

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



SPRING 2017
Issue No. 37

SPURLING & REMBLANCE



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As we put this issue together it does seem as if Spring has actually arrived – although only a few days ago we were looking out on fields of snow. A couple of bright sunny mornings and the world seems a better place. Walking the dogs is fun rather than a chore. And we can look forward to 2017, whatever it brings.

Our best laid plans often go awry (well mine do)... and a road closure means Redlingfield's March coffee morning is now on Tuesday February 28th at our Hidcote Lodge home on Mill Road. Starting March 1st and lasting three days, initially Mill Road, from Occold Corner to the junction with Church Road, and then Church Road from the junction with Mill Road to the junction with Park Road, Southolt, will be closed. The roads will be closed to all through traffic and no on-street parking will be allowed, though access to individual properties will still be available to residents, controlled by staff on site. Diversions will be signposted. So rather than battle Suffolk Highways the coffee morning, from 10am until noon, has been shifted a day earlier.

In recent years we have produced a directory of local organisations, services, useful numbers, websites etc alongside our Spring magazine. Not this year. I'd like to tell you this was a strategic decision on my behalf as not much information changes year-on-year and that I've decided to produce a directory every other year. Well, while I think it's probably a very good idea to only produce a directory every other year the real reason I haven't done one this year is I forgot until it was too late. Whoops.

Mike Ager

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editors: 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. We aim to produce four full-colour issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November.

Rates for adverts in four issues distributed to approximately 300 homes and businesses in Horham, Athelington, Redlingfield and surrounds are:

1/8 page £9 (42.5mm deep, 60mm across)

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A whole page £70

You can supply the artwork and/or logos or we can design adverts for you.

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Wildlife wakes up to spring

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

IT IS A BITING COLD January morning and the sun shining from a cloudless sky provides very little warmth.

A moorhen picks its way across the frozen pond and our first bullfinch of the winter is on the lawn. With beautiful plumage and always a plump, post-Christmas waistline, the bullfinch in winter cannot find its usual soft tree-buds and will take up feeding on ash keys. It also favours the seeds of nettles and brambles and there are plenty of both in our nearby paddock.

The suet on the bird feeder is very popular with a flurry of long-tailed tits, the most sociable of the tits by a margin. In the summer, up to a dozen can be seen traipsing along a farm hedge after breeding, and if the bird-ringers catch some in a ringing net, they will be released as a group and not individually.

All small birds struggle to maintain weight when food is scarce in winter and long-tailed tits are a species that save heat loss by huddling in groups overnight. Wrens are especially good at this life-preserving technique and on one occasion, eleven were counted squeezing into an old house-martins nest to spend the night.

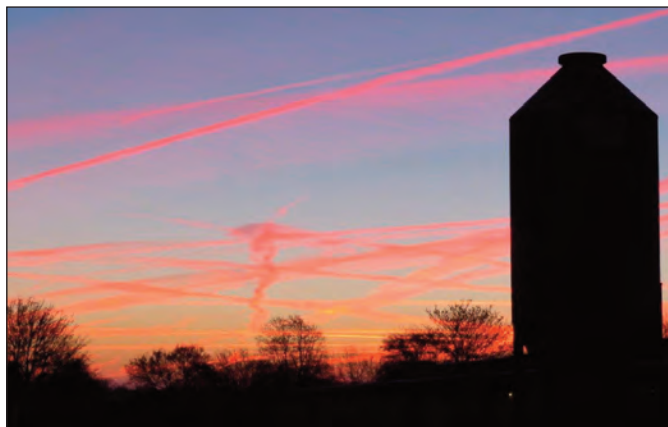
Despite a week of overnight frosts, the garden regulars respond to longer days and wake up to a new season.

The great tits are piping their familiar two-part call in all corners of the garden, the males singing to lay claim to the best territory. Also the great spotted woodpecker is back in business and there is no doubt that the blue tits are getting bluer and the blackbirds are getting blacker.

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN buzzards were eagerly spotted and remarked upon by walkers and bird-

watchers alike. With ever-increasing numbers, they have become a regular, almost daily sighting in the Suffolk landscape.

Their place today in birdwatching exchanges has been taken by the red kite, common in the West Country but still unusual in East



Facing page: Vapour trails from Stansted Airport light up the Suffolk skyline. This page: The kingfisher lives on

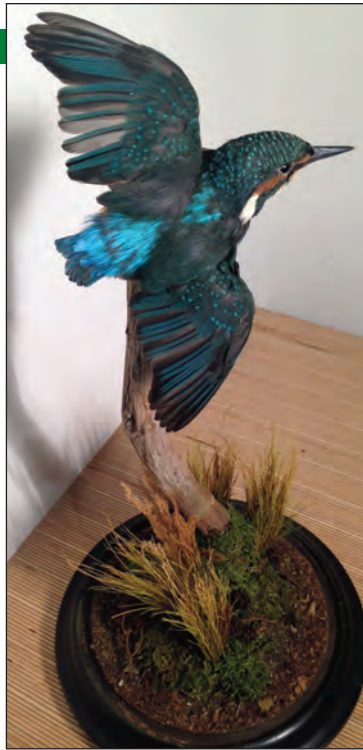
Anglia. To date I have only seen one in Redlingfield which was back in 2013.

Bird watchers, by the way, have a hobby of watching birds whereas twitchers make lists of all they see. The origins of the verb to twitch are derived from “betwittered”, a lovely word from the 1800s which meant “overcome with pleasing excitement”. Perhaps we had better leave it there.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THE success story is repeated with deer and otters, badgers and ospreys, as well as red kites, all of which have grown more numerous.

This has provoked some new thinking that conservation in the wealthier countries, like the UK and Europe, is working better than in poorer countries because land-use has stabilised here compared to the logging or slash-and-burn in other parts of the world... perhaps the much-maligned EU agricultural support scheme can claim some credit.

The exception to the rule is the farmland bird population, as typified by the corn bunting, but these birds are



not helped because they depend on the seeds of farmland weeds.

Farmers' fields have become increasingly weed-free as they meet the stringent rules of the grain merchants and flour millers. These modern standards specify that grain is rejected at the farm-gate if the wheat sample contains two per cent admixture, or in other words, weeds, which is why you can see hundreds of acres of East Anglian wheat with hardly a blemish.

This is what crop assurance is all about and has given rise to marketing slogans such as “we care for your food from field to fork”.

LIKEWISE WATER QUALITY HAS been improved by a number of directives from Europe and so it is not by chance that the kingfisher is doing well.

We have seen one at Wash Farm this week although we haven't got the habitat for any kingfisher breeding activity.

For a start, they need a bank where they can excavate a tunnel up to two feet long. The guide book describes the pair as monogamous, but they may change partners between broods, which certainly is an exciting version of monogamy.

Continued over

FEATURES & NEWS

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A pair, though, will work as a team when a new tunnel needs excavating, and the male is diligent in courtship, returning to perch happily beside his female with loads of fish to win her over.

The glorious flash of iridescent kingfisher blue is well known to the Knowlands of Denham, because they keep a very handsome specimen in a glass display dome in their kitchen.

They recovered an injured juvenile on their bank and, on advice of the local vet, did the honourable thing. Euthanasia was the only option as this one was suffering from a dislocated lower bill. Learning to catch fish every day cannot be easy.

Kingfishers have exceptional colour vision in order to see a fish and by cocking their heads sideways can get a very good judge of distance underwater, but, as in the case of this one at Denham, a mistake is very costly.

FARMERS THE WORLD OVER have problems with too much rainfall. Our guide in Vietnam explained that this farmer (pictured above) was riding his nifty paddle-wheel cultivator to stir



up the flood in order to renew his rice crop. Even the paddy fields were too wet as we saw this man trying to re-establish a rice crop which had been planted and then rotted.

NEARER HOME, THE RSPB reserve at Hollesley Bay manages the flood-prone Suffolk coast successfully not least by acquiring parcels of land which have become marginal in the high-cost world of modern agriculture.

Reserve manager David Fairhurst identified a 30-hectare field which had been acquired two years ago. Awaiting funding for expensive water management, this field has been allowed to revert to waist-high farmland weeds and has proved a wildlife bonanza, with 600 linnets overwintering there.

Whisper it quietly, it's like Minsmere but without the people.

Trevor Edwards

■ **HORHAM CHURCH:** St Mary's Church tower will be open during Horham village fete on May 20th and the church stall will be a 'Jar Bar' – donations of clean jars with lids welcome and can be left in the church, also any items that can fit into jars would be gratefully received. At Horham car boot on June 10th the church stall will be bric a brac and, again, any items donated will be gratefully received. We can pick up if necessary (phone 384988).

Jill Peters

We're staying put... for now

STAYING RECENTLY IN Cambridge, with friends of some 60 years, we decided one day to make an excursion to Ely and duly set off on a beautiful clear blue winter's morning.

The 'queen of the fens' had certainly seen changes since I first knew it in my childhood. Then it was the evening and weekend leisure time resort of young airmen of the USAAF who, rather ungraciously described it as "half the size of New York cemetery and twice as dead!".

At the same time, the cathedral (pictured), though standing aloof from the profane activities of the town, played its part in the war effort with the lead of its great roof shining white on the darkest black-out night and acting as an effective homing beacon for aircraft returning from bombing missions.

My present day visit was on a



Saturday and the middle of the little town was taken up with a lively and colourful market spilling out well beyond the market square. When you had your fill of shopping there were plenty of pleasant places where you could eat or just have a coffee. Altogether a very agreeable ambience with the cathedral and its venerable

associated buildings presiding over all.

I began to feel both at home and nostalgic even though, in many ways, the place was quite unlike the one my younger self had known. This led on to thoughts about the course of one's life and of how it might have been had one stayed put. Various people have had things to say

about the virtues or otherwise of staying put: politicians advocate one or the other depending on their reading of the current economic situation – remember Norman Tebbit telling us all to get on our bikes? *Continued over*

■ **REDLINGFIELD EVENTS:** The February village committee meeting set the dates for this year's calendar of events. The big events are the Summer Fayre & BBQ on Saturday July 15th, 3pm-midnight, and the Family Fun Evening & Race Night on Saturday October 21st. The Pubs on the Green will be on Saturdays May 6th, June 17th, August 12th, September 16th and October 14th on the Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight. The village AGM is at Horham Community Centre at 8pm on May 17th. The Doorstep Green Tidy is on Wednesday April 26th from 6pm onwards, the village litter pick is throughout March (please tell Janet Norman-Philips what bits you plan to do or have done) and the church yard tidy is on Wednesday May 10th from 6pm onwards.

Janet Norman-Philips

Continued from previous page

Further back William Cobbett was a strong supporter of staying put. He maintained firmly that travel did not broaden the mind. You may think him a touch hypocritical on this point as he did rather well out the publication of his *Rural Rides*.

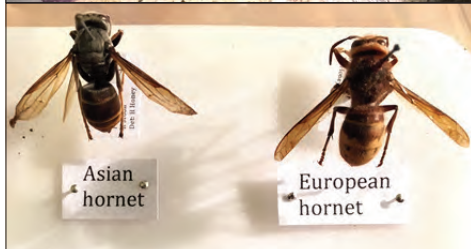
The old Shaker song *Simple Gifts* says that it is “a gift to come down where we ought to be”. But where I wonder do we ought to be? Is it where we happen to be born? Or where we “come down” and settle?

Certainly those Shakers tended to be on the move – whether enforced by religious persecution or guidance from above, starting as they did in Lancashire and finishing up making beautiful furniture in North America.

Forced migration due to religious or ethnic persecution is something that we are constantly reminded of in these times. To be in the world as an ordinary person and then to be unexpectedly and helplessly swept up into a sudden whirlwind of political or religious persecution is something that only a few of us have had to experience, thank goodness and perhaps we need to be ever conscious of it. “May you live in interesting times”...Chinese curse.

My own choices as to where to come down have usually been due to economic, family or career factors. Only in retirement, if one is fortunate, is there any degree of freedom of choice as to where to settle and in our case that happy choice is Suffolk. So it's stay put ... for now!

Neville Butcher



An Asian Invasion (part 2)

NOW WHAT ABOUT THESE hornets that are killing everything?

Asian hornets *Vespa velutina*, have been able to spread much further than their range through the helping hands of humans, by being imported into Europe (France to be exact) from Asia inside pallets or plants.

They have emerged unchecked and have built their nests in the wild unnoticed. Their spread has been monitored though and we (especially the papers) have awaited their inevitable arrival on our shores.

Despite the various reports none have been found in the UK though, until that is last year. The first confirmed sighting came from Tewksbury, Gloucestershire. Experts were called in and eventually found the nest 40ft up a conifer tree. It was destroyed with the hope that none of the new queens had yet emerged to go off to hide ready for this year.

So what's all the fuss I hear you ask? The hornet, even our own beautiful Eurasian Hornet *Vespa crabro* like to catch and kill honeybees, but the Asian hornet is more aggressive with it and unlike its native cousin, it will destroy apiaries, an expensive invader.

Unfortunately, misinformation is a harmful thing and too many native insects have been destroyed through

ignorance. Two years ago, I was called by a colleague, to say a lady had caught and killed an Asian hornet in her kitchen in Elmswell, Suffolk. I asked her to place the dead insect in the fridge for me and went to collect it. When I arrived I was presented with a dead wood wasp, a harmless sawfly which doesn't even have a sting.

Several newspapers reported the capture of an Asian hornet in Liverpool, cue photos of worried looking father and child holding said insect in a sealed bag after killing it. Even from the photos it can quite clearly be seen to be a native hornet, not Asian. Ironically, these invaders are often reported as being "GIANT ASIAN HORNETS", yet, they are smaller than our native species. Sadly, due to ignorance and the need to sell papers, many harmless native insects will be wrongly killed.

If you have seen what you think might be an Asian hornet, or are even unsure what you have found, then try to get a photo if possible and send it to me at hawkhoney@protonmail.com. If it's possible to trap it in a glass without harm to yourself or the insect, put the glass/container in the fridge and email me and I will come and have a look at it for you.

Hawk Honey

Inset: A hornet mimic hoverfly that uses its disguise to sneak into hornet and wasp nests. Left, from top: A harmless sawfly known as a wood wasp - the 'stinger' like appendage is an ovipositor used for laying eggs; a smaller Asian hornet with our native hornet; native hornets nesting in Horham; a hornet has a clean sitting on my hand.



The hidden history of one

ICAME TO LIVE AT Woodvale in Redlingfield in 2004, by then the bungalow was four or five years old.

Many local people remember Russell Coe's builder's yard and workshop being on this site for many years. He built the bungalow before he retired.

Russell's father Ted worked from here as a carpenter/builder. He made coffins and at one time took on the role of undertaker. Before him, his father Joseph was



wheelwright here.

Joe Coe (born 1863) grew up in Huntingfield and came to Redlingfield with his wife Editha and several children around 1895. He appears on the 1901 Census as wheelwright, working on his own account, living at the Cross, Redlingfield. He lived in the house now called Tudor Rose, which at that time was

part of the same property as the wheelwright's workshop.

Joe and Editha had a large family. Ted (Albert Edward) was born in 1903

■ **THE OLD SCHOOL:** The Old School Horham continues to thrive! On the second Monday evening of each month musicians and singers meet to share and perform traditional music and songs. On the first and third Monday evenings the hall is used by rapper sword dancers. If you would like to join either of these groups please contact Judy Andrews 384207. There is a thriving yoga class on Monday afternoons and the very successful coffee and computer morning is every Wednesday from 10.30am to noon. Since Christmas we have met many new customers keen to master their new laptops/iPads. We will be holding our annual art exhibition on May 20th, if you would like to exhibit your art or craft contact Christine or Pip. We are also planning a monthly arts and crafts afternoon. Bring your own work and enjoy the company, or come and learn a new skill. Contact Christine or Pip if you would like to join in. Keep up to date with Old School news on Facebook, just type The Old School Horham in the search box at the top your Facebook page. If you would like to hire The Old School please contact Christine on 384370

Christine Cooper



village home

and older brother Alfred in 1899. Alfred, as mentioned in the winter issue of the magazine, was Eddie's father and village blacksmith.

A 1929 trade directory lists Joe as a carpenter, joiner and wheelwright and son Alfred as a blacksmith working at the forge across the road. Joe's wheels would have gone over to the forge to have their metal tyres fitted. A 1933 directory has Joe listed as a carpenter as does the index of the 1937 Kelly's. Joe died in 1941.

Before the Coes the wheelwrights were Cracknells. In 1851 it was John (born 1828) son of George Cracknell, carpenter, and Hannah nee Shadd. He moved to Thorndon and by 1861 his brother Thomas (born 1830) had taken over. He carried on through 1871 and 1881. He married Lucy Howes, daughter of blacksmith Alfred. By 1891 Alfred Cracknell was wheelwright. His parents were Thomas Edgar Cracknell and Betsey nee Howes.

The 1839 Tithe Map and Apportionments show that Robert Bolton (born 1803) was owner and occupier of the wheelwright's premises here. He was also a farmer at Mount Pleasant as we know it today. This document also shows another wheelwright's, almost on the site of the old school, which was worked by Thomas Bean. Robert Bolton's wheelwright business was the subject of a newspaper article concerning bankruptcy in 1845.

This is as far back as I have been able to go with this so far. How different this corner of Redlingfield was in the past.

Linda Hudson



Above, from top: Woodvale bungalow today; the builders yard and extended house - 1970s; the house and old workshops - 1964; and Joe, Editha and family. Page 8: Joe and Editha Coe.

Time to be amazing again...

WE ARE AMAZING. PEOPLE keep telling me that, so it must be true. And when you think about it I guess we are.

Redlingfield is a tiny village of less than 60 houses. We don't charge a local council tax, instead we hold fund-raising events, which are a lot more fun than a bill through the letterbox. While other villages struggle to attract people to join their Parish Councils, our Village Committee has 18 members, with people happy to volunteer. (Though some of us are getting on a bit so younger people are very welcome). We regularly have 20 plus people at the monthly coffee mornings, in peoples houses in winter and at the coffee caravan in summer.

Over the last year or so we raised nearly £100,000 to replace our church roof and we plan to update it with a kitchen, toilets, heating that works, and revamp the space so it can also be a community space for events and meetings.

We decided that we wanted to honour the memory of the American WW2 air force crew who sadly died when their plane crashed at Green Farm, so, with the help of the Red Feather Club, we built a memorial.

Some ten years ago we created our Doorstep Green. We had lots of help, from Governments grants and the local council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. During it's creation more than 30 village volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours of their time to the project. An extraordinary achievement and shows just how keen people were.

Since then it's been incredibly popular. We use it for our annual Summer fayre and BBQ. During summer we have our monthly "Pub on the Green". Loads of people use it as a place to take the kids, to sit and contemplate or to exercise the dogs, and we even have a dog poo bin now.

For ages we've wanted to make the Doorstep Green bigger. To have more play equipment for younger and older children, including that oft-requested

Over the next 12 months we plan to:

- install 200 metres of fencing;
- plant 125 metres of hedging (500 plants);
- sew 8,300 sq metres of grass seed;
- sew/plant around 500 sq metres of wildflower meadow;
- create road access to the site and install a five-metre wide concrete bridge;
- using under-grass mesh install a roadway six metres wide and 80 metres long (480 sq metres);
- using under-grass mesh install a parking area 12 metres wide and 30 metres long (360 sq metres);
- mow it all several times and clean out the ditches before we start.

And for the existing Doorstep Green:

- more play equipment for younger and older children;
- fence the small children's play area;
- redo the paths;
- decide what sports we want: basketball, netball, football, rounders and where we will put them;
- install a toilet or two.



zip slide. To have a better space for sports and to improve the areas for sitting and relaxing.

We have bought 2.05 acres of land between the existing Doorstep Green and the footpath to the Church.

We will install a bridge over the ditch and create highway access. Peter and Joyce Saunders are donating £10,000 towards this. We will start by planting tough grass seed across the whole area. Using an under-grass mesh system, we will build an access road from the new bridge to the furthest corner where we are putting the parking spaces. We will also be installing a stock fence and planting around 500 hedging plants. We will continue to fundraise as we still don't

have enough money to buy all the materials.

It's a massive task. Received wisdom says that when it comes to eating something the size of an elephant – the secret is to eat it one bite at a time (not that I wish to offend vegetarians or suggest we harm endangered animals). Alternatively, getting loads of people involved to help, also works. Combining these two approaches is probably our best way forward.

You are all being invited to be amazing again. If you fancy slaving away for a few days – planting hedges, installing fencing or under-grass mesh, or planting wildflowers please don't be shy.

Janet Norman-Philips

■ **RED FEATHER CLUB:** You are going to need to book early to avoid disappointment for the Red Feather Club's upcoming dances. Saturday March 25th sees the annual 1940s dance at and we are pleased to announce the fabulous Swing Museum will be playing with Guest DJ Paul Claydon. Tickets are £10 or £11.15 online including booking fee. The Americana weekend has been brought forward to June 24th & 25th. Heading the bill on the Saturday dance and another first for the Red Feather Club The Devil's Cut Combo who play hot R&B and guest DJ, from Jump Back Boogie, Adrian Waters. The 95th BGHA has launched its long-awaited electronic payment system so this will make it easier for you to pre-book tickets online. For tickets visit: <https://prohibition-dance.eventbrite.co.uk>. Online ticket sales will incur a small fee.

Andy Garner

■ **SUFFOLK OPEN STUDIOS:** This year, in June, the Suffolk Open Studios event will see around 110 artists opening their doors to the public at weekends, so you can have a look behind the scenes and see them in action. More details next issue.

Mike Ager

WHAT'S ON

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28 (NEW DATE)

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, 10-noon.

THROUGHOUT MARCH

Redlingfield Litter pick: Please tell Janet what bits you plan to do or have done (pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 678835).

FRIDAY MARCH 3

Womens World Day of Prayer: St Mary's church, Worlingworth, 2pm.

SATURDAY MARCH 4

Tribute to Percy West: A tribute to the 'King of the Steppers', Debenham CC. Doors 5.30pm for 7.30pm. £10 in advance (no tickets on the door) from Doreen on 075914 99912.

FRIDAY MARCH 10

Hoxne Film Night: The Girl on the Train (15).

Curry Night: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MARCH 11

Fair trade sale: 11 Moores Close, Debenham, 10am-2pm.

Eye Bach Choir Concert: Haydn's Creation, Eye Parish Church, 7.30-10pm, tickets £12-15, from Eye Pharmacy, 870272 or www.eyebachchoir.co.uk.

Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection: Wilby Coronation Hall, 8pm, tickets £10 in advance or £12 on door, phone 388112, email iantaylor1961@hotmail.com or visit www.wegotickets.com.

Nathaniel Mander & Olwen Foulkes: The Academy of Arcadio, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, £10, 384505 to book.

SUNDAY MARCH 12

FoxyRock - Rock 'n' Roll Club: Rock 'n' Roll Record Hop with DJ Crazy Nadge, Eye CC, 2.30-5pm, tickets £5 (email info@foxyrock.co.uk).

MONDAY MARCH 13

Sing Your Heart Out: Wilby Village Hall, 6.30-7.30pm.

THURSDAY MARCH 16

Stradbroke Cinema: A Streetcat Named Bob (12A).

FRIDAY MARCH 17

Theatre at The Bank: Eyes Write present an evening with David Howgego, The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, doors 7pm, tickets £7 in advance.

SATURDAY MARCH 18

Worlingworth jumble sale.

Jumble Sale: Eye Town Hall, 2-4pm.

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

Music at The Bank: Rik van den Bosch, folk rock, The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, doors 7.15pm, tickets £10 in advance, £12 on door.

SUNDAY MARCH 19

The Man with the Golden Pen: Michael Chance as Ian Fleming in a play presented by Eye Church Development Campaign Committee, Eye Town Hall, 3-6pm. Tickets 871211.

FRIDAY MARCH 24

Fish & Chip Night: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MARCH 25

Fram Horticultural Society Spring Show: United Free Church Hall, 10 - 11.30am.

Prohibition dance: Red Feather Club, 7pm till late.

Theatre at The Bank: The Little Bit the Boys Admire - The Marie Lloyd Story, The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, doors 7pm, tickets £10 in advance, £12 on door.

THURSDAY MARCH 30

Stradbroke Cinema: I Daniel Blake (15).

SATURDAY APRIL 1

Tanzanian evening: Old School Hall in Horham.

SUNDAY APRIL 2

Open Garden: More than 2 acres of woodland & garden leading down to the Waveney, The Old Coach House, The Street, Brockdish, 10am-4pm. In aid of various charities. No dogs. Adults £2.50,

TUESDAY APRIL 4

Maddy Prior in Concert: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, £16, call 384505 to book.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10-noon.

FRIDAY APRIL 7

Bar Meal Supper: Horham CC.

Music at The Bank: Ida Wenoe with Jules Talbot, The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, doors 7.15pm, tickets £10 advance, £12 on door.

See How They Run: Open Space presents the farce by Philip King, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, £11, conc £9.

SATURDAY APRIL 8

Muppets band: Worlingworth.

SATURDAY APRIL 8-MONDAY, APRIL 17

The Royal Photographic Society's Creative Group's Annual Exhibition of Prints & Projected Images: Wingfield Barns, Galleries 1 & 2, 11am-4pm, Wed to Sun & Easter Monday.

SATURDAY APRIL 15

Adrian Adlam: Winchester College head of strings, Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm.

SUNDAY APRIL 16 & MONDAY, APRIL 17

Easter Steam Up: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

THURSDAY APRIL 20

Stradbroke Cinema: A United Kingdom (12A).

THURSDAY APRIL 20-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

95th BG Reunion: Red Feather Club dance Saturday, church service Sunday.

FRIDAY APRIL 21

Fish & Chip Night: Horham CC.

Hoxne Film Night: A Street Cat Named Bob (12A).

SATURDAY APRIL 22

Redlingfield Church Quiz: Horham CC.

Music at The Bank: Lynne Hanson & The Good Intentions, The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, doors 7.15pm, tickets £10 advance, £12 on door.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

Redlingfield Doorstep Green Tidy: 6pm.

SATURDAY APRIL 29

Occold Spring Fayre.

SATURDAY APRIL 29-MONDAY, MAY 1

Flower Festival: St Mary's church, Worlingworth, 10am-5pm, colours of the rainbow.

SUNDAY APRIL 30

Thorndon Bowls Club Open Day: 11am.

SUNDAY APRIL 30 & MONDAY, MAY 1

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

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10-noon.

SATURDAY MAY 6

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

Richard Digance: Wingfield Barns, 7.30pm, tickets £18.

■ **VENUES etc:**

The Bank Eye: The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & www.thebankeye.org.

Framlingham: www.framlingham.com. **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799,

events@helmingham.com, www.helmingham.com. **Horham & Athelington Community**

Centre: Karen, 384754. **Hoxne Film Nights:** 7.30pm, Hoxne Village Hall, Goldbrook, Hoxne, bar, popcorn & choc-ices available before & in the interval. Further info/booking:

668060 or www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk. **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway,** Brockford Station,

Wetheringsett, Suffolk, IP14 5PW, www.msrlr.org.uk, 01449 766899. **Museum of East**

Anglian Life, Stowmarket, enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk, 01449 612229. **Redlingfield village events,** 678835, pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk.

Midsuffolk Showgrounds & Stonham Barns: Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, <http://stonham-barns.co.uk>. **Stradbroke Cinema:** Stradbroke

Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. Bar open, ice-creams 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.

95th Bomb Group Heritage Association/Red Feather Club, www.95thbg-horham.com, 01728 860930 or jamesmutton@suffolkonline.net.

WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY MAY 10

Redlingfield church yard tidy: from 6pm.

FRIDAY MAY 12

Bar Meal Supper: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MAY 13

Framlingham Horticultural Society

Annual Plant Sale: United Free Church Hall, Framlingham, 9am-11.30am.

Occold School Hollywood Ball:

Debenham CC, tickets £35 per person, occoldsummerball@gmail.com or 07896 947633.

Elvis night: Worlingworth.

WEDNESDAY MAY 17

Redlingfield Village AGM: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MAY 20

Grand Village Fete & Dog Show: Horham CC.

Art exhibition: Old School Horham.

Eye Bach Choir Concert: Sound The Trumpet, Eye Parish Church.

FRIDAY MAY 26

Fish & Chip Supper: Horham CC.

SATURDAY MAY 27

Occold May Fayre.

SUNDAY MAY 28

Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market: Helmingham Hall.

SATURDAY MAY 28 & SUNDAY, MAY 29

Steam Railway Days: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

WEDNESDAY MAY 31 & THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Suffolk Show.

SATURDAY JUNE 3

Shaun Turnor's Memorial Fun Day: Worlingworth.

SUNDAYS JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25

Steam Railway Days: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

TUESDAY JUNE 6

Redlingfield Village Committee Meeting: 8pm venue tbc.

REGULAR EVENTS:

MONDAYS: Coffee & Chat: Horham Baptist Church hall. 10am. No charge. Everyone welcome. Alan Hawes, 388330. **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 to see what's on.

WEDNESDAYS: Coffee mornings & cyber cafe, 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. **Wingfield barns Midweek Movies :** alternate Weds 7.30pm screening £5. For info 384505 or email enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com

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.

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

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10-noon.

FRIDAY JUNE 9

Bar Meal Supper: Horham CC.

SATURDAY JUNE 10

Car Boot: Horham CC.

Summer Scenes at Redlingfield church.

Cèilidh: Harbour Lights, Wilby Coronation Hall, 7pm for 8pm til later. Not tickets on door. £7.50 in advance from Doreen 075914 99912.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY JUNE 10 & 11

Eye Open Gardens.

SATURDAY JUNE 17

Redlingfield Pub on the Green:

Doorstep Green, 6pm-midnight.

SUNDAY JUNE 18

Eye Mayor Making.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21

New Reeding Woods Group solstice event: Pound Lane Wood, details tbc.

FRIDAY JUNE 23

Fish & Chip Night: Horham CC.

SATURDAY JUNE 24

Occold summer fayre.

Worlingworth village fete.

Framlingham Horticultural Society

Early Summer Show: United Free Church Hall, 10-11.30am.

Americana Dance: Red Feather Club, 7pm till late.

SUNDAY JUNE 25

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

SATURDAY JULY 1

Fun on the Field: Occold.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5

Redlingfield Coffee Caravan: 10-noon.

SATURDAY JULY 8

Classic & Vintage Vehicle Display &

BBQ: Horham CC.

Bedfield fete.

SATURDAY JULY 15

Redlingfield Summer Fayre & BBQ:

Doorstep Green, 3pm-midnight.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **BOWLS CLUB OPEN DAY:** Thorndon Bowls Club has, since its formation many years ago, enjoyed outstanding success and is now seeking to attract new members. If you are looking for a new hobby the club combines competitive league, friendly bowls sessions for beginners and social membership for non-bowlers – something for everyone. It is holding an open day on Sunday April 30th from 11am. There will be bowls, BBQ and bar. For info contact the club captain Margaret Thorpe on 640799. **Margaret Thorpe**

■ **HORHAM EVENTS:** As well as regular meal nights Horham Community Centre is planning a series of big events for 2017. On Saturday June 10th there will be a car boot sale, on Saturday May 20th a grand village fete and dog show and on Saturday July 8th a classic and vintage vehicle display and BBQ. For the May 20th event organisers are appealing for helpers.

Margaret Streeter & Angela Wilkins

■ **REDLINGFIELD CHURCH:** The PCC is planning a quiz at the Horham Community Centre on Saturday April 22nd to raise funds for Redlingfield Church of St Andrew). It is 7pm for 7.30pm start of quiz. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are £5 a head from Chris on 01728 628474. A further quiz will be in November. On Saturday June 10th a Summer Scenes themed event at the church will include flowers, book stall, refreshments, plant stall, bottle raffle etc. A beetle drive is also planned for September. **Redlingfield PCC**

■ **POPPY APPEAL:** The house-to-house collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Horham and Athelington raised £370. Many thanks to my helpers Melva Huggins, Violet Allum and Elizabeth Hall.

Janet Fisk

Eddie was a great neighbour and a great source of stories about local history and characters. I'd know he had something good to tell me as he approached, thanks to the extra twinkle in his eye and broad grin. His hoard of press cuttings, books and nuggets of local lore were enthralling. It is thanks to Eddie and Edith that we have the B-17 memorial in the village and many of our village website's local history pages. But I will leave it to extracts from his daughters' Tessa Perrin and Karen Slade's eulogies to tell his tale and tales.

Mike Ager



Karen: Dad's childhood was shaped by the loss of his mother at a very young age but in spite of this he developed, by all accounts, into a cheeky, mischievous youngster who was always in trouble at school... for being a little monkey.

School chums tell stories about him always getting the cane, which seemed to have little effect on him. On one occasion the headmaster took him outside with a guiding arm around his shoulder and said: "Now Coe, I think today I will not give you the cane, you can spend a few hours digging the school vegetable garden." There started his life-long love of his vegetable plot.

During his early teens he used to cycle to the US air base at Horham to collect laundry for his step-mother. He made many friends among the young airmen at and one in particular, Lieutenant Russell Cook. This young man showed my father London, a big deal for a young village boy in those days. He showed

Dad the sights and took him to see a Rita Hayworth film *Tonight and Every Night*. This was great day out for my Dad and his step-mother encouraged him to write to say thank you.

A few days later Lt Cook was on a humanitarian food run to Holland when his plane was shot down in the sea, with the loss of his life. Dad's letter was returned to the US with the Lieutenant's belongings and later his family contacted Dad. They remained in contact for many years and met several times.

Dad served in the Korean War and many of his friends were killed alongside him. Dad always had a story to tell so I apologise if you have heard this one. One day, outside their training camp, he was on guard duty. I get the impression that, whilst he had a gun, he was not really instructed in what circumstance he might use it. So when an elderly Chinese man approached him he was uncertain how to react. He

■ *Edith and family would like to thank everyone who attended Eddie's funeral service at Redlingfield. Many thanks for your flowers, donations, and kind messages of support acknowledging our sad loss. Donations totalled £430 and were divided between The Salvation Army and Alfie Milne Trust.*

allowed the man to come alongside him whilst wondering if he should somehow be defending the base. As he reached Dad's side he pointed to the badges on Dad's shoulder and said in broken English just two words, "upside down". And he was right.

Dad also spent time in Colchester Military Hospital after he was hit in the shoulder by a blank during training. When his service ended he returned to Redlingfield but contracted malaria. His sister Peggy, a nurse, tended to him at home until he recovered.

In time he began seeing mum, which eventually led to a marriage of more than 60 years... and two lovely girls (his words).

He worked with his father at the forge, eventually taking over the business when his Dad died in 1964.

One day when he was helping his father he was charged with returning a carthorse to Edwards' farm. It was a hot day and the trip to the farm was uneventful until the horse spotted the farm pond and decided to cool off. Dad walked back to the forge soaked to the skin...

Dad was interested in people. He liked people and he was interested in their lives, almost to the point of nosiness. He liked a good joke and would laugh loudly. He slept, often. Even as a young man he would sleep after lunch before returning to the Forge... sometimes with biro-ed on flowery earrings, courtesy of my mother.

As a family we have been blessed with the recent birth of Isaac, my daughter's baby, my father's great grandchild. He adored Isaac and even when he was at his most unwell, he could always raise a smile for a picture of Isaac.



**Eddie being interviewed
at the unveiling of the
B-17 memorial.**

Tessa: *Dad was gentle, never angry, and any frustrations he felt he took into his garden and channeled into the growing of his vegetables and flowers.*

He loved to fly a kite. I do not think my sister or I ever learned to fly a kite. We were merely the accessories that allowed Dad to fly it. He was always young at heart.

Dad's work was physically tiring and he made it more enjoyable by conversation with people who stopped by at the blacksmith's shop, and the continual music and news on local radio.

When I went to university, I would travel to London by train and my parents would wait with me on the platform at Diss and wave goodbye. Every time before I got onto the train my Dad's advice was "eat your greens and wash your neck". I always wash my neck but I am still struggling to eat my greens. But that was just an example of Dad's sense of humour.

Redlingfield was Dad's home and he only left when the practicalities of managing declining health made it necessary. So it is fitting that his final resting place is here among family and friends. Dad would walk with me in the churchyard and point out the resting places of the people he had known and tell me a little about each. Now our village smithy stories will be among them.

Wilby tops Suffolk schools

IN DECEMBER WILBY C OF E Primary School received the news it had achieved joint first place in the Suffolk Schools League Tables.

We were thrilled by our achievement but quick to point out that, wonderful as the children's results are, academic success is only part of the story at Wilby school. We want our children to develop into well-rounded confident children and so we continue to place great emphasis on arts, sport and citizenship by providing a wide array of educational and life experiences.

The autumn term saw our children taking part in a variety of musical/dramatic activities (from performing in plays and assemblies, to being invited to perform in the 'Big Sing' at Snape Maltings and playing brass at venues across our local community); giving of their best in a wide-range of sporting activity; and supporting, taking part in and even organising their own charity fund-raising events.

In November Y1 class visited St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds' Cathedral to take part in an active story telling session based on the topic of Advent. In December all



children from Year 2 to Year 6 took part in an Advent activity in our church at Wilby. The children thoroughly enjoyed both events which have helped their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Pupils from both KS1 and 2 took part in our Pyramid Carol Service at Stradbroke High School – both brass players and singers sounded amazing. Wilby School Carol Service was, as always, a very special celebration of the season.

A number of children took part in a concert in the Felixstowe Pavilion called the Everlasting Light (pictured). This raised funds for Action Aid in Africa. Our brass group and choir performed in the Co-op at Framlingham in December and raised

■ **COFFEE CARAVAN:** The Coffee Caravan or, to give it its full title The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project, comes to the centre of Redlingfield in the summer months dispensing tea, coffee, cakes, information and a chance for everyone to socialise. In the winter months coffee mornings are hosted in village homes supported by information from the RCCIP camper van. The February coffee morning was at the home of Midge and Chris Gibbons and included a book swap, free raffle and cakes made by Hazel Abbott. The final winter coffee morning will be at the home of Mike Ager and Janet Norman-Philips on Tuesday February 28th (new date). The Coffee Caravan returns to the village triangle on April 5th for the summer months. The visits on the first Wednesday of the month are all from 10am until noon.

Jacqueline Love

league tables

£55 for EACH – they then went on to provide entertainment for residents of the Foxearth Lodge nursing home. In December Wren Class performed their play *A little bird told me*, which beautifully retold the Christmas story from the point of view of a little robin.

Our Christmas Open day was well attended and younger visitors were thrilled Father Christmas was able to join them. The School Fayre was a tremendous success raising more than £1,000 for school funds – many thanks to all who attended.

This term our Christingle Service was quite magical – the light created by the children's candles created a wonderful atmosphere in church.

The children set an example for everyone by kick-starting the new year with a two-week fun-packed 'Healthy-me' project. It focused on issues such as the importance of daily exercise, the need to reduce sugar intake and importance of a healthy, balanced diet. A number of visitors were invited into school including a dietitian, personal gym and fitness trainer and a British Handball Association coach. The children also made a healthy profit by creating, marketing and selling their own healthy products, the profits of will be used for new playground equipment.

A busy term awaits and everyone is invited to join our pupils on Monday March 13th at 6.30pm in Wilby Village Hall, as they raise funds for the Royal Voluntary Service to help elderly disadvantaged people in a 'Sing Your Heart Out' event, featuring local choirs and soloists. **Roisin Wiseman, head-teacher**

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **BROADBAND PROGRESS:** A new Green Box is planned to be installed near the telegraph pole by Redlingfield village sign. This will bring fast broadband to the village from the Occold exchange. It is expected to be operational by Christmas and should deliver 20-30 meg for homes close by and around 6-10 meg for the outliers.

Janet Norman-Philips

■ **CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** Father and Mother Christmas would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to EACH at Christmas. Father Christmas had a great morning and arrived home in time for lunch! £470 was raised for the children's hospice. Our thanks to all who donated and all being well we hope to see everyone again next year.

Mother Christmas

■ **GREAT GARDEN TRAIL:** Green-fingered supporters are invited to open their gardens to the public as part of St Elizabeth Hospice's new Great Garden Trail this summer. The charity is appealing for individuals or villages to open their gates and be part of the trail which will be taking place between May and September. Info from 01473 723600 or fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk.

■ **CELLO WANTED:** A full-size cello is wanted for a keen young learner. She currently borrows a school cello but has to return it after one year. If you have an unused one in your attic or somewhere she would be very grateful. Info and price to Evelyn Adey (01728 628428). **Evelyn Adey**

Eye Grammar School Fund

wants to give away some money but you have to live in Athelington or Horham

IF YOU'RE AT SCHOOL OR A student aged 25 or under there may be things that you need for your studies but can't quite afford. Or you could be starting training, entering an apprenticeship and find you need equipment or specialist clothing. Or you could be a parent who needs some help for an educational trip. There again, you might be an organisation that works with young people.

The Eye Grammar School Fund is here to help!

It's a Trust set up to provide grants of money to young people, and organisations who work with young people, in the locality. Grants are not large – usually up to £200 for individuals – but they may make all the difference. You must live in the parishes of Eye, Athelington, Bedfield

or Horham, or if you are an organisation, serve people from those areas.

The Trustees meet quarterly, usually in October, January, April and July to consider applications and award grants.

The special grants are intended to help with expenses not provided for by the Local Education Authority. They might include the cost of purchasing books, clothing, tools and instruments, course fees for educational purposes, or preparation to enter a trade or occupation.

If you would like an application form or to discuss matters further, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees on 01379 870170 or email sara.muldoon@icloud.com.

Sara Muldoon

■ **NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** Pound Lane wood is held in trust for the residents of Denham, Horham and Athelington and is well used by those that live close by and by dog walkers. To encourage others to visit their community woodland the steering group will be organising an event on the evening of the summer solstice, June 21st, to hopefully enjoy the sunset. By that time of year the woodland should be at its best with the trees in leaf and the wildflower meadow a blaze of colour, so put this date in your diary, and look out for more details closer to the evening. If want to be actively involved in this project please contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668 179 for more details.

PRINT SCHEDULE

Magazines	Editing	To printers	Collect mag	Distribute
<i>June 2017 Summer</i>	14 May	22 May	26 May	27 May
<i>September 2017 Autumn</i>	14 Aug	21 Aug	25 Aug	26 Aug
<i>December 2017 Winter</i>	14 Nov	20 Nov	24 Nov	25 Nov

DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP

I ENJOYED MAKING THE most of my time here in Suffolk over Christmas and New Year and I'm sure most of us ate and drank more than usual as we relaxed and enjoyed catching up with friends and family.

Recent figures confirmed a staggering eight in every 10 adults aged between 40 and 60 in England are overweight, drink too much alcohol or get too little exercise.

You can kick start a healthier New Year by getting out in the beautiful Suffolk countryside and enjoying all that is on offer right here on our doorsteps.

It's all too easy to be lured into costly gym memberships and expensive leisure activities but walking is something we can all enjoy with minimum or no cost, no specialist equipment required and the opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Walking isn't competitive, yet it brings with it a raft of recognised health benefits, not to mention being affordable and accessible to all.

Simple things can quickly add up – taking the stairs instead of the lift, or walking instead of hopping in the car for short journeys. I'm lucky that I have two dogs to exercise and they don't let me

forget that I need to get outdoors into the fresh air every day. However, for many, it's easy to become complacent and to not make the effort.

Walking to fulfil the recommendations of 150 minutes of moderate physical exercise every week can make a huge difference – it's estimated that it could save up to 37,000 lives every year and lead to almost 300,000 fewer cases of type 2 diabetes.

Aside from the physical benefits, walking brings with it a whole range of other benefits. We feel more connected to our natural environment – for families with young children perhaps a competition for them to spot wildlife tracks or collect different types of leaves might turn what they deem to be a dull activity in something far more engaging.

When experiencing times of stress or anxiety, walking can help us to clear our heads. It's the perfect tonic for a busy and hectic lifestyle, helping to fight depression and reduce anxiety and boosting our mood and psychological wellbeing.

For information on walking, there is a huge range of information at www.discoversuffolk.org.uk

Dr Dan Poulter, MP, I hold regular constituency advice surgeries to help people who have problems. If you think that I may be able to help you, contact 01728 685148, or email me via www.drdanielpoulter.com. For more information please visit www.drdanielpoulter.com

■ **BLACK DOG AT THE SWAN:** Is a black dog tripping you up? Winston Churchill described his bouts of mental anguish as his black dog. If it feels like a black dog is tripping you up, you're in good company. The churches of the Hoxne benefice and the Hoxne Swan have launched 'Black Dog at The Swan'. Every Tuesday, 2-3pm, at The Swan there is a group of non-judgemental, supportive, like-minded people to chat with. We don't mind if you don't want to chat, but just sit, we don't even mind if you don't tell us your name. So whatever your Black Dog; grief, anxiety, trauma, depression... join us. Further details from Rev Michael Womack, 388889, hoxnebenefice@gmail.com.

ELIZABETH GIBSON-HARRIES, YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



THE LONG-AWAITED LOCAL Plan is on the horizon, after several false dawns, and is expected to be delivered in early summer 2017.

The Government White Paper on Housing and Planning, which was released on Tuesday, February 7th, was one of the reasons the Local Plan was held up. The White Paper contains powers to help councils build more homes although the detail is yet to emerge as to how this will be done.

Of interest to us in rural Suffolk, there is no change to the policy on building on green belt land and there is protection from building on ancient woodland.

Completion notices to builders will be reduced from three to two years and changes to the definition of the word 'affordable'. The Government recognises that the lack of up-to-date Local Plans is harming the rate of housebuilding. We wait to see how much of this White Paper survives.

While devolution has fallen from the headlines, Suffolk council leaders are still

working to prepare for some kind of deal, possibly with part of either Norfolk or Essex. The aim is to reduce expenditure further and deliver better joint services.

Step-down beds, so urgently needed to free hospital beds, are being investigated, whether at home or in care facilities. We all agree that this is one of the major blocks to hospital beds and ultimately to surgery but the loss of 'cottage-style' hospitals in the community has created a new problem – the cost of individual care. Mid Suffolk is aware that they have a part to play in the design and delivery of new homes for the elderly.

Of course there is also a real need for two to three-bed houses. Adding more homes could support shops and pubs.

There are several premises in the area that have reopened and others with plans to expand thanks to the energy of the owners.

We need to support them and the existing pubs, shops and other local businesses otherwise we will all bemoan the loss of local producers on our trips to the nearest big town.

***Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Chairman, Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor for Hoxne Ward (384680 or 07766 224390)***

■ PLANNING:

TO BE DECIDED: plan to use of land for siting six holiday-use lodges with ancillary construction of approach drive and hard standing, **Athelington Hall Log Cabin Holidays, Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington;** application for Outline Planning Permission for the erection of one two storey dwelling & separate garage with access (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale are reserved matters), **Barnacre, Worlingworth Road, Horham;** plan to erect a two-storey extension, lobby and store, **Church View, The Street, Horham;** plan to convert single storey building and extending one-and-a-half storeys to create 3-bedroom dwelling, **The Homestead, The Street, Horham. REFUSED (now in appeal process):** plan to remove a hedgerow to make 2 small fields farmable, enable drainage & access, **Meadow Farm, Horham Road, Athelington.**

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

THE RECTOR REFLECTS ...



THE FIRST WEDDING I'M involved in this year is a long way from home as I am leading our eldest son and fiancée through their wedding in South Africa in March. Later in the year, Mary and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. All this wedding talk has made me reflect on how much has changed, and how some things haven't.

Communication is much easier. When Mary and I got married it was letters and phone calls (but phone-calls had to be after six when it was cheaper). If we were restricted to that, I doubt it would be possible to be involved in Jonny's wedding. On a good day, the post takes six weeks so it is all arranged by WhatsApp, Skype, and email. From what I remember of 30 years ago, one or two places had a fax machine for really urgent letters. Though there was no guarantee that they'd be legible!

When we got married, the most exotic location anyone came from for our wedding in Stamford was Manchester! Now, our son is getting married in South Africa, to a South African. Family and friends are flying from this country. One of Davey's friends is a German whom he met in Chile but will be in South Africa and is coming to the wedding; global citizen indeed! 30 years ago, we talked

about the world getting smaller, but did we think it could get this small? The global village means we are now interconnected like never before.

Interconnectedness has long been a feature of spirituality in many forms. But nowadays this insight is not revealed to just a few enlightened souls but something we're all increasingly aware of. Most of us have friends from places far more exotic than Manchester! And increasingly we understand that what we do does have an impact on other people.

500 years ago John Donne wrote: *No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.*

To help connect us to our link Diocese of Kagera in northern Tanzania which is enduring a drought, we are having a Tanzanian evening in the Old School Hall in Horham on April 1st to raise funds for them. Due to the size of the hall, numbers are limited to 35 people. It will be a taste of Tanzania with beans, chapatti and ugali followed by a tropical fruit salad and Tanzanian coffee. We've even got Kenyan beer and Fanta and Coke in glass bottles – contact me for details and a free ticket (everything will be 'paid' for by donation).

Michael Womack (hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 388889)

Rev Michael Womack is rector of the Hoxne Benefice.

Enquiries: Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216); Evelyn Adey, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628428) Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217).

Services for all churches in the benefice are on notice boards. A monthly benefice newsletter is available in the churches. Email hoxnebenefice@gmail.com for your copy.

Women's World Day Prayer: St Mary's Worlingworth March 3rd 2pm.

Horham Church Register: Funeral and burial November 22nd of James Arthur Tye aged 87.

■ CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES:

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday Deanery service
7.30pm, Stradbroke

Mar 5 Redlingfield 9.30am HC

Mar 12 Horham 9.30 am HC

Mar 19 Athelington 9.30am HC

Mar 26 Horham 11.15am FS

April 2 Redlingfield 9.30am HC

April 9 Palm Sunday Horham 9.30am HC

April 14 Good Friday Horham 7pm,
Reflections

April 16 Easter Day Athelington
9.30am HC

April 23 Horham, 11.15 am 95th
Bomb Group service

April 30 Benefice Service 11.15am with
recommissioning, Syleham

May 7 Redlingfield 9.30am HC

May 14 Horham 9.30am HC

May 21 Athelington 9.30am HC

May 28 Horham 11.15am FS

HC = Holy Communion, FS = Family Service

■ POETRY: What makes a good day or a bad day? Manday Miller

Good days can be measured – you get
out of bed and all goes well,
Don't spill your coffee, miss the bus,
drop it and it breaks, your cakes rise,
Bad days are measured by you getting
out of bed and you stub your toe, can't
get the coffee in the cup,
All you touch you drop, crash or miss –
nothing does well, your cakes don't rise
and the bus has long gone when you
get to the bus stop.
A good day is when we have not been

lied to by a politician and the tax man
says he owes us money,
The boss says good job well done. All
you touch goes well. You're not
accident prone!
A bad day – we get told a lie, he takes
more cash, you drop it crash, you
mess it up and the boss says what
have you done!
But not all days are bad and not all
good. Life just looks that way!
Everyone has good days and bad days.

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■ **STRADBROKE & DISTRICT RBL:** The annual conference of Suffolk County Royal British Legion was held recently at Needham Market Community Centre and attended by four members of the branch – secretary Bernard Mills was the branch delegate, Joyce Cooper carried the branch standard, new branch treasurer Andy Davidson attended his first conference and branch chairman Michael Burton was honorary county vice president. The branch received a certificate for a donation to the county chairman's appeal from the county president Major Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL. The guest speakers were Sandra Fruish from RBL HQ, who spoke about membership, and Mandi Cox-Osborne, who spoke about fundraising.

Ken Rowbottom from Fressingfield remains county vice chairman. £335 was raised by a prize draw and 17 branch standards were on parade. Beactive's Motability manager Shaun Green was guest speaker at the monthly branch meeting at Laxfield Royal Oak. He spoke about their products and gave out goodie bags. He was thanked by vice chairman John Graham. During the meeting Michael Burton congratulated new branch president Alan King for taking office. Reports were given by Bernard Mills and the forthcoming annual dinner discussed. The next branch meeting is on Thursday March 9th at the Royal Oak starting 11.30am when Simonds Coaches from Diss will give a presentation.

Branch chairman Michael Burton



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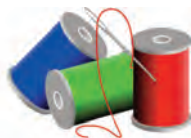
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