

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



**SUMMER 2022
Issue No. 57**

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It has become slightly manic in the last few weeks with events everywhere and the big Jubilee weekend on the horizon. We've had tidy-ups, a massively successful dance at the Red Feather Club, the first Pub on the Green, the return of the wonderful Coffee Caravan, the village AGM and much, much more. There's going to be something going on everywhere over the extended Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend. So, hopefully, this edition should get to you before everything kicks off in earnest. I hope that all the big plans our villages and neighbours work out well with a truly memorable weekend. The Festival of Suffolk is also offering a whole series of fantastic events and activities. And the first Suffolk Show for a while should have just finished. I hope you all have a great weekend and a great year to follow.

Sadly, Redlingfield's Greta May Huggins recently passed away, shortly after her husband Lenny. She was a much loved villager and the loving wife of the late Leonard, loving mum of John and David and loving nanny to Kelly and Melanie. We hope to run a full tribute to Greta and Lenny in our next issue.

Mike Ager

Many thanks to Neville Butcher for his front-page picture and to Midge Gibbons for proofreading the magazine. Any errors are mine.

■ **VERY LATE NEWS:** Many apologies to Janet Fisk. I missed out these two items from the last village mag. So, very belatedly, here they are ...

■ **CHRISTMAS THANKS:** Father Christmas was very pleased to return to Horham and Athelington in person. He missed seeing everyone in 2020. We raised a total of £405 which has been sent to EACH. Mother Christmas would especially like to thank Jamie who volunteered late on Christmas Eve to drive Father Christmas round. Unfortunately Steven our usual elf had fallen ill.

Mother Christmas

■ **THANK YOU:** To the person from The Street, Horham who has cleared the footpath from the church round to the post office. Very many thanks your hard work is greatly appreciated. It makes going to the shop so much safer now the path is back to its original width.

Janet Fisk

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

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

Deadlines for adverts & editorial:

Spring issue (covering Mar, April & May) **Final deadline February 14**

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

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

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

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

Best not squash a wasp or hornet ... but houseflies?

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

IF YOU WISH TO LIVE AND thrive let a spider run alive, so my dear mother used to drill into me, and she was dead right as the world now knows.

All the little critters on Earth are as important as the big ones and the whale family knows this full well because a fifty-tonne whale eats two-inch krill, of which it needs two tonnes a day. Save the planet takes on

a whole new meaning. So best not to squash a wasp or hornet but please don't spare the houseflies, you can do your damndest with them. There are limits.

THE EXTREME WINDS OF Storms Dudley and Eunice combined to lift some roof sheets from the turkey sheds in February.

As the buildings are open-sided with just chicken netting to keep the turkeys in and the wild birds out, they cannot be insured against storm damage so we just get on with it.

Starting with 1987 when Michael Fish said, "What storm?" we have lost bits of roofing four times and we just buy some timber and plenty of nails and start hammering away. The turkeys are tough old birds, in robustness not flavour of course, they don't seem to mind and have been known to lay their eggs in nest-boxes which had a covering of snow.

JUST AS THE WINDOW cleaner finished on March 16th, wind and rain carried dissolved sand from the Sahara and gave everything an ochre covering.

It would have been best to have got the washing in as John Bloomfield said. Listening to the



The Coxcomb Prominent.



A nightingale sang in Braziers Wood.

story unfold on Radio Suffolk, he was reminded of his early experience working for the Neslings of Bedfield Hall.

He was stacking shocks (sheaves) of wheat with Jack 'Plumpy' Stannard and after covering up overnight, was amazed next morning to see the tilt full of dozens of baby frogs.

One possible explanation could have been a twister or mini-cyclone, which we know causes mayhem in harvest straw, which had sucked up the frogs from a pond. If not, answers on a postcard please.

If only we had frogs in that number now; Oli Knowland was bemoaning the lack of frogspawn last month and we were the same here. Oli was monitoring the benefits of supplementary feeding of wild birds

with a trail camera earlier this year which showed good numbers of yellowhammer.

Back at home I have seen more of the same in our hedges and in Nick Johnston's fields and Snuffy Street. Why yellowhammers are having such a good year I am not sure. I wish muntjac deer weren't quite so successful though, they seem particularly fond of garden bluebells.

SOME FARMERS ARE looking beyond bird count as they polish up their conservation credentials and Oli Knowland is one of them. He has reignited a schooldays

hobby of trapping moths and when I asked how many the answer was twenty-four. The one pictured is the Coxcomb Prominent which lies low in daytime to avoid being eaten.

The first swallow here was on Easter Monday but it soon moved on and now on May 13th we are still waiting.

There is better news on the turtle dove, Mike and Janet have a pair and one arrived here on May Bank Holiday and is now calling quietly from the deepest hawthorn.

That same day Anita and I went searching for nightingales on a hot tip, they had been heard in Braziers Wood, a lovely walk in the Orwell Country Park just north of the Orwell Bridge.

Continued on page 4.

Continued from page 3.

We were not disappointed as shortly into the walk an explosive song burst forth from a thick thorn hedge stopping us in our tracks. Often heard rather than seen, I felt fortunate to get a good snapshot of one though a local walker thought there were three breeding pairs in the area.



**A well-concealed
sanderling at Cove Hithe.**

The plan was to walk over the bridge to the Suffolk Food Hall for a sandwich, a big mistake as the fumes and noise from the traffic were overwhelming. It was not until I had researched some Stour and Orwell walks earlier that I even knew there was a pedestrian way over the top. It was too close to the traffic for comfort

and resulted in the inevitable black humour from a van driver who yelled “Don’t Jump” from his open window.

LAST AUTUMN I went grouse shooting with no threat to this amazing game bird as I was armed only with a camera.

A road closure on the A170 in



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Yorkshire pushed us north to the Hambleton Hills where a speck of bright red gave a clue to this well camouflaged bird which happily skulked close to our narrow minor road.

Blending well with the moorland heather, about a dozen showed little fear of the car and allowed plenty of time for the zoom lens to focus.

Steve Parker of Thorndon has written a beautifully illustrated book on nature's masters of disguise – *Camouflage: 100 Masters of Disguise from the Animal Kingdom*, whether its moths or leopards or anything in between.

I found another example very close to home at Cove Hithe where a sanderling blended well with the stony beach.

Red Grouse on Hambleton Moor.



ALPINE BUMBLE BEES CAN fly as high as 5,000m, not a lot of people know that as Michael Caine would say!

Trevor Edwards



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A ringing

HELLO EVERYONE! WE are really pleased that all of the trees we planted over the winter are doing very well and are excited to say that we will be planting another 100 later this year! The oak tree saplings that we potted up last year are all doing really well too and make a lovely display on our potting table.

We have left lots of wild areas and have been watching all of the different insects they attract. The bees love the patches of white dead nettle and the orange tip butterflies have been busy laying their eggs on the garlic mustard.

Did you know that only the male orange tip has orange tips to its wings? The female is actually white.

We have been on lots of litter picks around Athelington and filled three bin bags! We've managed to recycle most of it, including a Coke can from 2006! We worked out that we have cleared three and a half miles of countryside verges since Christmas.

All of our nesting birds are very busy and we've been feeding live mealworms to help the blackbirds in the barn – the female comes and looks at us through the kitchen window when she wants some more!

We were very privileged to receive a visit from BTO Suffolk and helped

Right: The boys litter picking; kestrel eggs; Feeding the Birds by Henry; and Springtime Jay by Arthur. Left: A great tit and bird ringing.



success for conservation

them ring some of our baby blue tits and great tits. It was really interesting and lovely to see the birds so closely. The great tits are much earlier than the blue tits this year and a lot of our blue tits are still sitting on eggs. BTO Suffolk also checked our owl and kestrel boxes, where we found a roosting barn owl, a roosting tawny owl and a kestrel on four eggs! Once the young are about two weeks old, the chicks will be ringed, so hopefully we will have some lovely photos to share in the autumn newsletter.

We are also really pleased that our spotted flycatchers have returned to last year's nesting place and have been watching them fluttering for flies above our back garden. Last year they had two successful broods and we really hope they will be as successful this year. We will need to buy lots more mealworms!

We hope you like our art work and photos and look forward to updating you in the autumn.

*From Henry & Arthur
Colnet Conservation*



Oak before ash, in for a Ash before oak, in for a

A VERY DRY spring has held back a lot of trees this year, certainly the oak is leading the ash at Pound Lane wood in Horham.

However these two trees usually come into leaf around the same time.

The oak tree is largely influenced by temperature and this spring has been mild. The ash tree is more strongly influenced by hours of daylight.

As our climate changes the oaks have been coming into leaf earlier and so are better

able to compete for canopy space in woodlands.

Trees figure large in folklore and tradition together with being widely used in rural industry and medicine. In British folklore the ash was seen as a healing tree while carrying an acorn was thought to prevent illness and promote longevity.

Oak bark was used in the tanning of leather, the acorns provided food for pigs and the wood earned the tree its name as the “builders tree”.

Elderflowers were

used as a remedy for both colds and arthritis as they have anti-septic and anti-inflammatory properties.

Nowadays the flowers are more likely to be used for cordial or to flavour stewed gooseberries. In early spring hawthorn leaves were eaten as a source of green food and were known as “bread and cheese”.

The woodland is full of cowslips, although these are starting to go over now.

The pond will have benefitted from the recent rain and the

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splash soak

hawthorn is looking glorious.

The Great Crested Newt survey has had to be postponed but please can you continue to keep dogs out of the pond so they can continue to breed in peace.

I was lucky enough to see a beautiful grass snake but it did not want its photo taken.

A closing thought is a favourite proverb: "If you want to be happy for a year, plant a garden; if you want to be happy for life plant a tree."

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

Peny Conway

Pictured: splashes of colour in the woods.



Jubilee at The Old School

THERE WILL BE LOTS going on in Horham over the Jubilee weekend. The Old School will be open on June 4th. The bar will be open from 11am, tea, coffee and cake will also be available.

We have planned an exhibition of photographs taken by local people. Look for Walter Gabriel and Percy Edwards (those names will be familiar to older readers who may have to explain the reasons for their celebrity to younger members of their families!)

A filmed compilation of local events, made during the Queen's reign, has been put together by Don Moyes and will be showing on a loop throughout

the day. Andy Black is going to take group photographs and a free photograph will be available to take away. Do come for a souvenir of a special weekend. Further copies of your photo can be ordered for £1 each.

We also have a painting activity to celebrate the Jubilee. We will be painting a larger version of the design shown here. Anyone can have a go at painting with acrylic paint on canvas!

Don't forget our usual opening times, Coffee mornings from 10.30am-noon on Wednesdays, the bar is open from noon on Sundays.

*Horham and Athelington Village
Hall Management Committee*

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■ **WARM WELCOME:** We are pleased to welcome a Ukrainian family of four to Redlingfield who are being hosted by Duncan and Zara Edwards at Toll Barn. The family is mum Takhmina, who has twin boys of 13, Grisha and Artur, and a third boy Vitalik who is nine years old. They arrived on the 5th May and by the look of their smiling faces have settled in well. The family took an early decision to flee to Moldova where the father of the family remains, working on a farm. A special mention goes to Eye Primary School who have accommodated young Vitalik very quickly with a warm welcome and a uniform from the second-hand shop.

Trevor Edwards



2 Lambseth Street, Eye,
Suffolk, IP23 7AG

**We hope to see
you soon!**

OPENING TIMES 2022

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

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Jubilee plans for Horham

OUR AGM WAS HELD ON 9th March and Tim Debenham (Chairman) said it was good to see everyone and thanked those who had looked after the Community Centre, inside and out, during the lockdown, and not let anything deteriorate. Particular thanks to David Whatling for polishing the floor so well.

Charity Trustees of the Horham Village Hall Trust are Tim Debenham, Rod Tyrell (Licensee), Neil Cartwright, David Whatling (Parochial Church Council), Hav Wilkins, Karen Alderton (Bookings), Steven Havers (Baptist Church), Paul Hambling (Parish Council), Don and Wendy Moyes, and Margaret Streeter (Secretary/Treasurer).

The same Trustees also serve on the Community Council committee. The Chairman is Margaret, and thank you to Angela Wilkins for continuing as the secretary/treasurer and cleaner.

The second Saturday "Open Mic nights" are going very well. Neil has, with his Busy Bee Team, been buzzing, the fence has been repaired and the boundary is now bramble free making visibility better, the swings have been repainted so we are all ready for the Jubilee.

Hav's Fish and Chips and Angela's Bar Meals are really popular. Booking is essential.

Emma's Suffolk Wild Flour pizza van visits are also popular so book early on 07921512052 (her van also

regularly visits Wilby Village Coronation Village Hall, Worlingworth Community Centre and Brome & Oakley Village Hall).

The whole of Horham is set for the Platinum Jubilee; Saturday, 4th. June is the date so do come along and join in this very special event – 2pm onwards.

There will be a rally, memorabilia, a photographer and archive photos and films. Bring your own picnic. There will also be races, painting, treasure hunt, tea and cakes, crown making and all the fun of the fair. There will also be a BBQ from 5.30pm to 8pm.

An application for a "Lawful Development Certificate" to construct a petanque terrain at the Community Centre is under process. There is also a proposal to plant a Jubilee oak/cedar.

Looking further ahead we are organising a Car Boot and Yard Sale Trail, 9am-3pm, on Saturday 16th. July (the church will be having a stall and anyone with donations of produce or bric-a-brac should contact Daphne Harvey on 01379 384216). Car boot £5 on the day, £4 pre-booked, phone : Karen on 07775 672220 or 01379 384754. Yard Sale map listing are £3 (cut off date 9th July) phone Neil on 07814875745 or 01379 388373. The maps will be available on the day for £1, at the community centre from 9.30am. Tea and Coffee available.

Margaret Streeter, Horham Village Hall Trust and Horham and Athelington Community Council



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Summer 2022 **13**

Balloon trip to celebrate

This is an edited version of an article written in the “STAR OF THE EAST” (now the *Ipswich Evening Star*) on Monday 4th June 1888 describing a balloon trip that started in Ipswich and ended in Redlingfield. It was part of the celebrations for Queen Victoria’s birthday.

Unearthed by **Linda Hudson.**

OVER SUFFOLK IN A BALLOON (by our own correspondent)

A journalist from the paper looking for something to report on regarding Queen Victoria’s birthday celebrations was told about a balloon flight. The opening of the Ipswich Public Park was part of the celebrations. The balloon, Eclipse, was to ascend from the park at 4.00pm. with Captain Dale in charge and one other passenger. Conditions were good. -

“The balloon had been filling since early morning, bands were playing, children were being marshalled in, in endless Battalions, and crowds of expectant citizens thronged around the ring in which the captive monster was taking in the last course of a protracted refection, served up in faultless style by the Ipswich Gaslight Company..... And the band plays the “Tarantara”! But the eventful moment has arrived. Insinuating ourselves between the apparently tangled network of ropes by which the car is attached to the balloon I find myself vis-a-vis with my fellow amateur passenger. The car is five feet by three, and as it contains ten bags of ballast, weighing in all about 16 stone, besides the packing paraphernalia, it will easily be imagined that when Captain Dale vaults in, completing a living freight of 29 stone there is not much room for waltzing round. The anchor’s weighed, the word is given to let go, the band changes its tune to the inevitable “Up in a Balloon Boys,” and as we commence the ascent at **4.07 p.m.**

4.10 p.m. - The three minutes that have elapsed seem rather long, but we are already nearly 2.000 feet up and I as look over the edge of the car I can see the Burlington Road immediately under us. We turned out our third bag of ballast and we are running straight for Framlingham ... we have passed Wickham Market and are now somewhere between Charsfield and Letheringham”. **4.40 p.m.** *There was now not a breath of wind, the balloon was falling – 3,000 feet only – and travelling more quickly.* **4.44 p.m.** *Only 1,500 feet up and Framlingham is about three miles away to the right.* **4.52p.m.** *Not more than 500 feet from the ground. Captain Dale tells his passengers to pack up as they will soon go to earth. The descent looks easy but there is no pastureland and the Captain wants to avoid standing crops. They are making for Dennington; he decides to head for Harleston. They still have four bags of ballast so should be able to keep going for several miles. “Suddenly the wind changes and we fly off at a tangent making straight for*

Queen Victoria's birthday

Eye. We keep at an altitude of 500 feet for five minutes and then finding ourselves falling we empty a bag of sand which flies in our faces, showing the rapidity of our downward course.

This lightening has an instant effect and we shoot up to 1,000 feet as we scud over Earl Soham, Monk Soham, Kenton and Rishangles at the rate of forty miles an hour. A little information will be worth a good deal of pity at this stage, but our first attempts at eliciting it from one of a party of yokels is but a qualified success. "Where are we?" We yell from our 1,000 feet height.

"Who, yar in a b'lune!"

Is the rejoinder of that much too humorous bucolic. And we are half a mile off before we can think of a suitable repartee.

5.10 p.m. - We have just passed over Bedingfield Church and the barometer registers 1,250 feet. The captain spots a large meadow about two fields ahead of us and without a minute's hesitation he calls out "Hold tight; we'll come down in that meadow!"

5.19 p.m. - *On terra firma without a scratch* The wounded balloon now wasted to a shadow, is emitting its last few gassy breaths on a meadow belonging to Mr Frederick Goldspink, in the parish of Redlingfield, three

miles from Eye. By a quarter to six the balloon is packed up in the car, and the whole hoisted onto a cart which is conveniently near at hand. The crowd of wondering bucolics, meanwhile, is

assuming large proportions - over hedges and ditches they come, and before we get away quite seventy have paid their homage to the unexpected visitors.

Mr Goldspink, the owner of the field in which the descent was made, is among the first arrivals, and he generously omits to allude to the damage which I am afraid we were obliged to inflict on his young crops. Thirsty work I have found ballooning, and I'm not sorry to see the signboard of a humble

hostelry whence, after a brief

period of refreshment, we drive into Eye in triumph on the top of the balloon and are fortunate enough to catch a train without any tedious wait. The "Eclipse" being sent direct to London by the luggage train while Captain Dale and I returned to good old Ipswich having parted with our fellow passenger at an earlier stage.

On our arrival at Ipswich we are met by a party of friends, and we all join the Captain in a parting goblet, wishing him good luck, and many another such successful journey as I have enjoyed with him this afternoon in the car of the Eclipse."



FEATURES & NEWS

■ **SUFFOLK OPEN STUDIOS:** Artists, galleries and makers around Suffolk will be opening their doors to the public during the weekends of June in the annual Suffolk Open Studios event. Visitors can have a look behind the scenes and see the artists in action. There are an array of artists who specialise in ceramics, painting, glass, jewellery, woodwork, abstract, mixed media and much more. There are also hubs and trails that can make it easier to see many artists in one day. The directory is available online at www.suffolkopenstudios.org; you can download an app from the app store to find artists and galleries closest to you; and the printed directory is available from shops, cafes, tourist information centres and many more places!

Mike Ager



■ **CONSORT OF CORGIS:** A consort of corgis will be at St Peter's Church, Athelington, 'Dressed for a Royal Occasion' in conjunction with the Flower Festival on the weekend of May 28th & 29th May. 10am-4pm, refreshments available. The corgis will be available to view until Sunday June 5th.

Nicholas Cook

■ **PLANNING: AWAITING DECISION:** application for a Lawful Development Certificate for erection of a 18m x 12m area to play petanque, **Horham & Athelington Community Centre, The Street, Horham, IP21 5DX** (No: DC/22/02430); plan to repairs and alter as detailed in the Design and Access Statement. Erection of single storey extensions to house and barn. Erection of walled garden including glasshouse and potting shed. Erection of detached outbuilding. Installation of Oil Tank. Hard and Soft Landscaping works. **The Old Rectory, Stradbroke Road, Horham, IP21 5DZ** (No: DC/22/01457) also (No: DC/22/01460); plan to install 50kW PV installation of 148 solar panels limited to 46kW export split evenly across two phases to provide power to six log cabins on land at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington, IP21 5EJ** (No: DC/21/06010).

GRANTED: plan to change of use of land to campsite (two camping pods & four bell tents) & to erect a building for use as machinery store/workshop & camping facilities at **Horham Dairy and Care Farm, Stradbroke Road, Horham, IP21 5DZ** (No: DC/21/06403); application for outline permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for the erection of two dwellings with access on **land north of The Street, Horham** (No: DC/21/03609).

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



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FUN VILLAGE DOG SHOW

**Redlingfield Doorstep Green
Sunday 12th June 2022**

From 9.30am - first class at 10am

Rosettes for all entries, classes:

best rescue, best puppy (under 1 year),
best young handler (under 12 years),
best veteran (over 10 years), scruffiest,
waggiest tail, best female, best male,
dog with the best trick & dog the
judge would like to take home.

Have-a-go and demonstrations ring

Refreshments available & licensed bar

Show proceeds to St Andrews

Contact Alison 07817 207462

Details will be available on www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk





■ **THE BECK BRIDGE:** The above picture was created by George Hunt for his grandfather, David Johnson, who travelled from Horham to Stowmarket Grammar School for six years on the 'Middy' [Mid Suffolk Light Railway]. The arches were demolished some 12 months after the line's closure in 1952. Travelling from Horham to the arch there was a long embankment and also immediately after the arch, rapidly followed by a deep cutting through Hoxne hills to Stradbroke. The beck rose in Bedfield, flowing via the arch en-route to the river Waveney. The picture hangs in Horham CC.

■ **OCCOLD CARPET BOWLS CLUB - AN APPEAL:** The club was formed in the late 1990s as Debenham CBC, before moving, via Kerrison in Thorndon, to its current home, Occcold Village Hall in 2013. We play in Waveney Carpet Bowls League, mainly against South Norfolk villages. The club has reached the cup final on four occasions. Declining numbers due to age and infirmity have left the club's future in doubt. New members are urgently needed! The club meets on Wednesday evenings from September to April, for a friendly roll up and social time, tea and biscuits are provided. We charge £3 per night for the cost of the hall, no membership fee is required. All you need is suitable footwear in which to bowl, as all equipment is provided. Beginners and people of all ages are welcome and will be guaranteed a friendly reception. Come along and give it a go! For more information on dates, times etc please contact me, Phillip Leeder (01379 678962) or email Ian Crane (iancrane64@hotmail.co.uk). If you are interested please let us know as soon as possible, as a decision on the club's future will probably need to be taken before September.

Phillip Leeder



FEATURES & NEWS

Horham's RFC

THE 95TH BOMB Group Heritage Association's Red Feather Club is back in action with the hottest dance bands on the circuit.

And what a way to start with the incredible rhythm and blues voice of Sarah Mai with her band.

The little diva with the big voice who took Twinwoods by storm in 2021 performed at the Red Feather Club for the first time in April blowing the sell-out crowd away. It was an amazing night with DJ support from AndyAV8 and The Baker Boy.

Robin Satwick behind the bar and all the other volunteers were run off their feet.

The dance was swiftly followed by the first open day of the season and a visit by the first of four groups of American tourists bein led by Donald Miller, whose book Masters of the Air is being turned into the Apple TV+ Miniseries of the same name.

Red Feather Club favourites The Devils Cut Combo are back again by popular demand for the third time. It's their favourite



back in the swing of things



Pictured, anti-clockwise from far top left, are: Molly Rose and Red Feather Club big band Skyliner during a visit by an American tour; Alan Johnson at the open days; Glenn Miller and Duncan Reed enjoy a well-earned beer; Junction 55 at the RFC; Sophie and Thomas looking smart; Ray Howlett and other volunteers stop for a cuppa; The Devil's Cut Combo poster; and Sarah Mai, who wowed the Red Feather Club crowd.



venue too. They will be dishing out rhythm and blues with a boogie woogie beat on Saturday 25th June. DJ support will be from AndyAV8 and Slimboy

Another class act who never disappoint returns in September with roots and western swing from Junction 55. Guest DJ will be the Saturday 24th

September gig to be confirmed.

When the tickets go on sale book early they won't hang around for long.

There's also an extra dance on Saturday October 29th with DJs Robert Cator and Mike Kendall. Ticket money will go to Redlingfield Doorstep Green, bar

receipts to the RFC and burger takings to Redlingfield church.

Public open days are the last Sundays of the month April-October inclusive, 10am-4pm. Email: enquiries@95thbg-horham.com, Web: www.95thbg-horham.com.

Andy Garner



Saturday 28 May-Sunday 5 June

A Consort of Corgis: Athelington Church.

Sunday 29 May

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Monday 30 May (Note Different Day)

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Tuesday 31 May & Wednesday 1 June

Suffolk Show: Trinity Park.

June Weekends

Suffolk Open Studios.

Wednesday 1 June

Redlingfield and Occold WI outing.

Thursday 2-Sunday 5 June

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend

Thursday 2 June

Jubilee celebration and beacon lighting: Eye.

Saturday 4 June

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

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

Sunday 5 June

Jubilee Tea on the Green: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, afternoon, BYOB (no bar). Hymns & Pimms from 4pm.

Saturday 11-Sunday 12 June

Eye Open Gardens: 1.30pm-6pm. Tickets from 12 Church Street on the day.

Sunday 12 June

Redlingfield Annual Dog Show: Doorstep Green 9.30am start. Bar open.

Thursday 16 June

Belfast (12A): Stradbroke Community Centre Wilby Road, 7.30pm.

Saturday 18 June

Big Band Jazz with Swing Machine: St Mary's Church, Cratfield. Tickets 07906 509302.

Sunday 19 June

Music in the Gardens with Jax & Co: Helmingham Hall.

Tuesday 21 June

Suffolk Day 2022 & Summer Solstice.

Saturday 25-Sunday 26 June

Worlingworth & Southolt Open Gardens.

Saturday 25 June

Dance: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sunday 26 June

Americana Open Day: Red Feather Club.

Saturday & Sunday July 2 & 3

Pedal to the Palace: Redlingfield PCC fundraiser Redlingfield-Buckingham Palace.

Heveningham Hall Country Fair and Concours.

Wednesday 6 July

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Thursday-Sunday 7-10 July

Country Music Festival: Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre.

Saturday 9 July

Jubilee Summer Fayre & Hog Roast: Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 3pm-midnight.

Saturday 16 July

Framlingham Gala Fest.

Sunday 17 July

Music in the Gardens with Swing Machine

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

Saturday 16 July

Horham Car Boot & Yard Sale Trail: 9am-3pm.

Thursday 21 July 21

The Duke (12): Stradbroke CC, 7.30pm.

Saturday 30 July

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

Sunday 31 July

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Wednesday 3 August

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Sunday 7 August

The Festival of Classic & Sports Cars: Helmingham Hall.

Sunday 14 August

Music in the Gardens with DixieMix Jazz Band: Helmingham Hall.

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 August

Framlingham Country Show/The Suffolk Food, Drink & Music Festival: Framlingham College, 10am-5pm.

Saturday 27 August

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

Sunday 28 August

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sunday 4 September

Redlingfield Annual Produce Show: Doorstep Green, 10am start. Bar open.

Wednesday 7 September

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield village triangle, 10am-noon.

Saturday 17 September

Pub on the Green: Redlingfield.

Sunday 18 September

Autumn Plant Fair with Artisan Market: Helmingham Hall.

Saturday 24 September

Dance: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sunday 25 September

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sunday 2 October

Jubilee Scarecrow Walk: St Andrews church/Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 11am-4pm, Historic Royals theme. Bar open.

Wednesday 5 October

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

Saturday 15 October

Blake Morrison with The Hosepipe Band: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £10.

Saturday 29 October

Redlingfield Jubilee Jump & Jive Dance: fundraiser Red Feather Club, evening.

Sunday 30 October

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club Museum.

Saturday 5 November

Pub on the Green: Redlingfield.



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FEATURES & NEWS



The Doorstep Green ... Above Mike Ager with the new play cube, which was put up by Mike and Ben Hewitt. Below the new basketball hoop and backboard, which were installed by Billy Eaves and Jamie Jasper.



■ **DOORSTEP GREEN THANK YOUS:** Lots of people have been helping spruce up Redlingfield Doorstep Green and get it ready for summer. There are many people to thank ... Matt Cook for pressure washing the safety surface under the swings and the basketball court (Bev and Pat Abbott's anti-bird prongs are also working well); Billy Eaves and Jamie Jasper for installing the new basketball backboard and hoop; Andy Peters for using his horticultural expertise to trim and shape the shrubs and bushes; Mike Ager and Ben Hewitt for putting the Play Cube together; and Tom Smith who has been doing a great job mowing. There are lots of others who came over to clear, clean, weed and trim plants – especially Alison and Adrian Smith, Rob and Cath Scott, and Lesley Abbott. The Doorstep Green is looking ready to host a whole host of village events in the coming months kicking off with the Jubilee Bank Holiday celebrations there is then the Redlingfield Dog Show on Sunday 12th June, Summer Fayre & Hog Roast on Saturday 9th July, Produce Show on Sunday 4th September and Scarecrow Walk on Sunday 2nd October.

Janet Norman-Philips

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



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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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When Horham Home Guard took the airfield

More from the bangers 'n' mash booklet (see last issue).

Thanks to Robert Chambers and Alan Johnson.

In appreciation of Horham & Athelington Home Guard ...

“The Home Guard was initiated in 1939 but at that time was called the L.D.V., the local defence volunteers. Very soon however their name was changed to the Home Guard. Primarily of course their function was to defend their home parish against Hitler but when first formed, had no 'arms' whatsoever. Rifles then were soon handed out but the first major issue of ammunition was when England was threatened with the invasion when

some 50 rounds each were issued.

After this, rifles & ammunition were kept at home. The uniforms were issued in 'dribs' and 'drabs' with the general rule that if it fitted you, you had it!

The Home Guard generally met once a week, this on a Sunday and their headquarters was the old School. Captain Borrett, alias Albert Borrett the Horham Station Master, was in charge and his N.C.O's were Sergeants

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The Horham Home Guard after they "invaded" Horham Airfield. Alan Johnson has named all but two of the locals. They are, from left: Oscar Reeve, Arthur Hawes, ? Pitt, Joe Baldwin, Bob Baldry, Harry Borrett, Bob Reeve, Jack Warne, David Mayhew, Ted Johnson, Ted Chambers, Albert Borrett, unknown, Albert Smith, Ernie Elliston, Fred Chambers, Henry Chapman, John Hawes, unknown, Fred Hambling, Weary Whatling.

Fred Chambers and Lennie Harvey and full Corporals Teddy Chambers and 'Weary' Whatling. The standard issue was uniform, steel helmets, rifle, bayonet & later ammunition, gas mask, great coat, boots & spats and of course then L.D.V. identity card. No doubt Horham Guard will recall the

night when the aerodrome was 'defended' by Americans, the 95th B.G., but although the Home Guard were heavily outnumbered, they broke through and 'took' the drome.

Finally then in 1944, the Home Guard were disbanded and they handed in their rifle, bayonet & ammunition, the rest of their issue was retained. Retained too were many memories which on this nostalgic night some 40 years later, for all of us, we are attempting to re-create. ”



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FEATURES & NEWS

REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE AGM: News from the 45th AGM of Redlingfield Parish Meeting on Wednesday on 18th May at Horham Community Centre ...

● **Audit ...** The audit gave the parish a clean bill of health and complimented the parish commending us on our transparency. The Auditor was also pleased that we had chosen to retain the “two signatures on cheques” rule even though this is no longer a legal requirement.

● **Committee members etc ...** The current committee, chair and clerk were unanimously re-elected. A new treasurer, Adrian Smith, was also unanimously appointed. The current committee is: Andrew Abbott, Graham Abbott, Katie Abbott, Susan Chapman, Allan Chapman, Helen Cook, Will Edwards, Lesley Rose, Emma Hewitt, Pat Kelly, Manday Miller and Adrian Smith. Parish clerk is Janet

Norman-Philips and chair Midge Gibbons. Midge hoped in future years that a younger person would take the chair. She emphasised that it is essential to get the younger people more involved. She said it had been a busy year but it's great because we are such a “fantastic village”.

● **Hardship Fund ...** Volunteers in the village (Alison Smith and Janet) successfully applied to the Suffolk Community Foundation for a Government Grant of £3,000 to help support people in financial difficulty – needing help with the cost of food or energy or other essentials. The Parish Meeting held the funds and the Chair (Midge) oversaw the process. Six families or individuals were provided with assistance. Janet was shocked at

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how much need there was and worried that with the increases in food and energy bills, families, who are hanging on by their fingernails, would be even worse off. She hoped the Government offers more help.

● **Review of Parishes, Town Councils and Unparished areas ...** The meeting was unanimous in wanting to send a clear message back to MSDC that they want to keep the current arrangements and boundaries. There is no desire to become a Parish Council nor is there any desire to disband Redlingfield Parish Meeting.

● **Jubilee Tea on the Green ...** It was noted that our MP Dr Dan Poulter will be coming to our Jubilee Tea on the Green on Sunday 5th June for a short visit and that Rev Eleanor Goodison will be leading a "Hymns & Pimms" event starting at 4pm.

● **Auction of promises ...** It was noted that offers of lots for the Auction of Promises had already started to come in. The auction is to raise funds for the Redlingfield Doorstep Green and also to create a Jubilee Fund - to help Redlingfield youngsters who are starting college or their first job with grants for essential items. We are asking people to offer something that can be auctioned, be that an experience or skill, a piece of art or something for the home or garden. If you have anything you can offer or any ideas please get in touch with Janet.

● **Parking ...** Unfortunately, the parking grids will not be able to be installed until September or October, a year later than planned. Delays in getting a grant and now waiting for the right conditions, it was noted, have caused this delay.

Janet Norman-Philips 01379 678835
pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk
Full Minutes on Website & Noticeboard



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The Pedal To The Palace team along with the Priest in Charge Reverend Eleanor Goodison. From left, are: Rev Eleanor Goodison, Adrian Smith, Alison Smith, Andrew Hemmings, Heather Jones and Rev Richard Court – all standing outside Redlingfield Church of St Andrew. They are hoping to raise £5,000 for the church and Redlingfield Doorstep Green with a bike ride to Buckingham Palace. See facing page for details of the event and how to sponsor the riders.



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Pedal to the Palace

Redlingfield to Buckingham Palace Platinum Jubilee Bike Marathon Saturday July 2 and Sunday July 3

Redlingfield PCC, who look after our wonderful, historically important, medieval Church of St Andrew, are raising funds to update the church and also improve the Doorstep Green.

The church is in need of repair and is on the Heritage At Risk Register.

We also want to update it so it can be used as a community space in addition to being a church, with kitchen, toilets, sustainable heating etc.

To begin raising the thousands of pounds needed, five brave souls have decided to do a sponsored bike ride from Redlingfield to Buckingham Palace starting on Saturday 2nd July and arriving Sunday 3rd July.

They will be taking a greeting from Redlingfield to Her Majesty wishing her a wonderful Jubilee.

A Just Giving webpage has been set up called “redlingfieldpedaltothepalace” You can add gift aid to your donation – both online at the Just Giving webpage and via the sponsorship forms.

More details and sponsorship forms can be downloaded from

www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or

by contacting either Alison Smith

on 07817 207462 alismith31@hotmail.co.uk or

Janet Norman-Philips 01379 678835 jnphilips@gn.apc.org

Funds raised for Redlingfield Parochial Church Council (St Andrew's Church)



School days reluctantly

FOOTBALL WAS ALWAYS my first sport when I was young. In many senses my total devotion to the sport from mid August to early May perhaps stunted my development.

I played cricket, which I also enjoyed in the summer, when only World Cup's and European Championships were available during the summertime in the years divisible by two. Autumns and winters and parts of the seasons that linked into it were solely about football in a sporting sense for me.

If I couldn't be seen as a footballer I wasn't too interested in doing another sport. I genuinely tried hard but

nobody running a team gave a chance to the one-footed, relatively hard-working wannabe-midfielder I thought I was. At school only defensive positions were ever available as all the striker and attacking or creative positions went to players playing for the local club youth sides.

Our school had a seriously good centre half who played at Ridgeons League level as an adult. I was never a goalkeeper. The left back was a left winger, who lost the selection to the other left winger at his club side. The only place available was right back and I was left footed. Our team seemed reasonably good but I do remember a Suffolk Cup defeat to

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playing with the oval ball

Northgate that was 15-0 and an 8-0 at Kirkley in the North Suffolk Shaw Cup.

I became a reluctant Rugby Union player. If I was to be a back I saw myself as a bustling centre but I knew, despite my bravery and willingness to be competitive and get stuck in, it didn't happen. Full back appealed as you were required to catch and kick and I thought I was good at that. If I had to be a forward I saw myself as an open side flanker or back row. Lack of speed and mobility was always the issue though.

I was in the first game though. I remember the twelve year old me being confused that I'd been selected as a second row forward. That was it. My destiny was to play about seven years of school rugby as second rower or lock forward, sometimes a tight head prop. I was a hod carrier for the glamour boys lined up behind me. Maybe I should have worked harder at being a right back.

Although I played Rugby Union reluctantly I cannot deny some things stayed with me. There was a unity and team mentality I liked. Even injury wise I only got a dented sternum, bruised, fingers and ribs for my pains whilst playing. My legs got a few cuts

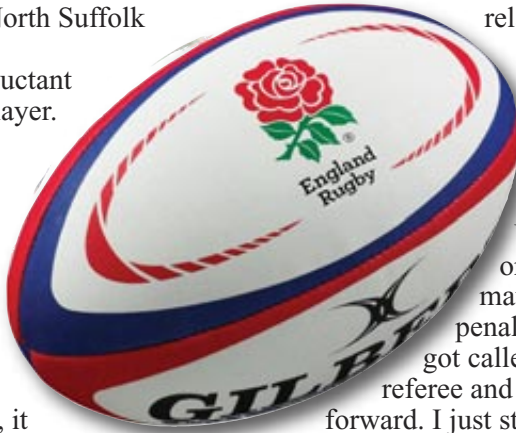
and bruises but remained relatively unscathed.

The most difficult thing for me was you seemed to have to play as if subserviently mute. Referees in Rugby Union are deity. I once asked a team mate why I had been penalised at a maul and got called over by the

referee and the penalty moved forward. I just stood there inwardly fuming, saying 'Yes Sir' and 'No Sir' through a fake sorry face and took it – something the adult me would not accept. The team mate told me at half time what I had probably done wrong and that was all I wanted to know for future reference.

We were short one day at Leiston, and two footballers made up our numbers. Halfway through the first half the ball went out of play and a few of our players shouted 'Our ball'. The referee said stuffily 'Come on boys, stop appealing for possession, this isn't football it's a man's game.' When one of our footballers said 'Why haven't we got one refereeing then?' we then played the rest of the game short-handed.

A game in Lowestoft at Denes High school shows the unity. We had already gone down to fourteen early in the second half when our hooker was deemed have intentionally tripped somebody. *Continued on page 32*



Continued from page 31

With ten minutes to go we were holding on to a single point lead when the home fly-half took out one of our back row forwards with a swinging arm to the head. It all went off.

I'd taken a knock and was taking the opportunity to inspect the injury and was heading the opposite way to clean the blood off my cut. It was the safest place to see some people I'd known for six or so years really getting angry. The end result seemed to be that my second row partner, who was first on the scene, and our right winger, who had been encouraging things with verbal outbursts, whilst getting involved in the odd ruckus, were both off. Their fly half, who I think probably within five seconds of throwing the elbow, had feared the retribution coming his way, was being treated on the sideline.

Incidentally a minute after the ruckus the Denes fly half tried to come back on. Our teacher said something you wouldn't hear in a classroom. The referee went over, the outside half didn't come back on and nor did a replacement. I think he'd been sent-off as well. Not a good advert for inter-comprehensive Schools Rugby but a memory for me. I've never seen anything like that on a football field.

Although it was part of my schooldays I didn't carry on into club Rugby Union. My heart was elsewhere. I was a football fan, if I wasn't good enough to play I would become a spectator. The round ball, not the oval one, was always going to provide the soundtrack to most of my sporting life.

Ian Crane



A flurry of

THE SPRING TERM AT WILBY School was an incredibly busy time with all sorts of trips (day and residential) and activities organised for the children such as World Book Day and Comic Relief Day (we raised approximately £180 this year) and our performance of our musical '150 Years' to celebrate our anniversary year.

The Summer Term has also begun with a flurry of activity. As always there is lots going on and lots planned! It's wonderful to have the warmer weather and to be able to enjoy being outside in the sun!

Just before the holidays we appointed Mrs Anna Slocombe to take on the role, amongst others, of Wilby School Play Lead. We want our pupils to enjoy even more active and positive



activity begins summer

breaktimes and so, in addition to investing in a range of play equipment, we are developing the role of play leaders (led by Mrs Slocombe) who will take responsibility of organising and teaching others a range of play time activities.

Play leaders have to apply for their posts and will receive training from the Suffolk School's Games Organiser, Steve Parry. Steve has begun this venture in school with an assembly to explain the premise of being a Play Leader (including roles and responsibilities AND the rewards system!) and now pupils from Y3-Y5 can apply to be considered for the roles. Pupils will be interviewed and successful applicants will receive training before the half term holiday.

Trips planned for the summer term

include the Year 6 London visit and a water-sports adventure day for Y2-Y6. Wren Class will also be off to BeWILDerwood for a fun and active day up in the trees!

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the children have been charged with creating crowns to be displayed at the village jubilee celebration. Pastor Adam Blowes will also be leading an assembly and a workshop on 'The Queen who chose to serve'.

Our Brass group will be playing for the residents of Hartismere Place and we are also planning a Music for a Summer's Evening event on June 15th at 6pm which ALL are warmly invited to attend. This year's concert will raise money for the people of the Ukraine.

Mrs Wiseman (Headteacher)

METAL THEFTS

METAL THEFT IS ONE OF THE FASTEST rising crimes in the UK. In particular, influenced by the sharp increase in commodity prices. The problem affects homes, communities, industry, telecoms, transport and commerce, and is costing millions. Thieves target a range of metal items, including roof lead, copper piping, manhole covers, building and construction equipment and even commemorative plaques. Homes, churches, business premises and public buildings are all potential targets that could suffer for metal theft.

Home Owners Security Advice

- Keep gates locked and install strong fences. You can also grow prickly hedges around property boundaries which should be kept well pruned to maximise visibility.
- Be aware of any objects that could be used to access your roof like water butts, wheelie bins and garden furniture - if possible these should be stored away from the building.
- Restrict vehicle access where possible.



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

- Install dusk to dawn outside lighting.
- Store ladders and tools in a secure place.
- Be a good neighbour and encourage others in your neighbourhood to be vigilant.
- Check your roof regularly for any missing lead. Early detection can allow for immediate repairs to prevent water damage.
- Forensically mark all items of value, or sentimental value. Take photos of valuable items. Note any distinguishing features that may help to identify an item if stolen.
- Take a look at our Home Security Self-assessment www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/homesecuritychecklist1.pdf
- For advice on Catalytic Converter Security see our First Principle document that solely covers the subject at catalyticconvertertheft1.pdf (suffolk.police.uk)

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Ben Hewitt



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LET'S CELEBRATE!

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS TO celebrate over the next three months. First and foremost, of course, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We will be holding a special service of traditional Morning Prayer at Athelington at 11am on Sunday 5th June, which will include appropriate hymns, readings and prayers in celebration and thanksgiving for Her Majesty the Queen's long reign. Everyone will be very welcome to join in.

Following Redlingfield's Tea on the Green, that same day, we will be offering 'Pimms and Hymns' in a more informal celebration.

The same Sunday is Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, whose activity has been so evident in the Queen's 70 years of service to her country and to all of us, as well as to the Commonwealth and the global community. Father's Day is on 19th June and on 26th June we will be celebrating one of our churches' patron saints – St



**Revd Eleanor Goodison,
Priest in Charge, Hoxne
Benefice** 07876 143579

eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

Peter, with a patronal festival at Athelington.

And don't forget our Animal Service on the Horham Community Centre meadow at 4pm on 26th June.

Plus we are into the wedding season – congratulations and best wishes to all the couples getting married in our churches this summer!

It's not all good news and we continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for all who are affected by the cost of living crisis in this country.

We remember that God is faithful and that, through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, eternal life has been victorious over death.

That's something that always gives us cause to celebrate!

God bless, Eleanor

■ **CALLING ORGANISTS & PIANISTS:** Calling all organists, pianists, keyboard players... We have lost two of our church organists recently and are looking for people who would be willing to play for services, even occasionally. If this could be you, please contact Revd Eleanor or a Churchwarden.

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

ANNE ROBSON HELPLINE: Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline – if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us. At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone. Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control. Calls are free and confidential. Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk. Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

Suzanne Brown

CHURCH SERVICES:

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

Sunday 5th June**Pentecost/Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
11am BCP Morning Prayer, Athelington;
4pm 'Pimms & Hymns', Redlingfield
Doorstep Green (Messy Church will participate in the Big Jubilee Lunch at J's Meadow in Syleham).

Sunday 12th June Trinity Sunday

9.30am Café Church, Hoxne;
11am CW Holy Communion, Denham
(no service at Redlingfield).

Sunday 19th June**First Sunday after Trinity (Father's Day)**

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

Thursday 23rd June St Etheldreda

7pm Archdeacon's Visitation service, Hoxne.

Sunday 26th June**Second Sunday after Trinity**

11am Patronal Festival, Athelington;
4pm Animal Service, Horham Community Centre meadow.

Sunday 3rd July**Third Sunday after Trinity**

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

Wednesday 6th July**Thomas More and John Fisher, Martyrs**

7pm Deanery 'Pimms & Hymns', Hoxne.

Sunday 10th July**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

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

Sunday 17th July**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

11.30am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong, Wingfield.

Sunday 24th July**Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham.

Sunday 31st July**Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

11am Benefice Holy Communion (Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney will preach), Redlingfield; .Holy Communion, Wingfield; 4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Sunday 7th August Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 14th August Ninth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 21st August**Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

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

Sunday 28th August**Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

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

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



A MAN IS CONTACTED BY the police and informed that he has done nothing criminal but his social media posts have offended someone. The police record his social media comments as a non-crime hate incident which may show up on his criminal record checks and affect his future employment. This may sound like something from Communist Russia, but this really happened in Britain only three years ago.

In a recent historic judgment, the Court of Appeal ruled that the College of Policing's guidance requiring non-crime hate incidents to be officially recorded by the police was an unlawful incursion to our freedom of expression.

As the trial judge noted, the man's tweets were "for the most part, either opaque, profane or unsophisticated", but this should not justify silencing his right to contribute to contentious political debates. The debate in question related to the relative importance of biological sex and self-declared gender identity in relation to single-sex spaces and sport. For some, this is an area of great contention, but whatever our views may be, we must have the right to freely express them.

The origin of police recording of non-crime hate incidents was well intentioned and came from the report into Stephen Lawrence's murder in 1993, which found institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police. As a result, racist incidents were defined as anything "perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person" and that non-crime incidents should be reported, recorded and investigated with the same commitment as real crimes. But

College of Policing guidance has since expanded to cover a number of other "protected characteristics" including gender.

Some police forces have even developed a track record for misinterpreting the law. For example, last February, Merseyside Police claimed that "being offensive is an offence".

In a world where the police don't have the resources to investigate non-crime incidents, partly because of the volume of reports generated by social media, the College of Policing tells police officers to record as hate incidents all those perceived by the person reporting them to be motivated by hostility, including unfriendliness or dislike.

This recent Court of Appeal judgment should be welcomed and has implications for freedom of speech which go beyond policing: it rightly observes "how quickly some involved in the transgender debate are prepared to accuse others with whom they disagree of showing hatred, or as being transphobic when they are not".

We see this intolerance of different views everywhere: from Harry Potter actors condemning JK Rowling for her "hateful" views, to broadcasters or university students saying speakers should be "cancelled" for stating that biological sex is immutable.

There is no democracy without freedom of expression. In a world where it is possible to take offence at almost anything and everything, the police acting unlawfully to shut down legitimate political debate in 21st-century Britain should remind us that the most basic human rights should never be taken for granted.

Dr Dan Poulter, MP, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
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