

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



**SPRING 2014  
ISSUE No. 25**

# **SPURLING & REMBLANCE**



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WHILE THE WEATHER HASN'T BEEN AS BAD IN OUR CORNER OF Suffolk as in many other parts of the country it has still been a bit strange to say the least. There have only been a handful of hard frosts and we must have had enough rain to stave off any threats of hosepipe bans.

A short journey from Redlingfield to Athelington to chat to Evelyn about what we were putting in this mag provided more excitement and reversing than I needed. On the way I visited Fingal Street and the way back I got a good look at flood plains and water meadows doing what they're supposed to in Eye.

I'm becoming more and more pleased that we live in High Suffolk. Low anywhere looks a bit risky.

**JUST A SHORT WORD to dog walkers... please could you make sure you have at least a torch and maybe hi-vis gear when walking on roads at night. Just because you can see cars coming doesn't mean to say they can see you or your pooches.**

**And if you are walking on farm land please make sure you have the farmer's permission. None of us would be too pleased if people just turned up in your front yard or back garden. So please don't just wander in to farm yards or across fields.**

*I'VE JUST WRITTEN A LETTER TO MY doctor and you might want to send a similar one to your GP. It tells him not to give data which identifies me to anyone other than for my medical care.*

*GP practices across England will soon be required to supply patients' personal and confidential medical information, on a regular basis, to the Health and Social Care Information Centre. Details from your medical record will be extracted from the practice in a form that can identify you, and will include your NHS number, date of birth, postcode etc. This programme is called care.data, and the information uploaded will be used for purposes other than your direct medical care. It won't be used by NHS professionals treating you, it'll be sold to third parties.*

*If you don't opt out your medical information will be extracted and uploaded to the database. Once uploaded, you will not be able to get this deleted. So if you want to opt out you should act now.*

**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 [evelyn.adey@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.adey@btinternet.com) or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on [mike@gn.apc.org](mailto:mike@gn.apc.org) or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

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# Birds ignore the warnings

*Trevor Edwards welcomes some exotic visitors to East Anglia*

**M**Y FARMER'S FIXATION with watching the weather forecast reached a new high this winter as we all suffered high rainfall, high winds and high tides. The consequences are dire for many parts of the country. Every day, the national headlines showed inflatable boats motoring up the high streets of villages on missions of rescue, until you thought it could not get any worse.

But it did, and ended with a public row between the head of the Environment Agency and a minister of the Government. Croaking on and on, they merely showed that nothing gets done as members of committees sit on their hands. Nobody dares admit that EU directives require that the maintenance of wetlands comes first and looking after farmland and communities a poor second. You could get more sense out of a frog in a cocktail cabinet.

AFTER A MILD JANUARY, AND much the same for February, the weather forecasters are still very cautious and point out that winter is not over. But try telling that to the birds. Our resident song-thrush is singing away at dawn in the face of the wind and rain and all the garden birds are in the mood for spring, rushing about in full plumage. The bird song increases as the males reclaim their territories, led in our case by two competing robins. The clever one of the two sings from inside the spacious roof of the tin-sheeted machinery shed, where the echo makes him seem twice as loud.

THE SHOOTING SEASON IS closed and the introduction of my new dog, Kip, has not gone well. He has shown himself to be food mad, sex mad and very immature, which is very disappointing as he is already nearly

**A female  
bullfinch  
with its  
favourite  
food from  
the ash  
tree and  
Hardy's one  
and only  
red-breasted  
goose**





## FEATURES & NEWS

***No room for the sheep, but the flood plain on the River Dove at Eye does its job.***

news as various small birds struggle to get past what is known as “the hungry gap” at the end of winter.

three years old. Never mind, my wife Anita says, he might improve next year. Pigs might fly.

Woodpigeons and rabbits, our perennial targets, are for once, far less of a problem on the farm. The mild winter has kept the crops growing and there is some evidence of myxomatosis. There is a growing market for wild meats and those two dishes are now joined on the menu by grey squirrel. You can buy one on-line for £4.50, though that will feed only one person and the texture is chewy to boot. I think I’ll go down to the butcher’s as usual.

### THE GAME AND WILDLIFE

Conservation Trust launched a farmland bird count this February to demonstrate the benefits of pheasant rearing for the wild bird population. Paul the Gamekeeper joined in and logged 20 different species on his Occold shoot in half an hour, the highlight being about 120 yellowhammers. This is very good

the game-bird feeding, experimental work has shown that grasses left to seed can help both the yellowhammer and the reed bunting at this time of the year.

THE KNOWLANDS OF DENHAM, had good views of courting owls and expect great things from their barn owl box this year. The male, having caught his vole, used it to lure his mate into the box for some owl play and hopefully this charm offensive will produce a large brood.

Although owls dislike strong winds, there is every reason to hope that the females are in good enough condition for breeding, unlike last year.

The next day unluckily bought atrocious weather for the Garden Bird Count.

The Knowlands spent most of the time waiting for the first sighting, four blue tits, which were then quickly scattered by a sparrow hawk arriving on the bird table. And that, they said, was that.

*Continued on page 4*

## FEATURES & NEWS

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*Continued from page 3*

FEB 1ST, A RARE FINE DAY, AND Doc Goodge and I enjoyed a good walk overlooking Chedgrave marshes where through telescopes we saw both common and rough-legged buzzard. Doc Goodge, as a boy in Luton in the Fifties, scrimped together £16 for his first binoculars and biked out to Tring woods to start his life-long hobby. His great skills now help me to complete my BTO breeding bird survey and we have enjoyed endless scrapes together.

Remarkably, his sons are both settled teachers in Suffolk, disproving my grandfather's old saying that you can't breed tame rabbits from wild ones.

As well as two members of the buzzard family, we saw both sparrow-hawk and kestrels, the latter hovering for prey before moving on, which is a hunting technique known as roving. Chedgrave Marshes also provided flypasts of swans and pink-foot geese and a sighting of a very lonely Egyptian goose. This is not a proper goose at all, more related to shelducks, and is very ungoose-like in the way it can perch and nest in trees. But it has conquered Europe from lovely warm Africa and we now treat it like one of ours.

Another exotic is the red-breasted goose and Paul the Gamekeeper has got one. This brightly coloured goose hails from central Siberia where it chooses to nest under the eyries of buzzards and peregrines. This unusual arrangement is of mutual benefit, as the watchful goose and fierce bird of prey help each other to ward off ground predators.

BIRD-WATCHING WALKS WITH the experts of The Waveney Bird Club are always a pleasure, not only because they carry telescopes and tripods, they also get them set up and focussed PDQ for the rest of us.

They have a happy knack of going to the right place at the right time, but even though their local knowledge of "where to see what" is impressive, it is to me still a dark art with a finger in the air. Rare bird sightings are always the talk of the WBC, though some early ones are no longer rare, such as the avocet and the little egret, now well-established and breeding in Suffolk.

Over forty years ago, the collared dove was a new arrival and caused great excitement, but it has been so successful it is no longer rare but everywhere, like its cousin the woodpigeon. The dove and pigeon family feed their young on milk, a nutrient-rich paste from their crops. It is little wonder these birds are successful as the food supply for the young is much more reliable than that of other species.

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE WILD pig has died in a car accident. Having developed a taste for drinking and stealing beer at will from campsites, his famed campsite drinking once led to a fight with a cow. He sadly met his end in remote Western Australia, hit by a passing vehicle. It is not recorded whether he had been drinking prior to the accident.

*Trevor Edwards*



# There's danger in the dark

**A** FEW YEARS AGO THERE was a nasty accident at the junction B1077/A140 at Brome. It was a dark filthy night and the traffic approaching the scene from Eye needed to be warned or stopped. The policeman at the scene threw on his reflective jacket and took a position in the middle of the B1077 to stop traffic.

Enter yours truly, approaching from Eye. Dipped headlights, (there had been oncoming traffic), sensible, legal speed, car recently passed MOT, everything good in the world.

There was no way my dipped headlights would pick up the policeman's reflective jacket in time to give a safe braking distance and his uniform trousers were low visibility. I did stop in time, just. My car didn't hit the policeman. I was shocked and scared. The policeman must have been terrified.

There was an experienced driver sitting next to me and his opinion was that I did everything right but there are

lessons to be learnt.

- An extra 5mph or maybe a half pint of beer in me and there could have been a tragedy.

- Dipped headlights do not pick up a reflective jacket until the car is quite close.

- If walking at night carry a torch and use it to show motorists where you are.

- If walking dogs or horses at night, (I almost drove up the backside of a horse on a dark foggy night, a different story), make sure they can be seen.

- If walking at night don't expect the approaching driver to be all seeing and perfect. It's not like that.

- As a pedestrian at night one is very vulnerable and if walking dogs or children there is an extra duty of care. Be visible. Fluorescent jackets are very good but not a complete answer.

- As a pedestrian assume the approaching driver would fail a current driving test or a medical and is only driving because he lives in a rural area where public transport is a pipe dream.

**Chris Gibbons**

■ **NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** January's rain has left the woodland at Pound Lane in a saturated condition, but has had the benefit of filling the pond. The woodland continues to be a favourite venue for dog walkers and the steering group are pleased to see that they leave the woodland clear of litter, however recently there seems to have been some destruction of tree guards which they have assumed is the result of playful dogs. Please ensure that the trees are protected, as this is an amenity for all, and the saplings need the protection. At the recent Artisans Market the group did a roaring trade in birdfeeders and they intend to produce more to sell at future markets and craft fairs, with the proceeds used for woodland maintenance. If you would like to become a friend of the woodland or enhance your woodworking skills please contact Mike Reeves on 668 179.

**Mike Reeves**

# I want a good argument

I REALLY LIKE LIVING HERE, I like the trees, the flowers, the vegetables, the fruit and the vast, and ever varying, skies which make me think of being at sea. To have all this is so much more than many people in the world ever have – I am truly lucky.

And the people; kind, always generous with their time when I ask for advice. It is very rare to see anyone angry or even impatient. Of course, like people everywhere, some do get angry and impatient but they keep it for private times.

All this makes for a pleasant atmosphere except for one thing, I like arguing and sometimes get desperate for an argument. If I say something that another person disagrees with they will turn away, simply ignoring what I say. This feels like passive aggression and is very, very annoying. Mostly I accept the situation and just shrug it off but sometimes I go on needling them until I get a response. Then I shout a silent whoop for joy and get on with the debate.

To me, arguing is much more than just interesting fun – it is vital in understanding and communicating with others. There are three possible

civilised outcomes to an argument: first, one person will decide that the other was right; second, the two will reach a compromise solution; and third, they will agree to disagree. All three outcomes leave both parties more aware of each other's point of view. Perhaps more importantly, deeper understanding enables us to realise our differences, beliefs, cares and concerns and even to love each other more in recognising our shared humanity.

Puzzling about this I wondered whether, in a smallish community it just feels too dangerous to argue. If it gets out of hand it might start a feud which could go on for years. It has happened but I suggest that nowadays TV, the internet and the many new varieties of communications have made small communities feel much less small and so a much safer place in which to argue.

You may feel that I should stay in my garden and not indulge in argument although I can assure you that my idea of an argument does not include the sort of behaviour common in Parliament. Maybe I'll try to start a debating society. Will anyone join?

*Evelyn Adey*

■ **WOMEN, LADIES, GIRLS:** It seems to me that this wonderful magazine is getting a bit too male orientated. We need words from women, either about traditional female issues; recipes, homes, children, grandchildren or any of the other things women do nowadays; farming, running clubs and businesses, entreprenuring, environment and soil sciences etc. Please write anything that takes your fancy and send it to us. Mike and I are always happy to discuss ideas if asked.

*Evelyn Adey*



■ **SAVE REDLINGFIELD CHURCH:** Every five years each church building has a comprehensive structural examination. This is known as a Quinquennial Inspection Report and Redlingfield Church has just received its report. The news is not good. The church roof needs to be retiled and possibly roof beams replaced. Inside the building part of the ceiling is unsafe and an area has been barricaded off for safety. The repairs will cost many tens of thousands of pounds, money that this little church does not have. Grants will be sought but if that fails Redlingfield will probably lose the church that has served the village for over eight hundred years. Do we want that to happen? Any ideas or comments to Michael Womack, Rector, on 388889 or by email to [hoxnebenefice@gmail.com](mailto:hoxnebenefice@gmail.com)

**David Love**

# Bring on the summer sun

**T**HE HOXON HUNDRED winter routine is one of preparing for the summer interspersed with quick forays into the outside world. Boxing Day was such a foray. We danced at the Hoxne Swan and many thanks to those of you that turned out to encourage the dancers and players. The day went well with dancing outside the pub followed by a mummers play in the bar area.

Preparing for the summer means sorting our venue list, (every pub venue has to be carefully assessed, the beer tested and the hospitality enjoyed) and deciding on which dances to perform.

Over the last few hundred years a vast library of Morris dances has built up and is still being added to. Hoxon tend to take their repertoire from the oldies and every season we look at changing our repertoire.

This year we are adding some dances from the village of Oddington to our performance. Oddington is a village in Oxfordshire that developed a very



**Mummers in the Hoxne Swan on Boxing Day.**

distinctive style. Come and watch us to find out more. The village was mentioned in the Domesday Book as having 16 households, 10 villagers. 4 smallholders. 2 slaves, so in the 11th century they had enough people to make a decent dance side, although I expect they didn't have much time for dancing. They would have been working hard to offset the cutbacks due to the recent European invasion.

If you fancy trying the Morris now is the season to start so come along to our practice nights, (Hoxne Village Hall, Wednesday evening) to have a go.

**Chris Gibbons**

# Total recall pays off with

*The king sits in Dunfermline town  
Drinking the blude-red wine;  
“O whare will I get a skeely skipper  
To sail this new ship o’mine?”*

*O up and spak an eldern knight,  
Sat at the king’s right knee  
“Sir Patrick Spens is the best sailor  
That ever sailed the sea.”*

A STOCK CHARACTER IN THE CAST OF MANY A SPY NOVEL IS the “sleeper” meaning, as anyone familiar with the genre will know, an agent whose role is to live undercover and to do nothing out of the ordinary, going about his or her daily routine until, at some prearranged signal they are “activated” to carry out some task of espionage or sabotage. The sleeper can be dormant for many years before being called upon.

Sometime ago I was with a group of people and we were chatting amiably when someone asked “Who is Sir Patrick Spens?” Being a natural show off, I recited the lines above and went on to tell the very polite and forbearing assembly that the lines were the opening of an anonymous border ballad. OK you say, so what?

Well nothing particularly remarkable except that these are lines that I learned (unwillingly) at school more than 60 years ago and have had very little, if any, reason to recall at any time since and yet there they were, ready for action when the signal came just like the sleeper in the “Manchurian Candidate” or somebody in a Len Deighton novel. I am sure you will agree that 60 years is a long time for a sleeper to wait, especially as for me to remember anything is a bonus these days!

So, apart from enabling me to be a complete smartarse as mentioned above, what is the use of poetry? I suppose that is something which it is difficult to pin down in any definite



way. In Alan Bennet’s play “The History Boys” one

boy asks the English master “Sir, Why do we have to learn poetry? I don’t understand it. It does my head in!” “It does my head in too” replies the master “I don’t understand it half the time. But read it, learn it and think about it and one day perhaps you might!”

I know how the boy feels and, at the same time, I think that perhaps I am beginning to understand what the English master is saying. I know that now poetry seems to have much more meaning for me than it used to and, in order to remember it I occasionally write it out. Remembering is not understanding but there are rare moments of enlightenment – T.S.Eliot’s Four Quartets – I recently heard these beautifully read by Jeremy Irons and at the moment he finished I was sure that I understood them but after a few inconsequential, routine

# poetry

things had intervened, the great insight had melted away and I no longer understood; a bit like listening to Brian Cox explaining particle physics!

Another question: What does poetry do? To me it can be more effective than prose in quickly setting a scene or capturing a mood.

*Not a drum was heard, not a  
funeral note,  
As his corse [corpse] to the  
rampart we hurried;  
Not a soldier discharged his  
farewell shot  
O'er the grave where our hero was  
buried.*

The opening verse of the "Burial of Sir John Moore after Corunna" by Charles Wolfe. These few lines tell you that things have not gone well for the British force and that the commanding officer was being buried with some haste and without the usual ceremony for so senior an officer. Then there is that clever, clever word "hurried" where we would have expected "carried". That's poetry! It can be freer than prose in the choice of words but still keep, if not reinforce its meaning even though in other ways it is more tightly disciplined.

In the end though, something poetry can do as well as anything else is to cheer you up! Just think of those immortal lines; *There was a young lady of Redlingfield, While milking a cow that wouldn't yield...* I'm sorry but I can't remember the rest of it!

*Neville Butcher*

## ■ REDLINGFIELD COFFEE MORNINGS:

The final village coffee morning for this winter will be on Wednesday March 5 at the home of David and Jacqueline Love, 1 Abbotts Meadow, Redlingfield from 10am until noon. PCSO David Faulkner from Suffolk Police will be attending, to discuss the recent spate of heating oil thefts and to give some crime prevention advice. There will be the usual warm welcome, coffee, tea, things to eat and a free raffle. Everyone is welcome, no charge but a donation appreciated.

**Jacqueline Love**

■ **SANTA SAYS THANKS:** Thank you on behalf of Father and Mother Christmas. We had the best Christmas yet. total of £625 was raised and sent to the Children's Hospice. Our grateful thanks to all who donated and we very much hope to see everyone again next Christmas.

**Janet Fisk**

■ **FLOWER ROTA:** The rota for Redlingfield - St Andrews Church is April (Pauline Abbott) and May and June (Anita Edwards). Oasis and tape is in the Vestry. The flowers will appreciate watering and some replacements during the month.

**Jacqueline Love**

■ **HORHAM GARAGE SALE:** Please contact Lawrence Weaver (384582) or Daphne Harvey (384216) as soon as possible if you would like to take part. £5 per household for St Mary's Church funds.

**Daphne Harvey**

■ **COFFEE CARAVAN:** On each first Wednesday of the month from April until October 2014 the Coffee Caravan will return to Redlingfield village triangle between 10-00 am and noon.

**Jacqueline Love**

# D-Day remembered with

**S**TRADBROKE & DISTRICT Branch of the Royal British Legion are commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings with a special concert.

Concert Overlord at Stradbroke High on Saturday, May 31st will feature the 'world-renowned' Sheringham Shantymen.

Tickets, which are £5, are available from Bernard Mills (01986 798 414) at 21, The

***The Sheringham Shantymen in action.***



Orchards, Laxfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP13 8EE, with a SAE, cheques to: Royal British Legion (Stradbroke Branch), or from the Post Office Stores in Horham or Rolfe Butchers in Stradbroke.

Doors will open 7pm for 7.30pm and there will be a bar and draw.

The Sheringham Shantymen were formally launched in 1990 having started singing some two years earlier as a group of local lifeboat men and friends celebrating the 150th anniversary of the private sailing and pulling of Sheringham lifeboat the 'Augusta'. To find out more about the



**DISS AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF RAFA:** 2013 was another successful year for Diss and District branch of the Royal Air Forces Association. They raised a total of £5267 for Wings Appeal, the fund which supports RAFA's charity work. This was the highest amount they had raised for three years. Although the main fund-raising effort is in September members are busy throughout the year. They are grateful to Diss Rugby Club where they collect twice a year and Old Buckenham Airfield, where they set up a stall during open days. The branch, which covers an area of North Suffolk - including the three villages served by this magazine - as well as part of South Norfolk around Diss, meets on the fourth Monday of the month at the Grasmere Club, Diss at 7.30pm. You are welcome to come along or if you wish to find out more about us you can phone our secretary, Mrs Marilyn Hurst on 643108, or view our website [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/DissandDistrictRAFA](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/DissandDistrictRAFA). Present or former RAF personnel or their families who need assistance can contact our welfare officer, John Blagden either through the website or on 643179.

***Brian Ager***

# RBL concert

Sheringham Shantymen visit  
www.shantymen.com.

LAST YEAR ENDED WITH A BUSY time for the branch with the presentation of the RBL poetry awards at Stradbroke High School, the Christmas carols and lunch at Laxfield “King’s Head” (The Low House) and the special commemorative service organised by standard bearer and welfare officer Joyce Cooper.

A collection at the service at Horham Baptist Church raised £525 for the Poppy Appeal.

AT THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL Suffolk County Conference The branch was represented by treasurer Bernard Mills, the official delegate, branch secretary Rev David Streeter and Joyce Copper who carried the branch standard.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP STANDS at 76 and the next event is the annual branch dinner on Thursday March 27th at Stradbroke Community Centre, 12.30pm for a 1pm start. All members will receive a letter about the event – postage has been sponsored by Harrison Edge estate agents from Eye. The branch continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Laxfield “King’s Head” starting at 11.30am with guest speakers. We welcome anyone interested in the Legion.

*Branch Chairman, Michael Burton*

■ **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Is your neighbourhood watch giving you what you want? If you have ideas about what Redlingfield neighbourhood watch, (NW), should be doing then please contact me. There have been recent personnel changes in our policing structure and so now would be a good time for a new coordinator to take over and give our NW an overhaul. Any volunteers? **Chris Gibbons (678169)**

■ **REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE QUIZ:** The next quiz is scheduled to be on Saturday 5 April 2014 at the Old School in Horham. The date has yet to be confirmed. The cost will be £5 per person with up to four in each team. The evening includes food. Proceeds to Redlingfield Church. There will be a bar and a raffle. Contact Christine Stanford on 01728 628474. **Jacqueline Love**

■ **HORHAM LENT LUNCH:** St Mary’s Lent Lunch is Thursday, March 13, at Viewfield House, The Street, Horham (opposite Denham junction) by kind invitation of Gail and Brian Marsh. Lunch is £5 per person for church funds. **Daphne Harvey**

■ **REDLINGFIELD LADIES’ LUNCH:** The next Ladies’ lunch will be on Friday 11 April at the Coachhouse in Thornham. If you would like to attend please contact Linda on 678984.

**Jacqueline Love**

■ **POPPY APPEAL:** The house-to-house collection for the British Legion Poppy Appeal in Horham and Athelington raised £318. Many thanks to my helpers Mrs Annie Harvey, Mrs Melva Huggins and Mrs Elizabeth Hall.

**Janet Fisk**

## POLICE REPORT

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**Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team, PCSO 3172 Steven Long & PC 878 Jacqui Thomas, Eye Police Station, Mid-Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team, The Lodge, Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7BH. Phone 101, email [Midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Midsuffnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)**

### GARDEN AND SHED SECURITY

**Gates:** Solid wooden gates offer easy entry for thieves because they are sturdy to climb and tend to be tucked away at the sides of houses. Make these harder to climb by covering them with a panel so there isn't an obvious foothold.

Unlikely though it may sound, wrought iron gates may be a far more effective deterrent. Their ornamental ironwork makes climbing difficult and any intruders can be seen through them. It's always wise to use at least two locks on a gate. For example, on a wooden gate you could use a padlock and hasp at the top plus a barrel bolt near the bottom. In the case of a wrought iron gate use a thick heavy chain with a padlock.

If the burglar can't go over or through the gate, he may decide to try to take it off. This can be prevented by welding the hinges shut or positioning the metal pins in each hinge so that they slide in place at different angles to each other.

**Precautions:** Don't make a burglar's life any easier by leaving garden tools to use to force entry. Always lock them away after use. Likewise, do not leave ladders available; they should be chained and padlocked to a strong post or wall.

Consider installing a domestic-style CCTV camera, linked to your TV to overlook your garden. This can be further enhanced by the installation of lighting within the garden itself, activated by a photo-electric cell, making it both more attractive and secure after dark.

If you install a recordable CCTV system, give serious consideration to including a dedicated video recorder securely located within the house. If you connect the cameras to your household video recorder and you have the misfortune to suffer a burglary, not only could the recorder be taken but the evidence with it. Costly garden furniture and valuable ornaments, such as statues or stone planters, can be anchored to the ground. Even valuable plants can be treated in the same way. Hanging baskets are worth protecting and secure or locking brackets are available.

Always property mark your garden equipment and valuables with postcode and house number. In most cases engraving is the most suitable method.

**Up and Over Garage Doors:** It is probably best not to rely solely on the centre lock. If the door is the only means of entry to the garage, it should be fitted with a hasp and staple, together with a padlock. There are also mortice locks specially designed for garage doors that close into the side frame.

If there is another entrance, and the door opens along runners, consider drilling through one runner just behind the wheel in the closed position and inserting a long bolt to stop the wheel moving along the runners. If the door operates on a hinged bar drill through the side metal frame and pass a padlock through this hole and around the hinged bar to stop the door lifting.



**TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

**70th Anniversary of Berlin Mission:** Red Feather Club, 10am (see story).

**Debenham Historical Society:** East Anglian Defences 1940.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

**Redlingfield Coffee morning:** at David & Jacqueline Love's Western Barn home in Abbots Meadow, 10am-noon.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8**

**Eye Bach Choir 40th Anniversary**

**Concert:** Eye Parish Church, 7.30 pm.

Tickets £12 (reserved) & £10 (unreserved) from Eye Pharmacy, 01728 747371 or eyebachchoir@aol.co.uk. Web: [www.eyebachchoir.co.uk](http://www.eyebachchoir.co.uk).

**Caribbean Night:** Occold, 7pm for 7.30pm until midnight. £15 with canapes & 2-course meal, music & entertainment.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 8 & 9**

**Redlingfield Village litter pick.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13**

**Horham Lent Lunch:** Viewfield House (see story).

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 15 & 16**

**Re-creation with Tina McCallan:**

Wingfield Barns. Re-creation of Brian Whelan's painting "The Martyrdom of St Edmund, 10am-4pm.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

**Irish lunch:** Horham Community Centre, 3 course Sunday lunch. Watch out for details.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

**Archive film show:** Red Feather Club. Members £3, non-members £4.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20**

**Stradbroke Community Centre Cinema -**

**Philomena:** 7pm for 7.30 pm, bar & ice creams in the interval. Entrance £5.50.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

**Swing Dance:** With Skyliner & Django Man, Red Feather Club, tickets £12.

**St Patrick's Celebration:** Thorndon Village Hall, 6pm for 6.30pm till late. Irish stew & dumplings. Irish music & dancing. Tickets £20 from Clinton (678551) or Graham (678676).

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

**Classic, Blues, Rock Night with Andy Robinson:** Worlingworth. Tickets £5 from Haley Chittock (628711), Peggy Calver (628404) & Tracy Love (628413).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1**

**Debenham Historical Society:** Exploring Suffolk by Bus Pass.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2**

**Coffee Caravan:** centre of Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

**St Mary's Annual Church Meeting:** the Old School Horham, 7.30pm.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

**Old Time Musical:** Red Feather Club.

**70s/80s Disco:** Syleham Village Hall, 7.30pm-11.45pm – raffle & refreshments. Adults £5, under 16s £3. Tickets: 388862.

**Redlingfield Village Quiz:** Old School, Horham (date to be confirmed). £5 per person, up to four in a team. Includes food. Proceeds to Redlingfield Church. Christine Stanford (01728 628474).

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

**Redlingfield Ladies' Lunch.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**

**Redlingfield Village Supper (cheese & wine):** Horham Community Centre from 8pm. Tickets £10 adults & £5 under 18s inc wine & food. Proceeds to village funds & church's fabric fund. Tickets village committee & Joyce Saunders.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 12 & 13**

**Spring Break Hot Rod & Kustom Kulture Car Show:** Mid Suffolk Showground.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

**Stradbroke Community Centre Cinema -**

**The Butler:** as March 20..

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 19 & 20**

**Easter Extravaganza:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

**SUNDAY & MONDAY, APRIL 20 & 21**

**Easter with Children in mind:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 24-27**

**East Anglian Beer Festival:** the Apex in Bury St Edmunds.



## WHAT'S ON

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### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

**St George's Day celebration:** Horham Community Centre.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

**St George's Day Celebration:** Thorndon, 7pm. 3-course dinner, quiz & music. £22.50: Trudi (678591) or Claire (672999).

**Quiz:** ORAC Annual Village Quiz, Occold.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 26 & 27

**The Mid And West Suffolk Show:** Mid Suffolk Showground.

### SUNDAY & MONDAY, MAY 4 & 5

**Middy in the War Years:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

### MONDAY, MAY 5

**May Day Bank Holiday Special with extra fun events:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

**Coffee Caravan:** centre of Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

### SATURDAY, MAY 10

**An eccentric look at Suffolk with Charlie Haylock:** Worlingworth, time & tickets to be confirmed.

**Redlingfield Pub on the Green:** Doorstep Green, 6pm to late.

### SATURDAY, MAY 10-SUNDAY, JUNE 1

**The 7th Suffolk Walking Festival:** Themed, guided walks. For details [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk).

### TUESDAY, MAY 13

**Debenham Historical Society:** Suffolk Village in Wartime.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

**Redlingfield Village Meeting AGM:** Horham Community Centre, 8pm.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17

**Horham Garage Sale:** (see story).

**Summer Concert:** Eye Church, 7.30pm. as March 8 concert.

### SUNDAY, MAY 25

**Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair:** Helmingham Hall.

### MONDAY, MAY 26

**Spring Bank Holiday Special With Extra Fun Events:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MAY 28 & 29

**Suffolk Show:** Trinity Park, Ipswich.

### SATURDAY, MAY 31

**Concert Overlord:** Stradbroke High School (see story).

### JUNE WEEKENDS

**Suffolk Open Studios:** Directory will be published in early April. Also [www.suffolkopenstudios.org/](http://www.suffolkopenstudios.org/)

### TUESDAY, JUNE 3

**Debenham Historical Society:** Wheels of Ipswich – 200 years of Ipswich Transport.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

**Coffee Caravan:** centre of Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 10

**Redlingfield churchyard clear up;** 6pm.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

**Redlingfield Pub on the Green;** Doorstep Green, 6pm to late.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 14 & 15

**Mediaeval Experience & Father's Day Special:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 21

**Worlingworth Village fete.**

**Crow's Hall Country Fayre.**

**Horham Village fête.**

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 21 & 22

**Journey Through The Ages - Vintage Rally and Country Fair:** Goodrich Park, Palgrave.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

**Goods by Road & Rail:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

### WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 25 & 26

**Royal Norfolk Show:** Norfolk Showground.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 28 & 29

**2014 Festifull:** Stradbroke. A programme of arena entertainment & market, stalls, bouncy castle, traditional village fair favourites, sports competitions, food, drink & the biggest 5-a-side football tournament in the area. Sunday an "It's a knockout/wipeout" event.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 27-29

**Debenham Art Exhibition.**

### FRIDAY-MONDAY, JUNE 27-30

**Festival of Beer and Brewing:** Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket.

**TUESDAY, JULY 1**

**Debenham Historical Society:** The Cretingham Murder Mystery.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 2**

**Coffee Caravan:** centre of Redlingfield, 10am-noon.

**SATURDAY, JULY 5**

**Occold Village Fete.**

**St Peter's Band:** Worlingworth, 2pm. St. Peter's band with afternoon tea. Ticket price to be set.

**1940s & 50s Retro Swing Dance:** Red Feather Club.

**SUNDAY, JULY 6**

**American re-enactment Day:** Red Feather Club.

**Debenham Open Gardens.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 12**

**Redlingfield Village BBQ.**

**Bedfield Village Fete.**

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**

**Falconry Fair:** Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.

**Diss Corn Hall:** Corn Hall, St Nicholas Street, Diss. Box Office: 652241 & boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk. Full programme at [www.disscornhall.co.uk](http://www.disscornhall.co.uk); **Framlingham:** [www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com). **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, [events@helmingham.com](mailto:events@helmingham.com), [www.helmingham.com](http://www.helmingham.com). **Horham & Atelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754; Clare, 388878; & Kerina, 669376, **Hoxne Cinema:** Tickets from Jenny Knights 668060, Hoxne PO & Stores, or via [www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk). **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station, Wetheringsett nr Stowmarket, Suffolk Suffolk IP14 5PW, [www.msrl.org.uk](http://www.msrl.org.uk), general enquiries Keith Froom 01449 672670 or [keith.froom@tinternet.co.uk](mailto:keith.froom@tinternet.co.uk). **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, 01449 612229, [enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk). **Redlingfield,** 678835, [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk), [www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk). **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary,** Stonham Barns, 08456 807897, [info@owl-help.org.uk](mailto:info@owl-help.org.uk), [www.owl-help.org.uk](http://www.owl-help.org.uk). **Wingfield Barns,** 384505, [enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com](mailto:enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com), [www.wingfieldbarns.com](http://www.wingfieldbarns.com) (Midweek Movies: Tickets £5 on the door, 1.30pm matinee and 7.30pm evenings).

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

**TUESDAYS: T Plus:** Community Café with stalls, All Saint's Church, Thorndon every Tues, 10am-noon. **Bingo:** Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every other Tues. 678178. **Zumba:** Horham & Athelington Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563534086. **Debenham Historical Society:** Regular lectures at Room 31, Debenham High School, 7.30pm, £3 per lecture, including a soft drink in the interval. Enquiries: Clive Cook 01728-861754. Non-members welcome see what's on.

**WEDNESDAYS: Redlingfield & Occold WI,** 1st Wed of the month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Hoxon Hundred:** Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practices. Ron Ross, 643563. Eye Country Market, every Wed 10am-11am, Eye Town Hall (closed Jan).

**THURSDAYS: Zumba:** Worlingworth Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563534086. **Over 50s Belly Dance Class:** Occold Village Hall, 11am-noon, £30 for 6 weeks 27 Feb till 3 April.

**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 summer & spring. Sun lunchtimes in autumn & winter.

**SATURDAYS: Occold Market & Car Boot:** Occold Village and Village Hall, 9.30am-noon, last Sat of the month from March to November.

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

# Remembering the 95th's big

ONE OF THE DEFINING moments in the history of the 95th Bomb Group is being commemorated at the Red Feather Club at 10am on Tuesday March 4th.

The ceremony organised by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the day the 95th became the first USAAF group to bomb Berlin in daylight during WW2. All are welcome at a ceremony which will be attended by serving USAF personnel as well as heritage association members.

The 95th Bomb Group flew 334 missions and were awarded a record three

Presidential Unit Citations, the third for the raid on Berlin despite snowstorms, dense clouds, and severe enemy attack, while many others, because of weather conditions, either abandoned the operation or struck other targets.

The first daylight raid on the German capital also provided the title for the first history of the bomb group – Ian Hawkins' B-17s Over Berlin.

Several previous attempts to bomb Berlin in daylight had

*Life magazine's publicity shot of the 95th after the Berlin raid.*



■ **PLANNING: To be decided** – application to install and operate a 49.75kW ground mounted solar PV system, **Lodge Farm, The Street, Horham**; application to use land for siting marquee for events during 2014. Marquee to be in-situ from May 1st to October 4th, **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**. **Granted** – application to continue use of meadow for three camping events each year during summer, **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**; application to erect a single-storey rear extension (following demolition of existing), to replace window with a door and erection of porch, **The Old Forge, Worlingworth Road, Horham**.

■ **OIL THEFTS:** 800 litres of heating oil was stolen from a tank in the front garden of a home in Green Lane, Redlingfield, between 10am Saturday January 11th and 4pm Tuesday 14th January. Heating oil was also stolen from a tank in a rear garden in Green Lane between 2pm on Sunday January 12th and 6pm Wednesday January 15th.

# Berlin raid

been recalled – one just the day before. The March 4th 1944 mission too seemed doomed from the start but three things came together to ensure that aircraft from the 95th and some elements of the 100th bombed Berlin that day.

The first was the addition of a Pathfinder B-17 equipped with radar to help see through the clouds to the target below. The second was the choice of Lt Col H Griffin 'Grif' Mumford, the commanding officer of the 95th's 412th squadron, as mission leader. The third was the determined fighter cover offered by P-51 Mustangs of the 4th and 357th Fighter Groups.

Deep into enemy territory the recall order was received, due to the bad weather, and most of the assembled bomb groups peeled off for other targets. Lt Colonel Mumford decided to continue the planned mission to Berlin as the recall message did not contain the correct code and the enemy were sending up fake recall signals. With Pathfinder technology, he also knew they could take advantage of the bad weather and strike a blow to German morale.

The 95th's exploits made it into Life magazine, although the involvement of the Pathfinders was kept secret. *Mike Ager*

## REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE EVENTS & MORE ...

■ On Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, you can join in Redlingfield's Annual Litter Pick. Get out and give the village a clean up. Co-ordinate your efforts with Mike Ager please.

■ The Cheese & Wine, now called Redlingfield Village Supper, will be at Horham Community Centre on Saturday, April 12. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s. The event is 8pm until late with wine and food included in the price. Tickets from the village committee and Joyce Saunders.

■ The village AGM will be at Horham Community Centre at 8pm on Wednesday, May 14.

■ The churchyard clear up is on Tuesday, June 10, from 6pm. Come along and give a hand.

■ This year's Pubs on the Green will be on Saturdays, May 10, June 14, August 9, September 13 and October 11 from 6pm until late. Look out for information on a fish & chip night and mini BBQs.

■ The summer BBQ will be on Saturday July 12. It may be a hog roast this year.

■ The village is also looking to revive the Harvest Supper to help the church's fabric fund and may hold a 40s dance and an illustrated talk on WW2 aviation.

■ Linda Hudson is now Redlingfield village recorder as part of the Suffolk Local History Recorder Scheme run by the Suffolk Local History Council.

■ Janet Norman-Philips is trying to get the broken village sign on the Bedingfield/Southolt road replaced and a No Through Road sign for Rookery Lane.

■ The next village committee meeting is on Tuesday June 3. If you have an issue that you would like raised please tell a member of the committee.

■ More American relatives of the airmen who lost their life in the Redlingfield crash will be visiting the area in early May.

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

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



**ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN** very lucky in this part of the country and escaped the dreadful flooding seen in other parts of the country,

MSDC Emergency Planning Team have been monitoring and collating information on the weather and river levels in our area.

They are running workshops for parishes, I have mentioned this before at parish meetings but thankfully we have not had any real need until now to form parish emergency teams. Sue Hearne is the co-ordinator and can be reached on 01449 724851 if you wish to set up your own group. It is not only for floods but for any other emergency that might befall us in the countryside.

To my knowledge no district councils hold stocks of sandbags any longer and there is a thought that they are not the most efficient way of holding back water.

MSDC are only too aware of the results of building on flood plains and other low lying areas and are taking due care in granting planning permission

that water harvesting and run off water are properly dealt with. Soak-aways are not ideal on our heavy clay.

You might like to know that the Credit Union is opening up in Stowmarket and will be open on Thursdays from March 6th from 1-3pm. We are enquiring as to whether there might be an opportunity for one in Stradbroke or Hoxne.

The proposed gas-fired power station on the Eye Airfield is under discussion. While the Government will make the final decision, MSDC are a consultee and the parishes nearest the airfield are being involved in meetings and briefings. Progress Power will submit plans to the Planning Inspectorate in late March and from then on anyone can register an interest with the Inspectorate and be kept informed of progress.

Don't forget the council will assist parishes to cut grass and footpaths for themselves. There is a small amount of money for this and other community activities that we can help to get going.

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

■ **ARE YOU USING THE BORDERHOPPA?** If not, why not? The service is available to anyone, any age, who needs transport to appointments, to get to work, to go shopping or just to visit a friend. The fleet of mini buses serves parishes within an approximate 10-mile radius of Diss, Harleston and Eye. From April they will be adding two new buses to bring the fleet to eight, and to start serving Long Stratton and surrounds. To book a journey, you need to give a minimum of two working days notice but you can book up to four working days in advance. Concessionary bus pass holders travel free after 9.30am. Others are charged by distance, depending on area and distance travelled. The service operates Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4.30pm. Most Borderhoppa buses are fully accessible with powered wheelchair lifts. For further information, to book a journey, outing or to hire a minibus, call 854800, email [adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com](mailto:adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com), or visit [www.borderhoppa.org](http://www.borderhoppa.org). **Lucy Sharpe**

## DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP, REPORTS BACK



OVER THE LAST FEW months I have been busy helping to guide the Care Bill through Parliament. The Bill is the Coalition Government's key piece of legislation dealing with how we are cared for in the UK. It fundamentally reforms how the law works, prioritising people's wellbeing, needs and goals.

In the wake of the failings in care at Stafford Hospital it will allow for Ofsted-style ratings for hospitals and care homes that will allow patients and the public to compare organisations or services in a fair and balanced way. The Bill will give the new Chief Inspector of Hospitals the power to instigate a process to tackle unresolved problems with the quality of care more effectively than before. Also it will make it a criminal offence for providers to supply or publish false or misleading information.

Finally the Bill establishes Health Education England as a statutory body which will assist local healthcare providers and professionals to take responsibility for educating and training their staff.

Before a Bill becomes law it has to pass through several stages. The First reading is the first stage of a Bill's passage through the House of Commons. It is usually a formality and takes place without debate. The Second reading is the first opportunity for MPs to debate the Bill. A Government minister or MP responsible for the Bill will open the debate. This is followed with a response by the official Opposition spokesperson.

Once second reading is complete the

Bill proceeds to committee stage – where each clause and any amendments to the Bill are debated. At this stage the Public Bill Committee is able to take evidence from experts and interest groups from outside Parliament.

Once the committee stage is finished, the Bill returns to the floor of the Commons for its report stage. The Bill can be debated by MPs and further amendments proposed. The Report stage is normally followed immediately by the Third reading. The Third reading debate is normally short and is limited to what is actually in the Bill, rather than, as at second reading, what might have been included. Amendments cannot be made to a Bill at this stage.

At the end of the debate, the House votes on whether to approve the third reading of the Bill. After the Third reading the Bill passes to the House of Lords. The Bill is dealt with in a very similar way in the Lords as it is in the Commons. The Bill is thoroughly scrutinized at the committee and report stages. Finally the Bill has the third reading and is passed back to the Commons.

If the Lords did not make any changes to the Bill it can be given the Royal Assent and the legislation within the Bill may commence immediately or after a set period.

● *I hold regular constituency advice surgeries to help people who have problems. If you think that I may be able to help you, contact 01728 685148, or email me via [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com). For more information please visit [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com)*

**Dr Dan Poulter, MP**



## THE RECTOR REFLECTS ... THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



**I'VE RECENTLY RE-READ**  
John Rogers excellent book  
**The Undelivered Mardle;**  
John was scheduled to  
deliver a mardle (a short

reflective talk) at Letheringham not so far from Framlingham but on the morning he was to deliver it he suffered a near fatal heart attack. A couple of years later he gave his mardle, but along the way he'd expanded his thoughts out into this book. It is subtitled 'A memoir of belief, doubt and delight' and that is what it is as he reflects on Letheringham church and his own relationship with the Church of England.

It is a rare book; the church in rural England is not a very fashionable area (even the Vicar of Dibley has been replaced by the urban Rev) but also because John writes as a successor and contemporary to Ronald Blythe's wonderful Akenfield, Blythe actually wrote the introduction.

From its pages I learnt one thing and was reminded of another, taken together

they are things that make the Church of England a very special institution.

The thing I learnt was that the parish system on which it operates came to England from Denmark with the Teutonic invasion when a land-owner was obliged to provide for the spiritual welfare for his people, Christianity in this country inherited this system.

The thing that I knew and was reminded of is that the church legally belongs to everyone who lives within that parish boundary, it is in a very genuine sense their church – it really is the Church of England!

It is the time of year for the annual meetings, there is one in every parish; at them everyone resident in the parish is entitled to attend and take part in electing the Church Wardens who are actually more important than the Rector!

It truly is your church and you are most welcome to come along.

Michael Womack (388889 or  
hoxnebenefice@gmail.com)

■ **EYE VOLUNTEER CENTRE:** The main service the centre operates is the Community Car Service or taking people to health centres, dental and hospital appointments or visiting. The drivers are all volunteers using their own cars which are fully insured to transport people, they also have the necessary disclosure and barring service approval. There is a charge of 45p a mile which is subsidised for people who are in receipt of pension credit. As an example someone requiring transport to Ipswich Hospital from this area will pay approximately £25 for the round trip and car parking fee. The centre would be pleased to have a volunteer driver in this area to add to their existing list. The centre also organises a monthly tea party, which is held at different venues and relies on volunteer hosts and drivers. Also people in this area can attend "The Forge Lunch Club" at Debenham twice a month. These activities appeal to persons who enjoy other peoples company. These services can be accessed by telephoning Gill on 871200. The centre would welcome volunteers to host a tea party or for driving..

**Charles Butler**



**C of E:** Rev Michael Womack is rector of the Hoxne Benefice serving Athelington, Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Redlingfield, Syleham and Wingfield. St Andrew's House, Vicarage Road, Wingfield, IP21 5RB, 388889 or hoxnebenefice@gmail.com. St Andrew, Redlingfield; St Peter, Athelington; St Mary, Horham. Enquiries to: Daphne Harvey, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, Redlingfield (678217).

- Mar 2** **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 11.15am, Mattins.
- Mar 5** Laxfield, 7pm, Imposition of Ashes.
- Mar 9** **Horham**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, Mattins.
- Mar 16** **Hoxne**, 8.30am, HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Syleham, 10am, FS; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, Centenary Celebration Communion with the Dean of the Cathedral.
- Mar 23** Syleham, 9.30am, HC; **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, MP; Hoxne, 10am, FS; Wingfield, 10am, Mattins; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS.
- Mar 30** Wingfield, 10am, Mothering Sunday Service; Hoxne, 11.15am, Benefice Eucharist/Commissioning of Lay Elders with the ArchDeacon; Syleham, 3pm, Mothering Sunday Service.
- Apr 6** **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, 'Mother's Day'; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 11.15am, Mattins.
- Apr 13** **Horham**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, Mattins.
- Apr 14** Syleham, 7.30pm, Praying with the Easter Story.
- Apr 15** **Athelington**, 7.30pm, Lectio Divina.
- Apr 16** Denham, 7.30pm, Taize Service.
- Apr 17** **Redlingfield**, 7.30pm, 'Seder Meal' & Simple Communion.
- Apr 18** Hoxne, 9.30am, Readings and Meditation; Wingfield, noon, Meditation; **Horham**, 7.30pm, The Passion Gospels.
- Apr 19** Denham, 7.30pm, Service of Light and Renewal of Baptism Vows.
- Apr 20** Wingfield, 8.30am, HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, FS with HC after; Syleham, 4pm, Songs of Praise.
- Apr 27** Syleham, 9.30am, HC; **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, MP; Hoxne, 10am, FS; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Wingfield, 6.30pm, Evensong.
- May 4** **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 11.15am, Mattins.
- May 11** **Horham**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, Mattins.
- May 18** Hoxne, 8.30am, HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Syleham, 10am, FS; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, Baptism Service.
- May 25** Syleham, 9.30am, HC; **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, MP; Hoxne, 10am, FS; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Wingfield, 6.30pm, Evensong.  
(HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; FS = Family Service.  
Please check times on notice boards.)

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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**ALEC DEBENHAM, 1927-2012:** Alec was born into a farming family in Langmere. He had three older brothers, Leslie, Bernie and Willie, and two sisters, Daisy and Queenie. The family worked their farm and Alec loved farming from the beginning.

The family moved to a farm in Horham and in 1934 they took on the tenancy of Walnut Tree Farm. In 1942 their first farm had to be demolished to make way for Horham airfield. In 1952 Alec's father purchased Walnut Tree Farm and they remained there.

Alec attended Horham school but his real interest lay in practical work and as soon as he could leave school he started work on the farm with his father and brothers. He particularly enjoyed working with the horses.

Farming was not Alec's only love; he loved dancing and was a regular at the Billingford dances. He was a good dancer. Many remember the DJ, called Brock and West, who played a mixture of music every Saturday in an old army shed in Billingford. The dances were very popular and many have fond memories of them.

Alec's life changed when one evening he saw Margaret. He loved her dearly for the rest of his life. In the early days Alec used to take Margaret on the back of his motorbike although her parents were not happy about him doing so. They married in Billingford church on February 25th 1956. There was deep snow and the people of Billingford kindly dug out a path for them to get to church.

They started married life in a cottage on Athelington Road and it was a very

happy time for them, especially when their daughter, Linda was born. When Linda was four they moved back to Walnut Tree Farm to help care for Alec's father who was unwell. He died in 1976. The farmland was sold but Alec, Margaret and Linda remained in the house.

Alec then went to work with Teddy Rose, draining land. He also did numerous odd jobs and continued to help people long after he retired. He helped the Wheelers at Ivy House and was also a great help to the 'incomers' when Ivy House was sold. But he missed farming and could often be seen chatting to his brother and nephews as they farmed the land around the house. He would hitch a ride on the combine and marvel at the modern machinery. He had seen many changes in his lifetime.

Family was important to Alec and he was very happy when Linda married Harold and they had two sons, Thomas and Samuel. He was a loving husband and father and no less a loving grandfather. He regularly walked with the boys around the land and took them on bike rides. Tragedy struck when Sam died, aged 16 in a road accident. This was a time of great pain for all the family and Alec took it very hard.

Alec loved his corner of Suffolk and didn't like being away, he and Margaret only had one holiday, they went to Folkstone, he didn't settle until he was home again. Everything he needed was right here, his lovely family, beautiful views and as many blackberries as he could pick.

**Adam Blowes**



**RAYMOND (BILL) BALDRY, 1926-2013:**

Bill returned for the final time to the village he loved on December 17th 2013 and was welcomed home by a large congregation at St. Mary's Church.

Growing up at the Dragon Inn in Horham with his sister Beryl, he enjoyed an idyllic childhood and showed great promise at Eye Grammar School. He was fascinated by aircraft, joining the Air Training Corps and experienced the excitement of the arrival of the 95th Bomb Group, with many of the airmen enjoying the hospitality of his parents at the Dragon.

After the War, Bill moved to London and trained to be an architect. For one of his first jobs, he was fortunate enough to work on the design of one of the large exhibitions featured in the 1951 Festival of Britain, which celebrated the emergence of fresh talent and new ideas in science, technology, industrial design and the arts. It was an exciting time with lots of optimism about the future. He met and



fell in love with a young Irish nurse, marrying Kathleen in 1953.

After the arrival of three children, Bill and Kay left the bright lights of London and settled back in Suffolk. He worked for Johns Slater & Haward, who designed many iconic buildings in and around Ipswich.

Like his father Hubert, who is still fondly remembered in Horham, Bill was good with his hands and always seemed to be making or mending something. Later on, he earned extra money by creating intricate architectural scale models of houses, schools and complete estates for exhibitions and to support planning applications.

Sadly, Kay passed away in 2005 and although Bill always enjoyed his own company, he became increasingly lonely and missed her companionship. Unfortunately, his hearing also deteriorated, increasing the sense of isolation. Bill is survived by Francis, Shelagh and John.

**Frank Baldry**

***THE WORLD DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD* by Manday Miller**

*I was going to speak about the weather but an old friend called, dropped in to the back garden. Someone I had not seen since last year. I do hope they bring the babies round later in the year.*

*I have also missed many night callers, I have not heard so many owls, I miss the hedgehogs, come to think of it the bright spring flowers.*

*The caller was none other than a green woodpecker who had a whale of a time digging holes, pulling up moss making a mess. But I don't moan, the more unkempt my garden is the more wildlife like it?*

*I wonder at this time of year do we really see nature's gifts? Or life's little gifts? My grandad would say a compliment is a verbal gift.*

*I try to treat life that way when I have bad days, you all know the ones, don't get out of bed days. You did and here it comes. When I get home look out of the window & see nature's gifts the world doesn't look so bad!*



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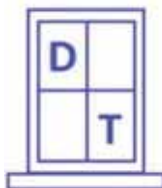
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