

Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS



**SPRING 2022
Issue No. 56**

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Sadly Redlingfield has lost two villagers since our last mag – good old Suffolk boy Lenny Huggins and relative newcomer Sarah Smith who, whenever her health allowed, brought her wonderful smile and positive outlook to village events. We have also lost Evelyn Adey from Athelington – it's her fault you have this magazine to read four times a

year, pandemics allowing. Way back in 2008 she persuaded me to produce our first issue. She acted as co-editor, advertising chief and deliverer and distribution hub for both Athelington and Horham. Until recently she was still in charge of getting mags to villagers in Athelington and Horham. We'll miss all three.

As I am writing this the winds are howling and torrential rain battering down as we have another named storm after Dudley and Eunice on the way. So far, and I hope I'm not tempting fate we have avoided the worst damage. Our power was off for a few hours and our neighbours Charlie and Laura had a couple of unwelcome visitors – one of our trees and section of fence. Hopefully, with the help of Steve Western's chainsaw, the tree will be sorted before you read this. Charlie and Laura have already re-erected the fence. Travelling into Ipswich the morning after Eunice you could see loads of places where trees had been across the road while others were left at jaunty angles and ready to drop. I hope the weather improves soon.

There's tons going on this year with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee adding to what might be the first full year of events since the pandemic started. As well as village events there's The Festival of Suffolk, between May and October, offering a whole series of fantastic events and activities. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend, from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June, should see special events throughout the country. In Suffolk, The Suffolk Show is back on Tuesday 31st May and Wednesday 1st June. On Tuesday 21st June it's Suffolk Day (and the Summer Solstice) and there's St Edmund's Day on Sunday 20th November.

Mike Ager

Many thanks to Neville Butcher for his wonderful front-page picture and to Rev Richard Court and Midge Gibbons for proofreading the magazine.

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editor:

Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

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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**Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News was founded in 2008
by Evelyn Adey and Mike Ager.**

Hoping that owls will have breeding success

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

IN THE RUN UP TO XMAS, our three main owls, tawny, little and barn owls were all seen and heard on the farm, the last two being described by the wonderful adjective crepuscular, a zoological term meaning that they are active at both dawn and dusk.

This mild winter gives hope that owls will be in good weight for the forthcoming breeding season but with one proviso ... that the shockingly cold month of April 2021 is not repeated this year. It caused a setback for many species and the owls in particular.

This winter we have had the task of relocating a barn owl box, a move which due to some new building work on the farm, was requested by the council's ecology report. This required a good mucking out of ten years of breeding debris, owl pellets, old infertile eggs, dried egg-shells and skeletons of long-consumed prey. The box was half-full and included the best find, the skeleton of a barn owl itself with a numbered ring on its leg.

If you want to dig deeper about the number, it is very easy to don your Sherlock Holmes hat with bird-ringing because that determined band of bird-

lovers are extremely disciplined record keepers.

A call to Chris McIntyre of Thorndon, who has ringed numerous young owls here, soon revealed that the owl had hatched in Will's box at



Well, it is over 66 million years old and is an amazing link between dinosaurs and chickens today.

ONE OF THE appeals of the North Norfolk coast is how little it has changed over time compared with other coastal areas of England. This was largely due to the pre-eminence of landed estates which wanted to mimic Sandringham and



The handsome fallow bucks of Helmingham Park.

Kiln Farm in 2017, only a mile away and must have succumbed whilst roosting, unable to feed itself during one of our recent cold winter snaps ... or perhaps there could have been a more suspicious ending. Barn owls are known to turn on their fellows if food is scarce or territory is contested. The expression which says Nature is raw in Tooth and Claw applies to many species and owls especially are well-armed birds of prey.

On the same day, I read about the discovery in China of a fossilised embryo of a dinosaur egg, perfectly preserved on the point of hatching, just like a chicken. The fossil showed the embryo in the curled position in the egg which is behaviour seen in all birds as they start to peck their way out. What's so special about that?

was made possible by the Enclosure Act.

Nearer to hand, Helmingham Hall is criss-crossed with many footpaths and a blue-sky walk on February 12th enabled us to see the deer herds in close proximity.

Both red and fallow deer are numerous, red being native to this country whereas fallow deer were introduced to England from the continent in Norman times. They are an elegant medium-sized deer with a typically spotted coat and the stags have broad palmate antlers. These have a shape similar to that of a hand with the fingers extended. They have always provided a plentiful supply of venison to the estates as well as being a status symbol.

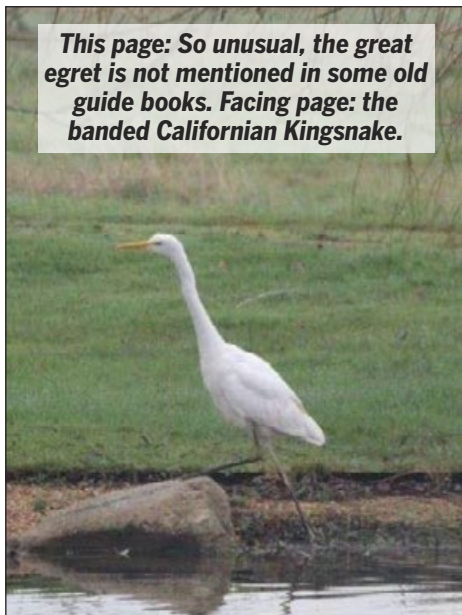
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ALERTED BY A WALKER

carrying a giant lens who had seen a perched short-eared owl, my coastal walk in October became memorable. By the time I got there, it was high in the sky being mobbed by a crow and

This page: So unusual, the great egret is not mentioned in some old guide books. Facing page: the banded Californian Kingsnake.



making a grand display due to its size. This is an owl with a metre wingspan and what struck me was its small white face and small yellow eyes.

A rare sight for me, this lover of open country, marshes and moorland will certainly suffer if pillow-talking Carrie Symonds gets her way and Britain's moorland gets 30% covered in woodland with the result that grassland is shaded out.

A REPEAT OF THE COVE HITHE to Benacre walk in a howling gale got me by chance within 10 yards of another bird of prey, two kestrels displaying brilliantly on the cliff edge just above my head. With quivering wings and the tail acting as a rudder, they were able to keep their heads stationary, despite the wind, in order to locate their prey below.

THIS MILD WINTER SO FAR leaves our crops of wheat, barley, oilseed rape and beans looking good as we head into spring, bringing to mind



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the old expression “well sown is half grown”.

The drilling season produced a big surprise for Drew and me on a Rookery field by Hundred Lane where we disturbed a most unusual snake. It wriggled away from my first tractor pass and was obviously not an adder or grass snake.

Hissing at me as I craned forward with my phone camera, I was relieved to learn later it was a banded Californian Kingsnake and being non-venomous, one of the most common snakes kept as pets.

It was an escapee from Harvey Brice in 2020 and had obviously fed well on rats and rabbits as it had grown to double its then two and a half feet length. Sorry but its fate was sealed when it went through the three sets of discs on the cultivator drill. (Drew wasn't sorry as he hates snakes.)

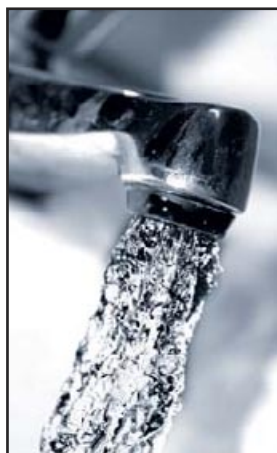
I WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE a photo from Oli Knowland of a Great



Egret which visited Grove Farm last month. Quite a rarity for the UK and first seen in 2000, it started breeding in 2012 but is still known as a vagrant, that is a rare visitor out of its normal range. A good spot, Mr Knowland!

Trevor Edwards

■ **LITTLE OWL QUIZ:** Trevor unearthed a quiz for youngsters about little owls which we have printed on page 31.



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FEATURES & NEWS

Henry &

HELLO EVERYONE!
We have been really busy this winter! We collected a special pack of 100 trees from The Woodland Trust and have really enjoyed planting them around the garden. It is a lovely mixture for wildlife; Crab Apple, Hornbeam, Downy Birch, Wild Cherry and English Oak. Our other oak trees are doing well in their pots and we are looking forward to seeing them come in to leaf.

■ **SUNRISE:** The boys watched the sunrise one December morning and saw a Chinese water deer and two roe deer. They were overwhelmed by the colours of the sky and Henry drew this picture when he came back and had warmed up!



■ **BIRDLIFE:** Henry's pictures of a Redwing and Fieldfare and, below, Lapwings.



WE TOOK PART IN the Big Garden Birdwatch in January which we always enjoy doing. We've also loved watching the Fieldfare and Redwing which really rely on our hedgerow fruit before they migrate back to Scandinavia to breed. The field behind us has also had huge flocks of Lapwing this winter. When they fly together it is quite an amazing sight!

WE'VE NOTICED THAT the garden birds are changing their behaviour ready for breeding. They are all pairing up and inspecting the nest boxes!

Thank you and we hope you enjoy watching your local wildlife as much as we do!
From Henry & Arthur.

Arthur spring into action



■ THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST SPRING FLOWERS; THE DANDELION.

When the bees, hover flies, butterflies and beetles emerge from hibernation, there are not many sources of food for them. One of the most important and early spring flowers is the Dandelion. Each flower consists of up to 100 florets, each one packed with nectar and pollen, which is a lifesaver for pollinators in early spring. The seeds of the

Dandelion are really important too; providing food for Goldfinches, Bullfinches and House Sparrows. The Dandelion is so important and yet it is called a 'weed' by many people. Before you cut the lawn for the first time this Spring, please consider our early pollinators and their need for food. Perhaps you could wait two more weeks before cutting, or set the lawnmower a bit higher so that you can enjoy watching what wildlife these amazing flowers attract and provide food for. If you leave the lawn a little bit higher for the summer to let the clover grow, you will help the bees so much more! **From Henry & Arthur.**

■ **JUST A TREE:** Thank you to everyone that enjoyed reading my poem, Just a Tree. I am delighted to say that I came second in the competition and my poem is published on the Tree Council website. **From Henry.**

■ **NEW INSPECTOR:** Police Locality Inspector, Mark Jackson, has moved from Halesworth to take over the corresponding role in Lowestoft. Inspector Jackson would like to thank all Town & Parish Clerks and the councils they represent for their support during the time he was at Halesworth and for your engagement with local Police ensuring we are updated of policing matters amongst your communities. The role at Halesworth has been assumed by Inspector Aaron Connolly.

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

■ **FREE PUBLICITY:** Have you got a charity or not-for-profit event being held this year? If so Park Radio would like you to forward a flyer/poster to actionline@parkradio.co.uk and they will promote your event on-air free of charge. If you feel that you would like to get more involved with the radio station as a volunteer please contact them on studio@parkradio.co.uk. Park Radio is a local station for Diss, Harleston, Eye and surrounding villages in the Waveney Valley. Park Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day. You can hear them on 107.6 FM in the Diss and Eye areas.

Rare bumblebee found in

ANY OF YOU who know me know that my front garden is kept for nature with wildflowers blooming during the spring and summer months.

In the last three years the number of pollinators using my front garden has increased greatly. I have also created the nesting habitats around the garden which includes bare patches of earth, bee hotels and standing deadwood trunks drilled with holes of various diameters. The wildflowers are a variety of vetch, clover, birds-foot trefoil, knapweeds, cat's-ear and hawkbits

along with many others.

Like I say, the garden is visited regularly by many insects including several species of bumblebees. These include Garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*), Red-tailed bumblebee (*B. lapidarius*), Buff-tailed bumblebee (*B. terrestris*), which was also nesting in my shed, Tree bumblebee (*B. hypnorum*), Common carder bumblebee (*B. pascuorum*), Early bumblebee (*B. pratorum*) and something completely unexpected.

Every now and then I would see a completely black bumblebee visiting

the vetch that was quite prominent this year in my garden.

Garden bumblebees can quite often produce all black varieties, these are known as *Bombus hortorum form perniger*, and a quick sweep with the net and a look under the hand-lens, confirmed that was the case.

However, I kept an eye on these black bumblebees as the summer progressed, as there is another species to keep a look out for, *B. ruderatus*, the Ruderal Bumblebee.

This is a similar species to the Garden Bumblebee, it even has a long tongue, which is an identifying feature of the

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Garden bumblebee. This long tongue allows the bee to retrieve nectar from flowers such as honeysuckle and comfrey.

However, some bees such as the Buff-tailed bumblebee have learned a trick that also allows them to get at the important nectar. They have learned to nibble a hole at the base of the flower so they can just poke their tongue inside and get to the nectar. This is not beneficial for the plant however as no pollen is collected in the transaction between bee and flower. Another tell-tale sign that the bee is *B. ruderatus* is its ginger beard, a row of golden hair tufts that run along its mandibles.

This is just one of the many wonderful finds I have had in my garden since I “re-wilded” it and I’m sure there is many more in store. Nature is suffering at the moment and it is down to us to help it, especially when we live in such rural spaces.

Why not re-wild a part of your garden and give nature a hand.

Hawk Honey



Top: Buff-tailed bumblebee robbing nectar from Comfrey through a hole nipped in the flower. **Middle:** Garden bumblebee form perniger feeding on Vetch. **Bottom:** Ruderal bumblebee form perniger exiting bind-weed flower. Note the ginger hairs on the mandibles.

Leafless trees reveal their

FALLEN LEAVES in yellows, reds and browns are dusted with crisp frost on cold mornings – ponds with a thin covering of ice. Bathed in low sunshine, the beautiful sleeping winter woodland is a peaceful and restorative place to visit.

Up in the canopy at Pound Lane Wood it is now easy to see the squirrel drey. These look like a messy clump of

twigs, moss, grass and leaves built close to the trunk or in the fork of branch for support. Bird nests often tend to be closer to the top of the tree, or further out along the branches.

Leafless trees are now hibernating, which is the ideal time to appreciate and admire their form and ‘architecture’ – while bare branches stand out against the winter skies. Leaf-fall clearly reveals all the different ways

trees grow; oak branches corkscrewing in twists and turns or ash with a more slender form and drooping branch ends.

Without their leaves to help, spotting different tree species at this time of year can be hard if you’re not familiar with their characteristic shapes or branch form. Even the experts can struggle to differentiate between them, especially with young specimens! Trees can

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still be identified in winter though by closely studying other features such as thorns, buds, catkins, bark and even fallen leaves ... although be careful where lots of different trees are growing together. A good guide to these can be found on Treeguide.co.uk.

As leafless trees pause moisture transpiration, the ground around them quickly becomes muddy and saturated; mature trees 'pump' hundreds of litres of water a day from the soil but in winter all that is left to lie. But now the days are starting to lengthen again and signs of spring are appearing. Already, the swelling hazel catkins show that nature is quietly stirring again.

We hope that in 2022 we will be able to enjoy events and meetings at the woods once more.

In the meantime, if you are interested in joining us and getting hands on experience of helping improve our local environment and enjoying outdoor activity, please contact New Reeding Woods Group secretary *Peny* Conway on 07495 875299.

Peny Conway



Celebrating the Jubilee

REDLINGFIELD DOESN'T believe that being small should hold us back. So we have organised more than a dozen Festival of Suffolk & Jubilee events for people to enjoy on the Doorstep Green, including a "Jubilee Tea on the Green" in June and Jubilee themed "Summer Fayre & Hog Roast" in July – along with eye-catching activities, like the five brave people doing a sponsored "Pedal to the Palace" in July and, hopefully, a "Jubilee Jump and Jive" 40s/50s dance in autumn along with an "Auction of Promises" later in the year.

Redlingfield will also have all its usual events, the ever-popular Dog Show in June, the Produce Show in September and a Royalty-themed Scarecrow Walk in October, as well as

its monthly pop-up-pub on the Doorstep Green throughout the summer, including a Jubilee-themed one in June.



Redlingfield is raising money to create a lasting impact: along with planting some 600 Queens Canopy trees, ten for every household, we will be saving and updating our medieval church, currently on the Heritage at Risk register, setting up a permanent Jubilee Fund to help village youngsters starting college or their first job and repairing and improving facilities on the Doorstep Green to provide better access and more facilities for older and younger children as well as making it and the village much more wildlife friendly.

**Janet Norman-Philips (01379 678835
pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk)**

REDLINGFIELD EVENTS 2022

- Wednesday 2 March **Coffee Morning**, church, 10am-12 noon
- Tuesday 29 March **Churchyard Clear-up**, 6pm
- Saturday 2 April **Litter Pick/Rubbish Ramble**, gather at the Knoll, 10am
- Saturday-Sunday 2-3 April **Church Windows – theme hobbies**, 11am-3pm
- Wednesday 27 April **Doorstep Green Tidy - Evening**, 6pm-8pm
- Saturday 30 April & Sunday 1 May **Doorstep Green Tidy - Weekend**, 10am-6pm
- Saturday 7 May **Pub on the Green**, 6pm-midnight
- Tuesday 10 May **Redlingfield PCC AGM**, (all welcome) church, 7.30pm
- Wednesday 18 May **Village Meeting AGM**, Horham community centre, 8pm
- Saturday 4 June **Jubilee Pub on the Green**, 3pm-midnight
- Sunday 5 June **Jubilee Tea on the Green**, Doorstep Green, BYOB
- Sunday 12 June **Redlingfield Annual Dog Show**, Doorstep Green, 9.30am start
- Saturday-Sunday 2-3 July **Redlingfield PCC Pedal to the Palace** fundraiser, Redlingfield-London
- Saturday 9 July **Jubilee Fayre & Hog Roast**, Doorstep Green, 3pm-midnight

■ **THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY:** This project aims to plant thousands of trees across the UK, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also to help wildlife, reduce carbon emissions and soil erosion as well as create pocket woods and wildlife corridors and refuges (ie hedges).

Here in Suffolk, supported by the Woodland Trust and the Suffolk Tree Wardens Network, we have been able to provide free trees to create these new mini woods, copses and hedging.

The trees are all native and have been grown in the UK. This is important as many of the really nasty plant diseases, such as Dutch Elm, Ash Die-Back and Sudden Oak Death have been imported in to the UK over the last few years on foreign grown plants.

We have opted for a mix of trees — so as to provide food and shelter for wildlife and year-round colour, including: English oak, silver birch, hawthorn, dogwood, wild cherry, rowan, hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, elder, dog rose, downy birch and goat willow.



THE
**QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY**

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Unfortunately they are not really suitable for small gardens, though the dogwoods are big bushes rather than trees and look good year-round, while elders and rowans are fairly small trees so could fit in gardens.

Locals with land were asked if they would like to get involved and were offered groups of 50 trees or more. Seven have volunteered to create new woods and hedging on their land. So far 150 trees have been planted and by the end of 2022 we plan to have 600 planted in and around the village — 10 trees for every household.

We will also be planting some on the Doorstep Green — in corners and to replace the missing hedging along Church Road. They are easy to plant as they are so small, you just make a slit with a spade, pop the whip in and then the support cane and spiral protector and give it a good water.

If you know anyone who would like some trees or to help with planting let me know.

Janet Norman-Philips 01379 678835
(Redlingfield 's Tree Warden)

■ Saturday 30 July **Pub on the Green**, 6pm-midnight

■ Saturday 27 August **Pub on the Green**,

■ Sunday 4 September **Redlingfield Annual Produce Show**, Doorstep Green, 10am start

■ Saturday 17 September **Pub on the Green**, 6pm-midnight

■ Sunday 2 October **Jubilee Scarecrow Walk - theme Historic Royals**, Church/Doorstep Green, 11am-4pm

■ Saturday 29 October **Pub on the Green** 6pm-midnight

■ Friday 11 November **Armistice Day - annual wreath-laying**, B-17 Memorial, 11am

■ Sunday 13 November **Remembrance Sunday service & wreath-laying**, church, 10.45am

■ Saturday 19 November **Anniversary of B-17 Crash - service & wreath-laying**, B-17 Memorial, 8.30am-9am

■ Saturday-Sunday 3-4 December **Church Windows - theme to be decided**, church, 11am-3pm

■ Wednesday 8 February 2023 **Village Committee Meeting**, 8pm, venue TBC

TBC **Jubilee Jump & Jive Dance and Jubilee Auction of Promises**

The Coffee Caravan will be in Redlingfield on the first Wednesday of the month from April to October 10am-12 noon on the village triangle

'Singular' event as church choir goes on first outing

This newspaper report appeared in the *Ipswich Journal* 20th July 1895.

Unearthed by **Linda Hudson.**

'REDLINGFIELD : CHOIR OUTING'

“ *The Redlingfield Church choir were taken for a trip to Yarmouth on Thursday. This, singular to say, is believed to be the first time that an event of the kind has taken place in the history of Redlingfield, and it was entirely due to the efforts of Mr. R.H Rump, of Eye, who has for several months past taken an interest in the choir, that the excursion took place. The party – a small one, of course – were astir and on the road for Eye betimes on Thursday morning, and, having reached the ancient borough, the happy day was commenced by the*

party being entertained at breakfast by Mr. and Mrs. Rump at their residence, “The Beeches”. Afterwards they were conveyed, accompanied by Mr. Rump, in one of Mr. William Bullock’s brakes to Harleston station, where they took train for Yarmouth, the “Peoples playground by the sea” being reached shortly after ten o’clock. Here a long and enjoyable time was spent in various ways. Amongst those who subscribed towards the expenses of the trip were Sir Hugh Adair, the Rev. A.J. Spencer, Mr. David Reeve, J.P., Mr. Rump, and several others. **”**

According to an earlier report in the *Diss Express*, Robert Rump was conducting services as a Lay Reader at Redlingfield Church in the absence of the Vicar of Eye and had been attracting “large and appreciative congregations”.

On the census for 1891 and 1901 he is described as a bank cashier living at Beech Grove, Castle Street, Eye.



Great Yarmouth beach circa 1895.

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■ **A BIG THANK YOU:** My parents and myself moved to The Knoll in Redlingfield in 1969, where I have lived happily ever since.

My life changed however in December 2017, when my mother died suddenly at home, leaving me alone and facing the prospect of having to leave home and the village I love. I had the absolute privilege of being my mother's carer for the last 10 years of her life.

What has happened since however shows why Redlingfield is such a great place to live.

Due to the help of many people, I was able to remain in my home, near many friends and family, and to get the financial security I needed. I have since been overwhelmed by the help and

generosity of so many people, from lifts to appointments and for shopping, regular gifts of cakes to eat and the provision of a hamper and food for Christmas. Then last year I was given the amazing gift of a new bicycle to keep me mobile. I want to thank all those who have shown me so much love and generosity. I appreciate it more than you will ever know.

The love of friends and family is so much more valuable to me than the material things I don't have. I hope, if God allows, to spend the rest of my life here, in the home and village I live amongst such friendly, caring people. This all shows what a great place Redlingfield is, and I am proud to call it my home.

Phillip Leeder

■ **PLANNING: AWAITING DECISION:** plan to install 50kW PV installation of 148 solar panels limited to 46kW export split evenly across two phases to provide power to six log cabins on land at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington, IP21 5EJ** (No: DC/21/06010); plan to change of use of land to campsite (two camping pods & four bell tents) & to erect a building for use as machinery store/workshop & camping facilities at **Horham Dairy and Care Farm, Stradbroke Road, Horham, IP21 5DZ** (No: DC/21/06403); application for outline permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for the erection of two dwellings with access on **land north of The Street, Horham** (No: DC/21/03609).

GRANTED: plan for change of use of agricultural land, erection of barn with shower block, four log cabins, four fitness pods, three wellbeing pods & conversion of four grain silo cabins to provide wellbeing centre & glamping site with new vehicular access, natural swimming pool & ground level solar panels at **Wash Farm, Church Road, Redlingfield** (No: DC/21/04609); plan to erect single-storey rear extension & two-bay cartlodge & workshop (following demolition of garage) & erection of *brise soleil* to rear, new fenestration, airsource heat pump & decking to rear garden at **Littlecroft, The Street, Horham, IP21 5DX** (No: DC/21/06406); plan to erect seven dwellings & new vehicular access & allow the layout & landscaping to be considered at Reserved Matters Stage on land **south-east Of Dragon House, Worlingworth Road, Horham**, (No: DC/21/06749).

WITHDRAWN: plan to convert & renovate redundant forge for use as a holiday let, & provision of parking at **The Forge, Church Road, Redlingfield** (No: DC/21/05978).

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



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Suffolk, IP23 7AG

**We hope to see
you soon!**

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Thursday	11am-8pm
Friday	9am-6pm
Saturday	8am-3pm

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Bangers 'n' mash reunion

From the The Norfolk & Suffolk Journal, November 22nd 1985

Thanks to Robert Chambers and Alan Johnson.

“Bangers and mash in blackout conditions were on the menu at Horham and Athelington community centre on Saturday.

Villagers were staging a reunion of the Home Guard's celebration supper to mark the end of the Second World War, and the food was just the same as 40 years ago, with apple pie and custard for afters!

David Johnson of the villages' Community Council thought up the idea after recalling the first get-together when he was just a lad, and 12 members of the original Home Guard were the star

guests, as the Army Catering Corps cooked in their field kitchen.

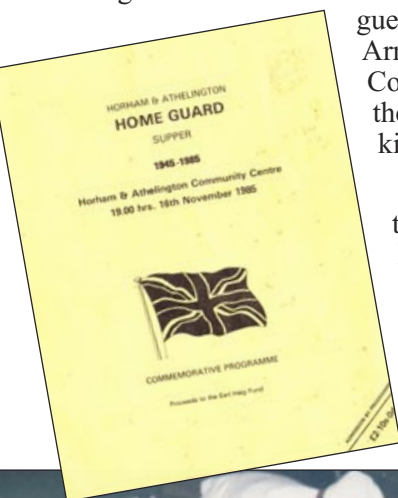
Flags, uniforms, tin hats, gas masks and ration books, with other wartime memorabilia, decorated the hall and after the meal there was a sing song with Mr David Webb leading the company in all the old favourites.

The meal had one unexpected interruption, when an irate air warden burst in to complain they were “showing a light.” But it was all in good fun and the guests continued to tuck in.

Guest speakers were Col. R. A. Simpson O.B.E., a retired cavalry officer, and Mr James Johnson an American who was stationed at Horham with the 95th Bomb Group.

Mr Bill Baldwin thanked the organisers, especially Mr David Johnson, for working so hard to preserve the memories of wartime. ”

Admission was £2-10s-0d by programme with proceeds to the Earl Haig Fund – a charity set up in 1921 by Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig. In response to the poem In Flanders Field by John McCrae, Moina Michael started selling silk poppies in 1918 to raise funds for ex-servicemen. The ‘Disabled Society’ was started in 1920 for disabled ex-servicemen and to raise funds for it, Anna Guérin organised the production and sale of silk poppies. In 1921 Guérin persuaded Haig to adopt the





Horham & Athelington Home Guard 17th December 194

Oscar Reeve, Arthur Hawes, Lennie Baldwin, Jack Warne, John Hawes, Ernie Elliston, Ted Johnson, Fred Botwright, Harry Borrett, Russell Whatling, Bob Reeve, Albert Smith, Joe Baldwin, Bob Baldry, David Mayhew, Teddy Chambers, Lennie Harvey, Fred Chambers, Col. Rolfe, Capt. Taylor, Albert Borrett, 'Weary' Whatling. These further men were also members of The Home Guard, some of which were later called up. Albert Harvey, Charlie Harvey, George Farrow, Clifford Hawes, Tom Hambling, Fred Hambling, Harry Whatling, Tom Driver, Frank Lister, Freddy Harvey, Norton Whatling, Harry Holmes, Will Baldwin, Nelson Poll, Sidney Chapman, Henry Chapman, George Chapman, Herbert Chapman, Ed Chapman, John Stygall, 'Sonny' Archer, Reggie Chapman & Lennie Warne.

poppy as the symbol of the Royal British Legion, however demand exceeded supply. In 1922 George Howson pledged that the disabled society could provide the poppies, which under the name of 'The Poppy Factory' they continue to do so. On 1st January 1994 the words on the central black button were changed from 'Haig Fund' to 'Poppy Appeal'. The Haig Fund continues to support veterans from all conflicts and other military actions involving British Armed Forces up to the present day.

WHAT THEY SUNG:

*It's A Long, Long Way
To Tipperary
If You Were The
Only Girl.
Pack Up Your
Troubles
Don't Dilly Dally On
The Way
Bless 'em All
Waiting At The
Church
I Wonder Who's
Kissing Her Now
She Was One Of The
Early Birds
In The Shade Of The
Old Apple Tree
Bye, Bye, Blackbird
Keep The Home Fires
Burning
Two Little Girls In
Blue
Daisy Bell
We'll Meet Again*

The committee thanked all who contributed and donated to the event, especially Major C. Humphreys of The Army Catering Corps.



WHAT'S ON

Wednesday 2 March

Coffee Morning: St Andrews church, Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Redlingfield and Occold WI Members

Evening: Occold Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Friday 4 March

Open Space Theatre Co presents The Bear by Anton Chekhov: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £12.

Saturday 5 March

Guitar Guitar Guitar: The Bank, Eye, an evening of guitar and musical chat.

Saturday 12 March

Spring Floral Event: Bedfield & Monk Soham Community Hub, 11am-2pm. £5 entry includes raffle. .

Peter Knight and John Spiers Album

Launch Tour: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £18.

Thursday 17 March

Stradbroke Cinema: The French Dispatch (15).

Saturday 19 March

Border Collective Craft Fair: Eye Town Hall, 10am-3pm.

Tuesday 22 March

East Anglian Traditional Music Café: Stradbroke CC, 2-4pm. EATMT hosts a pop up free event. Book free place via Eventbrite (info@eatmt.org.uk or 07495 054669).

Saturday 26 March

My Life As A Bluebell Girl: The Bank, Eye, 7.30 pm. Jane Hoggar describes her travels around the globe during the 80s. £10.

Tuesday 29 March

Church Yard Clear-up: St Andrews church, Redlingfield, 6pm.

Saturday 2 April

Village Litter Pick Rubbish Ramble: gather at the Knoll, Redlingfield, 10am.

Saturday & Sunday 2-3 April

Church Windows: St Andrews church, Redlingfield, 11am-3pm, theme is "hobbies".

Roughcast Theatre Company presents Macbeth: Wingfield Barns, 2022, 7.30pm. £12/£6 (full time students).

Wednesday 6 April

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.
Redlingfield and Occold WI Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue: Occold Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday 16 April

Tim O'Shea and Friends with support from Christina Alden and Alex Patterson: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £18.

Thursday 21 April 2022

Stradbroke Cinema: Spencer (12A).

Saturday 23 April

Dance: Red Feather Club Museum.
Made2Measure Theatre Co - 12 Angry (Wo)men: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £10.

Saturday & Sunday 23 & 24 April

The East Anglian Game Fair: Euston Estate, Thetford.

Sunday 24 April

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.
Concert of Baroque Music: Wingfield Church, 5pm. £10 on door, drinks & nibbles.
The Wind In The Willow: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £12.

Wednesday 27 April

Doorstep Green Tidy: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 6pm-8pm.

-
- **The Arts Bank Eye** www.thebankeye.org ● **Helmingham Hall Gardens** www.helmingham.com
 - **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway** www.mslr.org.uk ● **Redlingfield** www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk
 - **Stonham Barns** www.stonhambarns.co.uk ● **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary** www.owl-help.org.uk
 - **Stradbroke Cinema** Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm.
 - **Wingfield Barns** www.wingfieldbarns.com tickets via www.wegotickets.com

Saturday & Sunday 30 April & 1 May

Doorstep Green Tidy: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 10am-6pm.

Wednesday 4 May

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Redlingfield and Occold WI Resolutions: Occold Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday 7 May

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

Jacob & Drinkwater: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £12.

Monday 9 May

Worlingworth Local History Group:

Worlingworth Community centre, 7.30pm.
Georgette Vale - Miss Reeve's Own Battle.
The story of the wartime eviction of 800 people to make way for the battleground training area in the heart of Norfolk.

Tuesday 10 May

Redlingfield PCC [Parochial Church Council] AGM: St Andrews church, 7.30pm, all are welcome.

Wednesday 18 May

Redlingfield Village Meeting AGM: Horham CC, 8pm.

Saturday 21 May

Martin Simpson and Andy Cutting: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £20.

Sunday 29 May

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market: Helmingham Hall.

Tuesday 31 May & Wednesday 1 June

Suffolk Show: Trinity Park.

Wednesday 1 June

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Redlingfield and Occold WI outing to Sutton Hoo.

Thurs 2-Sun 5 June

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend

Thursday 2 June

Jubilee celebration and beacon lighting: Eye Town/castle, evening.

Saturday 4 June

Jubilee Celebration: Horham, 50s, theme - rally, memorabilia, picnic, BBQ, games.

Jubilee Pub on the Green: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 3pm-midnight.

Sunday 5 June

Jubilee Tea on the Green: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, afternoon, BYOB (no bar).

Sunday 12 June

Redlingfield Annual Dog Show: Doorstep Green 9.30am start.

Sunday 19 June

Music in the Gardens with Jax & Co:

Helmingham Hall, open from 11am, bar etc from 3.30pm, music 4.30pm.

Tuesday 21 June

Suffolk Day 2022 & Summer Solstice.

Saturday 25 June

Dance: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sunday 26 June

Americana Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Saturday & Sunday July 2 & 3

Pedal to the Palace: Redlingfield PCC fundraiser Redlingfield-Buckingham Palace, all day both days.

Heveningham Hall Country Fair and Concours.

Wednesday 6 July

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Thursday-Sunday 7-10 July

Country Music Festival: Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre.

Saturday 9 July

Jubilee Summer Fayre & Hog Roast:

Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 3pm-midnight.

Saturday 16 July

Framlingham Gala Fest.



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FEATURES & NEWS

Old School is looking forward to spring

The tables in The Old School have been adorned with snowdrops; spring is coming and soon (we hope!) we will be able to make use of the garden tables again. Though we look forward to warmer days it really has been lovely to meet with old friends during the winter in the cosy atmosphere of the bar, and to gather around a warm fire to chat and drink coffee or something stronger!

Bernard received a warm welcome when he returned from a stay in hospital; it will be good to see him behind the bar again. A big welcome and many thanks go to Ronda and Andy who stepped in to keep the bar





Ronda, Bernard and Andy behind the bar. Below left: A busy coffee morning.

open in Bernard's absence and, of course, kept the smiles on customers' faces! They have many good ideas for the future of The Old School.

Plans are being made to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, keep an eye on our Facebook Page for more details.

A reminder that our library of books is available for you to peruse, and borrow from, on Wednesdays, during the coffee morning, 10.30 am to Noon. Use the opportunity to have a coffee and some lovely homemade cake

while you choose your next read!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the coffee morning, either to make a cake or two, or help to serve and tidy up, please come down and chat with Pip.

The coffee morning is every Wednesday morning from 10.30 to Noon and the Bar is open every Sunday afternoon from 12 noon onwards.

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Pizza bar visiting Horham

IT'S VERY GOOD TO SEE THE Horham Community Centre Bar open on Wednesday and Friday nights from 8pm.

Every two weeks on a Wednesday Emma and The Suffolk Wild Flour Pizza Bar (pictured) will be in our car park from 6pm onwards – please pre book on 07921 512052.

Hav's Friday Fish and Chips and Angela's Bar Meals have resumed and there is promise of Saturday Open Mic Nights – so brush up on your talents

and we look forward to some good home-grown entertainment.

Fish and Chip and Bar Meal numbers are still limited.

Also, if you fancy an outdoor game try Petanque! Details of all of the above are on the Horham Post Office notice board, or better still come in and see us.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Thursday 2nd to

Sunday 5th June will give us a great opportunity to get together, meeting friends old and new.



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Our Jubilee Celebration will be on Saturday 4th with a 50s, theme – rally, memorabilia, picnic, BBQ, games.

The Jubilee celebrations' organising meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd March at 7.30pm in Horham Community Centre.

Please can owners of our doggie friends remember to clear up after their pooches – we are extremely fortunate to own such a wonderful green space and we must keep it that way for everyone.

The AGM of the 2020/2021 Horham Village Hall Trust and the Community Council is on Wednesday 9th March starting at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Margaret Streeter
(Secretary Horham Village Hall Trust)

Rates for advertising in four issues distributed to approx 300 homes and businesses in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:

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

1/6 page £12 (60mm, 60mm)

1/3 page £23.50 (60mm, 125mm)

1/4 page £17.50 (90mm, 60mm)

1/2 page £35 (90mm, 125mm)

A whole page £70 (180mm, 125mm)

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

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



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DR EVELYN ADEY 19th October 1935-22nd January 2022:

Evelyn grew up during the Second World War and spent part of her childhood in New York. She studied medicine at Edinburgh University and trained in the London Hospital in the 1950s. Evelyn worked in child health, family planning and as a GP for several decades. She worked for a GP practice in Camden in the late 60s/early 70s thinking nothing of conducting several house calls after each surgery and being on call in the night.

Evelyn designed her garden in Athelington in a way that blended human and nature together. Every summer she filled giant beds with new and different amazing plants and flowers as well as lifelong favourites such as the flowering red currant, forsythia, irises and roses. Later in life as grandchildren came along, she enjoyed sharing her love of books and the garden plants and birds.

Evelyn's active support for refugees continued throughout her life and even in her 80s she was in touch with the Ipswich Refugee centre offering support. Evelyn actively supported the Liberal Democrats and became a local councillor in what was traditionally a

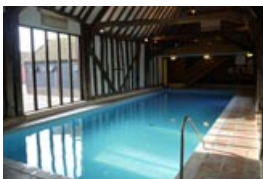
very safe Tory ward. She also started this village magazine which went on to win awards and which she hand-delivered around Athelington and Horham.

Evelyn's firmly held belief in God never wavered. Wherever Evelyn lived she was always an active member of the church community. For a long time, she was treasurer at Athelington and also took great pleasure in providing flowers from her garden and arranging them in the church.

Evelyn is very much missed by all her family.

Harriet, Sebastian and Caroline.

A much loved mum to Harriet, Sebastian and Caroline, Evelyn is very sadly missed by all of her family and friends. Donations to Amnesty International or Suffolk Wildlife Trust, via Farthing Funeral Service, 650 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW or online www.farthingfunerals.co.uk



Wash Farm Barn Swimming Pool

The Swimming Pool is looking for a once-a-week evening help with cleaning and water management. Anybody interested please contact Trevor or Will Edwards on 01379 678252.

■ REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE COMMITTEE

MEETING: The dates for events for 2022 were agreed at the open Zoom meeting on Wednesday 9th February (see story this issue and what's on). The full minutes are available online and on the village notice board. It was agreed to set up a Jubilee Fund for young villagers starting work/college (similar to Eye Grammar School Fund which covers Eye, Athelington, Bedfield and Horham) if funding could be found. It was also agreed to buy Queen's Platinum Jubilee mugs for village youngsters. Current Village Committee Members are: Andrew Abbott, Katie Abbott, Graham Abbott, Sue Chapman, Allan Chapman, Helen Cook, Will Edwards, Emma Hewitt, Pat Kelly, Manday Miller, Lesley Rose Freitas, Adrian Smith and Will Kerry, who is a part-time member. Ian Winter CBE has resigned from the committee due to other commitments but will still co-ordinate the rubbish ramble and continue to co-ordinate the defibrillator activity, on behalf of the Parish Meeting. **Mike Ager**

■ **THE AMERICANS ARE COMING:** Not only has the Red Feather Club got a packed calendar of events (see what's on and the story in our last issue) but it is also getting ready to welcome back four prestigious *Masters of the Air* tours from the US. Run by The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, all visits include historian and best-selling author Donald L. Miller, PhD, whose book *Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought The Air War Against Nazi Germany* is the inspiration for the tour and is the primary source for Apple TV's upcoming miniseries *Masters of the Air*. **Mike Ager**



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■ **OPEN STUDIOS:** Local artists Rosemary Elliott and Chris Mound will be opening their studios to visitors over two weekends in May as part of the Harleston & Waveney Art Trail: 10am-5pm on Saturday 21st, Sunday 22nd, Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May. Rosemary will be exhibiting recent landscape and wildlife paintings in her studio set in a landscaped garden overlooking farmland in Wingfield. Chris Mound is a printmaker whose studio is set on the banks of the River Waveney by Brockdish where his original wildlife prints can be seen. Full details with directions including 18 other artists' open studios in the region can be

found on the artists' profile pages on the Trail website in April (www.hwat.org.uk).

■ **DOUGLAS ARTHUR (DOUGIE) CHITTOCK RIP:** Our church congregations will very much miss the organ playing of Dougie Chittock who sadly died on 15th January. Dougie played at many churches in the area, including Athelington, Horham and Redlingfield on occasion. His love of music was deep and abiding and he shared it generously. The big turnout at his funeral in Stradbroke demonstrated how much he was loved and valued. Dougie was introduced to Worlingworth in 1957 by David Tye. David ran the shop and post office in Worlingworth for many years. The pair used to be known as the Double Ds and played at dances in Wilby Village Hall on Saturday nights. Dougie will be missed greatly, a gentle and kind man who made a great contribution to his community. Dougie was the beloved husband of Betty, for almost 60 years. Much loved dad of David and Alan, father-in-law to Carrie and Haley and grandad to all his grandchildren. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Betty and the rest of his family on his loss.

Revd Eleanor Goodison & Val Swallow

■ **REDLINGFIELD AND OCCOLD WI:** Redlingfield and Occold WI offers entertainment, education, outings, interesting speakers and a place to meet new friends. Meetings are in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Carol Peters President on 01379 678597. The programme is 2nd March members evening, 6th April Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue talk, 4th May Resolutions and 1st June Outing to Sutton Hoo.

Gill Chapman

■ **LENT BOOK CLUB:** This Lent we are running a Book Club at 7.30 pm on Tuesday evenings, discussing four novels from a Christian viewpoint: **8th March** *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro; **15th March** *The Promise* by Damon Galgut; **29th March** *Light Perpetual* by Francis Spufford; **5th April** *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C S Lewis. Venues are to be confirmed – check with Revd Eleanor on 07876 143579.

Revd Eleanor Goodison



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150-year celebrations for Wilby School

THIS YEAR IS A SPECIAL one in the school's history as we prepare to celebrate 150 years since Wilby Primary was opened as a church school.

To mark this special event we are performing a special celebration musical which tracks the school history back to its beginning in 1852. Original entries from the school log book, and a variety of songs relating to the different periods in our history, help us to understand the changes that have occurred both in school and national life since the school was opened.

Dressed in the Victorian clothes that children might have worn when the school first opened, the pupils were due to be performing for their parents/carers, friends and relatives on

Wednesday 16th of February and then again on the stage at the Snape

Maltings Concert Hall, on March 9th as a part of the Celebration of Schools' Music 2022.

We are also delighted that Bishop Mike was planning to lead a special celebration service at 2pm on Thursday February 17th in at St Mary's Church in Wilby.

The Spring term is a busy time for trips. This term Owl Class will be enjoying a trip to Dunwich to learn more about coastal erosion; Kingfisher Class will be going to Stow Saxon Village and Years 4,5 and 6 have a residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands booked.

We were also looking forward to welcoming children's author Amanda Kidd who was due to be leading writing workshops and talking about her work with children in all classes as part of our world Book Day celebrations.

Mrs Wiseman
(Headteacher)



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CALLS
WISDOM
CAVITY
HUNTING
LOW
BURROWS
PREY
COINS
VOCAL
ART
BUILDINGS
INSECTS

- Crickets, grasshoppers, beetles and earthworms are their primary _____.
- They fly _____ to the ground whilst _____, and may pursue _____ on foot.
- They are _____ nesters, and may nest in tree holes, _____ and even rabbit _____, and may pursue _____ on foot.
- They are very _____, having as many as forty unique _____.
- Little owls can be found on _____, in _____ and in literature dating back ten thousand years.
- Little owls are associated with Greek mythology, where they are seen as symbols of _____.

■ Crickets, grasshoppers, beetles and earthworms are their primary PREY. ■ They fly LOW to the ground whilst HUNTING, and may pursue INSECTS on foot. ■ They are CAVITY nesters, and may nest in tree holes, BUILDINGS and even rabbit BURROWS, and may pursue INSECTS on foot. ■ They are very VOCAL, having as many as forty unique CALLS. ■ Little owls can be found on COINS, in ART and in literature dating back ten thousand years. ■ Little owls are associated with Greek mythology, where they are seen as symbols of WISDOM.



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Changing from whites to

AS I GOT WELL into my third decade of playing club cricket it finally became clear to me what I think my team mates and opponents had probably known for a while. It had become time for me to hang my boots up and call it a day. I'd never been one to want to carry on playing 'just to make up the numbers'. If I played cricket I wanted to be a genuine selection and a player who could still contribute in hopefully two of the three disciplines.

I'm not a sprinter or an athlete but I could stop balls hit near me and I had good catching hands close to the wicket. I was an adequate top order batsman capable of good days and an OK village level off spinner or medium pacer with a swinging ball. But in my early forties I struggled to do what I could once do on a cricket field, the reactions weren't as good and injuries took a lot longer to heal.

Basically by the late noughties I needed

another sport to play even if I could use my coaching qualifications. Lawn bowls was an obvious choice.

I had played some carpet bowls in the previous two decades for Thorndon and then the Debenham club (that is now Occold). I knew people who played outdoor bowls at the Bedingfield and District club down the road in Southolt. I turned up for a green opening day in April having borrowed a set of woods from a carpet bowls team mate, negotiated by a middle man, and had a go ... and to my surprise I wasn't rubbish.

Bowls is about finding lines and weight of delivery. It shouldn't be much different to bowling a cricket ball underarm in theory and principal. I joined the club, paid my membership, negotiated a deal to purchase the woods for £20 through the same middle man, before being asked to play at Kenninghall Red Lion in a League match about two weeks later.

I'd like to say it went well, it didn't as my block lost heavily. I'd like to say I showed up well as the Number Two in my block on the difficult rink four, but that would also be untrue. I can't even say we won the match, I think we lost every block to get nil points. I can say I enjoyed it though.

A social evening with drinks in the pub afterwards, it was like cricket in the early 1980s before the development of the work all week society and other aspects of life that reduced post-match socialising.

I do get quite embarrassed by some of the political views offered on greens or afterwards. At a cricket club house in South Norfolk in the late 1980s, a home player, well up in Norfolk land owning community I'm told, offered the view that the problem with cricket at village level was that footballers and comprehensive school pupils were now playing the game. When two of

white and grey

my teammates agreed. I felt my presence was no longer needed.

One day I'll get the terminology right. I still use cricket terms, I say 'width' when others say 'green', and use 'length' instead of 'weight' but I'm getting there. I'll keep getting away with it I guess until I shout 'howzat' when we win an end.

Bowls like all sports has players of different levels and desires. Women have a route to success similar to men.

Women compete and, particularly in my case, regularly defeat male players. Many players play in club matches but many join a club to have a base to play League, County and higher level singles, doubles and triples competitions. A

club like Bedingfield and District has players competing in County competitions but it is not their sole purpose.

You do encounter different attitudes though. I'd been playing



about a year when I was talking one lunchtime with some colleagues. I can't remember why but I mentioned I was playing bowls that evening. 'Who do you play for' one asked. I told them it was

Bedingfield. 'You'll never be a bowler playing there in those leagues on poor (the word actually used was stronger and more critical) greens at the back of a pub in

Southolt' she continued. I explained I just played with people I liked close to my home, with a captain who gave me a game. She shrugged and the conversation changed.

Unbeknown to me my work colleague was a higher calibre player, who played at Eye with other women who had played and won events on the National stage at Skegness. She had high aspirations. I just wanted something to do on a Monday or Tuesday night.

Ian Crane

The serious point of this article is that the Bedingfield Bowls Club needs players. We have a meeting in the middle of March to see whether we have to pull out of the Upper Waveney League this summer. We've lost three stalwarts, Geoff Bloomfield, Morris Chittock and David Saunders in the last two years. Other players have got older, suffered injuries, wear and tear and decided to stop playing. The Covid break that meant 2020 didn't happen and the minimal fixtures in 2021 have meant a natural retirement time for some people. Anyone interested please have a word with Redlingfield village resident Phillip Leeder (01379 678 962), the club captain, or even make contact through my e-mail (iancrane64@hotmail.co.uk). It would be nice to keep the club going.

PURPLE, RED, WHITE AND PLATINUM

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, QUICKLY followed of course by the end of the calendar year.

These three months cover some of the most important seasons of the Christian year. The church uses different colours to mark the different seasons. Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (2nd March this year), is purple to signal that it is a time of penitence. It is a time to get our selfishness under control, to be generous to others and to focus on God. We have a bit of a breather half way through Lent on Mothering Sunday (27th March), when our emphasis is on thanksgiving for the love we have received from our mothers and/or others who have been like mothers to us.

When we reach Palm Sunday (10th April), the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, we switch to red, the colour of blood, which signifies both death and life – Christ's death leading to life for us. Red takes us through Holy Week and Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion itself.

Then on Easter Day (17th April) when Christ rose again from the dead, we change again to white (or gold), the church's colours for great celebrations. We keep to white throughout the forty days of the Easter season, including Ascension Day (Thursday 26th May)



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which we will celebrate this year at Athelington with a service at 7.30 pm.

This year of course the colour in all our minds is platinum, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, to be celebrated over the long weekend 2nd-5th June. We'll be having special events at all our churches over the summer, so look out for more news of those.

This is also the time of year when we hold our Annual Parochial Church Meetings. All residents in each parish as well as those on the electoral roll of each church are welcome to attend our Annual Meetings to hear about the church's activities over the last year and plans for the future.

All residents are also entitled to vote in the election of Churchwardens. As we go to press, only Redlingfield has so far set the date of its meeting (Tuesday 10th May, 7.30 pm in the church) but Athelington's and Horham's dates will be publicized nearer the time.

Take care and see you soon, Eleanor

Revd Eleanor Goodison

Priest in Charge, Hoxne Benefice

Tel: 07876 143579

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■ **CLUB CREATE DRAMA WORKSHOP:** On Wednesday 20th April: a one-day workshop for children 7+ to prepare a drama ready for performance at our All Age service on Sunday 24th April. To register please contact Revd Eleanor on 07876 143579.

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

Planned church services in March/April/May. Some services in church are also live streamed or uploaded to facebook.com/WingfieldChurch **Every Saturday & Sunday:** CW Morning Prayer at 8am on facebook.com/WingfieldChurch. **Every Friday:** Compline at 6pm on **Zoom**. For a Zoom invitation, e-mail eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday

7pm CW Holy Communion with Ashing, Hoxne.

Sunday 6th March First Sunday of Lent

11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church, Syleham Village Hall.

Sunday 13th March Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

**Sunday 20th March
Third Sunday of Lent**

11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong, Zoom.

Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham;
4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Sunday 3rd April**Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)**

11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church, Syleham Village Hall.

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

**Monday-Wednesday 11th-13th April
Holy Week**

6pm Compline for Holy Week, Athelington.

Thursday 14th April Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Stripping of the Altar, Redlingfield.

Friday 15th April Good Friday

10am Reflective service, Horham.

Saturday 16th April Easter Eve

7.30pm Service of Light, Denham.

Sunday 17th April Easter Day

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham; 4pm Messy Church Easter Egg Hunt, J's meadow, Syleham; 6pm Easter Songs of Praise, Athelington.

Sunday 24th April**Second Sunday of Easter**

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham;
3pm All Age service, Hoxne (earlier than usual).

Sunday 1st May Third Sunday of Easter

11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church, Syleham Village Hall.

Sunday 8th May Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

Sunday 15th May Fifth Sunday of Easter

11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong, Wingfield.

Sunday 22nd May**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham.

Thursday 26th May**Ascension Day**

7.30pm CW Holy Communion, Athelington.

Sunday 29th May**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

11am Benefice Holy Communion, Syleham; 4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Abbreviations: BCP – Book of Common Prayer
CW – Common Worship.



AT THE END OF JANUARY, the Government announced plans to radically reform the BBC and review the TV license fee, so it is appropriate to consider what impact these changes may have upon something that many of us value: our own BBC Radio Suffolk.

Many people would support the Government in freezing the annual licence fee over the next two years. Energy bills are rising, and households face other costs as we experience the ongoing economic fallout of the pandemic in the form of rising inflation. Asking the BBC to do some belt tightening and to look for efficiencies at this time is reasonable and should have little or no impact on the quality of its programming.

I also have little doubt from my own experience that parts of the BBC at a national level are over-staffed and inefficient. Each different national news programme – even when they are on the same television channel or radio station – has a completely different production team. This is both unnecessary and expensive.

At national level, BBC channel bosses would do well to learn lessons from our own BBC Radio Suffolk who run the station just as well but on a lower budget and with much fewer staff.

Whilst it is easy to make the case for the BBC at a national level to be run more efficiently and at lower cost, the argument for reform or even scrapping of the license fee is far more complex. When the license fee was introduced, the BBC had a

virtual monopoly in UK broadcasting, but times have changed, and there are now hundreds of different television channels and radio stations.

Many people, particularly young people, no longer watch television and instead receive much of their news from social media and entertainment via streaming services such as Netflix, YouTube, or Amazon Prime. This trend is only set to continue, so, it is understandable that people who do not use the BBC would consider the idea of paying a license fee to be outdated.

The BBC is not perfect. It needs to cut its production costs. It needs reform, and to more accurately represent the interests of those living outside of the metropolitan bubble. But, there does remain an important role for a public service broadcaster in our country to present impartial and balanced news with integrity and accuracy. This is ever more important in this age of social media which can often be filled with inaccuracies and misinformation, with perhaps one of the worst examples being the behaviour of the anti-vaccination movement in spreading lies and pseudo-science online. Surely, if there were a time where impartial and balanced news reporting was needed from a public service broadcaster, this is it.

The best of the BBC can be found in our own BBC Radio Suffolk, which is why I shall continue to support some form of a continuing licence fee, but for the BBC to survive, Broadcasting House needs to learn lessons from their local stations.

Dr Dan Poulter, MP, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
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