Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS

Winter 2023-24 Issue No. 63 Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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EDITORIAL & NEWS

The floods from Storm Babet may have subsided but the effects will be felt for months to come in our villages and surrounds. Villagers are living in rented accommodation while their properties are dried out so work can start on getting them liveable again. I never thought I would see impromptu lifeboat rescues in Redlingfield but then I'd not experienced 80mm of rain falling over such a short period on already sodden ground. It is no exaggeration to say

that roads ran like roaring rivers. Our thoughts are with all those effected. And a big thank you to all who rallied round to help out both during and after the storm. The resilience of villagers is probably best demonstrated by Michelle Peters who, despite being flooded out, continued with a sponsored walk covering 100 miles in October and raising £545 for the Cancer Research UK. She thanks everyone who helped with their "very kind donations and amazing support".

A special seasonal thanks to all our readers & the deliverers, contributors & advertisers who make this magazine possible. Particular thanks to Jan for tech support & artwork & Midge Gibbons for proofreading. Any errors are mine. **Mike Ager**

Joan Abbott passed away peacefully at Ipswich Hospital on 27th October, aged 91. Beloved wife of the late John, loving mum of Graham, Lesley, Patrick, Beverley, Annabel and Kevin, a dearly loved grandma and great grandma. The funeral service at St Andrews Church, Redlingfield, was due to be held on Monday 27th November. We hope to include a full tribute to a lovely lady in our next issue.

■ DOORSTEP GREEN: We've set up a fundraising page for Redlingfield Doorstep Green. You can donate money each time you shop at over 7,500 shops including John Lewis, eBay, Tesco etc. You can do this via your computer or via an app. It won't cost you anything as the shops make the donation to the Doorstep Green. You can sign up and support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/redlingfield-doorstep-green. Thank you very much. Janet Norman-Philips

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editor: Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

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



Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

It's been a year of mixed weather and mixed fortunes. We started with a good clutch of six eggs in the Wash Farm barn owl box but an inspection in July revealed that only two had hatched.

The word on the ground is that it's a poor year for barn owl numbers. Despite that, we had a lot of owl interest this summer when Duncan and Zara at Toll Barn found a newlyfledged Little Owl in their shed and rang me to ask what to do about it.

I had to say hang on a minute because Midge had just rung about the landing of the German gas balloon at the same time, so it was first things first.

Owls do fall out of nests when fledging so the answer is to do nothing, leave well alone, and they will reconnect with the adults. And as they found no further sign next day, this was hopefully the case.



fortunes

THE SUMMER IS NOW long gone and so has the morning wake-up birdsong. Sometimes it was like a twopiece bird band with the turtle dove providing the rhythm and song-thrush singing the vocals.

This was a happy memory to compare with the prolonged harvest which got us grumbling about the slow progress of the combine. However, little did we know then of the weather horrors to come. This snapshot of a new waterfall on Southwold beach steps in August was nothing compared to what awaited us in October.

It has been encouraging to see juvenile common newts in the vegetable garden this autumn.

Breeding in the adjacent pond by the house, they have crossed to the vegetable garden and then, attracted by the warmth no doubt in a cool autumnal early September, have even been found in the pool changing rooms corridor.

At least we have some aquatic life to prosper alongside the dragonflies and damselflies in the absence of frogs and toads.

However, we do catch an occasional blue flash of a visiting kingfisher whose vivid plumage reveals it is a



close relative to its colourful tropical cousins. I have read that although some young kingfishers drown from waterlogged feathers through diving too often, when they do get the hang of it, 50 per cent of dives are successful.

Once you have the right water, be it pond, lake or slow river, the essential requirement is a large perching post on which the kingfisher waits patiently and, with its binocular vision, measures the distance to dive for its next meal.

Continued on page 4.

WILDLIFE





Red grouse by the roadside on Reeth High Moor.

Continued from page 3.

walking holiday in Yorkshire this year was memorable for grouse, goosander and a week's heatwave in September, a brief and glorious highlight in 2023.

We were based in Swaledale from where we went up to the edge of Reeth High Moor to find a pair of beautiful well-camouflaged grouse by the roadside, and then down to the River Swale where we chanced on a flock of five large duck flying low up and down the river before settling on the water. These were as big as some of the smaller geese and had me first guessing and then delighted when I confirmed they were goosanders.

This was my first sighting of this large duck of fast-flowing upland rivers, they were all females and looking splendid with their ruddybrown heads and crested napes.

Needing crystal-clear water to dive in, they belong to a specially adapted group called sawbills, and living

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exclusively on fish they demonstrate superb underwater swimming skills and use their sharp serrated bills to help secure the slippery catch.

It made a gentle riverside walk in beautiful countryside into a red-letter day indeed.

My early notes for this quarterly article included special mention of a big rain on September 12th but there have been so many big rains it was in hindsight insignificant. As we ponder the worst floods in our living memory, the dire consequences of global warming have arrived at our doors and gone under them very quickly.

Every corner of the globe must play its part in finding the answer but one statistic is extremely alarming. China has emitted more carbon in the last 8 years than the UK has in the last 400 years, that is, since before our Industrial Revolution.

Trevor Edwards



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WILDLIFE

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

Luckily, the temperatures so far haven't been too low, so we've not really needed much heating during the daytime. We've found that wearing an extra layer really can make a difference!

At the end of November, we are collecting another 100 trees to plant over winter, along with 50 meters of hedgerow. The trees that we've planted so far are doing really well – lots of them have already started peeping over the guards! We are looking forward to filling in some of our hedgerow gaps and reinstating our extremely important wildlife corridors.

We've left lots of our meadows and grasses long to make sure the barn owls and kestrels have as much hunting habitat as possible over the winter. It's also important to leave grasses and undergrowth long for hibernating creatures, such as hedgehogs and frogs. Many butterflies and moths lay their eggs on long grasses, ready to hatch in spring.

We've been enjoying exploring our hedgerows. Over on the meadow the hawthorns are fruitful and attracting flocks of fieldfare and redwing to their dainty red berries. Our blackthorn and bramble thickets are providing excellent



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Water Lane, Edwards in a 'puddle' and Redwing on Hawthorn by Henry.

WILDLIFE

Arthur canoeing up

roosting sites and we often go out just before dusk to watch all the redwing flutter down amongst them.

A couple of weeks ago, we were out on the meadow, watching the birds and had a sudden explosion of wood pigeons and stock doves darting in different panicked directions. Following fast behind was a peregrine falcon! We had a really good view as it flew over our heads, across the meadow and along the tree-line. An amazing sight!

Water Lane is certainly living up to its name again. Possibly even more-so than ever. During the recent flooding it became impassable. Edward has certainly made the most of the many, many puddles and we had great fun brushing the cobwebs off the canoe and 'sailing' up the road! However, perhaps we need more trees, hedgerows and meadows to hold on to the water.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. Henry, Arthur and Edward

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WILDLIFE & NEWS

ince starting high school. I've joined the school Eco. Council. We meet every Wednesday lunchtime and discuss not only how we can make the school greener, but what we can do to help around Framlingham too. During the next few months, we will be planting trees in the school grounds and during springtime, hope to be sewing wildflower seeds across the green areas of Framlingham. I've also been busy on the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Youth Board. We had a meeting at Carlton Marshes and went for an explore of the trails which was really interesting. We're learning about eco anxiety and the effect it has on young people in particular. Spending time outside is more important than ever and really helps us respect our natural world. Mum helps at my old school with their Forest School sessions and all of the children have a fantastic time. Just going for a countryside walk, closing your eyes and listening to the birds, or building a den and getting muddy are free, uplifting and extremely important experiences that all young people need to be appreciating. This is how we can start learning what is important and what we can do to help save the planet. From Henry

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - HIGH SUFFOLK COMMUNITY BUS Is run by High Suffolk Community Transport Ltd. a not for profit supported by Mid Suffolk District Council. Suffolk County Council, local parishes as well as trusts in Southolt, Bedfield, Monk Soham and Bedingfield. It was established in 1983 by villagers from Bedfield, Bedingfield, Kenton, Monk Soham, Redlingfield, Southolt, Tannington and Worlingworth. This was in response to the loss of commercial bus services. They provide local and community transport for Bedfield, Bedingfield, Kenton, Monk Soham, Redlingfield, Southolt, Tannington and Worlingworth. They own a 16-seat minibus and as well as private hire, provide weekly bus services to Framlingham (Tuesdays) and Diss (Fridays) and twice monthly buses to Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Norwich. In summer they provide a monthly seaside service to Felixstowe (May, June & September) and Southwold (July & August). The bus can also be hired by groups going out on special occasions. The drivers are unpaid volunteers and fares are kept to a minimum, enough to cover costs. Holders of concessionary bus passes travel for free, though HSCB only get 75% of the cost back from the county council. As no one in Redlingfield has used the service recently, it has stopped calling there but HSCB is happy to put Redlingfield back in the timetable as soon as needed. They need a more volunteer drivers, so if you think you could drive the minibus once or twice a month please get in touch with Alan 01728 685694 or Val 01728 628068. Email support@combus.org.uk (www.combus.org.uk). Most villages contribute between £250 and £500 each year towards their running costs, currently Redlingfield does not make a contribution but is planning to do so.

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Wildlife

Late autumnal colours

utumn colour seems to be late this year. A few trees are showing good colours, possibly those that got an early start this spring. Others are still green after a late spring and a mixed, largely dry summer.

The recent rain has restored the water level in the pond although the rides are now wet and muddy. A closer look as I walked the wood showed that autumn colour was all around. The rose hips by the entrance are a blaze of scarlet with the haws in the hedges a richer red. The Gelder rose leaves were turning colour and the berries flowed in the sun providing food for the birds. Sloes are abundant this year and their deep purple colour was echoed by the purple catkins on the alders by the pond.

The log at the edge of the meadow was covered in golden lichen and a cluster of delicately ribbed fungi. The medlars are covered with golden fruit nearby. A walk around the woods always has colour and interest and I felt better for a visit.

The wood and meadow are maturing having been established over 20 years ago.

Recently one of the founder members, Michael Reeves, died. Together with his wife Margaret, he

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helped to establish the woods, clearing ground and helping plant the meadow and trees. We will miss him when we meet up at the woods to work.

The beauty and peace found at the wood stand as tribute to all the hard work and determination put in to set it up.

Work at the woods will now largely wait until spring and drier days when we will replace the noticeboard and information board.

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



Alder catkins, rose hips, Guelder rose leaves, fungi, and medlars.



Roaring fire welcomes you to

t seems a long time since our Harvest lunch but everyone who came enjoyed it very much. We made the most of the summer and warm autumn during our Sunday openings, using the garden as much as possible; and now, as winter approaches, we are enjoying our cosy bar around a roaring fire. We are still collecting items for Tracey to send to the Moldova Charity. She

> This page: cosy bar and roaring fire. Facing page: cake, coffee and a chat.



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the Old School

says 'I'm happy to collect most things! Clothing, bedding, books etc. Items that are suitable to go out to Moldova directly, I take to the charity. Other items, I try and sell to raise much needed funds for them.'

Now that the colder months are here, The Old School is open again as a warm space on Wednesdays from 9.30am-3pm, so enjoy our coffee and cake and linger if you like for a chat in warm cosy surroundings.

Sunday Bar opening is 12 noon to 5pm and we are delighted that we will be opening again on Christmas day from 12-3pm, so do pop in and enjoy a drink with good company before your Christmas feast.

> Horham and Athelington Village Hall Committee





Year of fun events ahead at Horham community centre

fter a delicious de luxe Ploughmans Supper, accompanied by local archive film of the harvest, a tradition was started at Horham Community Centre – a conker fight.

The more competitive will be baking their chestnuts, and soaking them in vinegar, in time for next year. A good time was had by all.

Some of us joined in with the B to B Caravan Club's Saturday night live music on Saturday, 23rd. September, and their raffle. The children's Halloween Party was a success, thanks to Charlotte and Kay who organised it. John Kirkum's quiz on Saturday 4th November gave our brains a testing, through all the good tempered spats it was an entertaining evening.

Our Christmas Buffet is on Friday 15th December, from 7pm. Tickets are £10 per head and should be booked and paid for before Friday December 1st, either over the community centre bar, or contact Maryann on 07957034694.

Our Family Christmas Party is on Saturday 16th December, 4-6.30pm. There will be lots of fun and treats for the children, also a special visit from Santa. Write a letter for Santa, party







food and games. If you would like your child to receive a present please contact Kay on 07496487629 (£2 per child). The bar will remain open until 9pm.

Saturday Open Mic Nights and Wheels on Wednesdays have been a great success. So look forward to return of Open Mic Nights on the second Saturday of January, March

and May (January 13, March 9 and May 11). On the first Wednesday of month (January to May) there will be collectors/hobbies nights from 8pm. Bring anything that interests you to share with others. The summer months will see a return of Wheels on Wednesday but not before a Working Bee Spring Clean on Saturday, 20th April with Sausage Sizzle. There will also be a Quiz on Saturday 27th April.

The Parish Council are making good progress with the plans and funding for new playground equipment on our meadow. If you would like to contribute, in any way, contact parish

"Those who we love and see no more" Violet Allum, beloved wife of Gordon, died on 20th September. Her funeral was held in St, Mary's Church, Horham, Friday 10th. November, 2023. Margaret Streeter



councillors Paul Hambling or Tom Wright 384501.

Carl Ramsey has fitted new worktops and splashbacks in the kitchen and bar and Philip Chenery is kindly decorating.

Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Margaret Streeter, on behalf of Horham & Athelington Community Council and Horham Village Hall Trust



GARDENING

Work to do in our winter

www.inter is upon us but there are still plenty of leaves to fall as trees desperately try to hang on to them.

If your lawn is relatively dry – you're very lucky – and you can set your mower height to high and gradually use it to plough through the leaves on your lawn like a hoover! Not only will this discourage dead areas of grass on your lawn from heavy leaf cover but it will

also discourage fungal diseases of lawn.

Shredded leaves make an excellent leaf mould if put into a compost bin. dead and Mixed diseased with areas occasional lawn clippings, old suckers bedding plant etc they can be thoroughly mixed in to the compost.

Once all the leaves have fallen from your fruit trees it's an excellent time to prune apple and pear trees. Pip fruits should be pruned in winter, stone fruits in summer. Don't be too bold and just lightly prune any dead, diseased or damaged branches or shoots just above a shoot.

Try to keep an open centre that

shoots

allows plenty of light and air to circulate and gives you easy access to any fruit. This will also help with a Winter tree wash, which is basically a fish oil tar that coats the branches/ trunk to kill any over wintering aphids,

damaged branches

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gardens

red spider mite and eggs, by coating and suffocating them. You can make your own cheap egg alternative with a litre of cooking oil, a teaspoon of fairy liquid and a teaspoon of Jeyes fluid in four litres of water shaken in a garden sprayer.

You can also apply grease bands before/after to trap wingless climbing moths from laying their eggs. You can undertake a second Winter wash in late December and a final wash in February.

You may wish to continue getting leaves off the lawn right up until Christmas, but make sure when putting petrol garden machinery to bed you empty all old fuel safely and correctly. You can also put a teaspoon of engine oil in the spark plug hole and pull the cord three or four times to coat the cylinder and stop the piston from seizing over Winter. Just screw the spark plug back in afterwards.



Your dahlias will blacken at the first frosts and will need winter protection. Lift them from their pots or the soil and store in wooden trays of dry compost/peat substitute in your shed, garage or greenhouse, if you are fortunate to have one.

All finished, flowering perennials should be cut down in half. It may look a bit unsightly, but never cut down plants to ground level as the old stems protect the crown from frost. You don't want to encourage any growth in the Winter as herbaceous plants could be killed by a harsh frost or snow.

> Keep warm gardening! Andrew Peters



■ AWARD FOR ANN: Rural Coffee Caravan CEO Ann Osborn has received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Suffolk to mark her work around the county's villages. The Rural Coffee Caravan, a more than welcome regular visitor to Redlingfield, addresses loneliness in the countryside and has gained the attention of Government policy makers, the NHS, The Campaign to End Loneliness, national media and academics. The EADT picture shows Ann in her university gowns. With well over 60 volunteers, eight paid staff and a fleet of caravans, Ann is credited by the founder, Canon Revd Sally Fogden, OBE, as having been instrumental in the charity's success, helping make a difference to thousands of isolated and vulnerable people across Suffolk.



Great finale

espite, or perhaps because of, the rain, the final open day of the year in October was an amazing finale to 2023 with the Red Feather Club packed out.

Many thanks to Terry Benjafield, Sarah Jordan, Rheanne Kelly and Kenny Lovick for giving their time for such a great cause and providing great entertainment. The joint was really jumping. And, once again, a round of applause for the volunteers who keep the 95th Bomb Group Heritage

■ DANCE LESSONS AT THE RFC: Learn to dance to music from the 1940s & 1950s. 7-9.30pm, Mondays, £2,50 per person. More details from Duncan 07771 675351 or Natalie 07949 541079. Beginners welcome.

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Association running. The event was followed by the AGM.

Another sell-out dance night was also the reward for the hardworking team of volunteers. From start to finish, it was a great night, generating funds for the museum's upkeep. The dance on Saturday September 23rd was another packed house with everyone dancing and enjoying great music from *The Hot House Combo* headed by Willy and Lisa Briggs.

They play their own mixture of vintage swing music, featuring a clarinet, trumpet, guitar, doghouse bass, accordion and even a washboard. The band were ably supported by guest DJ Texas Tommy.

Andy Garner



2024 EVENTS AT THE RFC

Saturday April 20: Dance - Dance night with resident band Skyliner run by Alan Collier and music arrangements by Rebecca Collier. Tickets on sale soon. The great singing combo of Scott Collier and Molly Harmer. Guest DJ Nigel Woodhouse.

Sunday May 26: Public Open Day.

Saturday June 29: Dance - Americana weekend kicks off on Saturday evening with, back by popular demand, Memphis Lee & His Creepers playing a variety of 40s and 50s rhythm & blues. Great to listen to, better to dance to. With guest DJ Jive Bomber.

Sunday June 30: Americana Day - music, stalls, re-enactors & vehicles.

Sunday July 28: Public Open Day.

Sunday Aug 25: Public Open Day.

Saturday Sept 28: Dance - The third fund-raising dance for the Red Feather Club in 2024. We've two big names Laura B and Ian Gillon Jr. You won't be disappointed. Sunday Sept 29: Public Open Day.

Saturday October 26: Dance - last dance of the year. Music from DJs. To raise funds for Redlingfield village.

Sunday Oct 27: Public Open Day - followed by 95th BGHA AGM.

• Public Open Days 10am-4pm. The Red Feather Club Museum at Coldhams Hill, Denham, IP21 5DG, is run by the 5th Bomb Group Heritage Association (Charity No: 1119769). Visit: www.95thbg-horham.com. Contact: enquiries@95thbg-horham.com.





This page: views of flooding on the B1117 towards Stradbroke and a sorry looking horse beside the B1117 in Denham just before its rescue. Facing page: Tim Debenham and the B1117.





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orham was cut off by storm Babet with flood water. and a land slide closing roads in and out. on Friday 20th October, and the Community Centre car park became a safe haven for those who were stranded. Our chairman. Tim Debenham, did sterling work with his tractor rescuing motorists and our galley served tea. Violet Allum's service was to have been held that day but was postponed due to the treacherous conditions. Margaret Streeter







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Clockwise, from bottom right: a lorry tries to negotiate Low Road; The Knoll; the Fire Service had to rescue this driver. (inset); The Hawthorns, Darryl & Noah Britton talk to Jane Gibson; the view from Drew's tractor; Pat Abbott braces himself on his driveway; The Knoll; Wash Barn Farm; and Rosie & Ben make a dash for it. Photographs from villagers.

Battered by Storm Babet really did a number on our corner of Suffolk. People who have lived

here their whole lives had never seen flooding like it. Homes in Redlingfield don't get flooded but

Homes in Redlingfield don't get flooded but at least five did, leaving some villagers distraught and homeless. The same happened in Horham, Hoxne, Debenham, Fram, Worlingworth and all our other neighbours. Local rain gauges measured 80mm-plus from the storm.

In Redlingfield, people rallied round putting up friends and stranded strangers alike in their homes.

The Fire Brigade rescued one driver from the flooding at The Knoll and villagers – Glenn Miller and Matt Cook and family, among others – did the rest pushing vehicles out of the floods and getting people to safety.

The farmers with their tractors – Simon Brice and Drew Abbott in particular – ferried people home and through the flooding. Rob and Cath Scott sheltered the stranded – one young couple





Storm Babet Homes flooded Drivers stranded Tractors to the rescue

from Caister had to stay the night. And Darryl and Noah Britton launched their rowboat to rescue a stranded householder and get villagers through the flooding.

Beverley El shaboury would like to give a big thank you to Simon and Will Edwards for getting her to and from John Bloomfield's safely so she could check up on him.

Our thoughts are particularly with Andy & Michelle and George & Rosie whose homes were flooded

out and Leslie, Peter and Kay Dilger whose houses were also under water. I'm sure we will give them any help we can.

Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council both sprang into action to help with the clear-up as did



councillor Lucy Elkin, who

deserves special thanks.

Longer-term we need to do something to make sure this sort of flooding never happens again - we need to slow water down and delay it entering the village and speed up its flow out of the village once it is here.

This would need to involve Suffolk Council, the Environment Agency and all the land owners between here and the river Waveney, which is the destination for the water.

It also needs to look at land use, what measures can be used to contain and slow down torrential rainwater and keep it on the fields, whether that's more trees/hedges, temporary ponds or other **By Mike Ager** measures.



REDLINGFIELD & OCCOLD WI: In

September we had a skin care/make-up demonstration by Rachel Cattermole. One of our members agreed to be her model and was made-up beautifully. It was a sociable and fun evening. It was at this meeting that we heard that one of our members had been taken ill suddenly and we were all very saddened and shocked to hear of her passing shortly after. Chantel Gibb was a quiet, gentle lady who attended regularly and enjoyed all our activities. She will be sadly missed. Our meeting in October was a talk from Denise Goldsmith, a WI Climate Change Ambassador, who focussed on plastic waste in the marine environment. We spent time sorting different types of plastic waste and considering the time it would take to degrade – shocking! This was swiftly followed by our annual Harvest Supper where members, partners





Athelington take on school pick up duty with his trusty tractor. The trip to Wilby was followed by two-and-a-half-hour trip to Debenham to get his wife from the high school. He went out as far as Wetheringsett and came back via Aspal. On the way helping a woman with an eightweek-old baby and a stranded ambulance. The medics eventually made it to Kenton and their patient thanks to another tractor driver. He has "no pics of the worst case areas as it was serious". Above, the youngsters and Edmund smile through it all.

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INSPIRING WOMEN a meal

and other people from the village community come together for prepared by

ourselves. We had an enjoyable evening with a varied homemade menu. In November we held our AGM and are

looking forward to our Christmas meal in December. We usually meet every month on the first Wednesday of the month in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm although our January meeting will be on 10th January. If you would like more information about our activities please contact Carol Peters on 01379 678597, or just come along to a meeting. We look forward to welcoming you.

Gill Chapman

WE REMEMBER

THEM: Wreaths were laid and remembrance services held over 11 & 12 November to remember all those who lost their lives in conflict. And on Sunday 19 November the 80th



anniversary of the Redlingfield crash was commemorated with a short service presided over by Rev John McCracken (see above).



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WHAT'S ON

Friday 1 December

Christmas Lights and Late-Night Shopping in Eye: from 5.30pm. Carol Service: Red Feather Club. 7pm.

Saturday 2 December

Diss Christmas Light Switch-On: Diss Market Place & Mere's Mouth, noon-6.30pm. Border Craft Collective Craft Fair: Stradbroke Community Centre, 10am-3pm. Fram Christmas Tree Festival: Framlingham St Michael's Church, 10am, entertainment, refreshments, stalls (trees on display until 1 January 4pm).

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 December

Wingfield Barns Christmas Market. Redlingfield Church Windows event: "All I want for Christmas" theme, 11am-3pm, refreshments, proceeds to St Andrews.

2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 December

Santa Specials: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Wednesday 6 December

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: 10am-noon. All welcome. Midge Gibbons is hosting at Rush Meadow, Woodlane Road, IP23 7QY.

Redlingfield & Occold WI: Christmas Meal. **Waveney Choir Christmas Concert:**

Wingfield church, 7pm, suggested donation £10. Refreshments.

Friday 8 December

Film - What's Love Got To Do With It? Hoxne Village Hall, £4, 7pm.

Christmas Sparkle: with Castleton Brass & Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir, 7.30pm, Eye Town Hall. Tickets £10 each (07934 169721 or from The Handyman, 8 Broad Street, Eye – 870030).

Saturday 9 December

A Christmas Carol: In Concert: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £14.

Tuesday 12 December

Town Mayor's Carol Concert: St Mary's Church, Diss, 7pm.

Friday 15 December

Wingfield Barns and Made2Measure Theatre Co presents A Wingfield Christmas Box: festive readings and songs, Wingfield

Barns, 7.30pm, £15.

Gold and Silver Annual Seasonal Concert:

Eye Bach Choir & New Buckenham Silver Band, Eye Town Hall, 7.30 pm, tickets@eyebachchoir.co.uk (£12 each or two for *£20 (*offer advance bookings only), under 16s £7 each.

Horham Christmas Buffet: Horham Community Centre, from 7pm, £10 per head. Horham Community It will be a cold buffet but book and pay BEFORE Friday December 1, either over the community centre bar, or contact Maryann on 07957034694.

Saturday 16 December

Horham Family Christmas Party: Horham Community Centre, 4-6.30 pm, £2 per child. Contact Kay 07496487629.

Jive Generation Christmas Party with The Rockin Apellos: Eye Town Hall, 7pm, www.eventbrite.co.uk.

Phoenix Singers Christmas Concert - Glory at Christmas Time: Framlingham College Chapel, 7pm, £15 (under 18s free), inc refreshments after concert, from Hall Farm Butchers, Wiliam Glasse,

william@glasse.org.uk & choir on door.

Jim Causley A Causley Christmas: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £15.

Thursday 21st December

Stradbroke Cinema - Barbie: Stradbroke Community Centre.

Monday 1 January

New Years Steam - Historic Lighting Exhibition: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Wednesday 3 January

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: 10am-noon. All welcome. Sheila & Stuart are hosting at Tudor Rose.

WHAT'S ON

Collectors/Hobbies night: Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

Friday 12 & Saturday 13 January

Dove Players presents Puss in Boots: Occold Village Hall, Friday 7pm, Saturday 2.30pm & 7pm

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dove-players.

Saturday 13 January

Open Mic Night: Horham Community Centre.

Saturday 20 January

Jitterbugs: DJs Texas Tommy, Swing Shift, 3 Bits of Rhythm & Mark KTB, Hoxne Village Hall, 8pm, £6.

Friday 26 January

Horham CC Membership Night. Eye Cinema - Barbie: Eye Community Centre, 7.30pm, £5.

Wednesday 7 February

Redlingfield Village Cttee meeting. Collectors/Hobbies night: HCC Community Centre, 8pm.

Thursday 8 February

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: 10am-noon. All welcome. Cath & Rob Scott are hosting at

Bright Thinken, Church Road, IP23 7QS.

Sunday 11 February

Harbottle & Jonas: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, £12.

Friday 23 February

Eye Cinema - What's love got to do with it? Eye Community Centre, 7.30pm, £5.

Wednesday 6 March

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: 10am-noon. All welcome. Janet & Mike are hosting at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, IP23 7QU. **Collectors/Hobbies night:** Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

Saturday 9 March

Open Mic Night: Horham Community Centre.

Sunday 24 March

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

Wednesday 3 April

Collectors/Hobbies night: Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

Friday 19 April

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

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

Helmingham Hall Gardens www.helmingham.com

- Mid-Suffolk Light Railway www.mslr.org.uk
- Stonham Barns www.stonhambarns.co.uk Suffolk Owl Sanctuary www.owl-help.org.uk

• Stradbroke Cinema Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm.

Wingfield Barns www.wingfieldbarns.com tickets via www.wegottickets.com



■ RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN: We've greatly enjoyed our visits to Redlingfield throughout 2023. We've been delighted to share and celebrate our 20th Anniversary year with everyone and we look forward to returning in April 2024. Don't forget to check our website at www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk for the latest info, and we're a phonecall away on 01379 855 338 if we can help throughout the winter months. **Tina Hannay**

IN MEMORIAM

VIOLET ELLEN ALLUM - 11 June 1940-20 September 2023: Violet passed away peacefully in September. Much loved wife of Gordon, stepmother, nana and sister. Her funeral service was held at a packed St Mary's Church, Horham.

ur sadness and grief should be tempered with a celebration of Violet's life and a remembrance of the good times we shared with her. This is the church Violet loved and where she was a regular worshipper (sitting in the pew near the black stove with friends that have gone before). She was born Violet Ellen Catchpole the only daughter of Charles & Maude, affectionately known as Peggy, in Dickleburgh. Joined a few years later by a brother, James. Violet had a happy childhood, going to the village school until she was 13, where she made several close friends, two of whom were at her funeral. She then went to the church school in Diss for a year before going onto the new Diss Modern School. Here started a lifelong friendship with Jenny, neither girl knew at this time but Violet became godmother to Jenny's son Mark, who also was among mourners. Growing up in the 1940s, life was fairly basic, due to the war and rationing. Violet's father worked at the local mill, so a highlight in the school holidays, was for Violet and a friend to go for rides in the lorry to Ipswich or beyond. The children also had great fun on a swing that uncle Harry built from two telegraph poles and an old rope from the mill. This ended in disaster when the rope broke. Violet was also a girl guide learning basic skills and going on guides holidays. Unfortunately, on a trip to Wales whilst climbing a mountain, Violet slipped and fell and

arrived home in bandages. Quite a shock for her mum. During the school years the mill closed and the family moved to the mill at Burston. Whilst there, Violet finished school and started work. Her first job was at a haberdashery shop in Mere Street, Diss. Then she moved to a grocers, International Stores. Her teenage years brought leisure and fun, socials and dances at Thorpe Abbotts and Billingford in converted Nissen huts. Billingford had a step across the middle of the floor - so the quick step became quick, quick, jump, slow. Two or three times a year, there were bus trips to a dance in Norwich, in aid of the Forces Welfare Fund, organised by a neighbour. The tickets were keenly sought after but Violet and friends managed to go. During her time in Diss. Violet married Alan Johnson and. although they were later to divorce and Violet marry Gordon Allum, it is a real testament to her that she continued to

be good friends with all the Johnson family. It is a testament to the wonderful lady that she was that she continued to be good friends with all the Johnson family. After leaving the Diss grocers, Violet to

Worlingworth and employment at Wards in Stradbroke, where many strong and lasting friendships were made. At this time Irene and I came to run the Post Office in Horham. for five years! We knew nothing about shop keeping and had a lot to learn. Violet's years of experience helped greatly when she came to work for us. During her years at the Post Office, we came to see her caring side. A single father with three children needed some help – and yes it was Violet who came to the rescue. Every afternoon she would go to their home, make supper and look after the two smaller children until their dad came home from work. In the summer, she would join another family with their children on a caravan holiday. With the children grown up and able to cope, Violet focused her energy on raising money for the newly-formed Community Council. The village dream of owning the field needed vast sums of money and many events were held. One memorable cheese and wine party was in Mr Hankins sheds. A huge amount of money was raised. When we left, we were not sure whether the sun was coming up or going down! Violet then turned her efforts to senior people and with a friend started The Happy Circle Club. The years rolled by and Violet became an active member of the group who saved The Red Feather Club, which is today a thriving museum. Violet and friends found hospitality for veterans and families in people's houses in the village and surrounds. Last May, Violet had three ladies stay with her. Over recent few years, Violet has had a rest from fundraising, enjoying time at coffee mornings and supper evenings – donating towards work others were doing. During all of this Violet had time for her church, which she loved. Taking over the flower rota and reminding us all, what needed to be done and when. Mike Ager & David Spall

tributes to Violet on both the Old School and 95th BGMF sites: Always smiling, always a kind word, never complaining I shall miss her. - Jean Townshend. Such a lovely lady. My thoughts and love to Gordon. -Vanna Walker. A lady with a beautiful heart, memories of fun & laughter, thinking of you Gordon and family. -Tina Bannon-Abbott. One of the original "Friends of the 95th" who saved the Red Feather Club back in the '80s. A wonderful and sweet woman who will be sorely missed by many. -Janie McKnight. Pravers for Violet's family. -Patrick Andres. *My Mum's best friend and my* God Mother ... I spent time with her last year where she arranged for me to visit the Red Feather club. It was a pleasure knowing vou Aunt Violet, RIP. -Gary Lines. Vi and Gordan were my neighbours when I lived in

Just some of the Facebook

neighbours when I lived in Athelington. She was the gentlest of women. -Ann Fiorentini.

What a wonderful lady. First met her in the 80s when the Horham group came to the states and reconnected on our first trip to Horham in 2009. Her passing will leave a big hole in the RFC family and beyond. -Linda Charles Endris.

News & Features

RESIDENTS INVITED TO HELP SHAPE FUTURE OF SUFFOLK LIBRARIES:

Suffolk County Council has launched a public consultation encouraging residents to tell them what they want from their library services in the future. The council's contract with Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) Limited, the independent charity that runs the library service, comes to an end on 31 May 2025. with a new contract to begin in June 2025. The council is seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract. The 13-week consultation, will be followed by a competitive Tender Process, before the contract is awarded in November 2024. A key focus of this is the Library outreach services, which include three mobile library vehicles, serving more than 500 stops across the county each month. The mobile library vehicles are coming to the end of their life and the council needs to consider the best way to

deliver these services to people in rural areas in the future. Library Outreach services also include Pop-up Libraries and a home library service, run by volunteers, is also available for residents that find it difficult to access libraries. The consultation is made up of two parts. Part one gives residents an opportunity to tell the council what they value in their library service and what they would like to see more of in the future. Part two seeks views on how Library Outreach services could be run in the future. The council is keen to hear from people who currently use library services and those who do not, to better understand the needs across the county. This will help to shape the future contract. The consultation is open until Friday 26 January 2024. Residents can have their say by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation. Easy read and translated versions are available on request. You can request a printed copy by calling 0345 603 1842.

■ VILLAGE HALLS: This Summer Southolt held the grand opening of its village hall next to the beautiful church of St Margaret in the village. The former bowls club has been bought by the village and was opened with a bbq and cakes by councillor Matthew Hicks (see left). In other village hall news Denham has, after four years of fund-raising, been awarded a National Lottery grant of £150,000 for work on the building. Denham Village Hall was the guardroom for the USAAF base until 1945. The hall is currently closed until renovations can be carried out.



• Our Suffolk County Councillor is **Peter Gould** - Area: Hoxne & Eye. Currently **Andrew Reid** is standing in for him to represent Redlingfield, 799andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk, 07545 423. **Matthew Hicks** is standing in for him to cover Athelington & Horham, 07824 474 741, 01728 628 176, matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk. Matthew Hicks is also Mid Suffolk District Councillor for Hoxne & Worlingworth Ward covering Athelington & Horham, matthew.hicks@midsuffolk.gov.uk. He is also Leader of Suffolk CC, 01728 628176, 07824 474741 matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk.

News & Features

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE AND STRIDE

Redlingfield: I set off early on a bright, and ultimately hot, September Saturday for the SHCT cycle ride. Beginning at Bedingfield at 9am, I progressed steadily through the countryside, visiting amongst many other places, Badingham, Framlingham and Kenton, before arriving back at Redlingfield, shortly before 5pm, having visited 30 churches, my best number for many years. I was tired but very satisfied. Thanks to all my very kind and generous sponsors, I was able to raise £255. Next year, the event is on Saturday 14th September, also my 60th birthday. I hope I will be out again, and my ambition is to at least match or beat 30 churches and to raise more than this year. I would greatly appreciate as many people as possible to sponsor me with donations great or small. On a personal note, I want to thank all who have shown me such an enormous amount of generosity and help during the past year. I wish everybody a very happy Christmas and all my best wishes for 2024.

Horham: Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the SHCT Ride and Stride on behalf of St Mary, Horham. Cyclists Rhian Jones, Daniel Streeter and David Whatling raised £370 which will be split between St Mary's and the SHCT. Thank you also to to the sponsors and those who manned the church throughout the day. **Daphne Harvey**

■ **REDLINGFIELD PRODUCE SHOW:** Thank you to everyone who entered or helped out with the set up and on the day, the events raised £200. Junior Best in Show was Evelyn Putt; Adult Best in Show was Kelly Hawes and and Winner of all the classes she entered (four) was Karen Eaves. **Alison Smith**



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

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Features & News

e have had a brilliant start to the Autumn term at Wilby School with lots of new pupils and new faces on our staff. Due to increased pupil numbers we have a new EYFS Class (Pre School and YR) and Mrs Karen Maurice is their class teacher. Mrs Amy Janes is also teaching the class on Fridays. The 'new' EYFS classroom has been completely redesigned, with one of the children's favourite features the new sensory room. In Year 1 and 2 (Wren Class) we welcomed Mrs Kirsty Martin as a new class teacher and she will be sharing responsibility with Mrs Caroline Berkley this term. On December 1st, the school plans to join the Tilian Academy Trust and we are already benefiting from the wide-ranging support the trust is providing. The school diary is packed with lots of exciting learning events and fun activities, organised by our Friends of School Association-including a school disco and Christmas Fair and a pantomime trip for children YR to Y6. This term there are lots of drop-in and support sessions for parents/carers including

phonics and handwriting sessions, 'Bring your parents/carer into school' maths sessions and parents' evenings. There are also be sharing assemblies, music events and Christmas performances to look

forward to. On 14th September we welcomed Kate Rolfe into school (pictured), who told us all about her wonderful new book *Wolf and Bear*. During recycling week we were joined by the Suffolk recycling team and other visitors have included the fire



service, One Day Creative dance company and Waveney Foodbank. Our Harvest Festival celebrations in St Mary's Church was a joyous affair and we welcome everyone to join us for our Christmas service. **Roisin Wiseman, Headteacher, Wilby CEVC Primary School**

■ MORRIS & MUSIC: Hoxon Hundred Morris dancers practice every Wednesday during the winter in St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne, from 7.30pm onwards. We are eager to introduce new members to this excellent, inexpensive way of keeping fit and socialising during those dark cold months of winter when outdoor activities are not so appealing. We are therefore warmly inviting you to take part in free sessions. Just drop in any Wednesday. We advise you to wear comfortable clothing and footwear. If you wish to continue dancing throughout the Summer, you would be able to join us at fetes, festivals and regular Wednesday night dance outs. We are always keen to have new musicians join our band you will be so very welcome any Wednesday. If you would like further information about the group please contact Jenny on 07403637517, or Jane Pearse on 0756468186. You can also find us on Facebook under Hoxon Hundred Morris Dancers. We all look forward to meeting you.

■ PLANNING: AWAITING DECISION: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for retention of use of existing converted stable block (known as the 'Old Stable Building', Brick Kiln Farm) as a single residential dwelling at Brick Kiln Farm, Worlingworth Road, Athelington, IP21 5EP (DC/23/04611).

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

LOCAL HISTORY

The lost farm and shop at the Redlingfield Cross

In 1753 the *Ipswich Journal* advertised an 18-acre farm for sale or to let, stating that the house went by the name of *Redlingfield Cross*.

The next record was in 1839 when the farm was listed in the Tithe Apportionment for Redlingfield. This was a document and map drawn up for every parish in England itemising every house and field in every village, so the correct amount of tithe could be paid to the Church of England.

This shows the farm buildings to be on the small triangle where the village sign is now, and the farmhouse, which by this time had been split into two dwellings, as being the house that we now know as *Hill Cottage*.

The land consisted of two fields behind the house and buildings and fields the other side of the brook behind the smithy. The buildings, house and land were recorded as belonging to Mr Edward Platfoot, who at the time was farming *Hill Farm* as a tenant of the Adair estate. It is likely the farm at *The Cross* had been purchased in 1753 by his grandfather, who had been a tenant of *Hill Farm*. The house was listed as a cottage and shop and the occupiers as Green and Cracknell. The land and farm buildings were occupied by Edward Platfoot

Three years later the 1841 census showed one half of the house was occupied by William Green and the other by George Cracknell (a carpenter) and his widowed cousin Elizabeth Rush (a grocer).

By the time of the next census in 1851 both widowed cousins had remarried and were living in separate houses. Elizabeth had married Roger Taylor, who had been working for a grocer and draper in Mendlesham. The couple were now recorded as living and running the shop at *The Cross* and again in the 1861 census.

In 1862, Edward Platfoot died and his estate was sold up in 11 lots which included the farm at *The Cross, Mount Pleasant, Kiln Farm* and, what is now known as, *Plumtree Farm* on the Southolt Road [this could explain why this outlier is within Redlingfield's boundaries].

Lot 1 was described as "A capital tiled Messuage [a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use] with grocery shop, large garden, double bay barn, bullock sheds etc. and two enclosures of arable and pasture land of the most fertile description, well studied with growing timber and other trees situated by the roadside at Redlingfield Cross containing 4 acres one rood, 22 poles". The fields on the other side of the road were sold as Lot 2.

Roger and Elizabeth took the opportunity to buy the house and shop they had been occupying for many years and Lot 3, which was the small
LOCAL HISTORY

To be LETT stor Legie, or SOLD. A FARM, containing about 18 Acres of Land, most hand bid down, with Right of a Common 1 The Dwelling-Honfe, Barns, &c. lately put in good Repair; is intuite in the Parish of Redlingfield in Suffok, and the Bouse goes by the Name of REDINGTIELD CROSS. For further Particulars enquire of Mr. Samod Wall, Amorzey, or Charles Saunders, of Colchefter, Effex.

farm now known as *Mount Pleasant*. In the 1871, census Roger was described as a shopkeeper and farmer of 7 acres living at *The Cross*.

In 1875, Roger Taylor died aged 87, followed by Elizabeth in 1877. His estate was sold in 9 lots on July 15th 1878 at the *White Lion Inn* in Eye.

The first 5 lots were in Redlingfield: Lot 1. A messuage and grocery shop at *The Cross*.

Lot 2. A tiled messuage and wheelright's shop adjoining Lot 1 (the house is now *Tudor Rose*, and *Woodvale* bungalow stands on the site of the wheelright's shop) Lot 3. A pair of cottages in the garden

of *Tudor Rose* (demolished in the 1930s).

Lot 4. *Mount Pleasant Farm*. Lot 5 a small field known as *Nunns* on the Denham Road.

The other lots were houses in Occold, Rishangles, Wetheringsett and Halesworth (quite a property portfolio for a Redlingfield shopkeeper).

The Cross and Mount Pleasant came up for sale again in 1880 and were purchased by William Mole, who was described as a dealer in the 1881 census and a farmer and grocer at *Mount Pleasant* in the 1891 and 1901 census.

Both farms came up for sale together in June 1906, just after the death of William's wife and before his own death later that year. They were advertised as being suitable for dealers or poultry keepers. Both were purchased by Arthur Rayner of *Grove Farm*, Denham. After his death in 1938 the farm at *The Cross* was

purchased by Jonathan Howlet of *Hill Farm*, Redlingfield.

In 1951, his sister Miss Hylda Howlett put the *Cross Farm* house up for sale as a pair of cottages called *Hill Cottages*. Then in 1953, just after the old school, which had formerly been used as the village meeting place, had been declared unfit for use, she gave the piece of land on which the demolished farm buildings had stood, to trustees who were to arrange for it to be used for the benefit of the village, possibly for a public hall.

That is the history of the farm and shop but what happened to the name The Cross? In 1839, the meadow between The Cross and Hill Farm was recorded as Cross Meadow and the field where The Knoll's houses now stand, was Cross Close. The names 'At the Cross' and 'Near the Cross' were used as addresses for houses in Horham Road in every census through to 1921. Then on the 1939 register one resident in half of what is now Hill *Cottage*, gave his address as '*Near the Cross*' although the other just gave her address as *Cottage*. After 1939 the name seems to have completely vanished. What was the origin of the name "The Cross"? Was it the site of a medieval wayside cross like the one thought to have been at Syleham? That is a subject for research another day! Stephen Ling SPORT

Fond memories of carpet

arpet bowls was a 'sport' I used to enjoy. I can't remember when I started but it was with the club based at Thorndon, somewhere around the late 1990s.

When players I knew well left I found it a convenient time to stop. However, about a year later I was joining them and their new club at the Debenham Leisure Centre, and then Kerrison School in Thorndon when they moved there.

The club became Occold, based in the Village Hall, and I remember we had a close-knit dozen or so players who were a fairly competitive team in the County and Waveney Leagues. The club playing numbers waned though, older players leaving or sadly becoming ill, before the Covid break in 2020, which was the real death knoll. I was finished after lockdown, my late fifty-year-old right knee was not up to my kneeling style. So I stopped.

All good things come to a natural end. We kept losing more players and the club ceased to exist in late 2022.

Strangely East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Essex) and the North-East of England (Durham, South Tyneside and North Tyneside) are the

two hot beds of carpet bowls.

I remember a tournament at Needham Market where three guys travelled down from

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County Durham to compete. That's dedication.

I've got a few memories but winning things is not one of them. We were runners-up to Kenninghall in the league a couple of times and lost a small number of cup finals. If I remember rightly. We never managed to get the right side of the line though.

Whereas our original leagues were in West Suffolk, whilst at Thorndon, the new Debenham club (that became Occold) favoured the Waveney and County Leagues of South Norfolk. So trips to Stanningfield, Hundon and Bildeston were replaced by trips to Barnham Broome, Burgh Apton and Tacolneston.

As a club member I played in Norfolk singles, pairs, triples and fours competitions. I have a vague memory of making a final where we lost in the triples once. I did really enjoy those tournaments and was lucky to play with players much better than me.

All you need is a hall big enough for two mats and an overage of two metres each end. Horham used to have a team but only room for one mat in the Old Village Hall. Visiting teams were getting home past midnight to the other side of Bury St Edmunds.

One thing I do remember is that in the Suffolk League West divisions when I started around the Millennium was that the matches were for 16-aside. They then allowed teams to have twelve to SPORT

bowling

fifteen and a ballot was brought in to decide who played two games. The idea was so that clubs struggling for players could still compete.

Within a decade though the eight player South Norfolk League had set up a 'Sixes' League to enable clubs to continue. It's partly that people don't want to play competitively but mostly they don't want to use their evenings travelling to away games in winter. There are quite a lot of social carpet bowls clubs playing afternoons and evenings but not in leagues.

As I found with our bowls club in Bedingfield in 2019 and 2021, nobody responds to the pleas for new players. Maybe somebody needed to be more pro-active and none of us were. A few



phone calls could have prolonged the club's existence one or two more years but I genuinely think that is the best it might have done. It's a familiar story echoed all around modern sport I'm afraid.

I know that two Redlingfield villagers are happily back playing club nights and the odd friendly where it all began at Thorndon.

My boots, smart flat soled shoes in reality, have been hung up. But in my current sleep, eat, watch television, work, sleep again, lifestyle I do miss carpet bowls a bit. *Ian Crane*



Danny Lamb Electrician 07756 204 354 Horham Suffolk danlamb@live.co.uk 01379 384 889





■ HORHAM BAPTIST CHURCH: We'd really love for you to join us at any – or all – of our Christmas events this year. Below you'll find a little more detail about each one.

Beer & Carols – Wednesday 13th December

Beer & Carols does exactly what it says on the tin. Come join us at Horham Community Centre where you can grab yourself a drink (it doesn't have to be beer – other choices are available too!) and sing some carols to get you in the mood for Christmas. You choose the carols, and the band will play them for you to sing along to. Entry is free, and the singing kicks off at 7.30pm. **All-Age Carol Service – Sunday 17th December**

Our All-Age Carol Service is the perfect way to celebrate this awesome time of year as a family. We will be singing some classic carols, and there will be a chance for your young ones to dress up and take part in – or simply watch – the nativity as well. There will be tasty treats



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served after the main service, and if you come for 9.30am, you can even score a bacon butty. We really hope you can join us!

Christmas Eve Candlelit Carols – Sunday 24th December

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the chapel, stirred the melody of music, the soft glow of candles ... Join us on the 24th December for a special evening of carols sung under candlelight as we look forward to Christmas Day and think about what the first Christmas really means. With festive refreshments served afterwards.

Christmas Day Celebration – Monday 25th December

Finally, on the 25th, we would love for you to join us for our Christmas Day service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

The service lasts around 45 minutes and includes a short bible talk, lots of carols, and a time for children (and big children!) to show us some of the gifts they received this year. Plus, there's plenty of great tea and coffee to enjoy.

Whatever you get up to, we hope you have a really enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

Some other dates for your diary ... • Saturday 2nd March – Ladies Day with guest speaker Karen Soole, Women's Ministry Leader and author of the book 'Liberated'. Full details available on our website nearer the time (www.horhambaptist.org.uk).

• Coffee & Chat runs every Monday morning 10am-noon at Horham Baptist Church. Set up specifically with those living alone in mind.

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CHURCH NEWS

O HUSH THE NOISE OF MORTAL STRIFE AND HEAR THE ANGELS SING!

As we prepare for Christmas, the church's observance of the penitential season of Advent helps to remind us how far we still fall short of the message brought by the angels to the shepherds outside Bethlehem two thousand years ago: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace ..."

Yet today, as then, the angels still bring good news of great joy for all people. Jesus Christ is born as a human being to save the whole world from sin and death and to bring us the hope of eternal life with God. The best of all reasons to rejoice!

The Church of England's motto this Christmas is *Follow the Star: Join the Song* and we will indeed be joining the song with our usual busy programme of carol services.

The songs begin with our Advent carol service at Athelington church at 4pm on Sunday 3rd December. On Sunday 17th December, Horham church holds a carol



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

service at 4pm; Redlingfield's carol service will be at 6pm on Tuesday 19th December; and Athelington will have a crib service at 6pm on Saturday 23rd December. Plus don't miss our always popular Live Nativity in a stable in Denham at 3pm on Christmas Eve – look out for more details!

For Christmas itself Horham church will hold its usual Midnight service at 11.30pm on 24th December and there will be a service of Holy Communion at Redlingfield at 9.30am on Christmas morning.

As the carol says: "For lo, the days are hast'ning on when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing."

I wish you all a joyful and peace-filled Christmas when it comes and a very happy New Year.

God bless. Eleanor

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

■ CHORAL EVENTS: There are two choral events at Wingfield Church over the next few months ... on Wednesday 6th December at 7pm the Waveney Choir will sing carols old and new and a few jolly items too. Refreshments will be available. No need to book – just turn up. Donations of £10 invited. On Sunday 18th February at 6pm the Jubilate group of 14 singers will join Wingfield's regular Evensong. All welcome; entrance is free.

WAVENEY FOODBANK: More food is always required so if you can, please make extra donations at Hoxne church or when you do your supermarket shop. Tinned and dry foods along with jams (not home-made) and pasta sauces always welcome or you may donate money online www.waveney.foodbank.org.uk or phone 07484 3947490.

■ **REDLINGFIELD CHURCH WINDOWS:** The event at St Andrew on the weekend of 2 and 3 December (11am-3pm) will have the theme "All I want for Christmas". Refreshments will be available and all proceeds will go to St Andrews.

CHURCH SERVICES

Planned church services December to February.

Saturdays & Sundays: CW Morning Prayer at 8am on facebook.com/WingfieldChurch; Fridays: Compline at 6pm on Zoom.

Sunday 3rd Dec Advent Sunday

9.30am BCP Communion, Hoxne; 4pm Messy Church, Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall;

4pm Confirmation & commissioning of Lay Elder, **Wingfield** (Bishop Mike); 4pm Advent Carol Service, **Athelington**

Sunday 10th Dec Second Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 17th Dec Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am CW Communion, Hoxne; 4pm Carol Service, Horham; (no evensong at Wingfield).

Tuesday 19th Dec

6pm Carol Service, Redlingfield.

Saturday 23rd Dec

6pm Crib Service, Athelington.

Sunday 24th Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

11am Benefice Communion, Hoxne; 3pm Live Nativity, **Denham;** 11.30pm Midnight Service, Horham.

Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day

9.30am CW Communion, **Redlingfield**; 10am Christmas Celebration, **Syleham**; 11am CW Communion, **Denham**; 11am CW Communion, **Wingfield**.

Sunday 31st Dec First Sunday of Christmas 11am Benefice Communion, Redlingfield.

Sunday 7th Jan Epiphany

9.30am CW Communion, Athelington; 11am CW Communion, Wingfield; 4pm Christingle, Syleham church.

Sunday 14th Jan Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday 21st Jan Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am CW Communion, **Hoxne;** 11.15am CW Communion, **Horham;** 6pm Evening Prayer, **Wingfield.**

Sunday 28th Jan (Candlemas) Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

Sunday 4th Feb Second Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 11th Feb Sunday next before Lent

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

Wednesday 14th Feb Ash Wednesday 7pm CW Communion, Wingfield.

Sunday 18th Feb First Sunday of Lent

9.30am CW Communion, **Hoxne;** 11.15am BCP Communion, **Horham;** 6pm BCP Evensong, **Wingfield** (Jubilate singers).

Sunday 25th Feb Second Sunday of Lent

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

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

DISTRICT COUNCIL



Lucy Elkin (covers Eye, Occold and Redlingfield) 07928 512 590 lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk

LUCY'S NEWS

■ FLOODING: The recent flooding has caused devastating damage around the District – including Redlingfield. Mid Suffolk District Council officers have been busy collecting flood damaged items and organising emergency housing for those who need it.

Recovery is going to take some time. With a changing climate, we also know that sadly we'll face more extreme weather in the coming years. It will need us all working together as communities to reduce future flood risk.

If you experienced flooding at your home or business, you may be eligible for government grants to help with flood recovery and protection, and a discount to Council Tax or business rates. For details, see: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/stormbabet-information.

The first step to accessing the grants is to report any flood damage in your home with Suffolk County Council, if you haven't already done this:

1. Visit: highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

2. Click on: 'Report It'

3. Then click: 'Drainage and Flooding'

4. Then click: 'Flooding inside residential/ non-residential property'

5. Add details, and submit report

6. Suffolk County Council will contact you to find out more, and prioritise those locations that meet the criteria for further investigation.

7. The District Council will then contact you to arrange payment, if eligible.

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If you can't submit a report online, please call 0345 606 6171.

KEEPING WARM THIS

WINTER: Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a scheme called 'Cosy Homes' to help more people stay warm, reduce energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint. The scheme aims to help 'Make your home a little cosier this winter!' It can help you upgrade your draft proofing, loft or cavity wall insulation. You can apply for a

Homes Make your home a little cosier this winter! Need to upgrade your draft proofing, loft or cavity wall insulation?

Apply for a FREE Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes installation. tox money and re

free Mid Suffolk Cosy Homes installation at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk. Save energy, money and reduce your carbon footprint.

If energy bills are a worry, you can talk to Citizens Advice on 01449 676060/01449 676 280 - or pop in to see them at Eye Library on Friday mornings.

GOT A CONCERN OR IDEA? I'd love to hear from you! Contact me by email lucy.elkin@midsuffolk.gov.uk or phone 07928 512590. For updates see www.facebook.com/CllrLucy/

With best wishes, Lucy



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DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP



For many of us, the Christmas and New Year period is a time to reflect and to think about making healthier and happier choices in our own lives and

the lives of our families and friends. I am pleased that the Government will help us to do this by introducing new laws to improve the health of our children and grandchildren and create Britain's first smoke-free generation.

As a practising NHS hospital doctor and as an MP, I believe it is the duty of every Government to improve the health of the nation. When I was Minister for Child Health, I was proud to have helped to introduce new laws to ban smoking in cars with children to protect them from the healthrelated dangers of passive smoking.

Smoking kills. Plain and simple. It is the leading cause of many types of cancer and acquired lung diseases. All too often, as a doctor, I have seen firsthand the reduction in healthy life years caused by smoking. We know that children are four times as likely to start smoking if they grow up with smokers, and once they do it is highly addictive and difficult to quit.

Smoking has become responsible for many thousands of deaths from cancer every year, placing huge pressure on the NHS. Sadly, too many GP appointments each month are taken up by smokingrelated illness.

Smoking is also the main driver of health inequality across the country. Deaths from smoking are more than two times higher in the most deprived parts of Suffolk, where more people smoke, compared to our wealthier areas. In simple terms, smoking destroys lives. Therefore, I am pleased that we shall soon see historic new laws which will prevent children who are under the age of 14 this year, from ever legally being sold cigarettes when they turn 18.

The smoking age will shortly be raised by a year, each and every year, until it applies to the whole population. This has the potential to phase out smoking in the next generation of young adults, almost completely, as early as 2040. The health

and care system will save billions of pounds and vast numbers of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and other lung diseases will be avoided, hundreds of thousands of lives will be saved. No parent ever wants their child to start the deadly habit of

smoking.

Becoming addicted to cigarettes in early life is one of the worst things that can happen for future health. Now parents will get the support and backing they need to ensure a healthier and smoke-free future for their children. We can all help build a better and brighter future for our children and grandchildren by stamping out smoking for good.

At a time when we consider our own New Year's Resolutions, I am proud that we are taking the necessary and robust action in the battle to stop England smoking.

This game changing plan will make for a healthier country and allow our children and grandchildren to have a much better chance of leading long and healthy lives.

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



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