

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



**SPRING 2011-2012
ISSUE No. 17**



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HORHAM HAS BEEN HITTING THE HEADLINES RECENTLY. FIRST there was the furore over plans for wind turbines on the old airfield but more recently there were happier headlines with veteran Melvin Spencer returning to Horham for the first time since WW2. 'The man who came to breakfast' made a big splash in the EDP and just missed out on a TV appearance.

SPRING LOOKS AS IF IT HAS finally sprung. The temperature's rising and there are already warnings of a summer of drought. Luckily we'll have lots to distract us this year – the never-ending build-up to the Olympics will finally be over, our attention, however briefly, will be turned on to the UEFA European Football Championship and there's the Queen's Jubilee to celebrate with a double bank holiday. And not so long ago we were facing freezing temperatures and snow. For those with short memories Don Moyes has provided us with a photo to remind us of the late winter freeze.



THE MORE EAGLE-EYED AMONGST YOU HAVE PROBABLY NOTICED that something went awry with our Spring 2011 and Summer 2011 issues. I only noticed it when working on Redlingfield's new website and loading up all the old magazines. I forgot to change the issue number so back then we had two issue 13s on the trot, unlucky eh! We are back on track now so welcome to issue 17, or is it 18?

Mike Ager

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact: Evelyn Adey on evelynadey@e1603.fsnet.co.uk or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

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You can receive your village magazine electronically. Email mike@gn.apc.org with your name and address (so you don't get a paper version as well) and when the next issue is published we'll email it to you as a pdf. Or you can find the pdfs of current and previous issues at www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk

An ill wind excites birders

The weather is again exercising Trevor Edwards as he welcomes some rare visitors and local success stories

FEATURING A VERY MILD January and a frozen February, the winter will also be remembered as a particularly blowy one. Certainly, the remnants of Hurricane Katia crossing the Atlantic put the wind up the birders, as the exciting result was a very rare North American visitor landing in Boyton Marshes, a beautiful thing called a **sandhill crane**.

Common cranes, on a local scale in medieval times, were numerous indeed, but as they needed lowland bog and wet woodland to flourish, the draining of lowland England virtually finished them off. However, in Suffolk the Anglo-Saxon name of “cran” lives on, as in Cranley Green, near Eye, an area of damp rough grazing which was drained by Italian prisoners of war to help feed the war effort, and also Cransford.

THE DAWN OF NOVEMBER 27TH was memorable for a wind strong enough to blow a dog off a chain. On opening the door, I found the sky filled with a huge flock of very noisy

rooks passing overhead, some caw-cawing, some gently chow-chowing as they hurtled along in the gale. It then dawned on me that most were flying sideways, letting the wind sweep them along, and giving the unmistakable impression they were having a chat on their way to breakfast. Tom Gawthrop, who emigrated to France to escape from pig farming in the Eighties, explained why French cockerels

crow before dawn. They like to get a word in edgeways before the hens wake up.

AS EARLY AS THE END OF January, a few rooks could be seen perched by high nests as though intent on bagging a good one before spring arrives. Snetterton, in Norfolk, lays claim to one of the largest rookeries in the country and the locals still maintain an old tradition of a May rook shoot. Apparently, young rook is very tasty though you won't find me at the front of the queue.

JANUARY 6TH SAW THE END OF the prolonged windy spell, and our



**A rare sandhill crane on Boyton Marshes
and, facing page, common cranes.**



barn owl was up-and-about early. No doubt he was pretty hungry because owl hunting forays are hampered by wind noise. The Suffolk barn owl success is now official, due to the combination of improved habitat and more nest-boxes. There are now more breeding barn owls in the county than there were 50 years ago.

Another bird doing better is the **kestrel**, and Rick Waters of Cranley Green, has done his bit to help. He tells of rescuing one from his sheep trough, too soaked to fly away after toppling in. Wisely avoiding beak and talons, he tipped out the fierce-eyed falcon which then skulked in the hedge to dry before flying off.

With such a good view of the conspicuous barred feathers, he confirmed it was a juvenile, so really just another teenager struggling with a

drink problem. At least Rick managed this rescue without a fuss. Eddie Coe, our retired blacksmith, could not believe his eyes when he read of three fire engines sent to the aid of a seagull with a broken wing in Norwich. Bonkers or what!

He also, with that lovely smile of his, tells of a lady who asked the fire brigade to rescue her cat from a tree. The reward for the crew was a cup of tea, after which they drove away, squashing the cat which was by now sitting under the fire engine.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF WASH FARM bird-watching has been as easy as it has been enjoyable. Numerous **bullfinches**, both male and female, day after day, have descended on the lawn, with a top score of eight on the 27th January.

continued over

Continued from page 3

The lawn has been covered with ash seeds, again due to the strong winds, and the bullfinches have had a fine old time hoovering them up. Reasons to be cheerful, as in 2009 our official farm bird count didn't spot a single one. Ash keys, as they are sometimes called, are a favoured food of the bullfinch and the ash tree proliferates in the clay soils of this area, the Heart of High Suffolk. So, it is very pleasing to find our garden favoured by a bird not just tempted in by grub from the bird feeders.

In spring, the infamous diet of the bullfinch is 30 per cent soft green shoots and buds, so perhaps I should prepare for a lean apple crop next year.

This late winter cold spell, with four inches of snow on February 4th, has confirmed the value of providing winter bird feed sites.

Sarah Buchanan has scores of yellow hammers on her long meadow grass, uncut last year, and my environmental bird seed scheme, a mix of radish, turnip and mustard, is

helping to feed a hundred or more chaffinches at the Hall.

SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY ALL IN all, a very good day. A robin is singing before dawn, the garden is full of bullfinches, and the Sunday morning game of tennis is held up as we admire three low-flying **mute swans** passing overhead. The mute compensates for poor vocal skills with "singing" wings, an exhilarating, throbbing wing-beat, which is said to have inspired Wagner in composing *The Ride of the Valkyrie*.

It certainly took our minds off the Nadal/Djokovic classic in Melbourne. Many people can recall a scare from the male mute swans' aggression, as in the saying, "a blow from a swan's wing can break a man's arm," but I expect that is more myth than fact.

MOLES ARE EVERYWHERE, YOU can love them or hate them. A mole can burrow a mile a day. Not a lot of people know that, as Michael Caine would say.

Wash Farm Wildlife, Trevor Edwards

■ **BLOWING UP A STORM:** The proposal to build two wind turbines on Horham Airfield has been withdrawn. The plans for the erection of two 50kw wind turbines (36.4m height to hub, 9.6m radius blades) on Lodge Farm were shelved after a petition with more than 180 signatures protesting against the plans was handed in to Mid Suffolk District Council. A spokesperson for Mosscliff Environmental, the company behind the scheme, told the *Diss Express*: "The planning process has allowed us to consult with many organisations and individuals and after reviewing all of the concerns raised relating to the wind energy proposal, we have decided to withdraw the planning application. This is pending further consultation with the view to re-submit an application once all issues are addressed." More than 40 public comments were registered with Mid Suffolk. Horham and Athelington Parish Council objected to the wind turbines as they would be to the detriment of a historical feature in the landscape – Horham Airfield.

A concert of celebration

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Stradbroke & District Branch is holding a concert to celebrate the Queen's 86th birthday.

The concert on Saturday, April 21st is at Stradbroke Business & Enterprise College, Wilby Road, Stradbroke, starting 7pm.

The concert will feature a birthday toast, the Ipswich Hospital Band, Suffolk RBL standards and drumhead service – a church service conducted “in the field”. Guests will include Colin Hawkins, RBL Suffolk chair, and Richard Stretch, county padre.

Tickets, costing £5, are available until April 18th from Horham Post Office and Stradbroke Post Office or by post with SAE from Bernard Mills, 21, The Orchards, Laxfield, Suffolk, IP13 8EE. Cheques payable to Royal British Legion, Stradbroke Branch.

WITH NO MEETING IN JANUARY, I would like to thank all those who have given outstanding service. These include our secretary Jeremy Higgins and his wife Anne for hosting many events, Joyce Copper our welfare officer and standard bearer who dealt with 17 welfare cases during 2011 plus organising the poetry competition at Stradbroke Business & Enterprise College, the Christmas tree collections for the Poppy Appeal and the concert to celebrate the Queen's 86th birthday.

Finally, many thanks to Simon

Harrison who raised £1,412 in sponsorship with his Pedal to Paris in September. He has also sponsored postage for letters sent to members during the year. The efforts of these members help make us one of the best branches in Suffolk with a membership of 84.

The Christmas lunch was a great success with a super meal served by Bob Wilson and staff from Laxfield King's Head. Branch chaplain David Streeter gave the Christmas message and Douglas Christos accompanied on keyboards.

The annual Suffolk County RBL Conference in January was attended by new branch treasurer Bernard Mills, Albert Siggers, Jeremy Higgins, who was our delegate, Joyce Cooper, who paraded the branch standard and myself as county vice president.

Details of the annual branch dinner on March 30th and the concert will go out in a letter to all members.

The speaker at our February meeting was branch member Douglas Crooks who is 90 years of age. He spoke of his time in the Gurkhas, where he reached the rank of major and is the oldest living officer to have served.

The speaker at our next branch meeting on Thursday, March 1st will be Joyce Cooper who will talk on Gallipoli. It is, as usual, at Laxfield King's Head starting 11.30pm.

**Branch Chairman,
Michael Burton**



Welcoming the windmills'

I AM WALKING AGAIN!
This time passing Poplar Hall Farm where I get a good view of the new wind generators.

I like them very much. They are a welcome addition to the scene. Their design is straight forward with clean lines giving them an appropriate air of efficiency. There are three of them and an odd number of any grouping is considered good in the rule book of numerous schools of design.

The clincher in 19th Century aesthetic terms is that they serve the purposes of both beauty and utility. Last but not least, their scale is right.

In the great outdoors scale is often difficult to get right. The problem is to create something which is big enough to have some presence but at the same time not overpowering up close – I am not asking for the Great Pyramid of



The Benjamin Britten memorial.

Cheops or the Forth Bridge, but as a very general rule, out of doors, big is best.

This seems to be especially true of sculpture where the pieces are usually completely dwarfed when sited in an open landscape and is certainly the main failing (there are others) of the Benjamin Britten memorial on the beach near Aldeburgh. As you walk across the long expanse of shingle,

you first see it at a considerable distance and trudging along it is, and remains, a tiny, less than impressive thing in the landscape with no apparent form or significant outline for most of your journey towards it. It is only in the last few yards that it achieves any size

Windmills at Poplar Hall Farm in the morning mist.



return ...

and impact on the eye and even at this point it appears, somehow to be only about 2/3 "life size".

Were it in a more confined space such as an urban square or a large hall, there would not be the problem of the long approach and it might then seem an object of some consequence.

Our three wind turbines, on the other hand, are very satisfying objects in the landscape, to my eye at least. and are well sited at the top of a gentle rise – this must make it a good place to catch the wind.

The view of them from the WW2 concrete pillbox on the Occold road is worthy of Constable and seen on a blustery winter afternoon just before the light goes would surely get Turner reaching for his paint box (perhaps I exaggerate)!

A word of consolation for those among us who hate the sight of wind generators; remind yourselves that they are merely the modern version of the picturesque windmills or watermills which for all I know were equally reviled in their day but are now looked upon with nostalgia as reassuring images of a bygone time. Some people will even have nice little watercolours on their walls depicting such pre-industrial power converters. There's an idea ... If you should happen, on some blustery winter afternoon to see me out on the Occold Road, just before the light goes, with my paint box; please don't run me over!

Neville Butcher

■ **HOW DO WE SAVE THE NHS?** Do you worry about what is going to happen to the NHS? I know I do. I've listened carefully to what has been going on and even read most of the Government's publications on the proposed changes, which run to thousands of pages. But I've come to the conclusion that this bill is going to be just about the worst thing that has ever happened to the NHS. As for the introduction of "more competition" – the consultancy firms and lawyers are rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of how much they will earn. It is privatisation by the back door and the American health companies who have been "advising" the Government created the US health system, which is the most expensive on the planet. If you make money by treating sick people, you can make more if more people stay sick. As a regular user over the last few years I have to say I've found the NHS to be excellent. Doctors, nurses and health workers can be given more influence and control without this bill, there is no need to rip apart our health service. Doctors, nurses and midwives have all come out against it but the Government refuses to listen. What can people who disagree do? Dr Chand, who has an OBE for services to medicine, has set up a petition calling on the Government to drop the bill. I urge anyone who feels as I do to sign it at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22670>. You can also write to David Cameron at 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA or our MP Dr Dan Poulter at Houses of Parliament, Westminster London SW1A 0AA or email him at daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk.

Janet Norman-Philips

■ **CHRISTMAS CHEER:** Father Christmas had a very busy morning on Christmas day making lots of deliveries in Horham and Athelington. A total of £520 was raised this year and has been sent to the EACH. Since we started in 2003 we have raised more than £4,100. Many thanks to everyone who donated. We hope to see you all again Christmas 2012. ***Mother and Father Christmas***

■ **ART GROUP:** Hoxne & District Art Group, for all ages and abilities, is held on Wednesday evenings at Hoxne Sports Pavilion (6pm-9pm). Group and individual tuition given. Each member develops their own ideas within a variety of materials. For further details contact Stephen Govier on 668532.

■ **A BIG THANK YOU:** I would like to thank everyone who came to my assistance after I fractured my arm at the end of October – the meals cooked, transport and help given and also everyone who came to see me when I was confined to barracks. It was all greatly appreciated. ***Janet Fisk***

■ **POPPY COLLECTION:** I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Poppy Appeal – a total of £260 was raised in Horham. I would like to thank Annie Harvey, Melva Huggins and Elizabeth Hall who help with the Appeal every year. Also my husband Peter who collected on my patch because I was incapacitated. ***Janet Fisk***

■ **LADIES LUNCH:** The next Redlingfield Ladies Lunch, organised by Joyce Leeder and Linda Hudson, will be on Wednesday, April 18th at The Swan, Fressingfield. Any enquiries to Linda Hudson on 678984. ***Jacqueline Love***

Getting into

SOMETIMES, THE MOST mundane things can lead to strange offbeat corners of collecting.

In my case, it started when I took my son for his first orthodontic session in Bury in early February. In the waiting area a strange but familiar sound hit my ears. For once it wasn't Radio 2 or Vivaldi's Four Seasons, but ... Deep Purple, specifically their 1970 album 'In Rock'. This got me thinking, was my old vinyl copy worth anything?

When I went to university in the early '80s I had about 40 LPs to my name. By the end, I must have had four times that amount, that's where some of my student grant went!

By the '90s I was an enthusiastic buyer of CDs, and my LPs went into storage; in fact they've only emerged in the last year or so. In the interim, the world of record collecting has been transformed by the internet.

As a book dealer, I know the importance of the magic words 'first edition' in a book. In some cases it's the difference between a volume worth hundreds or hardly anything.

When I started buying LPs, the only distinctions made were between 'old' and 'recent' pressings, but that's all changed with the apparently anorakish study of stamper codes.

These are the codes stamped between the run-out grooves of a vinyl LP, which were updated with each successive pressing as the master discs

the grooves

wore out; for the most collectable bands there are dozens of web pages which catalogue them in almost tedious detail.

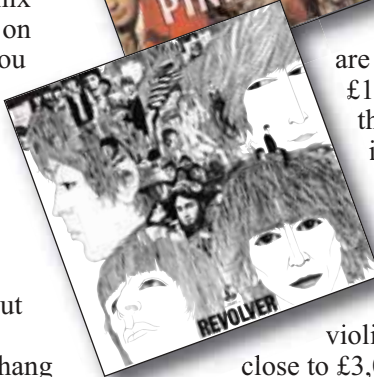
Grubbing around my old albums I came across a mono copy of the Beatles' 'Revolver' from 1966 – what was the story with this? It turns out that the very first pressing had an 'inferior' version of 'Tomorrow Never Knows' included at the end of side two, known to collectors as 'Remix 11'. The vital stamper code on side two is XEX 606-1, if you must know. Lo and behold, that's exactly what my LP had, and what's more it's quite a decent copy, one to snaffle away for a rainy day.

My mono copy of Pink Floyd's first album turned out to be a second pressing, but again, it's a nice artefact to hang on to.

Since then I've been reading recent copies of Record Collector magazine and realise that there's serious money out there chasing rare vinyl; one



Deep Purple In Rock, Pink Floyd's Piper At The Gates Of Dawn and The Beatles' Revolver.



45rpm 'Northern Soul' rarity made £19,000 in 2007. Often the rarefied auction arena of Ebay is the place where such staggering prices are achieved. Recent £1,000+ records on the site have included discs by the Beatles, David Bowie and (more astonishingly) a vintage three-LP set of Bach

violin sonatas that made close to £3,000.

Meanwhile, my old copy of 'Deep Purple in Rock' was indeed a first pressing, but it's only worth about £15, so I won't be retiring just yet.

Chris Mawson, Bowhill Books

■ **HOME-START VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Home-Start Mid Suffolk needs people to become volunteers. Volunteers, usually parents, help other parents cope with the stresses and strains of bringing up a family. If you have two to three hours a week to spare you could become a volunteer with the charity, helping give children the best possible start in life. For more information contact Maria Price, scheme co-ordinator, on 01379 678552 or email: office@homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk

**Home
START**

Freedom, choice & other

Evelyn Adey muses on what freedom and choice mean to her

WE LIVE IN A FREE country and we have choice. That is the assumption we, our politicians and advertising companies make and although true it is relative. We are indeed free compared with people living under a dictator and surrounded by secret police.

A few years ago, on holiday in Syria, one member of our group, (rather stupidly), asked our guide whether President Assad was a popular ruler. Not surprisingly the guide became very uncomfortable; a man emerged from a nearby cafe and stood over the guide while he expressed his loyalty. I recognised how lucky I was to live in a country where I feel free to criticise politicians, including those I vote for.

On the other hand there is no complete freedom in the sense that the young think of it, which is often a cross between anarchy and the Garden of Eden.

When we commit to any relationship

whether work or personal or to an organisation we do so because on balance we agree to adhere to their rules, needs and so forth, we feel we will get what we want out of it.

In effect, we choose to give up some freedom, this is particularly obvious when we choose to have children!

What amounts to a contract between the committed and the employer or 'other' breaks down when the commitment is taken for granted and the 'other' rides roughshod over the committed.

All too often those in charge bandy about the words freedom and choice when there is no real choice at all.

Supermarkets tell us we choose their produce while at the same time their market research has led them to display goods in particular ways, reduce certain prices and so forth.

I was interested to read recently that Dostoyevsky's Ivan Karamazov told his brother that people do not want freedom; they want a strong leader who makes them feel secure.

■ **WINTER COFFEE MORNINGS:** Redlingfield's winter coffee mornings have been enjoyed and hosted by villagers. They were hosted in November by Linda Hudson and in December by David and Jacqueline Love. On the latter occasion a record 29 people enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and a free raffle. The record attendance included two BBC researchers looking for older people to appear on a TV show looking at the challenges facing retired people. Jan Butcher hosted the January coffee morning and Pat Kelly hosted the one in February. We end the winter meetings on March 7th at the home of Chris and Midge Gibbons where there will be a free raffle. I would like to thank Hazel Abbott for her delicious scones, sausage rolls, cakes, etc., which she provides each month without fail.

Jacqueline Love

animals

Almost the same day there was an article about President Putin saying that part of his popularity was based on the fact that Russians, over many centuries, had been used to paternalistic regimes.

So I started to wonder how much freedom I really want. I know I like to feel able to criticise but I also like to feel I belong to a few things. I know I like to choose what to buy, what to commit to but I do not want to spend time constantly changing my electricity company, nor do I want to choose the detail of how a professional manages my problem. So I want a government that regulates electricity, medicine, the law etc.

Press freedom is much in the news and I certainly support basic privacies but hearing what is going on in Syria makes me full of admiration for the courageous foreign correspondents. If they and current systems of communication had been around in the thirties Hitler would not have got away with his treatment of the Jews for so long.

Christian doctrine states that perfect freedom is found in the service of God because God will not abuse our commitment. Freedom and choice seem to be delicate flowers, made more difficult by the fact that we all have different ideas about which freedoms are essential.

On balance, the freedom that counts is the freedom to choose to commit and so to give up some freedom.

■ **FISH AND CHIP SUPPER:** Registered charity, the Spinal Injuries Association, is looking for people to take part in their Great British Fish and Chip Supper on Friday, May 18th. They want people to hold a fish and chip supper in their home, at work or in their community centre to raise funds to support individuals who become paralysed and their families. For more information or to request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

■ **COFFEE MORNING:** Please come to a coffee morning on Thursday, April 26th, for Horham Church Funds, 10.30am-12.30pm, at Viewfield House, The Street, Horham, by kind invitation of Brian and Gail Marsh. (It's on the left, opposite the Denham junction). Cake stall, raffle and bric-a-brac.

David Streeter

■ **OPEN GARDENS:** St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich is looking for people to open their gardens to raise funds for the charity. If you are interested in opening your garden between May and September to help the charity please call 01473 723600 or email fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk.

■ **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** All Saints Church, Stradbroke, on Friday, March 2nd, at 2pm. Service prepared by the Christian women of Malaysia, our speaker will be Jennifer Chetwynd, Lay Elder. All welcome.

Margaret Streeter

■ **GROUP CLOSES:** Eye & Stradbroke Family History Group has closed down due to low numbers attending their monthly meetings.

Beware of the scammers

COMPUTER OWNERS ARE being warned to watch out for bogus callers claiming to be from Microsoft.

The scammers claim to be Microsoft engineers and say Microsoft's remote security system has detected a problem on the victims' computers.

If successful, the victims help the fraudsters gain remote access to their computers. This can give fraudsters access to personal information including account log-in information and bank details, which can be used to commit fraud.

Victims can also end up being asked to pay for these 'fixes' the fraudster has made to their computer.

Protect yourself from Microsoft scams by: being suspicious of unsolicited calls related to a security problem, even if they claim to represent a respected company; never providing personal information, such as credit card or bank details, to an unsolicited caller; not going to websites, typing anything into a computer, installing software or following any other instruction from someone who calls out of the blue; taking the caller's information down and passing it to the authorities; using up-to-date versions of Windows and application software; making sure security updates are installed regularly; and by using a strong password and changing it regularly; making sure your firewall is turned on and antivirus software is installed and up to date.

Microsoft advises anyone who thinks they may already have been a victim of a phone scam to: change all of their passwords; scan their computer with the Microsoft Safety Scanner to find out if they have malware installed on their computer; and contact their bank and credit card companies.

A scam is usually uninvited and unsolicited. This means it will come from a company or person you've never heard of by: post – through a letter or promotional leaflet; email – through a personal or promotional message; spam emails; phone – cold calling; or text message.

A scam will: give extravagant promises – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is; ask you to pay for something upfront, eg you have to pay a fee to claim a prize; put pressure on you to make a quick decision, eg an investment opportunity will end unless you pay straight away; or ask for bank account details so they can steal your money.

Never give out bank details to people you don't know or people you meet online.

If you have any concerns, you should contact Suffolk Police on the new non-emergency phone number of 101 or email Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team at midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

***Mid Suffolk North Safer
Neighbourhood Team, PCSO 3172
Steven Long & PC 878 Jacqui
Thomas - Eye Police Station***

Saturday, March 3

Cake stall: opposite Stradbroke Church. Starts 8.30am.

Wednesday, March 7

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Midge Gibbon's Rush Meadow, 10am-noon.

Chick Flick: 'La Vie En Rose', Wingfield Barns, 8pm. £10 each or four for £30 if pre-booked. Wine & chocs. Girls only.

Sunday, March 11

Redlingfield litter pick: clean up the verges etc in your area.

Friday, March 16

Beverley Craven: Songs about life, love, liberation & libido, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. £19.50, booking essential.

Saturday, March 17

1940s Dance: Red Feather Club, Horham.

Eye Bach Choir & Orchestra Concert:

Eye Parish Church. Eye Bach Choir with soloists, perform Schubert's Mass in A flat major & Magnificats by Vivaldi & Pergolesi. 7.30pm. £12 reserved, £10 unreserved. Tickets from Eye Pharmacy or 01728 747371 or on door.

Saturday & Sunday, March 17 & 18

Mothers Day Weekend: Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Stonham Barns, 10am-5pm. Admission free to members of the Mothers Union & Women's Institute.

Sunday, March 18

Horse Lovers Event: Wingfield Barns, stalls selling old & new horse-related stuff, including feed, tack, clothing & stable goods. Talks from local experts on horse care & management & to round the day off, at 5pm there will be a screening of 'Sea Biscuit'.

Thursday, March 22

Cinema In Stradbroke: 'The Help': Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre, doors & bar open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm. Ices sold & bar open during interval. Hearing loop available. Tickets £5.50 on door. Further info: 388629.

Friday, March 23**Sig & Serv in 'Say One For Me':**

Hilarious tales & adventures with the irreverent duo, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm. Contains adult humour. Tickets £8.

Sunday, March 25

Free Day: Museum Of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket. For info: 01449 612229 or www.eastanglianlife.org.uk.

Work party: 10am prepare Redlingfield Doorstep Green for new storage unit.

Tuesday, March 27

Beetle Drive: Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre, 7.30pm. In aid of Church funds. Info: 384642.

Saturday, March 31

Occold Market & Car Boot: 9.30am-noon.

Saturday, April 7

'Real' Craft Fair: Mid Suffolk Showground, Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal, 10am-4pm. Crafts in action throughout the day. Admission £2. Free parking. Further info: Julie Bentley 01473 735524 or juliebentley@tiscali.co.uk

Sunday & Monday, April 8 & 9

Easter With Children In Mind: Mid Suffolk Light Railway, Wetheringsett, 11am-5pm. Steam train rides with Easter activities aimed at children. Tours of workshops available & museum open, as well as café & shop. Adults £6, children £3, concessions £4.50, family £15. Info: 01449 766899 (Wed & Sat).

Sunday, April 8**Easter Fun Day & Easter Egg Hunt:**

Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, 10am-4pm. Easter egg hunt, activities, animals & workshops! Art workshops free to visitors who have paid their entry. Info: 01449 612229.

Folk Concert Duo: The Duo Teresa Carreño – one of the most exciting Venezuelan chamber music groups in the UK, Wingfield Barns, 3.30pm. Tickets £10.

Wednesday, April 11

Chick Flick: 'Little Miss Sunshine', Wingfield Barns, 8pm. £10 each or four for £30 if pre-booked. Wine & chocs included. Girls only!

Saturday, April 14

Quiz: Worlingworth Cricket Club Pavilion, 7.30pm.

Sunday, April 15

Classic Car Day: Vintage cars, classic cars & owners welcome, Wingfield Barns. Stalls, food, large picnic garden. Admission & parking free. Coffee shop, cafe & bar open all day.

Tuesday, April 17

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

Wednesday, April 18

Redlingfield Ladies Lunch: Enquiries to Linda Hudson on 678984.

Redlingfield Doorstep Green tidy: from 6pm, come along & get the Doorstep Green ready for the summer.

Saturday, April 21

Suffolk Marmalade Festival: All Saints' Church, Thorndon, 10.30am-04.30pm. 1st Suffolk Marmalade Festival. Lowestoft Dog Agility Team, Gislingham Silver Band & Eye Karate & Fitness Display Team. Plus stalls, BBQ etc.

RBL Celebration concert: For Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 86th birthday, Stradbroke Business & Enterprise College, 7pm (see story).

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22

St George's Weekend: Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Stonham Barns, 10am-5pm. Flying displays, quiz, safari trail, military vehicles. Serving military personnel & veterans go free. For info: 08456 807897.

Thursday, April 26

Coffee Morning: 10.30am-12.30pm, Viewfield House, The Street, Horham, for Horham Church Funds.

Cinema In Stradbroke: 'The Iron Lady', Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre (see March 22 for info).

Saturday, April 28

Redlingfield Cheese & Wine: Horham Community Centre, tickets £10.

Thursday-Friday, May 3-May 7

Stradbroke Art Exhibition & Sale of Pictures: Preview on Wednesday 2nd, 7pm-9pm, with wine & refreshments.

Saturday, May 12

Open Day: 10am-4pm, Red Feather Club, Horham. The 95th BGHA 'Wallopers' versus the 1285th Military Police Re-enactment Group 'Snowdrops' at softball.
1940s Dance: Skyliner band, Red Feather Club, Horham.

Cinema In Stradbroke: 'Artist' or 'War Horse', Stradbroke Sports & Community Centre (see March 22 for info).

Sunday, May 13

Grand Open Day: 10am-5pm, Red Feather Club, Horham. In addition to the normal attractions there will be military vehicles, trade stands, exhibits from other aviation societies & a refreshment stand. Several US visitors should be attending (including veterans & their families). Admission £1.

Open Day: 10am-5pm, 95th Bomb Group Hospital Museum, Shingle Hill, Denham. Military vehicles, new tea rooms open & American visitors.

Tuesday, May 15

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield village centre, 2pm-4pm.

Wednesday, May 16

Redlingfield AGM: Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

Friday, May 18

Cheese & Wine: Ss Michael & All Angels Church, Occold.

Saturday, May 19

Annual Plant Sale: Ss Michael & All Angels Church, Occold.

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

Wednesday, May 23

Redlingfield Churchyard clear up: from 6pm.

Sunday, May 27

Open Day: 10am-4pm, Red Feather Club, Horham.

Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair:

Helmingham Hall. In partnership with Suffolk Plant Heritage (see advert).

Saturday, June 2

Jubilee celebration: Redlingfield Doorstep Green.

Sunday, June 3

Jubilee celebration: Horham.

Saturday, June 9

Horham Bygones Country Rally: (see story)

Saturday, June 16

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

Tuesday, June 19

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

Sunday, June 24

Open Day: 10am-4pm, Red Feather Club, Horham.

Tuesday, July 3

Open gardens: In Worlingworth & Southolt.

Saturday, July 7

Hawaiian dance: Red Feather Club, Horham.

Saturday, July 14

Redlingfield Summer BBQ: Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Tuesday, July 17

Coffee Caravan: Redlingfield village centre, 2pm-4pm.

Sunday, July 29

Open Day: 10am-4pm, Red Feather Club, Horham.

Suffolk Dog Day: Helmingham Hall (see advert).

Sunday, August 5

Festival of Classic & Sports Cars: Helmingham Hall (see advert).

Saturday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 27

30th Anniversary Flower & Produce show: Worlingworth.

● Information for events: **Redlingfield:** pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, 678835 or www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk. **Wingfield Barns:** 384505, enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com, or www.wingfieldbarns.com

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

TUESDAYS: Improver line dance class: Coronation Hall, Wilby. 9.30am-11.30am. Rose, 870346. **Bingo:** Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every other Tues. 678178.

WEDNESDAYS: Redlingfield & Occold WI, 1st Wed of the month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Improver/intermediate line dance class:** Wortham Community Centre. 7.30pm-9.30pm. Rose, 870346. **Hoxon**

Hundred: Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practices. Ron Ross, 643563.

THURSDAYS: Keep fit classes: 8pm, Worlingworth Village Hall, all abilities, lose weight, tone up – £4 per session. Call Sarah on 07884 186849 for details. **Hoxne Garden Club:** 3rd Thurs St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, 7.30pm

FRIDAYS: Bingo: Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly. 7.30pm. Mary Ellis, 384642.

FRIDAYS/SUNDAYS: Traditional music: Worlingworth Swan, 2nd Fri evening of month in spring & summer. Sun lunch in autumn & winter.

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

Village hedges prove to be a

Villagers' efforts to survey Redlingfield's hedgerows have proved well worthwhile with some truly 'exceptional results' logged

THE RESULTS ARE BACK from Redlingfield's Hedgerow Survey and the village's status as a wildlife haven has been confirmed by Suffolk Hedgerow Survey chairman Guy Ackers.

More than half of the field boundaries in the village were surveyed by group leader Chris Gibbons, his wife Midge, Linda Hudson, Stephen Ling, Mike Ager and Janet Norman-Philips.

Redlingfield was the 304th parish survey to be completed in the county and the 67th in Mid Suffolk. The survey started in June 2008, lapsed and then restarted in 2010 and surveyed 43 landscape hedgerows and another 10 field boundaries without hedges. There was also another boundary with no access and about 41 field boundaries not surveyed, making a total of 94 field boundaries.

Guy Ackers was particularly pleased

that the village had a trio of veteran oaks in hedgerows – veterans are oaks with diameter of more than 3.2 metres (ten-and-a-half feet). He wrote that “they are almost certainly a boundary marker and therefore indicate great age of the hedgerow network in the parish”.

Hedgerows with 13 or more species are considered exceptional and a trio of the hedgerows surveyed had 13 species, two were home to 14 species and one hedge had 16. More than half the hedgerows in the parish are species-rich.

Guy Ackers added that this would “indicate some historical age and underline the fact that the species-rich hedgerow network in the parish will support a good variety of wildlife”.

Redlingfield's hedgerows are also particularly densely packed into a small area making it a “really beautiful landscape”. He added that it was “clear to

■ HORHAM BYGONES COUNTRY RALLY: Preparations are well under way for the annual rally on Saturday June 9th with new attractions being lined up. Organisers hope many old favourites will return but also that first-timers East Coast Truckers' Charity will be at the show to raise money for their famous Children's Convoy and the fast-growing and award-winning Blue Force tractor group, for friends of Fordson, Ford and New Holland tractors, will have a stall. For youngsters, another debutant, the County Gate Model Show's model farm should prove popular. Organisers have reluctantly put up admission prices after many years and this year they will be: adults £5; concessions £3; family ticket £12; accompanied under 5s free. The event, from 10am until 5pm, on Horham & Athelington Recreation Field also has a new-look website <http://horhambygonescountryrally.onesuffolk.net>. There is free parking and a dedicated disabled parking area. Anyone who is willing to help on the day or beforehand should get in touch with Don Moyes on 07894 903829.

Mike Ager

n real rural delight



Oak trees dot the hedges of a snowy Redlingfield.

see that the parish is very well endowed with an excellent coverage of species richness which speaks volumes for the parish and the wildlife supported by the hedgerow network”.

He wrote that “the distribution of hedgerows is pretty concentrated in parts of the parish and this may suggest that there has been little removal of hedgerows in parts during the Whitehall Agricultural Policy days of the 60s and 70s and, that there may still be just a few examples of the old feudal system of field boundaries prior to the Enclosures Act of the mid 18th century”.

He added: “In my view, the parish is heading for stardom and it would be well worthwhile to finish the study. If you can in order to confirm the parish is in the hall of fame for its species-rich hedgerow network.”

The survey may restart once the leaves are back on the trees.

Anyone interested in joining the survey or finding out more about what is involved should contact Chris Gibbons on chris.gibbons@virgin.net or 01379 678169.

Mike Ager

■ **PLANNING: Withdrawn (screening opinion)** – for the installation of two 50kw wind turbines (36.4m height to hub, 9.6m radius blades), **Lodge Farm, The Street, Horham. To be decided** – plan to install a 5KW wind turbine (height 15m to hub, 2.25m radius blades) at **Green Farm, Green Lane, Redlingfield**; plan to install a wind turbine (15m to hub, 5.5m diameter blades) at **Rookery Farm, Rookery Lane, Redlingfield**; plan to install a 5kw wind turbine (14.97m to hub, 5.5m diameter blades) at **Hill Cottage, Worlingworth Road, Horham**; plan to build a single storey side and rear extension and garage following demolition of existing, **Tudor House, The Street, Horham**; plan to build one-and-a-half-storey detached dwelling with single garage, new vehicular access and ancillary works, **The Old Eight Bells, The Street, Horham. Granted** – application to retain solar PV panels on roof of grain store, **Wash Farm, Rookery Lane, Redlingfield. Refused** – plan to erect a wind turbine (15m to hub, 5.5m diameter blades) at **2 Rookery Cottages, Rookery Lane, Redlingfield**. (Information from Mid Suffolk Council's website).

Vet returns for his jacket

MANY US VETERANS come back to visit the Red Feather Club at Horham but on Tuesday February 21st the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association had an extra special visitor. Melvin Spencer made his first trip back to Horham since February 1944. He has been immortalised as 'The Man Who Came For Breakfast' in Ian Hawkins' B-17s Over Berlin.

The story goes that Lt Spencer, a replacement airman shipped from the US, arrived late one night, was briefed and left on his first and last mission in the early hours of the following morning. At one time it was thought he had been killed on that first mission but in fact he became a Prisoner of War.

All that he left at Horham was his leather A2 jacket – which has long been on display at the Red Feather Club. The sprightly veteran was reunited with it for the first time since 1944 and dispelled 'The Man Who Came For Breakfast' myth.

Melvin Spencer, who visited with his son and grandson, said he actually spent a month at Horham during WW2 before being shot down and taken prisoner.

His story enthralled a reporter and a photographer from the EDP who gave it such a good showing that Anglia TV phoned up 95th BGHA chairman in an attempt to get him on TV. Sadly he'd already returned to London.

THE 95TH BOMB GROUP Heritage Association hopes at least four WW2 veterans will be among the US visitors on this May's reunion tour.

To help ensure that any 95th veterans, spouses or widows who want to travel can the association is offering grants of up to \$500 to help pay for their visit. The visitors will be hosted

in the UK by the association from Thursday May 10th to Wednesday May 16th.

The association's Red Feather Club home is host to a big weekend of events during their stay. A highlight on Saturday May 12th will be a softball match at 1pm between the 95th BGHA team the 'Wallopers' and the 1285th Military Police Company team the 'Snowdrops' in period dress.

On Sunday, for the Grand Open Day, from 10am to 5pm, there will be a £1 admission charge for the Red Feather Club when there will be stalls, military vehicles, a parade, US visitors and refreshments. The visitors from the US are also bringing new exhibits for the museum and goodies for the PX, the museum shop.

On Sunday the 95th Bomb Group Hospital Museum in Denham, is open from 10am to 5pm with military vehicles American visitors and their new tea rooms. Horham church tower will be also be open offering great views. Both bomb group museums are open on the last Sunday of the month May to October.

Mike Ager



HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL:

BINS: As from April, parishes will be charged by Mid Suffolk District Council for the emptying of dog waste and general rubbish bins in the village. As these new charges will have some impact on the local community charge, some rationalisation was called for and the Parish Council has decided to remove the dog waste bin sited at the Pound Lane Corner to help keep costs down for local taxpayers.

REPORTING DAMAGE: In the next few weeks the clerk will appreciate notification of any winter weather damage to the roads and footways. The council likes to be in a position to request any repairs on this nature to the Highways Department at the beginning of the new financial year.

Angela Wilkins

REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE MEETING:

EVENTS: The calendar of village events was decided at a recent meeting. They are:

Sunday, March 11 Village litter pick (clean up the verges etc in your area).

Sunday, March 25 Prepare Doorstep Green for new storage unit.

Wednesday, April 18 Doorstep Green tidy, from 6pm, (come along and get the Doorstep Green ready for the summer).

Saturday, April 28 Cheese & Wine, Horham Community Centre, tickets £10.

Wednesday, May 16 AGM, Horham Community Centre, finalising Jubilee celebration plans and electing a new chairman (bar open).

Saturday, May 19 Pub on the Green, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Wednesday, May 23 Churchyard clear up, from 6pm.

Tuesday, May 29 Village committee meeting to finalise jubilee plans and organise summer BBQ.

Saturday, June 2 Jubilee celebration, Doorstep Green.

Saturday, June 16 Pub on the Green, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Saturday, July 14 Summer BBQ, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Saturday, August 11 Pub on the Green, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Saturday, September 15 Pub on the Green, Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

Tuesday, October 16 Village committee meeting.

Dogs: Dogs have been reported running loose in the village. Dog owners should please remember that their animals should be kept under control at all times. If you have taken possession of a stray dog, the law requires you to either: return it to its owner (if known), or phone Mid Suffolk District Council on 0845 6066067, who will arrange collection of the dog.

INFORMATION BOARD: The council and 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association are planning to place an information board next to the B-17 memorial.

NEW CHAIRMAN: Janet Norman-Philips will be stepping down at the AGM.

THANK YOU: Many thanks to Steve Toll, who has stepped down from the village committee due to work pressures, for all his hard work. The committee currently includes Janet Norman-Philips (chairman), Jeanette Brierley (treasurer), Mike Ager(sec), Andrew Abbott, Graham Abbott, Katie Abbott, Sue Chapman, Allan Chapman, Chris Gibbons, Linda Hudson, Pat Kelly, Russell Kerry, Jacqueline Love, Mandy Miller.

Janet Norman-Philips, committee chairman

(pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 678835, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk)

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



RECENTLY I HEARD THE concerns of Suffolk's food producers at a meeting at C&K Meats hosted by Chris Soule and the Suffolk Federation of Small Businesses.

This flagged up the dangers of over-regulation. A number of businesses from across the food industry were present at the meeting, including small independent butchers and farm shops, who voiced their concerns about the Food Standard Agency's proposed rule changes to meat inspections at abattoirs and its new E-coli contamination guidelines for butchers.

It is important small businesses in Suffolk are not adversely affected by unnecessary regulation, and I shall be working with my Suffolk MP colleagues to fight for the interests of our farmers and food producers in Parliament in the weeks and months ahead.

Making the choice to eat local Suffolk produce is not only about supporting our food producers but also about opting for

high farming quality and high animal welfare standards. To support our local farmers, I shall continue to campaign for more honest food labelling in Parliament, by ensuring that the British food stamp is applied only to food that has been farmed in the UK, whilst pressing ministers not to burden Suffolk's farmers and food producers with costly red tape so that we can continue to enjoy the great variety of high-quality locally-produced food and drink of which we in Suffolk are so proud.

Finally, as part of my regular 'In Touch' survey to find out your views on the most important issues at a local and national level, I am this month focussing on access to health and social care for older people in Suffolk. I would encourage as many of you as possible to let me know your views on this important local topic by writing to me at Dr Dan Poulter MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or visiting www.intouchwithdrdan.com,

Dr Dan Poulter, MP - for more information see www.danielpoulter.com

■ **NEW REDLINGFIELD WEBSITE:** By the time you read this Redlingfield's new-look website should be up and running. It is very much a work in progress so if you can please take some time to have a look around the site and offer your feedback it would be much appreciated. There are even a few bits and pieces on Horham hidden away in the local history section. The new site can still be found at www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk. I have already moved Horham Bygones Country Rally over to onesuffolk's new-style websites and it can be found at <http://horhambygonescountryrally.onesuffolk.net>. Any organisations who haven't already got a website can sign up for their free onesuffolk site at <http://www.onesuffolk.net/home/signup/>

Mike Ager



YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR



SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL has set its budget for 2012-13 and the good news is that there will be no rise in Council Tax. I understand

that my colleagues in Mid Suffolk will be taking the same stance. Parish Councils will be setting their precepts soon and I hope they will do their best to follow this example.

The only certain rise is from the Suffolk Police Authority which has announced an increase in its precept.

At the moment Suffolk is the Fire Authority for the county (one of only 14 in England – the rest are stand alone authorities with the power to levy council tax). There is a tremendous strain on the budget of Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service but Suffolk CC understands this and is able to accommodate the financial needs of the service without putting the council tax up. Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service is the most cost-efficient in the country. There is considerable pressure for the setting up a separate authority. If this were to happen then, in my view, costs would rise and this would have to be met by council taxpayers.

There has been some comment in the media criticising the District Council as the collection body for writing off un-collected Council Tax. In my view, again, I think that this is unfair. In every tax collecting system some taxes are not collected. The basis of the demand should be fairer with perhaps additional bands for more expensive houses but property-based tax should still be the bedrock of local government funding.

**Guy McGregor, County Councillor –
Hoxne & Eye Division**

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



BUDGET TIME IS ALWAYS fraught and this year has been no exception. Mid Suffolk District Council has integrated with Babergh and savings made by sharing officers and senior staff. Further savings have to be made however, it is expected that council tax will be held at last year's level.

Behind the scenes a lot of work has been done with new legislation on localism, planning and licensing. Changes so decisions can be made at a more local level have their pluses and minuses but we have been working hard to make them work for communities and parishes.

District councillors, through our visits to parish councils and meetings, have the privilege of feeding your wishes into the way we interpret new laws and guidelines. Above all councils, of whatever size, exist for the benefit of their communities.

This year we will celebrate the Olympics, for which many local firms have won contracts, and the hope is tourism will also benefit. Many villages are hatching plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, another excuse for a party

I hope you will find the new website for Mid Suffolk (www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) easier to use. Apart from being able to pay tax and rent online you can find out what committees are doing and get advice on many services.

Finally, I am delighted to say that Hartismere Hospital is nearing completion and will be open in May/June. The new and impressive surroundings will offer all the services currently run from the site and those of the Complementary Medicine Centre. Other services and clinics will be run by local hospitals as they see fit.

**Elizabeth Gibson-Harries,
District Councillor – Hoxne Ward**

CHURCH

C of E Services: All Saints, Stradbroke; St Andrew, Redlingfield; St Peter, Athelington; St Mary, Horham. Holy Communion unless stated. Check times on notice boards:

Mar: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Thursdays in March), Holy Communion and A Lenten

Address at The Rectory, 10am.

2 Stradbroke, Women's World Day of Prayer Service, 2pm.

4 Horham, Benefice Communion, 11.15am.

11 Horham, 9am; **Redlingfield**, 10am.

18 Mothering Sunday, **Athelington**, 10am;

Horham, Family Service and Baptism, 11.15am.

25 Confirmation Service, Stradbroke 6.30pm.

Apr: 1 Palm Sunday, **Athelington**, 9am; **Horham**, Family Service, 11.15am.

5 Maundy Thursday, Stradbroke, 7.30pm.

6 Good Friday, Stradbroke, Passion Readings, 2-3pm;

Horham, Evensong, 7.30pm.

8 Easter Sunday, Stradbroke 8am & 11.15am; **Horham**, 9am;

Redlingfield, 10am; **Athelington**, Evensong, 6.30pm.

15 Horham, 9am; **Athelington**, 10am.

22 Redlingfield, 10am; **Horham**, Morning Prayer, 11.15am.

29 Horham, 9am; Stradbroke, 10am (with hymns and a sermon).

May: 6 Redlingfield, Benefice Communion, 10am.

13 Athelington, 10am; **Horham**, Evensong, 6pm.

17 Ascension Day, Stradbroke, 7.30pm.

20 Horham, 9am; **Redlingfield**, Morning Prayer, 10am.

27 Athelington, 10am; **Horham**, Morning Prayer, 11.15am.

June: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, June 2-5.

June 3, Horham, 9am; **Athelington**, 10am; **Redlingfield**, 6.30pm, with a celebratory toast after the service. Look for more details of the village celebrations, to be given out in May.

THE RECTOR: As you know, these are my last months as your rector, and I would like to share some prayerful thoughts with you in March (see above, beginning on the 1st, St David's Day!) I will also be putting my illustrated talks on paper, to be available afterwards. Horham Church Tower will be open on Sunday, 13th May, 10am-5pm, for you to enjoy the view, and look round inside. Stradbroke Art Exhibition & Sale of Pictures is from 3rd to 7th May, 10am-6pm with the preview on Wednesday 2nd, 7pm-9pm, with wine and refreshments. More information about the new Benefice, where our three parishes will go with Hoxne, Denham, Syleham and Wingfield is being circulated. Please ask me if you have any questions. This will take effect at the end of October. The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations are in June, and you will hear more of what is planned in the three villages nearer the time. There is an insert with this magazine, and a form for residents of Horham and Athelington to complete. Please do so, then we can make plans for our events locally.

With all good wishes, David and Margaret Streeter

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

POETRY CORNER

*January believed it was April/May, The plants carried on growing,
The birds carried on loving, The world just kept turning.*

*February lived up to "in like a lamb out like a lion",
But this lion was cold and icy and it made life dicey,
Winter came with a shock that shocked,
As usual every thing stopped and got blocked.*

*March is yet to be done, What joys does she bring,
Hopefully warmer days, warmer nights, No lighter nights, they soon roll in,*

April is just around the corner wonder what joys she will bring? **Manday Miller**



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SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair - Sunday 27th May
- Suffolk Dog Day - Saturday 29th July
- Festival of Classic & Sports Cars - Sunday 5th August
- East Suffolk Country Show - Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd September
- Plant Heritage Autumn Plant Fair - Sunday 16th September



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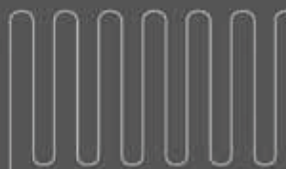
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The next issue - Summer 2012 - is due to be published at the end of May. The final deadline for all submissions is May 14.

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