

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



**WINTER 2011-2012
Issue No. 15**



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IT MAY SEEM AS IF I'M WISHING MY LIFE AWAY BUT DESPITE winter not really having arrived yet, next summer is what is really on my mind. Talk of the 95th Bomb Group veterans' annual visit to Horham has been in the air for months now with John and Kate Kirkum, and others from the Red Feather Club, spending countless hours organising and preparing for the visit, which is from Thursday May 10th to Wednesday May 16th. And, as I write this, I'm just off to the first meeting of the Horham Bygones Country Rally committee – the Red Cross phoned and confirmed the event was in their diaries for June 9th months ago. However we haven't even had Christmas yet, so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at your village magazine.

TUCKED AWAY ON PAGE 22 IS A BIT OF NEWS THAT MAY COME as a surprise – Rev David Streeter is stepping down next year. He's going after 2012's Harvest Festivals so there will be plenty of time for goodbyes and tributes but if you want to start hunting out pictures for next Autumn's issue please do ... I told you I was looking ahead.

Mike Ager

■ **POLICE PRIORITIES:** The area's policing priorities, set at a Neighbourhood Tasking Meeting in October, are currently: 1) to provide support and reassurance to the farming community in the Mid-Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) area, with a view to preventing and detecting burglaries and thefts; 2) to address road safety issues caused by vehicles parked inconsiderately in Eye town centre, causing congestion and endangering other road users. As a result, Mid-Suffolk North SNT will: 1) carry out, with partner agencies, high-profile patrols and make visits to farms to provide reassurance and crime prevention advice; 2) will patrol the affected areas regularly and enforce parking restrictions and work with Eye Town Council and partners to see if improvements can be made to signage or road layout. The police want to hear your views on local crime and policing. To help with this, they hold regular meetings where you can tell them your concerns and set priorities. The next Public Neighbourhood Tasking Meeting is at Goodwin Hall, New Street, Fressingfield, Suffolk, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm, on Tuesday January 24th 2012. All are welcome.

Mid-Suffolk North Safer Neighbourhood Team

■ **ST ANDREW'S CHURCH REDLINGFIELD:** A ceilidh with ploughman's supper is being held on Saturday February 4th at Stradbroke Community Centre in aid of St Andrew's Church repairs. The event will be from 7pm to midnight with a band – Syzewell Gap. Ticket prices have yet to be set. £345 was raised this year on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) Sponsored Bike Ride. Redlingfield's riders were Stu and Jeanette Brierley, Chris Tringham, Madeline Ellis, and Kelly and Gail Hawes. This money is split 50:50 between the SHCT and Redlingfield. Thank you all, and thank you to the sponsors and those who were on duty at the church. If anyone can think of ways of raising money for the church repairs, please contact me and let me know. We would like to keep the church in good repair, and if we have money in the bank, we can attract grant funding to help too. If anyone would like to become a regular or annual beneficiary to the church, please sign up so we can claim Gift Aid back. I would be pleased to let you have the forms.

Lesley Rose

It's the weather again . . .

Trevor Edwards' look at local wildlife finds everything from the common-place to one of the great birding sights and the FBI ...

IT IS MID-NOVEMBER AND, not for the first time this year, the weather is the main talking point.

Conditions for the newly-sown crops are positively spring-like, and it is hard to believe we would enjoy such a dry autumn after the spring drought. Some of the early sown wheat and rape is "getting too big for its boots" but the upside is that the damage inflicted by pigeons and rabbits is not nearly so visible as usual.

The battle lines were drawn up twenty years ago when my agronomist, John Tunaley, warned his farmers that if they didn't raise their game, the rabbits would be the biggest obstacle in the quest for profitable farming. In the armoury of fencing, ferreting, shooting or poisoning, the best weapon for me has been shooting by the local 'Likely Lads', a top team made up of Shaun Hawes, Paul Walker and Eddie Hawes.

Shooting over the harvest stubbles and early cereal crops, we are managing to keep the rabbit population in check, regularly knocking the numbers back whilst accepting we will never win the war. Myxomatosis, which we thought had lost its sting, may now also be making a come-back, which will help.

TWO OF THE "LITTLE BROWN jobs" in the garden are very visible in

this favourable weather.

Every morning, a **Wren** is actively searching the house gutters for bugs and beetles, and looking in pretty good condition for the challenges of the colder weather to come. It does remarkably well as one of Europe's smallest birds, always appealing with its cocked-up tail, and makes good use of natural cover like clumps of ivy for protection in winter. A not very sociable bird, it is however, very sensible, and dozens will sometimes cram together in a roost in order to maintain body heat.

The other is the **Dunnock**, sometimes called the hedge-sparrow, a bit mousey, but with beautiful colouring when seen in close-up. It is modest and discreet in its movements, but wow! What a sex-life. The Dunnock demonstrates monogamy, polygyny, polyandry and polygynandry. It is quite a challenge to write it all down, it must be exhausting for the birds doing it.

A NUMBER OF US FARMERS ARE working hand-in-hand with the FBI, which in this case, is the Farmland Bird Index.

This is one of the Government's measurements of the quality of life for YOU, it is amazing that Big Brother is watching over us so carefully. This index tells us which of our birds is

Pictured: hot shots, from left are Eddie Hawes, Paul Walker and Shaun Hawes; and pond restoration, the modern way.



finding life difficult under modern farming systems, and the classic example is the **Corn Bunting**. Needing plentiful insects for its young, and favouring grass seeds in winter, you can see that pristine acres of weed-free wheat, and a decline in meadowland, have really dealt the corn bunting a poor hand.

The conservation schemes that farmers are signing up for now, with grass margins and planted-up field corners, are seeking to address this and are a move in the right direction.

Another on the Red List, or endangered, is the **Grey Partridge**, which if the local shooting guys are right is beginning to recover, indicating that the right habitat is being provided. The ubiquitous French Partridge is fair game for the many organised shoots around, but woe betide anyone who bags a grey by mistake.

My wife, Anita, makes a delicious partridge dish with cabbage and chorizo but it has got to be the right sort of partridge! The other end of the scale is the Green List, and doing very well are the **Greenfinch** and **Goldfinch**, common in many gardens and no doubt aided by wide-scale garden feeding.

ONCE IN A GENERATION, A very dry spell of weather presents the perfect opportunity – and this is such a year – the chance for a pond restoration.

In 1944, my father bought the small farm where I was born and the water supply was pumped by hand into the house from the adjacent pond. Fast forward sixty odd years and the pond was holding a mere foot of water on top of five feet of sludge and leaf mould.

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It is marvellous what a 360-degree tracked digger can do in a day. By dusk hundreds of tonnes of silt had been spread on a very kind neighbour's field and the old galvanised pipe, which originally supplied the war-time water, had been hoicked out too. The result, a perfect new habitat for aquatic creatures great and small. On that note, it is a pity that Natural England don't relax their hand on **great-crested newts**, I hardly know anyone who has not got them in this part of Suffolk, and reports of their demise are greatly exaggerated.

WALKING IS NOW BACK IN fashion, and Suffolk's footpaths are being used more and more.

A winter visit to North Norfolk is always good value, whisper it quietly but they reckon they can challenge Minsmere! What they do have is vast numbers of **pink-footed geese**, which can sometimes fill the sky as they return to roost from grazing on grass, cereals and sugar-beet tops. The

birding books describe the experience as one of the greatest European bird-watching sights, which is no mean claim.

Holkham beach with the tide out is also special, and on November 13th, it saw a gathering of twitchers attempting to check out a **Rough-Legged Buzzard**.

The **Common Buzzard** is now beginning to live up to its name in East Anglia, Russell the Builder reports five over the village today. Recently, one survived flying into a lorry on the A14, east of Cambridge, after becoming jammed on the radiator. The lorry driver eventually stopped, realised the bird was still alive and carried it in his cab to Felixstowe where it was handed in and restored to health. Some buzzards have all the luck.

NORFOLK HAS MORE churches per square mile than any other county. Not a lot of people know that.

*Wash Farm Wildlife,
Trevor Edwards*

■ **WORLINGWORTH IN PICTURES:** A book of photographs to celebrate both the Diamond Jubilee and the history of Worlingworth is being compiled by the Worlingworth Local History Group and their Village Recorder. If you have any photographs connected with Worlingworth that could be considered for inclusion please contact Geoff Robinson, secretary of the Worlingworth Local History Group by email at geoffpsi@hotmail.com with "Diamond Jubilee Project" in the message title or Rosemary Ingate, Worlingworth Village Recorder, on 01728 628493. Worlingworth is one of the best documented villages in the Records Office. The Worlingworth Local History Group's photo archive is considerable and the photograph albums in the Village Record are steadily growing with donations of photos, and photographs being taken by the Village Recorder throughout the years, especially since the Millennium. However, people's own photographs of their links with, and lives, in Worlingworth would be the icing on the cake. **Rosemary Ingate**

Remembering the fallen

Remembrance Sunday ceremonies were the culmination of the busiest time of year for the local Royal British Legion branch

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME for Stradbroke and District Branch of the Royal British Legion.

There was the annual Poppy Appeal, the branch AGM, the prize-giving for the winners of the Stradbroke Business & Enterprise College war poems competition and, of course, Remembrance Sunday.

The Poppy Appeal was launched at the branch secretary's home, The Chantry, in Stradbroke, by kind invitation of Jeremy and Anne Higgins and raised £179.

The AGM at Laxfield King's Head – the Low House – re-elected all branch officers for a further year. Donations were made to the Poppy Appeal, the Suffolk County Chairman's Appeal and Halsey House, the Legion's home in Cromer. There were reports from county secretary Sandra Bromley, retiring local "H" group representative on the county committee, Nick Eade, from the Fressingfield branch, and Simon Harrison, whose Pedal to Paris has raised £1,357. Branch chairman, Michael Burton, presented a shield to Low House landlord Bob Wilson for his hospitality over the past three years. A draw, run by Albert Siggers, raised £43 for the Poppy Appeal.

At Stradbroke college, the winners

of a war poems' competition organised by branch welfare officer and standard bearer Joyce Cooper from Horham were presented with prizes. The poems by Aiden Doyle, Olivia White and Nicola Harvey will be

published in the Legion's national magazine as part of the charity's 90th birthday celebrations.

On Remembrance Sunday a large crowd gathered around Stradbroke war memorial to pay their respects to

those who lost their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

Branch chaplain, David Streeter, conducted a short service. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Peter Ryan, branch chairman, Michael Burton, gave the Legion tribute and 14 wreaths were laid. Joyce Cooper carried the branch standard while Greg Fisher carried the Diss Air Cadets standard.

This was followed by a service in Stradbroke Baptist Church conducted by John Ling. Lessons were read by branch members Albert Siggers and Nick Stones. Aiden Doyle, the winner of the war poems competition, read his poem, The Day I Died, and Joyce Cooper read In Flanders Fields.

Branch Chairman, Michael Burton



Tour of Britain brings the

A SEPTEMBER MORNING, occasionally threatening rain but lovely and fresh and Eye is *en fête*, complete with brass band, playing gleaming instruments and awash with eagerly expectant people of all ages and sizes. The communal sense of anticipation is almost tangible. The road is cleared while we crowd the pavement. Every few minutes a lemon-yellow clad motorcycle cop cruises by. Flash boys enjoying themselves and playing up to the crowd.

It's September 17th and the Tour of Britain is due to whiz through any time now and the little town is transformed for the day into a sort of Suffolk *Clochemerle* and, without warning, just like Proust and his Madelaine I am transported back over fifty years by the time machine of memory – eighteen years old and heading for foreign parts for the first time. There are four of us; likely lads and we are motoring our way around France in a 1938 Vauxhall, an old car even then.

By night, when not carousing, we sleep in baggy old army surplus tents and by day we are sustained by *pain et fromage et vin ordinaire* or *café* (our diet is strictly limited by the extent of our vocabulary).

The expedition does not begin well as we are very nearly turned away from the ferry at Dover because of a copious oil leak from our vehicle and then we are sea-sick and drenched to

the skin during the crossing. We must have looked like extras from *The Last of England* by the time we landed. At Calais we look in vain for the *Hôtel de Ville* where we are required to clock in for some bureaucratic purpose, now forgotten and are repeatedly frustrated by the simple-minded natives who keep misdirecting us to a large building which is obviously the Town Hall! Eventually, somehow, we innocents abroad get the business done and are OFF for a whole fortnight of what will become a store of memories which will always be more treasured than other, later experiences of more exotic places.

SMALL INCIDENTS WILL together become a rich accumulation as the holiday progresses:

There was the kindness of the young man who pursued us for miles in his car to hand back our portable radio, which we had carelessly left on a café table; and then the delightful recollection of camping in an orchard somewhere in the South where we lay late into the warm night under the cherry trees eating the fruit which we had just picked.

There was the gracious anglophile matron who presided over the kitchen of a none-too-promising way-side inn and conversed with us as though we were men of the world in beautifully correct, old-fashioned English while conjuring up a delicious casserole and giving extra helpings to the two of us

flavour of France back

who “look like men who enjoy your food” while our lean and hungry fellow travellers stared at us enviously. In Lyons, we ate our first snails but somehow we never graduated to frogs’ legs.

THERE WAS AT SOME POINT A progressively drunken afternoon and evening in Rheims (I do seem to recall that there was a Cathedral). But the memory which has triggered all this was of seeing our first ‘bike race’. Driving, on a Sunday morning, into a tiny village somewhere south-east of Paris and being halted at the crossroads by the *Gendarmes* and the press of the crowd, what, we wondered, was going on? We did not have long to wait for enlightenment. Suddenly a large, very ancient, khaki painted motorbike, driven by a fearsome giant clad in goggles, leather greatcoat and gauntlets came hurtling through the streets. Riding pillion was a small boy holding aloft a red flag and adding to the roar of the motorcycle by blowing a continuous blast on a referee’s whistle. Hard on their heels came the zing, zing, zing sound of the colourful pack of cyclists sweeping through the village and in a moment they were gone. The *Gendarmes* turned and waved us on and the village congregation dispersed to pick up where they had left off.

I can still see it and hear it. But here I am back now in Eye. The band has stopped playing, the air of anticipation is even more palpable and the density of flamboyant motorcycle cops has risen to a high peak. Team cars hurry through and then, “here they come!” The leaders – a tight breakaway of perhaps half a dozen riders are upon us. They are so fast that we nearly forget to cheer but we do and wave our special issue little flags. Then we wait ... and wait ... a long wait ... a very long wait, or so it seems. But now here comes the *peloton* (yes I have been watching the Tour de France)! They streamline through the town like a fast, multi-coloured school of barracudas and we cheer again. We wait for more but it’s all over! We are compensated after an interval however, by an embarrassed lone rider who, as he is nothing to do with the race but just a bloke out for a bike ride, gets the biggest cheer of the day! Whew! That was great!

So now, just like those French villagers fifty and more years before, we reluctantly give up our pitches on the pavement and disperse to go home and pick up where we left off.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I could just murder some *pain et fromage!* **Neville Butcher**



Eventful year for the 95th

From memorials to dances and softball, the Red Feather Club had a full 2011 and 2012 is shaping up to be another big year

A FURTHER RELATIVE OF one of the young US airmen who lost their lives when their B-17 crashed on take-off near Green Farm in Redlingfield has been in touch.

95th Bomb Group Heritage Association chairman James Mutton returned from the recent 95th Bomb Group reunion in the US with pictures of Kenneth Cosby, who was flying as tail gunner on that fateful day. Robert Czarnecki, whose wife is Kenneth Cosby's niece, had passed the pictures and information on to author Rob Morris, whose website – untoldvalor.blogspot.com – had featured the Redlingfield crash.

He passed them on to James. This means villagers and the 95th BGHA

now have pictures of all ten crew who died in the crash. The picture of Staff Sgt Kenneth Cosby is from a newspaper story marking his death.

On Saturday November 19th at 8.30am villagers and members of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association laid a wreath at the Redlingfield memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the crash. Scott and Reg Bradley of the 1285th Military Police Re-enactment Group helped make the event special, attending in uniform with a stars and stripes flying at half mast.



THE RED FEATHER CLUB recently re-created two slices of World War Two history – staging a softball game in period uniform and commemorating Glenn Miller's concert on the base.

■ **PLANNING: Screening opinion** – for the erection of two 50kw wind turbines (36.4m height to hub, 9.6m radius blades), **Lodge Farm, The Street, Horham.**
Opinion – The officer considers that the visual impacts of the development along with all other material considerations can be appropriately assessed through the normal planning application procedure. **To be decided** – plan to erect a 5KW wind turbine (height 15m to hub, 2.25m radius blades) at **Green Farm, Green Lane, Redlingfield**; plan to erect a wind turbine (15m to hub, 5.5m diameter blades) at **2 Rookery Cottages, Rookery Lane, Redlingfield.** **Granted** – plan to erect a side extension to existing dwelling following demolition of existing flat roof rear extension, **Malsters, Chapel Lane, Horham**; plan to erect an extension to rear of **Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield.** **Refused** – plan to build one-and-a-half-storey detached dwelling with single garage, new vehicular access and ancillary works, **The Old Eight Bells, The Street, Horham.** (from Mid Suffolk Council's website).



Following the discovery of a programme for a softball match in the 95th BGHA's archives a softball match was held during the group's September open day. The 95th Bomb Group team was called the

'Wallopers', as it was during the war, and the 1285th Military Police Company team

'Snowdrops', as in the '40s. The MPs were nicknamed snowdrops because of their white helmets. A shield was presented to the 'Wallopers', who won 22-17, by Vanna Walker a 95th Bomb Group pilot's daughter, visiting for the weekend from Texas. All players were in period army air force dress and it was the first time a softball match had been played at Horham since 1945.

Earlier in the month a sell-out crowd – most in 1940s dress – enjoyed an event commemorating the 95th Bomb Group's 200th mission dance at which Glenn Miller performed on the base. A band in full USAAF uniform – Skyliner – using music stands recreating those used by



Above: Villagers and members of the 95th BGHA at the Redlingfield memorial on November 19th. Left: James Mutton with the association's wreath.

the original Red Feather Club band in WW2 played '40s classics including Glenn Miller numbers.

THE ASSOCIATION had a busy 2011, hosting

and attending 65 events. And preparations are well under way for the annual reunion visit to Horham, from Thursday May 10th to Wednesday May 16th, of American guests. Its regular monthly open days are again the last Sunday of the month for 2012 from May till October (inclusive) with the Grand Open Day on Sunday 13th May. The Sunday September 30th open day will include the now annual softball game.

A NEW BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE at the Red Feather Club – it collects imaginative stories, and a poem, written by Suffolk schoolchildren and inspired by the Red Feather Club and the men of the 95th. *Mike Ager*

■ **CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Mother Christmas says Father Christmas will be delivering again on Christmas Day morning in Horham and Athelington. To book a delivery please ring Mother Christmas on 01379 384231. A donation is requested for the East Anglian Children's Hospice for this service. There are no age restrictions for the service, young, old or anything in between! **Mother Christmas**

■ **BONFIRE NIGHT:** Horham had an amazing bonfire night and made a profit of £200. However, it has been drawn to my attention that some locals use the bonfire as an excuse to dump hazardous/industrial waste. This is a mean-spirited way of behaving – let us see an end to it! **Margaret Streeter**

■ **MORRIS & MORE:** Hoxon Hundred invite you to their ceilidh on Saturday January 28th in St Edmunds Village Hall, Hoxne. For £10 a ticket dance to Inertia Reel from 8pm to 11ish and feast on delicious food. Concessions on price for children. If you want to see the Hoxon dancers in full swing, they will be at The Arc in Bury St Edmunds during the day on Saturday December 3rd or maybe you would like to join the party on Boxing Day lunchtime at the Beaconsfield Arms. **Jan Robinson**

■ **DIAMOND WEDDING:** Congratulations to Eric and Edna Cox who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on October 20th, having been married at Horham in 1951. Their grandson, Adrian, married Claire Leeder at Athelington on August 27th, and Edna's parents, Harry and Eva Whatling, had their 60th Anniversary Celebrations in 1983. **David Streeter**

Setting the

Nearly 80 years ago, a young sub-editor on The Architectural Review had a revolutionary idea; a decidedly modern-looking series of travel guides that would contrast with the fusty old guidebooks with their fascination for churches and lofty dismissal of any post-Georgian architecture. That person was none other than John Betjeman, and soon after he secured sponsorship from the company that gave its name to the series – The Shell Guides.

It's a little known fact that amongst the bestselling titles in the series, published between 1934 and 1984, were the volumes on Norfolk and Suffolk. Norfolk came first, published in 1957 and co-written by Wilhelmine Harrod and the Rev Charles Linnell.

They divided the county up by drawing a line through the middle, with the result that any villages dissected by the line were accidentally missed out.

Further editions followed, with arguably the best coming out in 1982, by which time the guide had doubled both in length and depth of detail.

A similar expansion happened between the first (1960) and third (1976) editions of Norman Scarfe's Suffolk guide, the first of the series to see its initial printing sell out; previous titles, even those written by the likes of Betjeman and the artist John Piper had struggled to shift only a couple of thousand copies. Scarfe's

standard for guide books

book garnered excellent reviews – “superlatively good”, “meticulously effective in bringing Suffolk to life”.

The Shell Guides were notable in a number of ways. The early pre-war guides (now highly collectable) were published with radical comb- or spiral-bindings with card covers, designed to be thrust in and out of the glove boxes of weekend traveller’s automobiles.

The entire series featured a novel interplay of text and photographs, unlike those dreary guides where the pictures are gathered together in sections, leaving vast tracts of text for the reader to plough through.

Perhaps less well known was Betjeman’s insistence that the authors speak their minds – to write their

impressions of a place no matter how pointed or critical it may have been. Scarfe found himself in hot water over his entry for Iken in the 1976

Suffolk guide, which had to be withdrawn, the offending page removed by the publishers and a new, revised page stuck in its place – what a chore!

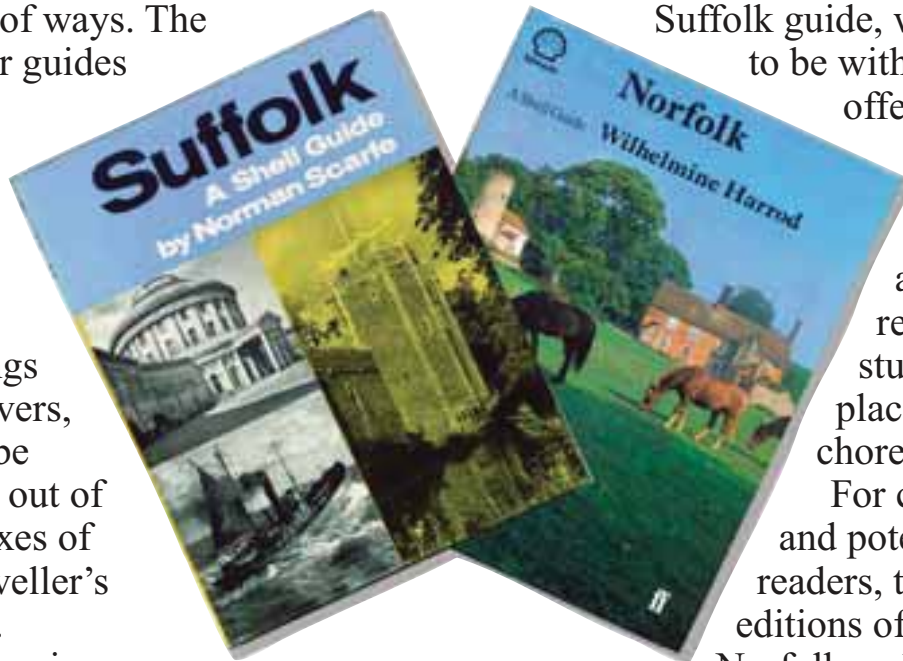
For collectors, and potential readers, the various editions of the Norfolk and Suffolk

guides are not difficult to find secondhand.

They remain amongst the best gazetteer-based guide books for either county, and are thoroughly recommended.

Chris Mawson, Bowhill Books

For more information, see Chris’ website at www.shellguides.co.uk



■ **ST MARY’S CHURCH HORHAM:** Thank you to all those who supported the coffee morning on August 27th which raised £216.20, and to the cyclists, sponsors and church stewards for the SHCT Bike Ride on September 10th which brought in £884.84 to be shared equally between St Mary’s Fabric Fund, and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. The cyclists were Brian Gue, Liz Gibson-Harries, Daphne Harvey, Abbie, Jake and Ella Hawes, John and Sandie Scent, Andy Smith, Daniel Streeter, Lawrence Weaver, and Michael and David Whatling. The Harvest Sale of Produce gave £16.50 to Christian Aid, to be added to about £90 going there from the Stradbroke Sale, including all the super walnuts.

David Streeter

Who are the real victims

MANY YEARS AGO WHEN I was first starting out as a journalist – before the Iron Curtain had even twitched let alone been torn down – I came back from a holiday in Poland and wrote a piece for the Essex evening paper I worked for. It was about Auschwitz and I couldn't have been prouder when I got a letter from a concentration camp survivor saying it was the best piece they'd read on the subject.

It wasn't long before I got another letter about the article though. This one was from the Gypsy Council (patron David Essex) pointing out that in the long list of Nazi victims – Jews, disabled people, homosexuals, political opponents and religious dissidents – I had forgotten to mention all the gypsies murdered in concentration camps. Estimates, and they can only be estimates, put the

number of gypsies killed in death camps at a staggering 1.5 million.

I've still got both letters and the newspaper cutting, somewhere. And I often think of that letter and my own contacts with travellers when events such as Dale Farm come on TV.

My first real memory of gypsies and travellers is of an old-fashioned Romany caravan that used to visit Wortham common, near my grandparents' home, every year. These annual visitors were treated well by the locals and caused no trouble that I know of – there were other people in that village with badly-behaved dogs roaming wild.

Back in Essex, I lived in Wickford and often visited Crays Hill – home to Dale Farm, my friends and I spent much time, or as much as I could get away with, in the pub the gypsies from Basildon's then permanent site used.

■ **NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** The group is looking for new members to join the steering group. New Reeding Woods Group, set up in 2003, planted a community woodland in Horham in 2005 and are proud to say that it is now flourishing. However this is not a short-term project and we would like to inspire more young people to get involved. Many of the founder members of the group are retired and though they may be around to see the woodland mature, they would like to encourage the next generations to become involved in this long term project. The duties are not arduous, we have a committee meeting most months, which is a social event, and two or three times a year we have a working day, checking the trees, the fencing and cutting the rides and hedges, then once a year we set up a display of woodland crafts at the Horham Bygones Country Rally, where our skills include willow weaving and wood turning and we make and sell rustic garden furniture. We would like to encourage anyone interested in the countryside or ecology, dog walkers and those wanting a safe place for their children to run free to join us to ensure that the woodland is maintained for future generations. If you can help, call 668179. **Mike Reeves**

when the gypsies pull in

Again we never had any problems with them or the biker gang that made the pub their base, trouble came in the shape of other idiots from Basildon and beyond.

When we lived in Oxfordshire, we saw so-called new-age travellers hounded from pillar to post as police forces pushed them from one county to another and smashed up their caravans.

In East Anglia, we have heard of, although not seen, what is clearly appalling behaviour towards travellers.

In one instance, where a small families group was trying to get permission to build homes in a village they had lived in for many years part of the community thought it was OK to issue death threats, post unsigned hate mail and push dog excrement through letterboxes. This was despite many in the village, including the head of the local school, backing their attempts to stay. In another instance villagers thought they were justified in firing shotguns towards a group of caravans parked in the village and then complaining about the travellers' behaviour to the local press.

In August local Police Sergeant Jon

Eaves wrote to Jan, my wife: "I am pleased to report that the partner agencies who deal with the issues surrounding unauthorised traveller encampments have worked well

together this year and many of the problems we encountered last summer have been greatly reduced.

It's about achieving that all important balance between the needs of the travellers and those of the settled community.

Last year, when we encountered

unwarranted prejudice from the local residents, I

organised a 'community debrief' to explain the situation, the rationale behind our actions and what was, and was not, acceptable behaviour."

While characterised as roaming ne'er-do-wells by many, we would all do well to remember that, gypsies, as author and journalist Christopher Hitchens wrote, are among the minorities that "have outlived determined attempts to eradicate and exterminate them".

They have survived and there must be a way for the settled community – that's you and me – to live side-by-side with gypsies and travellers.

Mike Ager

Gypsies & travellers facts:
 ● 1.5 million killed in Nazi death camps ● Have been fully established in the UK since before the reign of Queen Elizabeth I ● Average life expectancy for a male is less than 50 ● Infant mortality equivalent to Third World with mothers 20 times more likely to bury a child ● If a "normal" member of the public applies to build on a brownfield site they have a 60% chance of getting permission - if they are gypsies or travellers they have a 10% chance

WHAT'S ON

UNTIL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Portraits from Africa and India:

Photographs by Bob Edwards, Wingfield Barns, Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. Admission free.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Stradbroke Cinema: "Beginners",

Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. £5.50 entrance on the door. Bar and ice-creams.

Champagne Tasting with Adnams: A rare opportunity to taste the world's finest and most expensive Champagnes. Wingfield Barns, 6.30pm. Tickets £40.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Debenham Christmas Festival: Children's lantern procession, Christmas shopping, hot food, carol singing, Father Christmas & a chance to win a hamper! From 4.30pm. Admission: free.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Beer & Pie Festival: The Beaconsfield Arms, Occold.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Hoxne Church Christmas Fair: Hoxne Village Hall, 2pm-4pm.

Christmas Concert: Thorndon Church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas Craft Fayre: Redgrave & Lopham Fen, South Lopham. Crafts, gifts, cards, children's fun & more. 10am-4pm. Admission: free.

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 4, 11, 18 & SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

Santa Specials: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, Wetheringsett. Families ride in the train to the North Pole Halt to visit Santa in his railway home to receive their present. Refreshments & a storyteller. £10 per head. Trains must be pre-booked. Contact: 01473 890622 or www.mslr.org.uk for tickets & train times.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Evening with M. R. James & his 'Stories of the Imagination': Eye & Stradbroke Family History Group, 7.30pm, Stradbroke Community Centre, entry £2.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Jacqueline Love's home (1, Abbotts Meadow), 10am-noon. Morning will include mulled wine, mince pies and a free raffle.

WI Christmas Meal: Beaconsfield Arms public house, Occold.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

George Michael tribute concert - David Griego:

Wingfield Barns, 8pm-9.30pm. Bar open 7-11pm. Tickets £10 each or four for £30. Booking essential.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Horham Christmas Dinner: Horham Community Centre, bookings Angela Wilkins 384625.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Artisan Market: Hoxne Village Hall, 10am-3pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Redlingfield Ladies lunch: Half Moon, Rushall. Linda Hudson 678984.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Carols by lamp light: mulled wine and mince pies in Stradbroke Churchyard at 6pm, Friends of All Saints Stradbroke.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Hoxon Hundred Party: Lunchtime at the Beaconsfield Arms, Occold.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Music Festival Music Box: Hoxne Village Hall, 7pm to 10.30pm.

THURS, DECEMBER 29 & FRI DECEMBER 30

Jack and the Beanstalk Panto: All tickets £6. Box office 01379 384656. 3pm, St. Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve Party: Horham Community Centre, from 8pm. All welcome. Admission free. Live music from Paul (Hammy) Hamilton. Please bring some food (snacks etc).

New Years Eve Party: Hoxne Village Hall.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Jan Butcher's home (Hill Cottage), 10am-noon. Morning will include a book swap.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Workers Educational Association: Eight week course on Nelson starts in Stradbroke Community Centre (see p19).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Stradbroke Cinema: Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. £5.50 entrance on the door. Bar and ice-creams. Film tba.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26-SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Debenham Players Pantomime 2012:

Pinocchio, Debenham Leisure Centre.

7.30pm (with 2.30pm Sat Matinee).

Thurs/Fri, £6 adults, £4 concessions,

£18 family ticket; Sat £7, adults, £4

concessions, £20 family ticket

(www.debenham-players.org.uk).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Hoxon Hundred ceilidh: St Edmunds Village Hall, Hoxon. £10 a ticket. inc food Music from Inertia Reel. 8 pm to 11ish.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Redlingfield Coffee Morning: Pat Kelly's home (Redmill), 10am-noon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Ceilidh with ploughmans supper: Stradbroke Community Centre, in aid of St Andrews Church repairs. 7pm-midnight, music from Syzewell Gap.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Stradbroke Cinema: Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm. £5.50 entrance on the door. Bar and ice-creams. Film tba.

● Contacts for events: Eye & Stradbroke Family History Group:

01728 8605511 or julie.kerseystradfhg@live.com; **Redlingfield:**

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

Wingfield Barns: 384505, enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com, or

www.wingfieldbarns.com

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

TUESDAYS: Improver line dance class:

Coronation Hall, Wilby. 9.30am-

11.30am. Rose, 870346. **Bingo:**

Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every

other Tues. 678178. **T-Plus:** Coffee,

cakes, stalls, 10am-noon, All Saints,

Thorndon. 879759. **Monterey Line**

Dance improvers class: Occold Village

Hall, 7.45-9.10pm, £4 (651773).

WEDNESDAYS: Redlingfield & Occold WI,

usually meets on the 1st Wed of the

month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village

Hall. **Improver/intermediate line dance**

class: Wortham Community Centre.

7.30pm-9.30pm. Rose, 870346. **Hoxon**

Hundred: Summer dance-outs at local

pubs. Winter practises. Ron Ross,

643563. **Little Treasure's Baby &**

Toddler Group: St Edmund's Hall,

Hoxne, 10am-12pm, term time. 07910

8331949.

THURSDAYS: Worlingworth Village Hall:

Low impact Keep Fit and coffee:

10am-noon (Val Swallow 01728

628068); **Choir:** 6.30pm-7.30pm

(01728 628068); **Aerobics - Hi-Lo**

Impact: 8pm-9pm (Sarah Foster 07884

186849). **Hoxne Garden Club:** 3rd

Thurs St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne, 7.30pm

FRIDAYS: Bingo: Stradbroke Community

Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly.

7.30pm. Mary Ellis, 384642.

FRIDAYS/SUNDAYS: Traditional music:

Worlingworth Swan, 2nd Fri evening of

month in spring & summer. Sun lunch

in autumn & winter.

SATURDAYS: Artisan Craft and Produce

Market: Hoxne Village Hall, 10am-2pm.

Second Sat of the month.

Occold Market: every 3rd Sat of the

month 9:30am-noon, Occold Village

Hall. Barry or Pat Woods, 678 844,

villagehall@occold.com

SUNDAYS: Open days: Red Feather Club &

95th BG Hospital Museum last Sun of

month May-Oct,

Flying high in the USA with v

Alan Johnson and wheelchair-bound author Ian Hawkins travelled to the US in 1989 for the 95th's big reunion. They spent a month in the States sampling a large slice of home-grown hospitality from veterans and their families. Alan kept a journal of the trip and here are some of the highlights ...

AS ALAN JOHNSON SAYS "THE secret of flying is to make sure the take offs and landings tally up. One landing short and you're in trouble." And happily he managed that on a month-long trek around the southern US with 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association president Ian Hawkins.

Their first stop was the 95th Bomb Group Memorials Foundation reunion in Tuscon, Arizona. The scale of the event can be gauged by the fact that four coach loads went on an organised side trip to Mexico. It was an emotional reunion for Alan meeting up with many of the airmen he knew as a boy when they had been based at Horham.

And Ian Hawkins was often the centre of attention. His book, *B-17s over Berlin*,

which charts the story of the 95th in the men's own words, meant that everywhere they

went the pair had to "wade through the usual autograph hunters".

But the rewards were well worth it – "the biggest steaks I had ever seen" and a place at the top table on the last night of a reunion which had seen Alan meet up with old friends and 95th luminaries such as Dave McKnight, Griff Mumford, Art Watson and Ed Charles. Alan wrote that at the final night's hangar dance "we stayed to the very end and were last to leave the ballroom".

Then the duo went on the road, with Alan finding that not everywhere was wheelchair-friendly.

This meant everything from eating lunch on a coach – as a second-story restaurant had no lift, to makeshift showers and problems with airlines. At the end of one flight Ian's "wheelchair returned from the hold with only three wheels". Luckily the errant wheel was eventually tracked down and Alan managed to refit it.



veterans from Horham



Alan and Ian stayed with a number of exceptional hosts including Jack Blackman in El Paso, Texas – “a gun fanatic who owns over 100 guns”. They were told many war tales. Ike Adamson, for instance, told him that “an Italian prisoner of war who was given a job outside the camp was found trying to get back inside – apparently the guard said ‘The gate remains closed until your work is finished’. Obviously thought of escape was not in his mind.”

The duo were wined and dined at officers clubs on USAF airbases almost everywhere they went and interviewed by local newspapers.



Left: Alan & Ian at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. Below, from left: Ian signing copies of his book and B-17s at the Confederate Air Force air show.

Staying in a ranch house “deep in the heart of Texas” the duo marvelled at the natural scenery but took heed of the warning that there were “rattle snakes around”.

A highlight of the trip though was a show by the then Confederate Air Force – now called the Commemorative Air Force. Alan wrote that it was “the most spectacular show we’d ever seen – at times there were about 40 aircraft in the air ... with simulated battles and massive explosions and flames on the ground”.

The next day, though was the real highlight, Alan got to go up in a restored B-17 which was flying so “an old pilot who had not flown for ages” could be checked out.

He wrote: “I sat in the radio room and it was like an oven, the engines were ages before they started and then they threw out clouds of blue smoke. We took off and I kept hoping the old boy at the controls had a good memory.”

Alan was so enamoured with America that during the trip he talked to an immigration official “about the possibility of obtaining a work permit to stay in the USA”.

He noted “it struck me I had more friends in America than in England”. And added: “If we were millionaires we could not have had a better holiday.”

● Extracts from Alan’s journal edited by **Mike Ager**.

JEANNE HAWES (Died October 15th 2011):

Jeanne first moved to Athelington with her parents just before the Second World War when they bought The Old Rectory. When she married Victor they lived first in the newly-constructed Manor Park, Horham, and then in 1956 moved to Meadow Farm in Athelington, where Victor had been born. Jeanne worked for several years as secretary at Stradbroke Primary school and was well known in the local community through her membership of the WI, Mother's Union and connection with



Athelington Church, of which she was Church Warden until recently. She leaves behind two sons, Keith and Richard, and a daughter, Sally, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and will be greatly missed by them all.

VERA BYFORD (1921-2011): Vera was born and grew up in Horham and attended Stradbroke school. After school she was at first in service in Wilby and Diss but soon went into nursing and worked at Pulham and Severalls Hospital in Colchester. She married and her first daughter, Barbara was born in 1942. She worked in Hartismere hospital until 1946. The family moved to Belfast for a short time but were soon back in Horham where Vera's second daughter, Margaret, was born in 1947. At the time Vera had her leg in plaster having fallen in the dreadful snow of that year. Vera was a



stalwart member of the newly-formed Horham WI. The family moved to Stradbroke and then to Ipswich where Vera remained. At least that is where she was based but she travelled on holiday, to Russia twice, (where she lost her passport) and frequently to the USA to visit Margaret and her three children. She continued to work in care homes until she was 72. Vera was a very sociable person and loved going out, she drove her car until she was 87. She was a frequent visitor to Horham and Athelington where she had many old friends. She was often to be seen greeting and chatting with people at Horham rally. She continued to be a generous supporter of Horham and Athelington churches. Both are very grateful to her. Vera was married to her second husband, Jim, for 34 years. Sadly, he died two days after Vera. Vera leaves her two daughters, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She will be much missed by her family and her many friends.

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

ALAN HALES (1938–2011): Alan was born in Nottingham in 1938 to Mary and Harold Hales. His competitive spirit, which stayed with him throughout his life, allowed him to excel at badminton, mountain hiking, judo – at which he gained the black belt – and youth football, at which he reached county standard. His National Service, in the Pay Corps, gave him experience with figures, which was to become important in his business life. Alan was a salesman – an outgoing and social animal. From the food service industry Alan rose to become sales director with Link Chemicals. In his working life he covered a million miles, the length and breadth of the country. He settled at Loughborough where he married Joyce, and his daughter Liz was born. It was a source of great pride to Alan that he was able to give Liz away at her wedding last summer in Eye Church. Later on, Alan came to East Anglia. A new life started for him with Jill 12 years ago and they married in 2004. His new career covered a range of enterprises: the most successful one being a mortgage business linked to the Right to Buy. Alan was a passionate believer in fair play. If he felt he, or anyone else, had been wronged you would soon read about it in the letters pages of the EADT. He was passionate in his beliefs and able to argue his views with impressive conviction – I gather they kept a soapbox for him in Horham Post Office. He fought for local causes, notably Hartismere Hospital, where he was vice chairman of the League of Friends. He was a founder member of the Eye church choir, in which he and Jill have been star performers. Brave to the end, Alan kept his warm smile. The staff at St Elizabeth's Hospice, the Home First team, the District Nurse team and all at the Stradbroke Surgery ... were rewarded by that smile. Alan died peacefully, listening to the drinking song from La Traviata, sung by Pavarotti!



Charles Michell

■ **NELSON A VERY HUMAN LEGEND:** On Wednesday January 18th the Workers Educational Association starts an eight-week course titled Nelson: A Very Human Legend at Stradbroke Community Centre. The course looks behind the legend and considers the reasons for his lasting fame. The tutor is John Forster and the two-hour lessons are weekly at 2.15pm. The course is £46 but you can try the first week with no obligation (further info 01728 724746).

■ **REDLINGFIELD COFFEE MORNINGS:** The winter season of coffee morning got under way at Linda Hudson's in November and continues until March on the first Wednesday of the month. They will be on: December 7th – at Jacqueline Love's home, 1, Abbotts Meadow (the morning will include mulled wine, mince pies and a free raffle); January 4th – at Jan Butcher's home, Hill Cottage (the morning will include a book swap); February 1st - at Pat Kelly's home, Redmill; and March 7th - at Midge Gibbon's home, Rush Meadow.

■ **THANK YOU FROM EACH:** Ray and Linda Flowerdew, on behalf of the East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), have thanked everyone involved in the Horham Bygones Country Rally and road run for raising £7,406 over the last seven years. They gave a special thanks to "Don, Gary, Julie, Peter, Liz, Barry, Ollie and David".

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



RECENTLY, MY COLLEAGUE, Norman Lamb MP and I had a meeting with Haydon Newton, chief executive of the East of England Ambulance

Trust, to call for improved ambulance response times in rural areas.

Currently, many residents in rural Suffolk are forced to wait longer than the eight-minute target time for an ambulance to arrive while residents in more urban areas such as Peterborough and South Essex do not have this problem. This is not acceptable, and I have asked for a detailed breakdown of these figures in order to obtain a more accurate understanding of ambulance response rates across Suffolk.

I am pleased to say that Haydon Newton and his team are committed to improving the service by recruiting and training more front-line paramedics and making more Rapid Response Vehicles available to improve response times in rural areas.

Community First Responders – unpaid volunteers who respond to emergency calls on behalf of the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives – also play a vital role in reaching patients quickly. I am pleased to report that the ambulance service intends to improve the training and provision of

equipment for First Responders and I am confident that if they are given this support Suffolk will be well on its way to achieving the rapid high-quality ambulance response times that our residents expect and deserve.

Together with other Suffolk MPs, I recently attended a meeting with local business leaders, representatives of the New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), to discuss business-related issues affecting the county.

The importance of Suffolk's food and agricultural sector to our economy was discussed. I have been leading on this issue by holding debates in Parliament on the problems facing dairy and pig farmers, whilst campaigning for more honest food labelling so that only food farmed in Britain can be labelled British.

Thanks to the efforts of Suffolk's MPs, county council, and local businesses, Suffolk was also successful in winning Government funding for the roll-out of high-speed broadband, which will ensure that people, particularly those in more rural areas, can have reliable, high-speed internet. It is very important for MPs to do everything possible to sustain the local economy by working with businesses to bring more jobs to Suffolk.

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

■ **REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE MEETING:** Sadly we decided not to hold this year's harvest supper – the cost of entertainment and poor ticket sales in recent years meant we could well have made a loss. However, we are looking at alternatives for 2012 and are open to ideas on how to celebrate the end of harvest. The best idea so far – given recent autumn weather – is from Eddie Hawes who suggested holding a bacon butty breakfast BBQ on the Doorstep Green. Further ideas are welcome though.

Janet Norman-Philips, committee chairman
(pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk or 678835, www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk)

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR



FOR MOST OF US THESE ARE uncertain and difficult times. There is uncertainty about employment and the cost of living and inflation seem to be

rising to new heights. However, there is some good news. If the budget is approved next February the Council Tax levied by Suffolk County Council will not be rising for the second year running. How is this to be achieved at a time when the amount of money recycled is to fall again?

Savings of about £26 million will have to be made next year and because there is less regulation and reporting on and by the County there are fewer back room costs – this is estimated to save at least £12 million per year. Additional savings will be made by increasing the span of managers and reducing their numbers. The changes in the NHS should see closer co-operation between Suffolk CC and NHS Suffolk and there will be money to be saved here.

Change is difficult but there is no need for services to get worse. Brome Community Waste Site is being run by a new operator and not only has the service improved for householders but, provided waste is recyclable, it also accepts trade waste – the council and council taxpayer will save over £100,000 a year. The consultation over libraries has been completed. It is not our aim to close them but to cut running costs. A meeting on proposals for Stradbroke Library will be at Stradbroke Community Centre on the evening of Monday December 19. Come along if you can.

Many thanks for the support I receive and I wish you a Happy Christmas. Next year will be tough but I am confident we will continue to offer value for money services to the people of Suffolk.

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

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



THE GOVERNMENT HAS proposed changes to both planning and licensing laws that, on the face of it, seem good ideas but, on closer

observation, have some serious implications. Less regulation means less public consultation and less ability to regulate for noise etc. Parish councils and meetings are putting forward their responses, but individuals are also encouraged to add ideas. The proposals are at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk.

The District has been working on the issue of fuel poverty. Many families face a worrying winter. We are pressing government to address the special issue of rural villages.

New money has become available to encourage the creation and retention of jobs and small businesses in rural Mid Suffolk. This is very good news as one of the proposed "hubs" for the new Rural Growth Network is Eye Airfield. We hope this will help rural transport and eventually the long-awaited improved internet connection. Eye is already the largest employment site in the north of the district and there is interest from businesses wanting to relocate to Eye.

The ward is at last addressing the issue of speeding and a meeting is taking place with the police to decide on funding and training for the use of speed cameras.

As for the weather, well that is out of the Districts' hands! I hope it is not too severe and that we can all enjoy a crisp and bright winter and a very Happy Christmas. *Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, District Councillor – Hoxne Ward*

CHURCH

Horham Baptist Church: A very warm welcome will be offered to anyone who wants to celebrate Christmas with them at Chapel Lane. There will be lots of mince pies and other refreshments after each service. Christmas services are on:

Dec: 11 Christmas Family Service, 10.45am, the Chapel;
Christmas Carols, 3pm, Horham Community Centre.
24 Carols by candlelight, 6.30pm, the Chapel.
25 Christmas morning celebration, 10am, the Chapel.

Church of England Services: All Saints, Stradbroke, Church St; St Andrew, Redlingfield, Church Road; St Peter, Athelington; St Mary, Horham. Services (Holy Communion unless stated. Check times on church/village notice boards):

Dec: 4 Athelington, Benefice Communion, 10am.
11 Horham, 9am; **Stradbroke**, Family Gift Service, 10am;
Redlingfield, Morning Prayer, 10am.
18 Horham, Carol Service, 4.30pm.
19 Redlingfield, Carol Service, 7pm.
24 Stradbroke, Christmas Tree Service, 6pm; Communion, 11.30pm.
25 Stradbroke, 8am; **Horham**, 9am; **Redlingfield**, 10am.
Jan: 1 Stradbroke, Family Communion, 10am;
Horham, Family Gift Service, 11.15am.
8 Redlingfield, Benefice Communion, 10am.
15 Horham, 9am; **Athelington**, 10am.
22 Redlingfield, Morning Prayer, 10am; **Horham**, Morning Prayer, 11.15am.
29 Horham, 9am; **Stradbroke**, Parish Communion, 10am.
Feb: 5 Horham, Benefice Communion, 11.15am.
12 Horham, 9am; **Athelington**, 10am.
19 Horham, 9am; **Redlingfield**, 10am.
26 Redlingfield, 10am; **Horham**, Morning Prayer, 11.15am.

THE RECTOR: On August 21st, 2012, I will be 70 years old, and no longer rector of Athelington, Horham and Redlingfield, but the bishop has given me permission to continue my ministry here for another two months, to say goodbye at the harvest festival services in September and October, and then we will move from The Rectory. The three parishes will join a new benefice with Hoxne, Denham and Syleham and Wingfield. You will hear more about this shortly and have time to discuss the changes. The bishop will hold a confirmation service at Stradbroke on Sunday March 25th, 2012. If you, or a member of your family, wish to be prepared for confirmation which admits you to Holy Communion, please let me know. Do come and talk to me about it first. Do also, please, make good use of the time in the next 11 months for services of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, baptism, marriage, blessing of rings and renewal of marriage vows. If you are thinking in that direction, I look forward to hearing from you, and also to meeting some of you who have recently moved into the villages.

With all good wishes, David and Margaret Streeter

REMEMBER, REMEMBER NOVEMBER

POETRY CORNER

Remember remember the 5th of November, gunpowder treason and plot – as a
child you would sing,

But now I know there is another reason to remember November,
More important is the bond that ties us – stronger than before,
The bond of friendship, honour, kinship and more!

For many names of loved ones – a father, uncle, cousin, friend,
But dearly loved all the same & sorely missed,
They freely gave their today – love, passion & joy of life,
So ours would be joyous bright & free!

To end a dark tyrant's dark reign,
The band of brotherhood stands long after the battle has been won,
Days and nights seem to last a lifetime before I see my loves eyes delight – shine
on me,
Behold – lives delight upon me, a golden dawn, the crimson sun set!

Birdsong, uplifting bright & free,
Butterflies flutter, delicate, gentle but yet fly free,
Children play games like their parents once did play,
Yes we must remember the month of November!

For the names on two memorials – a generation & half apart,
22 names – some near and some far,
But all remembered, honoured here,
In a field far away remembered here in a land to them that now seems far away!

Manday Miller



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

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)
- 1/2 page £25 (90mm deep, 125mm across)
- A whole page £50

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

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

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

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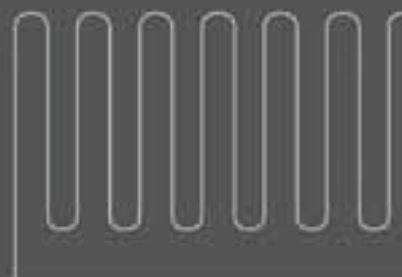
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The next issue - Spring 2012 - is due to be published at the end of February. The final deadline for all submissions is February 14.

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