# Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS







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Welcome to three recent arrivals in Redlingfield. Matt Cook and Nikki Minko had a baby boy called Saxon before Christmas, Will Kerry and Sammy Colman had a baby girl called Ava in February, and also in February, Laura and Blair Rogers had a baby boy called Alexander.

Particular thanks to Jan for tech support & artwork & Midge Gibbons for proofreading. Any errors are mine. Mike Ager

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.



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

# Hoping for a respite from the record-breaking rain

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

s the winter solstice passed and the calendar year ended, we heaved a sigh of relief and hoped that 2024 would bring some respite from the incessant rain.

The December solstice, when the sun travels the shortest path through the sky, used to be December 13th, St Lucy's Day. Lucy was the right girl for the job as her name is derived from the Latin lux meaning light.

In January, cold snaps from Scandinavia reach Suffolk and the snowdrops keep their heads down until the end of the month ... or are they waiting, like us, for the rain to give over. Surely 2024 will give some respite from the record-breaking rainfall of last year.

I've enjoyed a book called The

*Running Hare* by a farmer and naturalist from the Welsh Borders where he states quite simply that farming is all about rain. He says for arable farming one needs about 25 inches (625ml) and 35 inches (875 ml) is too much. And he is dead right because in the calendar year of 2023, we got 40 inches (1,000ml) or one metre. That is the level of rain where the Border farmers put their farms down to grass and do not try to grow arable crops.

Over the years there have been many winners and losers in the bird world and today the sighting of both Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers is very common. Sadly, their success is in contrast to





the Little Woodpecker, only the size of a house sparrow, which is rare in East Anglia and not helped by its larger cousin unashamedly raiding its nests of young chicks.

The success of nesting House Martins at Redlingfield Hall is clearly a thing of the past for the same reason and Caroline called me up to record the spiteful damage with my camera, the cleverly constructed martin's nest easily destroyed by the beak of a woodpecker.

Now for something more optimistic. The reintroduction of Ospreys to Britain has gone from strength to strength at Rutland Water, a remarkable recovery in numbers for this magnificent fish-loving migrant after it was wiped out in the early 1900s. The RSPB helped sympathetic landowners and volunteers protect secret sites, some with artificial nests, and Rutland was part of the recovery. Last year it was able to report the rearing of three handsome chicks.

Above: Ospreys success in 2023 at Rutland Water. Below: House Martins have been driven from the eaves of Redlingfield Hall by Great Spotted Woodpeckers destroying the nests to access the young chicks.



It's too early to herald spring despite the show of snowdrops but the toppedup bird feeders will help the garden birds keep the weight on in February ready for action in the not-too-distant future. *Continued on page 4.* 

#### WILDLIFE - WASH FARM

#### Continued from page 3.

A n excellent travel book by Stuart Maconie called *The Full English* emphasises the historical importance of Lincoln and Norwich, which, being on the East coast, were major cities in the 13th Century for trade with continental Europe. Way before the EU and before the creation of the single market, they knew instinctively which side their bread was buttered on.

The famous King John, he of Robin Hood folklore and the Magna Carta, used Lincoln to keep an eye on the rebellious North and wined and dined himself extravagantly. An archaeology dig near the old Lincoln Castle found evidence of his ancient kitchen and tasty menus, which featured Golden Plover, Swan, Conger Eel, Venison, Oysters and Lapwing.

A rare pleasure is to see a glinting flock of Golden Plover passing high overhead, closely packed together with a crying call and hopefully out of range, because amazingly they can still be shot in the game season. Whatever, with the benefit today of international trade and modern methods of food production, we have much to be thankful for in our less





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#### WILDLIFE - WASH FARM

exotic weekly shop.

Incidentally, the Norwich football club's nickname the Canaries came from Dutch weavers who brought pet Canaries with them when, to avoid persecution, they came across to settle. They were invited by a proclamation of Elizabeth I asking for "strangers" to boost the

woollen industry and the "Strangers Hall" museum lives on today.

Some old memories were revived when the grandchildren unearthed my old football game Subbuteo in the attic before Christmas. Perhaps sports enthusiast and fellow magazine contributor Ian Crane can remember this famous game from his youth, because a good pub quiz question might be "Where does the name come from?"

The answer is complicated. The inventor of this table football game



created it as his hobby and decided to name the game after his favourite bird of prey, the Hobby, a bird which has the official name of *Falco subbuteo*.

Birds are catalogued with two names in Latin, the first is the generic name, meaning it is a member of the falcon group, and the second refers to the species within that group. This comes from *buteo*, which is the name of the common Buzzard but the Hobby is smaller than the Buzzard and thus became sub-buteo. Not a lot of people know that, as Michael Caine would say. **Trevor Edwards** 



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#### WILDLIFE - COLNET CONSERVATION

# **Exploring wilds of Suffolk**

t's been a busy few months for us at Colnet Conservation! We've planted more trees, picked up more litter and been looking at how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

We've had a great few months of exploring what Suffolk has to offer in the way of nature reserves, wildlife walks and habitat restoration sites.

We've had a couple of trips to RSPB Minsmere since Christmas. Although one of the paths to the scrape was still under water, we managed to walk a way along and saw a big flock of Siskin feeding on the Alder. As the Siskins in the tree tops were pecking at the seeds in the little Alder cones, lots more were hopping around on the pathway beneath, gathering the tiny orange seeds as they fell. Amongst them were some Greenfinches and a Marsh Tit. On the way to the car park at Minsmere, we often stop off and visit the canopy hide in the tree tops. Although we've not really seen much from that hide, it gives us an amazing feeling as we become a part of the woodland canopy! Also nearby is an enormous Beech tree, which fell a long time ago. Although it's laying flat, it has carried on growing, with big branches reaching up to the sky from the fallen trunk. We love climbing along its branches and seeing how far we can get without touching the floor!

There's a lovely walk along the River Waveney, which we join near Syleham Water Mill. There are often Mute Swans on the water and as the woodland opens out you can often see Little Egrets in the fields. Again, there is a fallen tree which we love to visit and we have a quick 'horsey ride' before walking on!

Brakey Wood in Hoxne is quite new, planted by The Woodland Trust in 1999. It does have some mature English Oaks as well as lots of Hazel and Alder which are providing some really good habitats. It also has a stream called Chickering Beck running along it's boundary, and a lovely mature, privately owned woodland behind. We have seen Siskin here too, feeding in the Alder with Greenfinches and Goldfinches. We follow the path along the stream and back through the woodland. We always say a big 'hello' to the Hoxne Caveman and make sure Mum takes the customary photo!

On the first Saturday in February, we decided to try our luck spotting the White-Tailed Eagles near Ixworth. We left whilst it was still dark and drove to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Mickle Mere. We arrived at about 7.45am as it was just getting light, opened the boot to get our wellies and coats on, and an eagle flew over our heads! We were so excited - it was HUGE! We quickly grabbed our binoculars and made the three-minute walk to Mickle Mere hide. It was already guite busy, but one man let us have his space on the bench so that we could get a good view across the water. After about five minutes of watching the Canada Geese fly in and join the Mute Swans, Egyptian Geese and many different species of duck, two enormous silhouettes appeared over the woodland. They flew directly towards the water and stirred up the clouds of ducks





Main picture: Canada Goose and White Tailed Eagle by Trevor Mayes. Inset: Edward, Arthur and Henry on their Christmas Litter pick! And with the Hoxne Caveman.

and geese into a panicking whirlwind! They swooped and soared, flipping upside down and making pretend prey passes to each other. One made a dive at a very disturbed Lapwing! It was an incredible experience to see these magnificent and majestic birds in the wild. Also seeing them amongst the already impressively large Canada Geese, we could appreciate the enormity of their 2.4m wingspan!

Thank you to Trevor Mayes, for providing the amazing photograph, which he took on the previous day, of one of the White-Tailed Eagles trying its luck with Canada Goose (the relieved goose got away!).

Once the eagles had finished their morning performance, we decided to

visit nearby Lackford Lakes (also Suffolk Wildlife Trust). We arrived for 9am and the views across the water were amazing. We started walking to the first hide and two Snipe flew up from the water's edge. We spent a couple of minutes watching the Grey Heron and Little Egret on the left bank and then settled in the hide to learn the many different ducks on the water. It was fun spotting them all with the binoculars and noticing the differences. There were Pochard, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal and Tufted Duck, lots of Lapwing, Egyptian and Canada Geese – it was very busy! After a good walk along the water, we drove home for well-deserved bacon and eggs!

From Henry, Arthur & Edward, Colnet Conservation. More pages 8 & 9.

#### WILDLIFE - COLNET CONSERVATION

As well as our adventures out, we've also been enjoying the wildlife at home. We took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and although we saw 76 birds within the hour, we did notice a difference in numbers compared to previous counts. The Blue Tits and Great Tits are seemingly doing very well, but we've seen a big drop in Greenfinches and Chaffinches. Our Goldfinch flocks are



much smaller than they used to be too. We did have a pair of Kestrels to add to our list though which we were really pleased about. We're hoping they might nest this year as they're spending a lot of time around our boxes.

The passive rewilding of our meadow is going really well. The bramble and rose patches are providing excellent nesting and roosting sites for birds as well as cover for larger mammals. Oak trees have started to grow in abundance in some areas, and we plan to leave these to establish. The tussocky grasses are excellent Field Vole habitat which in turn means our Kestrels and Barn Owls have good hunting ground. We've also noticed huge ant hills appearing which are keeping the Green Woodpeckers very happy!

Passive rewilding is a simple, natural way of letting nature reestablish and balance itself. It is low maintenance and very rewarding. It also doesn't need to be over a large area – even a small strip along the back of the garden can make a big difference. Approximately 70% of Field Voles live within the first 5m border of any meadow/established grassland.



#### **COLNET CONSERVATION - WILDLIFE**

Just leaving a small amount can make a huge difference, especially when these wild areas are close enough to link habitats.

This Spring, now that the ground has thawed, we are planting more trees and hedgerows. We also plan to plant another wildflower strip quite early in the season. Last time we were amazed at how many different species of wasps, bees and butterflies visited. We will let you know how we get on.

We hope you've enjoyed learning about our adventures. It's fantastic that our protected wildlife sites are providing habitats for so many different species and are playing an enormous part in supporting the reintroduction of species of our native wildlife that have been lost. As rewilding becomes more and more essential to various sites including farmland and public spaces, we can reestablish these ever so important wildlife corridors that will help nature move amongst these incredibly valuable habitats and reinstate our natural landscapes.

From Henry, Arthur & Edward, Colnet Conservation

### **COUNTRYSIDE** by Arthur

Countryside is very important - without it we wouldn't survive,

Our nature needs countryside, we need nature.

Inless we change the way we look after the land,

othing will remain.

rees and plants provide the air we breathe – we need to let them grow.

Respecting nature should be our role.

ou can make a difference!

Small actions can Slead to big change,

f we all work together we can save the planet.

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verything has a right to be here – not just us.

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WILDLIFE - NEW READING WOODS GROUP

# Waiting for dry ground

s the days lengthen so the cold strengthens". It has been wet and relatively mild so far this winter but folklore has it that now we have passed the solstice we will get colder times, hopefully drier.

It is very wet and muddy up at Pound Lane Woods but still an uplifting place to walk. The recent winds have removed a lot of the leaves that were late to fall. The hedges and trees may look bare but they are a promise of good things to come in spring. Buds are swelling and catkins are out. Seed heads replace earlier flowers and lichens provide splashes of colour.

In the wood the trees are going to provide food and shelter in the coming months. Buckthorn provides a thorny protection for nesting birds and brimstone caterpillars feed on the leaves in spring. Brimstones have become more common in Suffolk following initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of buckthorn in hedges by wildlife groups. Hawthorn flowers are a delight to both people and insects and the haws feed autumn birds. Bees love the flowers of the field maple and the yellow autumn

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colours are eye catching. The crab apples are now largely gone but the blossom will be out in spring.

On walks with my dog near my home I have seen and heard fieldfares and seen their upright stance in groups in the fields. They eat berries and fruit over the winter and are sociable birds. I have seen them fly over the wood but not yet observed them on the ground.

No work will be done at the wood until the weather is warmer and the ground dry. The pond is higher than it has been for a long time. The owl box will be cleaned out and hopefully it will be occupied this year. The bird boxes we put up will also be watched for occupants. Although not much is possible outside now there is a lot to look forward to when the cold and wet weather passes.

If you are interested in joining New Reading Woods Group and getting hands on experience of improving our local environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary Peny Conway on 07495 875299. *Peny Conway* 



and and the Bater

#### HORHAM OLD SCHOOL



## **Traditional music every week**

The folk musicians who gather at the Old School every second Monday of the month welcomed the public to their Christmas Celebration on Monday 11th December. Traditional music and Christmas nibbles fuelled a very happy evening. The musicians continue to meet every second Monday throughout the year; the bar is open during their sessions.

The bar was open on Christmas Day and is open on Sunday afternoons from noon. New Social Club members for 2024 are very welcome, please join at the

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bar.

The Christmas raffle was successful and we plan another for Easter. Buy your tickets at one of the Coffee mornings held every Wednesday, 10.30am to noon, and enjoy delicious coffee or tea and wonderful homemade cakes.

The Old School is for hire, please ring Pip on 07305108698.

Horham and Athelington Village Hall Committee



**12** Spring 2024

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#### HORHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

# There's a lot going on in

he Christmas Buffet and the Family Christmas Party were greatly enjoyed. The Membership Night also went well, with 49 people signing up.

Do come along to Horham & Athelington Community Centre on any Wednesday or Friday evening, you don't have to be a member to have a drink, if you are there is a chance you may find out you have won in the Members' draw.

The Pudding Party, on Saturday 10th February, was a pudding fest. We all tucked into three delicious puds. Thank you to Maryann and Neil for a



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lovely evening. Following the success of Kay's Family Christmas Party, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 31st March at 2pm (£2.50 a child). The bar will be open and food will be available. Contact Kay on 07496487629 to book a ticket

On Wednesday 3rd April there will be a Hobbies night and a new venture, Family Karaoke Nights, starts on Saturday 20th April (don't forget the Working Bee in the morning with a Sausage Sizzle for the helpers).

On Saturday 27th April, John Kirkum will be Quiz master. It is £7 per person, teams of four, including food. For bookings contact Neil on 0781487574.

## 2024

On Sunday 12th May, the Rotary Club are holding a Charity Bike Ride for the Blossom Charity



HORHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE CU ASKED AND IT'S HERE FOR 2024

and the centre is a comfort stop.

Kay is organising Family Bingo Night on Saturday 25th May, which will be fun. Wednesday 1st May is Collectors/Hobbies Night and Saturdays 9th March and 11th May are Open Mic nights. We are collecting local talent, as well as visitors, with an eclectic mix of music and singing.

Wheels on Wednesday returns on June 5th and on Saturday 8th June

#### HORHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

there will be a Garage Sale, £6 per listing in the map. Maps £1 for sale in the Community Centre along with refreshments. Contact Neil on 0781487574.

Beginners' Pilates classes are offered on Fridays 9.45-10.45am (contact Emma on 07914535448 or pilatesbodyharmony@aol.co.uk).

Thank you to everyone who helps us "keep the show on the road", members, trustees, the booking clerk, cellar stockers, crisp buyers, bar staff, chief cooks and bottle washers, laundry maids, cleaners, decorators, maintenance persons, drinkers, mowers and gardeners and all.

On behalf of Horham & Athelington Community Council and Horham Village Hall Trust Margaret Streeter (secretary)



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#### **GARDENING WITH ANDY**

## **Time to Spring into action**

fter surviving one of the mildest, but wettest Winters, Spring is upon us at last and how glorious it is Daffodils in full flower, tall and proud like soldiers standing to attention.

Now is a good time, if not too wet, to consider cutting back to ground level or simply removing last season's dead leaves from all herbaceous perennials. It is time for them to Spring into action by sprouting new growth from their bases. If they haven't been divided for a few seasons you can always split them dividing them into smaller, healthier plants. The best method is to decide how many smaller, healthier plants you would like to create and simply split them with a spade. You can then plant them out again, applying a good homemade compost or leaf mould top dressing as a mulch. This will add nutrients and help to protect against any late frosts and hopefully no late snow (some examples below in pics are Acanthus, Echihops and Alchemilla).

Now is also when main Rose pruning should commence. Be bold and not too frightened to prune any thin, spindly side stems that will produce weaker flowers that have a tendency to collapse. If it is not possible to do this just prune out any dead, diseased, damaged, crisscrossing, rubbing stems to allow an open centre. Then apply a good organic Rose feed (bonemeal, hoof and horn or dried blood) to give them a

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16 Spring 2024

# GARDENING WITH ANDY

boost. But make sure you have removed any previous seasons fallen leaves that could harbour fungal disease or slugs and snails. All along the stems you will notice red dot growing eyes at the nodes, these will produce this season's new shoots/flowers. From April onwards you can spray them with an organic Sulphur Rose treatment against mould, black spot and mildew on a fortnightly basis. Always undertake this either first thing in the morning or late evening, as although this treatment is organic, it is still a good precaution to do it when there is less bee, ladybird or lacewing activity in the garden (all are beneficial insects).

It might also be a good time, if not too wet and on a dry mid-morning to undertake the first trim of your lawn. This will not only remove those last fallen tree leaves but lightly top the lawn, just to tidy it up. For those serious lawn enthusiasts, you may want to dry de-thatch/scarify your lawn but I would wait until drier conditions, as this will help to remove



old/dead grass and not new lawn growth. However, you could aerate the lawn, which will help improve drainage by alleviating compaction and allow nutrients to get to the roots better, disperse harmful carbon dioxide and get essential oxygen to the roots to stimulate growth. If practical and your lawn is not too big use a pedestrian, push aerator, boy does it work those stomach muscles !

Happy gardening everyone Andrew Peters



#### News

#### **REDLINGFIELD & OCCOLD WI:** At our

AGM in November our President Carol Peters stepped down after 4 years in office. We are very grateful to her for guiding us through the last 4 years especially during the difficult times of Covid, and thank her for the time and effort she has given to our WI. We are pleased that she will be remaining on the Committee. After some thought, committee member Sara Hampson kindly stepped up to fill the position and we are very pleased to welcome her to her new role of President. Our other officers and committee members remained the same for another year.

We enjoyed a social evening together in December for our Christmas meal. In January one of our members gave a presentation entitled 'What's that Bird?'

aimed at supporting members with the identification of our common garden birds ready for the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch held at the end of January. We also welcomed 2 of the 3 Girls (One Climb) who shared with us an account of their epic climb of Mt Kilimanjaro in October. What an amazing experience they had. It was good to hear some of their stories: the difficulties of climbing at altitude, the comradery with their local guides, food and eating, toilet experiences on a mountainside and much more. Their photos were stunning. Certainly an experience never to be forgotten - what is next for them we wondered!

In February we welcomed our local Health & Safety expert – Andy Davidson from Mini First Aid Norfolk, based in

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18 Spring 2024

# the Men

Redlingfield Road, who delivers First Aid training to groups across the county. He gave a very

useful and informative talk and demonstration on the use of the village defibrillator. This is a life-saving piece of equipment and it was very helpful to know how to access it and how easy it is to use. If ever in the stressful situation of dealing with a cardiac arrest it will be very helpful to recall this knowledge. We felt that training of this sort should be available to all people in their communities.

Our March meeting will be a craft evening led by our members and in April we welcome Jenni Keer a local author, to talk about her writing experiences. We usually meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm.

If you would like more information about our activities please contact Sara Hampson (President) on 01379 678868, or just come along to a meeting. We look forward to welcoming you.

#### **Gill Chapman**

■ SANTA RAISES £500: Father Christmas was very pleased to visit Horham and Athelington on Christmas day. We raised a total of £500 and this has been sent to East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Thank you to Steven for driving Father Christmas around and very many thanks to everyone who donated. **Mother Christmas** 



#### News

#### REDLINGFIELD MAN GIVEN 26

**MONTHS' JAIL:** A man from Redlingfield has been sentenced after committing a series of fraud and theft offences. Ronald Bailey, aged 72 of Cranley Road, pleaded guilty to 11 offences at Ipswich Crown Court and was sentenced to 26 months in jail on Thursday 25 January. The offences took place from November 2018 to November 2019 where he de-frauded many people out of money on the promise of car repairs and prayed on vulnerable people to loan him money. The offences covered a variety of offences including making false representation to a female victim claiming he needed  $\pounds 2,500$  in respect of a car loan; fraudulently claiming to replace the car battery of the same victim, four cases of theft of vehicles and two cases of fraudulently making representation to two separate victims for  $\pounds 2,500$  and  $\pounds 4,500$ respectively to pursue civil claims. There was also a further case of fraud by false representation claiming he had the authority to sell the car of a victim, a case

■ PLANNING: AWAITING DECISION: Application to install ground mount solar panels on Low Meadow, Horham Road, Athelington, IP21 5EJ (DC/24/00005). WAS LAWFUL: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for retention of use of existing converted stable block (known as the 'Old Stable Building', Brick Kiln Farm) as a single residential dwelling at Brick Kiln Farm, Worlingworth Road, Athelington, IP21 5EP (DC/23/04611).

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



#### News

of false representation claiming he would undertake restoration work on a car and another fraud by false representation where Bailey claimed to repair faulty car locks. He was found not guilty of two other offences – one in February 2017 for fraud and another case of fraud in late 2019. Half the sentence will be served in prison with the other half on licence. Sgt Dan Peck said: "Bailey's ruthless and scheming character saw him exploit the vulnerable for his own financial gains and showed no remorse for his actions. I estimate he fraudulently gained around £13,000 through his deception. He will now have plenty of time to reflect on his mercenary activities during his jail sentence in the coming months ahead." Police Connect Rates for adverts in four issues distributed to approx 300 homes and businesses in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:

1/8 page £9
 1/3 page £23.50
 1/4 page £17.50
 1/2 page £35
 Whole page £70

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

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# **Masters of the Air flies**

t was back in 2017 that writer John Orloff visited the Red Feather Club to soak up the atmosphere as he got ready to adapt Don Miller's *Masters of the Air* book for the screen.

Then came the news that Tom Hanks had made secret visits to the 100th and 95th and was spotted wearing a RFC baseball cap ... I was told he calls his home bar the Red Feather Club.

Then came the first of the Masters of the Air tours from The National WWII

Museum in New Orleans with the book's author Don Miller.

Eventually there was news that filming had started ... and now Masters of the Air, centring on the 95th's sister 13th Combat Wing bomb group the 'Bloody Hundredth' from Thorpe Abbotts, is airing worldwide. Strict non-disclosure agreements mean that there has been little RFC regulars can tell us but once the series has been screened we should be able to hear from them.



The release of Masters of the Air and significant 80th anniversaries this year are almost certain to add to visitor numbers at WVII museums everywhere. There are already Masters of the Air tours scheduled for May and October 2024 and The National WVII Museum is also running an all-inclusive tour aboard the cruise ship Seabourn Ovation. During the Anniversary of D-Day Cruise: D-Day & The Bomber War (May 29–June 8) Seabourn Ovation is due to be moored at Great Yarmouth to visit museums in Suffolk & Norfolk. www.nationalww2museum.org

Top: Stills from the Apple TV+ series. Right: Molly Harmer with Skyliner at the RFC entertaining US visitors. Left: Masters of the Air tour brochure.



22 Spring 2024

# on to our screens.

The press release says: "Masters of the Air" follows the men of the 100th Bomb Group ... as they conduct perilous bombing raids over Nazi Germany and grapple with the frigid conditions, lack of oxygen and sheer terror of combat conducted at 25,000 feet in the air. Portraying the psychological and emotional price paid by these young men as they helped destroy the horror of Hitler's Third Reich, is at the heart of "Masters of the Air." Some were shot down and captured; some were wounded or killed. And some were lucky enough to make it home. Regardless of individual fate, a toll was exacted on them all."

I look forward to what should be an amazing series and to playing spot the RFC regular. The nine-episode series is available exclusively on Apple TV+.

The 13th Combat Wing also included the 390th who flew out of Parham (Framlingham). *Mike Ager* 

The Red Feather Club Museum - Public Open Days 10am-4pm the last Wednesday of the Month from 28th April to 27th October. The museum at Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, is run by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association (Charity No: 1119769). Visit: www.95thbg-horham.com. Contact: enquiries@95thbg-horham.com.
 100th Bomb Group Memorial Museum - Open weekends from March to end of October 10am-5pm and Wednesdays 10am-5pm May through September. Also open bank holidays. Common Road, Dickleburgh, Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4PH. Visit: www.100bgmus.org.uk. Contact: 01379 740708 or info@100bgmus.org.uk.
 Parham Airfield Museum - From Sunday 7th April, open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of October, 11am-5pm and on Wednesdays in June, July and August between 11am-4pm. Home of the 390th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum and The Museum of the British Resistance Organisation. Parham Airfield Museum, Parham, Framlingham, IP13 9AF. Visit: www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk. Contact: parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk.

Wild Ca

#### WHAT'S ON

#### Wednesday 6 March

**Redlingfield Coffee Morning:** 10am-noon. Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, IP23 7QU. **Collectors/Hobbies night:** Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

#### Saturday 9 March

**Open Mic Night:** Horham CC. Saturday 16 March

Saturday 16 March

**Craft Fair:** Hoxne Village Hall, 10am-3pm. **Wise Woman: Home Safe Tour:** The Bank Eye, 7pm, £11.50.

**Jive, Swing and Rock n Roll:** Live band Ruby and Shake Rattle 'n' Roll, Eye Town Hall, doors 7pm. Tickets www.eventbrite.co.uk.

#### Saturday March 23

Bedingfield Easter Craft Fair: 2-4pm. Sunday 24 March

**Rocking Foxes - R'Occold:** DJ Crazy Nadge, Occold Village Hall, 2-5pm, £8.

#### Sunday 31 March

Easter Egg Hunt: Horham CC.

#### Wednesday 3 April

**Redlingfield Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon. **Collectors/Hobbies Night:** Horham CC, 8pm.

#### Saturday 6 April

*Jumble Sale:* Worlingworth Community Centre, 12.30 to 3.30pm.

**Eye Bach Choir Bach B Minor Mass Singing Day:** Eye Town Hall. Tickets from The Handyman or tickets@eyebachchoir.co.uk.

# The Horticulturalist

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#### andrewpeters65@hotmail.com Mobile: 07956651157 Free Estimates

#### Friday 19 April

**The Horn Factory - Jazz Big Band:** 7.30pm, Debenham Leisure Centre.

#### Saturday 20 April

Spring Clean: Horham CC. Working Bee and Sausage Sizzle for the workers. Dance: Skyliner & guest DJ Nigel Woodhouse, Red Feather Club. Family Karaoke Evening: Horham CC. AKA with DJ Steve Greensides: Eye Town Hall, 7pm. £5 in advance or £7.50 on door. Wednesday 24 April

#### Redlingfield Doorstep Green & Churchyard Tidy: 4pm onwards.

#### Saturday 27 April

Quiz: Horham Community Centre.

Saturday & Sunday 27 & 28 April

**Redlingfield Doorstep Green & Churchyard Tidy:** 10am onwards.

#### Wednesday 1 May

**Redlingfield Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon. **Collectors/Hobbies night:** Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

#### Saturday 4 May

**Redlingfield Cheese and Wine:** Horham CC, from 8pm.

#### Saturday 11 May

Open Mic Night: Horham CC.

#### Sunday 12 May

Rotary Club Blossom Charity Bike Ride Comfort Stop: Horham CC.

#### Wednesday 15 May

**Redlingfield Village/Parish Meeting AGM:** Horham CC, 8pm.

#### Saturday 18 May

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

**The Rock-Ola Rockets:** Eye Town Hall, 7pm. Tickets £7.50 in advance or £10 on door (www.eventbrite.co.uk).

#### Saturday 25 May

Family Bingo: Horham CC.

#### What's On

Sunday 26 May Public Open Day: Red Feather Club. Sunday & Monday 26 & 27 May Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market: Helmingham Hall.

Wednesday & Thursday 29 & 30 May Suffolk Show.

#### Wednesday 5 June

**Redlingfield Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon. **Wheels on Wednesdays:** Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

#### Thursday 6 June

D-Day 80 Years on 1944-2024: Look out for local events.

#### Saturday 8 June

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

#### Saturday & Sunday 8 & 9 June

Eye Open Gardens Weekend.

Saturday 16 June

Diss Carnival Parade & Fun Day. Music in the Gardens with Pat Reyford and his Symphony Five: Helmingham Hall.

#### Saturday 29 June

**Dance:** Memphis Lee & his Creepers guest DJ Jive Bomber, Red Feather Club.

#### Saturday & Sunday 29 & 30 June

#### Heveningham Hall Country Fair.

Sunday 30 June

**Americana Day:** music, stalls, re-enactors & vehicles, Red Feather Club.

**Rocking Foxes - R'Occold:** DJ Crazy Nadge, Occold Village Hall, 2-5pm, £8.

#### Wednesday 3 July

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon.

Wheels on Wednesdays: Horham Community Centre, 8pm. Saturday & Sunday 8 & 9 July Worlingworth and Southolt open gardens. Sunday 7 July **Redlingfield Annual Dog Show & Summer** *Fayre:* Doorstep Green. Joint village event. All day and evening. Pub on the Green open. Sunday 14 July Music in the Gardens with Swing Machine **Big Band:** Helmingham Hall. Thursday 18-Sunday 21 July Country Music Festival: Debenham Leisure Centre. Saturday 20 July Down the Line: Northern Soul. Motown and 60s R'n'B, Eye Town Hall. £5 in advance or £7.50 on door. Sundav 28 July Public Open Day: Red Feather Club. Saturday 3 August Pub on the Green: 6pm-midnight, Doorstep Green. The Silhouettes: UK's top Shadows tribute band, Eye Town Hall. Sunday 4 August The Festival of Classic & Sports Cars: Helmingham Hall. Wednesday 7 August Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon.

Wheels on Wednesdays: Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

#### Sunday 18 August

*Music in the Gardens with The High Points:* Helmingham Hall.

• Eye Cinema - Eye Community Centre, advance tickets from The Handyman. To reserve tickets call Kit Brinkley on 07947 414 968 • Bank Arts Centre www.thebankeye.org

Helmingham Hall Gardens www.helmingham.com

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway www.mslr.org.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.wegottickets.com

#### LOCAL HISTORY

## **The Great Storms of 1881**

**Solution** to the clusive to the 21st century as is proved by the following much shortened version of a few of the many reports that were published in *The Ipswich Journal* on 22nd January 1881...

**6** December passed and the weather was still mild and almost warm at times. Christmas festivities went off in conditions that would have done no discredit to the month of May. New Year''s Day passed and still the bright sun shone. Birds sung, and we began almost to hope that we had turned the corner. Even after 10 days of the New Year had passed and the days had begun perceptively to open. The weather was still mild, the young wheats were looking fresh and grassy and farmers were getting on bravely with their work. But a blast was being blown in the north and while we had sunny skies here in England, Scotland told melancholy tales of storms and snow and sleet, trains snowed up and postal communication stopped. Then, on Monday after the frost had extended to England and a slight fall of snow had fallen, came a warning that a change of some kind was coming across the Atlantic and would probably reach the English and Norwegian coasts. Never was a warning more promptly or truly followed. On Tuesday there were signs of frost breaking, however this was only temporary. The winds rose and blew in dangerous gusts. Towards morning the gale strengthened and a hurricane was blowing such is not often experienced in these islands. The few inches of snow which had fallen

previously to Monday rapidly whirled from the roofs of houses and all exposed situations. The keen sharp air tore up stones and dust from the bare soil and the air was thick with this and with particles of snow. The effect produced on the landscape was as if snow had been suddenly changed to a light brown, and those who ventured forth on that morning found that the open-air life was not endurable. The drift of snow continued for several hours and late in the evening the streets of Ipswich were in many cases impassable. Such a fall of snow ... has not been seen in this town since the memorable year of 1855. **DEBENHAM:** A serious storm which did considerable damage visited this

town Tuesday last. Windows were smashed and some entirely blown in by the wind. Slates and tiles were dislodged from houses, chimneys were blown down and in one or two cases tiled roofs were completely taken off. One barn was taken partly away the other is quite down. Stacks were blown over and scattered in all directions, gates might be seen wrenched from their hinges. The whole town presented a wretched and deserted appearance. Snow began to fall about noon and by 8 o'clock had been blown in the low roads to a depth of nearly 3 feet. On Wednesday morning men might be seen throwing

snow from the fronts of houses, where it had drifted to a great depth. The roads in all directions were blocked by five or 6 feet of snow so as to prevent all passengers by vehicle getting to and from the town. Tiles and chimney pots were taken off many dwelling houses. The snow was drifted so as to stop traffic for some time - in fact it was not till the Thursday following that the roads were at all passable and then only the principal ones. **EYE:** Although the weather had been exceptionally severe for several days previous, such a wild and bitterly cold day as was Tuesday last, has not been experienced here for many years. That was a day to make those who are comfortably fed, clothed, and housed think of those "poor shivering wretches that bide the pelting of this pitiless storm". A gale blew fiercely from the East all morning till about 12 o'clock when the town was visited by a furious hurricane which prevailed for several hours, and although no serious casualties were reported considerable damage was done. Corn and other stacks were in numerous instances, completely divested of their thatch, and wheat sheaves and large quantities of barley etc. blown to a great distance. A very large sheet of lead was blown from the roof of the Corn Exchange into the street. Tiles, slates and chimney pots innumerable were blown from the roofs of houses. forcibly reminding one of the following lines of the old song - My Eyes, what tiles and chimney pots about their heads are flying. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon snow began to fall and continue to do so

throughout the night. On Wednesday morning drifts of snow being from 2 to 4 feet were in many instances piled against the doors of houses in exposed places and in some of the outlying districts of the town the roads were rendered wholly impassible. For two or three days the mail cart service has been much interrupted, the postal delivery irregular and the trains late; in some instances, very late.

THORNHAM: Tuesday the 18th was the roughest day in this district ever remembered. The wind - especially about 2.30 pm was perfectly furious. Several large fir trees which have withstood the gales for 80 or more years fell victim to it's vehemence. FRAMLINGHAM: For the last week we have had an 'old-fashioned winter', there being sharp frosts and deep snow drifting ... to a considerable depth, the snowplough being used to clear the roads. On Tuesday we had a gale of wind all day. Our Mere has been visited by skaters.

*The Journal* also described many shipwrecks and dramatic rescues off the coast of Aldeburgh and Southwold. However, this was not the end of it for 1881 and another big storm occurred on Friday 14th October causing even more havoc around the county, particularly to trees which were in full leaf. There were several reports of young boys being killed or injured while collecting firewood from fallen trees.

It is likely that one of these storms lead to the demise of the Redlingfield mill since the last mention of a miller in the village was in the 1879 trade directory. **Stephen Ling** 



## You're Welcome!

email: jubileebaptist@occold.com



Sundays 10.45am in the Chapel or Village Hall, Occold, Eye, IP23 7PL

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www.facebook.com/JubileeBaptist1





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Giving glory to God and helping everyone have a strong relationship with Jesus

28 Spring 2024

#### WILBY SCHOOL

# **Exciting trips for Spring**

he Spring term at Wilby School is, as always, packed with lots of exciting trips and wonderful learning opportunities.

This term every class has enjoyed a trip to enhance their school-based learning. Owl Class is working with One Day Creative dance and expressive arts company to learn about

Chinese dancing and the Chang Dynasty; Kingfisher Class has visited Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse museum for an actionpacked murder mystery day; Wren Class visited Colchester Museum for a Roman experience; and Wren Chicks visited Banham Zoo to learn more about animal adaptations.

Each class is hosting a Reading Café and it has been wonderful to see parents and carers

in school learning about the magic of books and reading with their children.

After raising a wonderful £158 for the New Hope School and Orphanage in Kenya last term, our School Council are at it again, aiming to raise another £100 through a face-painting/ body-tattoo event they are organising. The school council are also working with our Friends of School to develop two outdoor Quiet Areas for children to use at break times as part of their aim to highlight the importance of mental health.

This term it's Kingfisher Class's turn to entertain us with a Greek-themed performance on 22nd March. Parents/ carers and the wider community are also invited to join us for our Easter

> Service on Thursday 28th March at 2.15pm in Wilby Church Our Friends of

Our Friends of School raised a tremendous £1,517 for school funds at their brilliant Christmas Fair and this term they are organising an Easter Tombola and a Spring Bingo event has also been organised for May 2nd.

We are now taking applications for Pre School places for September 2024. Applications should

be in before the end of April 2024. We are very proud of our wonderful school and would be delighted to arrange tours for parents/carers and their children. Please visit www.wilbyprimary.org.uk for more details and/or call the school (01379 384708) to arrange a visit.

Roisin Wiseman (Headteacher Wilby CE Primary School)





Pupils at Banham Zoo and Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse.



#### **Redlingfield Village Meeting**

#### ■ REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEETING - Wednesday 7 February

Twenty three people attended the open meeting including Mid-Suffolk District Council councillor Lucy Elkin; chair: Adrian Smith; and clerk: Janet Norman-Philips.

FLOODING: Flooding in Redlingfield was the hot subject of discussion. Councillor Lucy Elkin told the meeting a full (Section 19) investigation, which identifies the causes and how to stop future floods, happens when five or more properties have flooded, or where one property has flooded more than once. Currently 48 towns and villages are on the list to be investigated and this is expected to reach 100. Redlingfield is trying to get on the list but so far only four of the five houses that flooded have registered with Suffolk County Council. Lesley Rose pointed out that Walcot House has also flooded in the past, so we should qualify for a full investigation.



MSDC has given grants of £500 to flooded householders. Government grants, from Suffolk County Council, of up to £5,000 are available to flood-proof flooded properties. Work has to be paid for upfront then reclaimed.

If, and when, Redlingfield gets on the Section 19 investigation list, it will still be a very long time before that investigation will be carried out. So, it was agreed we need to be looking for solutions we can implement together as a village to slow down water reaching the centre of the village and speed up its ability to leave. However, we need to do this properly, otherwise we risk making things worse. So, we need expert advice. Three obvious areas were the flow of water needs to be slowed down entering the village: Occold Road/Mill Road: Church Road: and Woodvale Road: and one where it needed speeding up: clearing the culvert under Green Lane opposite Rev Richard Court's. clearing those ditches leading out of the village, along with speeding the flow of the culvert along Low Road/Green Lane were considered the first priorities. These ditches are mainly on land owned by Denham's Oliver Knowland after passing over land owned by C W Abbott & Sons (Graham and Patrick Abbott). Everyone agreed that maintaining ditches was a priority for all ditch owners – we just have to make sure we start clearing them where water leaves the village first.

A formal meeting with Highways is being arranged to look at our situation and possible solutions, hopefully, the Environment Agency will attend.

#### **Redlingfield Village Meeting**

Parishes can get official Road Closed signs, following training in Bury St Edmunds to ensure their safe use, after which Suffolk County Council will insure them. Rosie and Alison agreed to go on the training course. Lucy Elkin to get details.

Alison Smith agreed to ask Les Cotton (www.lescottoncontractors.co.uk) who knows about drainage, to take a look at the problem areas in Redlingfield and give us some advice.

Michelle Peters suggested grills be placed to stop concrete culverts/pipes from becoming clogged with debris.

#### **USEFUL FLOODING INFORMATION:**

(outside Brookside and at the Knoll). These would need to be regularly checked and cleared out.

Andy Peters suggested people could check drains and ditches whenever litter-picking.

It was agreed to create a map of the ditches etc including their ownership. The area by the willow on the Knoll was identified as a problem as it was silted up and not feeding into the pipes under the road properly. This might be the responsibility of Mid-Suffolk District Council housing. Lucy Elkin is investigating. Janet Norman-Philips

 National Flood Forum, charity helps people at risk of flooding (nationalfloodforum.org.uk)

- Blue Pages (bluepages.org.uk) products and manufacturers of flood defence items.
- Flood Re (www.homeprotect.co.uk) offers home insurance for flood risk areas.



Itchy Ears? Hearing Loss? Blocked Ears? It could just be wax... Ear Wax Removal Service, offering clinic and home visit appointments. Our clinic is based in Eye, offering late appointments every Thursday. Experienced, qualified & insured microsuction and ear care specialist,

covering Norfolk & Suffolk. To book, call us on: 07720 194212 Website: clearear-ms.co.uk Socials: clearearmicrosuctionspecialist email: clear.ear@yahoo.com

#### **Redlingfield Village Meeting**

Parish chair Adrian Smith thanked Councillor Lucy Elkin for everything she has done for the village. He also thanked "everyone for pulling together and helping each other out during and after the countywide October flooding". He also thanked Dick, Drew & Del for quickly tackling the downed poplar in the centre of the village and Trevor for organising the final clear up.

The Annual Redlingfield Produce Show not happening this year, unless someone is found to run it.

The meeting agreed to give High Suffolk Community Bus Service £200 for the current 2023-24 year as people were keen to use their services. See separate Horham Community Centre story.

Saturday

4th May

From 8pm - All welcome Plus Raffle

Redlingfield Village

Cheese & Wine

VILLAGE EVENTS 2024: Volunteers to help out are always very welcome!

Saturday 4th May: Cheese & Wine **Evening** (Horham Community Centre). Volunteers needed to prepare food and serve drinks.

Wednesday 15th May: Redlingfield Village/Parish Meeting AGM 2024 (Horham CC) starting at 8pm.

Saturday 18th May: Pub on the Green (6pm-midnight, Doorstep Green).

Saturday 8th June: Pub on the Green. Sunday 7th July: Redlingfield Annual

Dog Show and Summer Fayre. Joint event between the Village Committee/ Parish

Meeting and the Church PCC. Volunteers needed.

Saturday 3rd August: Pub on the Green.

Saturday 7th September: Pub on the Green.

Saturday 14th September: Family Bingo Night.

Saturday 26th October: **Redlingfield Village Swing Dance** at the Red Feather Club.

Joint Churchvard & Doorstep Green Tidies are on Wednesday April 24th (4pm onwards) & Saturday & Sunday April 27th

& 28th 10am onwards. General trimming and tidy, empty, clean & stocktake both container & shed. Clean and check benches. tables and play equipment etc.

The Coffee Caravan restarts its visits to Redlingfield on Wednesday 3rd April and is on the first Wednesday of the month 10am-12 noon on the village triangle with its last visit on 2nd October.

mittee Email pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

Evening

## Fleurs Artisan Florist & Greengrocer



## Something to celebrate ... Mother's Day Sunday March 10

# Arrangements Bouquets Garlands Hand-tied Arrangements Garlands Hand-tied Arrangements Arrangeme

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#### **REDLINGFIELD BUS SERVICES**

#### HIGH SUFFOLK COMMUNITY BUS:

The service was established in 1983, due to the loss of local commercial bus services. The villages of Bedfield, Bedingfield, Kenton, Monk Soham, Redlingfield, Southolt, Tannington and Worlingworth got together to start a shared service to ensure villages have a basic bus service.

It provides local and community transport for the founding villages. They own a 16-seat minibus and as well as private hire, provide bus services to Framlingham, Diss, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Norwich and Woodbridge.

Currently, as no one in Redlingfield has used the service recently, the bus has stopped calling here but they are happy to stop in Redlingfield as soon as needed. So, just phone Alan on 01728 685694 or Val on 01728 628068 to let them know you want to use the bus and they will put Redlingfield back in to the schedule.

In the summer months they provide a monthly seaside services to Felixstowe (May, June & September) and Southwold (July & August). Bus passes are accepted and they are also looking for more volunteer drivers.

If you think you might like to drive the minibus once or twice a month please get in touch with Alan 01728 685694 or Val Swallow 01728 628068. Email support@combus.org.uk (www.combus.org.uk).

Its weekly Friday Diss service runs through Redlingfield and used to stop in the village at around 10.30am.

Its Stowmarket service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of the month is still

#### ■ If you want to use any services YOU NEED TO PHONE Alan on 01728 685694

#### 01728 628233 Athelington Hall CheekyPorker ROAST CheekyPorker Hog Roast Cheeky Porker Hog Roast

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Athelington Hall Horham Eye Suffolk IP21 5EJ info@logcabinholidays.co.uk


#### **Redlingfield Bus Services**

Saturday and 4th Wednesday of the month is scheduled to leave Redlingfield from the village sign at 9.31/9.35am arriving Norwich at 11.19/11.11am and leaving at 3.15/2.45pm.

The Bury St Edmunds service on the 3rd Saturday of the month: is scheduled to leave from opposite the village sign at 9.38am arriving at Angel Hill at 10.52am and returning at 2.45pm.

timetabled to leave from Redlingfield village sign at 9.31am arriving at Stowmarket Argos 10.36am, leaving Stowmarket at 1.10pm. Its Norwich service on the 2nd

 High Suffolk Community Transport, Cowslip Cottage, Bedfield, IP13 7JD. Tel: 01728 627181 or 01728 685415, Email: support@combus.org, Web: combus.org.uk. Janet Norman Philips

#### or Val on 01728 628068 to let them know so they will stop in Redlingfield.



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> Call us to discuss your pests on 07809226109. www.safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

#### **SPORT/OPINION**

# **Changes since Lockdown**

Ve had two comments I've taken a bit to heart about the articles I've done for the magazine over the last six years. One is that the subject matter on one occasion was 'inappropriate'. The fact it was said passionately by somebody close to me hurt a lot. The other was a more general: 'Who cares about anyone's opinions?'

We live in a society of increasingly limited free speech and less freedom to broadcast. The problem with opinions is we all have them. My truth is important to me but incompatible to others. You can only hope people see that opinion as such. So, I'm looking to write something appropriate and without too much opinion. That makes writing so much harder.

I got to thinking about more relaxed times in the past and sport in local newspapers. Back in the times when the *Diss Express* covered local sport



fairly well. When there was a free paper that told you about local table tennis and bowls and not just a reprint of the most recent *EDP* report on a Norwich City game. It was deteriorating before Covid but has slumped to the lowest base possible.

Now newspapers don't give the scores of last night's matches if they kick off after 7.45 or go into extratime. Don't start me on the local papers' non-league football coverage being about three days after it happened, if at all. They don't always print the fixtures on the day they are due to be played in midweek either.

Then there is the local cricket coverage that stopped suddenly after 2019. In one year, probably 2021, they covered the East Anglian Premier League by printing the *EDP* article on the Norfolk sides.

I played for Eye and District for about two and a half decades and the local leagues were always covered by the *East Anglian* on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a day later there was a Bank Holiday Monday. There were results, coverage and up-to-date league tables. Their coverage has declined since Covid from excellent to non-existent.

Now I play bowls I get no scores or tables in local papers. Word of mouth and the occasional league table put out by the secretary is the only information you get during the season.

People will say use websites but to go from well covered to nothing in a

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#### **OPINION/SPORT**

# - Part 1

couple of years is disappointing. Yes, I can get scores as they're happening on a smart phone, lap-top, tablet, but not everyone is so lucky. Teletext and Oracle have gone.

Is this just a symptom of a dying industry? We're just expected to go online for our information now?

When the local paper covered sport, I would know Stradbroke and Diss had two bowls clubs, where the local

cricket clubs were, Eye had a tabletennis team, even that Brome Swan had somewhere I could try pétanque. Not any more though. Occasional references to the local Thurlow Nunn League club games, Diss Rugby Club's recent game, columns about Ipswich Town or City but little else.

Until about three years I used to have access to a *Bury Free Press* at work. The local sport coverage was good, especially for local football, cricket, Bury's rugby club and Mildenhall speedway. As many as seven pages of match reports and information on upcoming fixtures.

In the 1990s and early 2000s I wrote cricket reports for the *Diss Express* when I played for Eye and District. I would try hard to find the right words to explain how I wanted something



expressed in print. After editing, sometimes it became nonsensical. It was frustrating when 'a borderline run out decision saw Player Y depart' became 'Player Y was run out'. Even my own family say I go on too much when explaining or offering an opinion so I shouldn't really complain.

I remember we had a problem with sponsorship one season. It was agreed that if a local firm sponsored a

game, I would mention it in the report. We managed to get about six to pay for a match ball and the small amount we paid someone to sort the tea. In the first sponsored game I wrote 'Match sponsored by XYZ' and it was cut. As was ABC's sponsorship two weeks later.

I enjoyed writing reports on a Sunday evening when post-match adrenaline or disappointment was present. On the rare occasion I did well, I tried to play down my role despite making sure any of Crane's decent scores, very rare good bowling return, or catch at an important phase, were in. We all have egos.

I really believe that the trauma of 2020 will be seen as a major cultural shift. *Ian Crane* 

#### HORHAM & ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

#### HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL:

One criticism, which is justifiable, must be that information from the Parish Council has been limited in the past.

One notice board in the village, which is not in the best place for all to see, doesn't really fit the bill. With this in mind we are now publishing the minutes of meetings additionally in the Old School, the Community Centre and hopefully soon, on a new notice board to be situated in the Bus Shelter. The minutes will be published as soon as possible after the meetings rather than a few days before the next meeting.

Work is continuing to obtain quotes for new playground equipment so we can progress the feasibility of getting grants for this. Work in progress! The digital speed indicator in the village, which was intermittent at best, has passed on and we hope to replace it with one that does work in the near future. It may help to slow a few racers down.

The Planters (tyres) at the entrance to the village have been refreshed and we should see the results as spring approaches. Thanks to Paul and Tom for this.

Members of the council are now involved in the discussions regarding the lorry ban in Eye and are representing this Parish. We do feel some of the effects in regard to the traffic and we should have some voice in this.

On the same note we are also included in looking at the possible effects of future industrial developments in the near area which may have consequences for the



# The Daily Care Agency

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#### HORHAM & ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL & CHURCH NEWS

village both in traffic increases and the environment.

The next Parish Council meeting is at

7.30pm on the 19th March 2024 at the Community Centre. **Andy Black, Horham and Athelington Parish Council** 

■ HORHAM BAPTIST CHURCH: Join us over Easter at Horham Baptist Church!

We have three events going on over the Easter weekend where we'll be considering why the death and resurrection of Christ is so important and what it means for us today. Our services will include singing some songs, a Bible reading, a short talk, and lots of tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

We'd love for you to join us for any of our services over the Easter weekend. All of our services start at 10.30am unless otherwise stated:

Good Friday Service & Communion

- Easter Sunday Morning Service (including breakfast from 9:30am)
- Easter Sunday Evening Praise (at 7pm)



For more information, you can head to our website at www.horhambaptist.org.uk/whats-on/ and you are always welcome to come to any of our regular services, Sundays at 10.30am.

Courtney Chilvers, Ministry Trainee

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#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

#### Planned Church of England services March to May.

**Saturdays & Sundays:** CW Morning Prayer at 8am on *facebook.com/WingfieldChurch;* **Fridays:** Compline at 6pm on Zoom (and in person in Wingfield church during March).

#### **Friday 1st March**

10 for 10.30am World Day of Prayer service, **Hoxne.** 

#### Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30am CŴ Holy Communion, Athelington; 11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield; 4pm Messy Church, Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall.

#### Sunday 10th March 4th Sunday of Lent

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30 for 10am Café Church, Hoxne.

#### Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent

9.30am CŴ Holy Communion, **Hoxne**; 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, **Horham**; 6pm BCP Evensong, **Wingfield**.

#### Saturday 23rd March

2 to 4.30pm Quiet Afternoon, Hoxne.

#### Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, **Syleham;** 11.am CW Holy Communion, **Hoxne;** 4pm All Age service, **Hoxne.** 

## Monday. Tuesday & Wednesday 25th, 26th & 27th March

6pm Compline, **St Edmund Chapel**, **Hoxne**.

**Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday** 7pm service at **Gislingham**.

#### Friday 29th March Good Friday

11.15 am Good Friday service, **Horham;** 12.00 noon Good Friday service, **Wingfield;** 2.30pm Good Friday service, **Hoxne.** 

### Saturday 30th March Easter Eve

7.30pm Service of Light, **Denham.** 

#### Sunday 31st March Easter Day

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

#### Sunday 7th April 2nd Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne; 11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield; 4pm Messy Church, Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall (no service at Athelington).

#### Sunday 14th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am CŴ Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne;.

#### Sunday 21st April 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, **Hoxne**; 11.15am BCP Holy Communion, **Horham**; 6pm Choral Evensong, **Wingfield** with Sine Nomine choir.

#### Sunday 28th April 5th Sunday of Easter

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham; 11am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne; 4pm All Age service, Hoxne

#### Sunday 5th May 6th Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Athelington; 11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield; 4pm Messy Church, Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall.

#### CHURCH NEWS & SERVICES

#### THERE IS NO TIME LIKE SPRING

There is no time like spring, says Christina Rossetti in her poem *Spring* and it is indeed a season like no other. A season for new shoots, new birth, growth and resurrection.

The church's season of Lent is thought of as being all about self-denial and gloom, but Lent is actually an old word for spring and the season is more to do with new growth than it is with dust and ashes.

It leads up to the great celebration of life that is Easter. Our special activities this Lent will include four study sessions on Tuesday evenings (20th February, 5th, 12th and 19th March) to look at different aspects of worship and consider how our own worship can be enlivened and enriched. To join in just get in touch.

Over the next few months we will also be reviewing our Plan for Growth which was drawn up this time last year.

We now have activities in place for children from birth to 16 years old: 12.30 to 2.30pm on the first Tuesday each month in termtime: Little Lambs for



**Rev Canon Eleanor Goodison, Priest in Charge, Hoxne Benefice** 07876 143579 eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

babies, toddlers and their carers at Hoxne pavilion;

 4pm on the first Sunday of each month: Messy Church for ages 3-7 at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall;
 each school holiday and half term: Club Create for ages 7-12 with an event or outing;

 7-9pm on the fourth Friday of each month: our new Youth Café for ages 12-16 at Hoxne pavilion.

We continue to work on ways to make our church buildings more accessible and welcoming. And we are delighted that a new Pastoral Lay Elder has been commissioned for the benefice. What more would you like to see the church doing? Let us know.

And don't forget that the clocks go forward on Easter Day!

#### God bless. Eleanor

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

Thursday 9th May Ascension Day Service to be confirmed

#### Sunday 12th May Sunday after Ascension Day

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield; 10 for 10.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

#### Sunday 19th May Pentecost

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;

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

#### Sunday 26th May Trinity Sunday

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham; 11am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne; 4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

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

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL - LUCY'S NEWS**



Lucy Elkin (Eye, Occold and Redlingfield) 07928 512 590 lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk www.facebook.com/CllrLucy/

#### FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT:

Following the terrible flooding in the District this winter, the second grant for flooded homes is now being rolled out by Suffolk County Council. Homes that flooded during Storm Babet may be eligible for up to £5,000 to help reduce the risk and impact of future flooding. See www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-andtransport/flooding-and-drainage/property -flood-resilience-grant

■ **REDUCING FLOOD RISK:** I attended the Redlingfield Village Meeting in February, where there was a good discussion of what can be done to reduce future flood risk. Suffolk County Highways are due to provide advice on known problem drains. The Environment Agency is also working with landowners around Suffolk to advise on 'natural flood management' measures to potentially reduce flood risk. Some of these are longterm, complicated steps, but we know we need to do what we can to reduce flood risk as the climate changes.

 'COSY HOMES' - HELP TO KEEP WARM AND REDUCE BILLS: Mid Suffolk District Council wants to help people in the district to insulate their homes. Improving insulation can cut energy bills, as well as reducing CO2 emissions.
 You may be able to get a grant of up to £3,500 to pay for measures such as loft, floor or wall insulation. To qualify you need to have an income of under £60,000 and less than £16,000 in savings. See www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/

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#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL - LUCY'S NEWS**

w/mid-suffolk-cosy-homes or call 0300 1234000

ARE ENERGY BILLS A WORRY?

Contact 03456 037 686 or visit www.warmhomessuffolk.org for advice on bills (they may also be able to help you insulate your home if you are on a lower income and don't have mains gas heating).
Citizens Advice can provide advice on the cost of living: call 01449 676060/ 01449 676 280 or pop in to see Citizen's Advice in Eye Library on Friday mornings (no appointment needed).

#### GREENER MID SUFFOLK

**SITES FOR TREES:** Mid Suffolk District Council is working with the Woodland Trust to support landowners, Parish Councils and community groups to plant more trees, including woodland or community orchards. We'd love to speak with you if you have an idea for a project. See www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/midsuffolk/w/tree-planting LOOKING AFTER OUR RIVERS: In Eve. we are setting up Love the Dove, a community effort to monitor water quality along the River Dove. If you'd like to get involved, please do let me know. **GREENER LOCAL TRANSPORT:** If you are a visitor to Eye, there are now eight EV charging points in Eye's car parks (four in Cross Street and four in Buckshorn Lane.) An electric bike charging point and a bike maintenance stand are also being installed at the Cross Street building (near Eve Library.) There is a real shortage of parking spaces in Eye at peak times, so I am working with Mid Suffolk

possible solution. Got a question, concern or idea? Please contact me. Best wishes, Lucy.

Council and Eye Town Council to find a

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#### DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



As an NHS hospital doctor who has worked in some of the biggest and best London Hospitals throughout my medical career, I am only too

familiar with the signs and symptoms of Measles.

Measles is an illness with unpleasant and sometimes life-threatening complications; a virus that Britain had hoped to eradicate through a vaccination programme delivering herd immunity, but unfortunately, parents failing to vaccinate their children has resulted in a loss of herd immunity and a recent surge in Measles cases.

Until recently, herd immunity had meant that cases of Measles had been isolated to small outbreaks in London and the big cities. However, the loss of herd immunity means that we are now seeing a surge of cases throughout the United Kingdom.

Herd immunity is where the spread of an infectious disease within a population is prevented by the pre-existing immunity of a high proportion of people within that population. In Britain, herd immunity against Measles had, in the past, been conveyed by an effective vaccination program – which in recent years meant a two-dose course of the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) triple vaccine administered before a child's fifth birthday.

The MMR vaccine is routinely offered by health visitors and GPs. Herd immunity against Measles is achieved when 95 per cent or more of the population have gained immunity. But in parts of London and Birmingham, less than 70 per cent of the population have completed the MMR vaccination course by their fifth birthday.

In Suffolk, the picture is better, with 89.1 per cent of children being fully vaccinated by their fifth birthday but this is insufficient to convey herd immunity, and means that more than one in 10 children in our county are not fully protected against the Measles Virus.

Measles is not an illness to be dismissed lightly. It is highly contagious with an R rate (or reproduction rate) of between 15 and 16. When compared to the R rate of the first strain of COVID-19 of between 2 and 3, it is clear that Measles spreads easily and quickly in the unvaccinated. The school classroom is particularly fertile territory for the Measles virus to spread.

The reason why vaccination against Measles is so important is because it can result in serious and life-threatening complications including pneumonia, meningitis, blindness and seizures. In pregnancy, Measles can cause miscarriage, still birth and premature labour.

The task now is to restore herd immunity against Measles. If you or your child or grandchild has not completed the MMR vaccination course, then please book an appointment with your GP. It may just save a child's life.

Dr Dan Poulter is the MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich and a practising NHS Doctor.

**Dr Dan Poulter, MP,** Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Tel: 020 7219 7038 Email: daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk

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