

# ***Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield* NEWS**



***AUTUMN 2017  
Issue No. 39***

# **SPURLING & REMBLANCE**



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We are one hedgehog down at home, on a sunny evening on a perfectly straight road someone managed to run over our largest resident. Some people never fail to disappoint. They're probably the same people who throw cans and litter out of their speeding vehicles as they rush through Redlingfield. On a happier note the village managed to cohabit with a colony of Tree Bumblebees living in the Doorstep Green shed. And happily they had gone on their merry way before our fete.

*It seems strange, on a sunny August day with combine harvesters roaring in the distance, to be putting the autumn edition of the village magazine to bed. But that's life – tomorrow it is forecast to be autumnal with heavy, dark clouds and downpours. Anyway here's another edition of your village magazine and a lot has been happening. Since our last issue the coffee caravan has been stolen (shame) and replaced (hurrah) and most of the big local events of the year have been held with their unusual enthusiastic crowds of villagers and visitors. Read all about it, as they say, inside. Mike Ager*

■ **COUNCIL MOVING:** Mid Suffolk District Council are expected to complete the move from their Needham Market offices this autumn. From October 1st Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils will be based at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX alongside Suffolk County Council. To contact them: visit [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk); phone 0300 123 4000; drop in to see them in Stowmarket (54 Ipswich Street, IP14 1AD) or Sudbury (Town Hall, Old Market Place, CO10 1TL); or write to them in Endeavour House.

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editors: Evelyn Adey on [evelyn.adey@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.adey@btinternet.com) or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on [mike@gn.apc.org](mailto:mike@gn.apc.org) or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU. We aim to produce four full-colour issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November.

**Rates for adverts in four issues distributed to approximately 300 homes and businesses in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:**

**1/8 page £9** (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)

**1/6 page £12** (60mm deep, 60mm across)

**1/3 page £23.50** (60mm deep, 125mm across)

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**You can supply the artwork and/or logos or we can design adverts for you.**

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# Mixed blessing of heatwave

*Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife*

**O**VERNIGHT ON MAY 17TH, the dry weather of a month came to an end, and we awoke to an inch of rain in the rain-gauge. The swallows in the woodshed were up early too, and were sitting wet on the wires wondering whether to get on with nest building or wait for the insects to get airborne.

The heatwave of the early summer was a mixed blessing but just the job if you hadn't got hard work on your hands; it gave people a reminder of what a flaming June was really like.

One glorious evening after the heat of the day, I took a four-mile bike ride and bumped into local wildlife-watcher Andrew Muttock. He had good news about breeding turtledoves in his village and gave a back-handed compliment to the highways people

who had positioned small heaps of road salt for winter use on local bends and T-junctions. After a mild winter, these unused piles were being used by the turtle doves for grit on a daily basis on summer mornings.

It was the week of Royal Ascot and Andrew reckons there are two very good reasons for wanting sunny weather. First, the Queen keeps dry as the Royal carriage proceeds down the racetrack, and second, this week always coincides with a high time for grey partridge hatching. Two things, avoiding a fatal soaking and having a good supply of insects, are essential to give the partridge chicks a flying start.

THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE GAVE another rainfall of biblical proportions but it didn't upset the fledging plans of numerous garden birds. The four young spotted flycatchers were overflowing the nest and, by the same token, we were only just in time to ring this year's crop of seven young barn owls from our two boxes. The four at Kiln Farm were very advanced and well-feathered, so much so that we could not let our grandson Noah hold one for a photo call. The talons of a barn-owl can easily puncture the hand of a man of the soil let alone that of a child.

Young blackbirds, great tits and thrushes are all on show, and the scruffy female thrush showed all the signs of exhaustion after the non-





**Facing page: the spotted flycatchers' overflowing nest. This page: farmer Oli, George the bond trader and Steve the landscape gardener; grandson Noah wasn't allowed to handle a barn owl but his dad was.**

stop feeding of its young. Blackbirds will soon be skulking out of sight because the juvenile moulting disables their aerial skills, but I have seen rooks with big gaps in their wings totally unaffected in their flight by the loss of a feather or three.

THE SPOTTED flycatcher here has moved on to a second brood which is encouraging in the light of a recent BTO survey showing a decline in England in the last decade. The survey notes that gardens with access to water (a tick with our large horse pond), good herbaceous plantings (no tick there) and free-ranging dogs are the best for the success of this favourite visitor.

We certainly tick that last box with our two Labradors who race around the lawn and deter everything from cats to corvids. This year's picture of the flycatchers' nest shows the four juveniles are very even in size and I wonder if the adult is clever enough to feed them by rota. This is unlike the barn owl, which spaces out its brood so that if the feed supply runs out, the largest chick can always eat the smallest. *Continued over*



*Continued from previous page*  
THREE-TIME PRIME MINISTER in the 1920s, Stanley Baldwin, was a lover of old England and wrote “The sights and sounds of England, the crack of the hammer on the anvil in the smithy, the cornrake of a dewy morning, the sound of the scythe sharpened by the rub and the sight of the plough team coming over the hill.....”.

This sense of nostalgia is stronger the ever and many farmers and others like to reminisce. However the past is past even though we turned the clock back and hand-hoed the Knowlands’ winter beans in the old-fashioned way this spring! And without a doubt we all enjoyed it. A small problem of grass weeds was soon sorted out by our motley team when farmer Oli was joined by George the bond trader and Steve the landscape gardener.

Sadly there appears no going back for the cornrake, another migrant from Africa which depended for its nesting success on meadows and old haymaking customs which have now been replaced by fast modern silage cutting.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS RAIN-affected August was the magnificent white stork which spent two days feeding alongside the rape subsoiler and roosting overnight on the chimneys of the Eastmeads’ Denham cottage.

Breeding in central Europe far from its winter home on the southern tip of Africa, it is one of the world’s greatest



long-distance migrants, and so exact is its timing to return to nest it is the source of the lovely myth of delivering babies to the houses where it builds its huge nest of twigs.

This is a rare visitor with only a dozen or so making it to these shores every year and a red-letter day indeed to be close enough to watch its one-legged roost on Stuart and Margaret’s chimney tops and see the soil along its huge bill.

HARVEST TIME AND THE LOCAL roads are clogged with tractors and stuff. Doc Goodge says the trouble with farmers is they insist on having their farms in the countryside.

*Trevor Edwards*

# Coffee caravan back on road

**A** S I WRITE this the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project are taking possession of their new caravan, thanks to Farnham Leisure. And by the time the magazine reaches the printers they should be back on the road making visits throughout the county.

In early July the project's caravan was stolen from a farm near Bury St Edmunds where it was stored. The caravan, with its logos, leaflets and coffee and cakes, has become an important part of Redlingfield life and the life of many other small Suffolk villages bringing much more than a cuppa and a chat to rural communities. So people were shocked when the caravan was stolen.

Although some visits had to be cancelled it was no surprise to anyone who knows RCCIP project director Ann Osborn and her team that they were soon back on the road thanks to their other vehicle, a campervan, and a pop-up gazebo.

Ann Osborn, director of the RCCIP, told the *Evening Star* newspaper: "We are so disappointed that someone would do this... Our caravan is an unusual design layout but it suits our



purpose. I think that whoever has taken it thinks that it is a catering van with valuable equipment and they have taken it for the machines inside or for parts. "

The caravan was insured but only for price Stowmarket Caravans sold it to the RCCIP, which was a special deal.

The project thought it needed to find more than £23,000 to replace the caravan and its contents (tables, chairs, mugs, coffee making equipment, games, uniforms, ferrules, rugs, leaflet racks, signs and their own leaflets which will need to be reprinted). A fund-raising campaign soon saw a sizeable amount raised and thanks to Farnham Leisure they have another caravan.

We wish Ann Osborn and her wonderful team all the best for the future and thank them for soldiering on throughout.

**Mike Ager**



# Flying ants, more than just

**A**NTS, THEY CARRY ON their business all spring and summer long often without a second glance. There are around 50 different species of ant in the UK and they all prefer to live in different environments filling different ecological roles and like their cousins, bees and wasps, have a social order, a hive mentality.

Their role is to provide food in the form of garden pests, and dying insects and help to raise a new colony of queens and a plentiful amount of male ants to mate with queens from other colonies. This is when they can become a bit of a nuisance, for this is the time they fly!

This is an important time in nature and not just for the ants. The only time that the queens can mate with a male is while they are on the wing. Yes, males have to show their agility to catch a large queen in mid-flight and then copulate with her whilst still flying, no mean feat. But as I said, it's not just about the ants. This mass

exodus of ants that pour out from their deep underground burrows become a food source for some of our much-loved wildlife.

As they reach up on the warm summer thermals, they become easy pickings for swifts, swallows and martins as they build up their fat reserves that will help them on the long journey back south. After the ants have mated, they will land wherever the winds drop them and it is now time for the queens to find a new place to start a colony. Yet they will have to run the gauntlet of other ravenous wildlife.

The queens are not as agile as the workers who reared her and the males are also quite docile after their aerial acrobatics and these make easy pickings for garden birds such as blue tits, great tits, sparrows and much more. Especially the new fledglings, the ants provide much needed training for the young birds helping them to hone their insect hunting skills.

Any newts, frogs or toads will also find this a good time to feast in

## ■ STRADBROKE & DISTRICT RBL:

Stradbroke and District Branch of the Royal British Legion are still looking for a new treasurer. Chairman Michael Burton has emphasised that people do not have to be ex-service personnel to help the branch with this. The guest speaker at the July meeting was retired rector Rev Christine Brooks from Friston who was one of the first women to be ordained. She was previously a school



teacher. The branch also visited RBL care home, Halsey House in Cromer, and branch standard bearer Joyce Cooper has been busy carrying the branch standard at events and overseas and a funeral. RBL community fund raiser for Suffolk Mandi Cox-Osborne will be the speaker at the branch's next meeting on Thursday September 14th at The Royal Oak, Laxfield, starting 11.30am.

**Branch chairman Michael Burton**



# a nuisance

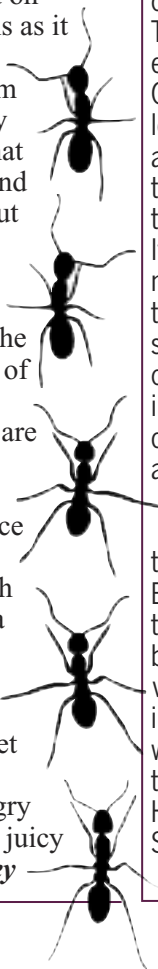
preparedness for the long winter. In the evening, any ants that haven't found a safe place to hide will succumb to predators such as our troubled hedgehogs.

Any new nests that are created are also a food source for one of our favourite birds in the countryside (well mine at least), the green woodpecker with its laughing call.

This bird is often found on the ground on green lawns as it seeks out ant nests in which it can poke its 14cm long tongue to extract any unlucky ants. A tongue that actually wraps itself around the woodpeckers brain, but that's another story.

I've heard of many various methods people have used to try and kill the emerging ants on the day of flight and for no other reason than because they are a nuisance.

Have we ever considered what a nuisance human behaviour can be to wildlife with our selfish ways? For just two days a year, the ants will fly and despite any efforts to wipe them out, your efforts will be futile. So let them do their thing and think about all those hungry young birds waiting for a juicy little meal. *Hawk Honey*



■ **SCENES OF SUMMER:** Over the weekend of June 10 and 11, Redlingfield Church hosted a Scenes of Summer event. Rather like the Christmas Scenes held back in December, members of the community 'took' part of the church and produced a display of what summer meant for them. It was a sort of flower festival meets art show and the range of displays and materials used was as imaginative as the creators' use of them and the spaces in the church.

There was even a Green Man looking out at us from the front of the pulpit. If you missed it then I'm



sorry you'll have to go and look at the cloisters in Bury cathedral to see a poor imitation. And of course, there were plenty of refreshments, a book stall, bric-a-brac and a bottle stall to help things along. Very encouragingly the weekend raised a huge £618.39 for church funds. A big thank you to everyone who helped and encouraged. But, it might also have given us a glimpse of the future; here we saw the church building being used and enjoyed by far more of the village community and it may be an insight into how it might feel as we continue to work on plans to develop the interior now that we have a water-tight roof. Pauline and Hazel Abbott are pictured with of the Scenes of Summer displays.

**Rev Michael Womack**

# New Reedings Wood Group

**A**RE YOU A DENDROPHILE, an ornithologist, an orchidologist, a nemophilist or a tree hugger, or does your interest in Pound Lane Wood depend on its peace and quiet or the fact that it is a safe place for children and dogs to run free? If you are interested in supporting this local amenity then The New Reeding Woods Group needs you now!

When the New Reedings Wood group was set up in 2003 there was a hope of a series of woodlands across the three villages of Denham Horham and Athelington, hence the "s" on the woods in the name. However, land was difficult to come by and over the years the cost per acre has spiralled at the same time as grants for land purchase have become more limited.

In 2005 the group were able to buy the hectare of land that is now established as Pound Lane Wood. In those distant days the group were enthused to collect seeds from local trees including veteran trees and nurture them.

By the time that the land purchase was completed there were plans for erecting fencing, digging a pond, seeding the wildflower meadow and planting the tree seedlings.

Finally the wood was planted and twelve years later is now a well used local amenity. However the Steering Group that planned and planted this woodland has matured at a similar rate to the trees and though few of them have grown taller their joints have stiffened much as the branches have, and now they are looking for younger blood to carry this project on into the future.

Regular working parties to encourage new volunteers are planned, with advice and instruction on hand. In future years as well as the regular maintenance of fences, making hay from the meadow, cutting the rides, and keeping the pond clear, there will be a need to do some formative pruning of the trees.

As the trees grow we will have the opportunity to set up bird and bat boxes, and do more in-depth surveys

■ **SONGS OF PRAISE FOR ST PETER IN ATHELINGTON:** The Petertide celebrations in early July at Athelington church have long been a bit of an 'event' in the life of the village often involving a lovely lunch. This year's celebrations didn't place such a burden on the waist but were still very enjoyable. On the July 2nd, we had Songs of Praise for St Peter where members of the congregation chose their favourite hymns and the very versatile Chris Stamford at the organ played (even though the Rev Michael kept trying to get folk to choose really hard ones!) In amongst it all, we heard parts of the story of St Peter. Afterwards, Pimms, soft drinks and refreshments were served. With it being such a lovely day, we enjoyed these in the graveyard; which seemed very appropriate as it called to mind the early tradition in the church of gathering at the tombs of the saints and having a meal. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it so enjoyable.

**Rev Michael Womack**

# needs you!

of the wildlife using the wood, so this peaceful leisure area may become a useful wildlife resource.

Our working parties will encourage everyone regardless of age to help keep this woodland flourishing and in good shape into the future. Look out for details of these events which will be displayed on the notice board at the wood and join us to keep this project going!

The annual general meeting was held at the woodland on the July 1st. The chairman reported that this year has been excellent for tree, wildflower and grass development, but the time was fast approaching when tree thinning and formative pruning will be needed as well as the usual maintenance tasks.

He emphasised the need for succession planning as this is a long-term project. The pond now supports large numbers of newts and two different varieties of orchid have been found in the rides, the butterfly, insects and bird visitors are regularly observed.

The New Reeding Woods Group meets three or four times a year to arrange woodland management and working party events and new members are always welcome.

For more details contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668 179.

**Margaret Reeves**

*NB: A dendrophile (one who loves trees), a nemophilist (a person who loves or is fond of woods or forests), an orchidologist (an expert in or student of orchids).*



■ **REDLINGFIELD FETE & BBQ** The village's annual fete and BBQ doesn't usually involve a sleepless night for my wife Jan emailing and phoning anyone involved with Suffolk Highways. However, on the afternoon before the fete notices were dropped around the village saying the main road through Redlingfield would be closed the next day – well to cut a long story short thanks to Jan the roadworks were postponed and the fete went ahead. Attendance was a bit down on previous years thanks to the early harvest – may be next year we'll hold it in June. Many thanks to those who helped set up, clear up, run stalls, serve behind the bar, cook and serve the excellent burgers and sausages, and those who sold tickets, especially the wonderful Joyce Saunders whose phone must be red hot in the weeks leading up to village events. More than £1,000 was raised for the village.

**Mike Ager**

# Excellent test results again

**O**NCE AGAIN PUPILS OF all ages at Wilby Primary School achieved outstanding success in terms of achievement and progress. Our year 6 results are again well above national expectations and what is perhaps more pleasing is that our progress levels are even higher than they were in July 2017.

This level of success was also reflected in the younger years in both EYFS (early years foundation stage) assessments and Y1 phonic screening tests. We are delighted for the children and staff that all of their hard work has paid off and that there is much to celebrate!

The summer term was very busy in terms of both days out and residential trips. As always we pride ourselves on providing a rich variety of trips to enhance the children's learning as much as possible. Year 6 had a wonderful five-day visit to the Peak District and Years 5 and 6 had an excellent two-day stay at Sizewell Hall. Years 2, 3 and 4 had a great day canoeing/kayaking at the Oulton

Broad Water Sports Centre. YR and Y1 had days out at the Time and Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life and the SEA LIFE Great Yarmouth.

To complete the term, pupils from Y2 upwards had a day trip to the Olympic Stadium to watch the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships which was both an inspiring and humbling experience and one which I am sure the children will never forget

Musically and theatrically there has been lots happening too.

Following on from our brilliant KS2 production of Roald Dahl's Jack and the Beanstalk our Music for a Summer's Evening was also a tremendous success. In addition to this, this term we even had our own film festival when parents were invited along to view the brilliant films that our Year 6 produced. Visit our school website and you can have a look at what our talented children have created!

This year we have been accepted for Gold Arts Award status and as part of our increased provision the school will

■ **RECYCLING BANKS IN REDLINGFIELD:** Redlingfield Village Meeting has been exploring the possibility of getting a bottle bank and maybe other recycling facilities for the village but sadly despite our and Mid Suffolk Council's best efforts no suitable site could be found. The Mid Suffolk team even came out and drove round the village looking at various sites but none offered enough room for the recycling banks or the lorries that empty them. So currently the nearest bottle banks are: Denham Village Hall, Horham Community Centre, Athelington Hall and Worlingworth Community Centre. You can find more options at [www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling](http://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling). **Mike Ager**

■ **FAMILY FUN EVENING & RACE NIGHT:** Following the resounding success of last year's event Redlingfield Village Committee will be holding another Family Fun Evening & Race Night at Horham Community Centre on Saturday October 21st. Contact 678835 or [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk) nearer the date for tickets. **Mike Ager**





***Wilby school pupils under the Olympic Bell in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. The cast of the school's production of production of Roald Dahl's Jack and the Beanstalk.***

have a weekly after-school drama club run by the Waveney Valley Productions group and also an Artsmark award club so that pupils are able to work towards gaining their own certificated arts awards.

In June the pupils created a number of amazing scarecrows for the Village Scarecrow competition. The children's entries were both ingenious and highly inventive!

This term our Tea and Toys Group was replaced by the very popular Crocodile Rock on Thursday morning from 10am to 11.30am. Parents bring their children along for a morning of movement and music followed by a stay and play session in the hall. There have been changes in our pre-school too which now offers 30 hours of

provision for children beginning in the term that they are three years old. Parents are encouraged to come and look around – tours can be arranged to follow on from Crocodile Rock on Thursday mornings. Please phone the school or inquire when you attend Crocodile Rock sessions.

This term Wilby School organised a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fair at Eye. Attended by more than 600 pupils, the fair which was organised by Mr Haynes, the school's science lead, featured a wide variety of activities provided by GeoSuffolk, The Bug Man, Mad Science and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The day was a wonderful success and enjoyed by all!

***Roisin Wiseman, head-teacher***

# Get involved with Suffolk's

**Y**OU HAVE PROBABLY seen the posters for the Ride+Stride.

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. The money they raise helps to save historic churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs and the installation of modern facilities.

It originally started in Suffolk and Suffolk has consistently headed the table of funds raised.

Last year, the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride raised more than £137,500, with 3,000 people of all ages cycling around the churches of Suffolk – 728 of which were open and manned.

The money raised is split, with half going to your nominated church and half to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Most people who choose to live in a village, whether they are born and bred villagers or new to village life, like to see their village church even if they are



not regular 'church goers'. So do take this opportunity to help preserve these important buildings and at the same time enjoy cycling or walking along country roads between the churches.

Suffolk's Sponsored Bike Ride is every second Saturday in September (this year, Saturday September 9th).

The ride is run entirely by volunteers and is inter-denominational, with cyclists invited to seek sponsors who will undertake to pay an agreed sum of money for each place of worship visited by the cyclist between 9am and

## ■ ORGANISERS:

**Athelington:** Evelyn Adey, 01728 628428, [evelyn.adey@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.adey@btinternet.com)

**Horham:** Daphne Harvey, 384216 **Redlingfield:** Joan Abbott, 678736

**Email:** [suffolk@rideandstrideuk.org](mailto:suffolk@rideandstrideuk.org) **Web:** [www.shct.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride](http://www.shct.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride)

# Ride+Stride

5pm on the day.

As important as the cyclists are the many volunteers who give up their day to man the churches and chapels and sign in the cyclists as they arrive. Hundreds of places of worship are manned during the day and that takes quite a team of volunteers! It is a real community.

If you are not able to cycle or walk, then could you be one of the recorders? This involves sitting peacefully in the church or its grounds and welcoming in the riders and filling in a couple of bits of paper.

Most of the churches have a rota of folk so please do speak to your local organiser. Your local organiser will also be able to put you in touch with someone who is riding/walking and would welcome your sponsorship.

Sponsorship forms are available from your local organiser (see foot of facing page) and if you are not able to walk or ride then please do generously sponsor someone who is.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust has already helped to keep several of our local churches open; so in lots of ways this is a really worthwhile venture. Be part of it and join in the fun!

***Benefice organiser, Sue Roberts, 07713 157351, scr@netcom.co.uk***

■ **SEASONAL FLU CLINICS FOR 2017:** It is much easier for Fressingfield & Stradbroke Medical Centres to manage the flu vaccination centres' scheduled clinics. However, if you are unable to attend a clinic contact them after October 16th to book an appointment. Patients are eligible for a flu jab if they meet the criteria below. They will be holding additional flu clinics for eligible children under 18 and all 2 & 3 year olds. They will write to parents of these children during October asking them to ring in to book an appointment. All other eligible patients (over 18) should just turn up to one of the walk-in clinics below.

**You are eligible for a seasonal flu jab if:** you have asthma or a chronic respiratory disease; you have chronic heart disease; you have chronic kidney disease; you have chronic liver disease; you are diabetic you have a weak immune system/immunosuppression; you are over 65 years of age or are 65 prior to the 31/3/2018; you have a history of stroke or TIA or Multiple Sclerosis or a disease of the central nervous system; adults with a bmi > 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; you are pregnant; those who are in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill; children aged two & three years, but not yet four on 31/8/2017 (we will contact parents of these children to invite them to an appointment). Please note children aged four will be vaccinated in school this year.

**Walk-in seasonal flu clinics at Fressingfield:**  
Tues Oct 3, 8.45-11am, 2-3.30pm; Fri Oct 6, 8.45-11am, 4-5.30pm; Tues Oct 10, 8.45-11am, 2-3.30pm; Fri Oct 13, 8.45-11am, 4-5.30pm.

**Walk-in seasonal flu clinics at Stradbroke:**  
Mon Oct 2, 8.45-11am, 4-5.30pm; Wed Oct 4, 8.45-11am; Mon Oct 9, 8.45-11am, 4-5.30pm; Wed Oct 11, 8.45-11am.

**Contact:** 586227 or 384220.

### THURSDAY AUGUST 31

**BBC Antiques Roadshow:** Helmingham Hall Gardens, 9.30am-4.30pm.

### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

**Redlingfield Coffee Caravan:** 10-noon.

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7

**Worlingworth Antiques Roadshow:**

Worlingworth Community Centre, 7.30pm. £5 on the door. Proceeds for St. Mary's church funds. See story.

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8

**Hoxne Film Night:** Hidden Figures, PG.

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

**Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Stride**

**+ Ride:** Sponsored cycle and walking event. See story.

**Worlingworth flower & produce show.**

**Music at The Bank - Rik van den**

**Bosch:** The Bank, Eye, Doors 7.30pm, start 8pm. £10 in advance, £12 on door.

**The Legends Show:** Pop at Debenham Community Centre, 7-11.30pm. 2-course meal followed by entertainment from Marshall King. £22.50 ticket includes meal. 01728 861101, events@debenhamsportsandleisure.co.uk, www.debenhamsportsandleisure.co.uk.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9 & 10

**Steam Railway Gala:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Three resident engines in steam plus a special guest loco. The locomotives will be working passenger and demonstration goods trains up and down the line. Other attractions include road engines on display around Brockford station.

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16

**Framlingham Horticultural Society**

**Autumn Show:** United Free Church Hall, 10-11.30am.

**Redlingfield Pub on the Green:**

Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17

**Autumn Plant Fair with Artisan**

**Market:** Helmingham Hall Gardens, 10am-4pm. Adults £7, children free.

Tickets from 01473 890799. (credit/debit cards not accepted on gate).

**Classic & Sports Car Show:** The Oaksmere, Brome, 11am-4.30pm. In aid of Bloodrunners & Guide Dogs for the Blind. £3. eventseapc@gmail.com, www.theoaksmere.com.

**Photo Workshop:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Viceroy's House.

### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

**Ceilidh:** Castleden Trees, Park Farm, Hoxne, 7.30pm. Barn Dance lead by the Hoxne Hundred Ceilidh Band! Tickets £10 inc entry BBQ. Contact Helen on 07894 562172 for tickets or email bhala03@hotmail.co.uk. In aid of Denham St John the Baptist Church.

**Charlie Dore:** Wingfield Barns. An evening of contemporary folk. Tickets £13, 384505.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

**Swedefest 2017:** Mid Suffolk Showground. Gates 10am. Tickets on gate adults £5 children under 16 free. Swedefest annual truck show is back for its second year at Stonham Barns.

**Ancient Oak Medieval Fayre:** Haughley Park, Stowmarket, 10am-5pm. Jousting, battle re-enactments, story telling, living history, falconry, children's activities & fancy dress. Beer tent, food. Medieval market & craft market. Woodland walks. Tickets on gate adults £8, O.A.P £5. In advance adults £6, O.A.P £4 (plus booking fee). www.ancientoak-medievalfayre.co.uk.



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24**

**Photo Workshop:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29**

**Bar Meal Night:** Horham Community Centre.

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30**

**Occold Autumn Fayre.**

**SATURDAY SEPT 30-SUNDAY OCT 15**

**RPS Nature Group's 2017 Members'**

**Exhibition:** Wingfield Barns, 11am-4pm. See story.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 1**

**American Car Show:** Stonham Barns, 10am, £5, exhibiting drivers & under 5s free.

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4**

**Redlingfield Coffee Caravan:** 10-noon, centre of village.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 6**

**Fish & Chip Night:** Horham Community Centre.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7**

**Redlingfield & Occold WI Harvest Supper.**

**An entertainment evening:** Stradbroke Leisure Centre, 7pm for 8pm. Doreen 075914 99912 See story.

**Rotary Club of High Suffolk 3rd Annual Ceildh:** Debenham Leisure Centre, 7pm. Barn dance with Intertia Reel folk band inc 2-course meal. Tickets £15 in advance from 01728 685522 or [events@highsuffolkrotary.org](mailto:events@highsuffolkrotary.org). All proceeds to charities supported by Rotary.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 8**

**Harvest Lunch:** Horham Community Centre following harvest festival service at St Marys.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 7 & 8**

**East Anglian Falconry & Countryside Fair:** Mid Suffolk Showground. 10am-6pm. Price Adults £7.50, seniors & children 4-14 £6. Family of 5 £30. Children under 4 free.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 13**

**Hoxne Film Night:** Their Finest, 12A.

**Bar Meal Night:** Horham Community Centre.

**■ VENUES etc:**

**The Bank Eye:** The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & [www.thebankeye.org](http://www.thebankeye.org).

**Framlingham:** [www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com). **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799,

[events@helmingham.com](mailto:events@helmingham.com), [www.helmingham.com](http://www.helmingham.com). **Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754. **Hoxne Film Nights:** 7.30pm, Hoxne Village Hall, Goldbrook, Hoxne, bar, popcorn & choc-ices available before & in the interval. Further info/booking: 668060 or [www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk).

**Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station, Wetheringsett, Suffolk, IP14 5PW, [www.mslr.org.uk](http://www.mslr.org.uk), 01449 766899. **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, [enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk), 01449 612229. **Redlingfield village events,** 678835, [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk), [www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk).

**Midsuffolk Showgrounds & Stonham Barns:** Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, <http://stonham-barns.co.uk>. **Stradbroke Cinema:** Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. Adults £5.50, 16 and under £3. Bar open, ice-creams in the interval. **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary,** Stonham Barns, 08456 807897, [info@owl-help.org.uk](mailto:info@owl-help.org.uk), [www.owl-help.org.uk](http://www.owl-help.org.uk). **Wingfield Barns,** 384505,

[enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com](mailto:enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com), [www.wingfieldbarns.com](http://www.wingfieldbarns.com). **95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club,** [www.95thbg-horham.com](http://www.95thbg-horham.com), 01728 860930 or [jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net](mailto:jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net).

## WHAT'S ON

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

#### **Redlingfield Pub on the Green:**

Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 19

#### **Stradbroke Cinema:** Their Finest.

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 21

#### **Redlingfield Family Fun Evening &**

#### **Race Night:** Horham CC.

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 22

#### **Suffolk Singers Choral Workshop:**

Framlingham College, 9.30am-5pm.

Gloria by John Rutter directed by Claire

Weston, assisted by John Hutchings &

Chris Milton. Adult £20, under 19s free.

Inc all music, expert tuition, tea, coffee,

cakes. Bring a packed lunch. Free

public performance 4.30pm. Info from

Alma 788143, Beverley 643206,

bvankoningsveld1@btinternet.com or

www.suffolksingers.co.uk.

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 27

#### **Curry Night:** Horham CC.

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

#### **Occold October Fayre.**

#### **Halloween Hoot:** Suffolk Owl

Sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1

#### **Redlingfield Coffee Morning:** 10am-

noon, Mike & Jan's, Hidcote Lodge,

Mill Road.

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3

#### **Fish & Chip Night:** Horham Community

Centre.

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10

#### **Hoxne Film Night:** The Sense of an

Ending, 15.

#### **Annual Quiz:** Horham Community

Centre. Teams of 4, entry £5 per team

inc light supper, prizes for winning

team. Angela 384625 for info.

## ■ REGULAR EVENTS:

**MONDAYS: Coffee & Chat:** Horham Baptist Church hall. 10am. No charge. Everyone welcome. Alan Hawes, 388330. **Ballroom dancing:** St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, 7.30pm-9.30pm (for adults). Sandra Hartley, 01728 723887.

**TUESDAYS: T Plus:** Community Café with stalls, All Saint's Church, Thorndon every Tues, 10am-noon. **Bingo:** Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every other Tues. 678178. **Debenham Historical Society:** Regular lectures at Room 31, Debenham High School, 7.30pm, £3 per lecture, including a soft drink in the interval. Enquiries: Clive Cook 01728-861754. Non-members welcome to see what's on.

**WEDNESDAYS: Coffee mornings & cyber cafe,** every Wed, 10.30am-noon at Horham Old School. **Redlingfield & Occold WI,** 1st Wed of the month at 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Hoxon Hundred:** Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practices. Ron Ross, 643563. Eye Country Market, every Wed 10am-11am, Eye Town Hall (closed Jan). **Social mornings:** Horham Old School. 10.30am each Wed tea, coffee, cake, crafts, a chat and good company. Info from Christine (384168) or Pip (384370). Admission free - small charge for refreshments. Wingfield barns Midweek Movies : alternate Weds 7.30pm screening £5. For info 384505 or email enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com

**THURSDAYS: Zumba:** Worlingworth Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563534086.

**FRIDAYS: Bingo:** Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly. 7.30pm. Mary Ellis, 384642. Worlingworth Swan, live music, last Fri evening of month.

**SUNDAYS: Public open days:** Red Feather/95th Bomb Group Heritage Association & 95th BG Hospital Museum last Sun of month May-October inclusive,

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16**

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Churchill.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17**

**Bar Meal Night:** Horham CC.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24**

**Occold School Christmas Craft Fair.**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25**

**Occold Christmas Fayre.**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25 & 26**

**Christmas with The Owls:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary. With Santa & his reindeer and more.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3-SUNDAY DECEMBER 17**

**Santa Specials:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. For children up to 10. Steam train ride on the Santa Special to North Pole Halt for a visit to Santa. A present for every child, children's entertainment & a mince pie & drink for everyone. Santa Specials are on 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th & 17th December. Tickets must be booked in advance. For info see [www.mslr.org.uk/visit-us/santa-specials/](http://www.mslr.org.uk/visit-us/santa-specials/)

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6**

**Redlingfield Coffee Morning:** 10am-noon, venue tbc.

**Redlingfield & Occold WI Christmas Meal.**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 8**

**Hoxne Film Night:** Viceroy's House, 12A.

**Christmas Dinner Dance:** Horham Community Centre. 3-course meal with entertainment by Kevin King. Tickets from Angela 384625 from November 1.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 16**

**Framlingham Ladies Choir Christmas Concert:** St Clare's Catholic Church, Fore Street, Framlingham, 7.30pm. Entry (inc refreshments) £6.

**■ COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED SERVICE:**

I would like to invite you and your family to a special service of thanksgiving and remembrance on Saturday October 28th at 4pm in Hoxne Parish Church. This is a service where we can remember with thanksgiving loved ones who have died. During the service we will be reading out the names of those we wish to remember, and there will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. We will be taking more names just before the service. Grief affects us in different ways; there are no easy or quick answers to the pain of losing people we love, but sometimes being with others who have experienced the loss of a loved one and remembering together can help us. Grief is no respecter of boundaries, so don't feel that your loved one can't be remembered at this service because they've been gone a long time or lived far away – it will be our honour to recall their name during the service. If you have any questions please get in touch.

**Rev Michael Womack, 388889,  
[hoxnebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebenefice@gmail.com)**

**■ REDLINGFIELD COFFEE MORNINGS:**

We need to think about the winter coffee mornings that fill in for our beloved Coffee Caravan when we cannot sit out on the village triangle. Hosts are needed for the first Wednesday of each month from December 2017 until March 2018. The first, on November 1st, will be at Mike and Jan's Hidcote Lodge home, 10am-noon. Let's start with this year so can you let me know if you are able to host a coffee morning on Wednesday December 6th. The refreshments and coffee will be provided, we just need a venue and host.

**Jacqueline Love, 678805**



# Best weekend

**T**HE AMERICANA WEEKEND AT Horham's Red Feather Club was the best yet thanks to a fantastic Saturday night dance and wonderful turn out on Sunday.

The weekend kicked off on Saturday June 24th with a dance featuring top DJ Adrian Waters of Jump Back Boogie playing a mix of upbeat R'n'B and a little 50s rock'n'roll. As for the band, wow was the reaction from the audience. The Devil's Cut Combo delivered pumping, jumping, jiving boogie. Those hep cats really know how to shake the joint, getting everyone out of their seats and dancing to foot-tapping tunes throughout both



sets. They are already booked for next year's Americana weekend dance on Saturday June 23rd.

The guys from Station 119 brewery in Eye brought along some of their American style pale ales. The brewery is named after Horham Airfield, which was Station 119 during WW2, and the guys from the brewery are 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association members.

On Sunday the club was packed with vintage stalls inside





# at RFC yet

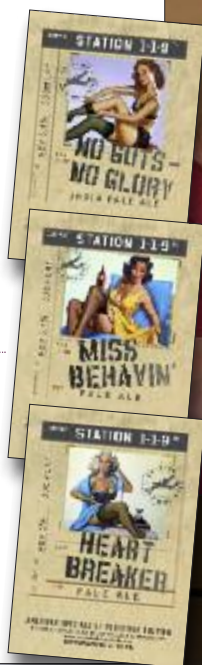
and out with DJs playing music throughout the day. The weather was kind with just a few spots of rain but this didn't dampen any spirits as the re-enactors put on their displays alongside vintage cars, motorcycles and military vehicles. Stradbroke's Paul Woodward won the trophy for best in show with his gleaming red Ford pick-up.

The Red Feather Club is open the last Sunday, of the month from April to October inclusive, 10am-4pm. The October open day on Sunday 29th will be followed by the association agm at 5pm.

**Report: Andy Garner.**

**Photos: Darren Smith  
& Phil Samponaro.**

■ Long-standing 95th BGHA chairman James Mutton has stepped down for personal reasons after many years at the helm. A new committee is now running the organisation which operates and manages the Red Feather Club. We wish him well.



# What happened to village's

**R**EDLINGFIELD WINDMILL is shown here on the Tithe Map of 1839 opposite Occold Corner. Not far from this site, in the same field, which is still part of Mill Farm, there is now a modern wind turbine.

There is nothing visible of the old mill today but Russell Kerry remembers seeing some remains there when he used to cycle to school.

The Tithe Map Apportionments state that William Graystone Roe was the owner and occupier of 26, the mill yard and 27, house and garden. 27 is on the site of the three cottages at Occold Corner, one of which is called Mill End.

This puts this building, then one dwelling, as the house of the miller rather than 29 which is now known as Mill Cottage but was called Godfreys and Mansers and belonged to Oliver Howes in 1839.

William Graystone Roe was born in 1795 in Charsfield and came to Redlingfield when his parents moved here. His mother, Sarah was buried here in 1829.

I can't say when he started as miller here or if his father, also William, was miller before him but it seems likely.

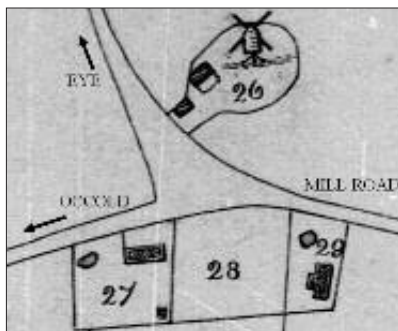
He married Rebecca Godbolt in

1821, they had at least five children. In 1841 and 1851 he is named as miller on the census and "formerly miller" in 1861. He moved to Cambridgeshire with his wife and died there in 1874.

Other millers

named on census or directories for Redlingfield are: 1861 Thomas Cracknell; 1864 Isaac Woods of Eye; 1871 James Harvey; and 1879 Alfred Beales.

No miller is named on or after 1881. According to the Suffolk Mills Group, who research mills in the county, Redlingfield Mill was blown down on



■ **CHARITY SHOP OPENING:** Home-Start Mid & West Suffolk are opening their first ever charity shop in Eye at 2a Lambseth Street. They are starting from scratch and with an opening date set for September 13th at 11am they have a very short time to find fittings for the shop, good quality stock and volunteers. Volunteers will receive an induction and be part of a team looking after the shop, sorting stock, meeting people and raising funds for the charity. If you are looking for a new venture then this could be for you. All funds raised will help families in Mid Suffolk. If anyone can help with any of the above in any way please contact Angela Dennis on 01379 678552 or email [angela@homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:angela@homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk)

**Angela Dennis**

# windmill?

18th January 1881 during a storm.

*The Ipswich Journal* carried a long piece about damage caused by “The Great Storms” of that date. Details from many local places including Eye are given but there is no report from Redlingfield.

So that all makes sense BUT Eddie Coe’s notes say that it was sold in 1858 to be taken down and not put up again for fear of competition as the owner also had the mill at Horham.

There is a newspaper advertisement, for the sale by auction on December 21st 1858 of the cottage, now in three tenements and “Also a POST WINDMILL, with two pairs of excellent 4 feet French stones, with all machinery, going gears, &c., ... The whole of which is to be removed at the purchaser’s expense”.

Did it sell? The fact that millers were listed in the village in trade directories through to 1879 makes me wonder but Eddie has the buyers name, so was it sold but not taken down?

**Linda Hudson**



■ **THE OLD SCHOOL:** We have been very busy at The Old School in Horham! Following successful fundraising the replacement of all the remaining windows is scheduled to begin in September. The potholes in the car park have been filled and the area outside the building made much safer. We have enjoyed using our new picnic tables during the balmy summer days. Many thanks to county councillor Guy McGregor and district councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harris for the grants from their locality budgets that have allowed us to complete these two projects.

We hosted another very successful Art and Craft exhibition during the Horham summer fete and were stunned by the quality and variety of work on display! The bar has been open on Sundays throughout summer; these sessions have been popular as have the occasional Friday music nights. Don’t forget the bar is open every Tuesday and Friday evening.

Yoga sessions begin again on Monday September 4th at 1.30pm and we will begin our craft afternoons on Friday August 18th. If you would like to join us in either, or both sessions contact Pip or Christine. Coffee mornings are every week on Wednesday 10.30am-noon. Join us for delicious homemade cake, coffee and computer support or tuition (pictured).

On Saturday 26th August, Paul Hambling who had to have his right leg amputated due to complications from his cancer treatment, was due to attempt to climb Horham church tower. Sponsorship money will be in aid of Cancer Research and The Old School restoration fund and The Old School will be open for refreshments.

**Christine Cooper**

# Why not fix earth instead

**T**HE PLANET MARS, A NEAR neighbour (in galactic terms), has for long held a fascination for us on earth.

Even before Galileo put together the first telescope we had been observing it sufficiently to see that even to the naked eye it was red – probably why it is named after the god of war.

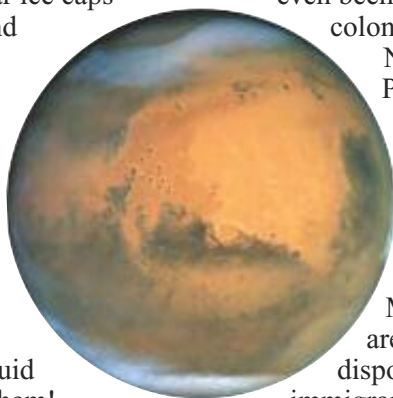
Later on, telescopes allowed us to see that there were Polar ice caps that appeared to wax and wane seasonally.

At a later stage an Italian astronomer observed and recorded straight lines across the surface which he called ‘canals’. What they actually are we still don't know but its unlikely that they are canals as there is no liquid on the planet to put in them!

More recently, H.G. Wells wrote *The War of the Worlds* in which outlying districts of modern-day London, which were then discrete villages, are attacked and left in ruins by invaders from Mars. The tale, give or take a few thousand deaths, ends well for our side but later, in the 1930s, when Orson Welles broadcast a version in the USA, adapted for radio in the form of emergency news bulletins interrupting normal programmes, it caused widespread panic and hysteria.

You might conclude from this brief history that the planet has for a long time had a more immediate presence

for us here on earth than most and it is still referred to in various contexts e.g. “women are from Venus and men are from Mars!” This is all very well and you can indulge yourself thinking up your own favourite Martian references, however, in recent times there has been a resurgence of more serious interest from earth in the form of exploratory space probes and there has even been talk of human colonisation.



No less a person than Professor Stephen Hawking is on record as saying that it is almost inevitable that our future lies with human emigration to Mars (lets hope that the Martians if any there be, are more charitably disposed towards

immigrants than we sometimes

are).

I hesitate to question such a sage (and he is far from being a lone voice) but I really cannot see the logic of this proposal which concludes that the solution to the problem of life becoming unsustainable on our beautiful world is for us to leave and start afresh in a place where the environment is so alien that we could never have evolved or lived there in the first place. In other words to leave a planet that is ailing for one which is long since dead.

Aside from the moral question of us just clearing off and leaving the mess



■ **HORHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE:** The open village and fete in May was a great success raising more than £1,000 and both the Church and the Old School were also involved. In June there was a car boot sale and in July a classic vehicle get-together. Alan Smith's 72 key Piere Verbeeck street organ "de Jonker" was one of the highlights. At the AGM in July, both the Village Hall Trust and Community Council members and officers were re-elected en bloc. Hav Wilkins is chairman of the HVHT and Margaret Streeter is chairman of the CC, and secretary/treasurer of the HVHT. Angela Wilkins is secretary/treasurer of the HCC. Thank you everyone for your support and particularly David Whatling for organising the classic car "do" and Liz Gibson-Harries for judging the dog show! **Margaret Streeter**



instead of doing anything very much to put it right, there is what seems to me the questionable practicality of what we are proposing. The target planet is two to three years away by rocket and so far nobody has lived in space for so long. Medical tests on survivors of long space flights show that prolonged exposure to zero gravity has bad effects on our bone mass, muscle tone and digestive systems and could cause long-term damage to our eyes and if the normal diurnal pattern of light and dark is not maintained our own internal clock will malfunction.

And then when we get there...

The atmosphere of Mars is 100 times thinner than that on earth and is not air but carbon dioxide – the stuff they put in fire extinguishers. As the planet is a good bit smaller than ours, which means that there is not enough mass to

create a magnetic field, navigation around the place will be difficult because there will be no compass bearings.

The no gravity problems of the flight will not improve much when we get there as gravity on Mars is only about 30% of that on earth. Permanent exposure to this will mean that there will be no question of anyone who goes ever being able to come back. I could go on with more of this... different seasonal changes; it's colder than here; each year is 678 earth days long etc, etc.

I am merely "dubious of Redlingfield" but it seems that the venture would be colossally expensive with no guarantee of any measure of success or even the long-term survival of the pioneers involved so why don't we just spend the money on mending our planet?

**Neville Butcher**

### DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



PARLIAMENT HAS RISEN FOR summer recess and I am spending much more time at home, enjoying all that Suffolk has to offer. I'm sure many of you enjoyed the school summer holidays and I hope you and your families had a restful and happy summer break.

As Parliamentary business drew to a close, I was pleased to hear the announcement by the Education Secretary that there will be an additional £1.3 billion for schools funding over the next two years, helping to create even more good school places in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich.

I have been pushing for fairer funding for our schools here in Suffolk for some time now and although the final figures are yet to be finalised for each area, the announcement is sure to provide a welcome boost to the core schools' budget, delivering the biggest improvements to the school funding system for over a decade.

In addition to existing fairer schools funding, this announcement will mean an increase in the basic amount that every pupil will get, as well as ensuring protected funding for those with high

needs. It will also ensure that every local authority, including here in Suffolk, will be in a position to give schools a cash increase. In 2018/19 all local authorities will receive some increase over the amount they plan to spend on schools and high needs in 2017/18.

I regularly visit schools across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, meeting with staff and pupils and it would be fair to say that funding is always high on the agenda. Suffolk is a predominantly rural county and it is already known that the per pupil funding is significantly lower than other areas in the country.

This recent announcement will bring an end to the postcode lottery of school funding. Schools in Suffolk have historically been underfunded and this welcome boost in funding will help to ensure that children in the county receive the education that they deserve.

I have been working hard and pressing Government to bring forward more funding for Suffolk's schools for some time now and I will continue to do so, in order that every child here in Suffolk can receive the best possible education and the best possible opportunities for their future.

***Dr Dan Poulter, MP,** I hold regular constituency advice surgeries to help people who have problems. If you think that I may be able to help you, contact 01728 685148, or email me via [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com). For more information please visit [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com)*

#### ■ PLANNING:

**TO BE DECIDED:** plan to erect rear extension, loft conversion with dormer roof extension, front porch and new three-bay cart lodge with room over, **Old Rectory, Horham Road, Athelington;** plan to convert single storey building and extend one-and-a-half storeys to create 3-bedroom dwelling, **The Homestead, The Street, Horham.** **APPEAL RECEIVED:** application for Outline Planning Permission for the erection of one two storey dwelling & separate garage with access, **Barnacre, Worlingworth Road, Horham.**

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council' ([www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)).

## THE RECTOR REFLECTS ... WEDDINGS



THIS SUMMER WE HAVE HAD weddings in both Redlingfield and Athelington. There are lots of reasons to enjoy a wedding, especially when the couple getting married are a delight to know, but one of the things I enjoy about a wedding is how full of symbols it is – little coded messages. Couples often have their own little coded messages that they pass to one another and nobody else knows what they mean.

We start with the groom and his best man or men waiting at the front. What if she changes her mind? Am I brave enough to do this? That's part of life isn't it? We say we'll do something and then we wonder; it seemed like a good idea at the time but now...?

But it works out because the bride enters. Now the bridal party are at the front of the church; the centre of attention. The couple are supported and upheld by all the love and affection for them. And again, that's part of life isn't it? There are times when we feel supported and upheld by love and affection by those who know us.

But, little by little, people slip away. First to go are the bridesmaids, then the father of the bride and finally the best men.

All that is left is the couple, oh and me – a poor symbol for God, the divine, still with them. Now it's time for the really

good bit, 'I proclaim that they are husband and wife'. This, of course, is followed by an explosion of joy and maybe a kiss; suddenly the thought that we'd been left all alone is swept away as we discover just how much love and support we are surrounded by. I think I sense another 'life lesson' coming on!

Then there's some talking and paperwork – but none of us really expects life to be one long party do we? Finally husband and wife go to the high altar for their first act together; the lighting of the wedding candle. All that's left now is to get out of the church! And here perhaps, all the experiences of life are condensed, squeezed down into a matter of minutes.

They leave the altar, the part of a church that represents our closest connection to the divine, and immediately they are on their own as they walk through the next part of the church, before suddenly being enveloped and welcomed by all their family and friends in the main part of the church.

And that to me, seems to sum up life; sometimes we are so intensely aware, connected to the divine and then, just as suddenly, we feel abandoned and desolate, before realising that all along we were surrounded by it. Even if your summer hasn't included being part of a wedding, I hope that somewhere in it you've sensed how this summer fits into the whole journey of your life.

**Michael Womack** ([hoxnebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebenefice@gmail.com) or 388889)

**Rev Michael Womack is rector of the Hoxne Benefice.**

**Enquiries:** Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217).

Services for all churches in the benefice are on notice boards. A monthly benefice newsletter is available in the churches. Email [hoxnebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebenefice@gmail.com) for your copy.

## CHURCH & NEWS

### ■ CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES:

**Sept 3** Redlingfield 9.30am HC  
**Sept 10** Horham 9.30am HC;  
 Redlingfield 6.30pm Harvest  
 Festival  
**Sept 17** Athelington 9.30am HC  
**Sept 24** Redlingfield 10am MP;  
 Horham 11.15am FS  
**Oct 1** Redlingfield 9.30am HC  
**Oct 8** Horham 11.15am Harvest  
 Festival  
**Oct 15** Athelington 9.30am HC  
**Oct 22** Redlingfield 10am MP;  
 Athelington 11.15am HC  
**Sat Oct 28** Hoxne Commemoration of  
 the Departed 4pm (see story)  
**Oct 29** Wingfield 11.15am Benefice  
 Service

**Nov 5** Redlingfield 9.30am HC  
**Nov 12** Horham 3pm Act of  
 Remembrance; Redlingfield  
 10.45am Act of Remembrance  
**Nov 19** Redlingfield 8.30am B-17  
 memorial commemoration;  
 Athelington 9.30am HC  
**Nov 26** Redlingfield 10am MP;  
 Horham 11.15 HC  
**Dec 3** Redlingfield 9.30am HC;  
 Athelington Advent Carols  
**Dec 10** Horham 9.30am BCP  
**Dec 17** Athelington 9.30am HC  
**Dec 24** Redlingfield 10am MP;  
 Horham 11.30pm Midnight Mass  
**Dec 31** Denham 11.15am Benefice  
 Communion

HC = Holy Communion, FS = Family Service, MP = Morning Prayer  
 BCP=Book of Common Prayer

■ **WORLINGWORTH ANTIQUES ROADSHOW:** On Thursday September 7th at 7.30pm Geoffrey Barfoot from Clarke and Simpson auction rooms will be visiting Worlingworth Community Centre to give a power point presentation of antiques he has valued and to explain why they are of interest. There will be a short interval when light refreshments will be available and the bar will be open. After that, Mr Barfoot will do a limited number of valuations, so do take along your antiques/collectables and he will choose which to value. Entrance £5 on the door. Proceeds for St Mary's church funds.

■ **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION:** From Saturday September 30th to Sunday October 15th the RPS Nature Group's 2017 Members' Exhibition will be at Wingfield Barns, 11am-4pm. The exhibition displays all accepted print images from the 2017 Members' Exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society Nature Group. The prints are from two categories: 'All Creatures' (birds, mammals, reptile, insects, marine life et al); and 'All Plant Life' (flora, fungi, lichens) and 'all other subjects' (including geological, microscopy, patterns, design and form).

■ **BIG EVENING IN STRADBROKE:** An entertainment evening is being held at Stradbroke Leisure Centre on Saturday October 7th. New duo Trevanion will be playing music from 50s to modern pieces and country and western. There will also be traditional jig dolls and stepdancing. There will be a bar, food and a raffle. Doors open 7pm for 8pm. Tickets are £7.50 from Doreen on 075914 99912. No tickets will be sold on the door.



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**2017 WINTER ISSUE** (covering Dec, Jan & Feb) **Final deadline November 14 2017**

**2018 SPRING ISSUE** (covering Mar, April & May) **Final deadline February 14 2018**

**2018 SUMMER ISSUE** (covering June, July & Aug) **Final deadline May 14 2018**

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