Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

WINTER 2021-22 Issue No. 55

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Editorial

Evelyn Adey has stepped back from her role making sure that villagers in Athelington and Horham get their copies of the village mag. She's been joint editor and in charge of distribution in Athelington and Horham since she persuaded me to produce the first issue back in 2008. Maryann Cartwight of Redlingfield

Road, Horham, has taken on her role with Daphne Harvey and Sarah Colnet now delivering in Athelington. My heartfelt thanks go out to Evelyn for all she has done over the years and to Maryann for stepping into the breach. Also many thanks to the tiny army of volunteers who deliver the magazine in Horham and Redlingfield.

This issue does have an awful lot about Redlingfield, sorry Horham and Athelington, but you can't really blame me. It is the busy people on the Parochial Church Council's fault. They squeezed in a whole year's worth of events after we regained some freedom. So thanks to Alison Smith and her family and Lesley Rose Freitas and her clan, in particular for the joint birthday party for Hazel and Pauline Abbott. Another family who always seem to be working away in background and turning up to help out are the Brices. So, many thanks to Alison Brice and her family for all their hard work. *Mike Ager*

We had a couple of pictures vying for front-page spot this issue. Neville Butcher gave me another lovely painting but it is so redolent of autumn that I'm saving it for next year and there was Henry Colnet's powerful image (see p8). But after the year we've had we decided to go for some festive fun.

■ **REMEMBRANCE:** Poppy wreaths were laid at our villages' war memorials on Thursday November 11th and as part of Remembrance services on Sunday November 14th. Pictured is a poppy wreath laid at Horham. It contains a poppy for each of the 600-plus men of the 95th Bomb Group who lost their lives in WW2 flying out of Horham. A short service was also



led by Revd John McCracken on Friday November 19th at the B-17 memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the crash in which 10 men of the 95th lost their lives in Redlingfield.

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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Prized sightings galore as the harvest ends

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

The ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT of a bird's nest is quite simple, to safely hold a clutch of eggs hidden from predators and be strong enough to support the female during the period of incubation.

It is surprising therefore that the design takes on a hundred-and-one variations, which range from nonexistent scrapes to flimsy platforms of twigs or elaborate domed structures.

One of best is the perfectly formed nest of a chaffinch, a very neat woven cup camouflaged with lichen on the outside, moss and grass on the inside



and warmly lined with feathers. It is a work of art. Discovering one whilst pruning a wisteria beneath the bedroom window, I was able to help keep it covered where five eggs then hatched successfully.

This was an improvement on many years ago when I cut a garden hedge too severely and exposed a beautiful blue clutch of thrush's eggs to the sky with the result that a magpie said thank you very much and scoffed the lot.

FINCHES ARE PART OF A HUGE family of seed eaters across Europe

and included in the group is the linnet. They play second fiddle in poetry and prose to many other songbirds, such as the nightingale, robin, song-thrush and even the unloved cuckoo, but the understated linnet was once prized for its melodious song and became prominent in one of our bestknown music-hall songs ... Don't Dilly Dally on the Way [subtitled The Cock Linnet Song it is often credited as My Old Man (Said Follow the Van)].

It prospers on open ground and around field edges and a walk on the beach near Kessingland on a recent fine day revealed a large sociable group feeding on wasteland weeds like docks and

Facing page: The intricate handiwork of the Chaffinch's nest. This page: Three eager juvenile sand martins are well fed before fledging, a second brood in early September.

dandelions. The day was September 1st and it was time to get away from the strange weather which had dogged the farm for at least a couple of weeks. We had suffered a blocking high pressure system which kept the northerlies coming off the sea and caused us to have damp, cloudy conditions throughout August with a bit of mizzle mixed in.

I quizzed my mother years ago what she meant by mizzle and she said it was lighter rain than drizzle.

But eventually the harvest was over and the walk to Benacre Broad was richly rewarded, not only with linnets but a pair of Northern wheatear and a shoreline feeding sanderling which ebbed and flowed with each gentle wave.

Then, most prized of all, a brood of three young sand martins being fed at the entrance of their hole in the sandy cliff face.

Of the multitude of burrows in the cliff only one was active at this late second-brood stage but it soon became easy to spot with the adults swooping down at regular intervals. What a fantastic stroke of luck to happen there at feeding time.

For ten minutes the frantic supplychain continued as the juveniles craned forward to be the first to



receive the next delivery and then suddenly it was over and they had retreated into the cliff. The tunnel nest can be up to a metre in length, sloping upwards and totally safe from the weather and almost every predator. And if it's not there the following year, which must happen on the Suffolk coast sometimes, they just set to and dig out another.

It was a red-letter day indeed as I logged a peregrine falcon sighting on the coast as well. The fastest bird in the world and the most deadly, it will attack almost anything with a vertical plunge or stoop from high above. It was visible from Southwold high street way above the town before dropping into the adjacent marshes. *continued on page 4*

continued from page 3

Nearby in Reydon, Southwold golfer Derek Self was on hand to snap a well-marked sparrow-hawk visiting his son's garden. On display are the impressive talons which grip and kill the prey in high-speed ambush hunting manoeuvres.

THE SIGHTING OF A NORTHERN wheatear is rare for me so to have two



in one year was good. The second opportunity arose when Drew had drilled wheat into a mulch of rape leaves and stubble where a pair of wheatear were feeding on the insects and worms.

They are beautiful birds with primrose-yellow throats and again were using this area on their migration from tundra and mountain-tops on their way to winter in tropical Africa.

The UK and especially East Anglia are well-placed on migration pathways for birdwatching on a European scale.

I ADMIRE THE

expertise of ornithologists who skilfully sort out and identify the gulls and waders when birdwatching because I rarely can. But at home in late autumn, with the help of the *Handbook of British Birds*, I was able to name a green sandpiper that dropped into our



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pond early one morning. Quite small, the size of a song thrush, it flies like a snipe and shows a white rump like a house martin, a diagnostic we can all relate to. Breeding in the far north up to the Arctic Circle and wintering in Africa, it is another species to make a stopover in East Anglia for resting and refuelling.

A LOCAL TRACTOR

company Thurlow Nunn Standen was asked to supply a new chainsaw from their stores. The request was for the longest blade possible and when Simon Pink enquired as to the reason he was surprised by the answer. The local renderer at Melton had been given the task of cutting up a very large beached whale. Apparently, the resulting smell was so bad the new chainsaw ended up in recycling as well as the whale.

Trevor Edwards





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■ PROJECT OAK TREE! Our potted oak trees are doing well. We have been tending to them over the summer. We have also found lots of sapling oaks, hazels and hawthorns on our meadow and have marked them so that we can protect them from rabbits and deer and help them to grow. Henry & Arthur

■ DID YOU KNOW? A Green Woodpecker eats mainly ants. It probes the ground with it's powerful beak and sucks them up with it's long, sticky tongue. It's tongue is so long, that it coils around it's brain inside it's skull in order to fit inside it's head! The coiled tongue also protects the woodpecker's brain when it is drumming on trees! **Picture by Henry**



FEATURES & NEWS

Henry ELLO EVERYONE! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer.

It's a lovely time of year now when the leaves start to change colour, finches start to flock together and the Fieldfare and Redwing arrive for the winter.

They mainly rely on fruits and berries produced by established hedgerows - hawthorn berries. blackthorn berries and rosehips are particularly important. To ensure they have enough food, it is better to trim hedgerows after winter. but before the birds start nesting. It is also better for the hedgerow to be trimmed once every two to three years, as it gives it the chance to thicken and provide better habitats and fruit.

We have been watching a pair of kestrels at ours and they seem to be courting ready for next year. We are planning

HENRY:

For my tenth

birthday. I

went on a

falconer's

course at

Suffolk Owl

voung

and Arthur's latest . . .

to make and put up another box for them and really hope that they will use it!

Kestrels (and barn owls and tawny owls) rely on scrubby grassland and hedgerows to hunt, as this is where to find the voles, shrews and mice that they eat.

Kestrels need to eat four to eight voles a day, depending on the time of year.

They often store most of them and eat them just before dusk, to make sure they don't go to roost on an empty stomach.

We hope you have enjoyed reading our information and updates and look forward to writing our next article in the spring.
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from Henry and Arthur at Colnet Conservation.

Sanctuary. I was able to hold and fly a male kestrel – it was absolutely amazing! ARTHUR: Interesting

Interesting Fact! We dissected a tawny owl pellet and found a pair of moorhen feet inside!

| Mid Suffolk District Council Christmas & New Year Waste Collections 2021/22 | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| | Usual Collection Date | Revised Collection Date | Change |
| Refuse | Monday 27th December | Wednesday 29th December | 2 days later |
| Recycling | Monday 3rd January | Thursday 6th January | 3 days later |
| Refuse | Monday 10th January | Wednesday 12th January | 2 days later |
| Recycling | Monday 17th January | Tuesday 18th January | 1 day later |
| From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule. There is no garden waste (brown bin) collection in the weeks beginning 27th December and 3rd January. | | | |
| | | | |

Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day.



POETRY & ART

JUST A TREE written by Henry Colnet for a competition being held by The Tree Council

In the Year of 1650, I was planted by a Jay. It covered me with moss and then it hopped away. Then in Spring I started to grow under the canopy, of many enormous oak trees, much bigger than me

It took me years to grow so tall, but I became majestic. I spread my branches far and wide, my bark grew gnarled and thick.

Overtime, the many trees that had been all around, either fell in thunderstorms or were cut down to the ground. Some of us were allowed to stay and that included me. The farmer planted inbetween us. I was now a hedgerow tree.

The hedge was used for nests and food, it grew thorns, fruit and blossom.

Every year it grew thicker, with scrubby grasses at the hottom

When the farmer didn't use his horses any more, the hedgerow just got in his way and was taken to the floor Proud, but alone in the field I stood, upon the open land. Then one day came a man with a hard hat and a clipboard in his hand.

"This one's got to go," he said, "it's completely in the way." He spraved a big red cross on me, and then he walked away.



Winter 2021-22

EREIS Picture: 'Where Is The Love' by Henry Colnet Wash Farm Barn Swimming Pool The Swimming Pool is looking for once-a-week evening help with cleaning and water management. Anybody interested please contact

Trevor or Will Edwards on 01379 678252.





Double surprise for villagers

REDLINGFIELD GOT together on the Doorstep Green on Sunday 26th September to throw a surprise party for village stalwarts Hazel and Pauline Abbott. For once neither of them had to make cakes or dole out teas and coffees.

The party was the brainchild of Alison Smith and Lesley Rose Freitas and their families did most of the heavy lifting for the tea party. There were more than 80 villagers and family at the party.

Hazel said that herself and Pauline

were surprised and amazed that everyone had kept it secret. She said they were "overwhelmed" and "gobsmacked". Hazel and Pauline want to say a very big "thank you" to everyone who organised and came to their surprise birthday party.

They were both very touched by all the efforts people went to for them.

There were even two birthday cakes. Pictured are a tearful Pauline and surprised Hazel, the cake cutting and villagers at the event.

> Words: Mike Ager Photos: Janet Norman-Philips



Our meadow is maturing

S OCTOBER'S COLOURFUL autumnal conditions returned, a small but enthusiastic workparty spent a fine, dry morning clearing overhanging branches and brambles from our boundary hedges and the grassy rides. The denser understorey in the woodland blocks was left alone for the time being, as it provides essential competition for developing trees and cover for spring nesting birds.

Our meadow is maturing well, 15 years after it's creation! New wildflower meadows are essential to habitat improvement, rewilding projects and in countering climate change, so here's how the group planned and installed Pound Lane Wood meadow – with the generous help of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The whole site was part of an arable field, which meant the topsoil was too nutrient-rich to support most native grassland wild flowers, though trees and shrubs thrived. Wild flowers, especially perennial grassland species, require low soil fertility levels, so coarser grasses and weeds cannot outcompete them.

The first job therefore was to 'suppress' the fertile topsoil by burying it beneath a layer of clayey subsoil. This was obtained from

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material dug out during the pond excavation. It was spread generously over the surface of the proposed meadow.

Rather than use a standard wildflower seed mix from commercial suppliers, the group was advised to secure it from green (undried) hay taken from local designated county wildlife sites. Plants from seeds taken and used locally are more likely to suit nearby wildlife.

Cuttings were carried straight to site from local churchyards (Denham, Horham and Stradbroke cemetery, from memory), which all held established wild flower areas.

Green hay was spread carefully and (most importantly) thinly over the subsoil-covered field, allowed to dry in the sun and then trampled to help release the seeds. Germination was rapid and gave a mix of native grasses and perennial wild flowers.

Low fertility is maintained through regular cutting and removal of arisings as hay, timed to allow the grasses and flowers to seed. Once the sward was established, Yellow Rattle was introduced to maintain optimal conditions for flowers to thrive. This is a native annual plant, parasitical on grasses, which weakens them, giving wild flowers a chance to compete and gradually establish themselves.

Wild flower meadows require sensitive management from the outset, or they become weed-infested or overmanicured lawns. Scarifying dead 'thatch', rolling, cutting and removing arisings, are all essential activities described at length online and in books ... but best undertaken with some experienced advice!

New Reeding Wood Group's meadow proposals won the East Anglian Daily Times Wild Flower Award in 2005, and it has continued to mature ever since. The meadow perennials and grasses provide food for insect larvae and later nectar from the flowers. Small mammals enjoy the cover it provides and we hope this will encourage owls back to the box in the oak at the southern end of the wood.

If you want to have a wild flower meadow or wild flower patch at home, this will encourage wildlife into your garden. Good guides to doing this can be found at rspb.org, rhs.org.uk and wildflower.co.uk. *Peny Conway*

Big 2022 planned for the Red Feather Club Museum

VER THE PAST TWELVE months the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association – Red Feather Club Museum – has seen the re-opening of its door for the last two open days of our season thanks to the lifting of COVID restrictions and the fact that the committee deemed it safe for our volunteers.

STH BUMB GROOM This said, there has been a hive of activity behind the scenes. We welcomed back to the committee, and our volunteer team, a great asset in Ray Howlett. Our museum in my opinion has never looked so And the Real Property lies in the good and this has been due to the efforts of Ray and other team members, who we thank for their time. This has in turn lead to the archiving of the museum, which in time will have digital and paper copies for ease of research and item tracking. Thank you to all who helped on this.

There has been a great deal of maintenance work – the blue room has had a new coat of paint and the gents and ladies' toilets a new look. Thank you, Reg for your efforts and those of other volunteers. Maintenance continues on the grounds with a hardworking team lead by Alan Johnson and Duncan. We have some new volunteers in this area that work well with them and we thank them all.

Looking forward, we are fitting new doors to the building and are looking to instal a CCTV system for the protection of our grounds and buildings.

Events are fundamental to the future of the RFC. Thank you to Linda Woodward and Beverly Abbot for their time and efforts arranging family and group

visits. Thank you also to Andy Garner for the dance and evening event organisation. Of course, these events are never complete without lubrication from the bar. This has now been stocked and by Robin Satwick and volunteers and is ready to go.

We also thank John Kirkum for his continued support on the financial and accountancy side. Thank you also to the support from Alan Roper whose

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS AT THE RED FEATHER CLUB 2022

- Saturday April 23rd Dance
- Sunday April 24th Public Open Day
- Sunday May 29th Public Open Day
- Saturday June 25th Dance
- Sunday June 26th Americana Open Day
- Sunday July 31st Public Open Day
- Sunday August 28th **Public Open Day**
- Saturday September 24th Dance
- Sunday September 25th Public Open Day
- Sunday October 30th Public Open Day

95th Bomb Group Heritage Association, Charity No: 1119769 (www.95thbg-horham.com), Red Feather Club Museum, Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 SDG.

CAROL SERVICE Friday 3rd December 2021 7.00pm

At the Red Feather Club, Horham With Diss Salvation Army Brass Band



family will always have a connection with the RFC. Lastly, we all thank the support we get from volunteers, donations here in the Museum and stateside, advice and the friendships built around this organisation, which help to preserve the future of the history of Station 119. *Scott Bradley, 95th BGHA Chair*

CAROL SERVICE: There will be a Carol Service on Friday 3rd December from 7pm at the Red Feather Club with Diss Salvation Army Brass Band. It will be followed by refreshments and the bar will be open. Try to car-share to keep numbers parking on the field to a minimum.



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Sad case of a damaged Redlingfield apple tree

Extract from Ipswich Journal 9th November 1888 unearthed by Linda Hudson

66 William Muttock and Charles Muttock, labourers, Redlingfield, were charged with having damaged an apple tree, the property of Sir Hugh Edward Adair, Bart., at Redlingfield, to the amount of 1s. Mr. John Clarke, Diss, defended. From the evidence of Mr. G. F. Goldspink, farmer and agent to Sir Hugh Adair, at Redlingfield, it appeared the defendants, who had occupied a cottage for two years, gave up possession at Michaelmas last, and because the incoming tenant would not agree to take the apple tree by valuation, they dug round and undermined the tree, placed a quantity of salt at the root and cut the bark off in the form of a ring, so that it was impossible for the sap to ascend, and he quite thought that the tree would die, and certainly the damage in that case would amount to more than 1s. P.C. Taylor, of Thorndon, having given corroborative evidence as to the damage done, Mr. Clarke said his clients admitted having committed the act mentioned in the charge, but denied it was done maliciously, and they pleaded justification. The fact was, this very tree was taken at the valuation of 1s. by defendants' grandfather more than 20 years ago. The defendants succeeded the grandfather in the occupation of the cottage and garden

two years ago, and considered they then became owners of the apple tree, which the grandfather had taken by valuation and that as the tenant who succeeded them declined to take the tree for 1s. they were perfectly justified in cutting it down or doing anything else they thought proper to it. Betsy Muttock, a single woman, having been called, the Chairman said the defence was a most unreasonable one. and in law would not hold good for a moment. and the defendants would be fined 10s. 6d. each, including damage, fine and costs, which they at once paid. Martha Muttock wife of Samuel Muttock, labourer, Redlingfield, was similarly charged in respect to a pear tree, the damage in this case also being laid at 1s. Mr Goldspink again prosecuted and Mr. Clarke defended. The case was on all fours with the preceding one, and the Bench inflicted a penalty, including damage, fine, and costs of 9s., which Mrs. Muttock at once paid, saying that she was not without a pound. Mr. Goldspink asked to be allowed to say that he did not bring these cases forward in a vindictive spirit, but as a matter of self-defence. He had several cottage tenants under his charge and he particularly wanted them to understand once for all that they could not do such acts with impunity.



RIDE + STRIDE:

Ready to set off from Redlingfield church on the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride are from left: Alison Smith. Phoebe Smith, Tom Smith, **Richard Court and** Amber Brice, And below Kelly and Eddy Hawes let Boss take the strain as the set off on the Ride + Stride on behalf of St Andrews. **Redlingfield PCC** thanked the recorders, sponsors and riders. Alison. Tom and Phoebe raised £90, Kelly and Eddie raised £125 and Revd Richard raised £65. Daphne Harvey thanked the recorders. sponsors and riders - Daniel Streeter, Lawrence Weaver, David and Michael Whatling who raised £271 for St Mary's church on the SHCT Ride + Stride.

Redlingfield gets its own defibrillator

POTENTIALLY LIFEsaving defibrillator has been unveiled Redlingfield. It was inaugurated by Ian Winter at a ceremony during the Wednesday 1st September visit of the Rural Coffee Caravan to Redlingfield in front of more than 30 villagers.

Parish meeting chair Midge Gibbons cut the ribbon. An appeal for donations from villagers, by the then Parish chair Ian Winter CBE, raised more than $\pounds 3,300$. $\pounds 2,150$ has been spent getting the defibrillator running and installed with the rest ring-fenced for its maintenance over the coming years.

It has been installed in partnership with the Heartbeat Community Trust charity. They have provided villagers with training, information and guidance on its use and the maintenance and safety of the machine.

It is in the old unused telephone box on the triangle in the centre of the village.

Ian said: "This means that we will have life-saving equipment at the heart



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of the village. It will be linked to the Ambulance Service in the event of an emergency." He added that he had been astonished by the speed and generosity of "friends and neighbours" who raised enough to install the defibrillator within hours of his appeal being launched.

Community Heartbeat Trust ran an awareness session for the use of the

defibrillator in October.

The Rural Coffee Caravan, which has been visiting Redlingfield for 13 years, is a charity that helps rural communities throughout Suffolk. The Rural Coffee Caravan delivers information and help alongside tea, coffee and cakes.

> Words: Mike Ager Photo: Janet Norman-Philips









Fun dog show a

REDLINGFIELD'S SECOND FUN Village Dog Show was a great success in the September sun with more than 150 entries. Held on Redlingfield Doorstep Green on Sunday 5th September it attracted entries from far and wide as well Paws of Parham who ran agility demonstrations and let owners have a go themselves.

Rosettes were given to the top six in each class as well as special prizes from Skinner's dog food. The



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sunny success

rosettes were sponsored by Redlingfield's Helen Cook and her Happy Hounds Home Boarding.

There were dog grooming demonstrations, photographer Kim Cordy in the ring, refreshments from the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and the Doorstep Green's pop-up pub. The event run by Alison Smith and family and the PCC was in aid of St Andrews church in Redlingfield. Judges James Widger and Rhiannon Hedge had the difficult job of picking the winners.

More pictures on the centre-spread and back page.

Words: Mike Ager Photos: Janet Norman-Philips

THE WINNERS WERE:

 Best rescue: Tom, Laurie Stock.
 Best puppy (under 1 year): May, Amelie Putt.

Best young handler (under 12 years): Bailey, Daisy Morris.

Best veteran (over 10 years): Izzy, Emilee Amps.

Scruffiest: Luna, Jake Battle.

- **Waggiest tail:** Bailey, Paul Morris.
- **Best female:** Tia, Kelly Hawes.
- **Best male:** Bailey, Daisy Morris.

Dog with the best trick: Skipper, Jo.

Dog the judge would like to take home: Mabel, Fi.

- Best in show: Tom, Laurie Stock.
- Reserve: Tia, Kelly Hawes.





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Winter 2021-22 19



Fun Village Boog Show Redlingfield Doorstep Green Sunday 5th September Funday 5th September Redlingfield Doorstep Green Sunday 5th September Redlingfield Doorstep Green















WHAT'S ON

Sunday 28 November-Friday 24 December Christmas Visits at Bressingham:

Bressingham Steam & Gardens, ride on the steam train & visit Santa, including present, for children up to 12. Adult £12.50; children 3-12 £15.50; under 3s with present £8 (www.bressingham.co.uk).

Friday 3 December

Christmas on the Hill: Framlingham Market Hill & Castle, 4.30-10.30pm. Shops open until 8pm. Carol singing & festive music by Castleton Brass Band, 6pm. Tree lighting ceremony & lantern dance, 5pm. Festive food & drink at Castle, 7.30pm.

Saturday 4 December

Cake Stall: Stradbroke Spar, 8.30-10am. Proceeds to All Saints Church.

Christmas Fair: Diss Methodist Church, 10am-2pm.

Debenham Christmas Market: St Mary's Church, Debenham 1-4pm.

Harleston's Christmas Festivities: Santa will be in his grotto in Harleston Information Plus. Live entertainment from 3pm leading up to Christmas lights switch on at 5.30pm (www.visitharleston.org.uk & hip@harleston-norfolk.org.uk).

Quiz: Worlingworth Community Centre, 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 with a team name. £10 per team. Bar open. For info email Laura on friendsworlingworthschool@gmail.com. Profits to Worlingworth Primary school.

Saturdays 4, 11 & 18 December & Sundays 5, 12 & 19 December

Santa Specials: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Steam trains run from Brockford Station to

'North Pole Halt' for a visit to Santa. This is a pre-book event only.

Saturday 4 December-Sunday 9 January

Mike Webb: Mere Quacks & Other Animals: Exhibition at The Corn Hall Diss (gallery@thecornhall.co.uk).

Friday 10 December

Xmas Cash Bingo: Stradbroke Community Centre, 7.30-9pm.

Christmas Ploughman's: Horham Community Centre.

Saturday 11 December

Charity Tractor Run: Worlingworth 6pm onwards. A decorated tractor will depart Worlingworth Hall at 6pm travelling length of village to Mill Road collecting donations for Waveney Foodbank. Community Centre open 7.30pm with singing round the tree.

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 December

Christmas Market: Wingfield Barns, 10am-4pm, £3 entry. More than 35 stalls.

Wednesday 15 December

Beer & Carols: Horham CC. Organised by Horham Baptist Church. Bar from 7pm. Wrap up warm as singing is outside from 7.30pm (www.horhambaptist.org.uk).

Thursday 16 December

Stradbroke Cinema: The Father (12A).

Sunday 19 December

Carol Service: 4pm, St Mary's Horham.

Wednesday 22 December

Carol Service, 6pm, St Andrew's Redlingfield.

Thursday 23 December

Crib Service: 5.30pm, St Peter's St Athelington.

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

WHAT'S ON & NEWS

Friday 24 December Christmas Eve

Live Nativity: Hoxne Benefice's Live Nativity, Nora's Yard, IP21 5DB. *Midnight Service:* 11.30pm, St Mary's Horham.

Friday 4 February

Live Comedy: The Arts Bank Eye, 7.30 pm. An Evening with Stuff & Folly – radio plays & sketches with a comedy theme.

Sunday 6 February

Church services will celebrate 70th anniversary of accession of the Queen.

Wednesday 9 February

Redlingfield Village Committee Meeting: Meeting to set dates for the 2022 year. Venue to be agreed.

Friday 4 March

Open Space Theatre Co presents The Bear: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, tickets £12. A farce by Anton Chekhov. 60minute show includes The Proposal & The Evils of Tobacco.

Saturday 23 April

Dance: Red Feather Club Museum.

Sundays 24 April & 29 May

Public Open Day: Red Feather Club.

■ DOGS TRUST: Our local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton provides some free services. Canine Care Card scheme is a service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, Dogs Trust will look after their dog, providing them with the care they need until they can find a responsible, loving new home for them. Dogs Trust also provide free talks to local community groups. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let them know if your local club would be interested. Contact Emily Matthews on Emily.Matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or 01953 497912.

■ EACH WANTS VOLUNTEERS: Could you spend a couple of hours a week or even an hour a month helping a family with a child who accesses East Anglia's Children's Hospices in their own home? Caring for a seriously ill child or young person can put a lot of extra demand on a family. The aim of the Help at Home service is to put a caring individual into a family's home to provide everyday practical support such a cooking, sibling support, cleaning and gardening. EACH provide you with the necessary support and training, all you need to do is provide some of your precious time. Contact Hugh McElhinney on 07714737139 or hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk.

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Producing the

HE produce show on Redlingfield Doorstep Green proved a success despite the efforts of the wind to take one of the gazebos for a flight. on the previous pre-Covid event but the October show still proved fun for all. The PCC's event was a success raising funds for St Andrews. The show was followed by an open-air

Numbers were down

THE WINNERS WERE:

■ Adults: Carrots - Karen Eaves; Baking Potatoes -Emma Hewitt; Cherry Toms - Richard Court; Onions -Emma Hewitt; Shallots - Emma Hewitt; Apples -Emma Hewitt; Cucumber - Emma Hewitt; Heaviest Pumpkin - Adrian Smith; Heaviest Marrow - Karen Eaves; Longest Bean - Emma Hewitt; Mixed Annuals -Gail Hawes; Mixed Perennials - Janet Norman-Philips; Dahlias - Pompom - Kelly Hawes; Dahlias -Cactus - Gail Hawes; Sausage Rolls - Adrian Smith; Fruit Scones - Hazel Abbott; Jam Sponge - Beverley Abbott; Loaf of Bread - Cath Scott; Flower Arrangement - Alison Smith; Photo - Sam Rose; Lockdown Creation - Beverley Abbott; Jar of Jam/Preserve - Mckayla Mitchell.

■ Juniors: Wonky Veg - Amber Brice; Garden on a Plate - Amber Brice; Photo - Tom Smith; Fairy Cakes - Phoebe Smith; Biscuits - Phoebe Smith; Poem -Tom Smith.

Best in Show: Adults - Emma Hewitt for 6 wins out of 7 entries. **Juniors** - Amber Brice for her Garden on a Plate.



HARVEST POEM by Tom Smith

It's harvest time, that time of year the combines rumble over the rolling hills and the tractors screech down the country lanes.

The fruit is ripe and the blackberries appear Harvest time, it's that time of year

goods again in autumn

harvest festival service conducted by Revd Richard Court.

The best in show spots were won by Emma Hewitt in the adult section (six of her seven entries won their class) while the junior category was won by Amber Brice for her Garden on a Plate.

The judges were Andy Peters, produce; Beverly el Shaboury assisted by Midge Gibbons, baking: Karen Eaves, miscellaneous; Janet Norman-Philips, photos; and Joyce Saunders, flower arrangements.

> Words: Mike Ager Photos: Janet Norman-Philips

PLANNING: Awaiting Decision: plan to convert and renovate redundant forge for use as a holiday let, and provision of parking at The Forge, Church Road, **Redlingfield** (No: DC/21/05978); plan for change of use of agricultural land, erection of barn with shower block, four log cabins, four fitness pods, three wellbeing pods and conversion of four grain silo cabins to provide wellbeing centre and glamping site with new vehicular access, natural swimming pool and ground level solar panels at **Wash Farm, Church Road, Redlingfield** (No: DC/21/04609): application for outline planning permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) for the erection of four dwellings with access on land north of The **Street, Horham** (No: DC/21/03609); details submitted, following outline approval DC/17/04943 on the appearance, layout and scale for the erection of seven dwellings and new vehicular access on land south east of Dragon House, Worlingworth Road, Horham (No: DC/21/01338). **GRANTED:** plan to use land for stationing of three shepherd's huts for use as holiday lets at Rookery Farm, Rookery Lane, Redlingfield (No: DC/21/03405); plan to erect a rear extension and application for Listed Building Consent at Horham Post Office Stores, The Street, Horham (No: DC/21/03883 & No: DC/21/03884); plan to convert attached garage to additional living accommodation and extension of parking area within front garden at The Gables, The Street, Horham, IP21 5DX (No: DC/21/03729); plan to demolish existing agricultural barn and erect a one-and-ahalf storey dwelling on land east of Horham Road, Athelington, and change of use from agricultural land (No: DC/21/02359).



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Features & News

It's good to be back in business at Old School

T IS GOOD TO BE BACK IN business and it has been lovely to see the old building come alive with music, laughter and conversation over the last three months. The Old School Horham hosted the harvest lunch, following the service at St. Mary's church, and are very happy that the traditional music sessions are back again as well as the Morris Dance group

Our weekly coffee morning is thriving, and is again offering a great choice of excellent coffee and delicious home-made cakes. If you haven't tried them yet do come along between 10.30am and noon on Wednesday mornings. It is lovely to see new faces and welcome newcomers to the village!

Sunday lunchtime at The Old School (bar open from 12 noon) is buzzing and is certainly becoming the place to be; during the winter we will not be opening the bar during the week except for the second Monday evening of each month when the musicians are in town!

In the New Year, we are planning to



run some activities to support the charities that Tracey Davey volunteers with in Moldova. You may have seen some of her appeals on our Facebook page and if you would like to know more you can find information on these web sites: The Moldova Project (www.themoldovaproject.org) and TEECH charity (www.teechorg. weebly.com). Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (The Old School Horham) for more details.

We are again taking private bookings.

Stay safe everyone, Happy Christmas! Horham and Athelington Village Hall Management Committee

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Welcome return for fish

UR PATIENCE WAS rewarded when three generations of the Wilkin's family prepared and served a Members Fish and Chip supper, the first since pre Covid, on the 29th October. A big thank you to all of them.

In my last article on Horham & Athelington Community Centre I omitted Alan Johnson from the thanks for the keeping our grounds and the War Memorial in good order; this was rectified by a suitable gift presented to Alan by Rod Tyrrell, our licensee, during the supper.

The bar is open on Wednesday and Friday evenings, members and their guests are welcome.

Newcomers to Horham, Jamie and Charlotte Wilson and their young family are now members. Charlotte is the new representative of the Parish Council on our committee; in place of Bill Craig who has stepped down. Their Halloween Party was a great success.

It has been agreed to install a five-aside goal next to the swings.

■ LIVE NATIVITY: Hoxne Benefice's very popular Live Nativity is back at 3pm on Christmas Eve at Nora's Yard, IP21 5DB. (It's on the road between Hoxne and Denham). Real live animals and a real live baby! All welcome – wrap up warm. **Revd Eleanor Goodison**

01728 628233



Cheeky Porker Hog Roast Our Hog roasts can be tailored to any occasion feeding between 60-250 people. Slow cooked here for 10+ hours, just wait until you try our crackling!







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and chips

There will be a Christmas Ploughman's on Friday, December 10th. It is members only with restricted numbers. It is currently a sell-out although there is a list in the centre if places become available.

Horham Baptist Church are organising a Beer and Carols event on Wednesday 15th December. Entry is free and the bar will be open from 7pm. Wrap up warm as singing is outside from 7.30pm. For more info see www.horhambaptist.org.uk.

We were all very saddened to hear of the death of the Horham and Athelington Parish Clerk, Rod Caird; our condolences go to his family and friends.

Margaret Streeter, on behalf of Horham Village Hall Trust and Community Council Rates for advertising in four issues distributed to approx 300 homes and businesses in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:

- 1/8 page £9 (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)
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News was founded in 2008 by Evelyn Adey and Mike Ager.



What to do for Festival of

HE FESTIVAL OF SUFFOLK 2022 is celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. In February 2022, she will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, having taken over when her father died in February 1952.

It's going to be celebrated across the country and in Suffolk we want not only to have fun but also do things that last and help our communities and even our planet. We want to make sure everyone benefits including our

community, our environment, local business and young people as well as our older residents.

Already people across Suffolk are

starting to share ideas and put together plans. But what's important is that whatever we do - it's driven by what excites people and gets everyone involved.

So we would like everyone to chip in with their ideas about what we can do as part of the celebrations.



Lots of ideas are being talked about already ... The Queen's Canopy has started taking off nationally – with plans to create new forests and plant millions of trees across the UK. We can

get free trees - so anyone could have a tree for their garden (including small ones suited to smaller gardens) - or one or two trees if you have a bigger

YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL PLUMBER



Winter 2021-22

Suffolk?

space, and more still if you have a spare corner of a field.

Lady Clare, Countess of Euston, already plans to plant a tree for every Suffolk resident and the many requests for trees in Redlingfield have already far outstripped the number of villagers.

Other ideas include fundraising for something special for the village, for everyone to share and use?

Maybe setting up some kind of trust to help young people starting their own businesses or gaining new skills or something to help people live more sustainably ... "going greener".

Hazel and Pauline's birthday bash last month was a great success, over 70 people came along – maybe we could do a Jubilee Tea Party? Or even a Jubilee Lunch? We could have a Jubilee dance similar to the one we held a while back to raise funds for the church roof. What do you think?

Maybe we want to have a Jubilee themed Summer Fayre & BBQ. Or something else entirely? We don't have to just do one special thing – we can do lots of different ones. Whatever ideas you have – please share them – you can contact myself or Midge Gibbons, or any of the members of the village committee.

> Janet-Norman Philips 01379 678835 pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

Useful websites:

www.suffolkcf.org.uk
 www.queensgreencanopy.org
 www.festivalofsuffolk.org





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PAPER £20 AND £50 NOTES: The 30th of September marked the one-year countdown for spending your paper £20 and £50 notes. The Bank of England will be withdrawing legal tender status of the paper £20 and £50 notes after 30th September 2022, and is encouraging anyone who has these at home to spend or deposit them at their bank or Post Office.

There are approximately £9 billion worth of paper £20 and £15 billion worth of paper £50 notes still in circulation. As they are returned to the Bank of England, these are being replaced with the new polymer £20 notes featuring J.M.W. Turner, and polymer £50 notes featuring Alan Turing.

After 30 September 2022, the new polymer

notes will be the only ones with legal tender status.

After 30th September 2022 people with a UK bank account will still be able to deposit withdrawn notes into their account. Some Post Offices may also accept withdrawn notes as payment for goods and services or as a deposit to an account accessed via them.

The Bank of England will continue to exchange all withdrawn notes. For more information on this please see their website www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/ exchanging-old-banknotes



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



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A busy Christmas ahead

TERM AT WILBY School started really well with lots of new pupils to welcome on board.

Now that we have returned to mixing year groups we are able to have full school collective worship again (which we love) and we

have organised lots of whole school events including a cake sale for the Macmillan Cancer Trust, face-to-face parents/carers evenings, phonics, handwriting and E-Safety training for parents, celebration assemblies and, not forgetting, our Harvest Festival in Wilby's St Mary's Church in October, which was packed with parents/carers and extended family members.

Wren and Kingfisher Classes enjoyed a visit from Kimmy's Zoo.





Kingfisher Class learnt how animals are specially adapted for life in the rainforest and Wren Class had to find out where in the world their animals may have come from. Both classes enjoyed their sessions and loved handling the animals (pictured).

Owl Class are off to

IWM Duxford at the end of November to extend their learning about World War One.

We have been advised that only essential visitors should enter school so sharing assemblies will be recorded and can be accessed on line.

Owl Class are excited about taking part in the Big Sing which is being organised by the Britten Pears Arts Foundation at Snape Maltings.

The children have been learning six specially written songs in school with lessons being led through online tuition and face-to-face sessions with choir leaders from Snape Maltings. They were due to join schools across Suffolk for a mass online performance on November 19th.

We are looking forwards to all sorts of Christmas activities in school including the Wren Class Christmas play *A Little Bird Told Me*. We are hoping that parents will be able to come in to school to see the performance but if not we'll be recording it so that parents can watch online. *Mrs Wiseman (Headteacher)*

34 Winter 2021-22

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You can't beat a real bit

VE ALWAYS LIKED DARTS. I tried to play when I was younger but I was never good enough to participate competitively. I told myself at important moments in a game to just throw straight but I would usually choke and drop low or drift into the one or the three. My few competitive games usually resulted in disappointment although I did win an Occold village competition organised by the local chapel.

Still, by being at best ordinary at something and making it look difficult, it means you appreciate those who do

1927 The News of the World Championship was played. It was a Metropolitan London championship won by William Jewiss. By 1938 the News of the World (NOTW) Championship becomes six regional tournaments with area champions but they were played irregularly. 1947-48 The now national NOTW Championship was won by Harry Leadbetter of St Helens. 1951 Laurie Runchman from the Feathers in Felixstowe reaches the NOTW final. 1958 Eric Moss from the Railway Tavern in Harleston reaches the NOTW final. **1961** Eddie Brown from Stonham Magpie reaches the NOTW final.

1962 Eddie Brown from Stonham Magpie wins NOTW final beating Dennis Follett. 1973 In January Olly Croft forms the British Darts Organisation (BDO) which is soon organising the game. **1974** First World Masters tournament played in the West Centre Hotel in Fulham and won by Cliff Inglis. 1977 The first BDO World Cup played for in London and won by Wales. Held biannually until 2019. 1978 The first World Championship in Nottingham won by Leighton Rees. 1979 The first Home International Championship featuring England, Wales and Scotland.

1979 Bobby George wins the

it well. Darts has moved from a pub game that had to fight to be considered a sport to a multi-million pound competition at the highest level far from those humble beginnings.

Back in the 1950s, 60s and 70s most areas had pub leagues. Most pubs had a dart board and a team you could join or provided somewhere you could play. I cannot remember the last time I went into a pub that had a dart board. Like pool tables they took up space where customers can eat. I have toyed with the idea of starting a social darts club at one of the local village halls,

> NOTW competition without dropping a single leg in qualifying or the final tournament.

1980-86 Eric Bristow, nicknamed 'The Crafty Cockney', wins five World Championships.

1983 Ipswich-based Keith Deller dramatically wins the World title checking out 138 to beat Eric Bristow after he has chosen to 'lay up' on double 16 rather than try for a bull to win.

1993 Split from BDO by 15 of the World's top players over TV and money issues. They form a tour called the WDC (which is soon changed to PDC for legal reasons). **1994-2020** Both PDC and BDO have their own World Championships. Dennis

of bully

say playing once a fortnight. But I don't know whether there would be any enthusiasm for it.

Darts is one of the sports where men and women can compete on a level playing field. My younger

sister Julie hastened my semiretirement by beating me. The only thing that stops a woman regularly beating men at the highest level is the lack of opportunity as Fallon Sherrock has shown in the last two years. She had beaten Ted Evitts and Mensur



Dartboard by PeterPan23 Wikipedia.

Suljovic at the 2020 World Championships to make them quiz question answers. Previously in 2009, Anastasia

Dobromyslova beat Vincent Van Der Voort at the Grand Slam event and in 2005 Deta Hedman had won two matches at the UK Open.

Having championed the inclusive nature of darts I can get on to my real interest, sport history, below some major dates: Ian Crane

Priestly is first PDC World Champion beating Phil Taylor in the final, they meet in five of the first seven finals.

1994 First World Matchplay held at Blackpool and won by American Larry Butler. **2001** Trina Gulliver beats Mandy Solomons 2-1 in the first BDO Women's World Championship in Frimley Green, the first of seven titles in a row, ten in all. **2003** After winning eight successive PDC World titles Phil Taylor is beaten by Canadian John Part in the Final 7-6.

2005 The first Sky Premier League is played – seven players enter, Phil Taylor wins it.

2006 17-year-old Dutchman

Michael Van Gerwen wins the BDO World Masters. 2006 Four times BDO World Champion Raymond Van Barneveld joins the PDC. 2007 Raymond Van Barneveld beats Phil Taylor 7-6 in the World Championship Final on the 'sudden-death' leg in probably the most dramatic match in PDC history. 2010 First PDC World Cup held in Sunderland, England lose in the first round to Spain and The Netherlands duo of Raymond Van Barneveld and Co Stompe are the first winners. 2013 Phil 'The Power' Taylor wins 16th and last World title (two BDO and 14 PDC). 2017 Phil Taylor wins 16th and last World Matchplay

title.

2018 Phil Taylor retires as planned after his defeat in the World Championship Final by Hastings electrician Rob Cross, who has been on the pro circuit for less than two years.

2019 Glen Durrant wins third successive BDO World Championship and joins PDC.

2020 Wayne Warren of Wales is the last winner of the men's BDO World title and Mikuru Suzuki of Japan the women's, as the organisation has slipped into disarray after the death of it's founder.

2020 Mendham-based Scot Peter 'Snakebite' Wright wins his first PDC World Championship.

CHURCH NEWS

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

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

Many of us will be meditating on the ravages of the Coronavirus as we come to the end of 2021 and remembering all those we have lost.

We will probably also be contemplating the huge changes likely to be brought about by the climate crisis, together with the measures required to limit global heating and mitigate its effects.

These will certainly mean we have to put an end to many of our wasteful habits, as well as adapting ourselves in the ways we travel, heat our houses and even what we eat. Endings such as these can be hard and painful.

But endings can also make way for new life. The new year actually begins for the church on Advent Sunday, which we celebrate on Sunday 28th November with Athelington's traditional Advent Carol



Revd Eleanor Goodison Associate Priest, Hoxne Benefice 07876 143579 eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

Service at 4pm. We spend a month preparing for the new beginning of Christmas, signalling the start of a new relationship between God and people on earth, brought about by the saving life and death of Jesus Christ.

God is continually making all things new, and the turn of the year and the lengthening of the days remind us that there is hope for the future. Spring is not that far away!

I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas services, detailed in the schedule.

We will keep the situation with Covid-19 under review as the winter progresses and reintroduce some additional precautions if necessary to keep everyone safe.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

■ PLEASE NOTE: Revd Eleanor and Revd John will be away for the weekend of 11th/12th December and they will also be taking a break from Monday 10th January to Saturday 15th January 2022.

■ VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET: Our virtual Christmas Market proved so successful last year that we have brought it back, alongside our face-to-face activities this Christmas. Look out for the full catalogue of items available, which will be in our churches. Here is a taster of the sort of things which will be on offer:

Athelington Church in snow Christmas cards $\pounds 5$ for 5 cards with envelopes (contact Colin Palmer 01728 628747 to place an order)

Home-made meringues x2 \pounds 1.50 or x4 \pounds 3.

Home-made Christmas cake £3.50.

Home-made autumn fruits chutney £3.

(Contact Revd Eleanor 07876 143579 to place an order.)

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

Planned church services in December/January/February. 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 December Second Sunday of Advent

11am CW Holy Communion, **Wingfield** 4pm Messy Church Christmas celebration, **Syleham Village Hall**

Sunday 12th December Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am CW Holy Communion, **Redlingfield** 9.30am Café Church, **Hoxne**

Sunday 19th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne 4pm Carol Service, Horham

Wednesday 22nd December

6pm Carol Service, **Redlingfield**

Thursday 23rd December

5.30pm Crib Service, Athelington

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Service, Horham

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day 9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield

Sunday 26th December

St Stephen's Day 11am CW Holy Communion, Denham

Sunday 2nd January Epiphany

11am CW Holy Communion, **Wingfield** 4pm Messy Christingle, **Syleham church**

Sunday 9th January Baptism of Christ

9.30am CW Holy Communion, **Redlingfield** 9.30am Café Church, **Hoxne**

Sunday 16th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday 23rd January Third Sunday of Epiphany

11am CW Holy Communion, Denham

Sunday 30th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

Sunday 6th February Accession of Queen Elizabeth II

11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield 4pm Messy Church, Syleham church

Sunday 13th February Third Sunday before Lent

9.30am Café Church, **Hoxne** 9.30am CW Holy Communion, **Redlingfield**

Sunday 20th February Second Sunday before Lent

11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham

6pm Evensong, Zoom

Sunday 27th February Sunday next before Lent

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

Abbreviations:

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship.

■ CELEBRATIONS: On Sunday 6th February Church services will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II.

COLUMNS DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



WE ARE INCREDIBLY LUCKY to live in a rural county like Suffolk, largely protected from overdevelopment, but one of the biggest issues that people

ask me about is the planning system.

Whilst we all accept that we need to build more homes for local people and for our children and grandchildren, it is essential that any new homes are built in the right place and with the right infrastructure.

It is for these reasons that I helped to lead the successful campaign to stop the Ipswich Northern Bypass. Right from the start, it always seemed to me that the bypass was more about mass house building than about relieving any travel and congestion issues in Ipswich, and that is why so many people, like me, fought against it.

Any new housing should, in general, be on a small scale and incremental. The planning system needs to protect our precious countryside wherever possible and retain the fabric, character and heritage of our villages and towns.

I have made it clear to Government ministers that any decisions around new homes and where they should be located, are a matter which must be decided locally, in full consultation with residents, parish and local councils.

New homes should be delivered

through a locally led planning system. Communities should retain the right to shape the areas in which they live and to be able to demand health and educational infrastructure to support any new housing.

So, I am pleased to report that working alongside a number of other MPs, I have succeeded in delivering a rethink on the recent Government Planning White Paper. The White Paper would have set national targets for house building, made it much easier for developers to build houses and would have circumvented the local planning process.

For me, this would have been wrong. It is essential that planning rules are set locally, not according to national targets, and I am pleased to have played my part in ensuring that this will continue to be the case.

Later this year, the Government will firmly set out new planning laws in its Planning Bill and I am confident that these laws will deliver a planning system that is locally led and fit for the future.

With COP26 over, it is essential that due consideration is also given to the environment and I would also like to see a planning system that delivers high quality, low carbon design, helping to ensure costeffective, energy-efficient homes, so that we continue to play our world-leading role in tackling climate change.

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

● Suffolk Support and Advice Line 0800 068 3131 ● Home But Not Alone 0800 876 6926



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