

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



**SPRING 2019
Issue No. 45**

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ANOTHER YEAR IS WELL UNDER way and we are getting back in the swing of things. I had a great time at Redlingfield church's cheese and wine in tHorham Community Centre. And now we have a whole year of great events to look forward to – at the community centre, Old School, Red Feather Club and Doorstep Green. See you there.

BEST WISHES TO KELLY Hawes who, as I write this, is languishing in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge recovering from a horrendous accident. We hope to see Kelly back in Redlingfield, where she belongs, as soon as possible among her family and friends. Get well soon! *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**

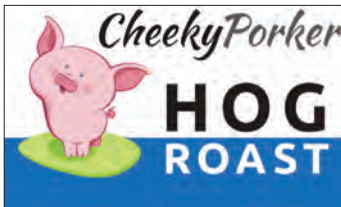
Summer issue (covering June, July & Aug) **Final deadline May 14**

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

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

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Hoping to miss big freeze

THE EDITOR'S PROMPT about the deadline for the magazine arrived on the day that the song-thrush reclaimed his territory, singing loudly from the big ash in the garden.

Will this easy weather last the winter out? A red admiral butterfly photographed in the vegetable garden gave a real splash of colour in November, and by the end of December I had already heard the two-tone call of the great tit getting ready for spring. What a relief it will be if we miss the icy grip of the winter of last year.

THE HEATWAVE AND DROUGHT of last summer have been followed by a very dry winter and it is mid-February before the clay soils in this area reach field capacity and the land drains begin to run. Farmers in the past used to talk of February fill-dyke

black or white, hoping for heavy winter rain or snow to see the crops watered through a dry spring ... so watch this space.

It was noticeable how crops struggled for moisture under hedgerows this autumn, particularly if the hedge contained outstanding mature trees.

The life of oaks is fascinating stuff and quite rightly they are given a lot of respect. When leaf fall ends in autumn, the tree is fed by the roots which have fungi to extract nutrients from the soil as far away as 30 metres. Then comes the spring again and a 400-year tree will take up 60 kg of water per hour via this root network, all of which is necessary to help the tree support a weight of up to 10 tonnes of wood.

ON DEC 14TH, RICK WATERS phoned with a problem, a muntjac had become so entangled in his sheep



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FEATURES & NEWS

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

netting that he had no option but to reach for his gun. This common species of deer makes very tasty venison and Rick now looked for the skinning and butchery skills to prepare the muntjac for the freezer. The answer was provided by Paul Walker from the village being available, because gralloching, as the gutting process is called, has to be done very quickly before bone taint, microbial action deep within the carcass, spoils the flavor of the venison.

OUR NONAGENARIAN PETER Saunders remembers his wartime school days when being brought up at Chickering Hall. His school in Framlingham was closed and the pupils evacuated to Yorkshire but his father Charlie didn't hold with that

Pear juice treat for a November red admiral.



idea at all so Peter was sent to Depperhaugh instead. Walking a short distance to the school, he set traps on the way to school and collected moles on the way home. They were worth 9 pence each which was about the same price as a pint of beer, and Peter earned very good pocket money dispatching 100s of moleskins to Wisbech.

His father's cattle could be seen through the classroom window and when they got out Peter was told by the teacher to get a move on and help get them in. Those were the days.

Continued over.



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Continued from previous page

NORMALLY IT IS ROOKS

involved in aerial arguments but an alarm screech from a gull alerted me to a battle royal as a black-headed gull jinxed to avoid a pursuing sparrow-hawk. It was just a skirmish really as the sparrow-hawk, without the advantage of dive-bombing from above, was never in with a chance.

Jim Macaulay, farming near Harwich, saw a spectacular flight failure of a sparrow-hawk in the Beast from the East of last year. Carrying out a low-level attack on his garden feeder at top speed, the sparrow-hawk was dumped on its back in a snowdrift by a huge blast of wind. As it flapped away and struggled to right itself, Jim was enjoying its moment of embarrassment from his conservatory.

Harwich is not only the embarkation port for cross-channel ferries but also the place to join trips on the HMV Victor, the River Stour's last working barge, operating for party hire and in our case one of the RSPB's birding cruises upriver to Mistley. The Stour is

a major habitat for waders and the tidal mud flats there play host to more biodiversity than a rain forest.

On a dry blustery January day we were treated to a fabulous display of estuary birdlife, all identified by our RSPB guide who gave us the history of the river when we weren't being distracted by views of pop-up seals.

Highlights included the swirl of hundreds of lapwing held up in the strong wind over the boat, a long list of ducks, geese and waders, and a large egg and bacon bap served below for elevenses. After that break, we came up on deck to see various tiny islands revealed by the falling tide, one of which provided a new feeding place for a flock of low-flying birds all very large and very black. They were not cormorants as I thought, but common crows showing off their opportunism and skill for knowing where the next meal comes from.

THE CURTAIN CAME DOWN ON the shooting season on a bitterly cold 1st February at Benningham Hall,

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although by this time the shotguns had been cleaned and put away. Charlie Hopkinson hosted an ancient sporting event where peregrine falcon handlers test the skills of their supreme hunting birds against wild game put up by pointers. The sport dates back to medieval times and was once the prerogative of royalty.

Committed enthusiasts try to master the skills made famous by Helen Macdonald's best seller, *H is for Hawk*, where the difficult relationship between Man and wild bird is more intense than that in dog or horse training. Falconry is a world-wide activity whether with eagles in the Russian state of Kyrgyzstan, red-tailed hawks in Iowa, or most famously, peregrine falcons in Occold in Suffolk.

KYRGYZSTAN HOSTS THE biggest sports event in Central Asia, the World Nomad Games. Not a lot of people know that, as Michael Caine would say. **Trevor Edwards**



Above: The sparrow-hawk shows lovely plumage resting near the bird feeder. Below: The Sailing Barge Victor, built in 1895, owes its fine condition to oils from her early life of carrying linseed for crushing.



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Stradbroke RBL is on the

A POET IS, BEFORE anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language, wrote W.H. Auden.

If that is so, the 92 pupils of Stradbroke High School, who took part in the Stradbroke and District Branch of the Royal British Legion's Poetry Competition, are indeed enjoying a good relationship with the English Language. Their use of words, imagination and their engagement with the reader was inspiring.

Branch chairman Bernard Mills, together with president, Alan King, and committee members, Joyce Cooper and Rosemary Warne, attended assembly on February 13th to congratulate the pupils and present the prizes. The Head Teacher read extracts from the top five poems to an appreciative audience. A huge thank you to staff and pupils.

BRANCH CHAIRMAN BERNARD Mills is keen to encourage YOU to

■ Dear Editors, After 35 years as chairman of the Stradbroke and District Branch of the Royal British Legion I retired from office at the agm last November. I thank you for publishing my reports and wish your magazine well in the future.

Yours sincerely, Michael Burton.

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lookout for new recruits

join the branch to invigorate the proceedings with new ideas, energy, and a desire to help serve the Service and ex-Service communities.

The Legion is the largest Service charity, with its' special role to lead National Remembrance, as well as contributing to welfare, care, and other aspects of veterans' needs.

It works alongside other Service charities , such as Seafarers UK, ABF The Soldiers Charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund and so forth.and is a member of the Confederation of Service Charities.

The Branch meets every second

Thursday of the month, usually at the Royal Oak Laxfield, from 11.30am in February, March, October, November and December and from 7pm in April, May, June, July & September.

Come to listen to one of our speakers, subjects range from occupations and hobbies, to the strange or informative ... and learn more about RBL. Watch local press, magazines or noticeboards for information. You do not

need to be ex-Service to be a member.

Contact Bernard Mills for more on mills.laxfield@gmail.com or 01986 798414.

Rosemary Warne



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Taking on challenges to

AS A LIFELONG CYCLIST, runner and swimmer I have, like many of my fitness-obsessed friends, taken respiratory health completely for granted. It wasn't until a family member was struck down with Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) that I became aware how quickly that could all be taken away from you.

Worse still, it is a terminal condition with an average life expectancy of three to four years once it takes hold.

My brother's wife was a fit and healthy 50-something but within a year was no longer able to climb the stairs unaided or without oxygen. She is now in palliative care having been rejected

for a double lung transplant. It is for this reason that I want to raise awareness of this little-known and poorly understood disease and the devastating effects it can have on the individual and their loved ones.

Research into PF is poorly funded and I want to raise funds to help with the research in the hope of improving the sufferer's life expectancy.

So, with this as my motivation I will be taking on a few new challenges to test my limits. I will be racing on behalf of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis in the following events to raise funds for their work supporting the sufferers and funding research.

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take on PF

May 12th: Bury to Clare Challenge - A tough 18 mile off-road trail run from Bury St Edmunds to Clare in Suffolk.

June 1st: Big Bala Swim - A 4.5 km lake swim, the length of Bala Lake in Wales.

July 7th: Hever Castle Long Distance Aquathlon - A 3.8 km lake swim followed by a half marathon run (21km)

If you could sponsor me the price of a beer, or a cup of coffee, to help motivate me in my challenges that would be great.

You can visit my fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-brierley1 and for more info on APF visit www.actionpulmonaryfibrosis.org/f.

Stuart Brierley

■ **QUIZ NIGHT:** Horham Community Council is holding a quiz night in Horham Community Centre on Saturday March 23rd with quiz master extraordinaire John Kirkum, 7 for 7.30 pm. Tables of four, £5 per person to include ploughman's supper. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle. Contact Karen on 07775672220 for bookings by March 16th/17th please. Proceeds to upkeep and maintenance.

Margaret Streeter

■ **CAR BOOT:** St Mary's Church will be running a stall at Horham Car Boot at the Community Centre on Saturday June 1st. Daphne Harvey would welcome any donations for the stall - cakes, produce, bric-a-brac etc.

Daphne Harvey



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Old School responds to your

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON Village Hall (The Old School) Horham is the Victorian building previously used as the village school. It was bought and given to the church to be held, as our constitution says, "in trust for the purposes of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Horham and Athelington ... without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants."

Over the last few years we have

raised monies and repaired the roof, replaced and made safe the electrics and replaced the windows, all of them major projects.

Our current plans for the building are to redecorate the interior, upgrade the toilets and continue the bar renovations. In 2014 we were asked by a number of residents to provide them with a daytime meeting place. We started a coffee morning in September of that year and have been open once a week ever since, only taking a break at Christmas.

We have lots of lovely volunteers who make cakes, serve coffee, wash up, and fundraise by organising events.

In 2015, again as a response to



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wishes

requests from villagers, we successfully applied for lottery funding to equip and run a computer class, and since then we have delivered free tuition and support to anyone that needs it. Our printer has been available for you to print photographs from your phone or computer and last year our volunteers produced the fete programmes and our lovely Christmas cards.

We were invited by the National Lottery to enter a national competition to extend our computer project into the community and were pleased to reach the penultimate round. Many of you have exhibited your art, craft and photography at our summer exhibition.

You asked us for a library of books and for a yoga class, both are available in The Old School. We are in the process of working with Suffolk Artlink and the Rural Coffee Caravan Project to provide free art workshops. The workshops will be based on your responses to our questionnaire. We also have the opportunity to buy some subsidised sports equipment. On offer is Pétanque, table tennis or indoor curling. If you have a preference let us know!



■ **HORHAM VARIETY SHOW:** Tom and April's Horham Variety Show held on December 8th, at The Old School was a huge success and sold out completely. The appreciative audience were entertained by numerous musical and comedy acts, and a brilliant evening was had by all. April told us "We are going to use the money we raised to help fund a coach day trip to the seaside in March for the over 60s in the village, we think it's really good to have events in the village which cheer us all up, especially in the winter months". Tom said "Because of the overwhelming success of the evening and the keenness of the audience for us to start on another show, we will be needing a larger venue next time! We will keep you all posted!"



The bar is now open on Sunday lunchtimes as well as Tuesday and Friday evenings. Our hall is available for hire, please contact Pip.

Over the last few years we have responded to your wishes and provided the activities that you have requested; long may we continue!

*The Horham and Athelington
Village Hall Management Committee*

Redlingfield Broadband is

WE HAVE NOW BEEN able to talk to the right people at UK Power

Networks and Openreach to find out about progress on broadband for Redlingfield...

The short version: The good news is that they seem to be being far more transparent about what is happening and where they are in the process. The less good news is that the end of March date for Fibre To The Premises actually relates to when Openreach will have physically installed it but it won't be available for use until it has been commissioned and handed over to the various ISPs - which will take a further month.

Timetable: *The Green Box* fully

working & open for business (ie we can order it from ISPs): End March 2019.

Fibre To The Premises (Mill Road, Occold Corner & Abbots Meadow) fully working and open for business (then we can order it from our ISPs): End April 2019.

Fibre To The Premises - various Farms and remote premises - dependant on Fibre Cable Laying being undertaken by farm owners etc

The long version: Getting fast broadband to Redlingfield is dependent on getting the fibre cable from the "Occold" exchange at Thorndon to us here in Redlingfield. The cable crosses several different farmers' land and some farmers have been more co-



■ **THANK YOU:** A big thank you to the workers from UK Power Networks who toiled on into a Sunday night outside The Knoll in Redlingfield to make safe a large weeping willow which split over a winter's weekend. The willow had split taking down phone lines but power cables and houses on The Knoll were threatened by the remaining piece of tree. Rather than worrying about whose problem it was the UK Power Networks staff decided to just get on with making it safe. Thank you also to the Suffolk Highways staff who promptly came out to assess the situation. **Mike Ager**

on the way...

operative than others – which has slowed the process down. The trunking – which will hold the cable – is almost complete, when it is, in the next couple of weeks, the fibre cable will be blown through the trunking.

When the fibre cable gets to Redlingfield it will first be attached to the Green Box and commissioning of the Green Box will begin which is due to be completed by the end of March 2019 (when ISPs will be told they can start using it). This will provide fast broadband for everyone on the Church Road, Green Lane and The Knoll side of the Green Box - including Wash Farm, Rookery Farm, etc.

The fibre cable will then also be attached to the Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) network for Mill Road, Abbotts Meadow and Occold Corner (which is already in place on the telegraph poles) - This is also due to be completed by the end of March 2019 – the FTTP network will then start to be commissioned back at the Occold exchange a process that takes 3-4 weeks. So by the end of April 2019 the ISPs will be told that they can connect their customers to the new FTTP service and super- fast broadband. Openreach will also tell us at the same time that the ISPs have it in their gift to supply superfast broadband so we can order it.

If anything changes they have promised to keep us informed and I will continue to check in with them on a weekly basis to ensure that the plan is still on track ...

Janet Norman-Philips

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Village burglar transported

This article appeared in The Ipswich Journal in 1849 ...

“**MONDAY, August 6. The Court was opened at ten o'clock.**
HOUSEBREAKING AT REDLINGFIELD

Joseph Baldwin, 47, a man of Herculean proportions, was charged with breaking into the house of John Barnes, at Redlingfield on the 6th of May, and stealing therefrom five shillings' worth of penny-pieces, six buns, a piece of linen and half a pound of pickled pork.

Mr. Palmer conducted the case for the prosecution. On the 6th of May Mr. and Mrs. Barnes quitted their house for the purpose of going to church, leaving the door and windows secured. On their return they opened the door and were surprised to find the marks of two or three very large footprints on the drugget (mat) in the keeping-room. Satisfied that someone must have gained access to their house in their absence, they searched about the room, and soon ascertained that a cupboard had been forced open in which was kept a key of another

cupboard. This key still hung on it's accustomed nail, and nothing was missing from the cupboard. The other, however, when opened with the key, showed that the intruder had visited it's shelves for the various trifles mentioned in the indictment were missing from them. The next question was how to account for the entrance and the exit of the thief, and a minute inspection of the window, which was found bolted as usual, satisfied Mr. Barnes that a pane had been taken out of the lead close to the hasp. Through this aperture a hand could easily open the fastening, and then the window afforded an aperture of 15 inches by 30. The pane, however had been carefully replaced, and the lead knocked together again, thus showing that the robbery had been effected with considerable precaution, and most probably through the agency of a boy

■ **NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** With the coming of spring the group will be waiting expectantly to see what this New Year will bring. Regular walkers in this wildlife space will be aware that in 2018 we were hosts to some of the rarer species that are to be found in our corner of Suffolk. Three Bee Orchids were seen near the pond and the group were delighted by the confirmation that we had indeed played host to Great Crested Newts. The long dry summer resulted in most of the trees thriving, but the ash continued to suffer from *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. We wait with bated breath to see whether we still have an owl in our recently erected owl box. Walkers in the wood will hopefully list their observations in the notebook in the notice board. This woodland is community owned and everyone is welcome. The group hope visitors will continue to clear up after their dogs. For information about events see the notice board in the wood and to join please call our secretary Penny Conway on 870165. **Margaret Reeves**

Green Farm in Redlingfield.



picked it up in a ditch while at work, between the first and second search.

The Jury found the prisoner Guilty, and he was sentenced to 10 years' transportation, a previous conviction having been proved: his lordship remarking that it was a hard thing that persons not keeping servants, when going

or small man, who had afterwards admitted a larger man through the door. Information having been given, it was discovered that the prisoner had been seen going at 12 O'clock on the day in question in a direction from the house of the prosecutor towards his own house. The police accordingly searched the latter on Tuesday, but they found nothing in it. Afterwards, however, it was ascertained that the prisoner had paid an arrear of 1s.6d for poor-rates to the overseer in penny pieces, and his house was searched again, when a piece of linen was found which exactly corresponded with that lost by Mrs. Barnes who recognized it as a piece of her husband's shirtsleeve, which she had only removed from that garment on the Saturday night, and then placed in the cupboard. The prisoner in his defence, contended that it was physically impossible that he should have committed the robbery, as he could not have got through the window, "if he had tried ever so;" and as for the payment to the overseer, he had paid him with coppers received from his deceased master on Saturday. He also accounted for the possession of the linen, by saying that he had

to Church should be watched that depredations might be committed on them; in the case of the poor, if the fear of such depredations prevented their going to places of worship, it would be a great privation."

This incident took place at Green Farm, as it is known these days, in the house shown here which was the original farmhouse before the crash during WWII in which the U.S. aircrew lost their lives. The census for 1841 shows Joseph Baldwin living in the village with his wife and two sons. I have not been able to trace Joseph after the trial either here or in Australia.

Linda Hudson



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Dance kicks off RFC's busy

THE 2019 season at the Red Feather Club kicks off with a swing dance on Saturday March 23rd

The Hot House Four will be playing some of the finest Early American Roots music supported by vintage DJ 'Swing Shift' Chris Reynolds and as always, we'll be dragging out our house compere, DJ Andy AV8 to make sure things run smoothly!

Tickets are £12 from Eventbrite online or you can send cheques. Please call 07788966640 or andy.av8@hotmail.com for further details.

The dance starts at 7.30pm and all proceeds to the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association.

The Friendly Invasion 2019 reunion from April 25th to 30th will see approximately 30

relatives of the USAAF men who served at Horham hosted by the association. Sunday April 28th will see a special service at St Mary's in Horham and a members' only open day at the Red Feather Club. On Saturday June 29th there is also a dance with the band The Revolutionaires and the following day all things American will be celebrated at the



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season

club's annual Americana Day.

The Revolutionaires play "jumpin' hot rhythm & blues".

The historic Red Feather Club Museum at Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, is operated and managed by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association. It is open to the public 10am-4pm on the last Sunday of the month May to October this year. Other visits can be arranged.

Mike Ager

**Top: The Revolutionaires.
Bottom: The Hot House Four.**



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A truly inspiring visit to

A letter for Horham ...

“In mid-October of 2018, my wife, Megg and I decided to stop over in England for a couple of days after a two-week vacation in Italy. We did not expect anything for the two days in England other than how to drive on the left side of the road and survive! We were able to avoid driving by using Uber and Alan Johnson. What happened in Horham and what we saw and heard in Horham made our vacation conversation more of

Horham, than of the two weeks we had in Tuscany...

We went with the hopes of learning more about the place where my father was stationed as a young pilot in 1943-44 ... home of the 95th Bombardment Group, but not knowing really what to expect. What we received was truly inspiring.

In just one-and-a-half days we were educated, enlightened, and deeply moved thanks to a wonderful group of dedicated villagers

including Elizabeth Gibson, Beverley and Pat Abbott, Duncan Reed and our soon-to-be tour guide, Alan Johnson. We took in as much as we could in what was all too obvious – too few days. Not long enough if you are a fan. And fans we became.

Our first stop was the Red Feather Club and museum... We were just blown

away with all the memorabilia that had been collected and donated by members, by families, and by friends of the 95th. As we paused before an old film made at Horham, streaming on a monitor, we became more and more captivated as it advanced. For one thing, it was in colour – a rarity in 1943, and another thing, to our astonishment, it had MY FATHER in it when he was in his mid-20s! We did not even know this film existed. How many of us are able to see our father, before he was married, before we were born, before he completed 41 missions with his crew – on FILM? In COLOUR? [It] was the precursor to many more heart-warming moments in Horham.

As we were recovering from the beautiful surprise of seeing Dad in living colour, in walked a man we would soon realise is a living legend – Alan Johnson. (With one “L”, as he explained, “... because they could only afford one back then. It was during the war!”). He



Horham

walked up to me and said: “You look just like your father.” He knew Dad ... As a very young boy, he hung out with and idolised the flyboys that took over the village. Megg asked if he has lived in Horham all his life and his quick response was: “Not yet.”

We did not expect to see so many articles and stories about Dad, not to mention so many more of the 95th, making learning about the 95th a more personal journey. Enough about Dad.

The trip to Horham turned out to be much more than just about the 95th ... Alan took us to an 800-yr. old church (St Marys) with 8 functional bells, still holding services. A story in itself but with a side note – members of the 95th pitched in and paid to restore all 8 bells. As we listened to Alan re-tell [the] history of this church and his village, he pointed to the church’s cemetery and various



Above: back row, left, the then Capt William C. Lindley with his crew. Below: Alan Johnson with Megg & Jeff Lindley at the Red Feather Club.



head stones, and one in particular of Audrey Winifred Trollope, 1910-2010. She was a WW2 Allied spy – parachuting behind enemy lines, gathering information necessary to help the Allied war effort. There was the hospital ... There were buildings that were pubs where the enlisted men hung out...

We stayed at Rose Cottage, the beautiful home of Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, our wonderful hospitable hostess, under the flight path of one of the runways.

We asked Alan why he spent a good part of his life in restoration and history telling, and he said: “Because 643 men died while stationed here.” There was always

some “one thing” that made these wonderful people commit to the preservation and memory of the 95th ... [Horham] seems to draw you in once you have touched this magical place.

... Young men’s lives have been preserved in a treasured, honoured place – Horham.

We thank the ... [95th Bomb Group Heritage Association], Horham village and all the supporters for efforts past, present and future. I encourage anyone to make time to visit this village of Horham, not just for the 95th, although that is reason enough, but for the pure compassion Horham village offers.”

Jeff Lindley – *One of three sons of Major General William C. Lindley, 1919-2016).*

Lots on in Redlingfield in

REDLINGFIELD'S February village committee meeting set the dates for another year of events.

There will Pubs on the Green in April, May, August and October. Church-run events in June, a dog show, and September, a produce show, will however see the Doorstep Green's pop-up pub open for business. The Parochial Church Council is looking to hold a sports events, maybe five-a-side football.

■ **TEXT ALERTS:** Russell Kerry is keen to set up a text alert group for Redlingfield to warn people of prowlers etc. If you would like to join get in touch with Russell on 07860 568553.

■ **TREASURER:** Jeanette is willing to continue as treasurer for the time being but suggest we look for a replacement.

The big event of the year is on Saturday July 13th when we will be holding our annual village fayre and BBQ on the Doorstep Green.

The village committee is also looking at holding a garage sale.

However, before the first Pub on the Green we will be holding two evenings to tidy up the Doorstep Green on Wednesdays April 3rd and 10th from 6pm.

We hope to do a complete tidy inside and out so bring your garden tools and

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year ahead

cleaning products.

Many thanks to Del for the loan of his large tent but we'll be taking it down this year and using the village pop-up marquees as and when needed.

The first event on the calendar is the village litter pick over the weekend of March 30th and 31st. Clean up an area whenever you like but co-ordinate with Janet so people don't go over same area.

The churchyard tidy is on Wednesday June 5th from 6pm. Bring your garden tools, strimmers etc.

The meeting congratulated Phoebe and Tom Smith for raising £5,000 plus for the new Doorstep Green and thanked Mid Suffolk Council for a grant of £2,000. Underground mesh for the roadway and parking will cost up to £8,000.

There is much to do – once the mesh has been purchased it still needs to be put in and fencing has to be installed etc.

Redlingfield Village Meetings AGM is Wednesday, May 22th, at Horham Community Centre at 8pm. *Mike Ager*

■ **NEW EVENTS:** Redlingfield's St Andrew's Church is spicing it up this year with a host of extra events including a dog show and a produce show on the Doorstep Green. The Parochial Church Council's (PCC's) cheese and wine will have been held at Horham Community Centre by the time you read this and as in past year's a quiz is planned. The first dog show on Sunday June 9th will offer prizes for best rescue, best puppy, waggiest tail, best handler, scruffiest dog, best veteran and best bitch and dog. If you want to enter the produce show on Sunday September 1st you should probably get planting soon. There will be categories for carrots, potatoes, runner beans and marrows. There will also be categories for knitted art, house plant, flower arrangement and photograph of Suffolk sunset. Both events, organised by Alison Smith, should be fun for all and the Doorstep Green's pop-up pub will be open for these events. A further sports event is also being organised by Tony Freitas to tie in with one of the pub on the green evenings. Watch out for details. The events will raise funds for St Andrew's Church.

■ REDLINGFIELD EVENTS

Wednesday March 6: Coffee morning at Mount Pleasant Farm, 10am-noon.

Weekend of March 30-31: Village Litter Pick.

Wednesday May 22: AGM Horham CC, 8pm.

Wednesdays April 3 & 10: Doorstep Green Tidy from 6pm.

Saturday April 13: Pub on the Green.

Saturday May 25: Pub on the Green.

Wednesday June 5: Church yard tidy, 6pm.

Sunday June 9: Dog Show.

July Saturday July 13: Summer Fayre & BBQ.

Saturday August 24: Pub on Green.

Sunday September 1: Produce show.

Saturday October 26: Pub on the Green.

Monday November 19: Wreath laying at B-17 memorial 8.30am.

Tuesday February 5 2020: Village committee meeting. Other meetings can be called if needed.

■ Coffee Caravan visits first Wednesday of the month April to October.

Alison Smith

Positive report by Ofsted

DECEMBER WAS A BUSY month for Wilby Primary School including a one-day inspection from Ofsted.

The inspector noted that the school demonstrated strong practice and marked improvement since the last inspection in 2015. The report was very positive with a number of particular strengths being commented upon including:

- The leadership has created an ambitious and caring school that is very responsive to the needs of all individuals'
- Pupil behaviour is impeccable and this contributes towards a remarkably positive learning environment

● 'Pupils work with diligence and curiosity'

● The school ethos ensures 'that every child can achieve well in school regardless of any barriers that they may face'.

The short inspection was so good that the inspector has recommended that the school receives a further two day inspection in the near future.

Also in December we enjoyed a whole school trip to the Christmas Spectacular at the Hippodrome in Great Yarmouth and a fabulous Key Stage One Christmas production. Our older pupils also visited Hartismere Place as part of the work we are doing

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Wilby School's Christmas production.

with dementia sufferers and the Foxearth nursing home to share Christmas singing and brass instrument playing.

This term our talented young footballers enjoyed taking part in the EFL Kids Cup competition at Portman road. Our hockey players are taking part in the Inter School Hockey competition and in school pupils took part in an intra house hockey championships. Wolves House deserve congratulations for being the overall winners!

March looks like being a busy month with all of Y2-6 performing on the stage at the Snape Maltings international concert hall as part of the Celebration of Schools' Music. Kingfisher Class are off to Stow Saxon Village as part of their topic on Saxons and Viking invasion and our Year 6 pupils are going to London to visit the Houses of Parliament, the Science Museum and a variety of other famous landmarks.

In January in collective worship we celebrated Epiphany and then Christingle with all pupils taking part in creating and lighting their own Christingles.

Please do join us for our Easter service in St Mary's Church Wilby on Friday 29th March at 2.30pm.

Roisin Wiseman

■ **PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION:** On Friday April 12 and Saturday April 13 Chrissie Kitchen, Candy Blackham, Nick Eade and Geoff Moore are exhibiting new photographs at Cratfield Village Hall. They include wildlife, landscape, street photography and architecture. On Friday the exhibition is open 6-8pm, with a pay bar and nibbles and on Saturday 10.30am-5pm, with tea and cakes. Entry is free. Donations to Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund & Macmillan Cancer Support. **Candy Blackham**

■ **MUSIC FOR EASTER:** A Music for Easter event is being held at Worlingworth's St Mary's Church on Good Friday April 19th at 7pm. There will be anthems and congregational hymns for Easter led by the Benefice choir. Welcome with a hot cross bun and a drink from 6.30pm. The choir, look forward to sharing the evening with you all. **Val Swallow**

■ **WELCOME NIGHT:** All new comers/and old to Horham come and enjoy a FREE beer or Wine on Saturday March 9th in the Horham Community Centre, from 8.30 pm. You will be sure of a very warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rod Tyrrell (Licensee) Horham CC

■ **THANK YOU:** Father and Mother Christmas would like to thank everyone who gave to EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospice) at Christmas. £400 was raised. Special thanks to the Christmas Elf for his help in driving Father Christmas round as he delivered presents. And a big thank you from all those Father Christmas visited on Christmas morning.

A specific kind of music ...

DESPITE A LIMITED knowledge, I like quizzes. I like doing them, either competing or setting them. Basically I enjoy that environment.

Like most people I have some things I like better than others, some subjects are good, some are OK in parts and others a disaster area.

The questions style is important. A straight "Which football team plays home matches at Carrow Road" is better than "Recognise which type of chocolate bar this is"?

My style seems to be to include a gripe so here goes. I have over two hundred popular music CDs but none of that acquired knowledge is ever

rewarded in a quiz environment. Only The Beatles (whom I cannot understand why they took the Sixties by storm), Elvis Presley (liked his ballad phase but not his early rock and roll) and the contemptible Michael Jackson (if you can't say something fair say nothing at all) are deemed worthy of mention in quizzes. musicals, opera, classical, ecclesiastical, country and western, Irish crooners and music associated with Royalty or the 'Last Night of the Proms' rule the roost.

Even when my erstwhile quiz setting partner and myself get to set a quiz the Music round falls to him to set it within the above criteria. There have



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been over sixty-six years of UK chart music since late 1952.

Realistically it shouldn't be a major issue to ask a question about Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, Helen Shapiro, Blondie, Kajagoogoo,

Green Day or Amy McDonald in the music section of a quiz.

I grew up listening to recorded music on tape cassettes (not sure about statute of limitations on this), the radio and Top of the Pops. In the late 1970's we acquired a very old record player capable of playing at 16, 33, 45 and 78 revs per minutes. Unfortunately all the records with it were from the late Fifties and early Sixties. Economics dictated that a teenager with virtually no income did not have the purchasing power to buy new records so I listened on radio, watched on TV and read about it in magazines.

The great thing about getting a job means having money to buy stuff. From early 1984 I was purchasing vinyl records at an unhealthy rate. By the late 1980s a decent collection was

appearing in alphabetical order in boxes in my bedroom. Problems then arose in the form of CDs. These we were told was the way forward as it became harder to get vinyl. The cynic in me knew it was a marketing dupe to get you to pay for the same music again but I still succumbed. When my record player stylus broke and couldn't be replaced CD purchase went into overdrive. The vinyls were carefully sorted into boxes, stored under the bed and no longer used.

Still as a collector it was good to have stuff, but in a fateful misunderstanding it was all gone. Our house move in the autumn of 2006 led to them getting incinerated in a mistake over what was to go and what went with us. They were simply in the wrong pile and the house moving system was too efficient. So my Eighties folly was gone and to a guy who had a lot of childhood memories and belongings trapped in an inaccessible room as well, this was a real disappointment. Of course vinyl made a comeback after that!

Despite the fact I lost my passion for new music by the mid 1990s in my early thirties, I still have a reasonable recollection of obscure late seventies and eighties bands and their main hit singles. Groups like H2O, Fiction Factory, The Jags, Icehouse, Jimmy the Hoover and Latin Quarter are never likely to appear in a quiz I accept but if vinyl can come back who knows. Maybe quizzes could have popular music rounds to pacify an old git who spent his childhood, adolescence and young adult days engrossed in listening to singles chart music.

Ian Crane

WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Mount Pleasant, home of Hazel & Edmund Abbott, 10am-noon.

SATURDAY MARCH 9

Horham Welcome Night: enjoy a FREE beer or Wine in the Community Centre, from 8.30pm.

FRIDAY MARCH 15

Bar Meal: Horham CC.

THURSDAY MARCH 21

Loving Your Planet Workshop: The Bank Arts Centre, 4.15-5.30pm. For young people [11+]. Book as places limited 01379 871494.

Stradbroke Cinema: Bohemian Rhapsody (12A).

SATURDAY MARCH 23

Dance: Red Feather Club, band Hot House Four.

Horham Quiz Night: Horham CC.

FRIDAY MARCH 29

Fish & Chips: Horham CC.

Talk on bees: Horham Old School, 7.30pm. Hawk Honey will give a talk about why & which bees are in trouble & what we can do to help them.

SATURDAY MARCH 30 & SUNDAY MARCH 31

Redlingfield Litter Pick: Get out & give the village a clean up. Co-ordinate with Janet Norman-Philips please.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: Centre of village, 10am-noon.

Redlingfield Doorstep Green Tidy:

Help get the Doorstep Green ready for summer. Bring garden tools or cleaning gear on Wed April 3 & 10.

SATURDAY APRIL 6

Old Herbaceous: Worlingworth Community Centre, 7.30pm. One man play. Tickets £12.

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

Redlingfield Doorstep Green Tidy:

Bring your garden tools or cleaning gear for our second weed, strim and tidy.

FRIDAY APRIL 12 & SATURDAY APRIL 13

Photography Exhibition: Cratfield Village Hall. Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10.30am-5pm. Free entry.

SATURDAY APRIL 13

Redlingfield Pub on the Green:

Doorstep Green, 6pm-late. Join us at our pop-up pub for a drink & chat. There should be a BBQ with burgers.

SUNDAY APRIL 14

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

THURSDAY APRIL 18

Stradbroke Cinema: The Wife (15).

SUNDAY APRIL 21 & MONDAY APRIL 22

Easter Steam Up: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

WEDNESDAY MAY 1

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: Centre of village, 10am-noon.

SUNDAY MAY 5 & MONDAY MAY 6

Middy in the War Years: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

FRIDAY MAY 10

Fish & Chips: Horham CC.

SUNDAY MAY 12

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

WEDNESDAY MAY 22

Redlingfield AGM: Redlingfield Village Meeting's AGM at Horham CC, 8pm. Come along and have your say.

SATURDAY MAY 25

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

SATURDAY MAY 25-MONDAY MAY 27

Framlingham Gala Fest: Sand, Sea & Surf themed festiva. Details www.framlinghamgalafest.co.uk.

SUNDAY MAY 26

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum, 10am-4pm.

Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market:

Helmingham Hall, 10am-4pm. £7 adults; children free.

■ **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.msrl.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.



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WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY MAY 26 & MONDAY MAY 27

Bank Holiday Steam Up: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

WEDNESDAY MAY 29 & THURSDAY MAY 30

Suffolk Show: Trinity Park, Ipswich.

Details www.suffolkshow.co.uk.

FRIDAY MAY 31

Bar Meal: Horham CC.

SATURDAY JUNE 1

Horham Car Boot: details to follow.

SUNDAY JUNE 2

Steam Railway Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: Centre of village, 10am-noon.

Redlingfield Churchyard Tidy: Help to get St Andrew's churchyard looking its best. Come along with your strimmers, trimmers and other garden tools, 6pm.

SATURDAY JUNE 8 & SUNDAY JUNE 9

Eye Open Gardens: Adults £5, children under 16 free. Fundraising for Eye Church Development Appeal. More than 25 gardens open. Teas in Town Hall. Vintage bus rides to outlying gardens.

SUNDAY JUNE 9

Redlingfield Dog Show: Redlingfield Doorstep Green to raise funds in aid of St Andrews Church repairs and improvements. Organised by Alison Smith (07817 207462). Bar open.

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

Steam Railway Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

SATURDAY JUNE 15

Horham Village Show.

SUNDAY JUNE 16

Suffolk Vehicle Enthusiasts: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

FRIDAY JUNE 21

Suffolk Day.

Fish & Chips: Horham CC.

SUNDAY JUNE 23

Music in the Gardens with Sam Coe & The Long Shadows: Helmingham Hall, 11am-6.30 pm. Gardens from 11am; bar from 3pm; BBQ from 4pm; music from 4.30pm. Adults £7; children £3.50.

Aston Martin Owners Club: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

SATURDAY JUNE 29

Dance: Red Feather Club, band The Revolutionaires.

SUNDAY JUNE 30

Diesel Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum, 10am-4pm.

WEDNESDAY JULY 3

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: Centre of village, 10am-noon.

FRIDAY JULY 5

Bar Meal: Horham CC.

SATURDAY JULY 6

Horham Bygones/Classic/Car Rally & BBQ.

SUNDAY JULY 7

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

Music in the Gardens with Swing Machine Big Band: Helmingham Hall, 11am-7pm. Gardens from 11am; bar 3pm; BBQ 4pm; music 4.30pm. Adults £7; children £3.50.

Land Rover Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

SATURDAY JULY 13

Summer Fayre & BBQ: From 3pm till midnight on the Doorstep Green.

SUNDAY JULY 14

Steam Railway Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

SUNDAY JULY 21

Steam Railway Day: Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

■ 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,

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Villages' WhatsApp group

BACK IN NOVEMBER 2017 I set up the Horham and Athelington WhatsApp group to help bring some cohesion and security to our little villages.

Over one year later and it is still going strong and working just as I imagined it would.

In the past year, the 24 users of the service have helped reunite several lost pets, alerted people to field fires during our hot summer, spotted water leaks from burst pipes in the recent cold snap and most importantly of all, raised awareness of suspicious activity/vehicles and dubious

characters in and around the surrounding area.

This is all thanks to the users of the app, to whom I would like to say thank you.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, they can by scanning the QR code shown here or by sending me a message on 07787 550671.

All I ask is that you do not use the app to offer things for sale or services. Remember, it's an instant alert for everyone in the community to make our world a little safer and to help those who need help.

Once again, thank you everyone.

Hawk Honey



■ **EYE LIBRARY:** The new Eye Library has opened in Cross Street in the former highways office and workshop. It is closed on Mondays and open 9am-1pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays; Wednesdays 9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm; Thursdays 2pm-5pm; Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm; and Sundays 10am-3pm.



■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED:** application to erect two-storey side extension **2 Rose Cottage Athelington Road Horham;** application to erect a rear extension for use as a disabled bed room and wet room **The Treen, The Street, Horham;** outline application (access to be considered) for the erection of up to two detached dwellings with garages on land opposite **Wheatcrofts, The Street, Horham;** application for conversion and extension of **The Old School House, Green Lane, Redlingfield,** to provide one residential dwelling.

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

DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP

AS I SIT TO WRITE THIS column, the first real cold snap of the year has brought us snow and ice, but thankfully bringing minimal disruption. I'd like to pay special tribute to our dedicated highways teams who are working, often in treacherous and freezing conditions, around the clock, to keep Suffolk's roads safe and accessible for all of us.

Living in a predominantly rural county like Suffolk, our road infrastructure is simply vital in connecting our rural communities and enabling those who live and work here to travel easily to and from school, our places of work, to visit friends and family and to access local services, such as hospital appointments or local facilities. That's why I am committed to doing all that I can to support our County Council colleagues and my fellow MPs in lobbying Government for much needed cash to improve and maintain our road network.

I was delighted that back in October, the Chancellor made an additional £420 million available for local authorities in England to spend on road maintenance. One of the most common issues coming through my mailbox and post-bag are issues relating to Highways complaints and I know that this money will deliver some much needed and real on-the-ground improvements to our road network here in Suffolk. I'm looking forward very much to visiting our

dedicated Highways Team at Suffolk County Council soon to see how this money is being put to good use.

Working with our local councils and Chamber of Commerce, I have also helped to secure £3.8 million of Government funding for improvements to the A140 at Eye. This money has been awarded to Suffolk County Council to deliver the project and works are due to be completed by 31 March 2020. The A140 is a vital economic route and these improvements will go some way in helping to further boost the area's economic potential, not to mention vastly improving road safety on this busy and fast-moving stretch of road.

Finally, alongside my fellow East Suffolk MPs and the Leader of Suffolk County Council, I was pleased to meet with Roads Minister, Jesse Norman, in pressing the urgent case for improvements to the A12 and more specifically, for a Four Villages Bypass. There has been a strong case for a Four Villages Bypass for many years now, but with such a bypass likely to cost in excess of £150 million, the funding requirement is significant and will require all those involved to work collaboratively in order to match fund any potential Government money.

I will continue to do all that I can to support our District and County Council colleagues in ensuring that Suffolk's needs, in terms of infrastructure, remain firmly on the Government's radar.

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, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



***Here is my last piece for the magazine.
I bow out as your District Councillor in May ...***

OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS I have had the privilege of being the Mid Suffolk District councillor for the Hoxne Ward that takes in the (hamlet) of Redlingfield.

There have been so many changes over the years and so many just getting going too. For a village without a village hall and no obvious village centre I think the people of the Redlingfield have been tireless in working to keep every one involved and in touch.

You have had a great leadership team from both the Parish Meeting and the PCC for the church. Without their drive and the willing volunteers from the community none of this would be happening.

The success of The Pub on the Green and local activities and recently the purchase of the land to join the green with the church has been looking forward for the future growth and well-being of the community.

It is not easy, but it is beautiful, living in rural high Suffolk with a lack of transport, distances to school, shops and surgeries, but that is what frames the people that live in our villages.

The desire to look after the elderly, those who are alone and young families is written into the word village, and although I won't be at the table any more after May I will be supporting you in any other way I can.

The changes in the District Council over

the years, not least the move out of the area to Ipswich, has meant that the villages feel they have lost the ear of the Council. It is something that many of us feel too.

With so many Government cutbacks and the loss of some services it is hard to see how we can have control of our own destiny.

Larger villages or groups have started Neighbourhood Plans to be involved in the future plans for the area. Nevertheless it has to be said that the County need houses (homes) and without a five-year land supply, the planners are looking favourably on any land that comes forward.

The scourge of County Lines where drug dealers are recruiting our young and vulnerable to use and deal in drugs is the latest and most alarming of all the problems facing rural communities.

The police need our eyes and ears to detect any persons with unexplained new items or money to report to them immediately.

The Council is backing the surgeries and leisure centres with money to encourage us to be more active, and as there is no real local transport I suppose we can always walk!

I do urge you to keep working for the good of your villages and all the people who live in them to help face the future and make it even better for those coming after us.

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

THE REVEREND REFLECTS ... SPRING

SPRING IS A MARVELLOUS TIME OF year. Though the weather may still be cold, the days get progressively longer; the flowers start to appear; the birds sing; the deer and hares

and other animals become more active; and we human beings as well are refreshed and energized. There may be trouble ahead, but we feel more ready to meet it, maybe even to face the music and dance!

All change, whether it be in the seasons of the year or in the circumstances of our life, is both uncomfortable and at the same time stimulating. New demands on us can seem daunting, but they are the means to encourage us to rise to the occasion, learn new ways, flex our muscles and expand our minds. Without change we stagnate, but when things change, we are renewed, we grow and live.

The book of Revelation tells us of God saying "See, I am making all things new." Not 'I have made all things new' or 'I will make all things new', but 'I am making all things new'. God is constantly renewing his world, making it new, and he is constantly renewing us and making us new too. It's not always an easy process but it is what allows us to grow and live.

In our local churches we are trying out new things. For example, our family@church service in Denham on the second Sunday of each month offers a more informal and interactive way to worship for all the family. We are looking for more ideas from you for ways in which we can change and grow. Dancing is not ruled out! If you have any suggestions, please get in touch with myself or Revd Michael Womack. Or come along to our meeting about the future of the benefice on Saturday 11th May (more details nearer the time).

Revd Eleanor Goodison
Associate Priest, Hoxne Benefice
 (07876 143579).

■ LENT LUNCHES FOR

ARMCHAIR PILGRIMS: This Lent, the popular lunches will be back and we're going on pilgrimage without leaving the comfort of the armchairs in Syleham Village Hall! Each week we will visit a pilgrimage site, there will be an explanation of the 'facts' of where it is, historical significance etc. and then a reflection on the spiritual impact that the pilgrim experienced, all accompanied by local food. One week will be the Italian Chapel on the Orkneys, with a consideration of how it was built, the spiritual moment accompanied by Scottish food (no deep fried Mars bars). They are on Mondays March 18th, 25th and April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. There's no need to book but it would be helpful to know if you're coming, for catering purposes.

Rev Michael Womack

■ REDLINGFIELD COFFEE

CARAVAN: The Rural Coffee Caravan will be returning to Redlingfield on Wednesday April 3rd bringing tea, coffee, cakes and useful information. As usual it will visit from 10am to noon on the first Wednesday of the month from April to October inclusive.

Ann Osborn

■ FLOWER FESTIVAL: St Mary's Church in Worlingworth is holding a flower festival on the long weekend of May 4th, 5th and 6th, 10am to 5pm. The theme is Countries of the World.

Val Swallow

CHURCH & INFORMATION

■ CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES etc:

MARCH

- 3** 09.30am HC, **Redlingfield**
- 10** 09.30am BCP HC, **Horham**
- 17** 09.30am HC, **Athelington**
- 24** 10am MP, **Redlingfield**
- 31** 11.15am Benefice Communion, **Hoxne**; 4pm; Mothering Day Celebration for all the family at **Syleham**

APRIL

- 7** 09.30am HC, **Redlingfield**
- 14** (Palm Sunday) 09.30am BCP HC, **Horham**
- 21** (Easter Day) 09.30am HC, **Athelington**
- 28** 10am MP, **Redlingfield**; 11am 95th BG Reunion Service, **Horham**

MAY

- 5** 09.30am HC, **Redlingfield**
- 12** 09.30am BCP HC, **Horham**
- 19** 09.30am HC, **Athelington**
- 26** 10am MP, **Redlingfield**

HC = Holy Communion, FC = Family Communion, VS = Village Service, MP = Morning Prayer, Bcp = Book of Common Prayer

Rev Michael Womack: Rector of the Churches of the Hoxne Benefice serving the communities of Athelington, Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Redlingfield, Syleham and Wingfield. St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, Diss, Suffolk, IP21 5RB (01379-388889)

Enquiries: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Colin Palmer, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628747); 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 or look on www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk.

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- 1/8 page £9** (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)
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- 1/2 page £35** (90mm deep, 125mm across)
- A whole page £70**

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Printed by Tuddenham Press Ltd, Unit 4, Hill Farm Barns, Ashbocking Road, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0SA, 01473 785154, info@tuddenhampress.co.uk.



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