th January. The January meeting of **Bawdsey Parish Council** was postponed to 22nd January because the Chairman was stuck in Scotland as ferries from the islands were not operating.

The AGM of the **Bawdsey Coastal Partnership** was held on Tuesday 14th January. The policy review of the Shoreline Management Plan was in progress. A further meeting with Jacobs, the consultancy firm which carried out research into the movement of shingle along the coast, was due to take place soon. The final wording of the revised plan of the SMP should be ready by the end of the summer although it will be autumn before any policy decision is made. The Suffolk Coastal Forum will decide what changes will be made. Key decisions will involve whether the policy to “Hold the Line” is feasible. Resilience is the key buzzword.

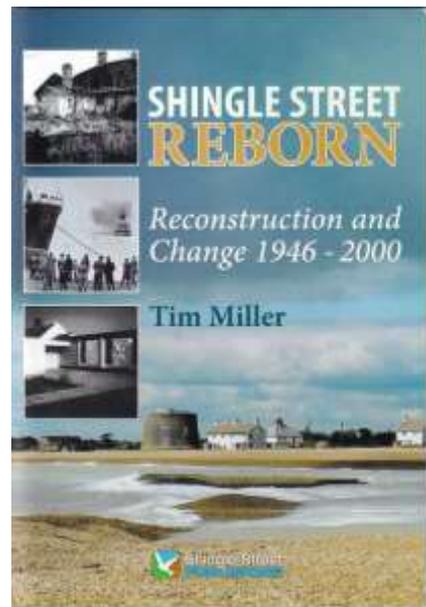
A joint meeting of the peninsular councils took place in Butley on January 23rd where it was decided to coordinate and put in place an action plan to flag up all the sites which flood regularly within the villages to present to the Suffolk County Council Highways so they could be addressed once and for all.

The Peninsula Medical Practice: Bawdsey residents attend the medical centre at the neighbouring village of Alderton. This practice amalgamated with the Aldeburgh Surgery this year to prevent the latter from closing. The new system of on-the-day only appointments and fewer face-to-face appointments has been met with dismay from some quarters.

Defibrillator Training: A session led by the two local First Responders was held in the village hall, open to all, to refresh residents’ CPR skills and to train them to use the defibrillator outside the VH.

Pop-up Pub: On January 31st, the official date that the UK left the EU, a pop-up pub was held in the village hall. Rain fell.

Bawdsey Green Group: A new green group was inaugurated in January with a core group of six members. It was decided to install a tetrapack bin (paid by the parish council) outside the village hall since they were no longer recyclable by the local authority. Refills of laundry, washing up liquid and hand soap is available locally and a new green magazine was distributed. Tips for recycling will be put in the Bawdsey Bulletin every month.



Shingle Street Matters: The Shingle Street Settlement Company has opted to keep its telephone box for emergency use only and BT will maintain it as usual. The coastguards are in favour of this. A new book on Shingle Street has just been published entitled Shingle Street Reborn 1945-2000 by Tim Miller retailing at £4.95.

End of the mobile shop: The mobile grocery ceased trading at the end of the month. Mother and daughter Sonya and Sheila had been coming to the village for the past nine years.

Death of Anne Nicholson: A long-time resident of Bawdsey, Anne died suddenly on January 17th at the age of 88 with the funeral held on February 17th at 2pm.

Coastal Erosion: This ever-present problem increased in severity over 2020 with winds and heavy rain exacerbating the loss of cliff and entailing more falls especially along the cliff top from East Lane to the mouth of the estuary. PGL undertook work at the northern end of the shore beyond Bawdsey Quay with the installation of sheet piling at a cost of £1.25 million pounds. Suffolk CC put up a notice closing the footpath which follows the coast towards East Lane at low tide, but many walkers ignore it much to the dismay of the local coastguards. The photo on the left shows a walker crossing the ditch from the Landmark Path via a piece of rope in 2015. The photo on the right below shows the same spot five years later.



On January 31st the first two cases of Coronavirus were confirmed in Newcastle after two members of the same family became unwell in York after travelling from China.

February

Weather matters: Storm Ciara hit the UK early February causing a tidal surge on February 10th leaving a lot of detritus on the Quay. The high winds battered the tin chapel on PGL land which had been the subject of a possible renovation project.

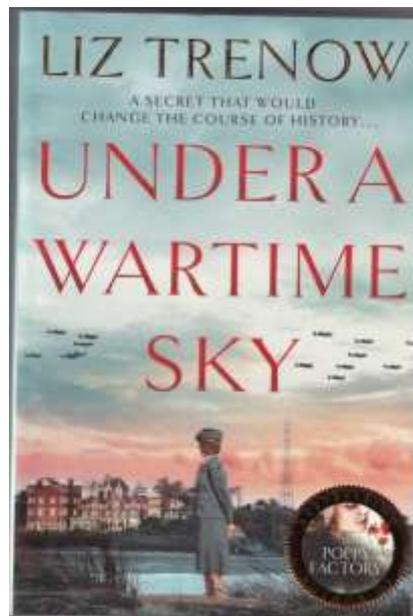
Retirement of the Rev Ruth Hatchett: Ruth gave her last service on 2 February before retiring to Tiptree in Essex with her husband Michael. Both had been very active participants in life on the Peninsula and will be much missed. The new Team Rector will be Rev Giles Tulk who will be living in Orford.

Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club: A talk took place in the VH on 8th February as part of the winter series entitled A Baltic Cruise in 1939 given by Julia Jones.

Jumble Sale: The annual jumble sale, organised by the church and village hall committee, took place on 15th February raising £357.12 divided between the two organisations.

Moss on Recreation Ground: The tennis courts have been mechanically brushed and treated with moss killer by members of the tennis club. Similar work has to be applied to the play-area and a work party will be set up for March 29th.

“Under a Wartime Sky”: A new novel set in Bawdsey during WW2 and featuring Bawdsey Manor and the RAF Radar Station has been published by Pan MacMillan. Entitled “Under a Wartime Sky” it was written by Liz Trenow and retails at £7.99.



March

On 2nd March, there were 40 known cases of Covid in the UK. The first death took place on 5th March. On 16th March HM government confirmed a total of 1,372 cases. Lockdown took place on 23rd March when there were 6,650 cases and 335 deaths.

Coffee and Chat: At this month’s Coffee and Chat on Thursday 5th March PC Rachael Partridge was in attendance and distributed a selection of leaflets about crime deterrence and anti-burglary devices for sheds and garages following the spate of burglaries in December.

Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club: A talk took place in the VH on 7th March entitled ***Bawdsey, the Haven*** given by local historian Peter Wain.

Pop-Up Pub: This event took place on March 13th in the Village Hall with Bingo for the first time. £400 was raised.

High Tide: Another high tide took place on 12th March overflowing the Quay. Concerns have been raised about visitors endangering their safety by walking on the beach before a tidal surge is due.

Orwell Development: Houses on the first phase of this development were advertised for sale on a shared ownership basis with priority being given to those with a local connection. The houses for sale comprise two new 2-bed houses for £110,000 and four 3-bed houses for £120,000 entailing a 50% share for shared ownership sale and rent to be paid on remaining 50%.

March Meetings:

The AGM of **Bawdsey Coastal Partnership** took place on Saturday 14th March in Alderton Village Hall where the speaker was Paul Hayden, Chair of the Anglia Regional Flood and Coastal Communities. The talk was “Local Decisions in a Changing Climate”. Attendance was low. The Chairman Nick Crick resigned and recommended the partnership refocus and integrate more closely with other kindred groups in exploring more innovative adaptations for resilience to coastal erosion.

Bawdsey Parish Council: This took place on 16th March and was the last face-to-face PC meeting of 2020. Councillors decided to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting in April and to review May’s AGM nearer the time.

Mindful of the impending lockdown councillors sat at segregated tables. **A new councillor**, Robert Thurkettle, was co-opted following the resignation of Emma Aldous. Robert is a part-time coastguard and also a school governor and will bring his experience of both these roles to the council. The purchase of a weather station and a tetrapack bin for the village hall was approved. ESC Councillor James Mallinder reported that the council offices were closed and that services would have to be accessed online. Green waste collection has been suspended.

The village hall rep Cll Robin Johnson reported that the annual May fete had been postponed until September. It was hoped that with the suspension of events in the VH, there can be a deep clean of the hall together with redecoration and minor repairs. It was unlikely the Easter Egg hunt would take place in April.

Emergency Committee: A mutual aid leaflet was being printed for residents, giving advice and offering assistance for the impending lockdown. This would be distributed via the Bulletin and by letter drops. The parish council has endorsed this action and will fund the printing costs.

Scottish Power News: The work to install infrastructure for the cables from windfarms EA1 and EA3 to come ashore was completed at the end of last year. Reinstatement of the landfall site and replanting of hedges will take place later this year. The dismantling of the Haul Road leading down to the Deben will not take place until the land has dried out sufficiently to get the plant onto the fields.

Judicial Review: Following East Suffolk Council’s decision to allow the construction by PGL of a recreational lake on ancient marshland, it is being taken to a judicial review by a private individual which will take place in London in the summer if the courts are sitting. The parish council opposed the construction of the lake in 2019.

Disabled Access at Boathouse Café: Following talks between PGL and Di Clouting who runs the cafe, a new plan to address the lack of disabled access has been formulated and the plan sent into ESC for its approval. A few tables and chairs could be set out below the café and

refreshments brought down to disabled customers. Furthermore, a metal structure could be put over the existing steps to make the gradient less challenging. Councillors agreed this would be the best solution to a longstanding problem in addition to the provision of two parking places for the disabled. It will now be considered by East Suffolk Council.

Lockdown: Post 16th March most events were cancelled. These included craft group, Hollesley community café and the village working party day. Church services were suspended. Work on the Orwell housing development was halted.

Everyone was enjoined to work from home if possible. One walk a day was allowed for exercise. The playground, tennis courts and multi-sports court were closed. A Covid 19 Help leaflet was printed giving the numbers of volunteers who could shop or collect prescriptions for vulnerable residents. Local farmer Chris Mann offered potatoes and onions to residents to be collected from outside the village hall.

The weather in March was warm and sunny which encouraged more people to come to the seaside before formal lockdown. There were also grumblings at the arrival of those who have second homes in the village.

Clapping for NHS Carers was instituted at the end of March following similar initiatives in other European countries. Along the Street residents came out to stand on their doorsteps at 7pm, wave to their neighbours and clap and whistle to show support for the NHS.

April:

On 1st April there were 4,914 reported cases of Covid in the UK and 672 deaths.

As life slowed down, traffic almost ceased. Bawdsey is used to heavy agricultural vehicles rumbling along The Street not to mention dumper trucks coming to remove hardcore from the Scottish Power landfill site so the silence apart from the springtime bird song was appreciated.

The weather was also unseasonably warm in the run up to Easter on 12th April, rising to 20°C. Most people walked from home around the village centre or to East Lane and Bawdsey Quay. Blossom trees came out early and the bright yellow squares of oilseed rape brightened the landscape. The Speed Indicator Device read STAY AT HOME. The PC made a point of not taking any action regarding non-residents who stayed in their second homes during lockdown. Police cars visited most days to monitor visitors from outside the area.

More people signed up to have milk and groceries delivered from the two milk companies, Milk and More and Foulgers' Dairy who come three times a week to the village. Alderton shop expanded its wares and instituted a safe regime whereby customers stood at the door and gave their order to Judith Vaudry or her helpers who were distanced by a table's length. Card payments were encouraged. Still more people had grocery deliveries from the big supermarkets if they could get a slot.

East Suffolk council together with Suffolk County Council spearheaded a campaign called Home But Not Alone to support vulnerable people in Suffolk.

Peninsula Practice: For reasons of safety, Alderton surgery was closed for face-to-face appointments with patients diverted to Orford surgery. Alderton dispensary was still open.

Farming: Spring crops sown in Bawdsey were turf, peas, wheat and oil-seed rape. Maize is also grown for the biodigester at Rendlesham. More horses were liveried at Red House Farm with a second field opened to horses.

Planning Applications: Two Planning Applications were submitted this month, namely two barn conversions: 17 Acre Barn, a disused modern barn site on East Lane and a traditional old barn on Ferry Road. The former was rejected by East Suffolk Council, but the latter was approved. An appeal was put in by the owner of 17 Acre Barn but it was later turned down.

May

On 2nd May there were 4,727 new cases in the UK and 698 deaths.

Swifts and swallows returned early to the village. Swallows and martins could be seen in numbers at East Lane Point and swifts whirled screeching around The Street at evening. The fine weather continued throughout May and following the Prime Minister's slight relaxation of the lockdown on 10th, there were many more people coming into the village to exercise at Bawdsey Quay, East Lane and Shingle Street, including many camper vans.

Two long-standing residents celebrated big birthdays in May but were unable to have parties. Bidy Sproxton celebrated her 90th on 3rd May and her son Peter together with friends and neighbours gathered socially distanced on the Street and sang Happy Birthday. Peter Monk from The Old Star celebrated his 75th while his wife Jane turned 70 on 8th May.



Villagers clapping for Bidy Sproxton (Clynt Garnham)

Clapping for Carers continued throughout the month and two local ladies made scarecrows honouring the roles of key workers- a medical worker and a bin collector.



Scarecrows at the junction of Red House Lane and The Street

VE Day Friday 6th May: Unlike some villages, Bawdsey had no communal celebrations of VE Day. A few houses decorated their properties with bunting and neighbours enjoyed a glass of wine together.



A house decorated for VE Day on East Lane

Lockdown rules were being reviewed every three weeks and on 10th May the Prime Minister allowed more workers to return to their jobs outside including building workers and self-employed small tradespeople. The Orwell Development restarted in the village.

The weather continued very hot and over the two weekends of 8-9th and 15-17th May, more visitors came to Bawdsey Quay, East Lane and Shingle Street. These included a number of camper vans. With the promise of further relaxation of restrictions in June, visitor numbers spiralled upwards causing a great deal of concern locally because of the lack of social distancing. A count of cars and camper vans established that 30 rising to 70 cars at the end of the month were parked at East Lane and 150 were parked at Shingle Street on the

weekend of 27th. BBQs were seen on Bawdsey beach. A resident expressed his feelings as to the cause of this civil disobedience in a witty post on his blackboard.



Meetings: All parish council meetings post March were conducted via Zoom. The normal PC meeting was held on 28th May. Key points which emerged from the meeting were:

- PGL is installing a number of warning signs around the site to deter trespassers and to warn about the danger of cliff falls. SCC Rights of Way Officer is also installing a sign stating that the footpath along the beach is closed beyond the pilings.
- East Suffolk Council is administering a new discretionary grant for those unable to secure government funding due to loss of business. Green waste collection which had been suspended has been resumed; car park charges have restarted; Foxhall Road recycling facility has resumed.
- The VH committee received a grant of £10,000 from central government which takes the pressure off for this year. All villages halls were eligible for this grant. The Chairman has been selling various items outside the village hall over the last free weekends with proceeds going to the village hall funds. The historic fence in front of the VH has been reinstated following the removal of the BT telephone box last year.
- The Deben Estuary Partnership has been awarded grant funding from the AONB for the installation of photo posts along the estuary and coast to monitor coastal erosion.
- A resident has volunteered to make non-medical, cotton face masks for vulnerable parishioners or anyone who would benefit from one paid for by the PC.
- A new parish clerk, Tiffany Pollock, took over from Jenny Webb who has served from October 2014.

Further Coastal erosion: Photos showing remains of WW2 buildings on the edge of the cliff were photographed and articles in EADT warned visitors not to walk under the cliffs. SCC posted warning notices at Bawdsey Quay.



Clapping for Carers: The end of May saw the suspension of the Clapping for Carers initiative. It not only provided a means of showing appreciation but for those shielding, it also gave the opportunity of interacting with neighbours outdoors particularly on sunny evenings.



A window display in Fern Terrace showing support for the NHS

June:

New daily Covid cases on 1st June were 1,434 with 86 deaths

Following a new announcement by the Prime Minister on 28th May, non-essential shops were allowed to open, starting on June 15th and masks were made compulsory on public

transport and in indoor settings such as shops a month later. Groups of 6 from different households could meet outdoors.

Planning Meeting: A planning meeting was held on June 4th via Zoom to discuss a third planning application submitted to East Suffolk to develop the Cranes Garage site that had fallen into disrepair. Application DC/20/1404/FUL entailed the demolition of the car showroom, the construction of 3 dwellings and garages and conversion of former workshops buildings to employment units plus one holiday unit at first floor.



The old show room of Cranes Garage



The old smithy and adjacent workshop

The parish council approved the application with several conditions, and it was eventually passed by East Suffolk Council in November.

Weather: After two months of near unbroken sunny weather, heavy rain fell on 5th and 17th of June causing flash floods on East Lane, The Street and Red House Lane.



Bawdsey Primary School: A new septic tank was installed in the grounds of the primary school. It was a major operation, complicated by the fact the water table is very high in this area. The school reopened to reception, years 1 and 6 on 8th June before work was completed and Portaloos had to be used temporarily. The head teacher, Katie Butler, will also be taking on the role of head teacher of Orford CEVAP Primary School in September.

American helicopter exercises by 352d Special Operations Wing took place at East Lane on 9th June. Based at Mildenhall the unit is part of the Air Force Special Operations Command. It is the only Air Force special operations unit in the European Theatre. The noise was deafening!



Airman being winched up from the sea at East Lane.

Pea Harvest: On the evening of 21st June the pea harvesters arrived, and in a few hours had stripped the field and filled the crop in refrigerated lorries to be taken to the pea factory.



Yoga on the Recreation Ground: A new mixed ability yoga class started up on the recreation ground and attracted 6 people who were able to enjoy an hour-long class in the open air given by Ellie Pendleton.

July

There were 97 Covid deaths on July 1st and 60 newly reported cases.

Excess Visitors: Disquiet about visitor numbers and specifically the number of camper vans at the Quay have been expressed by residents. Camper vans are causing erosion of the river bank, litter bins are overflowing and there have been fears of potential accidents.



Camper Vans parked along the riverside (Barry Paul)

Starting up again: July saw a limited service by the Deben Ferry which runs from Bawdsey Quay to Felixstowe Ferry. The Boathouse Café started serving takeaways on July 4th amidst new Covid measures. St. Mary's Church opened for private prayer but not for services. The Mobile Library restarted on 21st July. The monthly Coffee and Chat met outside the village hall for the first time since March. The tennis courts also reopened although the playground needed to be swept to avoid foot slippage before it could be open.



Di Clouting at her new counter at the Boathouse Cafe

Swift boxes: Swift nesting boxes have been filled on the back of the Village Hall and in boxes on the houses opposite. Residents were encouraged to log any sightings on the national swift register.

Heavy Traffic: Traffic in the village increased in July with a fleet of high-sided vehicles taking the maize crop to the anaerobic digester at Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham. More speeding

tractors have been registered as wheat and barley harvests were carried out. Tipper r Us lorries have been continuing to remove hard core from the Scottish Power landfall site.

The village hall has been made Covid secure and is now open for hire with a maximum of 18 people allowed, a one-way system and hand sanitiser points. New CCTV has been installed at the front and back of the hall.

Parish Council Meeting: At July's PC meeting, it was decided to buy a sign for the East Lane car park asking visitors to leave space for the disabled to access the sea wall. The new weather station has been moved to the garden of one of the councillors where it is recording data to be sent to researchers at UCL carrying out work on coastal erosion.



Councillors will meet shortly with officers from East Suffolk Council to discuss measures to improve parking on the Quay and along the riverside and to put in place a programme of work.

Orwell Housing: The second phase of this development has now started. The first phase of house sales of the new development called *Bawdsey Manor Gardens* are on the market for shared ownership. The two bungalows have already been sold.



August

On August 1st there were 761 new Covid cases reported and 5 deaths.

Weather: Temperatures in August reached highs of 88°F, 26°C. Thunderstorms also occurred over the month especially 14-15th when there was also heavy rain. The combination of long periods of dry weather followed by storms in August led to lower yields of wheat and barley.

Pop Up Pub: This took place on the recreation ground on Saturday 1st. Approximately 60 people participated, each within their own bubbles which were marked out on the grass. The evening was a balmy one until 9pm when there was a fierce downpour which drove everyone homewards. £400 was taken on the night.

Bawdsey Radar: The museum did not reopen at Easter as planned but has been preparing the space to be Covid-compliant ready for opening in the autumn. In the background a series of podcasts about radar were being prepared. The first one told of Britain's earliest radar systems and the men and women involved, scientists, radar operators, decision makers and politicians. They are available to listen to via Google, Apple and Spotify.

Coastguard Warnings: Coastguards warned of visitors using inflatables at the mouth of the Deben where tides are strong. Worryingly a safety sign put up on the cliffs on land owned by PGL to warn of cliff falls was removed soon afterwards. Suffolk CC installed its own sign at the end of the Landmark path which fell down two months later due to erosion.



Scottish power cabling out at sea: On 31st August Vessel Figaro was seen out at sea 54 metres long and 12 metres wide, laying down cables for the next two wind farms EA2 and EA1 North. At the landfall site on Ferry Road and the haul road opposite, SP has been replacing topsoil on the fields affected by the cable laying.

September

The number of new Covid cases on September 1st was 1,295 with 3 deaths.

September saw a continuation of more or less normal life in our community. Bawdsey CEVC Primary School went back on Thursday 3rd September, church services resumed, although masks had to be worn and social distancing applied, and the library van visited as usual. Village events took place with Covid measures in force (see below). The yoga class restarted on the recreation ground in fine weather although the Coffee and Chat had to be cancelled because of rain. The Boathouse Café opened Thursday- Monday with outdoor seating and the Ferry ran a daily service. A spell of hot weather began on 11th September.

Pop Up Pub: This event took place on Saturday 5th on the recreation ground and the same Covid-secure measures as last month were put in place.

Ride and Stride: 12th September: This sponsored event organised by the Historic Churches Trust has expanded to include walkers as well as cyclists. Half of the sponsorship money goes to the church and half to the Trust. Two participants from the village raised £220.

Annual Garage Sale: Sunday 13th September saw this annual event take place along The Street albeit with fewer households taking part. Stall holders were advised to have a hand sanitiser at visitors' disposal and the two-metre distancing was recommended.

Parish Council News: The main concerns at the PC meeting were parking arrangements at Bawdsey Quay and Ferry Road. Whilst assured of support by both District and County councils, this has yet to be translated into definite action. The SID is proving to have a calming effect on speeding through the village. Councillors supported a proposal to recognise the contribution many residents are making to the life of the village in the form of awards.

Shoreline Management Review: Following various reports from the consultants, Jacobs, the SM Plan remains as it is which is "to hold the line". The rock armour at East Lane appears to be stable and safe and likely to remain so for 5-10 years. The Environment Agency would be prepared to carry out any emergency work if serious damage is done to the sea defences. Long term monitoring of the coast will remain a priority and will be actively carried out by councillors with the necessary experience. Photo posts are a part of this strategy- see May.

Save our Swan Campaign: Following the closure of the Swan pub in nearby Alderton, Bawdsey residents were asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain how much support there would be for a community pub.

HABSS First Responder Group: Owing to the pandemic, the two local first responders had to stand down and have since retired from the service. With no new volunteers forthcoming, this peninsular group has been wound up.

Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary: Bawdsey Radar were to have commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain at the museum on August 16th. Instead, a quite unexpected honour was conferred on the Trust by the RAF Benevolent Fund who chose to

film at the transmitter block to mark the official Battle of Britain Day on September 15th. Images of ground-based RAF staff including WAAF radar operators were projected on to the wall of the radar block in a stunning light display. Much of the archive footage was provided by the Imperial War Museum and interspersed clips of RAF fighters with those of radar operators tracking enemy aircraft, highlighting how radar was key to defeating the Luftwaffe. This short film formed part of the campaign by the RAF Benevolent Fund not only to honour all those who played a role in the Battle of Britain but also to find current RAF veterans who may be in need of support today.



October

New cases of Covid on 1st October amounted to 6,914 to with 59 new deaths.

With cases slowly rising within the UK, the church cancelled its annual harvest supper and the village hall announced there would not be a bonfire and firework event next month. The ferry ran at weekends only and the Boathouse Café opened Thursday-Monday, weather permitting.

Orwell Housing Development: Orwell began the construction of the internal road within the new estate called Manor Farm Gardens. A new footpath behind the hedge in front of the new houses is planned to enable pedestrians to walk more safely to Alderton.

Church News: New Appeal: Unlike village halls which had government grant of £10,000, the churches have not received any help during the pandemic while having the same outgoings. An annual appeal letter was sent out to all parishioners asking for support. Services have now restarted with Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month and Morning Praise on the fourth Sunday. The Annual Meeting postponed from April was held on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm with social distancing. Lydia Calvesbert stood down as church warden having served for over 30 years and Liz Mark stood down from the PCC.

Bawdsey Radar: Following the introduction of stringent anti-Covid measures, the museum opened on Thursdays and Sundays during October taking pre-bookings only and allowing one bubble in at a time. A series of podcasts on the story of radar have been recorded and are available to hear on www.bawdseyradar.org.uk. The gift shop is going online next month.



Porpoise on Bawdsey Beach: A dead porpoise was washed up on the beach below Martello W at East Lane. The cause of its death is unknown.



November

New Covid cases on 1st November were 23,254 were and 162 deaths were announced. The second UK lockdown was announced on October 31st and came into force on November 5th lasting until December 2nd.

Fishermen: There has been a big rise in the number of fishermen pitching up on Bawdsey Beach and Shingle Street, many fishing overnight. It is one of the permitted activities in lockdown.



Judicial Review: A judicial review brought about by a private individual against East Suffolk Council for consenting to a planning application allowing PGL to build a recreational lake was dismissed.

Remembrance Day: There was no church service this year because of the pandemic but there was a short Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial at 10.50am on 8th. Thirty-one parishioners and two soldiers from Rock Barracks attended. Pupils from Bawdsey CEVC Primary School lay poppies and remembrance windmills on 11th November.



Retired vicar, Robin Alderson leads a short service at the war memorial on 8th November



Pupils from Bawdsey Primary School later lay poppies and windmills

High Tide: An extremely high spring tide on 19th November flooded Bawdsey Quay.



Stay Safe on Our Coast: A new campaign has been launched by the coastal management team at East Suffolk to help develop awareness of the dangers when visiting the coast whether it be from cliff falls, fast tides or defences on the beach.

Coastal erosion was further illustrated by the rapid deterioration of the very cliff on which Suffolk CC installed a danger sign in August. Large areas of shingle have been scoured out by the tides and winds. This is a constantly changing stretch of beach, measurements of which are taken on a weekly basis and the data sent to researchers at UCL.



Holdups at Port of Felixstowe: Looking out to sea this month, lines of container ships could be seen anchored on the horizon, queuing to enter the Port of Felixstowe which was temporarily overwhelmed by excess containers for which it had no space, and haulage problems. Part of the problem was a government shipment of 11,000 containers of PPE and a huge spike in the volume of cargo entering the UK due to Christmas and Brexit stockpiling.

Coastguard award: Local coastguard Peter Sproxton has been awarded the Chief Executive's Individual of the Year award from amongst all the MCA personnel nation-wide at a ceremony in Felixstowe.



Peter Sproxton at a ceremony in Felixstowe

Parish Council Meeting:

- **Photo posts:** Photo posts have been installed at four points along our coast: Two at East Lane Point, one each at Bawdsey Quay and Shingle Street with a Facebook page set up for each post to encourage members of the public to upload their photos from these points in order to monitor the shifts in coastal movements.
- **Quiet Lanes.** The PC is looking to have School Lane, East Lane and Red House Lane designated as Quiet Lanes.

- **Parking at Bawdsey Quay:** Councillors are dismayed at the slowness in implementing measures to improve parking at Bawdsey Quay and Ferry Road. A design team at SCC Highways will have to be appointed and the cost of the works received before any start is made. SCC and ESC councillors have donated monies from their locality grants towards this work.
- **Village Hall News:** Broadband has been installed in the Village Hall. Dog walkers are now allowed on the Recreation Ground. Work will begin next month on the memorial area to remove much of the grassy area and replace it with paving.
- **Erosion:** Approximately 5-10 metres of cliff fall has taken place. PGL will need to remove any unsafe buildings on the edge of the cliff on their land.

December

New Covid cases on 1st December were 13,429 with 603 deaths. Lockdown was eased on 2nd December but following a rapid rise in cases, the five-day mixing rule over Christmas was cancelled and East Anglia was put into Tier 4 on 26th with renewed restrictions.

Christmas events: Plans for Christmas in the village were scaled back even with the easing of lockdown. The annual carol service took place on 20th but with limited numbers and no carols! A service of Holy Communion took place on Christmas Day. However, the Christmas Market did go ahead in the village hall on 12th December with just eight stalls. However, attendance was down on previous years as people erred on the side of caution.

A new initiative was *Deck the Village for Christmas* which invited residents to decorate their front gardens in a competition to raise funds for Bawdsey Primary School with an entry fee of £2.50.



Winning entry, number 15 The Street



Number 25 The Street

Orwell Housing Development: A new 100 metre walkway in front of the new houses was completed, enabling pedestrians to avoid walking on the road on their way to Alderton. The PC has rejected a new planning application for three detached houses on the same site.



New footpath at Manor Farm Gardens

Flooding again: 2020 was characterised by hot spells and torrential downpours which caused flooding in the same places within the village each time. On 27th another downpour occurred, and the drains could not cope with the volume of water.



Flooding in Long Lane and Red House Lane

House Sales in Bawdsey 2020

17th August: 23 East Lane: £295,000

August: School House, East Lane: £305,000

22nd September: The Stables, East Lane: £685,000

Jenny Webb, Village Recorder January 2021