

St Seraphim's News, Autumn 2020

This briefer-than-usual newsletter comes in the hope that all readers are remaining safe and well through what has been a uniquely challenging year for us all! However, despite much of the year in 'lockdown' or other restrictions, St. Seraphim's rarely stands still!

Thank you to the friends and supporters who have been in touch.



Personally I have spent many hours reading, travel books especially, gaining a perspective on lockdown life. Reminders too of travelling through Yugoslavia with a friend just after the death of President Tito. Those I have been reading travelled 10 or 20 years before that, well before the days of the 'Magic Bus!' What has been striking reading these books has been the hospitality given freely, sharing the little people might have, with the stranger.

During lockdown, while St Seraphim's has been closed because of Government regulations, the volunteers have been involved in some practical tasks, moving documents and archives to new shelving provided by the Heritage Lottery emergency fund, so volunteers can more readily access the archives.

Online training in archiving, digitisation and oral history has taken place courtesy of our partnership with Norfolk Records Office. A volunteer will be attending a first aid course at Wells community hospital.

Funding has been provided for a gardener while the Pay-back are unable to come because of government restrictions. This has enabled purchase of PPE for visitors

and volunteers we are able to open in the New Year.

Windows in need of paint have been painted, and units have been replaced in the volunteer hut. The hedge has been cut, no mean feat, grass mowed and shrubs cut back.

Thank you also to the ladies from Walsingham Womens' Institute who have come regularly and weeded, cut back and generally provided welcome support during a challenging time.

The garden wildlife has appreciated the peace and quiet of lockdown, the lack of vehicles, and the grass and weeds growing longer. There have been many bumblebees of various types.

The geese have a new, larger pen, with a camouflaged section where they have shade, and protection from the large birds they see which worry them!

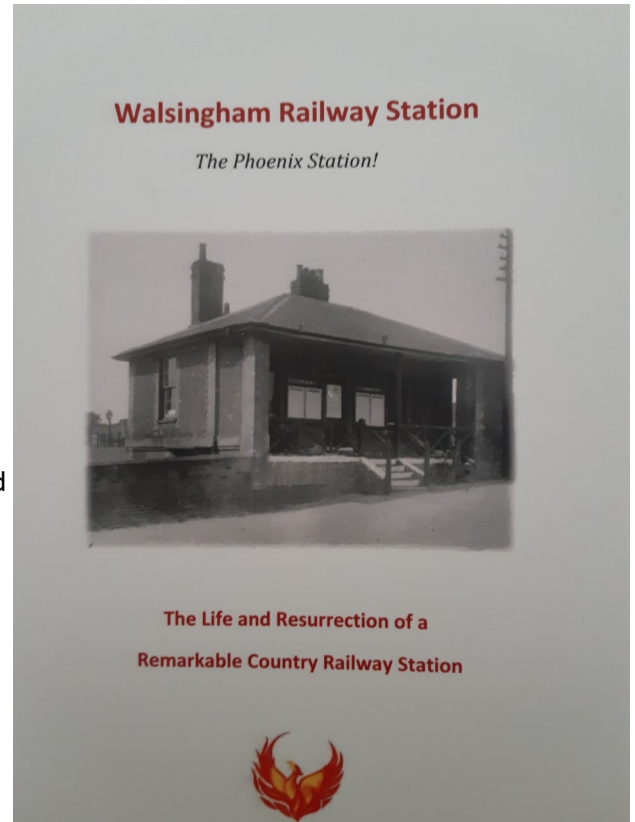
St Seraphim's Quiet Garden is taking part in the **Fakenham Virtual Christmas Tree Festival**, and there is a page for each charity, with a donations page. It is a wonderful effort the Fakenham Parish Church makes, such an inclusive festival, thank you to all concerned. You can find out more via the following link: <https://christmastreefestival.co.uk/>

The Christmas tree was decorated and part of festivities during Christmastime, about 20 years ago, and since then was planted in the garden where it has grown slowly into a beautiful tree, which this year will provide light and hope! A sparrowhawk sits at the top of the Christmas tree to have a good vantage point.

At St Seraphim's we have the Nativity cards for sale, 4 in a pack for £3.20

St Seraphim's has a new book on Walsingham Station, compiled by Daniel Laing and edited by John Clark, hours of dedicated work, thank you both. The book has been reviewed by Justin Marozzi, historian, and writer. Justin has recently joined the board of St Seraphim's Trust and we welcome him warmly, with thanks for reviewing the book:

'Many thanks to Daniel Laing and John Clark for their splendid new book, *Walsingham Railway Station: The Life and Resurrection of a Remarkable Country Railway Station*. We are immensely grateful to them for the huge amount of research and editing that it took to bring the book to completion. As the title suggests, this is the engrossing story of a really remarkable railway station on the edge of a remarkable village. It charts the whole story, from the opening of the Wells to Fakenham railway in 1857 – a time when most residents of Little Walsingham had never seen a locomotive – through to the demise of the line in 1964. There are evocative memories, such as those recorded from stationmaster Rod Lock, who in the 1950s used to cycle 22 miles daily between his home in Swaffham and Walsingham "and thought nothing of it". From 1966, the station found a new lease of life as a Russian Orthodox chapel. In recent years, phoenix-like, the station has re-emerged to play important new roles in the community, bringing together the Orthodox Pilgrim Chapel with a beautiful Quiet Garden outside the building and an accredited museum – the only Icon Museum in the UK – within.'



The book is available for purchase from St Seraphim's at £5. Highly recommended!

When we are able to resume our Quiet Days in the garden we shall have many books to share!

To the Friends members who have sent their annual subscriptions, thank you!



Christ is Born!

Wishing all our friends and supporters a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!

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