

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



**SUMMER 2016
ISSUE No. 34**

SPURLING & REMBLANCE



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The sun is shining, the rape seed is impossible to see over and the swallows and martins are here. It must be summer. And looking particularly fine in the summer sun is the new roof on Redlingfield Church. With it watertight and drainage issues fixed, now it's time to look inside and see what needs doing next. And talking about churches, we promised the full exciting story of Veronica's return to Horham Church in this issue. Well, as Veronica is still getting acclimatised to the church before she goes on display, it seems sensible to hold off until she is revealed, in all her glory to all.

This issue we welcome a new writer to the fold, Hawk Honey from Horham. He is a naturalist who works for Suffolk Wildlife Trust and his main interest is entomology. He has a regular slot on BBC Radio Suffolk's Lesley Dolphin show and, like Trevor Edwards, writes pieces for the East Anglian Daily Times. He also has his own blog at www.suffolknaturalist.com. Having a stable of excellent regular contributors makes my life much easier. It seems a long while ago that I last worried about how I was going to fill a village mag. So thank you to all those who make the mag worth reading and those who get it out to every household in our three villages. *Mike Ager*

Breakthrough! I can solve the problem for Brexiteers who have no room for migrants. If we leave the EU, England with Johnson, Farage and Gove in charge will be no place for me. I would then leave my beloved country until things change. If many others feel as I do there will be plenty of space for immigrants. *Evelyn Adey*

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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We aim to produce four issues a year, coming out at the end of February, May, August and November. The next issue - Autumn 2016 - is due to be published at the end of August. The final deadline for all submissions is August 14th.

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

1/6 page £8.50 (60mm deep, 60mm across)
1/3 page £16.50 (60mm deep, 125mm across)
1/4 page £12.50 (90mm deep, 60mm across)
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I missed our old cat but the wildlife really doesn't

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

IT WAS A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY in the middle of February, and the resident song thrush was singing his head off from deep within a huge hawthorn bush. Normally, he declares himself from the highest perch, standing out like a sunburnt Scotsman, but on this occasion he is well hidden, heard but not seen.

The greater-spotted woodpecker is drumming away and two mallards have arrived and are loitering on the lawn. The ducks spend winter over at Charlie's at Benningham, where keeper Paul has a wildfowl collection with a plentiful food supply. Our duck has chosen a colourful drake with splashes of white in his smart plumage and he is well into his tail-twitching and head-bobbing routine.

In March, the duck unwisely decided to nest on the low garden wall overlooking the pond, a nest located

two foot six above the ground and nose-high to a labrador. This was not a good site and the month was not over before she abandoned the small clutch of six eggs.

She was then seen waddling across the lawn to a new grassy bank, the drake trailing behind like an old man following his wife at the supermarket. You could tell his heart wasn't in it.

There is a sense that birds seek out nest sites close to humans in the hope it might reduce the danger from predation. This is despite the fact that we are daft enough to keep loads of their worst enemy, the domestic cat.

We have no cats here at Wash Farm because when our last one died a few years ago, the family pet was not replaced. I missed the old thing for ages, it used to sit by the AGA purring like a trail bike. However, its demise saved the day for the water voles,

which the cat used to catch with great enthusiasm and great success.

GAMEKEEPER PAUL RESCUED the largest duck brood in his memory at Benningham. He found the ducklings cold and abandoned during a farmyard spring-clean and he was able to move them successfully to a heat lamp, nineteen ducklings in all. He also volunteered to help a local farmer



FEATURES & NEWS

**Facing page: duck & ducklings.
This page: The Waveney Bird Club
at Ditchingham & keeper Nick
addressing WBC members.**



with free-range hens who had lost 80 hens to foxes.

After the second night of staking out the territory, his patience was rewarded and the target was found and despatched. However, to his surprise, the vixen was carrying, not the chicken they expected, but three baby leverets in a huge mouthful. And Chris Packham loves foxes. My sights were on the usual suspects, the nest-robbers, and the Larsen trap has worked well this spring, catching two magpies and also a carrion crow for the first time.

TO OPEN THE SPRING programme, the Waveney Bird Club members turned out in force for a Good Friday

walk, a dawn chorus event at the Ferrers' estate at Ditchingham.

This coincided with a welcome improvement in the poor Easter weather and over 60 different species were recorded, including the first chiffchaff and blackcap of the season. Our guide was Nick Clitheroe, the estate gamekeeper, who was pleased to explain the estates' project of grey partridge breeding.

We heard of the problems he had in getting the pair bonding right, because, after getting it wrong, the first rejected male got pecked to death. What a heavy price to

pay for a bad move in the mating game.

THIS SPRING SAW THE BEST farming programme ever on British television. It was called This Farming Life, and was a warts- and-all portrayal of the challenges of livestock care round the clock.

The rigours of upland farming were brilliantly encapsulated by five families, and the care of the animals by one couple, through all of the problems of calving, went as far as lifting a stricken cow by a sling, twice a day for a fortnight, so that Daisy May did not lose the use of her legs.

Continued page 4

FEATURES & NEWS

Continued from page 3

The abiding memory of these two was of the farmer, sitting comfortably on the tractor seat pulling the lever, whilst his wife lay in the muck and straw next to the 500kg beast, straining her back to help the cow struggle to its feet. We lowland arable farmers don't know anything.

IN 2001, THE Suffolk Show committee responded to the Foot and Mouth outbreak, which caused the cancellation of the Show, by launching the Schools Farm and Country Fair. There was a need to increase the links between farming and food on the plate and further the understanding of country pursuits by school children.

Now, 14 years on, 4,500 children of Years 3 and 4 attend a host of displays,

get covered in stickers and eat lots of Blythburgh Pork sausages.

The Birds of Prey demonstration was a star attraction this year and the size of the Great Grey Owl, standing two feet tall was formidable.

A resident of the frozen far north of

Europe, it survives by tracking the vole populations and, to reach them, can hover and plunge its talons through ice-crusted snow. Here the children of Carton Colville primary school didn't seem too concerned at all.



Great Grey Owl and admirers.

THE FLIGHT path of a pigeon in display mood goes up and down like a yo-yo. That's

why the dove family is named after an old English word meaning "to dive". Not a lot of people know that, as Michael Caine would say.

Trevor Edwards



■ **COMMUNITY RESPONDER IN HORHAM:** Ian Buckley recently joined the East of England Ambulance Responder Team and works voluntarily from home. The role of responder is to offer help and support, in some cases life saving, prior to the arrival of an ambulance. Ian said: "It is a responsibility I take very seriously and a rewarding way in which I can give my time to the community." It should be stressed that in the event of an emergency 999 should be the first number to phone. Responders are dispatched through the ambulance service if they are booked on call.

Redlingfield sampler from attic at the Horham PO

THIS IS A POSTSCRIPT TO my little piece about the Bean family in the spring issue of our magazine.

Alan Johnson showed me a picture of a sampler worked by Maryann Bean in 1835 when she was eleven years old. Alan was born at the post office and now lives in the non-shop part of the building. Some time ago he found the sampler in the attic. It has been a feature of the village website for a while.

Maryann married Charles Beecroft in 1846 and ran the post office and grocer's shop with him, continuing after his death in 1868. She died in 1895 at the age of 71.

Her daughter Ann continued the running of the post office. In 1875 she had married George Stageman, a

builder, and lived with him in Earl Soham. He died in 1884. The census

for 1891 shows that Ann with sons Arthur and George were now living with Maryann at the shop.

In 1893 Ann married William Hawes described on the 91 census as a widower aged 65, boot-maker and postman. By 1911 Ann was widowed again, sub postmistress running a general stores. With her

was William's daughter Laura, 38 and described as a general help.

Ann died in 1924, Alan told me that her son Arthur had electricity put in the church at Horham in memory of his mother.

It seems that Arthur continued with the shop until Alan's father, Percy Johnson, arrived in the mid 1930s

when the business finally passed out of the hands of the descendants of Maryann Bean.

The shop is still linked to the Johnson family as current occupier David Spall and Alan are cousins.

Alan gave the sampler to Brian Beecroft who is a great grandson of Maryann. Thanks to Alan I had the privilege of meeting Brian recently and hearing more about his family history.

Linda Hudson



Worldwide Mexican wave

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of Prayer (WWDP) always takes place on the first Friday in March. This year our local branch met at Horham Baptist Church. There were representatives from surrounding villages including some from Diss.

The WWDP started in the mid 1800s when various Christian denominations in the USA held separate meetings on different days. Gradually these came together, others joined and other countries became involved too. There are now 170 countries and islands all taking part on the same day.

Each year a country is given a theme and asked to arrange the service. This

year Cuba wrote the service and the theme was *Receive Children, Receive Me*. The service was translated into 60 languages and 1,000 dialects and sent to all the participants around the world. Many different denominations take part; it is truly ecumenical.

We were given background on Cuba, its history, flora, fauna, social structures and so forth. They have an impressive education system attracting students from South America, Africa and many other places. They also have a world renowned medical establishment and free health provision.

The WWDP service consists of a



■ **STRADBROKE RBL:** A lot has been going on at the Royal British Legion Stradbroke and District Branch. More than 60 members and guests attended the annual dinner, we've held a concert to celebrate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and we've changed the venue for our monthly meetings.

I would like to pay tribute to all members and their wives and especially our standard bearer Joyce Cooper, the main organiser of the concert. Without their help none of these events would



have been possible. More than 300 people attended the concert by the Sheringham Shantymen at Stradbroke High School. The concert was an outstanding success and the best since I have been chairman during the past 33 years and a great advert for the Legion,

of prayer

variety of participants taking parts, of readings and of various songs. Most of the songs were unfamiliar to us with new, often rhythmical tunes. (Christine Stanford learned the tunes and taught them to us). The whole thing was definitely jolly.

The day started at sunrise in Samoa, a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific located almost exactly half way round the world from the Greenwich meridian. The day of prayer then moved round with the sunrise and finally ended as the sunset over Samoa. It is quite moving to feel part of the whole world concentrating and praying on the same theme. A truly enormous Mexican wave!

Next year the service will be in Worlingworth Church, 2 pm on the first Friday in March 2017. Put it in your diary. We will publicise it in this magazine.

Evelyn Adey

The branch was thanked by the Queen for their "loyal greetings" following the concert which raised more than £800 for legion funds.

Among the invited guests on the night was the Suffolk County Chairman Denis Bloomfield and his wife Christine, while five Royal British Standards attended under the direction of Barney Adlington.

The branch now meets at Laxfield's Royal Oak on the second Thursday of the month starting at 11.30am. It's business first, followed by a guest speaker and then lunch (at present two course for £7.50). All are welcome to come and join us – you do not have to be a member.

Our branch and Fressingfield are the only two branches in this part of the country.

Michael Burton, chairman Stradbroke and District Branch Royal British Legion

■ NEW REEDING WOODS

GROUP: If you have heard the old adage "oak before ash in for a splash, ash before oak in for a soak", then you'll be expecting a dry summer as the oaks are out in splendour this spring along Pound Lane in Horham. The male catkins cascade below the branches with the female flowers at the tips among the fresh green leaves. In the woodland all the trees are bursting into leaf, but noticeably the oak, this spring, is ahead of the ash. Many of the trees are now over 10-feet tall and the area is developing into real woodland. The ash trees are struggling to survive as they battle with ash dieback, but many are fighting back with new shoots below the infected areas. In the meadow and along the grassy rides cowslips, dandelions and clover are blooming, and many of the trees and shrubs are also in flower. The pond is teeming with life as insects flit across the surface, and below the dark shapes of newts emerge briefly from among the weeds. The erect leafless stems of water violets are dotted across the water with no sign of the feathery foliage hidden below. We are trying to record the flora and fauna of this wildlife area and surveys of small mammals, birds and wildflowers are ongoing, if you would like to be actively involved please contact Mike Reeves on 01379 668 179 for more details.

Mike Reeves

■ **VILLAGE AGM:** The village committee of Andrew Abbott (chairman), Graham Abbott, Katie Abbott, Mike Ager, Jeanette Brierley (treasurer), Susan Chapman, Allan Chapman, Will Edwards, Chris Gibbons, Pat Kelly, Russell Kerry, Jacqueline Love, Manday Miller, Janet Norman-Philips (secretary), Lesley Rose-Freitas and Tony Rose-Freitas were all re-elected unanimously at the recent annual general meeting of Redlingfield Village Meeting at Horham and Athelington Community Centre. County councillor Guy McGregor reported to the meeting and offered to arrange a meeting with representatives of Redlingfield and county councillor Jane Storey about broadband. District councillor Elizabeth Gibson-Harries was congratulated on becoming chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council. She told the meeting she will not be standing for re-election in May 2017. Janet Norman-Philips was thanked for all her work on the church restoration and the planned expansion of the Doorstep Green.

■ **REDLINGFIELD CHURCH:** On Sunday 31st July, at 11.15am, there will be a celebratory benefice service at Redlingfield, with Bishop Martin in attendance, to commemorate completion of the restoration work on the church roof and to commission a new lay elder.

■ **REDLINGFIELD LITTER PICK:** A big thank you to all who took part in the village litter pick. As usual an amazing amount of rubbish of all sorts was cleaned up. Will and Sarah Edwards for example filled their 300-litre barrow picking along the Eye road from their Kiln Farm home to white bridge (Arthur's gateway).

FEATURES & NEWS

Sad farewell

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING term at Wilby. Our gymnasts took part in a regional event at Pipers Vale, with our under 11 team winning gold and going through to county finals in July. We have also taken part in a swimming event at Diss, with several children coming first in their individual disciplines.

Years 2,3 and 4 experienced an overnight residential visit to Thorpe Woodlands, where they experienced the outdoor adventure Physical Education curriculum to its full; climbing, caving, rafting and more.

Classes have been out on visits which support their curriculum learning, Chestnut class visited Africa Alive, Willow class are off to Norwich Castle and Oak class are visiting Bressingham. Beech class have lots of exciting trips with a year 6 London visit and residential trip to Hollowford in Derbyshire and a year 5 team-building event to a destination yet to be decided (year 5 get the casting vote).

Under the direction of Mrs Wiseman, Beech class again performed outstandingly at Snape Maltings A Celebration of Schools' Music festival. They created a piece using brass, song, voice and visual effects which explored our fragile planet. It gave you goosebumps, not only because of its message, but also through the quality of the performance.

We continue to work closely with

from Wilby's headteacher

Stradbroke High School – this summer term has wonderful taster experiences on offer for our year 5s and transition days for your year 6s.

We also offer a club every evening for our children, so in reality school is open for pupils from 8am, with breakfast club, to 4.15pm, with our after school clubs. See the school website for what we offer our children.

Now that the weather has improved both Willow and Chestnut classes will be going swimming. We pride ourselves in being able to offer our pupils the opportunity to swim from year 1 onwards.

We continue to build our strong roots with the church, we celebrate our Christian beliefs and Christian festivals both at school and at St Mary's Church. It is a great pleasure for our pupils to have regular Christian visitors who support our collective worship. I would like to thank both Adam Blowes, the Pastor of Horham Baptist Church, and Revd. David Burrell, our vicar, for their contributions to our Christian ethos.

I would also like to extend the whole school's gratitude to Horham Baptist Church for their generous donation of bibles suitable for our pupils to explore the Christian story. They have been a big hit in the classrooms.

Tea and Toys is a toddler group which 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. Please come along and join in the fun – you would be made most welcome!

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with the community some changes about to take place.

From September 2016 I have accepted the position of headteacher of Grange

Primary School, Felixstowe.

I have mixed emotions as I share this news, both excitement at the next steps in my career and with sadness as I prepare to leave Wilby, which stole my heart and accepted me as part of its community.

The governing body working in conjunction with Suffolk County Council and the diocese, are in the process of ensuring the future of Wilby C of E Primary School remains secure and strong and they will let people know as soon as possible the outcome of their decisions.

Finally, upcoming events include our Summer Fair on Saturday 2nd July and music for a summer's evening on Thursday 7th July. Please come along and support us!

If you have any queries regarding the School please contact me, Mrs Coleman, for more information on 01379 384708.

Philippa Coleman, Headteacher



WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 1 & 2

The Suffolk Show: Trinity Park, Ipswich.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Curry Night: Horham CC. Sign up in advance in the centre.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Handel's Coronation Anthems: Sing with the Phoenix singers. Music score & light refreshments provided. Suggested min donation £10 per person. Proceeds to East Anglian Children's Hospices. Thomas Mills, Fram, 1pm-5.30pm.

Cantaloop: Fresh from touring with The Fun Lovin Criminals, The Bank Eye, 7.15pm. Full £10, conc £8.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Eye Mayor's Parade and Service: 10.30am-12.30pm.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Redlingfield village committee meeting: Mill Farm, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Car Boot & Indoor Table Top Sale: All pitches £5. Stradbroke High School, 8am-1pm.

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

Billy Elliot the Musical Live: Tickets £8 – booking essential. Stradbroke Court House, 7pm.

90 Glorious Years of Popular Song:

Evening of cabaret with Jessica Walker & Joseph Atkins. Eye Church, 7.30pm. £20 from Christine Bird 01379 871211 or c.bird5@btinternet.com.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 11 & 12

Eye Open Gardens: £4 per adult (children 16 and under go free). Ticket can be used on both days.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Stonham Barns Dog Extravaganza: Stonham Barns, 10am-4pm. Adults £5, children £2, conc £4.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Redlingfield Churchyard Tidy: 6pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Dad's Army: Stradbroke Cinema.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Fish & Chips: Horham CC. Sign up in advance in the centre or shop.

Hail Caesar! Cinema at Eye.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

FRAm Bygone Sale: St Michael's Rooms, 10am-2pm.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Continental Day: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum.

The Three Chordettes & Chocks Away for Dancing: Helmingham Hall Gardens, 11am-6pm. Gardens noon, BBQ & bar 3pm, music & dancing 4pm. Adults £7, children £3.50.

East Anglian Air Ambulance Ride 2

Remember: 75-mile sponsored motorcycle rideout in aid of EAAA & festival in memory of loved ones. M/C registration £8, entrance £5. Stonham Barns, noon-8pm.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Breckland Country Music Festival: 10am, Stonham Barns.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Occold Summer Fayre: Occold Village Hall, 9.30am-noon.

Strawberry Fayre: Old School House Horham, 1.30-4pm. £5 per head, tickets available from Horham PO.

Car Treasure Hunt: Horham CC, 3pm start. Followed by BBQ. Details from Karen or Clare.

Worlingworth Fete: Worlingworth Community Centre, 2-5pm.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 25 & 26

Stradbroke Festifull: Playing Field, Wilby Road, 8am-5pm.

SATURDAY, JULY 2

1950s dance: Red Feather Club. Dance with band Big Swifty & top London DJ Pat Da Kat. Tickets £10. 7.30pm 'til late.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Americana Day with DJ Jamboree: Red Feather Club. 10am-4pm. Free family fun day celebrating all things American.

Worlingworth Open Gardens: Teas and light refreshments in selected gardens, 10am-5pm.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

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

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 8 & 9

Stradisphere Music Festival: Stradbroke Community Playing Field. In advance: weekend £25, Friday night £12, Saturday all day £20, Saturday night (after 5pm) £12, 12-16s £5 per day, 11 years and under are free accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets Stradbroke Spar & Library and online (www.stradisphere.co.uk).

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Redlingfield Summer Fayre & BBQ: Doorstep Green, 3pm till midnight.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Bar Meals: Horham CC. Sign up in the centre.

The Big Short: Cinema at Eye.

SUNDAY, JULY 17

The Broadside Boys: Helmingham Hall Gardens, 11am-6pm. Gardens noon, BBQ & bar 3pm, music 5.30pm. Adults £7, children £3.50.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

Room: Stradbroke Cinema.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Stradbroke Village Show: Stradbroke CC, 10am-5pm.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 23 & 24
Bedfield Open Gardens.

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Fish & Chips: Horham CC. Sign up in advance in the centre or shop.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Romeo and Juliet: Corn Hall on tour with The Pantaloons, Eye Castle, 7pm. Standard £10, children £6 (www.thepantaloons.co.uk).

Framlingham Ladies Choir Summer

Concert: St Clare's Church, 7.30pm. £5.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Suffolk Dog Day: Helmingham Hall Gardens, 10am-4pm. Adults £10 (£8 advance), children & conc £5, family (2 adults & 2 children) £25 (£22 advance).

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

Cinema at Eye. Doors 7pm, film 7.30pm. Eye CC, £5. **Framlingham:**

www.framlingham.com. **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, events@helmingham.com,

www.helmingham.com. **Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754 & Clare, 388878, **Hoxne Cinema:** 7.30pm, Hoxne Village Hall, St Edmund's Hall, Goldbrook, Hoxne, bar, popcorn & choc-ices available before & in the interval. Admission: £3.50.

Further info/booking: 668060 or www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk. **Midsuffolk Showgrounds &**

Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, Brockford Station, Wetheringsett nr Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14

5PW, www.msrlr.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. **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. 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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Hornby Collectors: Mid-Suffolk Light
Railway Museum.

The Festival of Classic & Sports Cars:
Helmingham Hall Gardens, 10am-5pm.
Adults £9, children 7 years & over £4,
children under 7 free, family (2 adults &
2 children) £22.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Music in the garden: Bedfield House,
4.30pm.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Summer Jamboree: Mid-Suffolk Light
Railway Museum.

The Importance of Being Earnest: Diss

Corn Hall on tour with DOT Productions,
4pm, The Oaksmere. Advance £12, DCH
Friend Advance £10.50, door: £15.

Swing Machine Big Band: 11am-7pm,
Helmingham Hall Gardens. Gardens
noon, BBQ & bar 3pm, music 5.30pm.
Adults £7, children £3.50.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Festival of Country Pursuits: Suffolk Owl
Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Eye Town Show: Provisional date.

SUNDAY & MONDAY, AUGUST 28 & 29

Rail 'n' Ale: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
Museum.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

MONDAYS: MONDAYS: Coffee & Chat: Horham Baptist Church hall. 10am. No charge.

Everyone welcome - especially you! 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.

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,

Studios open up in June

THROUGHOUT WEEKENDS in June 129 Suffolk artists are opening their studios to the public giving you the opportunity to experience 'behind the screen' and find out where and how they produce their work and discuss the inspiration behind it.

The annual Suffolk Open Studios event gives you the opportunity to view preliminary work, sketchbooks, work in progress and the processes involved, with some artists giving demonstrations of their techniques. You may even be able to have a go yourself.

With both unfinished and finished work to browse there is also the possibility of buying an original piece of artwork and many artists are willing to discuss commissions for unique pieces of work designed to your requirements.

The leaflet detailing which artists' studios are open and when is available from Tourist Information Centres and online at www.suffolkopenstudios.org.

The Suffolk Borders Trail on the weekend of June 25 and 26 June encompasses our area. It runs from

Mellis to Weybread via Thornham Magna and Thorndon.

The Suffolk Borders Trail studios are: Beyond the Image Photographers' Gallery, photography; Adrian Barnard, acrylic, digital art, drawing, fine art painting, illustration and photography; Kirstie Bruce, ceramics; Issy Coe, drawing, fine art painting, lino prints, mixed media, oil painting, pastel and watercolour painting; Verity

Franklin collage, collagraphs, etching, lino prints, mixed media and relief; Nicolette Hallett, oil painting; Tom Lund-Lack oil painting. Susie Joyce, painting and sculpture; and Sheila Volpe pastel drawing and painting.



WEATHER by Manday Miller

*It is official well we have had the longest winter hanging on since records began
Me, I am still hanging on for this patchy rain & spotty sun what fun!
In my youth I must have sung (lots) of rain, rain go away, come again another day
One week snow, the next sun, wall-to- wall rain not much fun!
Weather men gush, we are hotter than here or there but they cannot get it right!
What do you wear, or what do you not? Can you carry the just-in-case?
Do we plan this or that day? Will the weather get in the way? It always does!
Wildlife is fuming. How can I moult one day when the next is cold?
Visitors wonder, how can you live with weather like this? It's not bliss
Heaven & hell do exist. Heaven is a nice sunny day. Hell is waiting for it to happen!*

What's the point of wasps?

When people realise that my main interest as a naturalist, is insects, the most common question I'm asked is: What's the point of wasps? Aggressive, picnic spoiling, black and yellow menaces are the words often associated with these wonderful creatures. But what a lot of people fail to realise, is the vital part they play in our gardens and in our ecosystems . . .

THERE ARE SEVERAL thousand species of wasp in the UK, around 7,000 to be more precise.

The majority of these are known as 'solitary/parasitic wasps', which means they do not have a queen and a hive they must report back to. They either live a solitary life making their home in the ground or in the broken stem of a plant such as reeds, brambles and many other plants, or spend their life laying eggs on other insects such as wood boring beetles.

Then there are the 'social wasps' of which there are nine species including the Hornet, our largest wasp. These social wasps build intricate nests of paper maché and have a queen to protect. These are the ones that will cause upset at your BBQ when they fall into the open fizzy drink can. But without them, we would be in a whole lot of trouble.

Wasps, unlike their vegetarian cousins, bees, are predatory. They like to catch other insect prey such as flies, caterpillars and other garden pests that nibble your prize dahlias. They take them back to the nest to feed their young, who in return exude a

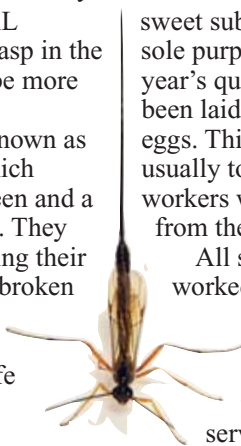
sweet substance to feed the workers. The sole purpose of the nest is to produce next year's queens, but once these eggs have been laid, the current queen lays no more eggs. This means that at some point, usually towards summer's end, the workers will stop getting the sweet nectar from the growing larvae.

All season long, the workers have worked hard removing pests from your garden without you knowing and they have served their queen by feeding and raising her young and their payment for such service is death. They are no longer required and so they must get their

sweet food from elsewhere, whether it be ripening apples, discarded sweet wrappers or your lovely picnic, it's every wasp for itself.

I had three wasp nests in my garden last year. It was impossible to sit in my garden without being in a flight path of one nest or another, but not one of us got stung. If a wasp landed on us, we left it alone and it soon realised we were not sweet enough and it flew off. Wasps will only attack if they feel threatened or feel that they, or the nest, is under attack. If you start waving your hands about to swipe it away, the wasp feels immediately threatened and is likely to attack.

Other wasps, of the





Above: *Amblyteles armatorius* - this wasp lacks a sting, but likes to lay its eggs in the caterpillars of moths. **Facing page, inset left:** *Dolichomotus mesocentrus* - a 6cm long ichneumon wasp, which uses its 3cm long ovipositor (not a stinger) to drill into wood so it can lay an egg next to a wood boring beetle larvae; and **inset below:** *Vespua germanica* - a more common social wasp. **Note the yellow butterfly pattern between its antennae.**

solitary variety, are a bit more specific about their prey. Some will only hunt certain species such as aphids, or leaf-hoppers, or weevils, or even certain species of caterpillars. They usually catch their prey by paralysing it, then carrying it back to a specially built chamber, maybe in the ground, or in an old beetle hole in wood or the stem of a plant. There it will deposit it with several other prey items. When enough prey has been caught, the wasp will lay an egg on the last item and then seal the chamber and start all over again. This egg will hatch and spend the summer, autumn and winter devouring the food within before emerging the following spring.

So when I'm asked What's the point of wasps? I answer that they are one of the best pest controllers in our natural world. Who needs pesticides?

Hawk Honey
www.suffolknaturalist.com

■ **STRAWBERRY FAYRE:** On Saturday 25th June there will be a Strawberry Fayre at the Old School House in Horham, from 1.30pm to 4pm. Tickets are £5 per head, to include afternoon tea, a glass of Prosecco or fruit punch and games suitable for children – and adults! They are available from Horham Post Office and village shop. Proceeds are going to the St. Mary's West door restoration fund.

Jill Peters

■ **PARACHUTE PARTY:** St Elizabeth Hospice are hosting a 'parachute party' in July and are asking for as many supporters as possible to sign up to the challenge. The charity is looking for groups of people to skydive in July at Beccles Airfield. For info or to visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk, call 01473 723600 or email fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk

Sophie Johnson

■ **BROME RECYCLING CENTRE:** Brome Community Recycling Centre has reopened. Run by KHK Recycling, it is open 10am-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 10am-2pm on Bank Holidays.

■ **THORNDON COMMUNITY SHOP:** The shop, which is run by the Community for the Community, is in the car park of The Black Horse, Thorndon, and is open Mon- Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-noon, Sun 8.30am-noon.

■ **COFFEE CARAVAN:** The Rural Coffee Caravan will be in Redlingfield on the second Wednesday in June (the 8th) as the caravan will be at the Suffolk Show on the first Wednesday that month.

Jacqueline Love

Adding to my personal book

4.15AM ON SHAKESPEARE'S birthday and I am up and out of bed on one of my almost nightly, old people's visits to the loo.

Never mind, as Sir Toby Belch would have said, had I met him on the landing, "to be up after midnight is to be up betimes!" even at this early hour I can discern a faint light in the sky to the east over Hazel and Edmund's – well it's only a couple of months to the Solstice.

This particular 23rd April marks four hundred years since Will's death. He died on his birthday; a neat trick for posterity if you can manage it. Now on this spring morning it is cold – like the cold of childhood in truly austere times in a big Edwardian house in Cambridge built with no regard for comfort, convenience or warmth. Sleeping in the attic under sloping ceilings which were plastered but by no means insulated, was, I suppose character building.

There was usually a roaring coal fire in the one downstairs room which acted as dining room, parlour, living room and reception room. Close to this fire you scorched on one side and froze on the other.

On the coldest mornings my father's voice calling up the stairs "Jack Frost has been" got us to the window to see

the exquisite patterns applied to the glass as with an ice blowtorch.

At school we fared no better – heavy cast-iron radiators jerked and thumped but gave out little warmth and only in the coldest weather. Austerity, austerity, austerity.

Cambridge in the '50s of my childhood and teens was my town and I had no comprehension of the effect that the overriding presence of an ancient University had on the character of the town.

I suppose that I assumed that any town would have a

Fitzwilliam museum or an Anthropological museum or a Zoological museum which would, like ours, have a huge and fearsome skeleton of a whale hanging only a few feet over your head

as you trod nervously about beneath it, gazing into display cabinets while trying, unsuccessfully, to forget it (if it came down that jawbone alone could crush you to death).

One of my favourite schoolboy haunts was David's bookstall on the market place and on a recent visit I was delighted to see that it, or something which very closely resembled it, is still there.

Tempted, I bought two more books to add to my personal book mountain (well small hillock actually) – I've still got books from forty or even fifty



mountain

years ago that I bought there. One which I am very fond of is by an American photo-journalist; it is made up of black and white photos of daily life in the Picasso household and conveys so well the vitality of this compact little Spanish art bomb. Life and vitality burst from every page!

Clive James who you will remember from his days as a television critic and chat-show host also loves this bookstall and goes there twice a week.

It is, apparently his only outing, apart from check-ups at the hospital now that he is so ill and, as he puts it, “only hanging on to write another poem”. He lives near the river in a terraced house facing on to Jesus Green and has written beautifully of the Green in the mornings.

This is a slice from the poem called “Sunday morning walk.” and it's a cold morning.

*In front of the boat-houses
The rowers rigging fulcrums to the
shells
Bite off their gloves
To push in pins,
And the metal shines
Just short of glitter
Because the light, though Croesus-rich
Is kiss soft.*

In a recent interview he remarked that he was amazed at how much he had written “since his death”. Never mind the width Clive, feel that quality!

Enough of these nocturnal wanderings of mind and body, I had better get back to that still warm bed.

Neville Butcher

Horham & Athelington Parish Council

■ **HEDGES:** The recent warm spell has seen some rapid growth in the garden. Please make sure that hedges alongside roadways and footways are trimmed back so that road users and pedestrians have safe passageway to, from and through our villages. Shop corner and the western end of Horham Street are notably tricky at the moment.

■ **BONFIRE NUISANCE:** It's the time of year in the garden when rubbish from the garden finds its way to the bonfire: The Parish Council receive occasional complaints about the irritation of the smoke so please consider this before striking a match. Make sure that the material is dry so it burns quickly with the minimum of smoke and please check the direction of the wind. Always have bucket of water (or a hose handy) just in case!

■ **DOG FOULING:** Responsible dog owners always clear up faeces from their pets when taking them for a walk, but we are aware of complaints from residents when this has not happened. Apart from the unsavoury mess and the health risks, owners can be heavily fined if the witness reports the incident (with a photo if possible) to Mid-Suffolk District Council Environmental Department.

■ **TELEPHONE KIOSK:** Our (telephone) information kiosk has now received its new coat of paint and looks splendid. The next stage is the interior and designs for some of the glass panels. We have a team working on this project so look forward to this taking shape and becoming useful to visitors to our villages.

Angela Wilkins

Dances proving popular

THE RED FEATHER CLUB HAS BEEN BUSY in recent months with the first open days of the year, two dances and a quiz night.

The club's 1940s dances are proving more and more popular and the March one was no exception. The joint was jumpin' and swingin' all night to yet another sell-out event with resident band Sykliner playing some of the hottest swing and jazz around. There was also a welcome return for special guest DJ Andy C, aka Andy Clark, spinnin' some cool tunes.

The Lend-Lease dance also went with a swing thanks to DJs Sgt Bilko, Flying Fortress, Miss D Meaner, The Baker Boy, AndyAV8 and the small army of volunteers. Billy, Georgia and Elena, who regularly attend our dances with their parents Chris and Melissa Platt, collected £380 (\$550) in donations. A total of £2,000 (\$3,000) was raised for the Mission Tucson project in the US. The permanent 95th BG exhibit will be unveiled at the October reunion in Arizona.

The recent quiz night was also a great success. Many thanks to all those who organised the event and helped on the evening.

The club's big weekend of events is in July with a 1950s dance with band Big Swifty & top London DJ Pat Da Kat on Saturday 2nd July (tickets £10, 7.30pm 'til late) and the free Americana Day on Sunday 3rd July, 10am-4pm. The free family fun day celebrating all things American includes re-enactors, vehicles and a DJ Jamboree.

AndyAV8 & Mike Ager



■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED** - plan to erect two agricultural sheds in connection with the breeding and storage of feed and bedding of Golden Guernsey Goats, **Little Meadow Farm, Stradbroke Road, Horham**; plan to change of use from agricultural to land for the keeping of horses and construction of a 20m by 40m menage, with drainage to existing ditch and silica sand and rubber working surface, **Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Redlingfield**; application to re-instate top section of chimney, **Hill Farmhouse, Redlingfield Road, Horham**.

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

DR DAN POULTER, YOUR LOCAL MP, REPORTS BACK



IMPROVING BROADBAND speeds for residents and businesses in Suffolk is a major priority for me.

Many businesses, and in particular people who work from home, rely on the internet to communicate with clients, as do our vital key public services such as the police, our schools and the NHS.

For more and more families, having a satisfactory broadband speed is also essential for their children to complete homework.

As the MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, I was pleased to secure a Parliamentary debate about broadband speeds last year regarding the slower than expected rollout of broadband in Suffolk and was satisfied to receive assurances from the Telecoms Minister that things would improve.

However, I still receive complaints from residents whose speeds are in some cases lower than 1 megabits per second. To put this in perspective, the Ofcom required speed is 10 megabits per second, and it was this kind of complaint that led me along with many other MPs to call for action in breaking up the monopoly that BT currently holds on providing the Government-funded rollout of super-fast broadband.

It is primarily in rural, 'hard to reach' areas where the rollout of broadband needs to happen much quicker. A lot of

good progress has been made, and I am pleased to have played a key role in helping to obtain about £30 million of Government funding for Better Broadband for Suffolk.

However, I know that there is still more to be done, and in Suffolk there are many villages and premises in rural areas which need more attention to secure this essential service for businesses and families.

But of course, it is Suffolk County Council who have the primary responsibility for the on-the-ground delivery of faster broadband for Suffolk, so in light of this, I was very pleased to be able to meet with the Leader of Suffolk County Council, Colin Noble, to put to him my concerns about some of the stories about poor broadband speeds that I have heard from people who live and work in rural areas.

I know that he shares my concerns, and was reassured that Colin Noble is now taking steps to ensure that Suffolk County Council will take a much more effective grip on the roll out of superfast broadband in the future.

I am sure that when super-fast broadband does come to every home, school and business in Suffolk, it will be worth waiting for; and as your local MP I will continue to do all I can to speed up the delivery of this essential service, so that Suffolk gets the high quality internet services that we deserve.

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

THE RECTOR REFLECTS ... LET'S TALK ABOUT S....



IN 1990 THE RAP DUO SALT-N-Pepa declared, 'Let's talk about sex'. It seems to me that the Church of England has long been talking about it.

Happily recent revelations about the Archbishop of Canterbury's parentage have been greeted with remarkable maturity so maybe a new age dawns. However, I want to talk about an even more taboo 'S' word – suicide and consider a Christian position, or at least answer some of the more common questions I've heard...

Suicide victims are buried on the north side of a church... The north side of any building gets less sun and is often the ignored side. However where the deceased are laid to rest is more about how the church sits in its churchyard. Visit Horham or Wingfield churchyards and more plots are on the north side. So, this one is simply not true.

Suicide victims can't have a church service and are not buried on consecrated ground... The Book of Common Prayer continued the pre-reformation view that those who took their life whilst of sound mind could not have a Christian burial. Immediately you can see a great big hole in this – would a person of sound mind take their own life? Even in that case, a series of laws from the 1880s mean that a suicide of sound mind can have a Christian service and burial in churchyard. Curiously it took until 2014 for Church law to finally catch

up with all this! This gives the deceased the same legal standing as anyone else in the parish that has those rights unless the churchyard is closed – as I've said many times before a parish church is for everyone in the parish. So, a bit more complicated but ultimately not true.

Suicide victims can't go to heaven, because it's against Church teaching... Setting aside the obvious point that the church is a human institution and doesn't know everything, this is my more thoughtful response.

Augustine (d. 430) thought it wrong because it violated the sixth commandment (You shall not murder) on that basis most of us have got problems because we've broken at least one commandment at some time!

Thomas Aquinas (d.1274) developed this idea and said that there was no time to repent of the sin and that was the real problem. I think that the problem with this is that it looks at things from our side rather than God's side. My belief is that when we die and encounter the infinite love of God we will choose to be joined to that love for eternity.

This sounds very cold and analytical, but I hope it has helped to answer some common questions. What concerns me far more though is how desperate suicide and mental distress is for the individual and those who seek to support them; my earnest prayer is that all of us, especially the local churches, will be a source of comfort, hope and healing.

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).

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



CHARLOTTE ADAN, JOINT chief executive of Babergh and Mid Suffolk district councils, is moving to the Royal Borough of Kingston on Thames. She

has guided us through the troubled waters of working with Babergh and the resulting cuts in staff and refreshing responsibilities.

We will have a replacement after August when she officially leaves. We wish her well and look forward to another era. We have a new leader in Nick Gowerly and our political group has a new chair, Matthew Hick, who is newly arrived at the Old Rectory at Athelington. And last of all the council has a new chairman for the year and that is me! What an honour but a strain on my farmyard-style wardrobe!

Not for the first time I have asked the villages in the Hoxne Ward to look at their own plans for the future before an overall plan is decided for them. What kind of accommodation do we need/want? Where are they to go and who do we think will take them up? Affordable homes are only affordable to those who

can afford them (if you see what I mean). Are they starter or retirement homes?

It goes without saying that we are rural in this part of Suffolk, but do we want to survive for the future or let the weeds grow over us? If I have any influence at all this year those are the questions I will be asking of you and insisting that the planners listen to us. With more homes must come the infrastructure to support them, money to enlarge our doctors' practices, school places and better communications. We have the new CIL system in place now so that money for new homes will soon find its way to parishes for them to spend. We need to be ready with the wish list.

The latest new/old face is Thwaite resident Tim Passmore returned as Police and Crime Commissioner. I sent him a message of congratulation with a barb – he promised in his manifesto for the police to be more visible. We need speeding through the villages to be addressed before there are nasty accidents.

Happy summer everyone, I hope it has arrived at last.

Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, District Councillor – Hoxne Ward

C OF E SERVICES

June 12 Horham 9.30am HC

June 19 Athelington 9.30 am HC;
Horham 11.15am FS

June 26 Athelington 11am MP for St Peter's Day. - refreshments after the service instead of usual lunch at Meadow Farm

July 3 Redlingfield 9.30am HC

July 10

July 17

July 24

July 31

August 14

August 21

August 28

Horham 9.30am HC

Athelington 9.30am HC

Horham 11.15 am FS

Redlingfield - Benefice celebration service taken by Bishop Martin

Horham 9.30am HC

Athelington 9.30am HC

Horham 11.15am FS

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.

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