

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



**SPRING 2015
ISSUE No. 29**

SPURLING & REMBLANCE



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I have to apologise to Elizabeth Gibson-Harries and Dr Daniel Poulter MP who both produced columns for this issue which we haven't published. As this mag covers the period when the parliamentary and district council elections are being held – remember to vote on Thursday May 7 – it seems only fair to the other candidates to suspend the columns for this issue. I just wish I had thought of that before they'd written their pieces.

There will be tribute in the next issue about Sheila Leeks, nee Davy, who died as we went to press. She was a loyal and stalwart friend to Athelington church and will be greatly missed.

Evelyn Adey

Many thanks to Neville Butcher for the front-page picture of Redlingfield Wood.

Welcome to your latest village mag. Filling the pages never seems to be a problem nowadays. The problem is fitting everything in – what with all the things going on at Horham & Athelington Community Centre, Horham Old School, The Red Feather Club and in Redlingfield. However, if you want to write a piece on something or have some art or photos you'd like to see in the next issue just get in touch with myself or Evelyn. Once again many thanks to all those who help to produce and deliver your mag. It might be mine and Evelyn's names on the magazine but it really is thanks to the efforts of many people that we have a mag at all.

Along with this mag you should all have received the latest directory of local information. We hope it will be useful.

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 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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Revenue goes towards the costs of producing the magazine and profits will be split between Horham & Athelington Parish Council and Redlingfield Village Meeting.

We aim to produce four issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November. The next issue - Summer 2015 - is due to be published at the end of May. The final deadline for all submissions is May 14th.

Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News is printed & published by Evelyn Adey & Mike Ager for the villages of Athelington, Horham, Redlingfield and surrounds. The editors reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editors.

Great winter for the birds

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Barn Farm wildlife

OUR WINTER SEASON HAS passed by without a major mishap though I have to disagree with one cynics' Christmas offering. This goes "Shopping drain, the odd refrain, followed by financial pain." How sad is that! No such mood prevailed here at Wash Farm, thank goodness. For us, the annual job of glazing the huge ham went hand in hand with watching bullfinches through the kitchen window.

JANUARY SAW THE END OF THE shooting season, and it has been a mixed bag of wet days, high pheasants, and exploring corners of glorious Suffolk countryside.

On one memorable day in November, I saw a kingfisher fly the length of the line of guns in the valley of the River Lark, south of Bury.

This is a shoot where another wetland bird, the woodcock, is as safe as houses. I am always pleased to hear the host say "No woodcock" as it is not a game bird but a secretive wader and unusual in its liking for dense undergrowth. However, this doesn't prevent it being legally shot in large numbers in Ireland.

It is a beautifully coloured bird with plumage to match fallen leaves, and with such perfect camouflage, it can remain unnoticed when foraging on the woodland floor. Not that you would get near a skulking woodcock anyway, as it one of the few birds with

complete 360-degree vision and will take flight with rapid, furious wing beats.

Electronic tagging is increasingly used in the study of many species and you will have heard of the success of tracking cuckoos to Africa by the use of little transmitters. Now it is the woodcock's turn and a female given the name of Wensum was one of a dozen tagged in Norfolk in 2013. Last year it was seen in the Netherlands having travelled 2,800 miles via Finland on an epic journey (see www.woodcockwatch.com). Anyway, the lady Wensum confirms my reluctance to shoot woodcock as I wouldn't want to pull the trigger to put an end to that fantastic journey.

MR WALLACE OF CONEY

Weston, on a visit to Korea, confirms the eccentricity of twitchers. Some hostile North Korean soldiers demanded an explanation from people who were wandering out of bounds in the Demilitarised Zone. They were told, "Very sorry, we are Finnish birdwatchers and we are lost." That's an understatement if ever I heard one.

IN A BATTLE WITH WIND AND rain, the energy any bird expends migrating to our shores is amazing. In November, it has been known for birders in North Norfolk to have woodcock fall exhausted at their feet on the beach.

Rebuilding a barn owl box at Wash farm.



AS SUFFOLK BARN OWLS continue to grow in number, they are on the move and one ringed barn owl from Gt Ashfield turned up in Leicestershire. Although all new generations are pushed out to new territories, this was a long-distance relocation indeed. However, it was very successful as she hatched off three chicks.

The Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project, which started our county's success, is now 10 years old. The same goes for my two barn owl nest boxes, which don't half look their age now. Grey squirrels,

which are as quick as weasels and just about as likeable, damaged one so badly it had to be completely rebuilt by David Moore, from the turkey unit, on a misty winter morning.

Enthusiasts there are on the look-out at the first full moon of November, the traditional time for woodcock to migrate.

Many of our common garden birds have European cousins which migrate here too. Robins, blackbirds and song-thrushes, and even skylarks, all fly in to add to our home populations.

The Knowlands of Denham, up with the lark as always, watched a skylark rising and singing on a cold, frosty day on January 28th. Skylark singing is part of a macho culture and as skylark territories are often adjacent, the best males sing as a show of strength. Sometimes this can be in the face of hawk attack and if they are really keen they start singing on mild days in January. Never mind that it was brass monkeys that morning, here was an early bird who just happened to get the weather wrong.

SUFFOLK IS INCREASINGLY recognised as a beautiful county to visit and the coastline is enhanced by numerous estuaries for the birdwatcher. A winter walk on the Deben at Woodbridge gave us a setting sun that could have been painted by JMW Turner.

Recently in mid-February, the Waveney Bird Club gathered on the River Blythe where the winter sun illuminated flocks of curlew, avocet, grey plover and lapwing on the high tide. All the big scopes were there and were able to answer the mystery of the day.

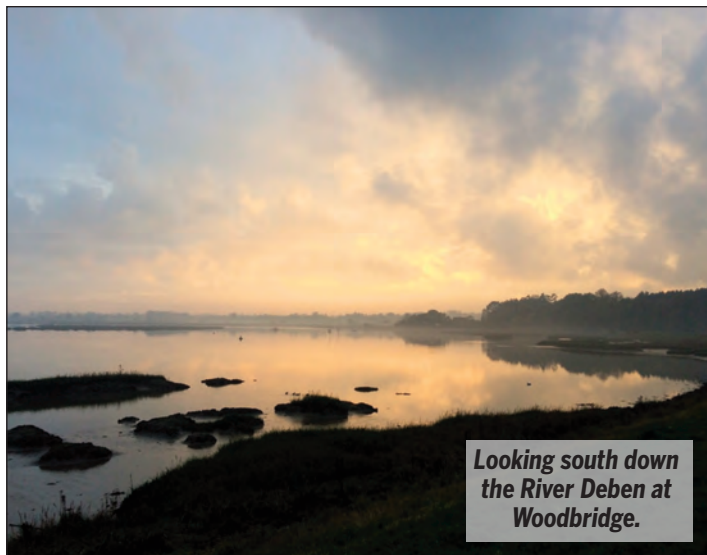
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page 3*

Using my new bins to study a flock of lapwings, a very odd bird resembling a chicken stood out in the middle. The answer was at hand, it was a leucistic green plover, an unusual pale-feathered bird with a much lighter pigmentation than its shiny, iridescent companions.

Another target for the group was the reed-bed specialist, the bearded tit, which can be hard to find and certainly was that day. Afterwards, Anita, who only came along for a solitary river walk and was happy to give us birders a wide berth, said “Oh, I saw one of those as I walked back to the pub.”

A later visit to Cley Marshes on St Valentine’s Day was a different experience altogether and produced my best ever sighting of bearded tits. A party of four were easily visible on the



reed bed edge and stayed in view for ages at very close range. The result was scores of very happy birdwatchers. It was the perfect day for this too as, once introduced, a pair will bond for life. They are highly localised, and as the UK’s population is confined to our corner of England, we are proud to have them.

The last word goes to the Collins Bird Guide; the male is not bearded but moustached, and anyway, they are not tits at all but bearded reedlings.

Trevor Edwards

SUFFOLK WALKING FESTIVAL: The year’s programme offers more than 90 guided walks around medieval villages, market towns, along the coast and through gentle landscapes across the county. The event from Saturday, May 9th to Sunday, May 31, includes Sketch Book Strolls for children (there’s also one for adults) with a local artist around Brandon Country Park; a seven mile hike called Food Glorious Food through Thetford Forest to the award-winning restaurant at the Elvedon Hall Estate for lunch; A Scottish Visionary and His Fairytale Village, starting from Thorpeness along the coast as well as Beachcombing for Beginners on Felixstowe beach. Visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk to look at the programme and to book your tickets. You can also pick up a brochure from your Suffolk tourist information centres.

Exotic start for woodland

IN 1988 RIC EDELMANN AND Nigel Hughes visited the Hunstein Range Forest in the Sepik region of Papua New Guinea. Here they learnt that this uniquely rich eco-system of 2,000 square miles of forest was earmarked for logging. They pledged to support the local people in protecting their homeland, and the forest is still standing today!

The local tribesmen asked what was done to protect woodland in the UK and Ric and Nigel realising that more needed to be done here set up the Green Light Trust to help UK communities support local environments.

In 1989 the Green Light trust was established as an environmental charity based in Lawshall in Suffolk to inform the public on environmental matters, and in 1993 a small group of people living in Lawshall decided to create their own woodland and "Forest for our Children" was planted. This

was the first of over 60 community owned wild spaces created with the support of the Green Light Trust. The trusts mission is to bring communities and landscapes together through hands on learning, "People and nature together".

In 2001 the community-owned wild space scheme was started, a unique funding partnership from B&Q, the Forestry Commission and Suffolk County Council, and with that support the New Reeding Woods Group was set up in 2002. Finally in 2005 land was found locally and our own community open space became a reality.

This project is now thriving; incorporating meadow, pond and woodland, and planted and maintained by residents of Denham, Horham and Athelington. Please visit us along the Redlingfield Road in Horham. For more information phone Mike Reeves on 668 179.

Margaret Reeves

HORHAM VILLAGE FÊTE: Horham is holding an old-fashioned village fête, with stalls, entertainment and sideshows on Saturday May 16 at the community centre and on its grounds. Organisers hope villagers will join in the preparations, share their talents and come along for a day of fun and to support your village. A village meeting was held on Saturday February 21 to plan the event but organisers would still like ideas, and volunteers to help, in advance and/or on the day. For example, if people have a skill they could demonstrate, or if they make items to sell (e.g. cards, craft/sewn items, plants they have grown, etc) or could run a sideshow, or work for a local company who might take an advert in the programme, or have spare cotton fabric to make bunting from, please contact Karen (384754), Clare (388878) or Kerina (669376). Other big events planned for this year at Horham & Athelington Community Centre include: a St Patrick's Day supper on Saturday March 14; a St George's Day medieval feast on Saturday April 25 and a Summer Ball on Saturday July 4.

Clare Webb

Is it all down to the queue

“THEY COME DOWN once a week to go to the bathroom” Any thoughts as to what that might be about? Well it was actually a zoologist talking on the radio about the life and habits of the South American Sloth and referring to the fact that they spend their entire lives in the tree canopy except for their very regular sanitary habits.

This statement, aside from being a lovely euphemism that sets the mind wandering along the lines of ; does every Sloth have its own bathroom or do they have to queue as they insist on all coming down at the same time?; is also a fine example of our tendency to give other animals human attributes. Is it only sentimentality on our part to give undue emphasis to our apparent links with the other animals or are the bonds linking us closer and stronger than we generally take them to be?

I suppose that we will be less happy with the idea of a direct connexion if we eat meat – are we happy to eat a close relative? Not that the vegetarians among us need to feel too smug on that count – are we absolutely certain that a parsnip, for example, feels no

pain when it is wrenched from the soil and has its leaves sliced off?

To my mind the question of linkage is not “Are we linked to other animals?” but rather “What makes us think that we are not?”

Because all our bodily functions are close to or the same as other animals – we eat, drink and reproduce in the same way as well as getting rid of waste products in the same way, hence all the earlier talk of bathrooms – any significant differences between us will probably be to do with our brains. Certainly in this regard our brains are bigger for our size than all the other animals (although apparently dolphins run us pretty close). So is the difference to do with the nature of our thinking? Following this line we soon come up with the old question of do animals have consciousness and imagination? – that which in an earlier time we would commonly have called a soul but I am not going there, I shall stay with consciousness and imagination. If we go with the trend and accept that we are descended from the other animals we must then wonder that if there is some basic

MUSIC FOR PASSIONTIDE: There will be a performance of “Music for Passiontide”, “All in the April Evening”, “God So Loved the World” and other music on Good Friday at 7.00pm in Worlingworth Church, performed by the augmented singers of the Benefice Choir. “Music for Passiontide”, written for choir and organ, is a setting of St Matthew’s account of the last few days of Jesus’ journey to the cross. First performed in 2011, this is another opportunity to hear this item which was written by local composer Bernard Butler, a member of the Benefice choir. Come and listen to this concert of appropriate music for Holy Week. Entrance is free, and there will be a retiring collection.

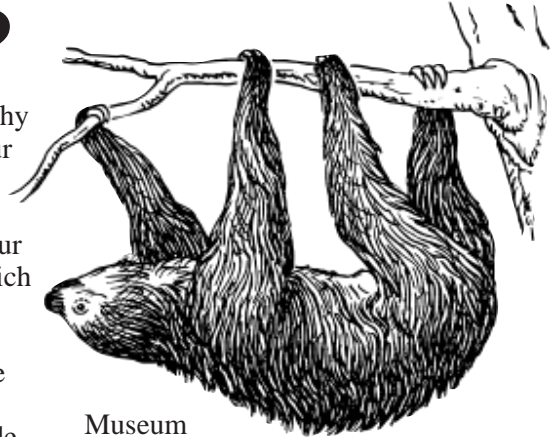
for the loo?

difference between us when and why did it happen? Did the brains of our ancestors change so that we then began to be humans? Or did we physically change in response to our environment and stand upright which then caused our brains to change?

In even the recent past it was all quite straight forward and could be simply stated – we were *Homo Sapiens*, we stood upright, we made tools and we had all come out of Africa and any subsequent differences between us were caused by adaptation to environment only. There was however even at that point the rather inconvenient evidence of the Neanderthals lurking in the background who did not quite fit into our lovely neat picture (who are those guys?). Never mind, ignore them and they might go away or we may at some future time chance upon some way in which they will fit in.

Well they never went away and more recently their irritating presence has been augmented by the discovery of evidence of more and different humanoids from all over the place and all at inconveniently early dates.

Never mind! These developments do not run against our thoughts on consciousness and imagination for; if we take the making of tools and the creation of decoration as signs of both, these earliest people certainly did the first and the evidence of decoration comes along not much later. There is a hand tool on display in the British



Museum made from bone which is decorated with the motif of two reindeer swimming. It was carved 130,000 years ago towards the end of the last ice-age when the life of its creator must have been very hard yet the impulse to make something purely for pleasure was there. Cave paintings date from similar, if not earlier times and are some of the most beautiful depictions of our environment ever created and certainly give evidence of both our consciousness and imagination from earliest times.

Did these two qualities begin with us or are they essential qualities belonging to all animals which we have yet to recognise in them. My own hunch is that as we discover more about our relationship with our animal antecedents any present differences are likely to dissolve and the transition from them to us will be shown to be continuous.

Meanwhile at the time of writing, we have a full house of extended family visiting and so it's back to the queue for the bathroom for me!

Neville Butcher

There's a lot of life in the

AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF the Old School Hall committee, I thought I would let everyone in Horham know of the latest news and all that goes on at the Old School.

Firstly for those of you who don't know, Horham Old School is the old Victorian building set back to the left of the church. As its name suggests it used to be the school for the village, but was closed down by the 1930s. The children then had to walk to Stradbroke, and the building fell into disrepair. In the 1970s it was renovated by villagers and became a village hall and social club for the village. The building retains that function to the present day and is now slowly being updated and renovated. To date we

have had a new roof and all the electrics replaced. This has been made possible with money from out of our own funds, and also with grants from MSDC, Adnams and The Britten Foundation, amongst others.

Currently we are applying for funding to replace all the old windows in the building, the most costly update so far. Already the building is a more pleasant place to be, warmer and drier, noticeably so.

The Old School is still used by many regulars on a weekly basis and is a feature of the social life of many. The bar in the social club is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.30pm all year round. We sell local real ale and a good selection of other beverages. If beer is not your tippie, then every

HORHAM COFFEE MORNINGS: After a break for Christmas and New Year our coffee mornings are up and running again at the Old School Horham. Our brave customers have battled through rain, ice, hail, wind and thunderstorms to enjoy each other's company, our very good coffee and the delicious cake. We have a large collection of books you are welcome to borrow (and add to!), and a Facebook page where you can find details of planned events; just type The Old School, Horham into your Facebook search box. Join us on Wednesday mornings between 10.30am to 12ish for coffee and cake and be sure of a warm welcome.

Christine Cooper



Old School

Wednesday morning there is a popular coffee morning, serving fresh ground coffee, or tea, and the most delicious homemade cakes.

In addition to this, the hall is used every Tuesday evening for dance practice and is the home of your local sword dance team, Old School Rapper. Rapper sword is a fast moving, energetic dance form from the north of England. Look out for us at local events or sometimes in local pubs when we're on tour!

Traditional music is a regular feature of events at the Old School and there has been many a good night in the building. Once a month, every second Monday, from 8pm, there's a traditional music and song session. This session has been held without a break for more than 10 years. Once a month folk turn up and treat all those present with songs and toe tapping tunes. We have some splendid evenings. Again, anyone is welcome to come and join in, or just sit and enjoy the music. The bar is always open. On the back of this we have had two traditional music nights on Fridays. More are planned for 2015, so watch out for the posters and do please come along.

As you have read there is still a lot of life in the Old School. We would be very pleased to see you at one of our events, or when the bar is open, or to one of the coffee mornings. I can assure you there will be a warm welcome. *Judy Andrews (384207)*

■ LAST WINTER VILLAGE COFFEE

MORNING: Redlingfield's final indoor winter coffee morning will be held on Wednesday, March 4, at the home of Jacqueline & David Love at Western Barn, Abbotts Meadow. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the good company, tea, coffee and nibbles. There will be a free raffle, a visit from Garry with his information-filled Coffee Campervan and the local police team have also promised to update us on local crime trends. Donations welcome. Queries to Jacqueline on 678805. The Coffee Caravan returns to the village on the first Wednesday of each month from April until October. *Jacqueline Love*

■ **A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** Father and Mother Christmas would like to thank everyone who donated to EACH at Christmas. Father Christmas had a great morning and arrived back in time for lunch. A total of £500 was raised for the children's hospice. Our grateful thanks to all who donated and we very much hope to see everyone again next Christmas. *Janet Fisk*

■ **REDLINGFIELD CHURCH SERVICES:** From March 2015 services at the church of St Andrew in Redlingfield will be: 9.30am Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month; and 10am Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday of the month. *Hazel Abbott*

■ ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTER:

Baptism: December 7th - Guy Harris Melton. **Burial:** January 26th - Evelyn Doris Whatling aged 97 years (see in memoriam. *Daphne Harvey*

■ **THANK YOU:** Thank you to all who contributed to St Mary's gift day on November 16 raising £227.76 for Horham church's funds. *Daphne Harvey*



MANDAY'S FREEFALL: Redlingfield's Manday Miller and Tesco's colleague Andrea Leaper did a 10,000-foot freefall parachute jump from Beccles Airfield. Their tandem jumps each raised £1,000 for Diabetes UK. Manday said the freefall part of the jump was "scary, exhilarating and cold all at

once" but when the parachute opened "it was wonderful – just like flying". Read Manday's poem about the jump on page 21.



Why isn't there a Men's

WHAT DOES THE WORD woman make you think of? I bet there are as many different things as there are readers of the word. And yet many people will happily say 'women want this', 'women want that', 'women are like this', or 'that'.

As with so many other groups we are put into stereotypes, sometimes it seems that people find it too much hard work to get to know a particular woman and so just lump us together.

I've never been a true feminist, partly because the word doesn't draw much distinction between one woman and another, but I have worked with women and often championed their issues. Many so called women's issues are men's issues too: the right to vote was extended to all women at the same time that it was extended to all men. (Previously only men who had property were allowed to vote). Men

are subjected to bullying and abuse as are women, anyone can be impoverished, made homeless by war or be ill, some women are bullies and abusers as are some men.

There is a difference though; domestic violence and subjugation is more commonly perpetrated by men against women than the other way round. There must be many reasons for this – a common one is the wish to control. Maybe people who have been controlled and bullied themselves are driven to do the same when they can, bullies often seem desperately unsure of their worth.

And of course there are many women who expect and accept a subservient role; the rule in many cultures as it used to be here. There is a particularly depressing line in a hymn that goes: 'The trivial round the common task – is all we need to ask'. This raises all sorts of problems for



World Day of Prayer?

women who like their culture or follow their religion but do not want to be just skivvies.

The mirror image of this is the problem faced by a woman who wants a career break of several years to raise her family to school age but is met by many insuperable obstacles. The common assumption that child care is tedious and that women are all longing to be at work, the difficulty of getting back on to the career ladder, politicians' offers of more and more childcare and maybe, most of all, is the current difficulty of acquiring a home without two wage earners. So, for many of us the 'common task' is fine but we need a bit more over a lifetime.

One of the reasons I have been thinking about women is that the Women's World Day of Prayer

(WWDP) is on March 6th. WWDP is an international organisation which has been holding a day of prayer since the beginning of the last century and groups of women were meeting in the 19th century.



There are now 170 countries involved, all sharing the same day so that their thoughts and prayers make a wave right across the world. Early crowd funding (WWDP does collect some money for many charities but its focus is the group day).

It seems to me to be a good idea to spend time thinking and praying in whatever way on a particular theme or issue. Why is there no Men's World Day of Prayer?

The service will be at Horham Baptist Church at 2 pm, everyone is welcome, even men. *Evelyn Adey*

WHAT'S ON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Film Show: Horham Community Centre. Archive film of days gone by in Horham, Athelington & Redlingfield. Details from Donny 388129.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Redlingfield coffee morning: at the home of Jacqueline & David Love, Abbots Meadow, 10am-noon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Fish & Chips: Horham Community Centre. Sign up in advance.

MC Hansen: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £8/£10.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Eye Bach Choir, Orchestra & Soloists perform JS Bach: Eye Parish Church, 7.30pm. £15 reserved, £12 unreserved.

Quiz & chilli supper: Worlingworth Community Centre. Team of 4, £5 per person. To book, ring Annie on 628017.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

The Battles of Coronel & Falkland Islands: WW1 film season. The Bank, Eye, 7.30pm/doors 7pm. Tickets £5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

St Patrick's Day supper: Horham Community Centre. 3-course meal, shots, wine, coffee & mints, fun & laughter. 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets from Karen or Clare, £12 members, £15 non-members. Dress: green/orange/white!

Suffolk Singers: Serenading the Spring, St Michael's Church, Framlingham, 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (inc refreshments) from 01473 635525 or Hall Farm Butchers.

Antonio Riva & Le Gazhikane Muzikante: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £8/£10.

Pudding Party & Auction: In aid of the Stradbroke & District Bowls Club, 7.30pm, Stradbroke Community Centre.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Kingfisher Sinfonietta: Framlingham College Theatre, 6.30pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Stradbroke Cinema: The Imitation Game.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Bar meals: Horham Community Centre. Sign up in advance.

Beat the Teacher Quiz Night: Family fun night out with nibbles, sweet shop, soft drinks & bar, 7.30pm, Stradbroke High School.

The Trench: WW1 film season. The Bank, Eye, 7.30pm/doors 7pm. Tickets £5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Thorndon Mini Marmalade Festival: All Saints Church with stalls at the school, 10am-4pm. Competition entry forms from: The Village Stores, Thorndon, IP23 7JR phone 678226 or 870759. Deadline for entries March 16.

Bewitched and Bedazzled: the Wonder of Witch Hazels: Plant Heritage Suffolk Group talk, Stowupland Village Hall, 2.30pm. Members free, £5 non-members (www.suffolkplantheritage.com).

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Litter Pick: Join in Redlingfield's Annual Litter Pick on Sunday. Give the village a clean-up. Co-ordinate your efforts with Andrew Abbott. If you need litter picking graspers etc contact Mike or Jan.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Arts & Eats: The Bank, Eye, noon-2pm, £10. Delicious food, interesting company & fascinating speakers.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Quiz: Stradbroke Community Centre, 7.30pm. Tables of 4 £10. Tony Potts 384713 or Don Darling 388098.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Film Show: Horham Community Centre. More archive film, this time from slightly further afield. Details Donny 388129.

Bombed out Blitz Dance: Red Feather Club with Skyliner & DJ Texas Tommy.

An Evening with Simon Weston: Diss Corn Hall presented by 1st Fressingfield Scout Group. Tickets £15 per person from the Corn Hall or can be reserved by emailing dawn@dawncj.co.uk.

EyesWrite Presents: A trio of plays. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £7.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28-SATURDAY, APRIL 11
Community Art Exhibition: Wingfield Barns exhibits amateur artists.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon, centre of Redlingfield.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Music for Passiontide: Worlingworth Church, 7pm. See story.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Easter Fun Day: Museum of East Anglian Life, 11am-5pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5-SUNDAY, APRIL 6
Easter Steam-up: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Easter-themed activities for children & three engines in steam running to a special timetable.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
Fish & Chips: Horham Community Centre.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10-SUNDAY, APRIL 12
Spring Break: Mid Suffolk Showground at Stonham Barns.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11
Redlingfield Family Fun Evening & Race Night: Horham & Athelington Community Centre. A fun evening out for the family with a buffet & race night. See story.

Scott Biram: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £8/£10.

MONDAY, APRIL 13
Johnny Dowd: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £8/£10.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
Stradbroke Cinema: Mr Turner.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
Redlingfield Village lunch: Old Mill House, The Green, Saxtead. Contact Linda on 678984.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
Redlingfield church quiz: 7pm for 7.30pm start, Horham Old School. Quiz to raise funds for Redlingfield church. Tickets £5 per person, inc buffet from Christine Stanford. Phone 01728 628474.

The Poisoners Pact: Play by Stuff of Dreams Theatre Company. The Bank, Eye, 7.30pm/doors 7pm. Tickets £10.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
St George's Day celebration: A medieval feast, so dress appropriately! 3-course meal with mead, wine, coffee & games. 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets from Karen or Clare, £12 members, £15 non-members.

Sadie Jemmett: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £6/£8.

The Bank Eye: The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & www.thebankeye.org/.
Diss Corn Hall: Corn Hall, St Nicholas Street, Diss. Box Office: 652241 & boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk. Full programme at www.disscornhall.co.uk ; **Framlingham:** www.framlingham.com. **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, events@helmingham.com, www.helmingham.com. **Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754; Clare, 388878; & Kerina, 669376, **Hoxne Cinema:** Tickets from Jenny Knights 668060, Hoxne PO & Stores, or via www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk. **Midsuffolk Showgrounds & Stonham Barns:** Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, <http://stonham-barns.co.uk/>.
Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, Brockford Station, Wetheringsett nr Stowmarket, Suffolk Suffolk IP14 5PW, www.mslr.org.uk, general enquiries 01449 766899. The MSLR is open on Sundays & Bank Holidays from the beginning of May until the end of Sept. **Museum of East Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, 01449 612229, enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk.
Redlingfield, 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk.
Stradbroke Cinema: Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. Admission £5.50. Bar open, ice-creams on sale in the interval. **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary,** Stonham Barns, 08456 807897, info@owl-help.org.uk, www.owl-help.org.uk. **Wingfield Barns,** 384505, enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com, www.wingfieldbarns.com, tickets also available from www.wegotickets.com **95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club,** www.95thbg-horham.com, 01728 860930 or jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net

WHAT'S ON

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Stradbroke Cinema: Paddington.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Annual Church Plant Sale: Outside Stradbroke church 10am.

Rory Mcleod: Live music. The Bank, Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets £10/£12.

SATURDAY, MAY 2-MONDAY, MAY 4

Flower festival: St Marys Church Worlingworth, 10am-5pm. Light lunches noon-2pm.

SUNDAY, MAY 3-MONDAY, MAY 4

Middy in the War Years: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Displays, memorabilia, weapons & vehicles from WW2. Re-enactors will add to the atmosphere of a country railway station during the war.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Elections: Remember to vote in the general & other elections.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Bar meals: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, MAY 9-SUNDAY, MAY 31

Suffolk Walking Festival: See story.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Doorstep Green Tidy: 6pm. Help to get Redlingfield's Doorstep Green ready for the summer. Come along with your garden tools.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Horham Village Fête: An old-fashioned village fête, with stalls, entertainment & sideshows. Please join in the preparations, share your talents, & come along for a day of fun & to support your village! Watch out for details.

Salsa with DJ Hughie: The Bank, Eye, 8pm-11pm. Tickets £7.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Stradbroke Triathlon: 9am.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Redlingfield AGM: 8pm, Horham & Athelington Community Centre.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Stradbroke Cinema: My Old Lady.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Fish & Chips: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Pub on the Green: The first of our popular nights on Redlingfield Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight. Look out for details of mini BBQs.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair: Helmingham Hall.

Kingfisher Sinfonietta: Fram College Theatre, 6.30pm. Tickets from Fram Stationers or at the door. Info at www.kingfishersinfonietta.co.uk.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 & THURSDAY, MAY 28

Suffolk Show: Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Gilbert & Sullivan singers: Worlingworth.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

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

Churchyard clear up: 6pm. Bring along some tools & help tidy the churchyard.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Bar meals: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6-SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Eye Open Gardens Weekend.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Belgian Day: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. An official launch for visiting Cockerill 0-4-0VBWT tram engine, built in Belgium.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Late Risers' Car Boot Sale: Horham Community Centre. Gate opens 10am for 11am start. Pitch £5 in advance, £6 on the day. Book with Karen 384754.

Pub on the Green: 6pm-midnight, Redlingfield Doorstep Green. Watch out for details of mini BBQs.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Fish & Chips: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Worlingworth Village fete.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Debenham Street Fayre.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

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

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Occold Village Fete & Fun Day.

1940s & 1950s Retro Swing Dance: Red Feather Club Horham, 7.30pm. Dance with the band The Hot Tin Roofs.

Summer Ball: Horham Community Centre. A glamorous evening with buffet & dancing. Tickets from Karen or Clare, £15 for members, £18 non-members. Dress code: black tie if you have it, otherwise as smart as you can manage.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Americana Day: Red Feather Club Horham, 10am-4pm. Free event celebrating everything American.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Bar meals: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Redlingfield Summer Fayre & BBQ: 3pm until late. Our big Summer event on the

Doorstep Green. Bar & food from 3pm, BBQ from 6pm. Games, raffles, tombola. Tickets £6 - which entitle you to three portions from the BBQ - available from usual sources or contact Mike & Jan (678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk).

THURSDAY-MONDAY, JULY 16-20

Debenham Country Music Festival.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Fish & Chips: Horham Community Centre.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Stradbroke Church Village Show: 8m-5pm, Stradbroke Community Centre.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Suffolk Dog Day: Helmingham Hall.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Festival of Classic & Sports Cars: Helmingham Hall.

Stradbroke Walking Marathon: 8am-5.30pm. Gerald Jenkins 384825.

Hornby Collectors: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Model railways on display.

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-8pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 & 07563 534086. **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: Coffee mornings, every Wed, 10.30am -noon at Horham Old School.

Redlingfield & Occold WI, 1st Wed of the month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Hoxon Hundred:** Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practices. Ron Ross, 643563. Eye Country Market, every Wed 10am-11am, Eye Town Hall (closed Jan). **Social mornings:** Horham Old School. 10.30am each Wed tea, coffee, cake, crafts, a chat and good company. Info from Christine (384168) or Pip (384370). Admission free - small charge for refreshments.

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. Worlingworth Swan, live music, last Fri evening of month.

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

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



Delays for Doorstep Green

AS REGULAR READERS WILL know, here in Redlingfield we have embarked on two major projects.

1) Repairing and updating our delightful village church, so that it lasts another 1,000 years and is able to host community events – once there are toilets and better heating.

2) Expanding our existing three-quarter acre Doorstep Green by two acres and improving the existing play facilities, as well as creating a new access for vehicles and parking so there will be more space for play and recreation and we will be able to share the access and parking with the church.

This involves getting planning permission for Change of Use and vehicular access.

For the church repairs, we applied initially to the Heritage Lottery Fund and they suggested we approach a new fund that has just been set up ‘The Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund’ – so we have asked them for help and we should have the results by the end of March. Hopefully we will be successful.

As there are both pipistrelle and long-eared bats in residence, the repair work can’t start until September, after the bat breeding season, but all the work to replace the roof and rainwater goods

REDLINGFIELD FUNDRAISING BUFFET AND RACE NIGHT: On Saturday April 11 we will be holding a Buffet and Horse Race Night at Horham Community Centre, starting at 7pm. This should be loads of fun for all the family. We are using “On Course Race Nights”, who recently held a very successful Race Night for Eye Moors Football Club. They will bring along all their video and race night equipment. It is expected entrance tickets will be around £5. All the money we raise will be used for amenities in Redlingfield. We are also looking for local firms to sponsor each of the eight races ... so do get in touch. Come along and maybe win some money while you help raise funds for the village.



**Redlingfield
Doorstep Green.**



and church

should still be finished by December.

Everyone we have spoken to at Suffolk and Mid Suffolk councils has been very supportive. But progress on the planning permission has been slow.

Planners were initially worried the access road and parking would spoil the look of the field but as we will be using under grass mesh it will be invisible once the grass grows through.

Then highways wanted the entrance to the field closer to the village to increase visibility.

Finally county engineers have said we can't pipe the ditch to create access but must have a bridge, so any water in the ditch can flow freely.

Fortunately a local resident has donated the money we need to buy the land but the bridge and access is going to be expensive – estimates vary but the bridge will cost at least £10,000 and the under grass reinforcement mesh another £5,000. So be warned – we will be doing a lot of fundraising!

**Janet Norman-Philips - Redlingfield
Village Committee. 678835
jnphilips@gn.apc.org**

REDLINGFIELD EVENTS 2015:

Wednesday March 4 - Coffee morning: 10am-noon, Western Barn, Abbots Meadow.

Sunday March 22 - Litter Pick: Join in Redlingfield's annual litter pick.

Saturday April 11 - Redlingfield Family Fun Evening & Race Night: Horham & Athelington Community Centre (see story).

Friday April 17 - Redlingfield Village lunch: Old Mill House, The Green, Saxtead. Contact Linda on 678984.

Saturday April 18 - Redlingfield church quiz: 7pm for 7.30pm, Horham, Old School.

Wednesday May 13 - Doorstep Green Tidy: 6pm. Help to get Redlingfield's Doorstep Green ready for the summer. Come along with your garden tools.

Wednesday May 20 - Redlingfield AGM: 8pm, Horham & Athelington Community Centre (bar open).

Wednesday June 3 - Churchyard clear up: 6pm. Bring along some tools and help tidy up the churchyard.

Saturday July 11 - Redlingfield Summer Fayre & BBQ: 3pm until late, Doorstep Green.

Saturday October 17 - Aviation talk: Horham & Athelington Community Centre.

Saturday November 14 - Redlingfield Swing Dance: The Red Feather Club, Horham.

Pubs on the Green -Saturday May 23, June 13, August 8, September 5 & October 10: 6pm-midnight, Redlingfield Doorstep Green plus mini BBQs.

Coffee Caravan visits first Wednesdays of the month April to October: 10am-noon, on the triangle at the centre of the village (www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk).

Villagers' memories help commemorate 95th in US

VILLAGERS' MEMORIES OF WW2 will help the 95th Bomb Group establish a permanent US home commemorating the men who flew from Horham in the war.

Members of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association (Red Feather Club) are planning to interview and record locals who remember the war years.

These recordings, under the banner The Children of Horham, will be used as part of a new exhibit at the Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

We hope these childhood recollections of the friendly invasion of WW2 had on our little corner of

Suffolk will help children understand the impact the arrival of the 95th on our doorstep and the war itself had on the people of the villages surrounding the base. These Suffolk voices will form part of permanent exhibit in Arizona commemorating the men of the 95th.



Myself and the Red Feather Club entertainments officer Andy Garner have already agreed to start interviewing locals and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a story to tell. We hope other member of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association will also take part in this exciting project.

RED FEATHER CLUB EVENTS 2015:

Saturday March 28 - Bombed out Blitz Dance with the in-house band Skyliner and DJ Texas Tommy. For more on Skyliner see www.skylinerband.co.uk For details of prices, times etc see www.95thbg-horham.com

Saturday July 4 - 1940s & 50s Retro Swing Dance with The Hot Tin Roofs www.thehottinroofs.co.uk For details of prices, times etc see www.95thbg-horham.com

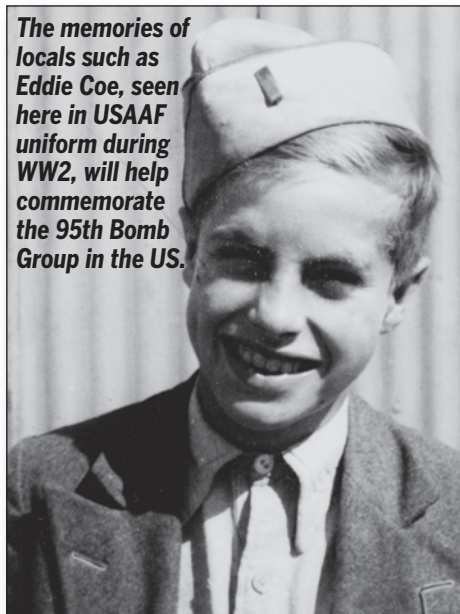
Sunday July 5 - Americana Day. A free event celebrating all things American from 10am to 4pm.

Saturday October 24 - Help for Heroes dance. For details of prices, times etc see www.95thbg-horham.com

Saturday November 14 - Redlingfield Swing Dance. For details of prices, times etc see www.95thbg-horham.com & www.redlingfield.co.uk

Last Sunday of the month May-Oct - Public Open Days. Open 10am to 4pm Sundays May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27 (with vintage softball game) & October 25.-

The memories of locals such as Eddie Coe, seen here in USAAF uniform during WW2, will help commemorate the 95th Bomb Group in the US.



I hope to start by interviewing people in Redlingfield who remember the 95th being at Horham airfield. I also plan to interview former villagers such as Eddie Coe to record their memories.

I also hope to take the opportunity to record those villagers, and others, memories of what life used to be like in Redlingfield.

If you have memories of the 95th's time at Horham or know of someone you think would be happy to record their recollections please get in touch (678835 or mike@gn.apc.org).

The Red Feather Club which is the 95th Bomb Group's official museum in the UK will be helping the 95th Bomb Group Memorial Foundation to provide a permanent base in the US in other ways. Items from the UK museums large collection will be loaned to the exhibit in Arizona.

Mike Ager

■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED** - plan to build a two-storey side extension with the erection of detached double garage, **Frances Cottage, Athelington Road, Horham**; plan to reposition and extend aircraft hangar and associated taxiways, **Horham Airfield, Horham Road, Hoxne**; application to use airfield concrete for outside storage, with associated fencing and bunding, **Horham Business Park, Horham Road, Hoxne**; application to use land for siting marquee for events at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**. **REFUSED** -application outline planning permission for erection of agricultural workers dwellinghouse at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**. **GRANTED** - plan to build a new barn at **Dove House, The Street, Horham**; plan to build three-bedroom and four-bedroom detached two-storey properties (including change of use of land from agricultural to residential) at **Firethorn, The Street, Horham**.

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council' (www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/).

■ **HORHAM FIRE:** A tumble dryer which caught fire in Horham was extinguished by Suffolk Fire and Rescue crews on Tuesday evening [February 17]. It happened at a property in The Street at about 5.20pm. Fire crews from Stradbroke and Eye responded to reports of a house fire. On arrival to the property, they found a tumble dryer ablaze in a single-storey garage extension, adjoining a two-storey home. **Diss Express online**

■ **REDLINGFIELD QUIZ:** Redlingfield church quiz will be on Saturday April 18 at (7pm for 7.30pm) the Old School House, Horham. Tickets are £5 per person, including buffet from Christine Stanford (01728 628474).

Jacqueline Love

A busy term for Wilby

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TERM at Wilby C of E Primary School. Each class has presented an assembly sharing some of their work. The topics range from what makes the seasons so different to how rocks are formed and from climbing Mount Everest to acting out plays that the children had written.

The year six children have also been to London (see picture) where they had an action packed day visiting The Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, Buckingham Palace, as well as a tour of the Houses of Parliament to name but a few.

Our year three and four children have visited Stradbroke High School for science lessons where they all undertook experiments and enjoyed being scientists for the morning!

Two well-known poets visited the school and worked with the children to inspire them to develop their own writing. The poet and author David Mason is also spending a day in School as part of the World Book Week events, running workshops for each class, one for the staff and giving an evening of performance poetry for the children and parents.

The School has also had an inspection from Ofsted who visit the school to assess how well the school meets the needs of the children. Wilby last had an inspection in 2006 so it has been a very positive experience for the school and one which will help to



inform further developments within the school. The full copy of the report is available on the School's website (www.wilbyprimary.org.uk) or on the Ofsted website (www.ofsted.gov.uk).

A toddler group is run at the School every Thursday morning, 9am-10.30am, in term-time. It is free and open to anyone with children aged 0-5 years. Come along and join in the fun.

The next half term promises to be just as busy with school trips and sporting events as well as the important business of learning. The school will also take delivery of their replacement minibus, the purchase of which has been made possible due to the huge fundraising efforts of the very dedicated parents association – also known as FoWSA (Friends of Wilby School Association) – a huge thank-you to all involved.

If you have any queries regarding the School please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Coleman, for more information.

Philippa Coleman

EVELYN DORIS WHATLING, September 4th 1917-January 7th 2015: Evelyn was the second of three daughters of William and Lilian Stokes of Cratfield. She came to Horham to work for the Johnsons at the Post Office, looking after Ruth, David and Alan. She was married to Arthur Whatling in St Mary's Church on February 28th 1940. During the war, she lived with her mother-in-law at The Homestead, and went to Horham Aerodrome to make the tea for the construction walkers. Michael was born in 1944, and David in 1951. The family lived at Lodge Cottage until The Cedars was ready in 1963. At home, she provided Arthur's packed lunch every day, and what was needed for the boys, at school, at college, and at work. Arthur and Evelyn celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1990, but Arthur passed away in August 1994. She was an active member of St Mary's



Church and of the W.I., and later of the Happy Circle, the Over Sixties Club. She enjoyed holidays with her sisters, Dolly and Henry Smith, and Iris and Kenny Plant, and with Arthur and his sister Winifred and David Sampson in Scotland, and with other friends. Her 90th birthday party was a splendid occasion at the Community Centre, and she was able to be at home until she was taken into hospital on December 21st, 2014, thanks to the care that she received from Michael and David, and from the carers who came in every day, and from many other family and friends.



AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Michael and David Whatling would like to thank all their relations, friends and neighbours for the kind thoughts and messages received at this sad time.

David Streeter

***THE SADDEST WORDS* by Mandy Miller**

In the English language the saddest words are – I should have; I didn't; why didn't I do it; IF ONLY!

Why you may ask Well I did it. Did what? Well I jumped out of an aircraft! It was amazing, frightening all at once. Done for Diabetes UK

How come those earlier words are sad? These are the ones we think of later in life! We regret what we did not do, not what we have done!

Every day we can do something more. To strive to go the extra mile. Say I will; I must do more; not to give up. The power of positivity & drive not to be underestimated!

So today do something you put off another day. Today is the day to do more not less!

POLICE REPORT

THE START OF THE YEAR HAS SEEN Suffolk Police facing some challenges. There has been a rise in the number of rural crimes across the west of the county, which include burglaries of both homes and outbuildings and the theft of heating oil.

As such we want to issue the following advice to ensure you stay safe and protected.

Rural Burglaries: The properties being predominantly affected are isolated or secluded rural premises. Entry has been gained through insecure windows or doors or through force, mainly at the rear of the property and are being committed mainly during day-light hours.

Outbuildings and Farm Burglaries: Power tools, ride-on mowers, quad bikes, trailers and catalytic converters have all been easy targets and we are urging everyone to remain vigilant and lock items away in a secure location.

Heating Oil Theft: This crime is on the rise. An offender, usually during night hours, syphons off a large quantity, if not all, of the oil within home oil tanks, and occasionally from diesel tanks as well.

A few simple steps can help keep your property safe while deterring thieves;

- Install lighting in areas that will assist you, or passers-by, in identifying any criminal activity.
- Use closed shackle padlocks on outbuilding doors and oil tanks.
- Fit extra locks to up-and-over garage doors or install a 'garage defender'.

- Consider an alarm; either a battery operated alarm or upgrade an existing house alarm to include outbuildings.
- Security-mark property and advertise the fact with signs or window stickers. Keep a note of serial and engine, make and model numbers and take photos of items for insurance purposes.
- Ensure bicycles, power tools, quad bikes and ride-on mowers have additional devices to secure them in an outbuilding such as security chain or ground anchor.
- Register items for free on www.immobilise.com a secure property database all UK Police forces use to identify lost and stolen property.
- Ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your property and do the same for them, particularly when you are away.
- If you want additional security items such as garage defenders etc further information on Police approved products can be found at www.soldsecure.com.
- Suffolk Police sell a number of security products at cost price at Sudbury, Hadleigh, Capel, Stowmarket, Elmswell, Needham Market and Eye Police Stations.

Call your local SNT Officer, or Crime Reduction officer, on 101 for further information and advice.

Remember if you see any persons or vehicles that look suspicious or out of place record the location and time you see them, a description including the registration number of the vehicle, and telephone the police on 101, or 999 if an offence is occurring there and then.

**Verity Howell, Crime Reduction Officer, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts
Mid Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team, PCSO Steven Long & PC Sandra Wiggins, 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**

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR



FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY Council comes the important news that there will be no increase in the demand on council tax payers from the council but there may be an increase from Suffolk Police and Mid Suffolk District Council.

This is a big achievement by Suffolk CC as central government continues to reduce its support and recycles to Suffolk even less money than it collects from the county from such taxes as Road Fund Licences.

Suffolk has been in the news about its lowly ranking in the national school figures. However, in High Suffolk we are fortunate in being served by high-performing high schools. Thomas Mills was the best performing non-fee paying school while Stradbroke, Debenham and Hartismere continue to offer education of

the highest order. Our congratulations go to all those involved.

As we all know there have been considerable problems with the time it takes to get roads repaired and minor road improvements sorted out. There is little doubt standards have dropped since 2013 but the current portfolio holder assures us we should soon see improvements bringing it back to its previous high level.

Finally, I have been making representation to Barclays Bank about the closure of the building on Tuesdays. Our MP has also made representations. I hope to join him along with my neighbouring County Councillor, Jessica Fleming, at a meeting with the CEO of the bank. This will provide us with an opportunity to stress the importance of Barclays in Eye and how difficult is the access to Diss for many of us.

Guy McGregor

***Suffolk County Council Member for the Hoxne & Eye Division
Telephone: 668434 (evenings); 870339 (daytime)***

STRADBROKE RBL: Stradbroke and District Royal British Legion Branch's year started with the annual Suffolk County Conference at Needham Market Community Centre in January. Treasurer Bernard Mills was branch representative and 25 branches attended with 13 standards on parade. The new county vice chairman is Ken Rowbottom from the nearby Fressingfield branch. The latest RBL branch in Suffolk to close is Botesdale leaving the county with 50 branches. The annual branch dinner is at Stradbroke Community Centre on Friday March 27 (noon for 12.30pm) which all members will be receiving a letter about. The speaker at our February meeting at Laxfield King's Head was Lt Col Giles Stibbe, OBE, the commander of the London Central Garrison, who talked about The Royal British Legion's Battle Back Centre at Lilleshall in the West Midlands. Reports were given by the branch treasurer and Joyce Copper, the welfare officer. The next meeting is on Thursday March 12 at the King's Head starting at 11.30am. Thank you to Joyce, our branch standard bearer as well as welfare officer, who wrote a very good report for the last issue of the magazine.

Michael Burton, Branch Chairman

CHURCH

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. Other enquiries: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217). A monthly benefice newsletter is available in the back of the churches. For your email copy email the rector.

Mar 1 Redlingfield, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church.

Mar 8 Horham, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 11am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

Mar 15 Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP HC; Mothering Sunday Services - Syleham, 9.30am; **Athelington**, 9.30am; Wingfield, 10am; **Horham**, 11.15am; Hoxne, 11.15am.

Mar 22 Syleham, 9.30am, HC; Hoxne, 10am, FS; **Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; Wingfield, 10am, BCP Mattins; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS.

Mar 29 Denham, 11.15 am, Palm Sunday Procession around church and communion.

Mar 31 Denham, 7.30pm, The gentle meditative worship of Taize.

Apr 1 Athelington, 7.30pm, Listening to God through the Bible.

Apr 2 Syleham, 7.30pm, Stripping of the Altar.

Apr 3 Hoxne, 9.30am, Meditative Service; Wingfield, noon, Good Friday Service; **Horham**, 7.30pm, Reading of the Easter Gospels and silent prayer.

Apr 4 Wingfield, 7.30pm, Renewal of Baptism Vows and 1st Communion of Easter.

Apr 5 Wingfield, 08.30am, BCP Communion; **Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Syleham, 10am, Celebration of Easter and the bell tower work; **Horham**, 11.15am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, FS followed by HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church.

Apr 12 Horham, 9.30am, BCP Communion; Wingfield, 11am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

Apr 19 Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, FS; Syleham, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

Apr 26 Syleham, 9.30am, HC; Hoxne, 10am, FS; **Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Wingfield, 6.30pm, A 'Tudor' Evensong.

May 3 Redlingfield, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church.

May 10 Horham, 9.30am, BCP Communion; Wingfield, 11am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

May 17 Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, FS; Syleham, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

May 24 Syleham, 9.30am, HC; Hoxne, 10am, FS; **Redlingfield**, 10am, MP; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Wingfield, 6.30pm, BCP Evensong.

May 31 Horham, 11.15am, Benefice Communion.

(HC = Holy Communion; MP = Morning Prayer; FS = Family Service; BCP = Book of Common Prayer.)

THE RECTOR REFLECTS ... WHO GOES TO CHURCH NOWADAYS?



ONE ANSWER IS THAT nationally regular church attendance is about six per cent of the population, which doesn't sound very much but there again a mere three per cent regularly attend football matches.

But regularly attending church is only part of the answer. Far more people attend for funerals or at Christmas such as the successful midnight service at Horham or the carol services we had with their emotive readings of soldiers' memoirs of the 1914 Christmas Truce. Like that, it is no surprise that ComRes found 45 per cent, nearly half the country had been to church in the last year.

The same survey found that an even greater proportion, pretty much four out of five (79 per cent) of us thought that church buildings were an important part of the United Kingdom's history and heritage. I've said in the past that I sometimes think an Anglican Church is a community's attic – it's where we store the things, such as war memorials and

plaques; things we know are important but don't use every day, so that a church is a keeper of memories.

It's very encouraging that so many people think that a church building is important, but they cost a lot of money.

The good news is that church buildings are better maintained than they have been since, well often in their whole lives, as grants are available to help repair them.

The bad news is that the grant is preceded by a very long and complicated form and it is thanks to the hard work and perseverance of people like Janet in Redlingfield that we have a chance of getting a grant at all.

These grants help for repairs; they do not help with maintenance or keeping the church open. That responsibility falls to each village and to keep our churches open costs between £10 and £50 every day. That is a lot of money, but if we truly value our churches as places of prayer and reflection as well as memory troves it is a price that needs to be paid.

Michael Womack (hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 388889)



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