

# Weeley History Recorders Report 2020 - Pearl Byford

## January

The month began with mild windy weather with plenty of sunshine. Wet and windy weather returned towards the end of the month.

A new sign for Reed Pond, and the pond cleared of excess growth.

An Application for funding from the T.D.C. to install a fence around the Boules court area on the playing field.

## February

The month began with changeable weather, sunny days and frosty nights, wet and windy weather brought heavy rain followed by storm Cara on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Storm Dennis on the 15<sup>th</sup> no damage recorded in Weeley.

## March

There are many countries around the world facing the uncertainties of Covid 19 which is spreading at an alarming rate.

St Andrews School dedicate a new prayer room using a bequest from the will of former Rector of Weeley Revd Eric Nugent.

The funeral of Dean Clark who was tragically killed in a road accident was held in the Parish Church this was to be the last large gathering allowed in Churches for 2020.

The news from the Prime Minister Boris Johnson of a total lock down of the country was announced at the end of the month, this was to change our way of life in Weeley.

The Parish Council distributed leaflets to all households in the village with details of contact numbers where people could get any help that was needed.

## April

St Andrews Church was unable to open for the Easter services, several people joined online services from other Churches.

The whole Country was experiencing a very difficult way of life all hospitality venues were closed as were all the organisations in Weeley. The Essex Wild Life Trust wood at Weeley remained open, which saw many people from around the district visiting using their cars, the lane, and surrounding area and roads became a large unofficial car park, a decision was made to close the wood and the lane leading to the wood.

Station adopters Robin and Ruth Whitworth move from the village, many awards have been won for their hard work and dedication to the station. The "Weeley in Bloom" group have undertaken to keep the station clean and tidy.

A decision was made to postpone the publication of the Parish News due to the pandemic.

## May

A planning application for eight bungalows in Mill Lane was passed by the TDC despite many objections from the public.

Weeley Women's Institute send flowers to all the members as a way of keeping in contact with each member. The Church Secretary sends weekly emails to members of the congregation. All clubs in Weeley find ways of keeping in touch with members.

## **June**

St Andrews enter the second year in Interegnum without a Parish Priest the Churchwardens Pearl Byford and Gwenyth Malbon seeing of Church affairs.

Weeley Parish Church was allowed to open for private prayer on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month

Weeley in bloom continue work to provide colourful displays of flowers in containers around the village they require daily watering due to the drought.

## **July**

Churches are allowed to reopen for services, following strict safety rules, no singing and social distancing themselves.

Many groups and clubs meet by Zoom.

Weeley Women's Institute send all members a gift of strawberries as they were unable to hold a strawberry tea this year.

## **August**

The government launches a eat out to help out scheme enabling local pubs and restaurants to open to recoup some of their losses.

A wedding took place in St Andrews, only thirteen guests present, this was conducted by the Revd Andrew Symonds.

## **September**

The Parish News is printed and distributed around the village. All events and outings still postponed.

Large tree uprooted due to high winds falling from the edge of the pond into the Churchyard no damage was caused.

## **October**

Tendring District enter tier 2 with certain restrictions. Garden Centres remain open.

## **November**

We again enter lock down with the Church closed for services.

Weeley in bloom display large wooden Poppies again around the village in memory of those who lost their lives in the two world wars.

No Remembrance Day services at the War Memorial as group gathering is not allowed.

Weeley and Lt Clacton British Legion announce their group is now closed due to falling membership due to age.

## **December.**

Church open for services rustication still in place no large gatherings carol services cancelled.

The covid numbers increase restriction on Christmas Day celebrations, no overnight stays, most Weeley families celebrate with their own households.

Celebrations in Weeley Heath on the news that the appeal for eighty houses on the field east of Bentley Road has been refused. Many letters of objection had been considered in the decision, this was the third application from the land owners.

## **Pearl Byford, Recorder**