Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS





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Once again thank you to all those in the frontline from all of those in the NHS and emergency services to the volunteers, shopworkers, posties, delivery drivers, council staff and workers who have soldiered on. Also many thanks to all of those who cleared the snow from our roads and rescued stranded drivers during the second beast from the east.

To say the past year L has been strange is an understatement but we've all found different ways of getting through. While some have been run off their feet working throughout, others have crafted. decorated, baked, jogged, walked dogs (endlessly) and dealt with the challenges of home schooling. Me. I've been crosswording and binge-watching TV. What day is it? I never seem to know nowadavs.

We are not having a spring rubbish ramble this year so perhaps we can all follow Athelington youngsters Henry and Arthur's lead (see pages 8 and 9) and pick up some litter as we go for our daily walks. In future I'm going to be taking a bin bag and gloves with me when I walk the dogs. *Mike Ager*

Our front-page picture is one of a series of WW2-themed posters produced by the HELP Appeal – the only charity in the country funding NHS hospital helipads (see helpappeal.org.uk and pages 14 & 15).

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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We'd better just keep on going . .

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

HE PESSIMISTIC VIEW before Christmas has sadly prevailed and the restrictions enforced upon us by COVID-19 have continued into the spring of 2021.

There are comparisons with the loss of freedom and the huge financial cost of WW2 and a call for the Blitz spirit with Churchillian leadership.

This recalls an exchange from the Boer War when one of the generals spoke up, "Sir, we are going through Hell," to which Churchill replied, "In that case, we had better keep going".

AND SO, IN A GAP IN LOCKDOWN, a visit to Redgrave and Lopham Fen on November 24th to see the starling roost became a more significant experience than it would have been in the good old days.

A murmuration is the movement of a large flock of birds making patterns in the sky and is generally seen when large numbers of birds, famously starlings, gather in huge flocks before dropping into their roost at dusk. Starlings at Lopham seek the safety of extensive reed beds and gather at dusk, building into a huge flock.

Beautiful extravagant patterns result from thousands of birds swirling as in one movement, a process which can only be explained by something called "thought transference", though little is known of this scientific phenomenon. Along with Redgrave Fen, Minsmere is another Suffolk murmuration site,



though possibly neither are as good as the Somerset Levels in the west country. However, it is fanciful to think of an expedition like that until the safety net of vaccine immunity restores our confidence. continued on p4

continued from p3

To complete the day, the erratic flight of a flushed snipe was a bonus in the wintry beauty of this popular reserve.

THE NEXT DAY presented a chance to see some Egyptian geese, again in lockdown, but this time from the comfort of the armchair. I was watching televised coverage of the cricket and England were playing their first test of the winter tour in South Africa, A small flock encamped on the Cape Town cricket pitch where the match

Is it a duck or is it a goose and, below a muntjac.

was in progress and, paying scant attention to the action, were not afraid of getting in the way of the English fielders. Essentially a warm weather bird, this not especially goodlooking chap is only an honorary goose, his nearest relation is the shelduck. Both inhabit the in-between duck or goose world, and whilst the shelduck can perch in a tree, the Egyptian goose caps that and may actually nest in a hole in a tree.

SOME WINTER tasks do not change from year to year and protecting the rape crop from pigeons is one of them. Paul Walker is the man on the spot for that and now is being helped

by his young apprentice Jake Hawes. The shooting is made much more successful by using very realistic decoys, but the flapping of one was so



life-like that it was attacked by a hungry buzzard. The puzzled bird then sat next to the now motionless decoy very confused indeed.

Luckily, I was the man on the spot on the big snow day as a muntjac ventured too near the roses in the garden and, thanks to Pauls' gralloching and butchery skills, has now been skinned and cut up for a warming winter casserole. Our three native deer species are red, fallow and roe, the latter some say being the most appetising.

The muntjac is a non-native to these shores like the Egyptian goose, but given global warming and notwithstanding Brexit, there may be more species heading our way if they avoid the Keep Out signs.

THE ANNUAL FARMLAND BIRD Count takes place in February and we recorded 21 species by walking the grass boundary of our largest field on February 5th. However, it was the mammal count which was memorable, a total of four roe deer and twelve



hares. Although not yet March by a margin, a couple of the hares were mad enough to get up on their hind legs for a little boxing match. There is also evidence of badgers on the farm, and, although I don't welcome them, their presence is confirmed by this Mr Brock caught in the night camera spotlight by Julian Bye at the Hall. *continued on p6*



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THE SUFFOLK SENSE OF HUMOUR IS often understated and delivered deadpan as in this joke harking back to WW2. One awful wet day in 1939 two Suffolk farm workers were knockin' and toppin' sugar-beet in a huge open field in pouring rain and driving wind. One of them had seen the EADT afore coming to work and said to his workmate "I see in the paper them ol' Jarmans hev got inta Warsaw". About an hour later as they had reached the end of the row, the other said, tugging at his collar and looking up at the lashing rain, "Well, they hent got much of a day for it ".

The end of the 2020 sugar-beet season is no joke though as the early February snowfall added to the problems of getting the last of the crop lifted from the already waterlogged fields.

I am indebted to Roy Lee of Stradbroke for accurate rainfall measurements recorded daily from his garden and he reports that the 2020 total was a record breaker. Nearly a meter of rainfall fell last year, precisely 984ml, the largest total in his nearly 30 years of daily recording.

A CHEERING THOUGHT WHEN THINGS GO wrong ... if you are down in the mouth think of Jonah, he came out all right.

Trevor Edwards



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HELPING HANDS:

Horham & Athelington: Horham & Athelington Parish Council has a list of volunteers who will collect shopping or medication and a trained psychologist who is available if anyone just wants a chat. Contact council chair Elizabeth Gibson-Harries on 01379 384680 for help or talk to one of your councillors. They are: Bill Craig; April & Jacques Groen; Paul Hambling; Jasen Jeffrey and Tom Wright. You can also contact the Clerk, Rod Caird, on horhamathelingtonclerk@gmail.com or 07785 331217.

Redlingfield: If you need help or know of anyone who needs help with shopping, prescriptions, or for a phone and chat etc contact Mike Ager & Janet Norman-Philips (Hidcote Lodge) on pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 01379 678835. If you have other problems with benefits, finances or oddjobs that need doing, or need any other help contact Mike & Jan. We will try to help or to find the people who can.

■ CHRISTMAS CHEER: Father and Mother Christmas and the Christmas Elf are very sorry they were unable to go out on Christmas morning. We would like to thank everyone who still gave a donation for EACH. The total collected was £233. (East Anglia's Children's Hospices) We very much hope that may be we can come to visit at Christmas this year. Please stay safe.

Mother Christmas



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How to turn your garden into a nature-friendly home

Create a compost heap. Compost heaps are good for wasps, slugs, ants and worms, because they eat the food and turn it in to compost. Compost is full of nutrients for plants.

■ Hang some bird feeders to help support our local birds. Sunflower hearts are a favourite in our garden and have a high fat content which helps them produce lots of energy.

Create a heap of grass cuttings. These are really good for grass snakes and other wildlife. Every now and again, place a layer of sticks before the next lot of grass cuttings to create space for the snakes to hide.

Ponds do not have to be big! You can create a small pond and help your garden wildlife. Newts, Toads and Frogs lay their eggs in ponds - often in the shallower areas near or on some vegetation.

Flower beds are excellent for insects.
 Create a nature area. If you can leave a little bit of your garden untouched and grass uncut especially at the edge, it will attract all sorts of wildlife, including moths and butterflies. by Henry





ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN REDLINGFIELD an item from the Suffolk Chronicle, November 1866

"A letter was read from the Rev. J. Inge, Athlelington, complaining of the bad state of the road in Redlingfield from Athelington to Eye, branching off to Southolt. The surveyor (Mr. Porter) raised a question whether the road was a parish road, but several waywardens said it was, and that the necessary repairs were ordered to be done to it a year ago. After a very desultory discussion the necessary work was ordered to be done. The Rev. J.L. Bedingfield, of Bedingfield, wrote to call the attention of the Board to two very dangerous corners in the parish of Redlingfield. Mr. H. Wells and Mr. Cracknell were appointed to see what was requisite." Some things really don't change! Linda Hudson

Colnet Conservation . . .

ELLO AND A VERY HAPPY New Year to everybody. Some of you might have seen, that we have put a board up outside our house, called Colnet Conservation. It has lots of information about wildlife and some pictures that we have drawn.

Thank you to the people that have taken the time to read it - we really hope that you have found it interesting and we will keep updating it for you! We have written some facts about bees and also some tips on how to make your garden good for wildlife.

We have been out on lots of litter picks and since Christmas have filled about four black bin bags just from the lanes near us. We have new litter pickers which are really good, but it is still a shame that litter keeps appearing. We have also found a lot more dog poo on the grass verges through Athelington. Please could everyone remember to clear up after their dog as it isn't very nice to see and sometimes we nearly step in it when we are out litter picking. Please bag it up and put it in the bin, thank you.

We have really enjoyed the snow and have been busy feeding the birds. We have been lucky enough to be able to feed some fieldfare and have seen them really closely – they love cheese, apples and bird cake with lots of lard!

We thought you might like to read some of the facts and information that we have written and also look forward to updating you on what we've been up to in the next newsletter.

It won't be long before the chiffchaffs start singing and the bees start to buzz! Have a lovely Easter everyone, from Henry and Arthur.

Henry & Arthur

Amazing Facts About Bees

Honey Bees' wings beat about 11,400 times per minute! That's about 190 times a second!
 Bees beat their wings to regulate the temperature in the hive!

Drone bees are the only male bees in the hive and they do not have a sting.

Bees have been on Earth since dinosaur times!

Without bees, we wouldn't be able to grow fruit and vegetables that we eat! **by Arthur**



Fingers crossed for the

T THE TIME OF writing we still have a snow covered landscape and many of the smaller roads are blocked by drifts. There has been enough thaw to uncover green shoots in our gardens, and we have confidence that Spring is just around the corner. It is almost a year since we closed The Old School and we have felt great sadness to see this, and many other

community buildings stand empty and silent for so long.

Many of us have had our first COVID-19 jab and by the end of April will have had our second vaccination. Maybe this is the green shoot moment of the pandemic. Just maybe we will soon be able to meet with each other safely and begin to enjoy the activities that are at the heart of our



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future

community. Fingers crossed! We look forward to a resumption of our coffee mornings, cyber cafe, book exchange, bar nights, art and craft and the many other activities that have been so well supported and enjoyed. We look forward to seeing each other and all of you! Horham & Athelington Village Hall Committee

HORHAM & ATHELINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE: At a meeting of the Trustees in March, 2020 we agreed to close until further notice, to fully abide by Government COVID-19 instructions. "Better to be Safe than Sorry". We've all missed seeing Rod and David, and others too numerous to mention, serving the ale on bar nights, Hav's fish suppers and don't forget Angela's sponge cakes! I could go on. David's car rally and the show, the harvest lunch, membership suppers (the membership fee will be carried over) and the Christmas dinner. The centre is being kept in good order and the grounds tended. Just as soon as we can, an order will go into Earl Soham Brewery, the shutters will open, and the beer will flow – not forgetting the odd glass of wine and a gin or two! Can't wait for the tables in the hall to be pushed together and a meeting held to organise "forthcoming events". Thank you to everyone who has helped in anyway keep the centre and grounds safe and in good order during the shut down. All the best, Margaret Streeter on behalf of Horham Village Hall Trust Bar and Horham Community Council



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A great outdoor space for

N THESE DIFFICULT TIMES Pound Lane Wood with its open grassy spaces, pond and woodland walks is a great outdoor resource available to all members of the local community.

Winter with its short days is here and the value of daylight and time spent in green spaces is even more important and beneficial to both our mental and physical well-being. Whilst walking keep a look out for two winter bird visitors. The Redwing is a member of the thrush family and can be recognised by a creamy strip above its eye and orangey-red patches under its wings. Another migrant is the Fieldfare. Groups of field fares are often seen feeding on hedgerow hawthorns or on open grassy meadows. Keep an eye open too for those very first harbingers of spring ...



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the hazel catkins are just beginning to burst open, showering yellow pollen clouds on the lightest breezes; the primrose leaves are burgeoning among the grasses and muddy patches, promising flowers of splendid sulphur, as the days lengthen.

If you are interested in joining us and getting hands-on experience of helping improve the local environment benefitting the environment and yourself, please contact our Secretary Peny Conway on 07495 875299 for further information.

> Peny Conway New Reeding Woods Group







SARS is saving lives in

UFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE Service (SARS) is a voluntary emergency medical charity, operating in Suffolk and its border areas. Our volunteer clinicians CARS offer specialist assistance at serious or life threatening medical incidents.

Since we started in 1972 we have helped treat thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARS volunteers are specialists in

AND A TOUR TRESCOR pre-hospital care and include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. They carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline

ambulances and can undertake advanced procedures at the scene of an incident, which are not normally possible outside the hospital environment.

> Our charity receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary fundraising to maintain its activity. The clinicians give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation'

of time equates to many hundredsof-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARS clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of lifesaving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is



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immeasurable.

The last year has been a really challenging time but the amazing SARS volunteer clinicians gave over 6,000 hours of advanced pre-hospital medical care throughout Suffolk in 2020.

They were called out to over 100 locations across the county including callouts in your area – all of this during a pandemic. And 2021 looks set to be another busy year, with SARS responders being mobilised to 72 incidents in January alone!

SARS is also helping combat the pandemic with charity volunteer and retired responder, Dr Andy Mason currently vaccinating staff at the West Suffolk Hospital. Andy is very keen to continue his work after the initial programme at the West Suffolk Hospital has been completed. "I would really love to continue to be part of the vaccination programme in the local community. I am convinced that this is the way forward to ensure that the



country can escape from the grip of this pandemic. The vaccination programme will save lives and protect our precious NHS and I am honoured to be able to be part of that."

There are many ways you can get involved and help support SARS this year. Please take a look at our website www.sars999.org.uk/get-involved/

Or why not sign up to the SARS 999 Lottery. For as little as £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping save local lives. To sign up visit www.sars999.org.uk/lottery/

We are always keen to hear from you so please get in touch via email admin@sars999.org.uk or phone 01359 244186. Thank you!

> Gina Saunders, Suffolk Accident Rescue Project Officer.

■ **REDLINGFIELD AGM:** Villagers are invited to an online Zoom meeting in two parts, both 30 minutes on Wednesday April 28. This will be Redlingfield Parish Meeting's annual general meeting. The first part is from 8 to 8.30pm. Web link https://zoom.us/j/99907941288?pwd=Y0VvS3kzamJQSmdRYUwzRVIkQzV6dz09 A second meeting via Zoom is scheduled for 8.35pm if we do not manage to get through everything in the first half hour (half hour meetings are free). Web link https://zoom.us/j/93479257714?pwd=QWs5VFNIQ3IWT05pOGYyVDhUdENJdz09 An agenda will be available nearer to the date. Any villager who has an item, question or subject they wish to be included in the agenda, or questions about the meeting, please contact Janet Norman-Philips, parish clerk, on pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 01379 67835 as soon as possible. We will be electing a new chairman.

Mike Ager, chairman

Discover some new walks

RE YOU FED-UP WITH doing the same old walks? If so the Walking in Suffolk website

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk is for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find.

Walking in Suffolk (part of the

Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy including some round the Eye area. So check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk



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HARDSHIP FUND: For financial advice or support with access to food, call The Suffolk Advice and Support Service on 0800 068 3131. You can get free professional advice in confidence on: your mortgage or credit cards; rent arrears or other debts; and access to food. Also one-off grants for things such as: white goods; fuel vouchers; and other unforeseen expenses. Call the helpline, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Call at other times and somebody will call you back within one working day.
 LOCAL ELECTIONS: A number of local council elections are scheduled to take place on 6th May, including those postponed in May 2020. To register to vote visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/elections/register-to-vote/ and to apply for a postal vote visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/elections/how-to-vote/. To vote by post in the elections on 6th May your completed form must be received by the Registration Office by 5pm on Tuesday 20th April. You can contact Electoral Services on 0300 1234000 option 7.
 REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEETING: Redlingfield Village Committee held a recent Zoom meeting. A major item for discussion was the clearing of ditches and watercourses. We would like to remind residents that it is their responsibility to

keep any ditches or watercourses on their properties clear and that those on their boundaries may at least be partly their responsibility. **Janet Norman-Philips**



2 Lambseth Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AG

We hope to see you soon!

OPENING TIMES 2021	
Tuesday	11am-8pm
Wednesday	9am-6pm
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Saturday	8am-3pm

EYE SALON 01379 871996 •••• EXCITING NEWS

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A charm of King Harry's brightens our garden

ADIO SUFFOLK HAS BEEN an almost constant companion during our lockdowns. It's on in the background and turned up for the occasional gem or bit of useful information. It's been as much a part of my day as dog walking, bird feeding, reading the East Anglian and looking up the local COVID-19 numbers – oh what an exciting life I lead.

In late January, in the run-up to the RSPB's (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds') Big Garden Birdwatch over the weekend of Friday January 29 to Sunday January 31 naturalist and experienced birder Steve Piotrowski was on the Lesley Dolphin show.

Among the things he talked about where changes to Suffolk's bird population – apparently goldfinches were a rare sight in winter as most used to over-winter in Spain [obviously that was pre-Brexit and tighter border controls]. Our garden birdfeeders



"Spring is sprung the grass is riz I wonder where the birdie is The bird is on the wing? How absurd! I always thought the wing was on the bird" **Traditional**

stuffed with sunflower hearts and milder winters have meant our gardens are packed with the colourful little songbirds all year.

Hopefully Steve will eventually get around to updating his book, The Birds of Suffolk, which was first published in 2003. Among the more obvious changes are the numbers of buzzards who are now thriving in the county, egrets becoming almost common sights and the sad fall in turtle dove numbers and the lack of the large flocks lapwing on Suffolk's fields.

Now I knew the beautiful goldfinch was called King Harry in the Suffolk dialect but I'd never really wondered why. Well Steve revealed that it was because the beautiful little bird had the

same colouring as the flamboyant Tudor monarch's garments.

That got me thinking about other Suffolk names for birds. I know a handful from my grandparents and parents and villagers but I inevitably disappeared down the Google rabbit hole to find out more.

This lead me to the amazing Suffolk Biodiversity Information

A King Harry and a Spink (goldfinch and chaffinch).

Service website (www.suffolkbis.org.uk) and an article in Suffolk Natural History called What's In a Name?* and to A Dictionary of English and Folk-names of British Birds published in 1913.

Below is a, by no means, complete list of names of birds in the Suffolk dialect. Some of them I'm dubious of, others even I use. Some are self-explanatory, such as day owl for little owl as it is a bird you see in the day and screech owl for barn owl thanks to its call. Barn owl - Screech Owl **Bullfinch** – Blood Olp, Cock Olp, Olf, Olp, or Olph Chaffinch – Spink and Polyspink **Common tern** – Rixy **Crow** – Dan Billy **Fieldfare** – Dow Fulfer and also Cold Arse (it does have a white rump) **French partridge** – Red Ligs and Frenchman Goldcrest - Herring Spink. Socalled because they were often caught in the rigging of North Sea fishing boats during migration **Goldfinch** – King Harry Green woodpecker - Sprite, Woodspite or Wood-spack. Specht is a German and Dutch surname meaning "woodpecker" Gull - Larker Hedge sparrow - Hedge-e-bet Heron – Harnser and also strangely Frank Jackdaw – Cawdaw Kittiwake – Sea Kittie Lapwing – Hornpipe or Horn-pie. From its crest and its pied plumage Little grebe – Didolper Little owl - Day Owl Nightingale - Barley Bird Nightjar - Dor-Hawk or Scissorsgrinder from its call **Owl** – Jilly Hooter **Reed warbler** – Hayjack **Sparrow** – Spadger **Stone curlew** – Thick Knees Swift – Devlin **Thrush** – Mavis (or Mavish) Water hen – Moorhen **Woodpigeon** – Ring Dow Wryneck - Cuckoo's Mate continued on p20

continued from p19

Some of these names are archaic and others maybe particular to just one part of Suffolk. I'm sure Suffolk-born readers will know names for other birds or different ones for those listed. If so, please get in touch.

When I get out and take the dogs out (first thing for me – mid-morning for many) I'm amazed by the sights and sounds around whether it is screeching buzzards overhead or a woodpecker drumming on a tree across the road silhouetted perfectly against the sky. No wonder we like to give birds special or descriptive names.

I've also found a treasure trove of Suffolk plant and animal names but that is for another day. Anyway, I hope this has been fun for you locals and of



use to any "furreners" as you try to get you properly suffercated. [Furreners are just people who aren't lucky enough to come from Suffolk while being suffercated is a mostly painless process of being accepted by locals]. By the way, on my Big Garden



Birdwatch I saw: blue, great and long-tailed tits; chaffinches, greenfinches and hosts of goldfinches on the feeders and bird table; there were lots of over-wintering blackbirds; dunnocks and spadgers; an occasional robin; a lone greater spotted woodpecker on the peanuts; some pheasants; a pair of moorhens; a couple of dunnocks; a scattering of starlings; and, of course, squabbling gangs of collared-doves and wood pigeons.

The corvids – jackdaws, crows, rooks and magpies come earlier in the day so didn't get recorded and the barn and tawny owls are more often heard than seen at night along with the deer. The wrens were obviously sticking to the hedges so I didn't see any from the sofa. There are also some birds I only get to see when out and about with the dogs such as the flocks of over-wintering fieldfares and redwings. But not a bad bunch of "buds" for an hour on the sofa looking out on our soggy garden.

And finally, the collective noun for a group of Goldfinches is a 'charm', which suits these delightful little birds. Now collective nouns that's a whole other subject.

Mike Ager

Pictures from Wikimedia Commons: goldfinch by Francis Franklin; chaffinch by CC Gidzy; barn owl and little owl by Edd Deane from Swaffham in Norfolk. *Suffolk Naturalists Society publication online at The Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service –What's in a name? by G. D. Heathcote in Suffolk Natural History vol 25 http://www.sns.org.uk/ ■ WILBY SCHOOL: After a wonderful Autumn Term back in school, we were all devastated to hear that due to the rise in Coronavirus cases across the country, we have once more been thrust back into lockdown. Wilby CEVC Primary School continues to remain open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. Approximately one third of our pupils are in school and the rest are being educated at home. Our brilliant teachers are working hard to provide daily face-toface lessons which are posted, along with resources, onto the website each day. It has been great to see photos of home-learning and to 'chat' to parents on a daily basis about how things are going via Class Dojo. Pupils also get the chance to chat together in a weekly live lesson where they get to share an area of research or interest with each other. With their other hats on, teachers and TAs are keeping life as normal as possible for our pupils in school and as always they are benefitting from a wide and exciting curriculum and expectations for learning remain high. Like everyone else, we hope that this national crisis passes as guickly as possible - we miss all of our pupils and can't wait to open fully again. In the meantime we want to say a big thank you to all of our parents and carers at home who are working so hard to balance providing home schooling alongside running a home and trying to keep their own jobs going. The end is in sight and the future looks brighter. Keep as positive as possible and most importantly, please remain safe and well.

Mrs Wiseman and the Wilby staff

Lockdown, lockdown!

NOWDROPS, ACONITES, A stubby pale blue Iris (too early for the leggy ones), crocuses.

Reading, lovely reading. I haven't had the opportunity to read like this since I was young. What to read – fiction mostly; isn't Dickens an absolute National Wonder when you've got the time that we have now. Wodehouse for a chuckle – a new one on me James Hamilton Paterson and of course Garrison Keillor.

Vast red sunsets – crimson foreboding dawns, frost, rain, snow even winter sunshine.

Shopping twice a week – remember to take your mask! Amazing how far the fuel goes when you so seldom go

01728 628233

CheekyPorker

OAST

out. We've only filled up five or six times since the first lockdown.

Jobs around the house – I've even done some of those.

What an adventure putting out the bins is, not only that but getting them in again! I do find that country people do naturally distance themselves when chatting and I believe that people in town would do the same, given the space.

Chats with the postman, chats with the man who empties our tank, chats with the man who maintains our tank, chats with the oil delivery man and chats with the meter man.

Earlier on the weekly noise and clatter and applause for the NHS (we



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even had a personal visit from Dr Lewis and the nurse because they had missed Jan out in the vaccinations).

A visit to Debenham Leisure Centre to get my jab and all very well organised.

Dear Edith Coe's funeral – out in the open and no singing.

News from our children and the grand children in foreign parts – Scotland and Spain. What a boon our phones and computers are – I can remember when 'phoning abroad was a big deal and as for 'phoning the USA "good evening, you are speaking to Transatlantic operator No 6"! All done via a cable laid on the sea bed.

Watching the birds going about their business, feeding mostly. A jay, tree creeper quartering our old lime tree, green woodpecker spiking the lawn for us. Starlings nesting in our roof again after a break of a few years. BIG NEWS: I saw a muntjac in our back garden in the snow just as it was getting dark one evening. Clusters of ladybirds wintering in the corners of the windows. Watching my favourite oak changing with the seasons.

Getting in a bit of painting and drawing.

It' all so hectic. It will be a nice quiet change to be back to normal!

The Beast from the East seems to have finished with us for the moment but for a while this has been Lockdown on lockdown.

Will we go to Norwich/Dunwich/ Minsmere/Aldeburgh again ever?

Coffee caravan mornings, village lunches, Quiz nights, Red Feather club nights, Pub on the Green, when will they come back?

Anyway it wont be for ever and in the meantime stay safe and warm. *Neville Butcher*

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1/8 page £9 (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)
1/6 page £12 (60mm deep, 60mm across)
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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.

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Memories of Redlingfield

RECENTLY CATHERINE Miller emailed me with some of her recollections of living in Walcot in Redlingfield and she kindly agreed to me sharing them with you.

Long before her time it was the village workhouse and when she lived there the property, which is now one house, was two homes. At one time Eddie Coe the late and much missed village blacksmith and his family lived there.

Anyway, here are recollections of Catherine Miller nee Holloway: "Years ago, around 1950, my family lived there (in Walcot, or at least in the lefthand half facing the building from the road. "Initially it was home to my parents [John and Peggy] and we four siblings. After my mother's death in March 1952 my father's parents [Bill and Olive] and niece moved in to look after us whilst my father was teaching at Eye school."

She added: "About ten years ago I visited Walcot and was astonished to see it as it was. Nobody was in so I took the liberty of looking around. The rooms that I remember as being large were of course not, and the garden ditto. There was a pond when we were there. I didn't probe much because that's rude. I was just delighted to have found it again.

"An elderly lady called Miss Coe lived in the right-hand house [this was



life in the early 1950s



probably Eddie Coe's aunt Florence]. I think she might have been our landlady. I remember visiting her when she was bedbound. Chickens ran freely on her premises, and old bedsteads and springs were used as fencing.

"We had no electricity, with gas lighting, and just one cold-water tap. There was a gas stove in the kitchen alcove and of course a kitchen range. You didn't speak to Grandma on Mondays as she was labouring with heating up the copper to do the weekly wash. She used the copper to boil hams and similar, too. She made a good brawn.

"There was no bathroom; we had an outside chemical loo and an earth closet that the men used. I can see in my mind's eye my father and grandfather washing outside at the pump. They grew all the vegetables. A tin bath hung outside the back door and I can remember bath night when possibly we all used the same water in order of seniority.

"Spoiler alert for young children. I was convinced for years that Father Christmas's sleigh ran over our roof. No doubt it was my father running a pole along the corrugated iron that was our roof. One year he made a wooden dolls' house that was painted maroon. He must have

had a job lot of maroon paint because his motorbike was also this colour as were sundry other things. I do wish I had kept the dolls' house.

"Eventually my father remarried and moved to Margate where he had a teaching post at The Royal School for the Deaf... My grandparents moved back to their home in Peterborough, no doubt thankfully because they had all mod cons of the day at that house!

"We went on many walks. I remember particularly watching the blacksmith whacking things on the anvil at the forge...

"We went to Farmer Tidyman's often and were allowed to play on the haystacks. Dad and the farmer had long chats."

Catherine concluded: "I hope the foregoing is of interest to the residents of Redlingfield. I remember it as an idyllic period in my life but I bet the adults thought it was hard work!" *Catherine Miller & Mike Ager*

PLANNING: AWAITING DECISION: plan to convert agricultural building to an annex for elderly relatives Bridge House, Church Road, Redlingfield (Ref DC/20/05907). Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/

Fun with fantasy cricket

THE FACT THAT since the late summer we have had a bit of professional sport to follow in these terrible times has been really important to me. The fact that football. except confirming a Norwich City relegation which within nine months looks like being undermined, has been terribly disappointing matters little. Spending days watching cricket and evenings watching darts has helped my mental health no end.

As I wrote last time I see cricket as my Number One sport right now. Since I was about four or five year's old trying to hit a ball bowled by my dad on the lawn at Benningham it has been a part of my

life. I would badger mum and dad to go to my cousins in Denham on summer Sunday afternoons in the early 1970s. We didn't have BBC2, they did, and there was John Player League cricket on the TV. I watched a decent Ipswich Town football side at Portman Road and cricket on the television. That was the 1970s for me as a schoolboy. Good times.

When I got to secondary school the chance to play was a highlight of my time at Thomas Mills in Fram. We won a match against Framlingham College (their second choice team I accept) by three wickets. I got out for 47 with the scores level trying to hit a boundary

ENGLAND: 1. Graham Gooch (Capt), 2. Geoffrey Boycott, 3. David Gower, 4. Robin Smith, 5. Graham Thorpe, 6. Alec Stewart (WK), 7. Ben Stokes, 8. Ian Botham, 9. Stuart Broad, 10. James Anderson, 11. Phil Tuffnell, 12th man Derek Randall.
REST OF THE WORLD: 1. Sachin Tendulkar, 2. Gordon Greenidge, 3. Martin Crowe, 4. Clive Lloyd, 5. Raoul Dravid, 6. Allan Border (Capt), 7. AB De Villiers (WK), 8. Wasim Akram, 9. Joel Garner, 10. Muttiah Muralitharan, 11. Glenn McGrath, 12th man Vivian Richards. to get fifty. When I'd got over my disappointment I realised what a good achievement it was.

I always got the Playfair Cricket Annual that had all the players of the 17 county sides and details of the previous years Test cricket. I was very well informed. It would have been easier for me to get an O Level with that knowledge than in the conventional subjects teachers taught us.

I played cricket at Eye and District for nearly three decades. My 9 for 70 against Brightlingsea and 109 not out against Haverhill both in the Anglo Two Counties Division Two during the 1990s were rare good days in amongst a lot of mediocracy. We won three village-level leagues in the late 1980s and early 1990s and a couple of Suffolk Plate competitions. We were decent but had a superb knack of losing important games so we didn't achieve what we could have. We missed out on promotion to Two **Counties Division One**



Graham Gooch. Photo by Gwynne Mack (Wikimedia).

with a defeat at Lakenheath on a rain affected wicket where we batted first and flopped.

I took a couple of ECB coaching certificates. Grade One in 2000 and Grade Two six or seven years later, but never got to do all the practical experience under other coaches to fully qualify. I wish I'd have got my act together and sorted it but we waited, initially expecting it to be organised as part of the course. As they say if you assume you make an ASS out of U and ME.

Listening in bed at five o'clock in the morning to Test Matches in Australia or India are good memories of my vouth. There was also a dice cricket game called 'Owzat' that you could play. Made up teams of pop stars, actors, scientists, footballers, politicians or comedians could be pitted against Australia's 1975 World Cup Final side or Lancashire's allconquering One Day side of the early 1970s.

I did a few games during lockdown using two dice. It raised a smile that the UK **Conservative** Prime Ministers were 9 for 3 in less than three overs against The Seventies TV Cops. Their superstar top three of A.B. de P. Johnson, M.H. Thatcher and W.L.S. Churchill were swiftly dismissed by the new ball attack of Jack Regan and George Carter from The Sweeney. Strange how we get our amusement in grim times.

As I say I've followed cricket nearly fifty years

now. In that spirit I was going to pick my best England XI Test Team and best Rest Of The World XI for a fantasy game (see facing page). Players qualify who have played between 1970 and 2021. Because of the difference in wickets around the world certain criteria have to be set regarding venue. The game will be in England in August. I've put a maximum limit of four Rest of the World players from any team

Of course it's all opinion.

Cricket is a sport that that lends itself like that for me. Unlike issues, such as Brexit or the performance of our government during the pandemic, views are accepted as just that and not seen as right or wrong. You shouldn't be hated for a view but politically people are.

The simple fact you feel one player is worth a place in a fantasy team rather than another is pure opinion and tolerated. When reasonable people talk about sport it exudes the right sort of passion.

Ian Crane

Those were the days for

ITH THE FOOTBALL back on I've been watching a lot of matches. Well, they've been on and whenever the commentators' voices get more excited, I look up from whatever I'm doing.

When we moved out this way more than 20 years ago pretty much anyone who knew me was sure I'd take the opportunity to get an Ipswich Town

season ticket. They were sure I'd rekindle my passion for the once-great Town. Somehow it never happened.

The only live games I've been to in the last 20 years were a few Diss Town matches when we were renting a house in Roydon. I'd meet up with my dad and have a pleasant evening – a

couple of beers, a burger and a whisky or two after the game. I didn't care who won or lost so it was just a night out. One evening I even got to chat to one of my boyhood heroes, Kevin Beattie.

When I finally got round to putting the Christmas decs back in the loft (there's still some more boxes to do) I found a little treasure trove of my obsession with Town. An old holdall stuffed with programmes, press cuttings and even tickets.

When I was young, I had a small flirtation with Man United seeing them at few matches in London but by the early 1970s I'd settled on Town and with my dad and an old wooden



Schweppes crate (I was a shortie) we'd set off from deepest Essex. Sometimes mum would come and visit relatives in town while we were at the footie.

Eventually work got in the way. At first it was a Saturday job and then as a reporter on a the Basildon Evening Echo. As a cub reporter Saturdays were filled with carnivals, fairs, fetes and other such excitement. When I moved onto the sports desk every

> weekend was work and definitely no Town. The editor reported on Ipswich, two sports reporters covered Southend while another had West Ham. We, had a press pass for Arsenal. Which we had to use or else ... so I was off to Highbury for weekday matches. The halftime food was good but watching

Arsenal entertain Jack Charlton's Leeds gave a new meaning to the word. I still got to the occasional game but ...

I eventually got a job in Ipswich and as we usually finished early on Saturdays I could jog (yes jog) from the Evening Star offices to Portman Road missing only a few minutes of the match. I got to evening matches including the reserves but when I moved jobs that was that.

However, Ipswich during the glory and not so great years, were a true passion and gave me some great memories. Wembley and the FA Cup, so near to the league title and some wonderful matches.

a Town fan

We'd go to Norwich away, easter or Boxing Day, mum would sometimes visit relatives while we braved the barbarian budgies. One memorable derby day I went by boat. I was on holiday with mates on the Norfolk Broads and we rocked up to Norwich the night before the match moored up and then watched the game amongst the home fans.

Going to Ipswich wasn't without problems during the heyday of footie hooliganism. My Essex accent, as I got bigger, meant turnstile staff thought I should be with any group of visiting Londoners.

Living in Essex meant we could easily get to London – in my little bag of treasures I found programmes from visits to Arsenal, Charlton, Crystal Palace and Tottenham among others athough we weren't daft enough to go to Millwall.

The most memorable moments include:

• The FA Cup Semi Finals;

The FA Cup final, of course;
The first leg of the EUFA Cup Final. Couldn't make the second leg so I was very jealous of my dad who jetted over to Amsterdam with plane loads of Ipswich fans to see them lift the trophy;

• Ipswich beating Barcelona 3-0 with Johan doing his patented Cruyff turn right in front of us despite good ole Roger Osborne marking him out of the match. We eventually lost the tie in Spain on penalties;

• A Kevin Beattie freekick from close

Protocol August National August National August National August National August

IPSWICH . F.C. TWENT



to the halfway line floating in over the befuddled Leeds keeper; • Being 3-0

FEATURES & NEWS

down to Malcolm
MacDonald's Newcastle
before beating them 5-4;
Trevor Whymark scoring
four as we thumped West
Brom 7-0;

• Great players such as Colin Viljoen, big Allan Hunter, Beattie, John Wark, Butcher and Osman, Paul Mariner and many more.

Even under Sir Bobby there were crushing disappointments. The thrashing by Nottingham Forest in the Charity Shield comes to mind.

There were moments in the sun after Robson. A wonderful season in the Premiere League under George Burley led *Those Were The Days*, the Ipswich Town fanzine that kept me in touch with Town during exile and before the internet, to temporarily change its name to *These Are The Days*.

So now, when I avoid listening to Radio Suffolk match commentaries and am always fearful looking for their results I try to remember the best days of Bobby Robson and even John Lyall and George Burley and hope

for a brighter days ahead. Mike Ager





■ HELP APPEAL POSTERS: The HELP Appeal, the only charity in the country funding NHS hospital helipads, has produced a series of WW2-inspired posters, to help relieve the pressure on NHS staff and Intensive Care Units around the country. I liked them so much I thought I'd share some with you (there's even one on our front page). Robert Bertram, chief executive of the HELP Appeal wanted to help the NHS in another way during the

pandemic. He said: "We hope to channel the indomitable spirit of the British people during WWII, the inspirational speeches of Winston Churchill and iconic wartime icons such as Rosie the Riveter, to help encourage people to wash their hands, cover their face and stay at home in the fight against Coronavirus. Everyone needs to batten down the hatches for a bit longer to help protect the NHS and

help save lives." NHS hospital helipads have had over 16,500 life-saving landings. If you want to see more or find out about the charity visit https://helpappeal.org.uk/





COVID-19: The situation across Suffolk remains serious with regards to the pandemic. The health service remains under pressure and people are losing their lives so don't be one of those who thinks it is okay to bend the rules.

The police's role in the pandemic will remain as it has been the case in recent months by using the four Es approach - to engage, explain and encourage but we will not hesitate to take enforcement action where necessary. The message is simple – stay as local as possible to where you live. Where people are breaching the regulations and they are away from home without a reasonable excuse, they may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice ticket. This continues to be about collective responsibility and the success of getting through this pandemic is not going to be down to someone else – it is by all of us doing the right thing. The actions of a few are putting everyone at risk.

The light at the end of this long, dark tunnel is of course the vaccine but with it comes the threat of unscrupulous individuals who will look to exploit the vulnerable. The vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. If you receive an email, text or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and are asked to provide financial details, or pay for the vaccine, this is a scam. If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent. hang up. If you are suspicious about an email, send it to report@phishing.gov.uk. If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, report this to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at vwvw.actionfraud.police.uk.

Thank you for your on-going support and I hope you continue to remain safe **T/Supt Simon Mills**

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POLICE NEWS

VEHICLE CRIME:

Police are appealing for vigilance after three incidents of vehicle crime involving vans in North Suffolk.

These have involved; **1)** A black Citroen Berlingo, parked up overnight having its' window smashed with various carpentry tools taken from the vehicle.

2) A Ford transit van

having its' vehicle lock broken although nothing was stolen.

3) A white Ford transit having a window smashed and a search of the glove box, but nothing stolen.

Owners of work vehicles such as vans



are reminded of the following crime prevention advice:

• Remove tools from the van if possible.

• Always lock all doors & shut windows, physically checking doors are locked.

• Always set your alarm/immobiliser and act if you hear the alarm sounding.

 Park in a garage or secure area covered by CCTV where possible.

For more crime reduction tips, see the 'First Principle' page on

the Suffolk Constabulary website at www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/pow ertoolsecurity1.pdf



Simon Green PC 187, Community Engagement Officer, Halesworth Locality, Halesworth Police Station



CHURCH NEWS

SPRING GROWTH: We thank God for the reducing numbers of COVID-19 infections and for the good progress with the vaccination programme. While it is clear we will be living with the effects of coronavirus for some time yet, we have the hope that the disease itself can be kept under control in the longer term and the dreadful toll of deaths and serious illness brought to an end.

This season is always one of hope for Christians, as we trace the story of Jesus Christ's journey to the cross through Lent and Holy Week and his mighty resurrection at Easter. The good news is that God became a human being in order to share and transform our nature and our lives. In Jesus he also shared in our suffering and death, so that as he rose again from the dead, so can we. God is with us as we face all the griefs, anxieties and challenges brought about by the pandemic and with his help we will come through it to new life.

God's faithfulness never changes. In the darkness of winter we already saw the



Revd Eleanor Goodison Associate Priest, Hoxne Benefice 07876 143579 eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

first signs of spring and now the days are lengthening rapidly, the blossom is appearing and the leaves coming out on the trees. Lent is the season of growth (the word actually means spring). Can we make Lent this year a time when we grow as human beings, not in spite of the continuing challenges of COVID-19, but because of the way we respond to it?

Churches are currently permitted to make local decisions about whether to open for services and since mid-February we have been holding some public worship in our churches. There are also a range of services available via Facebook and Zoom – further details in the schedule. We have not set dates for our church annual meetings since these are not yet permitted to take place in church, but we hope restrictions may be eased in time to hold them before the deadline of the end of May..

■ **REPORT ON CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:** Many thanks to all who supported the Virtual Christmas Market. We had a great range of items on offer and people were generous with both purchases and donations. We estimate the Virtual Market raised a total of at least £750 for the seven churches of the Hoxne Benefice.

■ LENT STUDY GROUP ON ZOOM: We will be holding a Lent Study Group on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm on Zoom. The theme will be the Five Marks of Mission and each session will discuss one of the marks of mission in the light of a particular Bible reading. The programme is:

Monday 22nd February TELL: To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom Monday 1st March TEACH: To teach, baptize and nurture new believers Monday 8th March TEND: To respond to human need by loving service Monday 15th March TRANSFORM: To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation Monday 22nd March TREASURE: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

To join in, just let Revd Eleanor know you would like the Zoom link.

CHURCH NEWS

■ BISHOPS' LENT APPEAL FOR KAGERA 2021: Many here are suffering hardship because of the pandemic yet continue to support their communities with love and care. Can we extend that spirit of compassion to our partners on the other side of the world? Churches in Suffolk are linked to the churches in Kagera, northwest Tanzania. It's a poor forgotten area of a poor country, where the majority of people are subsistence farmers and live on less than £1 a day. 1kg of flour costs 80p and a doctor's appointment £3. Yet the people are trying to raise themselves out of poverty and with a little help are doing just that. Here in our churches we've supported Kagera in many ways, through friendship, prayer and finance. Can you help us this year? Many across Suffolk enjoyed the Lent Challenge in our last appeal in 2019 – looking around their own homes and villages, comparing them with homes and villages in Kagera and raising money in the process. There's a new challenge booklet this year with lots of new ideas and information. To find out more about the appeal or get a copy of the booklet, visit www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal or contact kagera@cofesuffolk.org.

■ IF YOU NEED HELP OR JUST WANT TO CHAT, PLEASE CONTACT US:

Revd Eleanor: 07876 143579, eleanor.goodison@gmail.com Revd John: 07876 507288, vj.mccracken@gmail.com Revd Richard: rev.richard.court@icloud.com

ENQUIRIES: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216) or David Spall (384239); Colin Palmer, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628747); Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217).



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CHURCH SERVICES:

Planned church services in March to May (subject to change in the light of government restrictions).

Every Saturday & Sunday: CW Morning Prayer at 8am on facebook.com/WingfieldChurch.

Every Friday: Compline at 6pm on Zoom. For Zoom invitations, please contact Revd Eleanor.

Some services in church are also live streamed or uploaded to Facebook.

Sunday 7th March 3rd Sunday of Lent: 11am Zoom Eucharist; 4pm Messy Church on facebook.com/HoxneMC.

Sunday 14th March Mothering Sunday: 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30am Café Church on Zoom.

Sunday 21st March 5th Sunday of Lent: 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham; 6pm Evensong on Zoom.

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday: 4pm All Age service on Zoom.

Thursday 1st April Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm Stripping of the Altar, Redlingfield.

Friday 2nd April Good Friday: 10am Reflective service, Horham.

Sunday 4th April Easter Day: 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 11am Zoom Eucharist; Messy Church for Easter - to be announced.

Sunday 11th April Second Sunday of Easter: 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Athelington; 9.30am Café Church on Zoom.

Sunday 18th April Third Sunday of Easter: 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham. Sunday 25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter: 4pm All Age service on Zoom. **Sunday 2nd May** Fifth Sunday of Easter: 11am Zoom Eucharist; 4am Messy Church on facebook.com/HoxneMC.

Sunday 9th May Sixth Sunday of Easter: 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30am Café Church on Zoom.

Sunday 16th May Seventh Sunday of Easter: 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham.

Sunday 23rd May Pentecost: 4pm All Age service on Zoom.

Sunday 30th May Trinity Sunday: 11am Benefice Service – details to be announced.

Churches open for private prayer:

Most of our churches are open once a week for private prayer: Horham Sunday 9am-5pm Redlingfield Tuesday 10am-4pm Denham Wednesday 9am-5pm Hoxne Wednesday 9am-5pm Syleham Thursday 10am-2.30pm Wingfield Thursday 2.30pm - 5pm Athelington Church is open on request



COLUMNS DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



HAVING BEEN CONTACTED by a number of parents and schools concerned about the disparity of higher needs education funding here in

Suffolk compared to our neighbouring counties. I have urged the Education Secretary to urgently review Suffolk's funding allocation and to level up education funding for our children and young people.

I share the concerns of parents and schools and I am growing increasingly concerned that without a meaningful injection of cash, many of Suffolk's children risk losing out on their fair share. We already know that Suffolk is facing a substantial increase in the number of children and young people in need of additional support, yet rates for special school places in the county are significantly below those of our neighbours.

Suffolk children and Suffolk schools deserve better and at the very least, a level playing field.

The current funding allocation is not right and nor is it fair and this is why I have written to the Secretary of State setting out the case for Suffolk and requesting that his Department levels up Suffolk's SEND (special educational needs) funding to secure a fairer future for our brilliant children and young people.

Although our schools currently remain closed under the current restrictions, I

have been heartened to hear of the innovative examples of home learning, both from parents and our teachers. That said, home learning cannot take the place of being in class for face-to-face teaching and I remain hopeful that our schools can begin to return in early March.

Ahead of our schools returning, the Government continues to make great progress with the vaccination programme and I am continuing to press the case with the Vaccination Minister and local health leaders to make sure that Suffolk residents are invited to receive their vaccine just as soon as is practicably possible.

As more and more of us receive the vaccine, light is very definitely at the end of the tunnel with many millions of people having being vaccinated across the country. This is a fantastic achievement and my thanks go to all who have been involved in co-ordinating the herculean effort of rolling out the vaccination programme.

We still have some way to go and cannot rest on our laurels, so it remains vital that we all continue to play our part in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. We mustn't drop our guard now when we have come so far and the end goal is in sight.

The single most important action we can all take is to follow the guidance to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

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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