# Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS

## WINTER 2016-2017 Issue No. 36

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#### Editorial

A S USUAL IT HAS BEEN A REALLY tight squeeze to fit everything in and if we've forgotten anything – sorry. Linda Hudson and Trevor Edwards pay tribute to Eddie Coe in this issue but we hope to have more next time, with some of his great stories and anecdotes.

VERY MERRY Christmas, a Happy New Year and a big thank you to all our readers, deliverers, contributors, advertisers and our new printers – the lovely people at Tuddenham Press.

MANY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY and friends of the gentleman who lost his life on Cranley Green Road in October.

No Change

Fri 23 Dec

Editors Mike Ager & Evelyn Adey

Sat 7 Jan

Front page picture courtsey of Lotus Head.

CHRISTMAS 2016 & NEW YEAR WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS							
Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised		
Mon 19 Dec	No Change	Mon 26 Dec	Tues 27 Dec	Mon 2 Jan	Tues 3 Jan		
Tues 20 Dec	No Change	Tues 27 Dec	Wed 28 Dec	Tues 3 Jan	Wed 4 Jan		
Wed 21 Dec	No Change	Wed 28 Dec	Thur 29 Dec	Wed 4 Jan	Thur 5 Jan		
Thur 22 Dec	No Change	Thur 29 Dec	Fri 30 Dec	Thur 5 Jan	Fri 6 Jan		

There will be no brown bin collections between 26th December and 6th January. From Monday 9th January normal waste and recycling collections resume.

Sat 31 Dec

Fri 6 Jan

Fri 30 Dec

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. 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)

1/4 page £17.50 (90mm deep, 60mm across)

1/2 page £35 (90mm deep, 125mm across)

A whole page £70

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

Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised in the magazine. This disclaimer is inserted purely for legal/technical reasons and can in no way be construed as implying criticism of any supplier of goods or services.

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# A pleasure for the farmers

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

HIS HARVEST AND autumn have been a real pleasure on the farming front due to a prolonged spell of dry weather. Locally, two years of wet conditions put us under the cosh and our heavy land needed a respite. This

we got at last, with grain coming in off the combines without the need for expensive drying.

The subsequent cultivations then produced some of the best seedbeds for many a season and next year's crops have got a very good start. Field inspections give the dogs plenty of exercise and this I love to do by bike when the conditions after harvest are bone-dry.

I wish I had a pound for every time I have heard

"Never seen a farmer on a bike before". My best species count on one field was eight hares, three grey partridge, a pair of skylarks and a roe deer.

GAMEKEEPER PAUL, AT NEARBY Benningham, has a large collection of exotic species next to his partridge and pheasant pens, and here at Wash Farm we benefit from some interesting visitors, not least Reeve pheasants and mandarin ducks. The hen Reeve pictured here has beautiful plumage worthy of a Scottish game bird.



DESPITE WHAT Corporal Jones said, the animal world is hard wired to panic and take flight. Hazards are everywhere and this is especially true of young birds, growing quickly but unable to flee the nest until the flight feathers have developed. They are on the on the menu of countless predators, as was demonstrated by SpringWatch cameras showing a snake devouring a nest of juvenile reed

warblers. And their problems are by no means over once they are airborne.

I've heard of crows catching blue tits in flight and also a sparrow-hawk hunting down a skylark. Local agricultural engineer, Terry Goddard of Stradbroke, watched a Barn owl being mobbed by two rooks to force it



to drop its prey. Despite being armed with formidable beak and claws, the owl was bullied enough to lose out on a valuable meal.

David Johnson, from the same village, accidentally damaged a pheasants' nest in the long grass when grass cutting, and the protective hen bird was so riled it went for him at waist-height and then attacked the lawn mower.

#### IT WAS A SUMMER OF MIXED fortunes. I photographed a blackbirds' nest overflowing with young about to fledge and saw a flurry of new starlings arriving on the bird feeders in a rush. Just learning to fly, one

#### FEATURES & NEWS

This page: Off-road biking. Facing page: A hen Reeve pheasant at the Wash Farm bird feeder and a juvenile black-headed gull (fortunately not on our field!). Page 4: A young Eddie Coe in WW2 USAAF uniform.

overshot the peanuts and crash-landed on the Land-Rover roof.

Once very common, starling numbers have declined with the disappearance of food sources such as farmyards being tidied up. However they can still be seen in their thousands in roost sites like Minsmere.

It has been a poor year for two favoured migrants, the turtle dove and spotted flycatcher as the male of each species arrived and then waited in vain for a partner.

LARGE FLOCKS OF GULLS HAVE tracked the plough, including the black-headed gull, a very pretty bird with skills that include flying high to scoop up insects and landing on bushes to make a meal of berries. In other words, this is an opportunist feeder which ensures its huge numbers, to the extent that the tractor was hardly visible at times and plenty of "guano" white-washed the cab.

Continued over

Continued from previous page THE NATIONAL BEE UNIT confirmed that a large nest of Asian hornets was destroyed in Gloucestershire. This invasive hornet is smaller than our native one, and no more dangerous to us than a bee, but it poses a serious risk to the honey bee population.

I am friendly to all wasps and hornets, unlike everyone else in my family, as they love eating flies and what better attribute could an insect have. However, our dog disturbed a large wasps' nest in the summer on the bank of the pond, our granddaughter unwisely rushed in and the result was that both got attacked.

Although Kip just shrugged it off, it was more than poor Tilly could manage to do, so an urgent call to the pest control man was the result.

ON NOVEMBER 21ST, MANY mourners filled the church for the funeral of Eddie Coe, our retired village blacksmith, and for many of us the last link with the age of horsepowered farming.

He enjoyed enduring links with military life and the wartime USAAF base at Horham which, as well as a lifetime memory of local farmers, gave



him a great fund of stories. Eddie trained in Hong Kong for Korea, and told me of the soldier who

opened a fish and chip shop in Fanling, on the Hong Kong mainland where Eddie was stationed, in order to please the chaps who missed their home food. The Chinese cuisine was not popular and the story went that the locals would eat anything with legs except chairs, and anything with wings except planes.

Quite aptly, November 23rd is St Clements' Day, and St Clement is the patron saint of blacksmiths. The martyrdom of the poor churchman Clement does not make pleasant reading. As Bishop of Rome, he was done in by having an anchor roped to his neck and thrown into the sea. Why, legend does not relate, but the blacksmiths who forged the anchor felt so guilty that martyrdom of the poor bishop was the result.

#### Trevor Edwards

■ HORHAM VILLAGE HALL TRUST: For many years the Community Centre recreation ground has been the venue for the village bonfire night celebrations. Unfortunately the cost of insuring this event has become prohibitive along with tightening health and safety rules and has resulted in the abandonment of the annual event. Rubbish accumulated during 2016 has now been burned and the site will be cleared; therefore the facility for disposing of burnable rubbish is no longer available. Signs have been installed to remind people of this. Should you see anyone dumping in this area please inform a member of the trust along with the registration numbers of any vehicle used.

## **Remembrance and more**

T HAS BEEN A YEAR OF reflection for the Royal British Legion, as we consider it to be a duty to be keepers of Remembrance.

This year in particular, we have reflected on not only the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, in July, but also the 100-year commemoration of the Battle of Jutland, off the coast of Denmark. The Battle of Jutland, was

the only time in WW1 that the two largest navel fleets in the world met and battled it out.

I think every family living in this area suffered the loss of a family member during

WW1. Two years ago I had the privilege to parade the Stradbroke and District Branch standard at the Thiepval Memorial and the Menin Gate, when branch member Alan King was able to lay a wreath on behalf of local communities.

Of course remembrance is not all the RBL does. There is a welfare scheme to help care for the living. The Legion supports serving members of the armed forces, veterans and their families. If a serviceman/woman has completed just one week of paid uniformed service, they are entitled to apply for help for themselves or their dependents. As a volunteer RBL case worker I visit applicants with a wide variety of needs, from benefit and debt advice to rehousing and mobility aids. If you need help, call our helpline on 0808 802 8080 from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

The standard of the entries for the annual war poetry competition from Stradbroke High School seem to get higher every year. Judging is still ongoing.

This year the Branch Standard was taken once again to Normandy in June, where two members, Ted and Alan were both involved in the D-Day landings on the June 6th 1944. Both

have now received the Légion d'honneur medals for their gallantry from the French Ambassador. The venue of the Stradbroke &

> District Branch meetings has changed from the Kings Head in Laxfield to the Royal Oak, but the day and time is still the same, 11.30am, second

Thursday of each month except August. December's meeting will be the annual Christmas lunch, a booking needs to be made in advance to Bernard Mills (01986 798 414).

New member Andrew Davidson has taken on the roll as branch treasurer. He has 25 years of army service behind him, and we look forward to working with him.

The November meeting of the Branch was also the AGM – sadly chairman, Michael Burton, was indisposed so the meeting was chaired by the vice chairman John Graham. Doug Crooks, who died last May, was remembered.

Joyce Cooper standard bearer, and volunteer case worker (Norfolk & Suffolk) & Bernard Mills, secretary

Winter 2016-2017 5

THE ROYAL BRITISH

# **Eddie and the village forge**

REDLINGFIELD'S LAST blacksmith, Eddie Coe, who knew the building well thought that Redlingfield forge, in the centre of the village, dated back to the 1700s.

Records show the Howes family worked the forge for more than 100 years. Oliver Howes came from Worlingworth to Redlingfield in the early 1800s, probably when he married Mary Cracknell in January 1807. I have found 12 children born to Oliver and Mary between 1807 and 1826. Six girls and six boys – three of the boys became blacksmiths and three were wheelwrights working in neighbouring villages including Horham and Wilby.

The tithe apportionments of 1839 show Oliver occupying the forge and the house across the road now known as Tudor Rose. He did not own these properties but had bought the building known today as Mill Cottage in 1814.

Census information for 1841 shows Oliver and Mary with their daughter Rachel (dressmaker) and son Thomas in the house. Mary died in 1842 and in 1851 Oliver was sharing the house with Rachel, her husband John Bolton, blacksmith son Thomas and two grandsons, the children of another married daughter.

Soon after the census Thomas died on 9th April and then Oliver died from typhus in May. "A sale of the furniture and effects of Mr O Howes on 8th October 1851" was advertised in the *Ipswich Journal*.

Alfred Howes, son of Oliver, took

the forge on. He married Lucy Cracknell Bayles in 1834 and in 1841 was living in Redlingfield with Lucy and their two daughters. By 1851 the couple had five children and seem to be living in part of Mill Cottage. Sadly his wife died in 1855 the same year as daughter Ellen, aged five.

By 1861 Alfred had moved into the house previously occupied by Oliver. With him were daughters Lucy, with her husband Thomas Cracknell (wheelwright), Betsy and Mary (dressmaker); also sons Walter 18 (blacksmith) and George Bayles Howes seven (scholar).

Alfred died in 1868 aged 54. Probate records state that his effects passed to Walter Howes. Walter carried on. I believe he had been working with his father and by 1871 he was joined by his brother George. At this time Walter was living at Mill Farm having married Ellen, daughter of farmer Isaac Pike, in 1869. In 1881 Walter's occupation is farmer as Isaac had died. Walter and Ellen left the farm at Michaelmas 1887 and were keeping the Three Tuns in Needham Market in 1891.

George Bayles Howes was working with Walter by 1871 and continued until 1920 so he could have worked the forge for fifty years. He married Emma Green in 1877, they had no children. One of the ledgers kept by George is at the Ipswich Record Office. It is neatly written and is a fascinating record of the varied work



## The forge in the snow, in use and with the village pump in the foreground.

carried out and how long it took some customers to pay for it!

*The Diss Express* advertised the sale on 5th June 1920 of the effects of G. B. Howes "on account of an accident". He continued to live on in the village until July 1932 and is buried in Redlingfield next to Emma who died in 1937.

Between the Howes

and Coe families it seems that a Mr Taylor was the village blacksmith. Eddie told me that when his father Alfred Coe came back from serving with the King's Royal Rifles around 1920, he worked with Mr Taylor and took the forge on when his employer decided to leave. Alfred was one of the sons of Joseph Coe who came from Huntingfield. Joseph was listed on the 1901 census as wheelwright living in Tudor Rose (as it is now). Joseph was the brother-in-law of George Bayles Howes. Alfred married Minnie and they lived in Bridge House where





#### **F**EATURES & NEWS

Eddie grew up. Alfred won horseshoeing contests at the Suffolk Show.

Eddie joined his father in 1953 when he left the army having completed his National Service. Alfred died in 1964 aged 65. Eddie carried on working with various assistants until 1998. One of these was his wife Edith who remembers tube bending and drilling among the tasks she carried out. Some villagers remember being able to keep warm at the forge whilst waiting for the

school bus on cold winter mornings. Eddie lived in Walcot with Edith and their two daughters, later moving to Rest Harrow in Mill Road and then Fressingfield.

He knew so much about the history of his village and was keen to share it. I am glad to have had many conversations with Eddie and will miss him very much.

I had intended to write about the forge for this edition of the magazine and it now seems all the more appropriate since the sad news of Eddie's death. *Linda Hudson* 

# **Tall tales from Ulysses to**

THE LONG DARK NIGHTS are here again and we draw our chairs closely around the fire and relate old familiar spine-chilling or heart-warming tales passed on down to us from our forefathers...

NO! WE DON'T DO ANY SUCH THING! No. We gather round the telly and what we watch depends on our tastes – lucky us! When I was a child there was only one (yes one) channel which started at about 6pm and closed down at about 10pm – talk about the Nanny State.

For most of us the way of dealing with the long hours of darkness lies in watching/hearing some kind of narrative unfold, whether it be "live" and happening before our eyes as in seeing people dance who can't actually dance or the wholly innocent pleasure of watching some ghastly and blood curdling murder and its consequences such as the Saturday night slot of Scandinavian noir or the wholly wonderful "Engrenage" – so French that you can smell the smoke from the Gitanes.

Whatever your particular cup of tea

you are keeping something going which is very old. Blind Homer told his tales of the Iliad and the Odyssey to a circle of listeners some three thousand years ago and we still know these tales today ... My own introduction was not in the classroom but in the Rex cinema in Cambridge where I was thrilled by the dashing exploits of Kirk Douglas as Ulysses in a lush American/Italian technicolour production. I much admired his stylish dispatching of the likes of Polyphemus and of Penelope's multiple suitors but the amorous interludes I found "soppy" (I was only twelve). It all left me wanting more so I turned to what you might call the book of the film in which I read of the wily Odysseus but I still saw him as Kirk Douglas and, to tell the truth. I still do.

Older even than Homer is the epic Gilgamesh from Mesopotamia, thought to date from 2000 BC or thereabouts which makes it the oldest piece of narrative that we yet know of. Probably the longest tale we know about is the Hindu legend of the Mahabharata although some hold that

#### HORHAM & ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn Tidy: During your autumn tidy up the parish council would like to encourage you to run an eye over your boundary hedges, alongside the pedestrian footways (where overhang makes it difficult/dangerous for those on foot) and carriageways (particularly where there is bend) where a lack of visibility creates a danger. Telephone Box: The conversion of Horham telephone kiosk into a mini information centre is underway. Having been painted and restored, plans are being formulated to deck out the interior and design the panelling to provide guidance to visitors about the village and its history. Angela Wilkins

# Corrie

Coronation Street has now overtaken it! And so it goes on. Many of these epics from all parts of the world, from the tropics to the Arctic regions, are tales of the creation. Tribal African people, Native Americans and Inuits all have their different creation myths,



all of them relying on being passed on by word of mouth down the generations. The Australian Aborigines call their myth of the creation "the Dream Time" and I think that they have got it right because all of these beautiful tales probably originate from somebody, somewhere at sometime having a dream! It's a good job that nobody relied on me to get their creation myth started. My chaotic and fractured dreams would create a chaotic and fractured world in which very odd-looking animals wandered around trying to work out what exactly their purpose was in the general disorder of things.

The great significance of dreams in past times can, perhaps not be comprehended by us in our present world of instant access to light at any time of the day and of equal importance to the dreams in the past was their interpretation. Will

Shakespeare has Bottom trying to work out the significance of his wondrous, sensual dream. Also in Shakespeare, Caesar's wife has a dream which she relates to Caesar as a warning. Caesar ignores her warning and then promptly lives, or rather dies to regret it. The Old Testament has many a dreamer from Pharaoh to Nebuchadnezzar and as good fortune would have it there is often a Joseph or Daniel at hand to

provide a suitable and fortuitous interpretation. Jacob was a man of very vivid dreams with his ladder stretching from the earth to heaven with angels passing continually up and down. His all-night wrestling bout with an angel is not actually recorded as being a dream. But could it have been a nightmare and brought on by something he ate?

In a similar vein Ebenezer Scrooge tries to persuade the ghost of Jacob Marley that he is not a ghost, but merely an apparition, probably brought on by eating a piece of mutton past its sell-by date. Marley, however, soon persuades him otherwise. Still that particular tale all ends happily which now I must do – happily or not.

One last thing. Does anybody know where I can get hold of a DVD of the film I mentioned starring Kirk Douglas? *Neville Butcher* 

#### WHAT'S ON & NEWS

#### **News In Brief**

**COFFEE MORNINGS:** The remaining Redlingfield coffee mornings planned for this winter are: on 7th December at the home of Pauline and Herbert Abbott at Rookery Farm, Redlingfield with a free raffle. sherry and mince pies: on 4th January at the home of Linda Hudson, Woodvale; and on 1 February at the home of Midge and Chris Gibbons, Rush Meadow, with a book swap. The 1st March coffee morning, the last before the return of the coffee caravan to the village green in April, is at Jan and Mike's Hidcote Lodge home on Mill Road. They are all on the first Wednesday of the month and run from 10am until noon. Everyone is welcome to enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and conversation. Jacqueline Love

■ FATHER CHRISTMAS: Santa will once again be delivering gifts on Christmas Day morning by tractor in Horham and Athelington. To book a delivery, please ring Mother Christmas on 384231. A donation is requested for the East Anglian Children's Hospice for this service. There is no age discrimination – young, old and every age in between. Mother Christmas is looking forward to receiving yours and booking your delivery. Mother Christmas

■ GARAGE SALE: A huge thank you to all who had stalls, donated items, manned stalls or provided cakes etc for the garage/ yard sale in Horham on 24th September. The final figure raised was £232. Jill Peters

■ **SPONSORED BIKE RIDE:** Thank you to every one who participated in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride on Saturday 10th September. Horham raised £325 and Redlingfield raised £320 to be split equally between the SHCT and each church.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

**Christmas Fair:** Stradbroke Primary School, 3.15pm.

**Christmas Evening in Eye:** Christmas lights & late night shopping from 6pm. The road will be closed in the centre of town from 4pm until 8pm.

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 Fram's Christmas Tree Festival opens: St Michael's church, noon-2pm.
- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DEC 3 & 4 Scenes of Christmas: Redlingfield Church, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 11am-4pm, ending with Carol Singing on Sunday.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Tea Dance:** St. Edmund's Hall, 2-7pm. Jitterbugs swing, r'n'b & jump-jive with DJs Vintage Rob, Big John's Special, Mail Man & Mark's Kickin the Boogie. £6, free tea/coffee/cakes, bar available.

SUNDAYS, DEC 4, 11 & 18 & SATURDAYS 10 & 17

Santa Specials: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum. Eight trains daily 10am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3pm & 3.45pm. All places must be pre-booked. £12 per person. www.mslr.org.uk.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Rookery Farm, 10am-noon.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 Stradbroke RBL Christmas Luncheon: Royal Oak, Laxfield, 11.30am.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 Christmas Dinner & Dance: Horham CC. Details from Angela. Hoxne Film Nights: Absolutely Fabulous. The Movie.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 & 10 Dove Players Pantomime: Eye Community Centre, Fri 7.30pm. Sat 2.30 & 7.30pm. SATURDAY. DECEMBER 10 Stradbroke Christmas Cake Stall: 8am-5pm. Church Street. **Debenham LCFC Christmas Bazaar:** Gracechurch Street. 10.30am-2.30pm. Hoxne Film Nights: Jungle Book (matinee), 2.30pm. Framlingham Festive Fanfares: Market Hill, Castleton Brass. Black Ice by Eileen Ryan: performed by Made To Measure Theatre Company with local choir, Crossing the Border, Wingfield Barns, doors 7pm for 8pm, £8. Monteverdi Vespers: St Michaels. Framlingham, 7.30pm. Phoenix Singers. Tickets £12/£6 for under 18s. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 **Redlingfield Christmas Lunch:** Badingham White Horse, 1pm. Linda 678984 **THURSDAY. DECEMBER 15** Stradbroke Cinema: Absolutely Fabulous, The Movie. Rabble Chorus Christmas Concert: St Michael's Church, Framlingham, 7.30pm. Free concert, donations to Hands up/Singing for Syrians Foundation.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Christmas Music & Songs with Eye Bach Choir & Castleton Brass: Eye Town Hall, 7.30pm.

**Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol:** St. Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, 7.30pm. RoughCast Theatre Company present an adaptation with carols & dancing. Tickets, £9 & £7 concs, or a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £28, available online through www.roughcast.co.uk or 586745. Advance booking is advised

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 Fairtrade Christmas Sale: Framlingham Co-op fover until 2pm.

Framlingham Festive Fanfares: Market Hill, Castleton Brass.

**Framlingham Ladies Choir Christmas Concert:** St Clare's Church, Fore Street, 7.30pm. Admission £6.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol:** RoughCast Theatre Company, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. Tickets £9/£7 concs/£28 family.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Carols: Horham CC, 7.30pm.

#### VENUES:

The Bank Eye: The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & www.thebankeye.org. Cinema at Éye: Doors 7pm, film 7.30pm. Eye CC, £5. Framlingham: www.framlingham.com. Helmingham Hall: 01473 890799, events@helmingham.com, www.helmingham.com. Horham & Athelington Community Centre: Karen, 384754 & Clare, 388878, Hoxne Cinema: 7.30pm, Hoxne Village Hall, St Edmund's Hall, Goldbrook, Hoxne, bar, popcorn & choc-ices available before & in the interval. Admission £4. 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. Open on Sundays & Bank Holidays from start of May until the end of Sept. **Museum of** East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, 01449 612229, enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk. Redlingfield, 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, 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. Admission £5.50. 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, www.95thbg-horham.com, 01728 860930 or jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net.

#### WHAT'S ON

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

**Stradbroke Cinema:** The BFG (matinee), 3pm.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve at the Centre.** Horham CC. Bring your visiting relatives & meet up with local friends for a convivial gettogether. 8pm, Christmas draw & raffle.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

**New Year's Eve:** Horham CC. Shared buffet & dancing. Bring a plate of food to share, or a raffle prize.

**New Year's Eve Ceilidh:** Harbour Lights Band, Wingfield Barns, from 8pm. Tickets include a hot supper & glass of fizz at midnight. Tickets £20.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

**Redlingfield Coffee Morning:** Woodvale, 10am-noon.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

**Park Radio Quiz Night:** The Beaconsfield Arms, Occold, 7:30pm start. Teams of 4 -Entry £3 per person. To reserve your place email chris@parkradio.co.uk

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

**Wassail:** Beyond the Wall, The Walled Garden, Thornham Magna, 12.30-3pm. Wassail Ceremony – bring drums, rattles etc. Live music, sausages or chilli with crusty bread (veg by prior request), mulled cider or spiced apple juice. £6.50 & under 14s £4.50. Tickets 788799.

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Rush Meadow, 10am-noon.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Hidcote Lodge, 10am-noon.

#### REGULAR EVENTS

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

- **Tuesbays: 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. **Zumba:** Horham & Athelington Community Centre, 7pm-8pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563 534086. **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. Over 50s Belly Dance Class: Occold Village Hall, 11am-noon, £30 for 6 weeks 27 Feb till 3 April.
- **FRIDAYS: Bingo:** Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly. 7.30pm. Mary Ellis, 384642. Worlingworth Swan, live music, last Fri evening of month.
- SATURDAYS: Occold Market & Car Boot: Occold Village and Village Hall, 9.30am-noon, last Sat of the month from March to November.
- **SUNDAYS: Public open days:** Red Feather/95th Bomb Group Heritage Association & 95th BG Hospital Museum last Sun of month May-October inclusive,

## A flat earth makes sense

T FINALLY DAWNED ON ME that the people writing the Bible thought the earth was flat. What struck me was the different feel it put on to the creation story.

A flat surface seems to raise the possibility of walking all over it, meeting everyone and everything there. The Old Testament God is very much present, frequently talking to and instructing Moses and other leaders, the whole thing is simpler and closer. Interestingly, as the Bible goes on God speaks less and appears less concrete and, of course, when we come to the gospels Jesus takes centre stage and often speaks in parables.

I keep wondering what it would be like to live on a flat earth. Might it be like living in Suffolk with no need to acknowledge the existence of anywhere else except possibly the threat of invasion by the barbarians from the North across the Waveney?

What difference would it make to the horizon? There are no corners when I look around so we must be on a round disc. Seafarers were among the first to think the earth was a sphere. They saw the tops of high mountains before they could see land and the tops of the masts of ships sailing away before the ships disappeared.

It is believed Persian astronomers also thought the world spherical from their studies of the movements of the stars. Homer's description of Odysseus' travels suggests that he thought of a round earth in the seventh century BC. But this was speculation until it was finally accepted in the third century AD. Circumnavigation by Magellan in 1519 provided proof.

So it seems clear that various people in different places had begun to think about a spherical world in the sixth and seventh centuries BC. It is said King David died in 962 and his son, Solomon built the first temple soon afterwards, they must have thought the earth was flat. The early Christian church took a long time to accept it as they felt it muddled the creation story.

During the Israelites' exile in Babylon, in around 588 BC, they may have come across nomadic traders from China and Persia. Although the Silk Road did not really take off until 207BC there was a Persian Royal Road trading route across Asia and the Middle East from 475BC. Before these nomads traded across the area.

If the Israelites met these people they could have heard about all sorts of discoveries as the Chinese and Persians were well ahead of most of the rest of the world. They would also have got an idea of how very big the world is.

I'm left feeling that much of the Old Testament makes more sense if you can read it with your mind in flat earth mode. I found this particularly true of the creation story. It has always seemed to me that it is like a concrete illustration. Over the thousand years of the bible story humans seem to move from concrete, literal thinking to thoughts that are more imaginative and symbolic. **Evelyn Adey** 

# An Asian invasion (part one)

RECENTLY, PARTS OF Suffolk saw swarms of ladybirds trying to invade peoples homes or people reporting that killer Asian hornets are on the loose. Newspapers have had a field day with lazy reporters not investigating the full facts and adding to the scare value, harping back to the days of the penny dreadful. Well fear not, I'm here to set the record straight.

So lets start with a little history on the Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*. It is an Asian ladybird that has spread to Europe and North America with the help of humankind. It did not fly here under its own steam as some papers reported, instead large companies imported the ladybird for its large appetite so it could be used for aphid control in tomato greenhouses. Unfortunately, they escaped and have spread rapidly ever since. The first Harlequin was found in the UK in Kent in 2004 and by 2009 had spread to Scotland. Unlike our 46 species of native ladybirds, which only breed once a year, the Harlequin mates up to three times a year. Also, the larvae have a voracious appetite eating not only greenfly (aphids), but also other ladybird larvae including that of its own species.

So why are we seeing them in large numbers now? Most ladybird species have cyclic populations meaning that from time to time, they do really well in certain areas and there is a sudden population explosion and this is what has happened recently in some parts of Suffolk. This is a localised thing and does not happen everywhere at the same time. A year ago, I had lots trying to get in to my house, this year I've seen only one trying to get in.

So why do they swarm around houses? Around autumn, ladybirds are looking for places to see out the winter, somewhere free of frost and snow. Usually, they would, and they still do, hunker down behind loose tree bark or in leaf litter.

However, we don't like mess and we like clean gardens free of such things as

■ HORHAM OLD SCHOOL: The Old School continues to host traditional music and dancing, and during the village fete hosted another very successful art exhibition. We are continuing with our programme of refurbishment and are soon to begin replacing the large windows. The internet café is open every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12ish. We serve cafetiere coffee, tea, and homemade cakes. Computer support and tuition is also available. We have had a busy and successful summer, and in September celebrated both second birthday of the coffee morning and the first birthday of our lottery-funded computer project. We have had regular visits from touring cyclists who have relished a chance to take a break from their travels, sit down and enjoy the refreshments, and so many people at the computer tables we recruited extra volunteer tutors. Yoga classes will begin on January 9th. Our Tutor is Clare Hall, a well-qualified and experienced yoga teacher. If you would like more details, or to join the class, please speak to Christine or Pip. The hall is available for private hire.



#### leaf litter. The crevices of our doors and windows, cracks in our brickwork then become very inviting places on sunny autumnal days when the heat is radiating off our window frames and walls. For a warmth-loving insect such as the Harlequin, this is a lovely place to spend the cold winter months.

Many people were reporting that they were all different colours and thought this had something to do with the swarming. The Harlequin has many different colour forms, hence the name. Because of this, it is important we do not kill every unusual looking ladybird we see as we may be unwittingly killing our own, already threatened, native species which likes to snuggle up with the Harlequin come winter time.

Some papers reported that the invaders were spreading a sexually transmitted disease and that was the cause of some of our native ladybird populations declining by 50 per cent. This really isn't the case. Yes, our natives have declined but not through sexually transmitted disease. In the last couple of years, it was noticed that the Harlequins were carrying around a fungus known as *Laboulbenials* fungal infection. This was not introduced by the

#### FEATURES & NEWS

Harlequins and was most likely caught from our native 2spot ladybirds when they probably rubbed up against Harlequins when clustered together whilst hibernating. This fungus appears on the beetles looking like it's carrying a load of yellow/greenish eggs

on it. On the males the fungus is on the underside between the legs, on the females the fungus appears on the shells making them look like tiny hedgehogs.

I got many queries asking what we should do if we get these ladybird clusters in our homes. The best thing to do is sweep them up with a dustpan and brush and place them back outside or in your local park under bushes or preferably in leaf-litter. Don't hoover them up or kill them as in amongst these clusters there are most likely some of our native species which need all the help they can get.

Bleeding kneecaps sounds like something from a horror movie, however this is a defence mechanism that most ladybirds have, known as reflex bleed, which means they bleed from their knees. This fluid is a foul smelling and bitter tasting liquid that is designed to make a predator leave it well alone.

So there you have it, all the things you wanted to know about Harlequin ladybirds, but were scared to ask.

> Hawk Honey www.suffolknaturalist.com

# Victorian day was a school

THE INTERVIEW PROCESS for a new substantive headteacher for Wilby CEVC Primary School, which attracted a high number of quality applicants, was completed on October 14th. As a result of this we are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Roisin Wiseman as our new permanent head-teacher.

Our school open morning on

Santa's Grotto for our younger visitors. We welcome children and parents/carers to come and get involved for the morning.

We were very proud that the school had been awarded the Silver School Games Mark. One of the criteria for successfully gaining the award is to ensure that children receive a broad sporting experience. As part of this continued provision Year 5 and 6

Our school ope October 18th was well attended and visitors were able to join pupils in observing and taking part in a variety of activities including sport, drama, maths, science and literacy, all



based on the theme of chocolate. Our next Open Morning is on December 7th 9.30-11.30am. All welcome. This time the theme is Christmas! There will be a variety of activities to watch and get involved in, including the chance to visit a free children had a fantastic day in Brandon Country Park orienteering. The school has also booked sailing and kayaking tuition for our Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils in the summer term.

Many of our children took part in the Inter-school Cross Country Trials

#### PLANNING:

**TO BE DECIDED:** plan to convert single storey building and extending one-and-a-half storeys to create 3-bedroom dwelling, **The Homestead, The Street, Horham. GRANTED:** plan to erect new carport, garage, log store and games room (previously approved in 2013), **Rose Farm, Athelington Road, Horham. REFUSED (now in appeal process):** plan to remove a hedgerow to make 2 small fields farmable, enable drainage & access, **Meadow Farm, Horham Road, Athelington.** Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council' (www.midsuffolk.gov.uk).

# highlight

at Mellis Common. Everyone who took part gave their best and we were delighted to note that five of our runners came in the top ten of their races.

On Saturday 8th October Wilby pupils from Year 2 upwards, took part in a recording session in Ipswich as part of the Everlasting Light project. The children have learnt a variety of songs which have been recorded on a CD and DVD (on sale now) and will also take part in a concert on 4th December at the Spa Pavilion in Felixstowe. All proceeds from CD/DVD and ticket sales will aid of the Tearfund Charity.

Our Macmillan 'Coffee Afternoon' in October raised £120 for cancer research. In addition to this, this year we filled 20 shoe-boxes with Christmas gifts to be sent to needy children around the world as part of Operation Christmas Child.

Following on from our very successful days out to The Museum of East Anglian Life and the Gressenhall Workhouse and Museum, all pupils in the school took part in a fabulous Victorian school day at Wilby on Thursday 6th October. The children loved the opportunity to bring history alive and took part in a wide variety of Victorian activities including: drill, assembly, copy-writing, nature study, maths learnt by rote, poetry recitation and a range of Victorian playground games.

Roisin Wiseman, head-teacher

#### **News In Brief**

■ HORHAM & ATHELINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL: We are taking bookings for the Annual Christmas Dinner Dance in December at the Community Centre. Regular fortnightly fish and chip suppers and bar meals are on Friday evenings; to book put your name on the list in the community centre or Horham Post Office. The final bar meal will have a Christmassy theme and the usual New Year Eve get together is at the end of the month. **Angela Wilkins** 

■ A TRIBUTE TO PERCY WEST: A Tribute To Percy West, the 'King of the Steppers', is being held at Debenham Community Centre on Saturday 4th March. There will be comedy from Peter Holloway and Stephen Bayfield with traditional music, songs, stepdancing and jig dolls. Doors 5.30pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 in advance from Doren on 075914 99912. **Doreen West** 

■ SCENES OF CHRISTMAS: St Andrew's Church in Redlingfield will hold a Scenes of Christmas event on 3rd & 4th December (10am-4pm Sat and 11am-4pm Sun) ending with carols round the Christmas Tree on Sunday. Refreshments will be available on both days. Funds raised are for the continued improvement of our church. Jacqueline Love

■ NEWSPAPER DELIVERY SERVICE: Steve Tuckwell has added Redlingfield to his regular newspaper delivery route. He delivers newspapers and magazines and accepts all pre-paid vouchers. Deliveries are 30p per day, £1.60 for six days or £1.80 for seven days. You can contact Steve on 01728 685385, 07747 120977 or Stephen@stephentuckwell.wanadoo.co.uk. *Mike Ager* 

#### **COLUMNS & NEWS**

#### ELIZABETH GIBSON-HARRIES, YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



WITH THE WEATHER turning so cold it is a sharp reminder that 2016 is drawing to a speedy close. It has been a busy year, not least the rush

for Mid Suffolk District Council to become "paperless". It sounds a very sensible idea not to be chopping down trees to make agendas for meetings but the IT systems are not keeping up with aspirations, nor are the humans. We are conscious that not everyone is "computer literate" or wants to be so we are plan to have paper versions available for at least one more year.

You may find it confusing or frustrating trying to contact a council office, perhaps that person only works set days, if so please contact me to see if I can help. I am determined that our turnaround times and replies to questions are improved. Our delivery needs improving and I hope this will happen in the next few weeks, we have a shiny new chief executive Arthur Charvonia joining in the new year, and the service structures for staff and managers are complete.

Mid Suffolk has agreed to move headquarters to Endeavour House in Ipswich to save money but there will be a presence in the area. The places and times will be published.

Devolution is supported by all the councils in Suffolk but because some councils and the County Council in Norfolk don't want to join the Government may decide on a different arrangement. Either way it would be a giant step forward if we could control the money spent in the county.

I am fund raising for my chairman's charities, Homestart and the East Anglian Air Ambulance. So far it stands at £3,400 I have two more events planned for this year.

As ward member I am still keen that we are able to build more homes in our villages providing they meet the needs of the villages and are in suitable places. Through the parish councils I would encourage you to make suggestions for the sort of homes you would like to see to feed in to local plans. Please check that you are paying the correct council tax, sole owners are allowed a special rate.

And lastly as we wrap up warm and walk the dogs please clean up after your dog even if he is loose at night.

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

#### POETRY: When will I come of age? Manday Miller

- Once upon a time when I had no fear I'd live for ever! A time when I could not wait to get older (like my brother & sister). Days when I envied taller people.
- Time when I envied taller prettier friends. Days weeks when nothing went well?
- Times when never enough to come & get it done. Times when where did the day go. Moments I wish this would

not end! Has it been that long since I did that?

- Generations of wildlife have shown this & that to this year's young. Some have come to trust to know depend! The farm life comes & goes, rises & falls. Days to sow, days to harvest, a time to rest.
- Time to age, the thing I will never understand – maybe next year.

#### DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



AS YOU MAY HAVE READ IN the last edition, I recently hosted a Broadband Summit meeting as part of my commitment to ensuring that

faster and more efficient broadband and digital connectivity is available to all – not only those living and working in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, but also across the wider county of Suffolk.

Since that meeting in October, I have been out and about visiting businesses and schools across the constituency as well as hosting my regular Constituency Advice Bureaus. A very common theme that comes up time and time again is the issue of fast and reliable broadband. Even for our youngest children, reliable broadband is an essential part of every day school life now with homework or research tasks being set online.

With the drive to discover new and innovative ways of delivering our health care and public services, more and more tasks are being directed online, for example ordering a repeat prescription or even paying our council tax. Not only does this help to deliver cost savings for our public services, but it also improves the ease with which we can all access public services at a time which is most convenient for us. Many of us are now able to enjoy the flexibility of being able to work from home, but access to fast and reliable broadband is absolutely critical in enabling secure access to electronic business files and records.

I have already called for a further Broadband Summit meeting next year, but it would be really helpful for me to know your views and experiences of broadband. I would be grateful if you would consider completing a survey which will help give me an overview of the picture (www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ DrDanPoulterBroadbandNovember2016). If you would like a paper copy, please contact my office.

#### 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

■ NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP: A committee member visited the wood specifically to count the birds in and around the wood. On the first visit on April 5th the weather was sunny and the following birds were seen or heard: robin, blackbird, wren, chaffinch, wood pigeon, chiffchaff, bullfinch, pheasant, crow, skylark, jay and green woodpecker. The only migrant bird was the chiffchaff a member of the warbler family. Subsequent visits were made on the 1st and 5th November at 2.45pm and 9.45am and it was notable that the numbers of different species was much lower. It is surprising that the November Counts were so much lower compared to April particularly with the abundance of berries available. All the visits were of one hour. It is apparent that a decline in numbers of birds particularly in rural areas is taking place mostly as the result of agricultural practices. It is intended to carry out regular surveys in the future to establish a pattern. If you want to be actively involved in this project please contact Mike Reeves on 668179 for more details. Margaret Reeves

#### **COLUMNS & NEWS**

#### THE RECTOR REFLECTS ON HOSPITALITY



ONE DAY, I'M GOING TO retire to one of those little country villages where nothing happens and remember life around here!

This summer has certainly been a busy one and lot of it has been about memories and how they link to a place.

I recently spent a few days in a monastery with an order of monks who place great emphasis on hospitality and it got me wondering what hospitality is like, does it have a spiritual dimension? Is all hospitality alike or can it be offered in a good spirit?

At the monastery, it would be impossible to go hungry but best not to ask what you were eating! The soup was vegetable, either brown or green. Then there was something which seemed to be a sausage roll but without the sausage and another time quiche with the texture of a sponge cake. There was always space on the refectory bench, but there again the brothers needed 48 hours' notice of any change. It was hospitality, but it seemed to be an inhospitable hospitality. I realised this question comes into the Christmas story. Clearly, when Mary and Joseph lodge with the animals in the stable they experience some form of hospitality; realistically it would be warm and dry and better than nothing. But it was far from a generous expression of hospitality, it was mean-spirited hospitality.

One measure of hospitality is in the quality of the food and drink served. Famously Archbishop Oscar Romero was affronted that the villagers of rural El Salvador didn't serve 'good food' until he realised that it was the best that they had, and then he turned his indignation on the authorities at the eventual cost of his life.

People have said to me, 'Christmas doesn't start until Midnight Mass' – as with all communion services it is a time to rejoice at eating together as the family of God and to anticipate the heavenly banquet. So, this Christmas-time, let us consider in what spirit will we offer and receive hospitality. Ideally, it will be offered in the divine spirit of love and forgiveness.

#### Michael Womack (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 for your copy.

**Horham Church Register:** August 17th: Burial Raymond Arthur Huggins aged 81. August 24th: Burial of ashes Robert William Elliott aged 86.

■ WOMAN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The 2017 Woman's World Day of Prayer will be on the afternoon of Friday, March 3rd, at Worlingworth church. The service is designed by people in the Philippines and is thoughtful and interesting. If you would like to do a small, (or large) reading contact Val Swallow on 01728 628068.

#### CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

- Dec 4 Redlingfield 9.30am HC\*
- Dec 11 Horham 9.30am HC\*
- Dec 18 Athelington 9.30am HC\*; Horham 4.30pm carols
- Dec 20 Redlingfield 7pm carols
- Dec 24 Horham 11.30pm Midnight Mass\*
- Dec 25 Redlingfield 10am HC
- Jan 1 Redlingfield 11.15am Benefice HC
- Jan 8 Horham 9.30am HC

- Jan 15 Athelington 9.30am HC
- Jan 22 Redlingfield 10am MP; Horham 11.15am FS
- Jan 29 Horham 11.15 Benefice HC
- Feb 5 Redlingfield 9.30am HC
- Feb 12Horham 9.30am HC
- Feb 19 Athelington 9.30am HC
- Feb 26 Redlingfield 10am MP; Horham 11.15am FS

December services \*with Rev Michael +with Canon Andrew HC = Holy Communion, FS = Family Service, MP = Morning Prayer

■ PRAY FOR SYRIA: Martin, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, has expressed his understanding of the fact that many people feel worried and sad about Syria. He asks us to pause each Friday at noon to think and/or pray about those who are suffering, those providing help and for peace. One minute, at noon, every Friday, either to pray or just sit. Horham church is open for anyone who prefers to be with others, Christian or not. **Evelyn Adey** 



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Sept 2017 Autumn	14 Aug	21 Aug	25 Aug	26 Aug			
Dec 2017 Winter	14 Nov	20 Nov	24 Nov	25 Nov			

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