

Village Recorder's Report – Campsea Ashe 2020



This is the fourth in the continuing series of Village Recorder's Reports for the village of Campsea Ashe, compiled under the umbrella of the village's Heritage Group. Reference material for this report can be found at:-

https://www.campseashechurch.org.uk/Village_Today.php

Figure 1. Thank You NHS

A typical poster in a Campsea Ashe householder's window expressing appreciation and gratitude for the National Health Service which was at full stretch from the onset of the pandemic in the spring of 2020.



Preamble: The 2020 Global coronavirus / Covid-19 pandemic.

2020 has been the first year of the global coronavirus (Covid-19 disease) pandemic. With the exception of centenarians who lived through the so-called 'Spanish 'flu' pandemic of 1918-19, this has been the most extraordinary year in living memory for the entire world's population, let alone that of the UK, and of every single community within it regardless of location, size or affluence, and this of course has included the village of Campsea Ashe. At the time of writing (late December 2020), worldwide there have been over 82 million recorded cases of the disease and over 1.8 million deaths. In the UK alone there have been approaching 2.5 million cases and over 73,000 deaths. However, again at the time of writing, Campsea Ashe mercifully appears to have had no recorded cases of any significance, and no recorded deaths.

Since the spring of 2020 the coronavirus pandemic has dominated every aspect of life within our village and the wider community. The imposition of precautionary measures - by law and at regional / national level - has severely disrupted, or stopped altogether, social interaction at work and at home. This has been across the board, for business and commerce, education, travel, leisure and so on. In particular the National Health Service and related sectors have been badly hit, and the national economy has been crippled, as indeed have equivalents around the world. Urgent measures have been put in place to research, develop, distribute and administer an effective vaccine. These are continuing but a nationwide vaccination programme has started already with the elderly and vulnerable being the top priority.

Because of the very unusual circumstances arising from the pandemic, a number of *verbatim* quotes and comments from residents of, and visitors to, the village, have been included in this report. Though a departure from the style of previous reports, these add context, reflect the national mood and highlight the effects and restrictions that have applied. In addition to describing the day-to-day activities of the village, this report also contains an appendix briefly outlining the history of the pandemic to the end of the year. Consequently the report is unusually long this year.

Social Media and Information Services. Social media platforms such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*, *WhatsApp*, *Zoom* video-conferencing and, locally, *Nextdoor* have proved invaluable for individuals, groups and organisations to remain in touch while the restrictions on gatherings and travel have been in place. Importantly, the *Nextdoor* platform has been used extensively by the Campsea Ashe Parish Council to disseminate news and advice to local residents during the pandemic (see below), as has been the case for national organisations such as the UK Government and the National Health Service (NHS) for their own Public Service information announcements and advice. Specifically, both the UK Government and the NHS issued a number of advice notices for recommended and mandatory precautions to be observed during the first lockdown throughout April: the government notices reiterated the basic social-distancing and hygiene messages, and those from the NHS gave advice on how to recognise Covid symptoms, and what medical procedures needed to be followed.

Of the 182 households in Campsea Ashe, 91 (50%) are now registered as *Nextdoor* users. *Nextdoor's* website is:-

<https://nextdoor.co.uk>

Campsea Ashe Parish Council (PC). The Parish Council has been especially active this year. Its business to start with concentrated on traffic management through the village and along Ivy Lodge Road in anticipation of the Sizewell C power station being built and the prospective enlargement of the Bentwaters business park in Rendlesham. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) regarding HGVs & speed management on Ivy Lodge Road (at a cost estimate of between £11,000 and £14,000) was approved, and entered its design and consultation stage in October. Still on the roads, some surface patching has also taken place along Loudham Hall Road. A very positive initiative progressed during the year was the defibrillator kindly donated by Allonsfield House and installed at the Village Hall in July. Also, as part of the general Play Area maintenance, and in accordance with 2020 being 'The Year of the Tree', the PC supported an idea to plant more than 20 trees (oak, maple, chestnut and hawthorn) in the Playground area. This was carried out in March.

Figure 2. Mill Lane, Campsea Ashe - May 2020

Photograph of Mill Lane, practically deserted at the height of the coronavirus '1st Lockdown', but showing how residents were emphatically giving support to the National Health Service and the nation's Key Workers who were striving to keep vital services running, these ranging from hospitals, Care Homes and doctors' surgeries to shops, schools, the utilities and delivery vehicles.



Because of the Covid restrictions, from May onwards face-to-face Parish Council sessions were suspended and business was conducted 'virtually' over the *Skype* and *Zoom* video-conferencing platforms. Still concerning EDF and the Sizewell C power station, a frustration for the PC this year has been the lack of engagement from residents in the village about potential impact, and indeed from EDF itself and its Development Consent Order (DCO) relating to long-term increased road and rail traffic through the village, though a response was eventually received from them in November. Other matters receiving the attention of the PC have been the funding of local organisations, supporting Campsea Ashe Heritage Group, The Station House, The Disability Advice Service, Suffolk's Accident & Rescue Service, Leiston Citizens' Advice Bureau and the 'Suffolk Steps' walking group and fitness initiative. Throughout the year the PC has sought to recruit younger villagers to become parish councillors, but meanwhile a 'Neighbourhood Plan' suggestion did not receive sufficient local interest to be taken up and the idea was shelved in the autumn. Specific to the Covid pandemic restrictions this year, the PC has in addition to its usual affairs been issuing advice and reminders on *Nextdoor* about precautions to be taken in public places - including the village Play Area which was temporarily closed and taped off - and has been coordinating community activities such as the Station House's 'Corona Help Hub' forum, the Families & Young People *Zoom* group and special arrangements for residents needing financial help with, for example, fuel bills. A 'Litter Pick' scheduled for the end of March was cancelled. The Parish Council's website, accessed through the *OneSuffolk* organisation, provides details of the activities and the minutes of its meetings:-

<http://campseaashe.onesuffolk.net>

Allonsfield House Residential Care Home. One of the most distressing aspects of the coronavirus pandemic has been its catastrophic effect on older and less able members of our community. Hospitals and their Intensive Care Units have been stretched to the limit and the Care Home sector responsible for so many of the elderly and infirm has also sustained disproportionate numbers of sick residents, and sadly there have been a great many fatalities. Campsea Ashe has its own residential care home, Allonsfield (part of the national *Kingsley Healthcare* group), and this deserves special mention this year for the outstanding work that it has done under unprecedented difficult conditions.

At the operational level, Allonsfield began the year with predominantly 'Good' ratings from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and as the year progressed was continuing its drive to recruit care and support staff. In an innovative move, in the spring the home was advertising for help to set up an on-site smallholding and organic garden. In its December Newsletter, amongst a number of activities for its residents, Allonsfield highlighted a 'Spanish Day', a virtual sightseeing tour of Florence, a fundraising 'Elf Day', carol singing and an interactive Christmas pantomime.



Figure 3. Allonsfield Residential Care Home photographed on a gloomy day in December.
Against all odds our Care Home has succeeded in keeping the coronavirus at bay throughout 2020.

Remarkably, Allonsfield by the end of December had had no deaths from Covid among its residents, and not even any recorded cases of the virus. Given the prevalence of the infection and the extremely high levels of risk to staff and residents alike, this is a great tribute to the diligence of its manager and staff. The home has had to ensure that social distancing, strict hygiene, infection control, regular staff & resident monitoring, and the rigid measures for wearing clean uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been constantly adhered to. All the while this has been against the background of changing guidelines and procedures, the introduction of widespread testing and training regimes and the need to keep staff, residents, families and visitors informed and supportive. This has been over and above the day-to-day challenges of caring for residents with special needs, especially those living with dementia. Moreover, the restrictions have meant that much of the communication has had to be done using a mixture of telephone calls, email, *WhatsApp* and *Skype*.

During the pandemic crisis Allonsfield has received many positive comments on its care and services, and it is pleasing to include a couple from the carehome.co.uk social media site: *“very impressed by the way Allonsfield has managed the Covid-19 pandemic and kept residents safe.”*; *“Allonsfield is really outstanding and the way Covid 19 has been handled gives me such confidence ...”* Here, too, is an inspirational quote from the care home’s manager, Judith Morgan-Worrall: *“Recent times have been very trying, on our residents, their families and staff with the current pandemic, and the risks that it has brought to the home. Morale at times has been incredibly difficult to maintain with the extra workload this has brought, however with everyone working in partnership, it has made a huge difference. I am incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated staffing team and have felt very privileged and humbled through these challenging times to have worked with such an amazing group of individuals.”*

Brick Kiln Campsite and other Accommodation venues. Other major sectors to have suffered serious hardship this year have been Hospitality and Leisure. Campsea Ashe’s location near the Suffolk coast means that our village’s holiday cottage, B&B and camping businesses such as The Old Rectory, Brick Kiln Campsite and ‘The Nesting Box’, all normally so popular, have been particularly hard hit. All have managed to remain open, available and indeed used, but have had to provide added layers of precautions specific to the coronavirus challenge. These have included hand sanitizer in guest accommodation and key areas, thorough anti-virus cleaning and disinfecting of linen etc. between stays, the removal of shared utensils and stationery, and the provision of cashless payment facilities - all with the imposition of physical distancing rules and in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Taking just Brick Kiln as an example - though all such facilities in the village will have been impacted similarly - the imposition of lockdown cut across spring and summer bookings quite arbitrarily, meaning that many cancellations, postponements, re-bookings and refunds needed to be made for frustrated customers at short notice. These re-arrangements sometimes needed several iterations as the situation became progressively more uncertain, with confused and at times contradictory guidance from government and tourist advisory bodies. Throughout the pandemic, maintaining morale has been an issue. Tina Hayward, Brick Kiln’s host, has commented *“It was a huge shock and worry when they shut us down ... all the bookings that I had for the summer months had to be rearranged ...”* At one point she considered closing the site completely for the year, obviously with worrying financial consequences. However, once restrictions were relaxed later in the summer, pent-up demand from customers wanting a holiday rose enormously, so from virtual stagnation the site transferred to full operation very quickly. Nonetheless for safety and social-distancing reasons, not least because visitors from far and wide were travelling and potentially mixing, this this could only be at about half-capacity. There were also the logistical overheads

of notices and labelling, and the need to ensure scrupulous hygiene, with special attention to showers and washing facilities. Quoting again from Tina, she “bought in tonnes of hand gel and employed a local cleaning company to clean every day for me.”



Figures 4 & 5. (left) Brick Kiln Campsite closed at Easter because of the Covid restrictions; it re-opened later in the year and soon became very busy (right) Campsea Ashe Play Area taped off and looking forlorn during the lockdown in May. It also reopened later.

Though not life-and-death critical in the same way as Allonsfield, hospitality and accommodation venues in Campsea Ashe can still take credit for their resilience this year. In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions, on-line reviews from *Tripadvisor* and camping’s *Pitchup* have been consistently positive. For the Brick Kiln Campsite: “COVID-19 precautions ... ever present but managed to appear both normal and easy to accept. Sanitiser, paper towels, cleaning regime, reminders to social distance not intrusive ... responsible obligation during these extraordinary times ...”; for The Duck: “Unprecedented times call for an alternative approach ... hasn’t seemed to deter from providing great food in a great atmosphere.”; for The Old Rectory: “... the first place we visited after Lockdown and it was lovely to be greeted so warmly.”

Other Businesses in the Village. As well as the Care Home and hospitality venues, all businesses in the village have been hit by the restrictions this year and have been subject to the imposed rules of lockdown and the Tier system. Nonetheless they responded positively and innovatively with, for instance, advice notices being posted outside the premises of Clarke & Simpson’s Sale Rooms and Botanica’s Nursery detailing what precautions should be taken for social distancing. Auctions continued as normally as possible at the Sale Rooms but with numbers fluctuating according to the restrictions. (In October the Sale Rooms also opened the Playing Field footpath gate during their office hours to enable people to walk from pub area to the shop without needing to use the busy B1078.); in spite of having to limit its opening hours ‘The Duck’ offered take away menus in addition to its normal hospitality; and Botanica introduced an appointment system for visitors and customers.



Figure 6. Campsea Ashe Saleyard.

Clarke & Simpson’s premises locked and deserted at the height of the lockdown in late April: a sorry sight for the village but still with a prominent banner representing universal solidarity with the struggling NHS.

On a lighter and thankfully more uplifting note, in June the Dingley Dell Pork farm in Campsea Ashe made news headlines with a drive to encourage bees to their wild flower meadows. Owners Paul and Mark Hayward estimated over one million bees had been attracted.

Campsea Ashe Village Shop. The shop in Campsea Ashe has also done exceptional service for our community this year, again under difficult conditions. Responding quickly to the Covid restrictions, and drawing on local suppliers to maintain stocks, by the end of March the shop was taking orders and was using volunteers to offer delivery services to isolating villagers, even to outlying locations such as Eyke, Tunstall, Hacheston, Blaxhall and Marlesford. Within the shop, customers were asked to take precautions with only two on the premises at any time, and to remain at the recommended separation, so on many occasions customers were seen waiting outside the shop for ‘their turn’ in a disciplined manner, standing alone or in pairs at approximately 2 metres from each other. Collections for the Royal British Legion’s Poppy Appeal this year were centred on the shop, door-to-door canvassing having been suspended, and this amounted to donations of over £160; a further £355 was raised towards the village hall’s new toilets fund that had been announced in the autumn, donations coming from customers and a carrier-bag levy.

Throughout the year customers have been volubly expressing appreciation to shop proprietors, Bernard and Ann Burley, especially on *Nextdoor* with comments such as “*huge thank you ... they are working tirelessly*”, “*the shop is really well supplied ... well done to them both*” and “*... don’t know what I would do without them right now*”.

The Station House. As everywhere else activities at the Station House started through January to March as a continuation of most of last year’s programme, with knitting and crochet classes, guitar and ukulele lessons, the ‘Chuggernauts’ children’s club, Microsoft ‘Office’ tuition and the Homework Club. There was an art exhibition of still-lives and landscapes at the beginning of February, and an ‘Area Information Touch Screen’ was also installed as part of its IT equipment. Church services were held through to March as well, and the Mobile Library made monthly stops in the car park. Throughout the year fundraising continued, finally to buy an all-weather garden awning which was installed in October.

From March onwards, so from the start of the lockdown and social-distancing restrictions, the station car park was noticeably emptier but the Station House rose to the common challenge. It began by offering to be a distribution centre for residents needing help with problems if they were unable leave home, a contact point for isolating neighbours and for collecting doctors’ prescriptions. It also offered broadband facilities and quiet working spaces for residents unable or reluctant to visit offices and business premises. By April it had set up ‘Drive By’ café and ‘cakes to order’ services from a hatch opening into the car park, and this proved highly successful for the rest of the year, not least for cyclists and walkers.



Figures 7 & 8. The Station House.

**(left) the deserted station car park photographed on a typical weekday during the spring lockdown;
(right) the Drive By café still acting as an attraction - especially for walkers and cyclists - in December**

As lockdown restrictions were relaxed during the summer the Station House was described as being “a first port of call for many venturing out of hibernation”. It was officially re-opened on 4 July with meeting rooms available but with arrangements

to facilitate social distancing, for example a one-way flow system, hand-sanitizers, and hands-free soap- and tissue-paper dispensers in the WCs. Some regular events and ‘eating-in’ were re-instated and local ice cream was on sale as well. Monthly Mobile Library services were resumed in September.

Campsea Ashe Church and related Social Affairs. Regular services, including one for the full benefice, were held in the church (and some in the Station House) during the first quarter, so a normal situation until the lockdown was imposed. In April the Archbishops of Canterbury & York gave notice that public worship would be suspended until further notice so our local Priest in Charge (the Rev’d Canon Graham Hedger) and his team of church officials offered pastoral support over telephone help-lines. A pilgrimage of villagers from the Benefice to Bury St Edmunds took place in early March to mark the millennium anniversary of the founding of the Abbey, but the Spring Fayre scheduled for 21 March was cancelled. Also in March Glenys Fear, co-ordinating the church tower restoration funding, published an update saying that nearly £35,000 had been raised towards the £70,000 needed; meanwhile the tower’s base has remained screened outside. Throughout the summer on-line access was made available for services and prayers (over the *Zoom* video-conferencing platform) and the Parish Magazine was distributed largely by email. It was not until September that permission was given officially for churches to resume Sunday worship. Bell-ringing in the tower has been stopped for the whole year since lockdown but from the autumn churches in the benefice were also opened at pre-set times for private prayer.



Figures 9 & 10. Outside the church parishioners show their continuing support for the NHS (May 2020)

Also shown is a copy of the closure notice and support team contact numbers pinned to all church doors in the Benefice.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Bike Ride took place on 12 September, but the following month the Harvest Service had to be cancelled. However, the lower-key service on the 4 October had a ‘harvest theme’ followed by a socially-distanced lunch, for which parishioners were invited to bring their own food - this again in line with the virus containment restrictions. The Service of Remembrance was held in Campsea Ashe Church on 8 November, likewise with Covid spaced seating and hand sanitizer available. It was also requested that face-masks to be worn in church. This was followed up on 11 November with a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial. The Parish Church Council (PCC) met on 16 October, at which the current officers were re-elected. It was noted that Campsea Ashe Church continues to have its own dividend number with the Co-op, and the pay-out this year was £43.69. A Christmas Day service was held in the church, immediately before further severe lockdown restrictions came into force with ‘Tier 4’.

Throughout the year the churchyard has been maintained in a wildlife-friendly way with graveside pathways selectively cut leaving other areas of for meadow plants and flowers. Consequently butterflies and other insects have thrived.

Two final sad notes must be that the death of our former long-standing and much liked churchwarden Brenda Gould was recorded in June, and also the death of the popular local visiting minister the Rev’d Richard Ginn. Richard lived in the neighbouring village of Hacheston but was well-known in Campsea Ashe.

Campsea Ashe Village Hall. Activities continued as normal in the Village Hall at the beginning of the year, including mixed ability Pilates classes, fitness and dance, and bingo, but at their March meeting the Village Hall Committee agreed not to

arrange anything beyond Easter until the coronavirus situation was over, in spite of a number of intended events: a 20-year old time capsule was due to be dug up on 9 May and the Heritage Group had elaborate plans for a VE Day commemoration over the same weekend. Some structural work and landscaping of the car park at the Village Hall was also in prospect. Along with other public buildings the Hall re-opened 'in theory' from July but was not properly available for hire until September, and then after thorough cleaning and with 'Covid guidelines' in place to limit group numbers and ensure social distancing. In October plans were drawn up to improve the toilets in the Hall, particularly for disabled users.

Housing and property. Coronavirus issues have generally dampened the housing and rent markets but nonetheless there was some movement towards the end of the year with houses coming up for sale in Mill Lane (3-bed semi for £200,000) and Ash Row opposite the pub (4-bed detached for £560,000). Another house in Mill Lane was offered for rent at £1,250 per calendar month. In November planning applications were made for a livestock building at Jolly's Farm and for a replacement to be built for the derelict cottage at Blackstock Crossing. Meanwhile thorough modifications and some rebuilding have taken place, or else are ongoing, on houses along Ash Road between the shop and the Sale Rooms.

Village Life during the Coronavirus Lockdown. A great many aspects of life have had to change while the coronavirus restrictions have been in place this year. Campsea Ashe has been affected no less than anywhere else and the following is all typical of what has happened in our village, and is continuing as we enter 2021.

Most obviously there have been fewer people abroad on the streets as folk have been keeping to the social distancing rules, tending to stay indoors for longer periods, though during the height of the lockdown in the spring and early summer walkers were frequently seen taking exercise across and around the local footpaths and fields. This was especially so in the pleasant weather that prevailed at the time. Trains running on the East Suffolk Line through the village have rarely had more than one or two passengers on them. Public gatherings have been severely curtailed, postponed indefinitely or more often cancelled altogether. With fewer cars on the roads, however, cycling rose in popularity for recreation and exercise, and lycra-clad riders have continued to be a common sight through the village into the winter.

Several spontaneous nation-wide initiatives developed quickly from mid-March onwards for ordinary citizens to show their appreciation for National Health Service employees and related 'Key Workers' in Care Homes, Shops, Schools and the Utilities etc., and two in particular were enthusiastically taken up in Campsea Ashe. The first was for residents and businesses to display rainbow-themed banners in their gardens and windows saying "Thank You" to those organisations, and another was for residents to stand at their doorsteps on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm and applaud for 2 minutes, usually with loud clapping but often with the addition of ringing bells and sounding horns. During the worst of lockdown and knowing the distress of families with loved ones sick or passed away, this was heartening moral support. At the end of March one isolated resident in Campsea Ashe was moved to post a comment on the *Nextdoor* social media website: "*I just went and gave a round of applause to the NHS. I have one neighbour and complete silence usually. I could hear cheers, banging and clapping from miles away and it was lovely to hear! Massive Well Done to everyone, and thank you to all NHS staff and keyworkers keeping us going - we will be forever grateful.*"

By the end of the year, after many months of fear, privations, hardship and prolonged inconvenience, i.e. the initial lockdown, cautious relaxation during the summer, then escalating restrictions into the autumn and winter through 'Tier 2' and ultimately 'Tier 4' status, people everywhere had become used to procedures which this time last year would have been unthinkable. Almost all social and community activities in the village were suspended, of course, and extra hygiene habits have had to be adopted as essential, such as regular and prolonged washing of hands, and the use of ant-bacterial wipes and hand-sanitizer. Facemasks needed to be worn in shops and other public places, and certainly on public transport, sometimes gloves and even more elaborate protection as well. Simple trips, perhaps only to nearby Wickham Market - to the Co-op supermarket or to the doctors' surgery - have had to be planned carefully so as not to encounter too many other people; in any case other pedestrians have needed to be avoided on pavements and whilst waiting to be served in shops, cafes, pubs and the Post Office - assuming they have remained open. Transactions invariably have had to be cashless in case coins and notes are contaminated, but face-to-face purchases have declined anyway. On-line purchases have increased massively this year, but mail and parcels may need to have been 'quarantined' for at least 72 hours before they were handled, again in case they had become contaminated in transit. Related to this, deliveries of groceries and other provisions from both local shops and larger supermarkets had become the norm by December, so that small vans became - and remain - commonplace on the roads.

A major source of worry and frustration has been the disruption to children's and young people's education. These age groups, though significantly less vulnerable to coronavirus, have been badly affected by losing time with their teachers and friends. Correspondingly, their parents either through working at home or through having to adjust working hours on their

own behalf, have had severe problems of babysitting and child-care where both primary and secondary schools have been closed, or else have had term-dates adjusted to coincide with the lockdown measures. Colleges, universities and apprenticeship schemes have been similarly affected meaning that school-leavers have not been able to take up further or higher education as or when expected. These restrictions can have led to increased tensions within household and family groups, and in some cases there may have been detrimental effects on mental health and wellbeing.

Loneliness and separation from family and loved-ones has also been challenging, especially as lockdown and social distancing constraints continued up to and over the Christmas period. At the time of writing the newly imposed ‘Tier 4’ restrictions mean that people will have to tolerate being isolated over the New Year and for some indefinite time beyond. (In fact ‘Tier 4’ amounts to complete lockdown again as it had been in the spring, effective from immediately after Christmas.) Very regrettably some businesses such as shops, restaurants, pubs etc. have gone out of business altogether, and many people - almost certainly some residing in Campsea Ashe - have lost their livelihoods. Thankfully business closures are not believed to have happened in our village. There has been increased help and support between friends and neighbours, and foodbanks have been available to alleviate cases of extreme hardship, with organisations such as CAP (Christians Against Poverty) being advertised in the local social media. As mitigation the government needed to introduce a ‘furlough’ scheme to support individuals and families facing loss of income and, again, villagers in Campsea Ashe will certainly have needed help from this.



Figures 11 & 12. (left) Blackstock Cottage, now with a redevelopment planning application in place (December)
(right) House renovation under way at Ash Row, just beyond the village shop (July)

Crime nationally has declined slightly during the pandemic but there have been some disturbing occurrences in Campsea Ashe this year. Through the spring and summer there was a spate of burglaries from sheds and garages, and villagers were warned by Suffolk Police to take extra care of their dogs following a number of attempted animal thefts. In this vein, a Mill Lane resident reported the loss of his pet royal python in October. Also there were cases of intruders and bogus, sometimes aggressive, door-to-door salesmen. There was a serious speed related road accident near Ashe Park in October, with a car ‘rolled’ but fortunately no serious injuries.

Two points on the weather during 2020 are worth noting. The summer months were generally dry and warm, one of the few good points of the year, but recent months have seen very heavy rainfall and consequent flooding.

Finally, it may well be said that most people around the world, and including therefore the residents of Campsea Ashe, will be pleased to leave 2020 behind. While the Covid pandemic is not yet defeated, and there are continued concerns as new mutant strains of the virus emerge, the development and roll-out of effective vaccines is providing light at the end of the tunnel and the prospect for a return to normality.

Peter Carter (on behalf of Campsea Ashe Heritage Group), December 2020

report v.1.2, 31/12/20

Appendix : Approximate Timeline of the coronavirus / Covid-19 pandemic during 2020

Jan.	a ‘human-to-human ... pneumonia of unknown cause’ is identified in Wuhan, China, and appears to be spreading.
Feb.	66,000 cases and 1,500 deaths in China: steady spread from Asia as cases and deaths are recorded in Europe.

Mar.	<p>9 Mar. Cases rife in Europe, e.g. Italy's health service and mortuaries overwhelmed. 1st death in UK.</p> <p>16 Mar. France described as 'at war'. Free movement across Europe halted. UK's PM to announce 'lockdown'.</p> <p>23 Mar. UK lockdown starts: leaving home forbidden except for shopping, exercise and essential working.</p> <p>26 Mar. furlough financial support scheme announced in UK; Weekly 'Clap for Carers' campaign started.</p> <p>28 Mar. hundreds of deaths per day in UK, with a total exceeding 1000.</p>
Apr.	<p>2 Apr. UK PM Johnson in self-isolation having contracted coronavirus; 1 million cases confirmed worldwide.</p> <p>6 Apr. hospital deaths in UK from coronavirus now exceeding 5,000.</p> <p>8 Apr. shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers recognised as a serious problem.</p> <p>10 Apr. worldwide death toll from Covid-19 exceeds 100,000; death toll in UK approaches 10,000.</p> <p>16 Apr. UK PM still isolating; national lockdown extended for at least 3 weeks to early April.</p> <p>18 Apr. death toll from Covid-19 in UK exceeds 15,000.</p> <p>29 Apr. hospital, care home and wider community death toll from Covid-19 in UK exceeds 26,000.</p>
May	<p>5 May death toll from Covid-19 in UK exceeds 32,000, exceeding Italy to become the highest rate in Europe.</p> <p>7 May black and ethnic minority people recognised as being 4x more vulnerable to Covid than white people.</p> <p>10 May UK PM Johnson announces first cautious easing of lockdown.</p> <p>11 May easing of lockdown in public places and for exercise. Mask-wearing and 2-metre distancing encouraged.</p> <p>12 May furlough scheme supporting over 7 million jobs extended to the end of October.</p> <p>13 May UK Covid death rate exceeding 6,000/week, with an estimated 40% of deaths believed to be in care homes.</p> <p>13 May £600 million infection-control package announced for care homes in England.</p> <p>17 May Huge investment (£100 million+) in research for vaccine, supporting teams at Oxford & Imperial College.</p> <p>20 May coronavirus infection 'test & trace' scheme set to be up and running by beginning of June.</p>
Jun.	<p>1 Jun. lockdown measures eased; schools opening for Reception classes and years 1 and 6.</p> <p>15 Jun. public gathering venues opening, e.g. high streets, retail parks, zoos, places of worship & more schools.</p> <p>23 Jun. experimental vaccine trials on 'healthy volunteers'</p>
Jul.	<p>local lockdowns & restrictions in e.g. Leicester and the NW; East Anglia reports comparatively low case incidence.</p> <p>24 Jul. face coverings mandatory in shops across England, with £100 fines for non-compliance.</p> <p>30 Jul. people positive-testing must self-isolate; Europe experiences start of 'second wave'.</p>
Aug.	<p>3 Aug. 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme launched to assist and stimulate hard-hit hospitality sector.</p> <p>17 Aug. A-level & GCSE results in England to be based on teacher assessments instead of Ofqual "moderation".</p>
Sep.	<p>6 Sep. new Covid cases in England rise to 3,000 per day - the highest figure since May.</p> <p>8 Sep. 'concerning' rise in cases towards second peak; social gatherings of more than 6 to be illegal.</p> <p>9 Sep. trials of a Covid-19 vaccine under rapid development, and accelerated from mid-September.</p> <p>11 Sep. Covid transmission 'R-number' rises above 1 again for first time since May; estimated at 1.0 to 1.2.</p> <p>18 Sep. 'second wave' confirmed as having arrived in UK; R-number estimated at 1.1 to 1.4</p> <p>21 Sep. Govt. Chief Scientific Adviser warns of 50,000 cases and daily death toll of 200+ by mid-October.</p> <p>22 Sep. new restrictions of 10pm curfew at hospitality venues and limited attendance at weddings & receptions.</p> <p>22 Sep. official Covid death toll at nearly 42,000 in UK; cooler weather starting to inflate caseloads.</p>
Oct.	<p>14 Oct. new '3-Tier' system of restrictions begins in England. Most of East Anglia in (low/medium) risk 'Tier 1'</p> <p>14 Oct. 'rule of 6' imposed for social interaction; pubs & restaurants to shut by 10pm.</p>
Nov.	<p>9 Nov. England returns to stringent lockdown.</p> <p>23 Nov. AstraZeneca & Oxford U. report 61% efficacy vaccine; Pfizer and Moderna report 95% efficacy.</p> <p>23 Nov. Vaccines expected to be rolled out on mass scale in the UK, Europe and the US by Q1/2021.</p>
Dec.	<p>8 Dec. First UK (and World) person to be given an approved (Pfizer) vaccine.</p> <p>20 Dec. Worrying new and more infectious 'mutant variant' of coronavirus now threatening SE England.</p> <p>20 Dec. Drastic new lockdown / social restrictions announced across UK in run-up to Christmas; 'Tier 4' introduced</p> <p>23 Dec. Another mutant variant in UK, believed to have originated in South Africa</p> <p>23 Dec. Suffolk & Norfolk enter Tier 4:- stay at home unless there is a reasonable excuse; meeting people indoors from other household prohibited; only one person from another household can be met outdoors</p>
	<i>source(s): various newspaper and new media websites; information believed to be correct at December 2020</i>