

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



**SUMMER 2015  
ISSUE No. 30**

# **SPURLING & REMBLANCE**



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**REGULAR** readers may notice that a few of our regular features and columns are missing from this issue – this is due to a variety of reasons, ranging from illness to me using my editor’s prerogative and leaving out one offering and not having the time to chase others. I hope normal service will be resumed next issue when I should have more time to devote to the magazine. I hope you enjoy your latest village magazine regardless and many thanks to all our advertisers, contributors and deliverers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Abbott for being re-elected chairman of Redlingfield Village Meeting at the recent agm and to Will Edwards who joined the village committee.

MANY thanks to Christine McKechnie from Southolt for our front page picture. You can visit Christine’s studio at Cornerways, The Street, Southolt, over the weekend of June 27th and 28th as part of Suffolk Open Studios. For more see the story in this issue, [www.christinemckechnie.co.uk](http://www.christinemckechnie.co.uk) & [www.suffolkopenstudios.org](http://www.suffolkopenstudios.org).

*THE planning application to change the use of part of arable field to community leisure & recreation area and construct vehicle access and parking between the Church & Doorstep Green Church Road, Redlingfield (ref 1620/15) has been lodged with Mid Suffolk Council. This is all part of the bid to save Redlingfield’s historic church and extended the Doorstep Green. Support it online at: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) or email: [planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk) **Mike Ager***

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact: Evelyn Adey on [evelyn.adey@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.adey@btinternet.com) or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on [mike@gn.apc.org](mailto:mike@gn.apc.org) or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

***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.***

We aim to produce four issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November. The next issue - Autumn 2015 - is due to be published at the end of August. The final deadline for all submissions is August 14th.

**Rates for adverts in four issues distributed to approximately 300 homes in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:-**

1/6 page £8.50 (60mm deep, 60mm across)  
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# 'You can always tell a farmer but you can't tell him much'

*Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Barn Farm wildlife finds plenty of reasons to be cheerful – from Michaela to earthworms*

**W**E DO GO ON ABOUT the lovely barn owl, but it's not the only owl we have.

Add in short-eared, long-eared, little owl and tawny and you make up the country's "famous five" resident owls. The whole nap hand can be found at, you'd never guess, Five Owl Farm, in Yorkshire.

Locally, the Knowlands of Denham have regular sightings of our three most numerous owl species and plentiful nesting activity this year. Silent flight with very soft wings is one of the owls' attributes and this was

proven one day by a school visit to Stonham Barns. A party of young children were asked to kneel down and not look up whilst a tame barn owl was flown low over their heads. It did so four times and none of the children knew it was there.

Of the worlds' 200 species of owl, only one, the blackston's owl from Asia, manages without silent flight. This magnificent creature is simply huge, and, as it hunts by dive-bombing for fish in the manner of an osprey, silent flight wouldn't be much use. Strictly speaking it should really be called an eagle owl.



**Steve demonstrates hedging by boat.**

DOC GOODGE HELPED ME complete the first of our two annual breeding bird surveys at Cretingham where the rookery is as busy as ever.

Rooks are great creatures of habit and were constant winter companions to farm workers who started at dawn and finished at dusk. You started work when they left roost and stopped when they returned. You could set your watch by them and they were sometimes referred to as the ploughman's clock.

My late father always said an early bird has got two chances, a



**Grand barn owl  
flypast at Grove Farm.**

late bird has only ever got one, and so this year we thought we would get on with it. Although our survey visit in late March was on the early side, the highlights made it one of the best in recent years.

We enjoyed seeing barn owl, mistle thrush and goldcrest, and for the first time, saw the value to wildlife of game cover left at the end of the shooting season. The cover was still supporting some blue tits and great tits, a pair of reed bunting and numerous yellow-hammers.

Bird lovers talk of trying to combat the “hunger gap” of resident birds at the end of winter and this half-acre patch, which had been managed primarily for pheasants, was doing just that. Afterwards, our rewards were twofold, a full English breakfast from Anna cured our own hunger gap and, through the Goodge’s kitchen window, a flock of about twenty redwings were in good view. This small thrush is especially keen on hawthorn berries

and then will move on to earthworms. It made a very good end to the morning because redwings, despite being described in the bird-books as an abundant winter visitor, are shy and quite rare around here. A few breed in Scotland where this spring the leaders of the SNP have displayed anything but shyness.

A hat-trick of thrushes in a week was completed here at home with two song thrushes “singin’ their little hearts out”

at opposite ends of the farmyard.

**THIS SPRING SAW FURTHER** pond restoration and we borrowed a boat from Tim Watts to attack the overhanging hawthorn from the water.

As a result, we can now access a rat run or two previously hidden behind yards of overgrown hedge. No one likes to admit to harbouring the pernicious pest and bird feeders certainly do not help.

We do have a couple of mallard which Hoover up the bird-food spillage, but even better says Tim, would be a pair of common eider ducks. He knows because he has a pair and they are simply vicious. He once saw a nesting eider kill a rat at the water’s edge. As big as a small goose with strong jaws and bill, it is found in the far north breeding by the sea where its diet includes mussels and crabs. So doing in a soft-bellied rat in Suffolk is probably not difficult.

*Continued on page 4*



*Continued from page 3*

Eiderdowns are a thing of the past but this luxury insulation can still be found being collected in Iceland. Farming for eiderdown in Iceland is only possible due to the duck's colonial breeding habits, as thousands nest together and make the gathering of down economical. I think I will stick to turkey breeding.

APRIL WAS AS DRY AS A closed-down Suffolk pub but not all the farmers were grumbling. Winter-sown wheat manages well in the absence of April showers as it is very good for crop root development, forcing roots deep into the soil to seek moisture.

A plant of wheat will have roots reaching as far below ground level as the ear extends above it. This growth requires good soil structure which we maintain by minimising the soil damage from heavy farm traffic and, just as important, by building up our earthworm populations.

2015 is the International Year of the Soil, and the farming magazines are full of it. One of the important measures of soil health is the organic matter content which is boosted by farmyard muck hence leading to greater fertility. It's the microbes, you

see. With all this advice available we can't go wrong, but as a friend once said, though you can always tell a farmer, you can't tell him much.

NOW INTO MAY AND SOME much-needed rain has arrived. This is the time for crop-walking, the dogs love it and you can make the most of bird-watching before the hedges are in full leaf.

This year, the yellow-hammer and skylark are plentiful among the

residents and the blackcap numbers well of the spring migrants. Sadly, around the house, a blackcap bites the dust by flying headlong into a window, poor reward after a long migration.

The blackcap is sometimes called the “nightingale of

the north” due to its melodious song. Doc Goodge was walking in Minsmere and spotted the real thing. The presence of SpringWatch makes this a celebrity venue and nightingales can always be found here. They travel from Africa in April, and this regular was busy nest-building and much more conspicuous than usual. So with turtledoves, swallows and Michaela all returning as well, there are many reasons to be cheerful.

*Trevor Edwards*





**Placing bets during Redlingfield's race night.**

# Village race night success

**R**EDLINGFIELD'S RECENT Race Night proved a major success raising what is expected to top £800 for maintaining and improving our village facilities. The event at Horham Community Centre also saw the wonderful news announced that Peter Saunders has made a £10,000 donation to build the bridge for new church access and our expanded Doorstep Green.

The Family Fun Evening & Race Night, by On Course Race Nights, on Saturday 11th April at Horham & Athelington Community Centre was also voted a big success by the sell-out crowd. The event was organised on behalf of the village by the Village Committee – a group of some 15 volunteers who raise funds for the village. The money goes towards maintaining and improving our village facilities, which include expanding our Doorstep Green and creating

vehicular access to it and the church. We are also fundraising to repair and improve our 11th century village church so that it can host more village events.

You may not be aware but as a parish, we do not raise a local rate, instead we hold fundraising events such as this to gain the income we need to look after the village and its facilities. It's an unusual way of doing things – only a handful of parishes in Suffolk don't raise a rate.

Special thanks to Jacqueline and David Love, Andrew and Katie Abbott for their help setting up and to all the others who helped on the night and sold tickets.

Many thanks also to Runfix, Under One Roof - Mark Bancroft, Paul Durrant & Son (Builders), Watson Fuels, Susan Whymark Funeral Service, Guy McGregor & Associates, Athelington Hall and Wash Farm Barn for sponsoring the eight races.

**Janet Norman-Philips**



# The hunt for Redlingfield crash relatives continues

**A**FTER MUCH FRUITLESS research to find surviving relatives to attend the unveiling of the B-17 memorial in Redlingfield in 2010, people linked with nine of the ten brave young US airmen who lost their lives in the crash have since been in touch with the village's parish council and the 95th Bomb Group in the UK and US.

The most recent to get in touch was a lady whose mother was a friend of 2nd Lt. Joseph Spicer the bombardier on B-17G 42-31123 which crashed at Green Farm. She is in touch with Philip Samponaro through the 95th

Facebook page.

We have also been in touch with relatives of eight of the airmen from the 334th Bombardment Squadron B-17. The most recent relative to get in

touch was Karen Walsh, whose uncle was Sgt Julius William "Buddy" Torok, and Patrick Flynn, a relative of S/Sgt Gordon V Sorensen, and the crewman's niece Jennifer Sorensen Flynn. Karen has kindly sent us a picture of Sgt Torok taken in 1932 (pictured) and her parents' wedding photograph. Karen's

mother and father are on the right side of the photograph, and Julius (her mother's brother) and Peggy (her



■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED** - a plan change the use of part of arable field to community/leisure and recreation area and construct vehicle access and parking between the **Church & Doorstep Green, Church Road, Redlingfield**; a plan to erect a replacement livestock unit at **Thickthorn Piggeries, Thickthorn Farm, Worlingworth Road, Horham**; application to use airfield concrete for outside storage, with associated fencing and bunding, **Horham Business Park, Horham Road, Hoxne**; application to use land for siting marquee for events at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**. **GRANTED** - plan to build a two-storey side extension with the erection of detached single garage, **Frances Cottage, Athelington Road, Horham**; plan to erect a two-bay cart lodge with workshop to rear and storage above at **The Granary, Lodge Farm, The Street, Horham**; plan to reposition and extend aircraft hangar and associated taxiways, **Horham Airfield, Horham Road, Hoxne**. **WITHDRAWN** - plan to build a two-storey side extension with the erection of detached double garage, **Frances Cottage, Athelington Road, Horham**.

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council' ([www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)).





mother's sister) are on the left. Julius was her father's best man, and Peggy was maid of honour (pictured right).

Karen wrote: "Although I never knew my Uncle Buddy (I was born after World War II), my mother spoke of him often and told me what had happened to him. Still, the details were quite sketchy until I came across your website! It truly has a wealth of information about the crew and their ill-fated airplane, as well as the local people who were affected. It has been most interesting (and sad) to read all of it. Thank you so much!"

The village and other websites have now put us in touch with relatives of – Sgt Julius William "Buddy" Torok, waist gunner; S/Sgt Gordon V Sorensen, radio operator; 2nd Lt Kenneth B Rongstad, pilot; 2nd Lt Warren Franklin Mansfield Strawn, co-pilot; 2nd Lt Richard E Diete, navigator; S/Sgt Gail A Richmond Junior, top-turret gunner/flight engineer; Sgt Charles E Phinney, ball turret gunner; and S/Sgt Kenneth Cosby, tail gunner.

The only member of the crew who remains a complete mystery is left waist gunner Sgt Louis M Mirabel.

*Mike Ager*

■ **SUFFOLK OPEN STUDIOS:** More than 125 Suffolk artists will be opening their studios to the public over the weekends of June 2015 as part of the long-running Suffolk Open Studios initiative.

Throughout weekends in June artists open their studios to the public giving you the opportunity to experience 'behind the scenes' and find out where and how they produce their work and discuss the inspiration behind it.

This year Suffolk Open Studios has added 11 studio trails in which artists collaborate to open their own studios for the same weekend and provide easy to follow

maps so that visitors can go from one artist to the next. The directory, which is available at tourist information outlets, is also available online along with trail maps at [www.suffolkopenstudios.org](http://www.suffolkopenstudios.org). The Suffolk Borders Trail on the weekend of June 27th and 28th covers this area. Seven artists are featured from Long Thurlow across to Eye. Along this trail you can view the mixed media work of Gillian Crossley-Holland (Rickinghall) and Adrian Rumbles (Long Thurlow), whilst Tom Lund-Lack (Thornham Magna) and Nicolette Hallett (Mellis) are both oil painters. Tom also draws and works in collage as does Christine McKechnie (Southolt). Kirstie Bruce (Denham) and Rob Wheeler (Walsham-Le-Willows) are both ceramicists.

Suffolk  
OPEN STUDIOS



■ **OPERA FOR CHILDREN:** Mid Suffolk is hosting an opera for babies, pre-school children and parents. Theatre company Wonderful Beast is bringing a new opera designed for a very young audience and their parents to Stowmarket and Eye in June. Orla and the Sun combines live theatre with singing, storytelling and play. The story is about Orla, who cannot understand why the sun keeps following her. Tickets are free but booking is required. Call 01449 724638 to reserve your space. The performances are on Wednesday June 17th at Eye Town Hall and Thursday June 18th Stowmarket Reform Church (both are 1.30pm-2:30pm).

**Stuart Atkinson**

■ **THE SUFFOLK FIRE RIDE:** The Suffolk Fire Ride on Sunday July 5th offers cyclists rides of 30, 60 and 100 miles. Starting at Eye Fire Station, Lambeth Road, it is a friendly cycle sport suitable for all levels of riders. Free all day parking is available for participants. The event is £15 to enter and you can register online at [www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/suffolkfire](http://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/suffolkfire) ride or contact Laura Harden at [lharden@firefighterscharity.org.uk](mailto:lharden@firefighterscharity.org.uk) or 07798 725560 for further information.

■ **AN EVENING WITH SIMON WESTON:** Around 200 people packed out the Diss Corn Exchange on Saturday 28th March to listen to a thoroughly exceptional talk by Simon Weston, Falkland's War Veteran. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, the sponsors and particularly to Dawn and Chris Carman-Jones for pulling the whole event together. We raised over £1000 for 1st Fressingfield Scout Group HQ development fund.

**Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne**

# Celebrating

**R**EDLINGFIELD IS celebrating being awarded £71,800 grant to help save their Anglo Saxon church.

Redlingfield has big plans for such a little village. As well as saving the historic Anglo Saxon church – which is mentioned in the Domesday Book – it also hopes to expand the Doorstep Green and give the church a new lease of life.

Those plans have been given a major boost by the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund grant. The church of St Andrew, which is on the “At Risk Register”, needs further work to secure its future but making the roof watertight is a start.

The village wants to make the church a building the whole community can use with toilets, a kitchen, sustainable heating and lighting and secure and safe access from the village.

Repairing and improving the church is expected to cost approximately £150,000 while it is hoped around £80,000 will be spent on enlarging and improving the Doorstep Green recreation area so it links up with the church.

A survey of all villagers carried out by the parish council revealed overwhelming support for extending the Doorstep Green and improving the church to meet the needs of the village.

Parish clerk Janet Norman-Philips said: “The church would be right next door to an enlarged Doorstep Green –

# landing big £71,800 grant

so bringing the two projects together makes so much sense.”

“Our beautiful little church has been around for almost a thousand years but it is in a sorry state, the roof needs major work, we have damp problems and the electrics are in urgent need of repair.

“We simply have to save it but we want to do so much more with it so that the people living here in a

thousand years’ time can still enjoy it.”

She added: “When creating the Doorstep Green we didn’t think deeply enough about future growth – we didn’t realise how popular it was going to be and we made it far, far too small.

“It’s not going to be easy or quick but if we all pull together we believe we can achieve it.

Fund raising efforts have started

with events planned for this year starting with the Buffet & Race Night at the Horham Community Centre in April and concluding with a 1940s dance at the Red Feather Club in neighbouring Horham on 14th November, which will go towards the church fund.

*Mike Ager*



**Villagers and vicar  
Rev Michael Womack  
celebrating outside  
the church**

**SUFFOLK DOG DAY:** Sunday July 26th is a big day for dogs at Helmingham Hall. There are fun dog classes with great prizes, agility, dog scurry and lots of attractions and trade stands to keep everyone entertained. Highlights include: doglympics; doggytude – the new music area; more than 80 stalls selling everything from dog accessories to cheese; a catering village; and demonstrations. Included within the ticket price is entry to Helmingham Gardens. Adult tickets £10; children (4-16 years) and concessions £5; family ticket (two adults/two children) £25. Included with the ticket price is entry to Helmingham Gardens. Tickets are available at the gate on the day. Please note that they cannot accept credit/debit card payment for tickets on the day.

## WHAT'S ON

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### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

**Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon, the centre of Redlingfield.

**Redlingfield churchyard clear up:** 6pm. Bring along some tools & help.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

**Bar meals:** Horham Community Centre.

### SATURDAY JUNE 6

**Car Boot Sale & Breakfast Cafe:** 8am-1pm, Stradbroke High School. £5 for stall holders, free for everyone else.

**Night at the Movies:** doors 7pm, Grease, St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, £4. Costume encouraged but not necessary.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 6 & 7

**Eye Open Gardens Weekend.**

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**Eye Mayor Making Day.**

**Belgian Day:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Official launch for visiting Cockerill 0-4-OVBWT tram engine, built in Belgium.

**Peter Knight's Gigspanner:** Wingfield Barns.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 11-SATURDAY, JUNE 13

**Ipswich Beer Festival:** Ipswich Town FC.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Hoxne Film Night:** 7.30pm, The Theory of Everything, St Edmund's Hall, £3.50.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 13

**Late Risers' Car Boot Sale:** gate opens 10am for 11am start, Horham Community Centre. Pitch £5 in advance, £6 on the day. Book with Karen 384754.

**Pub on the Green:** 6pm-midnight, Redlingfield Doorstep Green. Watch out for details of mini BBQs.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 14

**Stonham Dog extravaganza:** Stonham Barns, 10am-4pm.

**Father's Ferret Day:** Free entry for Dad, & ferret racing fun, Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

**Orla and the Sun;** 1.30pm-2.30pm, Eye Town Hall. Opera for babies, pre-school and parents.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 19

**Fish & Chips:** Horham Community Centre.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

**Worlingworth Village fete.**

**Claire Weston in Recital:** 7pm, St Michael's Church, Fram. Tickets £10, Fram Stationers & Hall Farm Butchers.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 20 & 21

**Journey Through The Ages - Vintage Rally & Country Fair:** Goodrich Park, Palgrave (see story).

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27

**Occold Summer Fayre.**

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 27 & 28

**Stradbroke Festifull:** Stradbroke Playing Fields. Stalls, bar, food, live music.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

**Debenham Street Fayre.**

**Athelington lunch:** (see story).

**Music in the Gardens:** Helmingham Hall, noon-8pm. BBQ & Bar from 3pm, music from 5pm. Adults £7, children £3.50.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

**Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon, the centre of Redlingfield.

### SATURDAY, JULY 4

**Occold Village Fete & Fun Day.**

**The Wilby School Summer Fayre:** 11.30am-2pm.

**1940s & 1950s Retro Swing Dance:**

7.30pm, Red Feather Club, Horham. Dance with band The Hot Tin Roofs.

**Summer Ball:** Horham Community Centre. A glamorous evening with buffet & dancing. Tickets from Karen or Clare, £15 for members, £18 non-members. Dress code: black tie if you have it, otherwise as smart as you can manage.

### SUNDAY, JULY 5

**Americana Day:** 10am-4pm, Red Feather Club Horham. Free event celebrating everything American.

**Suffolk Fire Ride:** 8am, Eye Fire Station.

**Walking village footpaths:** Worlingworth.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

**150th Birthday Celebrations:** 3.30pm-7.30pm, Stradbroke Primary School.

### THURSDAY, JULY 9-SUNDAY, JULY 12

**Festival of Beer & Brewing:** Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket.

**FRIDAY, JULY 10**

**Bar meals:** Horham Community Centre.  
**Hoxne Film Night:** 7.30pm, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, St Edmund's Hall, £3.50.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 10 & 11**

**Stradisphere 2015:** Stradbroke Sports Field. More than 20 acts.

**SATURDAY, JULY 11**

**Stradbroke Village Fete:** 2pm-5pm, Stradbroke Rectory. Stalls, home made produce, food & drink.

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

**Showstopper!** 7.30pm, hits from opera & shows, Framlingham College Tickets £15 adults, £7-50 under 18s from Hall Farm Butchers, William@glasse.org.uk or 07802 597071 or on door.

**Caribbean evening:** 8pm-midnight, Thorndon Village Hall.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 11 & 12**

**Heveningham Hall Country Fair with Wings & Wheels:** 10am-5pm, Heveningham Hall.

**Military Heritage Weekend:** Suffolk Aviation Heritage Museum, The Old Radio Site, Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**

**Falconry Fair:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

**THURSDAY, JULY 16**

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Still Alice, Stradbroke Community Centre.

**THURSDAY, JULY 16-MONDAY, JULY 20**

**Debenham Country Music Festival.**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19**

**Music in the Gardens:** noon-8pm, Helmingham Hall (see June 28).

**FRIDAY, JULY 24**

**Fish & Chips:** Horham CC.

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**

**Stradbroke Church Village Show:** 8am-5pm, Stradbroke Community Centre.

**SUNDAY, JULY 26**

**Suffolk Dog Day:** Helmingham Hall (see story).

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**

**Redlingfield Summer Fayre & Hog Roast:**

3pm until late, Doorstep Green. Bar & food from 3pm, hog roast from 6pm. Games, raffles, tombola. Tickets £6 from usual sources or contact Mike & Jan (678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk).

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1-MONDAY, AUGUST 31**

**Art is the Word:** The Bank Eye, celebration of the written, spoken or sung word.

**The Bank Eye:** The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & [www.thebankeye.org](http://www.thebankeye.org).

**Diss Corn Hall:** Corn Hall, St Nicholas Street, Diss. Box Office: 652241 & [boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk). Full programme at [www.disscornhall.co.uk](http://www.disscornhall.co.uk); **Framlingham:** [www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com).

**Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, [events@helmingham.com](mailto:events@helmingham.com), [www.helmingham.com](http://www.helmingham.com).

**Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754; Clare, 388878; & Kerina, 669376, **Hoxne Cinema:** Tickets from Jenny Knights 668060, Hoxne PO & Stores, or via [www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk). **Midsuffolk Showgrounds & Stonham Barns:** Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, <http://stonham-barns.co.uk>.

**Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station, Wetheringsett nr Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5PW, [www.mslr.org.uk](http://www.mslr.org.uk), general enquiries 01449 766899. The MSLR is open on Sundays & Bank Holidays from the beginning of May until the end of Sept. **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, 01449 612229, [enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk).

**Redlingfield,** 678835, [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk), [www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk).

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. Admission £5.50.

Bar open, ice-creams on sale in the interval. **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary,** Stonham Barns, 08456 807897, [info@owl-help.org.uk](mailto:info@owl-help.org.uk), [www.owl-help.org.uk](http://www.owl-help.org.uk). **Wingfield Barns,** 384505, [enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com](mailto:enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com), [www.wingfieldbarns.com](http://www.wingfieldbarns.com), tickets also available from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

**95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club,** [www.95thbg-horham.com](http://www.95thbg-horham.com), 01728 860930 or [jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net](mailto:jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net)



## WHAT'S ON

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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

**Festival of Classic & Sports Cars:** 10am-5pm, Helmingham Hall. Adults £8, children 7 & over £4, family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £20.

**Stradbroke Walking Marathon:** 8am-5.30pm. Gerald Jenkins 384825.

**Hornby Collectors:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Model railways on display.

**Conservation Day:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

**Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon, Redlingfield.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

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

**Party by the Pond:** Framlingham's premier music event. Entry is free.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

**Summer Fayre:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

**Classic Car Show:** 10am, Stonham Barns.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

**Worlingworth flower & produce show.**

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

**Owl Evening:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary. A behind-the-scenes tour of the sanctuary plus flying display & refreshments (spaces limited - book in advance).

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 29- MONDAY, AUGUST 31

**Eye Arts Festival.**

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

**Eye Town Show:** fun fair, steam exhibits, classic cars, children's sports & more. Eye Town Moors/community centre.

**Music in the Gardens:** Helmingham Hall, noon-8pm (see June 28).

### SUNDAY & MONDAY, AUGUST 30 & 31

**Rail 'n' Ale:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon, centre of Redlingfield.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

**MONDAYS: Ballroom dancing:** St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, 7.30pm-9.30pm (for adults). Sandra Hartley, 01728 723887.

**TUESDAYS: T Plus:** Community Café with stalls, All Saint's Church, Thorndon every Tues, 10am-noon. **Bingo:** Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every other Tues. 678178. **Zumba:** Horham & Athelington Community Centre, 7pm-8pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563 534086. **Debenham Historical Society:** Regular lectures at Room 31, Debenham High School, 7.30pm, £3 per lecture, including a soft drink in the interval. Enquiries: Clive Cook 01728-861754. Non-members welcome to see what's on.

**WEDNESDAYS: Coffee mornings,** every Wed, 10.30am-noon at Horham Old School.

**Redlingfield & Occold WI,** 1st Wed of the month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Hoxon Hundred:** Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practises. Ron Ross, 643563. **Eye Country Market,** every Wed 10am-11am, Eye Town Hall (closed Jan). **Social mornings:** Horham Old School. 10.30am each Wed tea, coffee, cake, crafts, a chat and good company. Info from Christine (384168) or Pip (384370). Admission free - small charge for refreshments.

**THURSDAYS: Zumba:** Worlingworth Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563534086. Over 50s Belly Dance Class: Occold Village Hall, 11am-noon, £30 for 6 weeks 27 Feb till 3 April.

**FRIDAYS: Bingo:** Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly. 7.30pm. Mary Ellis, 384642. Worlingworth Swan, live music, last Fri evening of month.

**SATURDAYS: Occold Market & Car Boot:** Occold Village and Village Hall, 9.30am-noon, last Sat of the month from March to November.

**SUNDAYS: Public open days:** Red Feather/95th Bomb Group Heritage Association & 95th BG Hospital Museum last Sun of month May-October inclusive,

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**Walk with a Fork:** Helmingham Hall.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

**Plant Heritage Autumn Plant fair:** 10am-4pm, Helmingham Hall. Entry to plant sale is £7 including admission to Helmingham Hall Gardens.

**Stradbroke High School CARNIVAL:** 10am-4pm.

**SEPTEMBER, SATURDAY 19**

**Elvis tribute night:** Worlingworth Community Centre, tickets £10.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**Occold Autumn Fayre.**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1-MONDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Eye Arts Guild Exhibition:** The Bank Eye.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**Coffee Caravan:** 10am-noon, Redlingfield.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**

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

**Worlingworth Harvest supper:** tickets £10.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 & 11**

**Suffolk Robin Hood Game & Country Show.**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 & 17**

**Ghost Hunt:** 95th Bomb Group Hospital Museum (see story).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**

**Aviation talk:** Horham & Athelington Community Centre. Expert Clive Stevens will talk about the area & WW2.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**Help For Heroes Dance:** Red Feather Club Horham, 7.30pm.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**

**Occold Halloween Fayre.**

**Halloween Hoot!** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**Southolt supports Macmillan:** lunch 11.30am.

**Worlingworth fireworks night.**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

**Redlingfield Swing Dance:** 7.30pm, The Red Feather Club, Horham. Swing Dance at The Red Feather Club with DJs to raise money for repairs to Redlingfield church.



## ■ JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES:

On Saturday June 20th and Sunday June 21st the successor to Horham Bygones Rally is being held at Goodrich Park, Palgrave. Journey Through The Ages - Vintage Rally and Country Fair offers a day out designed to appeal to the whole family. The event is in the stunning surroundings of Goodrich Park near Diss. Visitors will be able to browse the trade stands and Craft Marquee, see re-enactment displays and travel back at the various encampments and remember the good old days admiring beautifully restored vintage vehicles and gleaming classic cars. There will also be rural craft demonstrators, a vintage fairground, donkey rides and dog show. A licensed bar on the showground will offer a range of real ales and a number of catering stands will be open all day and into the evening. Other attractions include stationary engines, country pursuits and clothing, military vehicles, model tent, commercial vehicles, auto jumble stalls, motorbikes and steam engines. Access to the showground is off the main A143 (Old Bury Road) - just follow AA Signs. The event is open from 10am to 6pm on Saturday and 5pm on Sunday. Entry for adults is £6 and children £4.

# Our villages are making the

**O**UR VILLAGES AND villagers have been in the news a lot since your last Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News – from a car crash in Redlingfield in May to a whole host of happier events.

The Diss Express' VE Day round-up included: "Glenn Miller - his actual name - will be visiting the residents at The Depperhaugh care home in Hoxne, courtesy of Horham business Filing Fortress. He will be sharing memorabilia of wartime Horham."

Glenn, a Red Feather Club regular from Redlingfield, also popped up on local TV in his WW2 USAAF gear leading a '40s sing-song at The Depperhaugh

Under the headline 'Wealth of enhancements installed at Horham Community Centre' a further *Diss Express* piece highlighted the recent upgrades to the community centre including "an improved kitchen, a room divider screen, chairs, curtains, and refurbished toilet facilities, all coming to a cost thought to be near £15,000."

The story added: "The council now hopes further fundraising could help contribute to improvements to the porch, which is leaking, as well as surfacing the car park, and providing children's play equipment in the village. The community centre has been run by the Community Council and the Village Hall



**Above: this Diss Express photo shows Clare Webb and Karen Alderton with Horham community centre's new defibrillator (Redlingfield is in the process of getting one for its Doorstep Green) - it will be on the wall outside for ease of access. Right: the Red Feather Club in the news.**

Trust since its official opening on October 2, 1981. Originally a canteen in London for soft drinks producer Britvic, a number of villagers travelled to the capital to bring the building back, and put it up in Horham. Over the years the building has been extended, and the walls and roof have also had a makeover. The centre also hosts birthday parties and other celebrations, zumba classes, and allows hire of the field for groups caravanning."

Redlingfield church's successful bid for a £71,800 grant to repair its roof also made a splash in the *Eastern Daily Press*, *East Anglian Daily Times*, *Diss Mercury*, *Diss Express* and on BBC

# news again



Radio Suffolk. Local press photographers came to the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project's April visit to Redlingfield for pictures of villagers celebrating (see separate story). The May visit of the Coffee Caravan saw the new High Sheriff of Suffolk, Judith Shallow, visit the village. That afternoon she was on Lesley Dolphin's Radio Suffolk show where she praised the Coffee Caravan and Hazel Abbott's cakes and gave the Loves a name check.

The local press also followed up last issue's story about the Red Feather Club's plan to record the memories of locals who remember the Horham airbase and friendly invasion of American servicemen during WW2. Horham's 95th Bomb Group also featured in the *EDP's* WW2 commemorative inserts.

*Mike Ager*

■ **ELECTION RESULTS: Mid Suffolk's Hoxne ward:** Liz Gibson-Harries (Conservative) 839, Nicola Carr (Labour) 400, Tommy Gee (Green) 65. Turnout 76.05% (Conservative hold). **Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Parliamentary constituency:** Dan Poulter (Conservative) 30,317, Jack Abbott (Labour) 10,173, Mark Cole (UKIP) 7,459, Jon Neal (Liberal Democrat) 3,314, Rhodri Griffiths (Green) 2,664, Tony Holyoak 162 (English Democrats). Turnout 70.7% (Con hold).

■ **ATHELINGTON FESTIVAL:** Athelington's St Peter's church is celebrating its patronal festival on Sunday June 28th with morning prayer at 11.30am, followed by lunch at Meadow Farm. Everyone is welcome at both or either events. Lunch tickets from Mary Hawes, 01728 628608. If you can't come but would like to take part you can donate a raffle prize and/or buy tickets from Evelyn 01728 628428, *Evelyn Adey*

■ **ROTARY AIDS NEPAL:** More than £1,600, including one magnificent individual donation of more than £500, has been raised by The Rotary Club of High Suffolk for earthquake victims of Nepal, thanks to the generosity of those contributing to an 'Election Collection' in Debenham. *Elaine Nightingale*

■ **NIGHT AT THE MOVIES:** 1st Fressingfield Scout Group is showing Grease on Saturday June 6th at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne. Doors open 7pm with film at 7.30pm. Tickets £4 from Hoxne PO or call 668060. Costume are encouraged but not compulsory.

*Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne*

■ **FETE SUCCESS:** Horham's old-fashioned village fete was big success last month raising £860 for Horham Playground Fund.



# Remembering the sacrifice

IT IS THE APRIL COFFEE Caravan, a lovely morning to be out on the green and I'm talking about our mutual fondness for Glenn Miller with Glenn Miller. Those wonderful old records are for me always evocative of a time of war that made up the first five years of my life. As I was a child and had known no other kind of life, war was the normal state of affairs and , if anything, it was the post-war world that took some adjusting to.

Decades later when we came to live in Redlingfield and began to get to know all our neighbours in the village we started to piece together a picture of how things had been here during the war. A number of people had been to the U.S.A. not once but several times. The late Gordon Chapman had an impressive belt of ammunition hanging up on the side of his garden shed. Piece by piece a picture, if still only partial, began to emerge. The visits to the 'States were to see sisters or aunts who had gone out from Redlingfield to

live there . Why? Well they had married war-time U.S. servicemen, most of whom were stationed at the nearby air-base. Why the bullet cases hanging on the garden shed? Answer – They were from the B-17 which had crashed in the village immediately after take off tragically killing all the crew and demolishing a farmhouse, although miraculously all in the farmhouse survived.

Following on from all this, we have recently been remembering and commemorating these times. In the village there was the moving event of the ceremony unveiling the memorial to the victims of the air crash mentioned above while nationally and more widely there have been D Day, the First World War ANZAC landings at Gallipoli, V.E. Day and let's not forget the forthcoming remembrance of V.J. Day. In some ways our local bit of history and the wider world events could be seen over two world wars as the youth of the New World, ie U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and

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**GHOST HUNT:** On Friday October 16th there will be a ghost hunt at the 95th Bomb Group Hospital Museum in Denham. The buildings were a military hospital from 1943 to 1945 and have been restored. The museum consists of a series of connected huts with wartime artefacts and a garage with an ambulance and staff car, providing a glimpse of its past. The museum is reputedly haunted and has attracted ghost hunters in the past. It has been described as a building with an often 'chilling' presence. An American soldier has reputedly been seen in full uniform, strange smells and sounds have been heard and a brick thrown at a member of staff. Ghost hunters will have access to 16 rooms and corridors, ambulance garage, air raid shelter and the morgue. Ghost hunters will be joined by a medium and have the chance to use ghost hunting and recording equipment and ghost boxes. The event is from 8pm to 2am. The price is £39 per person. To book visit [www.spooktacular-events.co.uk/october.html](http://www.spooktacular-events.co.uk/october.html).

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# of so many young people



South Africa, coming to our aid in order to prevent the European part of the Old World from completely destroying itself. If you want to get some idea of the scale of sacrifice involved, pay a visit to the beautifully kept American Cemetery at Madingley near Cambridge where thousands of graves cover a huge area of land. Closer to home, a look at the log books of the bomber missions held at the Red Feather Club reveals the youth of the crews. The oldest man on board, usually the first pilot or the navigator, will be in his early twenties while some of the crew may even have been teenagers.

George Bernard Shaw held the opinion that, in order to safeguard the young, the first to be drafted for active service in any conflict should be the elderly – although I might, in principle, agree with this, at my age it could become a bit personal!

Back to Glenn Miller, no, no, the

other one. For some time I was with a clerk of works who had been one of the first Paras in W.W.2. and he recollected that on his last leave before being pushed out of an aircraft over the Netherlands, he and the rest of his unit used to go to dances in Bedford Town Hall where, unbeknown to him at the time, the live music they were clod-hopping to was provided by none other than Glenn Miller! The war-time morale boosting activities of the great man were much appreciated locally and today in Bedford there are two public statues commemorating local, or adopted as local, worthies. One is a bust of Glenn Miller and it is in a niche on a public building from where he looks down benignly over the busy market place.

And the other commemorative statue? Well it is of some earlier local character by the name of John Bunyan.

**Neville Butcher**



**COFFEE CELEBRATION:** On April 1 the Coffee Caravan made its first visit of the year to Redlingfield. Villagers took the opportunity to celebrate being awarded £71,800 grant to help save their church (see separate story). A presentation was also made to Hazel Abbott to thank her for baking cakes and savouries for every caravan visit.

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# The Legion remembers

**S**TRADBROKE AND DISTRICT Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrated the 70th anniversary of VE Day with a service around Stradbroke War Memorial on Friday May 28th. Branch secretary and chaplain Rev David Streeter conducted the service, branch chairman Michael Burton gave the “Legion tribute”, Joyce Cooper carried the standard and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded.

Seventy members and guests attended the branch’s 29th annual dinner at Stradbroke Community Centre in March. This year’s theme was the Legion motto – “service not self”. Guest speaker Dr Patrick Thompson from Gorleston proposed the Legion’s toast and the reply was given by new Suffolk county vice-chairman Ken Rowbottom from the Fressingfield branch. Stradbroke vice-chairman John Graham proposed the toast for the guests and the reply was given by Air Commodore Bernhard Wellingham, president of the

Fressingfield branch. Michael Burton acted as toastmaster and presented the trophies – the Ken Richardson memorial shield went to treasurer Bernhard Mills and the Tommy Campbell-Preston tankard went to John Graham, who also ran a draw with his wife Jill. Table decorations were arranged by Margaret Streeter.

The guest speaker at the April meeting, John Elliott from Diss, talked about the British Cyprus Memorial, which was dedicated on November 8th 2009. It is a memorial to the 371 British servicemen killed in Cyprus in the 1950s, including his brother Peter. The memorial, at the British Cemetery in Kyrenia, northern Cyprus, bears the names of every soldier, sailor and airman who died during the Cyprus Emergency. John Graham proposed the toast of thanks and Michael Burton thanked all who had helped, treasurer Bernhard Mills gave his monthly report and welfare officer Joyce Cooper reported on her recent work.

*Michael Burton*

# Out and about at school

**T**HE YEAR CONTINUES to flash by bringing another range of activities and experiences for the children at Wilby C. of E. Primary School.

Many children represented the school in regional gymnastic and cross country competitions with some fantastic individual and team results.

The school has also been awarded the silver Primary Science Quality Mark for science within the school.

Apart from the serious business of learning there has also been time for school trips.

Children in the nursery and reception class visited the puppet theatre in Norwich and had a wonderful time watching "The Stick Man".

Children from Willow Class attended the School Farm Fayre at Trinity Park in Ipswich. Exhibits ranged from day old chicks to combine harvesters and from the air ambulance helicopter to Suffolk punch horses and just about everything inbetween! We were lucky to have local farmer, Trevor Edwards as our guide for the day.

More trips are planned for later in the term including: a residential trip in the Lake District for the older children; a trip to Bewilderwood Tree Adventure for the younger part of the school; and educational workshops at the Latitude Music Festival for the older children.

The action doesn't stop there: each



**Youngsters with ducklings at the School Farm Fayre at Trinity Park.**

class will showcase some of their work to their parents in assemblies; the year six children will sit their formal tests before leaving primary school; there is school sports day; and performances of the play "Timelord" by Willow Class later in the term.

The Wilby School Summer Fayre is to be held on Saturday July 4th, 11.30am-2pm. All are welcome.

At the end of term the school will hold their leavers service and also, in that week, a disco to say a fond farewell to our year six children who will be leaving us to continue their education at high school. We would like to send them all every good wish for the future.

If you have any queries regarding the school please contact the headteacher, Mrs Coleman, for more information.

**Kim Palmer**

**SHEILA LEEKS (nee Davy):** Sheila Leeks (nee Davy) was born in and grew up in Athelington, and despite moving away from there when she married her husband Ivan in 1975, always held the church and village close to her heart.

Her Father, John Davy has been (and still is) church warden at Athelington for more than 55 years. Memories of growing up, which she wrote in her own eulogy, were of her love for the freedom of the farmland and unspoilt countryside. Sheila loved the summer harvests and teas in the fields of Athelington, bike rides and picking primroses for Mothering Sunday.

In the late 1980s Sheila took over the Bird Club at Stowupland Primary School, which was part of the RSPB, which she ran at lunchtime every Wednesday, and also helped out in the school kitchen plus also being Secretary of the Friends of Freeman Primary School PTA.

In the last three years Sheila became an Age UK befriender, visiting an elderly lady who shared similar interests of travelling.

Her mother, Doreen Davy who passed away in 2007 was a role model for Sheila's baking. In recent years, Sheila was on the church committee and regularly did fundraising through selling

her delicious cakes which were famous for looking and tasting wonderful.

Most recently at her job with Alder Carr farm, Needham Market, Sheila would bake muffins each week to sell to other staff for donations, which she would then give to Athelington church.



Sheila also loved flower arranging and sugarcraft and used her talents to surprise friends and relatives with wonderful cakes and was the Stowmarket Sugarcraft Club secretary for several years.

Sheila visited some exciting places around the world along with her husband Ivan after selling the family petrol station in 2005, which the family ran in Stowupland for two generations. Travelling included visiting British Columbia, Costa Rica, Alaska and India - all places where there was guaranteed to be some fascinating walking and wildlife.

Sheila's enthusiasm, energy and kind and cheerful nature will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was a wonderful wife, daughter, mother, Grandmother and sister.

The whole family would like to thank everyone who have supported Sheila as well as themselves through what has been a difficult time. **Johanna Koya**

**C of E:** Rev Michael Womack is rector of the Hoxne Benefice serving Athelington, Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Redlingfield, Syleham and Wingfield - St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, IP21 5RB, 388889 or hoxnebenefice@gmail.com. Other enquiries: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217). A monthly benefice newsletter is available in the back of the churches. It details services across the seven churches For your email copy email the rector.

**June 7 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC.

**June 14 Horham**, 9.30am, HC.

**June 21 Horham**, 11.15am, FS.

**June 28 Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; **Athelington** 11.30am, Patronal Festive Service.

**July 5 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC.

**July 12 Horham**, 9.30am, HC.

**July 19 Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; **Horham**, 3pm, Concert.

**July 26 Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS.

**Aug 2 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC.

**Aug 9 Horham**, 9.30am, HC.

**Aug 16 Athelington**, 9.30am, HC.

**Aug 23 Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS.

**Aug 30 Syleham**, Benefice Service..

(HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; FS = Family Service.)

■ **CAR BOOT:** Horham church will have a stall at the car boot at Horham community centre on Saturday June 13th. We would be grateful for donations of items to sell.

■ **CHURCH CONCERT:** The Windbags will be joined by the Shelfanger Singers for a concert at St Mary's Church in Horham from 3pm on Sunday July 19th. There will be refreshments and people will be asked for a donation for church funds.

**Daphne Harvey**



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