

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



**AUTUMN 2018
Issue No. 43**

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A LONGSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU should receive our latest Village Directory. We hope it is packed full of useful contacts and information both for lifelong locals and new arrivals. If there's someone, something or a whole section of info you think we should cover just let myself or Evelyn know and we'll try and include it next time.

I'M SITTING WRITING THIS ON A pleasant summer's day in the middle of August just before we go to press but I'm wondering what sort of days we have in store for the rest of 2018 ... so far this year we've been snowed in, flooded, battered by the 'beast from the east' and not so gently roasted in a heatwave. What next? **Mike Ager**

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 or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU. All issues are available at www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

We aim to produce four full-colour issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November.

Deadlines for adverts & editorial:

Spring issue (covering Mar, April & May) **Final deadline February 14**

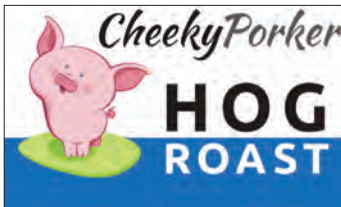
Summer issue (covering June, July & Aug) **Final deadline May 14**

Autumn issue (covering Sept, Oct & Nov) **Final deadline August 14**

Winter issue (covering Dec, Jan & Feb) **Final deadline November 14**

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Partridges among wildlife

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

DAY AFTER DAY, PEOPLE sought relief from the heatwave when every night the sun was tempted to set just for a few hours.

The big news was the strain on the fire service from as far afield as Saddleworth Moor to California, but closer to home the danger though on a smaller scale was equally alarming. Combine fires were a daily threat and here we were thankful that our contractor had a brand new machine – but it didn't stop us from checking that the fire extinguishers were handy plus a bowser of water if needed.

The relief we feel at the end of harvest has come early this year and prices have risen in response to lower yields from all across the globe. The crops did well considering that between the icy blast of March and the end of May there was only six weeks

of normal spring growing conditions.

The people of Pompeii were petrified by the heat blast of Vesuvius and for a day or two around 'Furnace Friday' I thought our crops were going the same way. Ironically vast supplies of water were discovered in huge underground lakes on Mars at the same time.

Our drought lasted precisely eight weeks and as the weatherman advised, you should be careful what you wish for. Eventually the storm lashed down and the grain-store gutters overflowed.

HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN A number of wildlife winners and from the tractor seat of the baler I could see hares in every field and plenty of grey partridges.

One pair of English, a shortened name which old shooting types deemed sufficient to avoid confusion



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winners

with the Red-Leg or French partridge, had an impressive 14 chicks, which Paul the Gamekeeper explained could have been the result of double-brooding. This is where the female produces enough eggs for two clutches, one for the male to brood, on two adjacent nests as close as only 10 yards apart and with brilliant timing, they contrive to hatch both clutches on the same day.

Paul has seen this very productive manoeuvre result in as many as 20 young for just one pair.

WASH FARM IS NOT ALONE IN seeing increasing success in house sparrow numbers. I counted about 40 crossing the road from the council houses to the Brierley's big hedge and bigness in the hedges is very good news for birds.

A white-feathered house sparrow catches the eye



It is fascinating to see a pure white specimen in our flock and it may have been bred here as house sparrows are very site-specific. But you cannot be sure with this lack of pigment called leucism, a trait seen more often in pheasants and blackbirds. Though this is a disadvantage and makes him an outcast, and makes him an obvious target for his enemies, we hope he is lucky enough to live on here.

Some avian young are nidicolous, which means born blind and unfeathered. Not a lot of people know that, as Michael Caine would say.

Continued over.



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Continued from previous page
BIRD-WATCHERS ARE THE worst in the world for one-upmanship and one will delight in trumping another's excited observation of an interesting species. I suffered at the hands of Doc Goodge of Worlingworth this year when I proudly recounted a turtle-dove purring away in our paddock one morning. Oh, he said, I saw a pair of those on our bird feeder this week.

Three of our most visible summer visitors are the swifts, swallows and house martins, all of them voracious aerial insect-eaters and they must have

had a bumper year, or so you might presume.

However, the warning has gone out that swifts need our help and that is mainly due to the modernisation of roofs which have seen the gaps in higgledy piggledy pantiles tidied up, presumably to raise the dreaded efficiency rating beloved of all estate agents. They have gone to Africa by now as swifts are the earliest migrants to leave, always in the first week of August. But they will be back, as our Suffolk villages still have the favoured pantiles where you can see them nesting, hurtling in to land at 35mph and decelerating in the blink of an eye

The news of the swallows is mixed in Essex where a friend says her local sparrow-hawk polishes off more and more every year, and here at the Hall, Caroline sees the nests of housemartins holed by thieving green woodpeckers this year. Having heard that story, it was a relief to see that many must have succeeded somewhere close



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as I counted forty on our wires in early August.

THE LOCAL OWL NEWS IS A mixed bag too. There was some good news concerning the tawny owls who returned to nest in the straw barn again after a few years absence. It turned out to be bad timing this year, as in May I was alerted to new biosecurity measures on the turkey unit. These required the immediate netting of the barn to keep all wild birds out and certainly not in.

Three owlets were doing well and my birder friends quickly told me what I proposed was illegal so a compromise had to be reached; access was provided and two juvenile tawnies fledged in June. Only two, because as usual, the big ones got hungry and ate the titch, which was a shame as the larder I saw included a very large rat and there is plenty of those to go round.

Barn Owls struggled to make breeding weight in the unfavourable spring weather and only one of our



A month-old barn owl at Wash Farm in August.

boxes is successful. A mid-August check shows three late juveniles at a very young age and all equally-sized so hopefully one doesn't perish like the third tawny owl.

MR WALLACE OF CONEY Weston notes the futile attempts of a woodpigeon to build a nest on a beam too narrow to form a base and continuing despite the ever-increasing pile on the floor underneath. Bird brain story?
Trevor Edwards

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Honouring the fallen



A DECADE AFTER THE END of WW1, THE British Legion (as it was then known) organised for veterans and war widows to visit the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres before marching to the Menin Gate in Ypres on 8th August 1928.

Exactly 90 years later, thousands of Royal British Legion representatives recreated the 1928 Battlefields Pilgrimage and visited the same battlefields and then, on 8th August 2018, paraded their branch standard and wreaths along the same route to the Menin Gate for the One Hundred Days ceremony to commemorate the last 100 days of WW1 and represent an entire generation that served while defending their country.

Brian and Joyce Cooper of Horham consider it to have been an honour to have been invited to represent the Stradbroke & District branch of the RBL at the Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90) in Ypres, Belgium.

This was the biggest RBL membership event to have taken place since the 1928 pilgrimage to Ypres in 1928.

1,173 RBL standards, and the same number of wreath layers, culminated their four-day visit on the 8th August at the Menin Gate to take part in the 'One Hundred Day Ceremony'. This most recent parade, which was formed in ranks of fours, was so long it took 25 minutes to pass the saluting dais. The ceremony was to mark the centenary

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100 years on

of the launch of the 'one-hundred-day offensive,' that eventually led to the end WW1.

Joyce Cooper said: "The sight of 1,173 RBL Blue and Yellow standards blowing in the breeze along with those carrying the red poppy wreaths was a spectacular sight – a tribute to our forebears who fought and died. The haunting sound of our 4,692 marching feet along the cobbled streets of Ypres was totally awe inspiring. I could imagine the sight and sound of those poor lads 100 years ago marching along the Menin Road - what for thousands would be, to their deaths."

Unlike the first pilgrimage the most recent pilgrims travelled in air-conditioned coaches, and had a hotel bed each night. *Joyce Cooper*



Above the massed RBL standards at the Menin Gate. Facing page: Joyce Cooper, Stradbroke RBL standard bearer, and Brian Cooper, Stradbroke wreath layer, at GP90 Ypres.

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The place to be this summer

THE OLD SCHOOL GARDEN has been 'the place to be' during this summer's amazing heatwave. Lit with fairy lights during our cocktail evenings, enjoyed with coffee and cake on a Wednesday morning, or providing a cooling breeze for a beer on balmy evenings, we are glad to have the garden!

We hosted a very successful Art and Craft exhibition during the Village Fete in June. This year we invited our visitors to grab a brush and help to create a masterpiece. The finished painting is displayed in The Old School and is quite wonderful.

Our computer mornings have been a great success. Most of our customers

who came to learn computing basics have acquired the necessary skills to enjoy using their laptops or iPads and only turn to us for help when they have technical questions or virus problems.

We have been considering offering more formal tuition in more advanced aspects of computing such as using Photoshop or spreadsheets. If anyone out there has a gap in their knowledge that we can help with we would like to hear from you!

The coffee/computer morning is on Wednesday 10.30am-12ish, the bar is open on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 8.30pm. Yoga begins again on Monday 10th September 1.30pm-3pm (to book a place contact Clare Hall

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email thornhamyoga@yahoo.com or Tel: 07704 570877). The hall is available for hire, contact Pip Florance 384370. *Christine Cooper*



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How we celebrated Edward

On Saturday May 10th 1902 a meeting of Redlingfield Parish Committee was held in the School Room to decide how best to celebrate the Coronation of “His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII”.

The Committee “resolved to have a feast for all inhabitants with sports in the afternoon, and a concert in the evening to finish with a bonfire on the hill

towards Southolt”. This all depended on enough funds being collected.

Another meeting was called for Friday May 6th to arrange the feast:

● Mr Gray (landlord of the Crown) to find all necessary groceries – tea, tobacco, flour and mineral water;

● Mrs Gray to make plum puddings;

● It was proposed that two joints of mutton as well as the “necessary” quantity of beef and suet for the puddings should

be ordered. “The most part of the beef to be salt”;

● Messrs. Young & Co. to supply one barrel of ale;

● Tea to be provided for the ladies and “those wishing for it”;

● Mr. Goldspink (farmer at Green Farm) to supply 10 lbs of butter;

● Mr J. Coe (wheelwright) to provide tables and seats and make a platform for the concert which was to be



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VII's coronation



Edward VII in his Coronation robes

held in the Hall Barn.

Next came a meeting on June 15th “to arrange procedures for June 26th” Coronation Day. Funds promised to the Committee came to £22 6s 6d. A committee of ladies was also present.

Various arrangements were made including a schedule for the consumption of the beer! Each gentleman was to have four-and-a-half pints – one at dinner, one for the King’s Health, half at four o’clock, one at seven o’clock and one at the close of the concert. George Cracknell (parish clerk) and Joseph Coe were to take charge of the beer.

So everything was organised when on June 25th (the day before the

Coronation) this entry was written in the Minute Book – “Due to reports of the dangerous condition of the King, celebrations are postponed to an indefinite time. A dinner is to be held in the Hall Barn at three o’clock in the afternoon on account of the meat being spoiled.”

The King had appendicitis and was very ill. He did, of course, recover and the new date for the Coronation was August 9th 1902. Now there was to be “a plain tea of bread, butter, cheese, cakes, buns and tea”. One pint of beer was allocated to each man and nuts and sweets

were to be given to the children. Sports would take place before and after the tea. Mr Gray was to provide the tea and “all that would be required” and charge the Committee.

Accounts for the tea and sports were discussed on December 6th 1902. There was a remaining balance of 13 shillings which was to be given to “certain deserving persons in the Parish. **Linda Hudson**

■ **REDLINGFIELD BROADBAND UPDATE:** The phone and broadband service recently has been worse than ever. So do exercise your right to complain! The new Green Box in the middle of the village is due to go live by the end of September, which should provide fast broadband to Green Lane, Church Road, The Knoll etc. Apparently the delay is due to problems getting the fibre-optic cable installed between here and Occold. For those on the “wrong side” of the box, in Mill Road, Occold Corner etc. The plan is to introduce high-speed broadband “by the end of the year”. Engineers have been seen conducting surveys for this so we can but hope. **Janet Norman-Philips**

■ **ELECTORAL REGISTRATION FORMS:** You should all have recently received electoral registration forms. If you try the online link on the form you’ll find it does not exist the correct address is either www.householdresponse.com and then select the Babergh Mid Suffolk tab or in www.householdresponse.com/BaberghandMidsuffolk. **Mike Ager**

Bats entertainment ... in

RECENTLY, I WAS contacted by an officer from the rural and wildlife crimes department of Suffolk Police. It was alleged an entrance to a bat roost had been blocked and the officer wanted someone with some bat knowledge to help him. I used to work with bats quite a bit a few years back, from surveys to rescues and even examining bat poo under the microscope (most mammal surveys involve looking at poo at some point).

We met at the scene, which for obvious reasons will remain undisclosed. On inspection, all the evidence was there that the area was used by bats on a regular basis and sure enough, there was also evidence that the entrance had been deliberately blocked. Bats are wholly protected by law, you cannot even purposefully take a photo of a bat without a licence and cannot interfere with its roost or roost entrance in anyway without prior permission from Natural England. You even have to be licensed to hold a bat and it's illegal to possess any part of a dead bat.

Now, whether the entrance had been blocked to deliberately stop the bats coming and going is another thing all together. It wasn't a residential building, yet the hole would have let in a bit of a draught. It's possible that the owner didn't realise the importance of

the hole, after all, the Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), our smallest bat, can squeeze through a gap of 8mm, something you don't get in modern buildings. This bat is tiny and weighs the same as a 2p piece, yet one will eat the equivalent of 3,000 gnats per night. Imagine if you had 10 of these flying around your

house each night, that's 30,000 gnats gone!

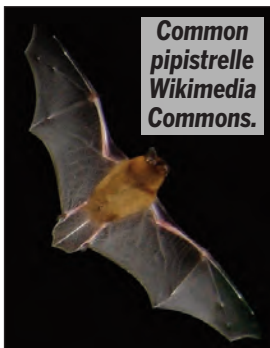
Bats have a vital role in removing pests, yet they have had a hard time of it these past decades.

Not long after the war, agriculture improved in a big way. Gone were small fields to make way for larger machinery, hedgerows were ripped

out to increase yield and pesticides took their toll on the insects and on those that fed upon them too.

The hedgerows which provided bats with vital corridors to and from feeding places were gone. Bats like to fly along linear objects such as hedgerows and walls, they don't like flying out in the open, unless of course you're a big, fast-flying bat such as the Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) or the Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), both of which can be seen flying above the treetops of our villages and, if you're lucky enough, you can see them swoop down over meadows (another rarity) to get the larger insects.

Their roosts are usually all-female affairs and are known as maternity



our gardens

roosts. The females usually only have one pup a year and when it is born, it would be the human equivalent of giving birth to a five-year-old (ouch)! If the roost is disturbed, the likely outcome is that all the adults to abandon it and leave their young to die. It is better to lose your off-spring and try again next year than to die and not reproduce at all.

Bats do not hibernate, they enter torpor. They enter this state when the overnight temperatures start dropping below 7°C and insects begin to disappear. Torpor, unlike hibernation, means that they wake up every 30 days or so to do their ablutions, mate and go back to sleep again and is another critical period during which they should not be disturbed. Our old homes, buildings and churches provide important refuges for bats.

So, before you get out the DIY tools to start blocking up annoying holes or cracks, ask yourself “is that the home of something else?”. If you’re not sure, you can ask me, and I’ll take a look.

Bats are amazing creatures and amazing flyers, there is nothing quite like watching them fly silently around your garden at night. They are quite noisy, but they call well out of our hearing range. Even Paul Weller of The Jam wrote a popular song about them in the 80s, Bats Entertainment.

Nature is in a state of decline and it needs all the help it can get from us.

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If the Germans attack take

ALAN JOHNSON HAS BEEN involved with the 95th Bomb Group for close to 75 years – Alan and his siblings were quick to adopt a ground crew when the Americans arrived in Horham and since then he has become almost a fixture at the Red Feather Club. Here are a few of his memories taken from a recent Red Feather Club newsletter.

The Red Feather Club: “The village wanted to save the murals first that was how it started in about 1980/1981. I was part of that with my brother and sister... We had one reunion with the church bells and we had three busloads of American veterans and family

members turn up...

It all started well and everyone was very keen then it slowed down a little but I kept going I was up here on my own a lot removing trees and levelling the land by hand. I feel it made a lot of work for a few people ...”

Horham Home Guard: His father Ted Johnson was a member along with Albert Borrett, the Horham train station master, who had a terrible stutter ... his father told Alan and his brother David that the Home Guard were on parade near the old school and one man had a bullet in his gun which went off during inspection “BANG it hit the church tower! Albert said it:

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long steps

“Cccccould hhhhhhve bbbbbb dangerous it could of bbbbbroke a bbbbbbloody window!”

Captain Taylor of the Home Guard had an Austin 8 car with a canvas top and the Home Guard had a PIAT [Projector, Infantry, Anti Tank] gun “they had a wooden sledge which they would tie bales of hay to and Captain Taylor would tow this and they would fire at it for practice and they never hit the car or the hay!”

Then there was one member who never turned up for parade as he always said one of his cows was in calf. Captain Taylor went to see him one day to find out he only had one cow! When asked by the captain what steps would he take if the Germans attacked, he replied: “Blinking long ones!”

Local characters: “Siah Potter from Wilby said he wouldn’t have his haircut until England won the war! But he never did! There used to be an ale company called Steward & Patteson, Siah fell off his bike one day after visiting the local pub a policeman came along and said: ‘Come on Siah, get up.’ He replied: ‘I can’t get up sir.’ ‘Why?’ asked the officer. Siah said: ‘There’s two men holding me down?’ The officer said ‘Who’s that?’ Siah replied: ‘Steward & Patteson!’”

Andy Garner

■ On Sunday 28th October the Red Feather Club’s final public open day of the year will be followed by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association’s AGM. Open day (10-4pm), agm (5pm).

■ LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY

CHANGES: Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, from the elections in May 2019 Redlingfield and Occold parishes will become part of the Eye Ward while Horham and Athelington will be joined in the Hoxne Ward by Worlingworth. That means Horham and Athelington will have a different Mid-Suffolk District councillor to Redlingfield. **Mike Ager**

■ **LEARN TO STEP DANCE:** If you would you like to learn to traditional East Anglian stepdancing a Stepdance Workshop is being held on Saturday 6th October at Wilby Coronation Village Hall, 11am-1pm. Tickets are £20 and include tea, coffee, squash and biscuits. Book ASAP. **Doreen 07591 499912**

■ **THANK YOU:** Just a quick note to say ‘thank you’ to all who supported the church stall at the Horham fete and car boot earlier this year. Monies raised amounted to £403.55 – a tremendous effort by all who contributed! Whether by donations, or purchase, we are very grateful! **Jill Peters**



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Young fundraisers in the

WE HAVE NOW completed the new bridge on to the Doorstep Green, thanks to everyone who has helped. Peter and Joyce Saunders, Tony Freitas and his amazing Suffolk Coastal walk as well as dozens of others who have given their time to plant hedges, sow grass seed and mow the new two-acre area.

We've even had help from Ipswich Town Football club in the form



of raffle donations and access to bulk discounts on purchasing grass seed.

Of course we haven't finished.

The next stage is to buy and install the under-grass mesh so we have a functioning car park and then install fencing and gates. The mesh will cost around £9,000 and the gates and fencing a further £2,000. We are hoping to



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saddle for Doorstep Green

install the mesh ourselves and will be looking for volunteers to help ...

So fundraising is back on the agenda and this time we have two young PCC volunteers in the form of the Smith children, who will be horse riding and cycling over several weekends to raise money. Starting on Sunday 9th September, Phoebe, aged five will be riding her elderly pony Lady (pictured) and Tom aged eight will be cycling.

We will also be starting a larger project to revamp the existing Doorstep Green, enlarging the play area with equipment for a wider range of youngsters as well as older people.

Improving the paths and seating

areas along with the wildlife area, as well as using the new field for recreation and ball games etc.

This is going to take time and a lot of money, luckily there are grants out there that we can call upon.

The Village Committee want to get people involved and get everyone's ideas – especially parents, grandparents and youngsters, so we will be asking everyone in the village for their thoughts and maybe getting a small group together to work on this. If anyone is interested in being part of this group please contact me on pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 678835. *Janet Norman-Philips*

■ **THANK YOUS:** Thank you to everyone who helped make Redlingfield's annual BBQ such a success – those who sold tickets, helped set up and worked hard during the evening. It was great to see so many youngsters and that so many helped out so special thanks to Kyla Rose-Freitas (raffle assistant) and everyone else. *Janet Norman-Philips*

■ PLANNING:

TO BE DECIDED: plan to erect a dwelling and creation of new vehicular access and parking (following removal of existing building) **The Old School House, Green Lane, Redlingfield.**

GRANTED: application under Section 73 of the Town & Country Planning Act for Conversion of redundant barn to residential & application for Listed Building Consent for alterations to design & access to barn conversion scheme into dwelling accommodation, **Kiln Farm, Cranley Road, Redlingfield;** application to improvements to existing access track to serve **Rose Farm Cottage & formation of parking spaces, Rose Farm, Athelington Road, Horham;** application to erect two-storey linked extension with attached walls to garden at **Malsters, Chapel Lane, Horham.**

REFUSED: outline application (access to be considered) for erection of four detached dwellings on **land north of Church Farm Barn, The Street, Horham;** proposal for outline planning application (access to be considered) for the erection of up to two detached dwellings with garages on **land opposite Wheatcrofts, The Street, Horham.**

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council
<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

BORN ON THURSDAY 5TH March 1931, Dad was the 3rd of four Abbott children born to Frances and Charles and brother to Janet, John and Edmund. He was born in the farmhouse [Rookery Farm] he lived in and loved with a passion virtually all of his life until he moved into the cottages in May 2017.

Dad went to primary school in Bedingfield Village Hall, where he was generally a well-behaved lad except for the time when he swung a conker on a string so hard that the conker flew off at break-neck speed and smashed a window just as the teacher walked in! That was the only time Dad got told off at school!

Dad also developed the art of being late quite early on in his life and he was always late for school – apparently, he used to watch the WW2 planes going over the farm, which might have been why he was late.

Being late was an unfaltering habit of a lifetime or was he just in a different time zone to everyone else maybe? (Unfortunately, he's passed this habit on

to his middle child Rachel). He went to Eye Grammar school until he was 14. He then had to work on the farm, caring for and milking the cows, which apparently he hated! It did get him out of doing National Service though!

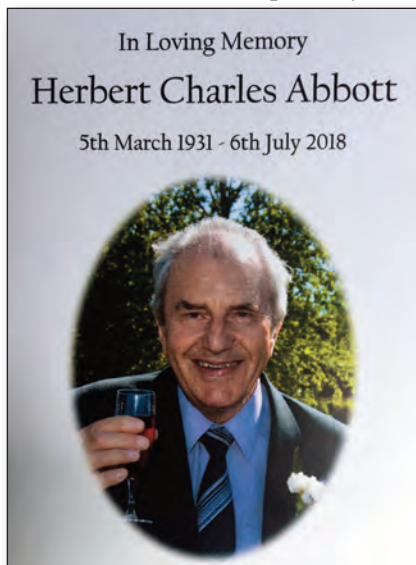
Legend has it, the cows were called Hop-a-titty, None-so-pretty, Dillycoat and Dainty ...

Dad considered himself incredibly privileged that on 10th September 1944, at the ripe old age of 13, along with his brothers, he saw Glenn Miller and his orchestra play in a hangar on Horham Airfield. Something he proudly reminded us of whenever he heard any Glenn Miller music playing.

He was a keen motorcyclist, unfortunately, he used

to fall off every Saturday and being the hoarder he was, he kept all of the smashed parts in the shed, hung up on display like trophies. This became quite a considerable collection of broken headlights before he moved on to the safer option of driving motor cars.

Dad first set eyes on Mum at Diss Swimming Pool in 1957 but they didn't



■ **Herbert Charles Abbott passed away peacefully at home on Friday 6th July 2018 with his family by his side; aged 87. Devoted husband to Pauline, a beloved dad to Dawn, Rachel & Andrew, grandad to Billy, Maisie, James and William & father-in-law to Paul, Simon & Katie. A kind and gentle man who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. His funeral Service took place at St. Andrew's Church, Redlingfield on Tuesday 24th July.**

actually speak to each other for quite a while, in fact, not for another six years when Dad went into Eastern Electricity, where Mum worked, to pay a bill. After a short courtship, they were married on 15th September 1964 and honeymooned in Bournemouth.

Dad was incredibly proud of his three children, Dawn, Rachel and Andrew – although according to Mum, he never actually changed a nappy!

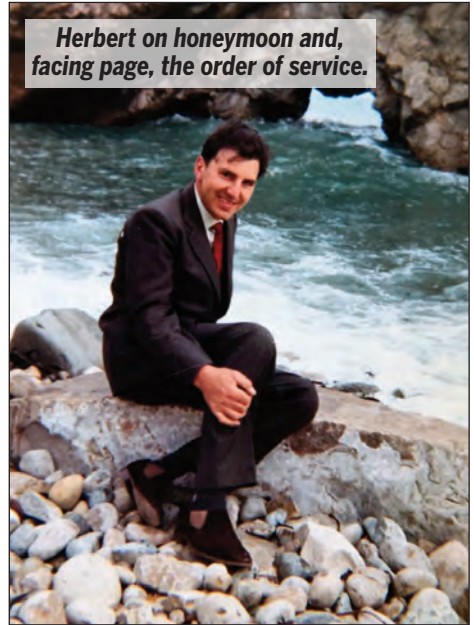
Dad spent many a happy year loading and unloading pigs all over East Anglia and I don't think a working day went by without him wearing his beloved deerstalker hat!

He loved spending time with his brothers and like-minded friends on organised pheasant shoots and, latterly, clay pigeon shooting at John Bidwell's.

After Dad retired from farming in 1996, he and Mum enjoyed several cruises with Mum's sister Pam and her husband Dick and Mum's brother Peter and his wife Rita, visiting the Caribbean, Iceland and Norway to name just a few destinations. Dad flew in an aeroplane for the first time ever when he was in his 60s when they holidayed in Florida.

He enjoyed the occasional live music event, including Status Quo, but didn't really like the high volume and stood with his hands cupped over his ears for the entire gig! Allegedly, he did the same thing at football matches!

A few things he loved: James Bond films; doing crosswords; watching sport on TV; guessing; pitch and putt; The Two Ronnies; Laurel & Hardy; ice cream and Strawberry Mivvis; cutting the grass, strimming and raking up the leaves; and he had a fascination with left-handed people



Herbert on honeymoon and, facing page, the order of service.

– he thought they were gifted!

A few things he didn't like: hats worn at the dinner table; earrings and jewellery in general; tattoos; long hair on a man!

May 2017 saw a life-changing house move but Dad did settle in to life in the cottages and continued to tolerate the weekly trips to Costa.

When he learned that life was about to take an unplanned twist, he approached his illness with courage and braveness and he never complained once.

We will all remember Dad as a even-tempered, steady, gentle man who enjoyed the simple pleasures, he loved the quiet home-life and he loved his family dearly.

Night-night and God bless you Dad, we'll see you there ... Love you, bye!

Andrew Abbott

Poem For Dad ... by Dawn & Rachel Abbott

Herbert Charles Abbott
Lateness was his thing
We knew him as our Dad
“The Procrastination King”

Decisions not his strong point
Not least a “speedy” one
By the time he’d decided “What to do?”
The job was all but done

He did things deliberately
Never did them quick
Except for eating ice cream
Gone in just a lick!

Shopping trips to Ipswich
Would start at 3pm
The shops would close at 5 o’clock
Not much spending ... then!

Never to be hurried
Renowned for being late
He never got to school on time
Teachers! They could wait ...

He wasn’t late on his wedding day
He really didn’t dare
Fifty-three years of wedded bliss
And happiness to share

Hoarding was another trait
Save it “Just in case”
“There is a place for everything”
And “everything in its place”

In car parks, Grandad, reversed the car
“In preparation” ... he would say
“You never know when you may need
To make a quick getaway”

Dad liked Mum to decide on things
And sometimes he would force her
By going to make yet more tea
Of course in cup and saucer

He wasn’t the most romantic soul
Not the greatest charmer
But he was such a “good ole boy”
An honest Suffolk farmer

He wasn’t good at writing cards
Or arranging a birthday lunch
A present one year to our Mum
Bananas in a bunch!

We’re glad he got to travel too
Cruising on the seas
A welcome break from making tea
And raking up the leaves

A few more things we loved of dad
His brown ‘deerstalker’ hat
He would always take ‘several’
torches to bed

What was the point in that?
He always had a range of coats
To guard against the weather
He ate food that was out of date
But was he ill? No, never ... !

Dusty Springfield, Susan Boyle
Abba, The Rolling Stones
Laurel & Hardy made him laugh
And Roadrunner cartoons

His family were his pride and joy,
Farmer Drew, Rachy and horse
Then there’s Mum ... The eldest one
and THEEE most sensible of course!

“Thank You” Dad for being you
For that, we are all glad
We promise, we’ll look after Mum
Especially when she’s sad

Goodbyes are never easy
And this the hardest yet
You were such a special man
To everyone you met

We’ll miss you Dad ... so kind & soft
The perfect ‘Gentle’ man
Heaven has you safely now
Rest in peace, you can

Rest in peace our beautiful Dad
We’ll think of you each day
Rest in peace knowing that
You’re loved in every way

He doesn't have a
Scale Problem...



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Stonfest Country Music Festival:

Stonham Barns.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

The 34th Framlingham Flyers 10k

Race: 11am-2pm.

Monk Soham Open Gardens: 11am-5pm. Maps & guides at marked venues around the village.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

Coffee Caravan: centre Redlingfield village, 10am-noon.

Ben Somers String Band: The Bank, Eye, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. Original & traditional bluegrass, old-time & modern acoustic music, £10 in advance, £12 on door.

Melanie Mehta in concert: Wingfield church, 7pm. Admission free.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Cape Town Evening: Horham Old School Hall, 7pm. Evening of South African food & drink to raise money for a children's arts project in Cape Town.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7

Fish and Chip Supper: Horham CC.

Adrian Nation: The Bank, Eye, 8pm. International acoustic guitar master. £10 in advance, £12 on door.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8

2018 Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Ride & Stride.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 & 9

Country Railway Gala & Beer Festival:

Mid Suffolk Light Railway. 3 locos in steam, steam road vehicles & farm machinery.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14

Hoxne Film Night: The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society, £4.

Wilby Quiz Night: Wilby Village Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tables/teams of 4, £5 per team. Register a team on 388112 before Sept 10.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15

Fram Horticultural Society Autumn

Show: United Free Church Hall, Framlingham, 9-11.45am.

■ VENUES etc:

The Bank Arts Centre - Eye: The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & www.thebankeye.org. **Cinema at Eye:** Eye Community Centre, Magdalene St, IP23 7AJ, tickets Eye Pharmacy, The Handyman, or on door. Doors 7pm, film 7.30pm. £5 adult, £2.50 child up to 12. **Framlingham:** www.framlingham.com. **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, events@helmingham.com, 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. **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station, Wetheringsett, Suffolk, IP14 5PW, www.mslr.org.uk, 01449 766899. **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk, 01449 612229. **Redlingfield village events,** 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk. **Mid-Suffolk Showground & 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, www.owl-help.org.uk. **Wingfield Barns,** 384505, enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com, www.wingfieldbarns.com. **95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club,** Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, www.95thbg-horham.com, enquiries@95thbg-horham.com.

Race Night: Worlingworth Community Centre, 7.30pm. Admission free. Raising funds for Worlingworth Cricket Club & community centre.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

Countryside & Falconry Show:

Stonham Barns, 10am-6pm.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Autumn Plant Fair with Artisan

Market: Helmingham Hall, 10am-4pm. £7 for adults, children free.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Horham Village Hall Trust & Horham

Community Council AGM: HCC, 7.30pm. New members are always welcome.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Stradbroke Cinema: The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society, Stradbroke CC.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Redlingfield Village Lunch: Stradbroke White Hart, 1pm Linda 678984.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22

Pub on the Green: Pop-up pub, Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 6pm-late.

Reg Meuross in Concert: Hoxne Village Hall, 8pm. £10 in advance, £12 on the door.

Flamenco Evening: The Bank, Eye, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. £13 advance, £15 on door.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 & 23

Swedefest - truck show: Stonham Barns, Sat 9am-late, Sun 9am-4pm.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28

Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith:

Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. Folk music. £14/£12 conc, online www.wegotickets.com/event/437201

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29

Boot & Table Top Sale: Stradbroke High School, 8am-1pm.

Café-Plus: Occold Village Hall, 9.30-11.30am. Occold PreSchool event supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 (continued)

Dance: Red Feather Club, from 7.30pm. Junction 55 & DJ Gypsy John, Tickets £12.

SATURDAY SEPT 29 TO SUNDAY OCT 7

RPS Print and Projected Image

Exhibitions: Wingfield Barns (Wed-Sun), 11am to 4pm. Admission free.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30

American Car Show: Stonham Barns.

Horham Harvest Lunch: 3-course lunch with tea or coffee, Horham CC. £7 per adult, half-price school-age children.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3

Coffee Caravan: centre Redlingfield village, 10am-noon.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6

Race Night: Thorndon Village Hall, 7pm-midnight.

Suffolk Singers: 7.30pm, St. Michael's Church, Fram.

Stepdance Workshop: Wilby Village Hall, 11am-1pm. Tickets £20. Book ASAP. Doreen 07591 499912.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 12

Ceilidh: Debenham Leisure Centre, 7pm. Rotary Club of High Suffolk. £17.50 - events@highsuffolkrotary.org or 01728 685522. Village Water charity.

Hoxne Film Night.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13

Redlingfield Church Quiz: Horham Old School, 7 for 7.30pm.

Klezmerized: Eye CC, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. Eastern European folk and dance. £10 in advance, £12 on door.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 14

The Great Framlingham Sausage Festival: 10am-5pm.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18

Stradbroke Cinema: The Bookshop, Stradbroke CC.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 19

Fish and Chip Supper: Horham CC.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY OCTOBER 19 & 20

Cider and Song Festival: Museum of East Anglian Life, Fri 7-11pm, Sat 10am-11pm.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

Pub on the Green: Pop-up pub, Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 6pm-late.

Saxon & Viking Festival: Stonham Barns.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27

Redlingfield Family Fun Evening & Race Night: Horham CC.



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Belly Dance/Turkish Evening: The Bank, Eye, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. £13 in advance, £15 on door.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28

Final Public Open Day of 2018 & AGM: Red Feather Club. Open Day (10-4pm), AGM (5pm).

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2

Fish and Chip Supper: Horham CC.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3

Annual Horham Quiz: Horham CC. Teams of up to four £5 per team. Light refreshments & raffle. 384625.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9

Hoxne Film Night.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

The Lockerbillies: Eye CC, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. £10 in advance, £12 on door.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17

Quiz Night in aid of Friends of Hoxne Church: Hoxne Village Hall.

Terence Blacker: The Bank, Eye, doors 7pm, start 7.30pm. £10 in advance, £12 on door.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 19

75th anniversary of the Redlingfield crash: Ceremony on Green Lane from 8.30am.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 22

Stradbroke Cinema: The Mercy, Stradbroke CC.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17

Live music: Wilby Village Hall, 8pm to late, doors 7pm. Live music with Buckshee, stepdancing & jig dolls. £7.50. Bar, raffle, food. No tickets on door. Doreen 07591 499912.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30

Light Supper: Horham CC, 8pm.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7

Annual Horham Christmas Dinner: Details from Horham CC & PO.

■ **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,

Don't want to be a whinger

ONE OF THE WORST things is getting labelled as a whinger, someone who is constantly complaining and expects unrealistic comforts from the society they exist in.

Given that I complained about lack of grit and the immediate reactions of our elected local council in the bad snow in late February, I'd be pushing my luck to come back with another thing I'm sure was done better in my youth.

The pot holes in the roads round here are bad but the really irksome thing for me recently has been the growth of the verges. That should be the non-cutting of the verges. Some corners were done

by local or private enterprise as we know but I hoped for better, sooner.

Now I don't want to be one of those people who looks back and says things were better when I was younger. That attitude shows we haven't progressed.

History has lessons, we learn them, we move on and things get better. That's how it should go right? Well unfortunately it's not always the case.

The modern trend is to cut verges once around late July. I have heard it said it is out of respect to the wildlife. From the middle of May though the verges start to grow up and become a viewing issue for drivers. It's a health and safety issue and probably something that for me shouldn't have



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an economic price on it. Health and safety has a reputation for being the be-all and end-all of arguments.

We regularly see evidence of what a dangerous implement a car is and determined people are trying to say we shouldn't go above 19 mph through our neighbouring town of Eye. Being able to see when you move along a road, regardless of speed, is more of a fundamental safety issue for me.

Safety is a universal reason for doing what has to be done. When football authorities were insisting on making the top teams play in all-seater stadiums after the tragedies of the 1980s it was like using the trump in a game of whist.

At work the idea of making sure you return home safely after your shift is the company emphasis on being aware and complying with health and safety issues. Anything you can realistically call a health and safety issue has to be treated with a total seriousness.

Verges don't fall into this though. Maybe drivers, like with the lack of double yellow lines in Debenham High Street, will be forced to go slower if their view is obstructed?

Speeding is a major criminal act of our time. It brings decent human beings in touch with illegal activity enforcement, those who would never dream of other forms of criminality.

I don't feel comfortable complaining but I know some people do but like everybody else I hope people in authority see the argument my way.

Increasingly they don't. So I stay in left field.

Ian Crane

■ **WW1 HISTORY PROJECT:** Is there anyone living in Horham who has a connection to or knows of the descendants of the World War One casualties on the parish war memorial? Research is presently being carried out into all of the men on the war memorials of Horham, Wilby and Brundish. If you have any information that would help them in their quest, Worlingworth Local History Group would be very grateful to receive it. They intend to publish a book in November and hold an exhibition on 10th November about all about those brave men. Please contact Geoff Robinson on 01728-628768 or e-mail him at geoffrobinson60@gmail.com.

Worlingworth LHG

■ AGE UK LINK FOR REDLINGFIELD:

I have been the Age UK Link for Redlingfield for the last ten years but will be moving home shortly so need a replacement. Is there anyone that would like to take on this role? You will only be called on rarely and you will get support from Age UK. If you would like to discuss what is involved please give me a call. **Jacqueline Love (678805)**

■ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

I Horham Village Hall Trust and Horham Community Council's AGM is on Monday 17th September at 7.30pm. Community Council Members and Residents of Horham and Athelington are invited to attend. New members are always welcome, so please do come and visit us at the Community Centre, have a drink and see what we are about on a Wednesday, Friday or Saturday evening – a warm welcome awaits.

Angela Wilkins

Try Kettle's Yard but not in

RECENTLY WE TOOK OUR grandchildren on a trip to Cambridge to have a look around my beloved Kettles Yard. It comprises two parts, the house and the gallery. The gallery houses current temporary exhibitions and the all-important gift shop and has recently undergone a fundamental make over.

Something which has changed in the house is the crowds now coming from all parts to have a look – it is obviously now on the universal tourist trail; so

much so that the house can only be visited on a timed entry basis. So we get our tickets for 3.30pm and my heart sinks.

At the appointed time our group is led from the gallery across to the door in the passage which gives access to the house, the bell is rung and we enter. Once inside the drill is very much as before and we are given a short introduction to the house and to the life of Jim Ede who amassed (on a shoestring) the unique art collection amongst which he lived.

After this our group soon disperses about the house with assurances that we can stay as long as we like and can sit down wherever we please and can look at any of the books that may take our fancy. I am gratefully reassured. There is no feeling of vast crowds pressing in and swarming all over the dear old place. Anyway what should I expect in August? I am such a snob!

The problem which I anticipated is however a very real one at many tourist honey pots across the globe. Venice, for a prime example, was in peril of sinking slowly over the years into the lagoon but has been successfully propped up only to now be likely to sink much more quickly from the



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August

sheer press and weight of tourists; the plaster of the frescos of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is mouldering due to the clouds of human breath floating in the great vault; the average time allowed per person to take in the mystery of the Mona Lisa in the Louvre is something under one minute and so on and so on.

What can be done? Cheap air travel allows all this and why not? Why should people be prohibited from visiting these treasures – even if they do turn their backs on them to include them in a selfie?

It is a real and pressing problem but the solution does not lie in exclusion of the Hoi Polli. Those without the “right” qualifications are the very people who should be encouraged to

come and have a look.

This philosophical conundrum aside, I am delighted to report that our grandchildren loved it all and got a real buzz from being able to freely wander around without being told by notices or people “Don’t Touch!” Jim Ede loved the place and the treasures he had gathered there and hoped that the rest of us would get the same enjoyment. And it has not yet been spoilt by the numbers.

Go on! Try it yourself sometime! But don’t go in August.

Neville Butcher



■ **NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** The community woodland in Horham is held in trust for all the residents of Denham, Horham and Athelington. At a recent meeting of the New Reeding Woods Group new trustees were appointed as after 13 years the original trustees had all decided to stand down. The new trustees are Geoff Hoad (chair) Lisa Finch and Peny Conway. Geoff Hoad thanked the retiring trustees David Flowerdew, Nigel Blandford and Ian Bushnell for the work that they had done in acquiring the land and overseeing the work establishing of the woodland. On 2nd June a spring walk round the woodland preceded a masterclass in the pruning of some of the taller trees to enhance their potential as mature trees. This mainly involved cutting back side growth to ensure a strong leader, years from now some of these trees will have a commercial value and it is in our best interest that they grow tall and straight. On the 22nd September at 11am we are holding our annual autumn event of “Putting the wood to bed” join us at the woodland with gloves and secateurs to tidy the rides and maintain the fencing. The event will also feature the installation of an owl box, a memorial to Mrs J Flowerdew a founder member of the New Reeding Woods Group. For more information about events see the notice board at the wood, and to join the group please contact our Secretary Peny Conway on 870165.

Margaret Reeves

Celebrating summer term

THE SUMMER TERM AT Wilby Primary School has been incredibly busy with a wide variety of activities for the children to enjoy and much to celebrate in terms of their achievement!

SATS results: We are delighted with our KS2 SATs results with levels in both achievement and progress being well above predicted county and national averages. Our congratulations go to our twelve Year 6 pupils and our thanks to their hard-working teachers.

Gold Arts Award: Wilby school was delighted to find out at the end of May that they have been awarded the Gold level Artsmark by the Arts Council of

Great Britain. The arts have always been central to the ethos at Wilby Primary School but working towards the Gold Arts Mark has helped the school to identify and celebrate what we already do and extend provision further in order to enrich the curriculum in innovative ways and provide high-quality arts experiences beyond the school day.

Fundraising events:

● **Music for a Summer's evening:** This year our Music for a Summer's Evening was an extra special event as professional musicians combined their talents with that of the school's pupils (past and present) to raise money for

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Successes

the Brain Tumour Charity. Suffolk born singer songwriter Matt Bayfield who has been diagnosed with a brain tumour headed the bill at this wonderful evening which raised over £500 for the Brain Tumour Charity, ● **School fete:** Our School fete on June 30th was also a resounding success and raised well over £1,000 for school funds Thanks to everyone who supported this fantastic family event.

● **Foxearth Open morning:** Our brass group and choir were delighted to perform as part of this event on June 13th to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Charity.

Summer Performance: Y2-Y6 produced an amazing musical about the life of Charles Darwin. Their performance of 'Darwin Rocks' was a tremendous success and pupils also went on to sing excerpts from the musical on the main stage at Stradisphere in July.

Trips and days out: Owl Class had an amazing day at Alton Water in June enjoying kayaking, sailing and raft building. Wren and Kingfisher classes visited the Dinosaur Park in Norfolk as



Some of the cast from the Darwin Rocks musical

part of this term's topic focus on dinosaurs. Year 6 enjoyed a brilliant week at the Hollowford Centre in the Peak District. They also enjoyed a bowling trip and meal out as a Y6 leaver's treat.

Sporting success: This term the children have successfully represented the school in rounders and cricket tournaments at both inter-school and intra-school level. Sports day was also a tremendous success with pupils receiving their medals on the podium. Wolves House was the winning house for the day!

Roisin Wiseman, headteacher

■ **RIDE+STRIDE:** Ride+Stride, The Historic Churches Trust annual sponsored bike ride is on Saturday 8th September. All churches in the benefice are participating. Make this a great day out with family or friends! If you are not able to cycle or walk, then could you be one of the recorders, welcoming the riders and walkers and filling in a couple of bits of paper. Please speak to your local organiser. They will also be able to put you in touch with someone who is riding/walking and would welcome your sponsorship. Local Ride+Stride organisers: Athelington, Evelyn Adey, 01728 628428; evelyn.adey@btinternet.com; Horham, Daphne Harvey, 384216; Redlingfield, Joan Abbott, 678736. Email: suffolk@rideandstrideuk.org Web: www.shct.org.uk/sponsored-bike-ride.

Rev Michael Womack

DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP

NOW THE SUMMER RECESS is almost over, I'm getting ready to return to London and the daily business of

Parliament, but I have very much enjoyed spending the summer at home in Suffolk and getting back to the grass roots of being a constituency MP.

We've certainly enjoyed some consistently warm summer sunshine this year, some would argue too warm, but I have particularly enjoyed meeting a great many of you as I visited and opened a number of village fetes and summer events. It's always lovely to see families spending quality time together outdoors enjoying the best of Suffolk life. I'm sure our farmers can also breathe a sigh of relief as the harvest has been safely gathered, without wet weather disrupting things.

At the time of writing, I'm delighted to learn of the Government's drive to create stronger communities as part of a more caring society. Proposals include significant reform across the public and private sectors looking to build a fairer society, with people, communities and charitable organisations working together to make decisions about delivery of public services.

As well as encouraging councils, businesses and the voluntary sector to work together, this initiative will also importantly deliver £165 million of funding to further support community foundations, and to set up new

organisations to help get disadvantaged people back into employment, and tackle social exclusion.

The initiative aims to boost charities and allow them to play a greater role in the delivery of public services. Government alone cannot tackle the complex challenges facing our society today, such as loneliness or homelessness, but it can help to bring people and resources together to provide more joined-up services and initiatives across our communities.

Here in Suffolk, we have such a strong sense of community and I am proud of the great work that already goes on across the county. In fact, Suffolk is already ahead of the game, with a great track record of working collaboratively to deliver public services in new and innovative ways, resulting in more cohesive services and delivering better value for money for the people who live and work here.

Crucially, the new Leader of Suffolk County Council, Matthew Hicks, has started out on an extremely positive footing, with his commitment to work collaboratively across Suffolk, with the other councils, health and businesses. I certainly join him in that ambition. Together with our colleagues, we can help secure the very best for the residents of Suffolk.

As with other issues, despite the financial challenges, in Suffolk we will continue to lead the way.

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. For more information please visit www.drdanielpoulter.com

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ELIZABETH GIBSON-HARRIES, YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



THE LONG PERIOD OF intense heat has been a problem to people that have health issues but I have been heartened to see that other people in the villages have been keeping an eye out for them, just as we did when we had a foot of snow not so long ago. That is the beauty of living in small villages.

On the other hand we have all had some difficult decisions to make over planning applications.

Now that Mid Suffolk has its five year land supply plan it should take the pressure off any piece of land within our village envelopes.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has done a waste analysis and in 2016 discovered that we, the residents, were throwing away 52,000 tonnes of food each year. That is domestic waste not from commercial outlets. This is costing the Suffolk taxpayer almost £4.5 million in disposal costs. So along with the issue of plastic bags we have to make decisions as to how much we buy at the Supermarket each time and how and when we cook and eat it. We can make a difference.

Road-side littering and fly-tipping is at

***Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Chairman, Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor for Hoxne Ward (384680 or 07766 224390)***

its height this time of year and the council is taking steps to keep the roads and lanes clean. Between April 1st and June 30th 54 incidents of fly tipping were reported and cleared away within three days. Each is reported to the Environmental Protection Department for legal action. If the rubbish is deposited on farm land it is up to the farmer to remove it unless it is hazardous waste.

There has been a good deal of road resurfacing in the ward this summer, let's hope it has dealt with some of the potholes .

It is an ongoing issue of who is responsible for cutting the hedges and verges. This year the foliage has grown so much is obliterating road signs and obscuring the line of sight around bends but it is real issue in the countryside.

The health scrutiny boards for Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk are working together. Issues tend to be the same across the area including care in the home, hospital admissions for the frail and elderly and centralised services at the four hospitals. Our GP practices are under strain but have taken on auxiliary trained staff to triage calls and undertake minor treatment.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

■ **REDLINGFIELD'S WINTER COFFEE MORNINGS:** Jacqueline Love has handed over the organising of Redlingfield's winter coffee mornings to Linda Hudson so now may be a time to look back over the last ten years to see what was raised. The first winter coffee morning was in late 2008 and they have now run for ten winters. Donations are collected and each spring people are asked where they would like the donations to be given. A total of £881.14 has been distributed to the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project, St Andrew's church Redlingfield, to the church's flower festival and the village war memorial.

David Love

THE REVEREND REFLECTS ... WHAT DO WE WANT TO REMEMBER?



ALTHOUGH THE ARMISTICE bringing an end to fighting in WW1, famously took effect at 11am on the 11th of the 11th 1918, the Treaty of Versailles officially ending the war was not signed until June 1919. Which is why the 1,800 or so German sailors who scuttled their High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow that day were deemed prisoners of war for breaking the terms of the Armistice.

Ironically, the German navy achieved its first major success of WW2 within six weeks of Britain declaring war when U-47 under captain Gunther Prien sailed into the same Scapa Flow, sank the HMS Royal Oak and returned to an appropriate welcome at Kiel. The news was not so welcome at The Admiralty where First Lord Winston Churchill, ordered that Scapa Flow was to be made impregnable.

This major civil engineering project, required a lot of innovation and manpower. The University of Manchester provided the boffins and test facilities, Balfour Beatty were the engineers but the muscle came from the Italian army; soldiers captured in North Africa were set to work. Except, the Geneva Convention forbids the use of prisoners of war on war work. This had slipped the minds of the British until the Italians brought it to their attention (by downing tools), at which point the barriers became causeways to improve communication in the Orkneys.

Life went on, work on the renamed causeways went on. But all work and no play makes Marco a dull boy, so leisure time saw the creation of concrete bowling balls and even a concrete billiard table.

But something was still missing. To satisfy their spiritual needs the camp commander set aside a Nissan hut, unlimited concrete and anything they could salvage for the Italians to make a chapel. A work of art emerged; a whole church complete with murals and altar.

The 'Italian Chapel' is now preserved and restored. At their best, both religion and art seek to express the numinous, here is a building that is all of that! And to such a degree that restoration has been undertaken by a lady who worked on the Sistine Chapel.

What has this got to do with remembrance? I think this, it asks of us: what do we want to remember? Scoundrel Germans scuttling their fleet or noble crews avoiding shame? Sneaky submarine commander or audacious lightning strike? Shameful British overlooking the Geneva convention or engineering inventiveness?

When we remember the Armistice and war dead, is it as a glossy postcard from a gift-shop, or the pastel hush of the Chapel's Madonna of the Olive? Do we want to remember war in its complexity or strive for the peace of the olive branch?

Perhaps that last word should go to Bruno Volpi, one of the Italians who returned in 1993 as part of a group marking the 50th anniversary of their arrival: "The statue of St. George was built first. It shows the patron saint of soldiers ready to kill the dragon. It is a concrete representation of the desire to eliminate all evil; all wars that cause pain and injustice to so many people. It is the symbol of a will to kill all misunderstandings among people of different cultures".

Revd Michael Womack is rector of the Hoxne Benefice
(hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 388889).

CHURCH & INFORMATION

■ CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES:

2 Sep Redlingfield 9.30am HC;
Syleham Village Hall 4pm
Messy Church

9 Sep Horham BCP 9.30am BCP HC

16 Sep Athelington 9.30am HC

23 Sep Horham 11.15am VS;
Redlingfield 3pm Harvest
Festival

30 Sep Horham 11.15am Benefice
Communion & Harvest
Celebration

7 Oct Redlingfield 9.30am HC;
Syleham Village Hall
4pm Messy Church

14 Oct Horham BCP 9.30am BCP HC

21 Oct Athelington 9.30am HC

28 Oct Redlingfield 10am MP;
Horham 11.15am VS

4 Nov Redlingfield 9.30am HC;
Syleham Village Hall 4pm
Messy Church

11 Nov Redlingfield 10.45am Act of
Remembrance; Horham 3pm
Act of Remembrance*

18 Nov Athelington 9.30am HC

25 Nov Redlingfield 10am MP;
Horham 11.15am VS

HC = Holy Communion, FC = Family
Communion, VS = Village Service,
MP = Morning Prayer, BCP = Book of
Common Prayer *To be confirmed
depending on local arrangements

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 for your copy.

Horham Church Register: Betty Charlotte Wilson aged 102 years - funeral 12th July 2018.

We aim to produce four full-colour issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November.

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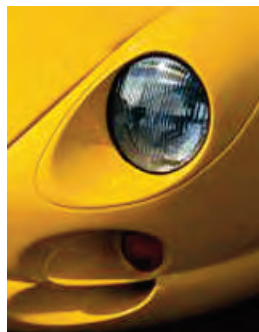
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