

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



**WINTER 2018-19
ISSUE No. 44**

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FIRST OFF, A BIT OF AN apology. As I sit writing this I'm pretty sure that your mag will be a bit late landing on your doormats. A number of visits to the vet and other minor problems meant I got a bit behind. Anyway, I hope you enjoy this edition when you get it.

IWOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS opportunity to thank everyone involved in getting your village mag to you from our brilliant proof readers to our trusty deliverers and from the advertisers who fund it all to our excellent printers. Many thanks to them all.
Mike Ager

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editors: Evelyn Adey on evelyn.adey@btinternet.com or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU. All issues are available at www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

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

Deadlines for adverts & editorial:

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

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

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

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

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Weather offers tricks and

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD, the Stock Market has bull and bear runs, an expression to describe stocks going up or down for weeks on end, or even months. This year the same has happened to the East Anglian weather and the bull run finally came to an end with perfect timing on Hallow'een, the night of tricks or treats.

The treat has been the exceptional sunshine of this superb late summer when sea swimming off Southwold at the end of September was a pleasure rather than an Iron-man challenge, and the trick will be whether the tentative forecast of a severe hard winter comes to pass or not.

After an autumn of the best drilling conditions in memory, the farm looks very tidy with walking the crops a real pleasure. New ideas come and go and direct drilling is back in fashion again

to save costs and carbon-loss and we have established a number of crops in this manner.

An associated problem can be a greater population of slugs but an inspection this week confirmed the dry soils had kept the numbers to a minimum.

At the same time, I was tracking a barn owl hunting along a broad grass margin. Taking very little interest in me in the winter light, it perched on a low oak branch and swivelled its head backwards and forwards watching the two dogs with a complete lack of concern. This was probably a juvenile female from its plumage and wingspan, and all the more valuable for that given the poor breeding results of barn owls this year.

We have hatched only three from the two boxes which the ringers say is above average in a terrible year for



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treats

Suffolk. The walk ended on a more unsavoury note with finding a roadkill on the verge of Top Road, a handsome 30kg roe deer which we had to bury in the muckpad. Someone somewhere must have a very damaged front bumper.



The beach at Cley – beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

THE MID-NOVEMBER WEATHER with shorter days has arrived, and the enjoyment of a day's game shooting beckons. As a beater once said when the clocks went back, "that don't half get late flippin' early these days".

A day with Kip was especially enjoyable in late October as he had fully recovered from a leg injury caused by my running him over with the Land Rover on a field margin. It was a stupid mistake to give him more exercise in that fashion and a

miraculous escape.

The gun was also out on November 1st but only to dispatch a rat from under the bird feeders. We've asked Hardy the Gamekeeper to help with the rat control this year, as we have a zero tolerance approach if at all possible, and Paul's heat-seeking night-sight rifle is very successful. Thank goodness rats are fewer in number this year which may be due to a lack of water everywhere restricting their reproduction. *Continued over.*



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Continued from previous page

NOVEMBER IS A GOOD MONTH to visit the North Norfolk for birding; it has a raw bleakness compared to cosy Minsmere and the exposed coast there is battered and reshaped by powerful seas without respite.

Some folk who are more poetically minded than me think of bleakness and beauty in the same breath but I am not that romantic. The beach here is a place of huge grey open spaces where the mood suggests survival rather than rest and relaxation.

However just inland are the Cley Marshes, a wonderful habitat for wildlife purchased by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust in 1926, the first of a national movement now numbering 47 Trusts and more than 2,000 nature reserves.

It makes a good base for watching numerous waders and skeins of geese but I was told if you want to see the pink-foot in the tens of thousands then you have to go to Snettisham and The Wash when the tide is high. But why go that far when there's a good pub

near Cley, the chance of a bracing walk along a deserted beach, and a good view of curlew and godwit and wigeon to boot.

Without a fisherman or another dog in sight, Kip had the freedom of the beach and soon got down to the water's edge to sniff out goodness knows what. But the small grey lump that he sniffed was a baby seal which then slithered into the water, followed quickly by Kip himself. He was ignoring my calls and swimming around in circles searching in vain when a head of a large adult seal reared up aggressively nearby. He got the message at last and was out of the water in the nick of time.

The grass-roofed NWT visitor centre serves the obligatory lattes and overpriced muffins to bird-watchers of all shapes, sizes and ages.

However, the owners of expensive binoculars and telescopes big enough for star-gazing are a thrifty bunch and are happy to do refreshments from a sandwich box and thermos. I walked

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FEATURES & NEWS

the boundary of the reserve, as quite rightly dogs are excluded from the five hides, and was rewarded with a solitary curlew and numerous black-tailed godwit.

I took a while to sort out the godwit from other waders, but there is no mistaking the curlew with its characteristic haunting, plaintive cry and enormous curved bill. The curlew is well-camouflaged in this marsh habitat of water-loving reeds and sedges which The Trust has to manage.

The reedbed is cut, cleared and sold for thatch every year and I wondered if the reed crop was as big as usual bearing in mind that Wash Farm will need rethatching in a few years' time. It might be obvious when you think about it but

Sedges have edges, Rushes are round, Grasses have joints right down to the ground.

Trevor Edwards



Top: Success for the waist-deep Curlew. Bottom: Success too for the black-tailed godwit



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■ **CHRISTMAS AT HORHAM BAPTIST CHURCH:** **Christmas Party:** Friday 7th December, 5.30pm-8.30pm, which includes - continuous buffet (5.30-7.30pm), crafts, games, disco, hot chocolates, Christmas tree display & lots more. **Christmas Family Service & Breakfast:** Sunday 16th December, 9.30am, free bacon or sausage butties & continental breakfast with crafts & activities for children; **Family Service inc Toddler's Nativity:** 10.45am. **Beer And Carols:** Wednesday 19th December, 7.30pm, an opportunity to come & sing your favourite carol at Horham Community Centre – bar open from 7pm. **Christmas Eve Service:** .pm, Carols old & new followed by mince pies and chocolate biscuits. **Christmas Day Family Service:** 10.30am.

Old School

WE ARE DELIGHTED that The Old School is open again on Sunday afternoons from 12.30pm onwards. Come and join us for your pre-lunch tippie!

As Christmas approaches we have several lovely events to look forward to. On Saturday 8th December we are holding a Christmas Variety Show featuring home grown talent; buy your £3 tickets from Tom or at the Coffee morning. The bar will be open from 6.30pm.

On Monday 10th December from 8pm 'The Company of the Horham Old School' would welcome visitors to their music session; there will be

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at the
Old
School**



Christmas Cards yet we have some very lovely 'Horham in the Snow' cards for sale. All profits from the sale of the cards will go to The Old School refurbishment fund.

Finally a date for next year to reserve in your diary. At 7.30pm on Friday 29th March 2019, in time for your Spring planting, Hawk

mince pies of course!

On 19th December we will be serving mulled wine as well as coffee and mince pies at our coffee morning and if you haven't bought your

Honey will be giving a talk about why and which bees are in trouble and what we can do to help them.

Have a lovely Christmas everyone!

Christine Cooper

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Villages remember our

THE 100TH anniversary of the end of the First World War was commemorated around the villages with wreaths and crosses laid on war memorials and graves.

Stradbroke & District Branch RBL had nine different burial sites to commemorate of WW1 soldiers who came home

injured, and were buried locally.

At Horham Baptist Chapel the grave of Lance Corporal Sydney Hawes was commemorated at an Eve of Peace ceremony on November 8th. Cut-out torsos, to represent the number of Church Members lost in WW1, were placed at the front of the Chapel. Children from Worlingworth and Kyson Primary Schools also took part in the ceremony.



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A circular logo for the Association of Funeral Directors. It features a blue lion rampant on a white background, surrounded by the text "Association of Funeral Directors" in a circular border.

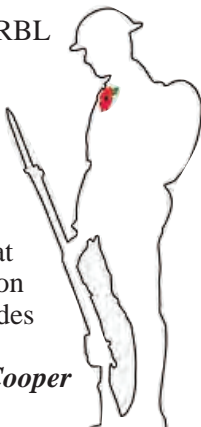
fallen heroes

On the same morning a commemoration was held at St Mary's Church honouring the grave of Herbert Turner who was also a WW1 injured veteran. This was led by John Graham, vice chairman of Stradbroke & District branch RBL with the help of children from Stradbroke Primary School.

This was an initiative of Suffolk County RBL, to honour all those buried in our home county.

Ceremonies were also held at the memorials in our villages on the 11th as well as major parades in Stradbroke and Eye.

Joyce Cooper



■ **FATHER CHRISTMAS:** We are hoping that Father Christmas will be able to visit Horham and Athelington again this year with the help of the Christmas Elf. To book a delivery please ring Mother Christmas on 01379 384231. A donation to the East Anglian Children's Hospice is requested for this service. All ages welcome. Deliveries will be between 8.30am and noon. **Mother Christmas**

■ **POPPY APPEAL:** The house-to-house collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Horham and Athelington has raised £355. Many thanks to my helpers Melva Huggins, Violet Allum and Elizabeth Hall.

Janet Fisk



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Letter home to Redlingfield from a WW1 infantryman



WITH ALL THE COMMEMORATIONS OF THE END of WW1 it seems appropriate to feature this letter written by Private Harry Lincoln whose name is on the Redlingfield Memorial and also on the Menin Gate at Ypres. He died on 5th May 1915 fighting with the 1st Bedfordshires on Hill 60 during the second battle of Ypres.

He was born in Horham in 1887. He lived with relatives Samuel and Mary Muttock in Mill Road, Redlingfield as a young child. By 1901 He was a resident of Willow House Children's Home in Eye and by 1911 he was an infantryman with the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment.

This letter was to Clara Harvey of Redlingfield. The UK Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that Miss Clara Harvey was Harry's sole legatee She received £19.19s.09d. in December 1915 and a further £5 in August 1919.

Linda Hudson



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My Dearest Clara,

a line before I go. I am still in Ireland I have been expecting a letter from you but as I told you we might be leaving here on Sunday I expect you thought I might not get it but you can always write to the last address I am where you hear from me, it will always find me, Dear Clara the above address will always find me. We are leaving here tomorrow morning or Friday morning. We are going round the coast straight to Belgium. I am not supposed to tell you this as we have not got to put the place where we are on our letters, just On Active Service that is all. We have been issued with a little tin disc with our number, name and regiment on which we have to wear round our necks, so they can tell who we are if we get killed, I belong to the expeditionary force whom Kitchener is sending out to the front. Dear Clara this is a place to be in, we have to fight like tigers to get our food here soon as ever it comes up about 50 make a grab at it. Some get a lot and some don't get any. If we have money it's a hard job to spend it. If you go to the coffee shop or canteen you have to wait about two hours before it is your turn to be served, if I get through this lot no more for me, it will be better when we leave barracks as every man will carry his own rations. We were allowed out of barracks two hours last Sunday after we had been on church parade and a route march in full fighting kit. I shall be glad when my time comes to leave this place. Dear Clara this war is going to be worse than I thought, some seem to think it won't last a month and some say it will last three years. Our officers told us this morning it would be a hard and long war. We have been through the mill since we have been here from 5.30 in the morning to about 7 at night with not much to eat in the bargain. Dear Clara if I never come home again I leave the boy in your charge and I know you will do your best for him. I have got to make my will this afternoon. I shall make it out to you everything of what I possess. So if I go under and you do not get anything you must apply for it. Dear Clara if I get killed in Active Service there will be a medal for me somewhere and I hope you will try and get it and keep it for the boy to wear when he grows up. You can write to me now anywhere I am with that address, it's a good job I brought these few stamps with me as we can't get any here. I will write again as soon as I get the chance. Remember me to the men in the harvest tell them I am all right so far. You must let Mrs. Baldwin know too as I have not got time to write. I must close now with fondest love to you and Leslie and remain
your ever loving Harry.
We carry a little book with us to enter all payments made to us and it has got a form of will in it.

Rare bees cling on thanks to

THIS YEAR REALLY has been a year of extremes when it comes to the weather. After a heavy cold spell, we also had one of the hottest summers since 1976, a summer I remember well even though I was just a kid.

These variations of weather patterns also affect wildlife and none more so than the insects, which live their whole life by temperature changes, daylight hours etc, so from a hymenopterists point of view I wasn't expecting to find much this year, but I was wrong.

When I first started looking at bees and wasps and helping to record their whereabouts, the County Recorder, Adrian Knowles, said to me "always check village churchyards, they're a great source".

He wasn't wrong. I always have a net in my car during the summer months and whenever I find myself passing a churchyard, if time allows, I do a little survey. There is one churchyard I survey on a regular basis, our own at Horham. This churchyard is managed incredibly well for wildlife and it shows it too.

I understand from the groundsman that it is managed for conservation and he's doing a grand job which is reflected in the variety of insects that can be heard buzzing as you walk through. I once brought my friend to look at the churchyard, she is the secretary of the Suffolk Branch of



The rare Red-girdled Mining Bee (*Andrena labiata*) found in Horham churchyard.

Butterfly Conservation, and her exact words after five minutes was "this is an incredibly amazing place".

And it gets even better because amongst the amazing bees that I've found there I came across a very special bee this year. The Red-girdled Mining Bee (*Andrena labiata*) was a surprise find for me and the first time I had come across this particular bee. What makes it so special is that it was only the 10th record for Suffolk, so quite a rarity.

This bee is a tiny (-7mm long) black, except for a red band around its abdomen, hence the name, solitary mining bee that nests in the ground. It can be seen collecting nectar and pollen from Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*) or Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and therefore always flies close to the ground in and out of the vegetation.

This just goes to show how important these wild areas like our churchyards are to wildlife. A recent report stated

wildflowers

that more than 40% of invertebrate species are close to extinction and it's no surprise when you consider that the UK has lost more than 90% of its wildflower meadows in 90 years.

It all seems very doom and gloom, but it doesn't have to be, we can make a difference. This year, just down Worlingworth Road, right by where the railway used to cross the road from Horham train station, there is a small area that has been planted with wild flowers. Every now and then when I'm passing I have a look to see what's there and I found a little (only 4mm long) something this year by the name of the Squat Furrow Bee

(*Lasioglossum pauperatum*), the first one found in Suffolk since 1899 and is listed as *Red Data Book 3* threatened. Yet here it is on the edge of a small wildflower meadow in Horham just clinging on thanks to a small wildflower patch.

We can all do our bit to help by planting much needed native wildflowers in our gardens. I am also looking to create my own wildflower meadow and am seeking a small piece of land (approximately one acre) in the local area to do this, please contact me if you know of such a piece.

If you want to know more about bees and why they are in trouble and what we can do to help, then I will be giving a talk on March 29th next year at the Old School. I am also available for talks elsewhere in Suffolk. Contact me for details.

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Praise for the coffee caravan

THE VILLAGERS OF Redlingfield have long-known that the Rural Coffee Caravan is a brilliant idea.

The caravan, which visits Suffolk villages to help people access information and services, was featured in the Government report “A Connected Society: A strategy for tackling loneliness”. It highlights the charity as an example of good practice saying it helps people with many issues – mainly the need to be with

other people. The report’s aim is to bring a new approach to tackling loneliness and its damaging effect on society, as highlighted by MP Jo Cox before her murder in 2016.

Ann Osborn, director of the Rural Coffee Caravan, told the *East Anglian Daily Times*: “We have been members of the Campaign to End Loneliness for many years, and met with The Jo Cox Foundation, so we have some ‘inside knowledge’ of the volume of campaigning work that has gone into

■ **LIVE NATIVITY:** The churches of the Hoxne benefice will be presenting a live nativity again this year; as with last time it will be in ‘Nora’s Yard’ on the road between Hoxne and Denham (on the left just as you enter Denham), starting at 2.30pm on Christmas Eve. Again there will be ‘actors’, live animals and hopefully a babe in arms (The vicar’s still looking for Jesus!). To try and relieve the parking at Nora’s Yard, please park and walk from somewhere else unless you have passengers with limited mobility. We’re very grateful that Fressingfield Scouts will be helping with a ‘Park and Ride’ mini-bus shuttle. Look out for details on posters and flyers.

Rev Michael Womack

■ **FAMILY@CHURCH:** In December the churches of the Hoxne benefice are launching a new service. family@church, is a short church service for everyone; hopefully with ‘something for everyone!’ There’s a warm welcome and refreshments before and afterward (even during if you want), an activity and thoughtful talk to go with it and songs and a prayer-time. All this in a short service. It’s on the 2nd Sunday of every month in Denham church, so the first ones are 9 December and 13 January at 11:15 for about 40 minutes. Contact Michael Womack 01379-38889, hoxnebenefice@gmail for more details or just come as you are – all are welcome in God’s family.

Rev Michael Womack

EYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL TRUST - ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED: There is a vacancy for an administrator to support the Trustees in the management of the fund and distribution of educational grants, in accordance with its charitable status. The key roles of this position are: Prepare agenda for quarterly meetings; Attend and take minutes for these meetings (evenings); Correspondence with applicants including administering of grants. Full support provided. An honorarium of £500pa plus expenses is paid. For further details, please contact Michael Womack, Chair of Trustees 01379 388889 or hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

Kate Kirkum



The Coffee Caravan in Redlingfield.

this strategy. We are delighted to be included as an example of good practice.”

She added: “Our own regular caravan visits to some of the most remote villages in Suffolk provide a welcoming place to meet and chat, with our trained listener volunteers who can also signpost or refer people to relevant support agencies.”

And that is not the only recognition to come to the Coffee Caravan in recent weeks. The *EADT*'s list of Suffolk's 100 most inspirational women included both Coffee Caravan founder Sally Fogden and Ann Osborn.

The list is of women who are positive role models includes women who have achieved success in a diverse range of fields from business and the arts, to sport and education. The list was put together by a panel of judges this summer after the *EADT* asked readers for nominations.

Visit www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk for more information. The Coffee Caravan will return to Redlingfield next year.

Mike Ager

■ **FAREWELL:** David and Jacqueline Love were due to be leaving Redlingfield on 28th November to live in Aylsham in north Norfolk. We have been here for eleven and a half years and have thoroughly enjoyed our stay, but as we age, we realise that we want to be closer to amenities. In Aylsham we have a chalet bungalow similar to that in Redlingfield but walking distance from the town centre, doctors, supermarket, etc. Our thanks go to everyone in Redlingfield for your friendship and we will miss you. We wish you all the best for the future.

David & Jacqueline

■ **COFFEE MORNINGS:** A big thank you to Jacqueline Love from those of us who have enjoyed the coffee mornings that she has organised for the last ten years in Redlingfield. We wish Jacqueline and David well in their new home. I hope to keep the coffee mornings going (see what's on) but hosts are in short supply so in December we have the Christmas Lunch instead.

Linda Hudson



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Carols at Red Feather Club

A CAROL service on Wednesday December 12th will end another successful year of events at The Red Feather Club.

The service with Diss Salvation Army Brass Band starts at 7.30pm

and, weather permitting, singing will be around the flagpole so wrap up warm. It will be followed by warming refreshments and the bar will be open. Please try to car-share to keep the numbers parking on the field to a minimum.

This year saw special celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the 95th Bomb Group's arrival at Horham as well as a host of visitors, some great dances and the best-yet Americana Day.

On Remembrance Day, November 11th,



UPCOMING RED FEATHER CLUB EVENTS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12: Carol Service, 7.30pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 23: Dance, The band Hot House Four.

WED APRIL 25 TO MON APRIL 30: Reunion.

SATURDAY JUNE 29: Dance, The band The Revolutionaires.

SUNDAY JUNE 30: Americana Day.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29: Dance, band to be arranged.



EYE SALON

01379 871996

All the staff at Eye Salon would like to wish everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We have extended our opening hours for Christmas, please phone us for details.

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OPENING TIMES 2019

Monday	10am-6pm
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Far right:
Glenn Miller at
Redlingfield
memorial on
November 11th.
Right: the
crosses laid on
November 19th.



poppy wreaths were laid at the 95th memorials and later that month the 75th anniversary of the Redlingfield crash was commemorated at a special ceremony. Ten wooden crosses memorialised the crewmen who lost their lives on November 19th 1943.

Next year's dances and

Americana Day have already been penned in as a reunion to run from April 25th to 30th April. If anyone is able to offer American visitors a home-stay please contact Beverley Abbott on beverley1960@hotmail.co.uk or 678581.

The historic Red



Feather Club Museum at Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, is operated and managed by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association.

Mike Ager

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WATSON

Tom, Phoebe and Lady raise

AS CHRISTMAS approaches the villagers of Redlingfield have a trio of heroes to congratulate for doing a fantastic job of fundraising.

In the last magazine you may have read that six-year-old Phoebe Smith and her elderly pony Lady, along with her big brother, nine-year-old Tom, would be riding and cycling 36 kilometres around Beddingfield to raise funds to help create a safe place for visitors to park at our church.

Currently parking is on a fast country road and

simply too dangerous for everyone. The new parking area on the Doorstep Green will be eco-friendly under-grass mesh, which is virtually invisible once the grass has grown through it.

They were hoping to raise £1,000. Well, they have done a lot better than that! Including gift aid they have raised well over £5,500, which is absolutely brilliant.

The pair spent several weekends riding and cycling around Beddingfield. The weather was challenging at times and it got a little bit

muddy. They had to do their fundraising over several weekends as Lady is 23 and needs to take life easy these days.

So congratulations and thank you to the Smiths and Lady as well as everyone who donated money. It's just wonderful that these young people care so much and have put so much effort in to this.

The under-grass mesh will cost around £9,000 and the gates and fencing a further £2,000. We are planning to install the mesh ourselves so will be looking for volunteers.

Looking to the future,

■ REDLINGFIELD

BROADBAND UPDATE: The phone and broadband service is still terrible and the Green Box's live date has slipped to the start of 2019! The good news is that all the documents that allow BT to cross farmers land to bring the fibre cable to us have been signed and work has begun on installing the cable. For those on the "wrong side" of the Green Box, the plan is to introduce high speed broadband "by the end of the year". **Janet Norman-Philips**



amazing £5,500

we will be starting a larger project to revamp the existing Doorstep Green, enlarging the play area with equipment for a wider range of youngsters as well as older people. We will also be improving the paths and seating areas along with the wildlife area, as well as using the new field for recreation and ball games etc. This is going to take time and money, luckily there are grants out there

that we can call upon. The Village Committee want to get people involved and get everyone's ideas – especially (grand)parents and youngsters, so we will be asking everyone in the village for their thoughts and getting a small group together to work on this.

If anyone is interested in being part of this group please contact me.

**Janet Norman-Philips 678835 or
pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk**



Pictured: Fundraisers Tom & Phoebe Smith and Lady.



Autumn all go as usual at

AS USUAL, IT was all go at Wilby Primary School this Autumn: **Gold Sports Award:** Wilby school was delighted to be awarded the Gold level Sportsmark for outstanding provision in sporting activity. Only two schools in the area have received this level of accolade (one a High School) and it has been wonderful to have the achievements of our Sports Leads recognised.

Wilby School remembers: The pupils at Wilby school have been learning all about the 'who, what, why and when' of WW1. They have been studying aspects of the war in topic lessons and bringing their learning alive through dance, music and drama. Their WW1 day allowed children the opportunity to dress up in period costume and take part in a 1918 school day – re-enacting classroom

activities, playground games and even sampling a typical school dinner. On Friday 19th October all of the children from Y2 upwards visited the Imperial war Museum at Duxford for a WW1 fact-finding day. Events continued after the half term holiday when the children were visited by the great niece of Corporal Leggett, one of the soldiers who came from Wilby village. She shared memorabilia and

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Wilby

family stories. What better way to bring history alive! Following this a special WW1 evening remembered those fallen through music (including a WW1 sing-a-long), dance, art and the children's own writing. The children also sang at a commemorative reflective event at St Mary's Church Wilby.

School trips: Our Pre-School, YR and Y1 pupils had a wonderful day out at Bressingham Steam Museum and on the December 11th the whole school (including Pre-School) is off to Great Yarmouth Christmas Spectacular at the Hippodrome.

Reaching out to dementia sufferers:

This year Wilby School is working on the Archie Project with Hartismere Place Care Home in Eye. The Archie Project is an exciting project that links local primary



schools, care homes/ sheltered housing schemes, businesses/ services and community members to dispel the fear and stigma often associated with dementia and create more dementia-friendly communities. Owl Class has taken part in a number of workshops in school to help develop their understanding and they have also had the opportunity to go to Hartismere Place (see picture) to meet the residents and spend some time talking to them, reading to them and playing games or doing craft activities. The children are loving their involvement in this project and have already started planning a special

Christmas party for the residents. We believe that this type of experience will help develop compassion, tolerance and understanding in our young people.

Dates for the diary:

- We have one more free Pre-School Fundamentals Gym and Crafty Do and make Mornings (9-11am)- November 9th and December 7th.
- 13th December Wren Class Christmas Play
- 14th December-Please join us for our Christmas Service at St Mary's Church Wilby
- 18th December: Christmas Fair. 6pm in the village hall

***Roisin Wiseman,**
headteacher*

■ **SHCT RIDE & STRIDE:** Many thanks to everyone who supported this event and especially the gallant cyclists Daniel Streeter, Lawrence Weaver and Michael Whatling who rode for St Mary's church. the stewards who welcomed visitors and all the kind sponsors who raised £140 to be divided between St Mary's and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Daphne Harvey

You just don't see them now

NIGHTINGALES AND cuckoos. What do these two birds have in common? Well, in the 20 something years that we have lived here they seem to have disappeared.

Mind you, I think their presence was only marginal then. For the first two years you could on one, or perhaps two, spring nights listen to the, not far off, poignant (to our human ears) song of the nightingale. But after that it was gone.

Similarly, for the first few years there was an occasional cuckoo call – distant to be sure, but definitely there and after that, no more.

Last year, at Lopham Fen I heard a

cuckoo close by and calling for all it was worth, so it has not entirely gone from the area.

As a balance to this decline I have noticed an increase in some local animals and birds, notably wood pigeons. A mixed blessing! Their smaller and better behaved cousins, the collar doves seem also to have increased, and Trevor's efforts on behalf of the barn owls seem to be paying off – from what I hear from my warm bed on a cold still night. We even have buzzards to be spotted high in the sky.

In the region cranes have been successfully re-introduced and are spreading. Jan saw one in a field as we

Parent and Toddler Group

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Warming is real and here and now. This is contested in some quarters and the truth is probably so complex that neither party will prove to be completely right or completely wrong. However that discussion works out, what is standing in the way of us deciding anyway

were driving to Norwich. The timid (or is it simply being discreet?) moorhen seems to be a bit braver and more evident lately, stepping about the garden. (I like the galoshes!) and in winter, the goldfinches gather to pick the seeds from the evening primroses. Perhaps it doesn't do to be too neat and tidy in the garden.

These are changes to be noted by any of us as we potter about, some of them confirmed by various authorities.

Change is inevitable in our complex environment and I guess it is constant and inevitable. "Change is the only constant", as someone once said, but you find yourself asking if this or that change is due directly to Global Warming, or simply the kind of change which, over time, has always occurred.

Some changes are calamitous and long lasting but can be attributed to a single event not directly connected to Climate Change. Among these are Dutch Elm Disease and Ash Dieback as well as the problems that horse chestnuts seem to be having. Other changes are directly down to us, such as grey squirrels ousting the red and myxomatosis which, alarmingly, is now reported to be spreading amongst our beautiful hares.

However, there appears to be a growing feeling abroad that Global

to take more care of this planet which is our only home? Each of us can surely make our own contribution to this. The probable effects of not doing so can be seen in ways that affect our local environment directly.

As an example: this past year many of us have seen that "our" swallows, swifts or house martins have not done as well as usual. They arrived late and left early and did not breed as well as usual. The general consensus on the cause is, that apart from the usual hazards, they met appalling weather en route during their migration. The adverse weather perhaps being due to global warming. None of us surely would want these beautiful birds to disappear from our summer scene?

Two further examples, which I should have included at the beginning, of species which have disappeared from the neighbourhood in the time that we have lived here: the "Fish Man", whose name, I distinctly recall, was Andy Oven and who came on Fridays in a white van; and also the fish and chip van, which used to draw up to the Knoll on one evening a week and was always warmly greeted by an appreciative and loyal group of us (twitchers?).

You just don't see them any more!

Neville Butcher

The little things in life ...

GOING TO START WITH A POEM WRITTEN EARLIER THIS YEAR when I was looking for ideas of what to write in this magazine. It may not scan or fit a style but it helps me say what I want to get across.

ODE TO THE ARROW

*I've always looked for ages for sport to suit my values of life,
Where the best performer in a contest could not be undermined,
Where the reward for playing better was a victory not strife,
Where laws and rules were not harshly officiated or redefined.*

*Looking for a sporting scene where the winner was always best,
Where no neutral outsider can interpret a rule to your despair,
Where no result is influenced by a call few agree with and some detest,
Where self-righteous and moralist officialdom won't get to interfere.*

*So step forward the joys of darts to entertain me when I tune in,
No contentious expulsions or dubious penalties so you cannot win,
No 'Umpires call' or Nineteenth Century rulebook to debate,
Just two people throwing arrows at a board to me is just great.*

Sport has been a big thing in my life for more than 40 years. Whether as a fan



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or a very ordinary cricketer or bowler it has been a big part of my social life. I wouldn't have it any other way but there are two frustrating aspects. These increasingly 'get my goat' as the expression goes.

Firstly no-one can control the arrows of fortune in a game. Somebody takes a great catch to end your innings, a shot gets badly deflected and ends up wrong footing your goalkeeper, bad rolls of a wood turning your potential five shots into one to the opposition.

There are periods when it feels the world is against you. Other times they go for you but my problem is they don't fit into a nice time period. As a bowler in 2017 and 2018 I had very few lucky episodes going my way and had a lot more that have cost me or my side. I've conveniently forgotten 2016 when things were probably a lot better.

It's not just getting the fortunate breaks your way that matters. It's when you get them. Being dropped in cricket is no good if no effective advantage is gained. If you get given out in the next over it is a wasted bit of

good fortune. Similarly if you wick in from wide to hold shot in bowls only to have it taken away by an angry wood that shunts the embarrassing wood bowled by the lead over six yards to win. My point is it's only really fortunate if it helps you to success.

We play sport for fun but we are looking to win. I've enjoyed good games when I've been on the losing side, but although it is not the 'be all and end all' we all want to be a winner.

I did say there were two things didn't I? Well the second one is the subjective nature of decisions made by officials as hopefully can be seen in the poem.

Sports that rely on an official to decide what is right and wrong and set harsh punishments that can be inconsistently interpreted, are a fundamental problem that cannot be solved in my eyes.

Sport is increasingly geared at the middle-class philosophy of punishment culture and authority figures being in control.

As my poem suggests darts has none of this. It's just you against them. The winner plays best. Yes you can be unlucky but it's the arrogance of officials that 'really grinds my gears'.

A mentality that says they are right when most people feel they are wrong and any doubt going in favour of officials makes these people complacent.

Bowls has very little official interference but still has a fortune element that frustrates. Football and cricket have both the second irritant and in football this is rampant.

Ian Crane

WHAT'S ON

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1

Harleston Christmas Lights Switch On & Market: Harleston, 9.30am-6pm.

Save the Swan Dance: Worlingworth Community Centre, 8pm-midnight. 90s style dance. £5 in advance, £6 on door. 01728 627735. A fundraiser for Worlingworth Swan Action Group.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY DECEMBER 1 & 2

Advent & Angels Festival: St Mary's Church, Worlingworth, 10am-4pm.

MONDAY DECEMBER 3

Santa on his sleigh: Framlingham (East to South), 6pm. High Suffolk Rotary Club.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4

Santa on his sleigh: Framlingham (South to West), 6pm.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5

Redlingfield Village Christmas Lunch: Thorndon Black Horse, 1pm.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7

Eye Christmas Lights & Late Night Shopping: 5pm-8pm with the

Christmas lights switch on at 6pm.

Annual Horham Christmas Dinner: Details from Horham CC & PO.

SUN DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 & SAT 8 & 15

Santa Specials: Mid Suffolk Light Railway.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

Knight & Spiers: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £15, online www.wegotickets.com/event/445404

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

St Mary's Christmas Fayre: Worlingworth, 2pm-5pm.

Digger Turnbull quiz: Worlingworth CC, 7.30pm. Tables for teams of four £6 per person. Sandwich supper & bar open. To reserve a table, call Geoff & Janette on 628768.

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Christmas Variety Show: Horham Old School, bar from 6.30pm, £3.

Music At Christmas: St Mary's Church Debenham, 7.30pm. Rotary Club of High Suffolk charity event with Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society. £10, children free. 01728 861409 or events@highsuffolkrotary.org.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9

St Nicholas Christmas Fayre: The Heritage Triangle Diss, 11am-4pm.

Winter Fayre: The Walled Garden, Thornham Magna, 1pm-3.30pm.

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

MONDAY DECEMBER 10

Company of the Horham Old School: Horham Old School, music from 8pm.

Santa on his sleigh: Eye, 6pm.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 11

Santa on his sleigh: Debenham, 6pm.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12

Carol Service: Red Feather Club Horham, 7.30pm.

Santa on his sleigh: Debenham, 6pm.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14

Hoxne Film Night: The Bromley Boys (PG), Hoxne Village Hall, 7.30pm, £4.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14

Hoxne Film Night.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15

Hoxne Produce & Craft Market: Hoxne Village Hall, 9.30am-12.30pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15

Christmas Concert: The Burgate Singers Christmas Concert, Eye Town Hall, 7.30pm. £18 (£16 for under 18s) on door or from 01379 677333.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 16

Carol Service: Horham Church, 4.30pm.

MONDAY DECEMBER 17

Santa on his sleigh: Stradbroke, 6pm.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18

Santa on his sleigh: Framlingham (West to North), 6pm.

Christmas Fair: Wilby village hall, 6pm.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19

Beer & Carols: Horham CC, 7.30pm bar from 7pm.

■ **VENUES etc:**

The Bank Arts Centre - Eye: The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & www.thebankeye.org. **Cinema at Eye:** Eye Community Centre, Magdalene St, IP23 7AJ, tickets Eye Pharmacy, The Handyman, or on door. Doors 7pm, film 7.30pm. £5 adult, £2.50 child up to 12. **Framlingham:** www.framlingham.com. **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, events@helmingham.com, www.helmingham.com. **Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754. **Hoxne Film Nights:** 7.30pm, Hoxne Village Hall, Goldbrook, Hoxne, bar, popcorn & choc-ices available before & in the interval. Further info/booking: 668060 or www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk. **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station, Wetheringsett, Suffolk, IP14 5PW, www.msrl.org.uk, 01449 766899. **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk, 01449 612229. **Redlingfield village events,** 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk. **Mid-Suffolk Showground & Stonham Barns:** Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, http://stonham-barns.co.uk. **Stradbroke Cinema:** Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. Adults £5.50, 16 and under £3. Bar open, ice-creams in the interval. **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary,** Stonham Barns, 08456 807897, info@owl-help.org.uk, www.owl-help.org.uk. **Wingfield Barns,** 384505, enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com, www.wingfieldbarns.com. **95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club,** Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, www.95thbg-horham.com, enquiries@95thbg-horham.com.



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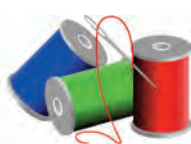
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WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY DECEMBER 20

Celebration Of Christmas by Candle

light: St Margaret's, Southolt, 6.30pm.
Mince pies & mulled wine afterwards.
Take a torch.

Stradbroke Cinema: Phantom Thread
(15), Stradbroke CC, 7pm.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 20

Stradbroke Cinema: Phantom Thread,
Stradbroke CC.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21

Redlingfield Carol Service: St

Andrew's church, 6.30pm, with light refreshments.

MONDAY DECEMBER 24

Live Nativity: 'Nora's Yard' on the road
between Hoxne & Denham, 2.30pm.

TUESDAY JANUARY 1 2019

New Years Steam: Mid Suffolk Light
Railway.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2

Redlingfield Coffee Morning:

Woodvale, home of Linda Hudson,
10am-noon.

SUNDAY JANUARY 6

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold
Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

FRIDAY JANUARY 11

Light Supper: Horham CC, watch for
notices in PO & CC.

THURSDAY JANUARY 24

Open Mic: A new Open Mic will start at
The Bank Arts Centre, Eye. It will run
every two weeks. More info to follow.

FRIDAY JANUARY 25

**Membership Renewal Evening & Fish
& Chips:** Horham CC.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold
Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5

Redlingfield Village Committee

Meeting: at Pat Kelly's Redmill home,
8pm.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: The Willows, Cranley, home of Maria Ford & family, 10am-noon.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15

Valentines Bar Meal: Horham CC.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16

Redlingfield Cheese & Wine: Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

FRIDAY MARCH 1

Fish & chips: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MARCH 2

Dance: Debenham CC, traditional, folk, music, songs, step dancing, clog dancing & jig doll dancing. Doors 5.30pm for 7.30pm. £10 in advance only from Doreen 07591 499912.

SUNDAY MARCH 3

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Mount Pleasant, home of Hazel & Edmund Abbott, 10am-noon.

FRIDAY MARCH 15

Bar Meal: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MARCH 23

Dance: Red Feather Club, band Hot House Four.

FRIDAY MARCH 29

Fish & Chips: Horham CC.

Talk on bees: Horham Old School, 7.30pm. Hawk Honey will give a talk about why & which bees are in trouble & what we can do to help them.

SATURDAY APRIL 6

Old Herbaceous: Worlingworth Community Centre, 7.30pm. One man play. Tickets £12 available from Rosemary Ingate early 2019.

SUNDAY APRIL 14

Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop: Occold Village Hall, 2pm-5pm, £5.50.

■ **REGULAR EVENTS:**

MONDAYS: Coffee & Chat: Horham Baptist Church hall. 10am. No charge. Everyone welcome. Alan Hawes, 388330. **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.

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 & cyber cafe, 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 practices. 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. Wingfield barns Midweek Movies : alternate Weds 7.30pm screening £5. For info 384505 or email enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com

THURSDAYS: Zumba: Worlingworth Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563534086.

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

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

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David Flowerdew honoured

DAVID FLOWERDEW, TREE Warden and past Chairman of Denham Parish Council was an enthusiastic supporter of the idea of locally owned community woodlands as suggested by the Green Light Trust, and he became the founder Chair of the New Reeding Woods Group.

Now that this woodland is thriving the Group decided that to honour his contribution he should be designated as our Patron and the information board at the wood will be redesigned to acknowledge his ongoing support.

In September a Barn Owl box was

positioned in an oak tree in Pound Lane Wood as a memorial to his wife, Jackie, also a founder member of the group. In November an unveiling ceremony was planned but the event was thwarted by the discovery that an owl had already taken up residence, another example of how the community woodland is becoming a sanctuary for wildlife.

For information about events see the notice board at the wood, and to join the group please contact our Secretary Penny Conway on 01379 870165.

Margaret Reeves

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS 2018-2019

RECYCLING		REFUSE		RECYCLING	
Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised
Mon 24 Dec	Mon 24 Dec	Mon 31 Dec	Wed 2 Jan	Mon 7 Jan	Tues 8 Jan
Tues 25 Dec	Thur 27 Dec	Tues 1 Jan	Thur 3 Jan	Tues 8 Jan	Wed 9 Jan
Wed 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec	Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan	Wed 9 Jan	Thur 10 Jan
Thur 27 Dec	Sat 29 Dec	Thur 3 Jan	Sat 5 Jan	Thur 10 Jan	Fri 11 Jan
Fri 28 Dec	Mon 31 Dec	Fri 4 Jan	Mon 7 Jan	Fri 11 Jan	Sat 12 Jan

There will be no brown bin collections over Christmas and New Year (between 24th December and 4th January). Please check www.midsuffolk.gov.uk for further details.

From Monday 14th January normal waste and recycling collections resume.

■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED:** application to enable permanent unrestricted residential use of **Little Meadow Farm, Stradbroke Road, Horham;** outline application (access to be considered) for the erection of up to two detached dwellings with garages on land opposite **Wheatcrofts, The Street, Horham;** application for conversion and extension of **The Old School House, Green Lane, Redlingfield,** to provide one residential dwelling - variation to approved drawings and details of repairs. **GRANTED:** householder application to erect a single storey rear extension at **The Lodge, Stradbroke Road, Horham.**

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

DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP

THE RUN-UP TO CHRISTMAS is undoubtedly one of the busiest times of the year – not only preparing for Christmas at home, but also out and

about attending the many Christmas community events and fayres.

One of the best things about Suffolk is our fantastic community spirit with many events and lunches put on specially to ensure that no-one in the community is left out or lonely.

I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers who work selflessly at Christmas and throughout the year.

When visiting the many Christmas events and fayres I also very much enjoy taking the time to browse and buy locally where I can. We have such a fantastic range of small and independent retailers here in Suffolk, not to mention farm shops and local producers, so it's very important that we do our best to support our local economy.

As many of us get into the party spirit, we must also remember those in our NHS and emergency services who work around the clock to keep people safe and cared for.

This year, I am looking forward to going out on a night shift with the Police here in Suffolk, to see for myself the challenges that they face on a daily basis.

I will also be spending some of my Christmas break working as a doctor in the NHS, looking after those who are vulnerable.

The Christmas period is one of the busiest times of year for our NHS and emergency services, with staff working around the clock to ensure help is at hand when needed.

Of course it's not just those working in hospitals who work on Christmas Day, the list is endless but so many work right across the festive season to ensure that services continue day and night – carers visiting the elderly and vulnerable in our communities, ambulance staff and paramedics, firefighters and police officers, to name but a few. Then there is the army of hard working public sector staff, working behind the scenes, to keep everything running smoothly.

Collectively they ensure that our communities are safe and functioning over the festive period, while we all enjoy ourselves with friends and family.

This Christmas, please spare a thought for all those working tirelessly on our behalf, often in challenging circumstances, yet remaining committed to delivering services compassionately and professionally, despite knowing their families and loved ones are waiting at home to enjoy Christmas with them after a lengthy shift.

I would therefore like to pay special tribute to all of our dedicated and hardworking workforce here in Suffolk, thank you for all you do at Christmas, and all year round.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Dr Dan Poulter, MP, I hold regular constituency advice surgeries to help people who have problems. If you think that I may be able to help you, contact 01728 685148, or email me via www.drdanielpoulter.com. For more information please visit www.drdanielpoulter.com

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HAV WILKINS, HORHAM & ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

FIRST OF ALL THE PARISH COUNCIL would like to convey warm Christmas wishes to all in our villages. We should all look forward to this very special season; to celebrate the Christmas message and to be thankful for all that we enjoy for being fortunate to live where we do.

Many of the village facilities that we share are down to people who volunteer time and effort to run them and tend to the needs recognised in Horham and Athelington.

There are those who support our spiritual needs in the Church and the Chapel and all those groups associated with our places of worship. Despite having lived in Horham for more than 40 years it still seems amazing that our two small communities can boast two "village halls", a village car park, a splendidly stocked village shop and Post Office and have, what can only be described as, an active village 'community'.

Politicians often emphasise the importance of pulling together, "be in it together". It seems to me that our two villages have cracked that one.

When a "need" in our community becomes apparent, people respond to address the situation.

Take the Community Centre; the movement to have one was just starting as Angela and I moved into the village.

At that time rural bus services were virtually non-existent, the Green Dragon public house had been long closed and those without a means of transport could not have a convivial drink at a venue in Horham. The Community Council had been formed with the intention of remedying this and functions were held where ever venues could be found.

Eventually with the purchase of the recreation ground, fund-raising events took place in the area which is now the Community Centre car park and in the building that still stands there along with a lean-to shed that has long gone.

Angela and I became involved with various fund-raising functions but it was Alan Johnson his brother David (and a number of others, some who have now sadly passed away) who spearheaded the push to build the Community Centre on the land the Community Council had purchased. Getting planning permission and building the centre is another story but without those who recognised the needs in our community and worked together to achieve this aim, it would not have happened!

"The Old School Hall", that once was the village school, has a similar story. What was known as the Church Hall had undergone some improvements but being a Victorian construction it lacked an indoor toilet and other facilities. Another group within the village identified this need and improvements to the hall were completed. Angela can recall that it became the base for the new village playgroup (another need addressed). Of course without the "Old School" there would have been no appropriate accommodation for such a venture.

The "Old School" is going through another metamorphosis at present, as village needs change. Christine and Pip, along with others, realised that during the week our villages lacked a meeting place for seniors. A coffee morning at the "Old School" on Wednesdays was launched catering for all who wished to come for a chat and an array of delicious

cakes with tea or coffee. This has blossomed not only into a meeting place and a library; but into a place to support those who lacked computer know-how to receive personal tuition; a computer cafe no less!

Fund raising and grant support has seen new windows installed, a new emergency door in the kitchen and numerous additions in the kitchen/bar area and additional furniture. The work is ongoing and this is all down to the "Old School" management committee working together and making collective decisions to cater for the needs of the community.

Our two halls do not compete with each other, they just offer a different facility to serve the needs of our community at different times. We advertise events for each other in our buildings providing a wonderful choice of activities and support for all those who attend.

These things do not happen quickly. They evolve due to village people responding to the collective needs of their community and that is why the spirit is as strong and adaptable as ever. We must continue with this "collective, community" approach and not be misdirected by individually-driven ideas that, however well intentioned, do not respond to the real needs of our community.

We are very lucky where we live and should celebrate this Christmas and share the season with each other.

THE REVEREND REFLECTS ... IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL: PEACE



At the beginning of November, Mary and I went to visit our son in Seville; Seville and the whole Spanish region of Andalucia is fascinating, steeped in the history of the long struggle of the Islamic Moors and the Christians.

One essential site of this interaction is in Cordoba and its unique Cathedral Mosque. Here a mosque was built over the site of an earlier church from the Roman Empire. Times changed and a cathedral was built inside the mosque; inside not in place or on top of it!

So today you can wander in the column lined avenues of an ancient mosque, yet stop to peer into numerous side chapels dedicated to various saints. And then, you come across a cathedral right in the middle of it.

And in this building where different faiths have jostled for superiority, there are now hundreds of tourists jostling for the best view, the best chance to hear the guide, the best photo. Where in it all I wondered was the chance to sit and pray and attend to the gentle voice of the Divine?

Then, I saw her, one solitary lady sitting in the unmistakable way of someone meditating and praying; there she was in the midst of it all! In the midst of all the tourists and voices, activity and weight of history! Sitting and communing with God. Easily we bemoan that Christmas has lost its meaning and been swept away by commercialism, but perhaps that is an excuse that comes easily to all of us. I've seen, with my own eyes, a lady sitting in the midst of it all, at peace. May it be that all of us make the effort to encounter the Prince of Peace this Christmas.

**Revd Michael Womack is rector of
the Hoxne Benefice**

(hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 388889).

CHURCH & INFORMATION

■ CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES etc:

2 Dec Redlingfield 9.30am HC;
Syleham Village Hall 4pm
 Messy Church Party; **Athelington**
 4.30pm Advent Service

9 Dec **Horham** 9.30am BCP HC

12 Dec **Red Feather Club** Carols with
 Salvation Army Band 7.30pm

16 Dec **Athelington** 9.30am HC;
Horham 4.30pm Carol Service

19 Dec **Horham** Beer & Carols with
 Horham Baptist Chapel 7.30pm

21 Dec **Redlingfield** 6.30pm Carols

23 Dec **Horham** 11.15am VS

24 Dec **Horham** 11.30pm Midnight Mass

25 Dec **Redlingfield** 9.30am FC

30 Dec **Wingfield** 11.15am Benefice
 Communion

6 Jan **Redlingfield** 9.30am HC;
Horham 11.15am Epiphany
 Service - gifts for EACH shop
 received gratefully; **Syleham**
Village Hall 4pm Messy Church

13 Jan **Horham** 9.30am BCP HC

20 Jan **Athelington** 9.30am HC

27 Jan **Redlingfield** 10am MP;
Horham 11.15am FS

3 Feb **Redlingfield** 9.30am HC;
Syleham Village Hall 4pm
 Messy Church

10 Feb **Horham** 9.30am BCP

17 Feb **Athelington** 9.30am HC

24 Feb **Redlingfield** 10am MP;
Horham 11.15am FS

HC = Holy Communion, FC = Family Communion, VS = Village Service,
 MP = Morning Prayer, BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Enquiries: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, St Peter,
 Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217).

Services for all churches in the benefice are on notice boards. A monthly benefice
 newsletter is available in the churches. Email hoxnebenefice@gmail.com for your copy.

Horham Church Register: Peter Hills aged 67 years - 4th September.
 Betty Charlotte Wilson aged 102 years - burial of ashes 10th September.

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

1/8 page £9 (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)
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 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

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