

St John's Church

serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde



April / May 2025

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Photos from St John's School

Below: Classes on World Book Day - everyone dressed as a character



Cover Photo: Ukrainian (Painted) Easter Egg - see page 11

A Special Journey...

I was caught off guard recently. A family member mentioned making plans for Good Friday—a day trip, just like any other—and I found myself reacting with uncontained horror! It wasn't that they'd done anything wrong, of course. But for me, Holy Week is the most significant journey of the year, and the idea of spending Good Friday in a pub in Bristol felt... unexpectedly jarring. Having a vicar in the family must be a joy!

It made me stop and think. Why has the journey of Holy Week—from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday—come to hold such power for me?

Christmas is beautiful—full of warmth, light, and celebration. But Holy Week is something else entirely. It doesn't wrap life up in a neat, sentimental package. Instead, it takes us through the full range of human experience: joy and sorrow, love and betrayal, suffering and hope. It begins with crowds cheering Jesus into Jerusalem, then moves through moments of deep tension—tables overturned in the temple, a final meal with friends, the weight of betrayal, the devastation of the cross, and the raw grief that follows. And then, finally, the impossible: resurrection.

Whatever you believe, life isn't just about the good moments. We all know what it is to struggle, to feel



lost, to face disappointment. Holy Week doesn't gloss over that reality. It walks straight into the heart of suffering, yet it refuses to let suffering have the final word. It carries us to something deeper: the hope that even in the darkest places, light will break through. That love cannot be defeated.

At St John's and St Michael's, our services guide us through Holy Week step by step. But you don't have to be a churchgoer to enter this journey. It's open to anyone willing to walk it—whether that's by lighting a candle in the quiet dark of home or simply taking time each day to reflect on life's ups and downs.

Because this isn't just a story from the past. It's the pattern of life itself. And when Easter morning comes,

(Continued on page 2)

Vicar's Message - *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

the light and the joy feel all the
more powerful for having walked
the whole road.

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week
and a hope-filled Easter

Rev. Kathryn

A green and white advertisement for Apple Daycare Ltd. The top half has a green background with white puzzle pieces and the text "PRE-SCHOOL & FULL DAYCARE" in large white letters. The middle section is white with a QR code on the left, the website "appledaycare.co.uk" above it, and a logo on the right. The logo is an apple shape made of puzzle pieces with letters inside (UW, PSED, CL, PD, ME, EAD, L, M). To the right of the logo is the text "apple daycare Ltd" and a green button with "CHANGING FUTURES TODAY". The bottom section is green with white puzzle pieces and contains the email "appledaycare@mail.com" and the phone number "Tel: 01707 872 949".

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Spring into Pink - by Hazel Macarthur

When I wear dusky pink
I am in the pink
And feel calm and soothed
Nature cannot be improved
For when I see flowers wild
With infinite shades of dusky pink
I think
Oh, for a dress made of that.

Snowdrops & Cream Teas, The Rotary Club & more

On page 5 you can read a wonderful article by **Edna Stephens** about the Snowdrops and Cream Teas on the Island event put on by the Rotary club, but there's more to come. Their next events are:

- ♦ **Tropic Treat - Skin care and make up demonstrations**
Wed 19th March at WGC Cricket Club, 288 Knightsfield
AL9 7NQ
£5 to include refreshments
Email coralwalton@icloud.com for tickets
- ♦ **Jazz on the Island**
14th June - Lemsford
Details to follow...

Gargoyles to Ward off Evil

Mary Douglas offers us this photo of a gargoyle on St John's Church.

In medieval Europe, gargoyles were believed to ward off evil spirits and protect cathedrals and other structures.

In fact they have a more practical use: channel water away from the building's walls and foundations.

Clearly they don't ward off rooks! [we think]



RIP John Marks

Our dear friend John Marks sadly died on Thursday 13th March morning. Please do pray for Ruth and all John's family.

John was a very special man, who served the church so faithfully. He will be very missed. Rest in the love and peace of God John

The Lemsford Fete

- ♦ Bank Holiday Monday 5th May - 12-4pm - see Paul Butler's article on page 7



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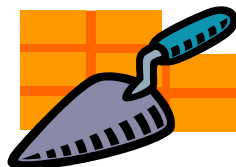
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Snowdrops and Cream Teas on the Island - Edna Stephens

The whole week before the event was grey, freezing cold and very wet. We began to think that an invitation to take a muddy walk in the rain, and sit at a picnic table to eat cream teas in the rain, would be an unlikely fund raising event; but all the time the gallant little snowdrops were pushing their heads up from the flooded Island as the river roared by. At the same time they were making their joyful white carpets everywhere- including underwater-, and equally hardy villagers and friends were already planning to prove us wrong and brave the elements.

On Sunday morning the amazing group of Rotary volunteers arrived and very quickly erected gazebos to protect helpers, laid out raffle prizes; covered the terrace with café tables and chairs, put up safety notices and filled the kitchen with home baked scones and jam, tea and other drinks. All the time we were wondering if anyone would turn up to enjoy the event.

At ten minutes to one o'clock we opened the gate and were surprised to find a group people waiting to enter. Behind them a steady stream of hardy visitors had developed which did not stop until closing time. The kitchen crew worked non-stop, and were exhausted by the time the last visitors left.

Thanks are due to many; all the loyal villagers and other friends



who support these events year after year; everyone who helped organising and setting up; those who donated items for the raffle and made up the hampers of prizes; those who baked and served the delicious scones and tea; Wendy who generously donated and sold her father's wonderful artwork, and most of all, thanks to everyone who came and helped raise £900, for the Admiral Dementia Nurses.

Rotary [see page 3] works hard to link people to each other here and worldwide, and raises money for many local, national and international charities. If you think you would like to be involved with its work you can learn much more from: Andrew Forrow
andrew.forrow6@gmail.com

Alice Coralie Glyn Homes

Registered Charity Number: 230988



Alice Coralie Glyn was an author and early advocate of women's rights a decade before the Pankhurst sisters were active.

After her death, she was described as "a woman of word and deed", a fitting epitaph for a woman who spoke up for the less fortunate and offered practical help which continues to this day through the Alice Coralie Glyn Homes charity.



Alice's Homes

New Trustees Needed

Do you have a few spare hours a month?

Are you able to give a little something back to your local community?

Can you help us provide stewardship of our 14 bungalows?

Alice Coralie Glyn Homes is a local charity providing affordable housing in Welwyn Garden City for people over the age of 60 in financial need.

The charity is run by a small group of volunteer trustees and properties are managed by Millard Consultants.

If you are interested in joining us, please email our Chair of Trustees Geoff.stilwell59@gmail.com for more information and a Trustee application pack.

More information about can be found at alicecoralieglynhomes.co.uk and about Almshouses in general at www.almshouses.org

Lemsford Fete – Monday 5th May 2025 by Paul Butler

Following last year's rather wet event let's hope 2025 can be a little more forgiving weather wise!

2025 is the fete's 75th anniversary and we will be having some themes to celebrate this, whilst also recognising that VE Day is on the 8th May. If you want to see a bit more about our history please go to this web page hosted by the Lemsford History Group (http://www.lemsfordhistory.co.uk/Article_Fete.html).

We will again have our classic coconut shy, archery and crockery smash stalls along with traditional maypole dancing. There will also be a chance to meet local members of the Herts Fire and Police Services, during the afternoon if you want to clamber over a fire engine or try on the kit, or maybe you'd like to admire a couple of classic Morgan cars (hopefully a few extras as well)?

For those of you with thrill seeking teddy bears please bring them along and give them a treat of a ride on our teddy bear zip wire from the church tower.

Our musical programme for the afternoon will have a very strong vocal feel with several choirs and solo singers.

An afternoon out wouldn't be complete without a little refreshment so try a Pimms or local real ale in our beer tent, maybe something non-alcoholic instead. Having quenched your thirst how about something from our BBQ (meat or vegan), a cake or two or maybe just a simple ice cream.

Our commitment to environmental awareness and responsibility will continue as we reduce more of the single use products and increase the use of recyclable materials. As part of this we no longer sell water in single use plastic bottles, we will though happily fill up any reusable water bottles you bring along, as often as you want, for free.

Like previous years the use of debit card payments on a number of the higher value stalls will be available, though you will still be able to use cash if you wish (we do not take £50 notes - sorry). Whilst we have an increasing availability of cashless payment options and devices, this won't be possible on all stalls, so please bear with our volunteers if they can't



(Continued on page 9)

Services

April 2025

6th The 5th Sunday of Lent

8 am MP (BCP) 11 am HC with Sunday Club

13th Palm Sunday

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am HC with 'Passion' reading

14th Holy Monday

7 pm Compline

16th Holy Wednesday

7 pm Compline

18th Good Friday

2 pm Reflecting on the Cross

20th Easter Sunday

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am 'All Together' HC*

27th The Second Sunday of Easter

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am Reflective Worship

May 2025

4th The Third Sunday of Easter

8 am MP (BCP) 11 am 'All Together' Service*

5th The Lemsford Fete

12-4pm All Welcome*

11th The Fourth Sunday of Easter

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am HC with Sunday Club

18th The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am Reflective Worship
4pm Connect@4*

25th The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8 am HC (BCP) 11 am HC

* Services especially suitable for children, and all other ages!

Lemsford Fete – Concluded

(Continued from page 7)

help you and they learn how to use the devices.

Whilst you can bring your favourite teddy bear, **please DON'T bring your dog along unless they are a registered guide or assistance dog** as school grounds have a no dogs rule.

The fete is completely run by volunteers from the school and church communities of St John's Lemsford and all proceeds go to support local charities, and school and church activities, so please come along and support us. We hope you will come and enjoy an afternoon of great food, drink, music and games. For a complete insight to the event, timings, and attractions check out our website: www.lemsfordfete.co.uk

Paul Butler, Fete Chair





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Ukraine in Canada



For Ukrainians, the custom of decorating Easter eggs (Pysanky) is not just a popular tradition, but a rich and historic art form handed down through the centuries.

Traditional folk motifs and symbolic designs and colours characterise Pysanky, which are often multi-coloured and feature flowers, crosses, geometric lines, and other rich and meaningful symbols.

In 1973, as part of the centennial celebrations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a giant Pysanka was built in Vegreville, Alberta, to symbolise its Ukrainian culture and the peace and security that the RCMP offered the area's pioneers and their descendants.

The sculpture was designed by Paul Sembaliuk, a Canadian artist of Ukrainian descent and Professor Resch, a computer scientist at the University of Utah. It is a complicated jigsaw puzzle containing 524-star patterns, 2,208 equilateral triangles, 3,512 visible facets, 6,978 nuts and bolts, and 177 internal struts. The Pysanka is recognised around the world as not only a unique artistic masterpiece but also an achievement of nine mathematical, architectural and engineering firsts. The Pysanka measures 25.7 feet long, 18 feet wide, and stands 31 feet high.

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Children and Young People at St John's *by Jo Brooks*

We've just marked International Women's Day – a great day to celebrate women in every area of our society, but the church hasn't always been seen as a leader when it comes to the role of women. So in Sunday Club this term we've been looking at what the Bible has to say, and have been meeting some of the amazing women and girls who are as much part of God's great plan for all people as anyone. We've met **Anna**, arguably one of the first evangelists (along with the shepherds), telling everyone who would listen that the tiny baby being presented in the temple in Jerusalem is God's promised saviour, Jesus. We've heard about **Ruth**, one of Jesus' own ancestors (Joseph's many times great grandmother) and her story of love and redemption. And we've met **Miriam** who helps to rescue her baby brother Moses, so that he in turn could lead God's rescue of his people out of Egypt. In old and new testaments there are women leading and guiding, rescuing and building. They meet Jesus, set up churches, share the gospel. They are faithful and hopeful, active and bold, and on the record! And as we approach Easter why not look out for the women - who is last to leave on Good Friday? And who are the first to arrive on Easter Sunday morning and bring the glorious news of resurrection to the defeated disciples?



April and May are busy months at St John's and we've some changes in our normal schedule to accommodate big dates in the calendar:

Our next **Sunday Club is on Sunday 6th April**. There will be activities available if children are in church on **Palm Sunday too (13th April)**. **Easter Sunday on the 20th April** is a wonderful all together celebration. Then we have our next all together on the **4th May...** with **Sunday Club on the 11th**, and **Connect@4 on the 18th**. In between of course is **Lemsford Fete on 5th May**. St John's Sunday Club will be there with activities and games for children of all ages – we look forward to seeing you!

Sunday Club generally runs on the second Sunday of the month with Bible stories, games and crafts, from bread-making to boat-building! For more information please do contact joholifield@gmail.com or revkathrynalford@gmail.com

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Alice Coralie Glyn Homes - by Geoff Stilwell

For several years now, Alice Coralie Glyn Homes have run an advert in local church parish magazines – including St. Johns Lemsford – to raise awareness of the 14 affordable bungalows that this local Almshouse charity provides in Welwyn Garden City for people over the age of 60 and in financial need. Six of the properties are located in Turmore Dale and eight in Hyde Valley. But, where did the name Alice Coralie Glyn come from?

Alice was born at 41 Beaufort Gardens, Brompton, London on the 5 November 1886 into a wealthy and well connected family. The family banking business of Glyn, Mills & Co – which had been founded in 1753 – existed until 1969 when it became part of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Both of Alice's parents died when she was young so from the age of 14, she lived with her older sister Rosie in Belgravia.

It had been thought that Alice never married but it turns out that she was married, divorced and then engaged to someone else. It is unclear whether or not she had any children. What we do know is that she wrote three novels, was an early advocate of women's rights – a decade before the Pankhurst sisters were active – and even started a London club exclusively for women.

Alice died in 1928. She left £31,052 (around £2 million today) to her friend Lois Tremlow but specified that, on Tremlow's death, the money be given to Welwyn Garden City to build homes for the poor. Lois survived until 1949, and the bungalows were built in 1951 on land donated by Welwyn Garden City Development Corporation on a 999 year lease at a peppercorn rent.

We don't know why Alice specified Welwyn Garden City, given no apparent connection with the town, so can only assume she was inspired by the Garden City movement initiated by Ebenezer Howard. Today, the bungalows are run by Trustees as a registered charity, which is also a member of the Almshouse Association. They are managed by Millard Consultants who specialise in the charitable sector.

Whilst all of our properties are currently occupied, if you do know of anybody who might require accommodation either now or in the future please ask them to email Geoff.stilwell59@gmail.com as we do run a waiting list. As you will also see from the advert in this issue of the magazine, we currently have a vacancy for one trustee to join our existing six trustees to help continue the work of a very remarkable woman.



News from St John's C of E School - March 2025

We are in the midst of a very busy term once again. In March we had two very special days which brought the school community together in variety of interesting ways.

On Ash Wednesday we took part in our second RE enrichment day of the year. The focus of the day was Lent, spirituality and Easter Week.

The day began with Revd Kathryn leading Collective Worship for the school at church. The service focused on spirituality building on the previous Collective Worship at the start of the week in school. The children shared their ideas about what spirituality is and where we might find it. Then Ash Wednesday and its meaning was explored with Revd Kathryn explaining that it was an opportunity for a clean start, a chance to start over. The children repeated the simple prayer: 'God help me to turn back to you.'

The remainder of the morning was spent in house teams, which combine children from each of the four classes, with each exploring the principal events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Jesus clearing the temple, Jesus going to the Mount of Olives, The Last Supper, The Crucifixion and Easter Day. Each important event was explored through drama, discussion, story telling and art. The learning culminated in a display in the hall.



During the afternoon the classes explored the meaning and significance of Lent. They thought about the 40 acts of kindness that they could participate in over the lent period. They also designed their own cross which was added to a whole school collage.

The following day was World Book Day – quite a contrast! This year the children and staff dressed up as a book character. [See inside front cover] What an amazing sight to see! The costumes were delightful and ranged from Harry Potter to Red Riding Hood, from Gangsta Granny to the Cat in the Hat. Each class focused on the same book during the week, this year we chose 'The Search for the Gigantic Artie Jellyfish' written by Chloe Savage, a story about self-belief and endurance in which Dr Morley embarks on a

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News from St John's School - Jan 2025 - Continued

(Continued from page 17)

quest to the northernmost tip of the world to discover a creature that everyone talks about but which no one has seen. The children produced some lovely writing and Art relating to the text. Throughout the day we had parents visiting to share their favourite books and

poems as well as older and younger children reading to one another. A lovely day!

I wish you all a lovely Easter once it arrives.

Best wishes,
Michelle Boylan
Head teacher

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I enjoyed a great lunch with the seniors of Lemsford Parish in January at the Terranova Italian Restaurant by the shores of Stanborough Lake. This special lunch was organised by Lemsford Senior Residents Association, which was formerly known as Lemsford Old People Welfare Committee and was set up nearly a 100 years ago. Its original patrons were the Lord Mount Stephen estate and a private donation from a lady, who was a friend of the late Jean Dance, founder member of Lemsford Local History Group. Jean ran the Seniors Group for many years. Today funds come from Herts Community Foundation. It aims to provide an outing (seaside or historical) and a New Year lunch each year. It is open to all seniors over 60 years old living in the parish. It is run by the hard working Carol Hicks who yet again provided over 50 people with a great lunch in January 2025. A big thank you to her for all her time, effort and hard work. Look forward to our summer Beano later on in the year, knotted hanky and factor 50 already packed.

This issue's Then and Now on the inside back cover includes three images. The first is an aerial shot showing the south lake before construction started in 1994. The second photo shows construction in 1995 and the third is how it looks today,

Our host at The Terranova was owner Vincenzo who shared his memories with me to pass on to you in this article. We start with a welcome from their website www.terranoarestaurants.com

Since opening in 1995, we have aimed to serve good home-cooked Italian food with family-friendly service. We source the freshest ingredients with a range of dishes everyone can enjoy. Be it lunch, a night out with friends, or a special celebration; expect a warm Italian welcome from my team.

Vincenzo was catering manager of the sadly missed Stanborough (outside) swimming pool for over 10 years. When he told me it took me back over 60 years to my weekly school trip in the 1960s to have swimming lessons from a freezing changing room followed by a ice breaking dip in the pool, combined with cold showers after football at school in winter - it made me the man I became. Vincenzo also was in charge of the lakeside café, which he has kept to this day.

(Continued on page 20)

LLHG - Know the past to understand the future

(Continued from page 19)



What makes The Terranova special is the staff. Vincenzo kindly gave me a photo showing the staff 10 years ago. L to R Maurizio (Chef), Bruno (Head Waiter), Vincenzo (Owner) and Antonio (Pizza chef). For the record: best pizzas I have ever had. I also took a photo of the staff today and apart from the sad loss of Bruno they have stayed loyal and have been joined by Tina and Tommaso.



Once again, a big thank you to Vincenzo and his staff for thirty years of providing Lemsford Parish with a first-class restaurant. Please

Lemsford Local History Group - *Continued*

(Continued from page 20)

support The Terranova when you can like local hero Tony Tutton who informed me he uses The Terranova over five times a year with his U3A groups. Much like our only pub in the village 'The Sun Inn' **Use it or Lose It.**

Lemsford Local History Group has an unwritten rule, we don't research outside the Parish boundaries (based on 1879 boundaries). The Terranova is just outside the boundaries, but rules are there to be broken. The mention of Stanborough swimming pool encouraged me to look up its history. I found a fascinating article on a great website www.ourwelwyngardencity.org.uk by Susan Hall titled SWIMMING POOL IN LEA VALLEY - Public demand for facilities for swimming and bathing:

On Friday 31 October 1930 in the British Legion Headquarters a public enquiry was held into the building of a swimming pool in Welwyn Garden City. There were residents present who were for and against the scheme and some of the remarks were of a lively nature. The loan required for the scheme would be £14,500 which would include a filtration plant. There was a debate concerning the extra charge on the rates that would come from the running and upkeep of the pool, and also the fact that 50 men would be employed over the five months that it would take to build. The pool itself was "being planned as near as possible in the geographical centre of the town". Its site is sheltered by a stretch of oak woodland in which a sufficient clearance will be made to admit full sunshine at all times of the day. The area of the site is two acres and it has been offered to the council by the Company on a 999-year lease for a nominal ground rent of 10s a year. The scheme comprises: a shallow paddling pool for small children, and a swimming pool 120 feet by 60 feet, varying in depth from 3 to 7 feet; the whole being set in a paved area surrounded by grass lawns and a sun-bathing beach. In addition, there will be brick buildings comprising a buffet, Entrance Hall, Ticket Office, Superintendent's Flat and Sanitary accommodation. The 200 dressing boxes will be arranged in two separate enclosures and so designed that every bather must pass a shower bath and footbath on the way to the swimming pool. The proposed site of the pool was to be at Stanborough and could be

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

approached by the footpaths in Common Lane (Tinkers Hill) and Stanborough Lane.

Admission Charges in the 1930s

Proposed charges for the use of the bath are as follows: week-days, ordinary bathing adults; 4d each: children under 14 2d. Mixed bathing 6d; children accompanied by adult 4d; Sunday ordinary bathing 6d. Mixed bathing 1/-; season ticket (not admitting during mixed bathing) adults 15/-; children 7/-6d; to include mixed bathing 25/-. Local elementary school children in parties accompanied by teachers 1d each scholar. Paddling pool children 2d each.

In 1965 the pool at Stanborough had a facelift and was opened to the public on 15 April 1965. The boiler that had been installed to heat the water over night, did not start, so the water temperature for that morning was a very cool 59 degrees F. But that did not put people off from experiencing the new complex. (I think I went in the early 1960s and experienced the non-boiler version)



As I remember it in the 1960s

(Continued on page 23)

Lemsford Local History Group - *Concluded*

(Continued from page 22)

In 1987 £85,000 was spent on a “Splashland” scheme and it was due to be opened on 30 May 1987, but this opening had to be scrapped due to the fact that the slides would not fit together. The opening of “Splashlands” happened in July of 1987 and on July 5 a record breaking 6,056 persons visited the pool and 862 rode on the water slides. The slides were proving to be an exciting attraction at this popular pool. In 1989 it was reported that the outdoor pool in Welwyn Garden City needed a lot of repairs. A study was then carried out to see how much it would cost to replace it with an indoor complex. In July 1999 the swimming pool closed. There were safety concerns and the pool was closed for the summer. Erosion around the pool was reported to Welwyn Hatfield Council in March of that year and it was announced on Friday 15 July that the pool was unstable and would have to stay closed. An extensive geological survey revealed that the pool could be sitting on loose sub-soil and there may be holes where the chalk layer below the earth was dissolving. But the voids could not simply be filled, all the concrete around the pool would have to be removed and structures supported, and up to 5m of slushy sub-soil would have to be replaced with gravel. Also there was other work needed before the pool would be able to open, the boiler and the chlorinating plant needed replacing. The cost of repair was at least £1 million.

There was some doubt that with all the work that was needed the outdoor facility would ever reopen. And it never did. This article is cut from Susan Halls excellent article To read the full article go to www.ourwelwyngardencity.org.uk

On 19th January we said goodbye to former Chairwoman of LLHG Joan Baraclough with a funeral service at St John’s Church, Lemsford. We celebrated a very full and generous life then raised a glass to her at the Crooked Chimney. A very special lady.

If you have any questions about Lemsford Parish History or want to share memories, email us at info@lemsfordhistory.co.uk or go to the website www.llemsfordhistory.co.uk



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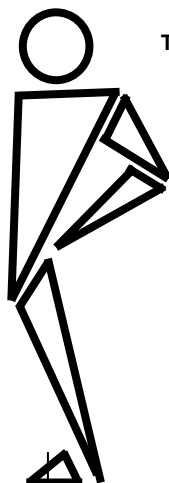

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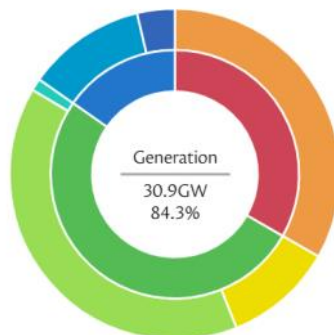
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German has a great tool, lacking in romance languages - the creation of compound nouns. One such has been in the news lately: *dunkelflauten*, literally “dark doldrums”. It is a time when renewable wind and solar power cannot generate energy due to the lack of wind and sunlight.

The UK has a variety of electricity sources. We have significant renewable sources in wind turbines and solar panels. Nuclear power is a relatively constant supplier; while biomass – a euphemism for burning wood – is quite significant too. Gas-powered generators can be switched on and off relatively quickly. Undersea cables to six neighbouring countries, which can pass electricity in both directions, are also an important balancing aid for all countries involved.

Lately I have been a regular visitor to a website called **National Grid: Live**. It shows graphically in real time this country’s demand for electricity, how it is being met, and at what average cost. The supplies are shown on a pie chart in green and yellow for wind and sun respectively, blue for nuclear and biomass, and red (of course) for gas. An example is shown here; it works best in colour of course which you can see on the website.

As I write, at 11.40am on an overcast morning, demand is 37 Gigawatts of which wind is providing 31%, gas 30%, transfers in of 17% (mostly from France), nuclear 10%, solar 8%, biomass 3%, and hydro 1%. The price is £77/Megawatt hour (MWh).



These figures, for both demand and supply, can change dramatically within a day. During a *dunkelflaute* gas becomes the predominate source but on a sunny windy day gas can be switched off altogether, and we can even export electricity. Costs can go up to over £150/MWh, and I have seen them as low as £20/MWh. This variability is interesting – hence my frequent visits.

But what has this to do with nature? Burning natural gas is clearly damaging our climate and hence our wildlife, and in any case it one day will run out. As an island, we are fortunate to have many windy sites for turbines. We also get a fair number of sunny days. It is up to us to make the best of these renewable blessings. Our biggest challenge is to find ways to store excess energy to see us through *dunkelflauten*.

I commend to you National Grid: Live which has given me a much better understanding of the issues facing our power supplies. It really radiates *Sehenswürdigkeit* – see worthy ness.

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