

# **Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield NEWS**



***Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year***

**WINTER 2014-2015  
ISSUE No. 28**

# **SPURLING & REMBLANCE**



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***THIS ISSUE MAY BE A LITTLE LATE GETTING TO YOU. OUR PRINTER – or Jan my long suffering wife as she is otherwise known – has been tied up getting a Heritage Lottery Fund bid in. The deadline for the bid, to save and improve Redlingfield church and extend the village's Doorstep Green took precedence because of the late November deadline. I apologise not only to our readers but also those who do such a sterling job compiling and delivering your mag. Can I also take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the magazine, from writers to advertisers, for their contribution throughout the year. I hope everyone has a great Christmas and wonderful 2015.*** Mike Ager

**SUFFOLK ANIMAL RESCUE:** Debenham-based charity Suffolk Animal Rescue is having a stall at two big local events so you have a chance to go along and buy Christmas goodies – pet hampers, Christmas cards and other festive treats. It will be at the Framlingham Charities' Christmas market on Sunday December 7th (11am-3pm) and at the Stonham Barns Christmas Craft Fair & Farmers Market on Saturday and Sunday December 20th and 21st. The road around the Market Hill area will be closed to traffic from 8am to 4pm for Framlingham Town Council's 14th Annual Charity/Voluntary Organisations Christmas Market. In addition to the Christmas Market the Leiston Royal Legion Band and the East Suffolk Morris Men will perform. There will be a large range of craft and food stalls ranging from roasted chestnuts to jewellery. Suffolk Animal Rescue also has a shop on Felixstowe Road in Ipswich. SAR has a no-kill policy and helps any dogs that need help regardless of whether or not they are 'easy' breeds or types to re-home. It also takes in feral cats.

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact: Evelyn Adey on [evelyn.adey@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.adey@btinternet.com) or 01728 628428 at Ivy House Barn, Southolt Road, Athelington, IP21 5EL; or Mike Ager on [mike@gn.apc.org](mailto:mike@gn.apc.org) or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

***Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised in the magazine. This disclaimer is inserted purely for legal/technical reasons and can in no way be construed as implying criticism of any supplier of goods or services.***

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

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

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

# A rare breed – a satisfied

*Trevor Edwards reports on a year of memorable successes at*

**A**S THE YEAR STARTS TO run away, 2014 will be remembered as one of bird song and bumper crops. The outstanding summer of 2014, which started with a good early spring, and continued until Hallowe'en, came to an end at last.

The combination of warm weather and timely May rains gave us the best wheat and rape harvest EVER. The yields of winter barley were not far behind and muggins here has to admit that try as he might, the farmers' efforts only go so far and the weather takes most of the credit. Anyway, this proves Willie of Worlingworth is wrong when he says that you'll never find a satisfied farmer.

BIRDING ACTIVITY RESPONDED to the beautiful weather and barn owls and spotted flycatchers were both successful, with second broods nearby in Occold as noted by Paul the Gamekeeper.

I was a bit jealous of his two hatches resulting in nine fledged flycatchers as our own visitors had failed to return. Spotted flycatchers also did well at Ivy Grange Farm, near

**This page: A grey partridge. Facing page: a common buzzard and red kite.**



Southwold, where the Hoares run a thriving yurt holiday business. We stayed for an anniversary celebration and found the welcome warm, the yurt yet warmer and the outdoor shower yet warmer.

We were included in Nick and Kim's super-moon night walk, an annual event which takes you for a river walk along the Blythe at midnight when the moon is at both its fullest and nearest (known as a perigee moon – not a lot of people know that).

It was a memorable eight-mile walk of slurping noises and unsavoury smells from the ebbing tide, with Southwold lighthouse at one end and Blythburgh church at the other.

THE GREY PARTRIDGE HAS been successfully re-established on Charlie's shoot, a superb example of how modern farming, conservation and game shooting can be combined.

On shoot day mid-afternoon, a buzzard hung in the wind, looking unconcerned by driven pheasant being flushed from the wood beneath.

THE BUZZARD IS SO commonplace as to be unremarkable, but last month fifteen circling above our village got everybody talking. The graceful soaring on broad wide wings defines the buzzard and appears to be about sheer enjoyment,

# farmer

## *his Wash Barn Farm*

riding a thermal for the sake of it. The buzzard used to be known by its Olde English name of Gled, the glider, which says it all.

The buzzards were high up in the pecking order of Anglo-Saxon falconry, second to only, you've guessed it, the peregrine falcon. According to the medieval Book of St Albans, only kings were allowed peregrines, barons could have buzzards while humble farmers had to make do with kestrels.

Back then, the Anglo-Saxons loved the sport and it was an essential part of any nobleman's education. The goshawk, a grumpy psychopath of a bird with a taste for rabbits, was much used by cooks as a very effective provider of food.

Though expensive and time-consuming, the sport continues nowadays and requires a special relationship between man and bird where the falconer needs to manage the fierce independence of the hawk. The handler is under no illusion that the bird is tame but is more like an ally, and then only on a good day.

It reminds me of the saying that dogs look up to you, cats look down on you, and pigs treat you as equals.

Now you can add hawks to that, but

only if you treat 'em right.

With its ultimate freedom to roam, the falconer's hawk could lead the handler anywhere in search of prey, and

birdwatchers today get the same satisfaction of seeking out a quarry. Why else would admirers of gulls want to spend time in rubbish dumps and sewage treatment works.

Gulls are among the most successful of all birds in Europe and, for the new birdwatcher, the most confusing. Their appearance changes frequently, maturing slowly and moulting twice a year as they go. Hugely social and gregarious, gulls gather in vast numbers. A breeding colony is all about squabbling and wooing in equal measure, and with so much shaking, nodding and posing, it is more like a golf club dinner dance.

THANK GOODNESS that Natural England and the RSPB were dissuaded from their

scheme to introduce the white-tailed eagle to the Suffolk coast. It didn't seem a good way of spending £500,000 and anyway, according to some voices, would only have hastened what will happen naturally as the species spreads westwards across Europe.

*Continued over*



## FEATURES & NEWS

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*Continued from previous page*

Down in the Chilterns, the release programme of the red kite is now seen as all too successful. Like the collared dove in Suffolk, the red kite is everywhere, and in fact last summer, we saw the first one to arrive in Redlingfield.

The farmers further west are now encouraged to leave sheep carcasses out on the hills for kite feeding, a practice once frowned upon as bad husbandry. Red kite are primarily scavengers, just as they were in Shakespeares' day when they were "of unclean repute", lumped together with ravens and crows, and disliked somewhat.

My dislike tends to be directed towards the sparrow-hawk, which today sat in the pouring rain on my bird-feeder by the nearby pond, having shoosed all other birdlife out of sight.

However, this small mean hunter has not deterred our favoured visitors to the water, the ponderous grey heron and the flashy blue kingfisher. So far, we have yet to match my cousin Jeremy, who was amazed to see the low profile of a sleek cormorant on his garden pond, which when disturbed, had to take off with a vigorous mid-air shake to get its waterlogged wings to work.

### THE LAST WORD ON RAPTORS



goes to Jane Miller of Pulham who could not believe her eyes when this large winged beast landed in her garden, swooping in for a pink tennis ball. You can take your pick as to what this bird is, the jury is still out, though an escaped black kite was seen loitering around the Wrentham area recently.

*Trevor Edwards*

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**SUFFOLK WILDLIFE COURSE:** Stradbroke WEA is offering a course exploring the wildlife of Suffolk including The Brecks. Other areas explored in The Diverse Flora and Fauna of Suffolk and "The Brecks" course are Minsmere, Dunwich Heath, Snape Maltings and Orford Ness. The course at Stradbroke Community Centre starts on Wednesday January 21st (2.15pm to 4.15pm). Anyone is welcome to attend the first meeting before committing themselves to the course. The course fee for seven weeks is £45.50.

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# A lot happening at school

**A**S YOU ARE probably aware

neither Horham, Athelington nor Redlingfield have a school of their own any more, meaning the children now go to schools in the surrounding villages. Many of the children from our three villages go to Wilby C of E Primary School so

we thought you may be interested to know how some of the younger members of our community spend their days.

Since coming back from the summer holidays there has been lots happening at Wilby such as:

- A whole school topic studying World War I;
- A trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum;
- Performances of a specially written play, "Archie Hamilton's War" detailing a child's experience of WW1;
- Local cross-country trials where five of our children have progressed to the county finals;
- Weekly swimming classes;
- Willow Class (year 3 and 4 children) starting to learn a brass instrument;
- After school and breakfast clubs with children having the opportunity to



**Children at Wilby Primary School learn to play brass instruments.**

join gymnastics, craft, science, dodgeball activities to name but a few.

Plans for the rest of this term include: the School's Christmas service in St Mary's Church, Wilby on Tuesday 16th December at 2pm; a Christmas play performed by the younger children; a Christmas pantomime; and the School Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December.

There is plenty planned for the Spring term too, activities include a science show, musical evening, large art project, parent workshop, sports and many more. We are also starting a weekly toddlers group on Thursday mornings for children up to 5 – see our website [www.wilbyprimary.org.uk](http://www.wilbyprimary.org.uk) for further details.

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

**Kim Palmer**

# Flying the flag for the RBL

**W**HILST STRADBROKE & District Branch Royal British Legion chairman

Michael Burton convalesces with his new hip, Joyce Cooper brings you up to date with her work as an RBL case worker and standard bearer.

I never imagined that life could be so very busy after retirement, however, many newly-retired people can, and do, offer their skills to the voluntary sector, and I encourage more of you to get involved – it is so very rewarding.

I use my experience of social work to visit people who have been referred for support and assistance to the RBL. The age range and needs are very varied.

My case work takes me around both Suffolk and Norfolk. I have visited veterans whose lives have been affected quite severely by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Gulf War Syndrome. This year, I have visited a Christmas Island veteran whose life has been shattered as a result of being forced to watch the nuclear experiments in the 1950s. I have seen veterans of Bosnia, the Gulf,

the Falklands, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan, as well as WW2. The Legion is there to support them all, and their widows and widowers. If their problems are too complex then we find another agency that can help.

Standard bearing is also something I never imagined I would do again after carrying the Brownie flag in Eye many years ago. But since there were no male volunteers for the job, I considered it a pity for the branch not to be represented at functions. Carrying that eight-foot pole and getting the drill right is not easy, however – I do my best!

This year has been particularly busy since it was the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. I was privileged to attend the commemorations, and represent the branch with the standard, especially as two of the branch D-Day veterans, Ted Bootle, the president, and my father, Alan King, were also there. Marching and standing in Bayeux cemetery in front of Her Majesty the Queen, was not only awesome, but also tiring on such a hot day.

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**RBL CHRISTMAS GIFT CONCERT:** Stradbroke and District Branch of the Royal British Legion invite you to attend a Christmas Gift Concert on Saturday 6th December from 6.30pm at Stradbroke High School. Music and carols provided by Anglia Fellowship Band. Please bring a 'small' gift wrapped Christmas Gift for a serviceman's wife at AAC Wattisham – 'to show you care'. Tickets in advance, £2.50 each, from Rolles Butchers Stradbroke and Horham Post Office (by post with SAE: Lodge Farm, The Street, Horham, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5DX, tel: 01379 384 424 – cheques to The Royal British Legion, Stradbroke Branch). Any spare tickets on the door £3.50 each. Doors open at 6pm for gift collection and seasonal glühwein.

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At the end of June, I travelled with a group of Suffolk RBL standard bearers to Belgium and France, where we joined in WW1 commemorations at the major commonwealth cemeteries in the Somme and Flanders areas, and we also paraded the standards at the Menin Gate.

In addition to this, I also attended the unveiling of the New Normandy Veteran Memorial at the National Arboretum in August, and then travelled to the Dutch town of 's-Hertogenbosch in October. This was to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the town's liberation from Nazi rule in 1944. This was a remarkable trip. I travelled with my father who was one of 12 liberators to return for the commemoration, all of whom are now aged between 89 and 98 years, my sister Christine and husband Brian. To actually be there and share Dad's memories with him was quite awe inspiring. It is also worth noting that the people we met in Holland really do value and appreciate our UK WW2 veterans – take note UK. *Joyce Cooper*

■ **SHCT BIKE RIDE:** Thank you to Horham cyclists Abbie, Jake and Ella Hawes, Daphne Harvey, Brian Gue, Daniel Streeter, David and Michael Whatling and Lawrence Weaver, church stewards and all the sponsors who raised £655 to be divided equally between St Mary's Church Fabric Fund and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

*Daphne Harvey*

■ **BOOKS TO BUY:** Brian Chester has a supply of copies of Roy Tricker's book on the history of the diocese - 100 Not Out: A Century of the Church in Suffolk. Price £3 if bought via the PCC; full price £5. He also has two or three copies of 100 Treasures available. Contact Brian on 669157.

*Michael Womack*

■ **POPPY APPEAL:** Horham and Athelington have raised £360 for this year's British Legion Poppy Appeal. My thanks to Mrs Annie Harvey, Mrs Melva Huggins and Mrs Elizabeth Hall for their help in collecting house to house.

*Many thanks Janet Fisk*

■ **MESSY CHURCH:** In Syleham, but for the whole benefice - fun and friendship with a biblical theme, activities and games, celebration with story and song, and tea. At Syleham village hall, 4pm every first Sunday, lasting about an hour.

*Michael Womack*

■ **HORHAM CRAFT SALE:** Liz Gibson-Harries is holding a craft sale on Saturday December 20th from 10am to 3pm at the barn at Rose Cottage, The Street, Horham. Locally made Christmas gifts, hot drink and mince pies.

*Elizabeth Gibson Harries*

■ **HARVEST SALE:** Thank you to all who helped raise £25 for Christian Aid with the sale of harvest produce in Horham.

*Daphne Harvey*

# Ordinary folk are really a

**A** FEW WEEKS AGO AS I WAS coming back from a walk I met a middle-aged couple on the green at Redlingfield who stopped me and asked if I would take their photograph in front of the village sign.

Why? Well it turned out that by way of celebrating their Ruby Wedding anniversary they were recording themselves in forty places in England where the word RED made up at least part of the place name and, consequently had arrived in Redlingfield.

I took their photograph for them, we exchanged a few pleasantries and off they went. They were, I suppose you would say 'ordinary' people – an agreeable couple but they were engaged in something rather novel; quite unusual.

This concept of the ordinary versus extraordinary was brought home to me again more recently when Jan and I were invited to a Golden Wedding party and, out of the blue, the daughter

of the happy couple asked me to say a few words when the time came for the toast (how do I get myself into these situations?). Consequently I was pre-occupied for the rest of the evening and throughout the meal prior to the toast wondering what on earth I was going to say – they were after all, like the rest of us, quite ordinary people. It dawned on me then that really, none of us is ordinary; going over their lives and the events of their times they were, in a number of ways, extraordinary (and, let's face it to stay together for fifty years is more unusual than it used to be).

All this has left me with the strong feeling that most 'ordinary' people are, if you look hard enough, in some way unusual and that overwhelmingly this is in a good way. You can talk of the horrors perpetrated by evil people if you wish and it is perfectly true that apart from their crimes the likes of Crippen, Christie and Fred West were



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**WINTER COFFEE MORNINGS:** Redlingfield's winter coffee mornings will be on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am until noon on each occasion until the Coffee Caravan returns to the village in April. Tea, coffee, biscuits etc., are provided. Everyone is welcome, so please come and join us for a chat and good company. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

- December 3rd is at the home of Pat Kelly, Mill Road.
- January 7th 2015 is at the home of Jan and Neville Butcher, Hill Cottage.
- February 4th 2015 is at the home of Pauline and Herbert Abbott, Rookery Farm.
- March 2015 4th is at the home of Jacqueline and David Love, Western Barn, Abbotts Meadow.

**Jacqueline Love**

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# rum old lot

all, on the face of it, unremarkable if not downright insignificant men, but in the majority of cases, digging up your average cellar floor or patio is not going to reveal ghastly evidence of foul deeds because most of us are generally well disposed towards our fellows.

This year we are commemorating the centenary of the start of the Great War and in doing so we should remember that the armies, navies and rudimentary air forces of both sides were made up of ordinary people often doing extraordinary things.

The ordinary man wins wars and then returns home to resume his ordinary life as best he may. The ordinary man loses wars and returns home to desolation, shame and recrimination. The ordinary person chooses the government in a democracy. The ordinary people are feared by despots – an emotion usually disguised as contempt.

The accepted view of what is, or is not ordinary can change with time. That which was once extraordinary either dies out or comes to be accepted as ordinary. Conversely, customs and practices which we accept as ordinary, looked at in a different way might be considered peculiar. For example, it is very common for us to share our homes with other species of animals – most usually cats or dogs (that is apart from all the uninvited spiders, ladybirds, beetles, dustmites etc. which we tolerate or not). *Continued over*

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■ **FATHER CHRISTMAS:** Santa will once again be delivering gifts on Christmas Day morning by tractor in Horham and Athelington. To book a delivery please ring Mother Christmas on 384231. A donation is requested for the East Anglian Children's Hospice for this service. There is no age discrimination – young, old and every age in between. Mother Christmas is looking forward to receiving yours and booking your delivery.

***Mother Christmas***

■ **CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** Wilby Primary School is holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6th December, 11.30am-2pm. There will be mulled wine, mince pies, a BBQ, stalls will include fair trade and decorations. There will be crafts to buy and for children to make. Also a children's raffle, face painting, cakes to buy, tombola, games, a luxury hamper to be won in the grand draw. Santa will also make a visit.

***Kim Palmer***

■ **T-SHIRT SALES:** During the 95th Bomb Group reunion £50 was raised for St Mary's Church Fabric Fund from the sale of 1992 souvenir USA t-shirts. A few t-shirts are still available – if you are interested contact Daphne Harvey on 384216.

***Daphne Harvey***

■ **COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE:** Come along and sing at a community carol service organised by Horham Baptist Church and St Mary's Church on Thursday December 18th at 7pm in Horham & Athelington Community Centre.

***Daphne Harvey***

■ **STRADBROKE CINEMA:** The cinema at Stradbroke Community Centre will be showing films on Thursdays, January 15th, February 19th, March 19th and April 16th.

***Margaret Streeter***



**Scenes from the weekly coffee morning at the Old School in Horham**

**COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE OLD SCHOOL:** Since mid-September The Old School in Horham has been open for coffee and cake between 10.30am and noon every Wednesday. The aroma of real coffee and home baking welcomes a good crowd of people each week. The friendly venue is an ideal meeting place to catch up with old friends and to make new; come and join us! Keep an eye on our posters for standalone demonstrations and workshops. In December there will be a Christmas wreath making workshop. For more information please contact Pip 384370 or Christine 384168.

**Christine Cooper**

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*Continued from page 9*

An alien visiting from another planet might well consider this behaviour to be completely inexplicable.

Back to the ordinary – Ordinary people crowd onto aircraft only a short time, relatively speaking, after the Wright brothers' first flight, to go on holiday and what is more extraordinary, instead of constantly gazing out in wonder at the Olympian view of the majesty of nature from their seats, they sit eating, drinking, reading or sleeping – anything to allay their boredom!

And ordinary people it is who, even in times of relative austerity, will in their millions give vast amounts of money in answer to emergency appeals. Ordinary people are certainly a rum lot!

Interchangeable with the word

ordinary is the word 'common' as, for example in Aaron Copeland's 'Fanfare to the Common Man' and it is interesting to look up how widespread the definitions and use of these two words is. In my dictionary each of these words takes up more than half a page of small print with their different meanings. Both are requisitioned for use in the discipline of mathematics and in the practices of the Law and the Church, as for example in the Book of Common Prayer.

'Common' is probably nowadays used most often to mean frequently occurring or frequently used as in 'common currency' or 'common opinion' and not quite so much as my mother would have used it meaning somebody who in the words of the late Frankie Howard was 'as common as muck'!

**Neville Butcher**

# Superfast broadband for Redlingfield in 2016

**E**VERYONE WHO USES A computer in the Redlingfield knows, our broadband speed is very, very slow. Making life difficult for everybody, whether that's running a business, studying, shopping, keeping in touch or trying to watch a film online.

For the past two years, Suffolk County Council and BT have been rolling out broadband to the parts of Suffolk, like us, that need it most. That first roll-out has finished and fast broadband got as close as Eye and Occold but didn't reach us as we are

too far away from the exchanges.

We have been lobbying furiously to make sure we are included in the next contract. We now know what's planned and it's both good and bad news.



The good news is that will be in the very first group of villages to next get broadband. The less good news is that isn't going to happen until 2016 as they need to test some new products they hope to give us, which if they work, will mean we get superfast broadband in 2016. Any questions, email me at [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk).

*Janet Norman-Philips*



## REDLINGFIELD

**REMEMBERS:** A small group of locals gathered with Rev Michael Womack on the morning of November 19th to commemorate the anniversary of the B-17 crash that killed ten young US airmen in Redlingfield during WW2. Beverly Abbott and Linda Woodward laid a the wreath at the Redlingfield memorial. Rev Womack read a poem and said a prayer.

**Mike Ager**

## POLICE REPORT & IN MEMORIAM

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

POLICE OFFICERS ARE ASKING residents to be cautious when dealing with unsolicited sales calls after being contacted by residents that have been cold-called by a company selling therapeutic aids.

The company, targeting older residents in the county, falsely claims to have received a referral from the local GP surgery and arranges an appointment to attend the home address.

The organisations which make these calls or supply these mailings often obtain information from commercial data companies which sell contact lists.

Consumers can register with a number of preference services to stop some direct marketing companies making such

contact; these include: Telephone preference service – to reduce/stop unsolicited sales or marketing calls: 0845 070 0707; DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS; [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk); Mailing Preference Service – to reduce/stop addressed direct marketing mail: 0845 703 4599; Freepost 29 LON20771, London, W1E 0ZT.; and Royal Mail Door-to-door opt outs – to reduce/stop unaddressed (i.e to the occupier/householder) mail and leaflets delivered by Royal Mail: 01793 483853; Freepost RRBT-ZBXB-TTTS, Door-to-door opt-outs, Royal Mail, Kingsmead House, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1; [optout@royalmail.co.uk](mailto:optout@royalmail.co.uk) or visit Junk buster.

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**POLICE DIRECT HAS CHANGED:** Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have joined forces to deliver an improved free police messaging service called Police Connect, which was launched in November. Police Connect provides you with even more choice when it comes to receiving information direct from the police, by email, text or phone, about the issues and places that matter most to you. There are lots of advantages to knowing what is going on in your local area or areas you are interested in, such as where you work or where a vulnerable relative lives. You can take steps to safeguard yourself and your property, you may need to change plans, or re-route, because of an incident nearby or you may even be able to help us solve a crime. It is also a great way of finding out about local policing events and meetings. By receiving messages through Police Connect, you are kept in the loop. The Police are no longer accepting registrations for their Police Direct system. All existing Police Direct users should have been contacted to encourage them to re-register for Police Connect. Details of how to register for the service will be made available on our website and via other channels. The registration process takes just a couple of minutes and will ensure we have the right information about you and what you want from Police Connect.

**Verity Howell, Crime Reduction Officer, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**

**Redlingfield winter coffee morning:** at the home of Pat Kelly, Mill Road, 10am-noon.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5**

**Eye Christmas lights switch on.**  
**Debenham Christmas late night shopping:** 5pm-8pm.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

**Framlingham Christmas Tree Festival:** St Michael's Church, 10am-2pm.

**Worlingworth Christmas Fayre:** Worlingworth Community Centre, 11am. 50p entry includes tea/coffee & biscuit. Light lunches available, raffle, stalls, tombola etc. Father Christmas is coming. Event in aid of church funds.

**Christmas Fayre:** Wilby Primary School, 11.30am-2pm (see story).

**Annual Hoxne Christmas Fair:** Hoxne Village Hall, noon-2.30pm.

**Stradbroke RBL Christmas Gift Concert:** 6.30pm, Stradbroke High School (see story).

**Little Voice - Theatre at the Bank:** The Mustard Theatre Company at The Bank Eye, 7.30pm, doors 7pm. Advance £8.

**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS DEC 6, 7, 13, 14 & 21**

**Santa Special:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway. Eight trains daily: 10.30am, 11.10am, 11.50am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 2.50pm & 3.30pm. Places must be pre-booked ([www.msrl.org.uk/open-days/santabookings/](http://www.msrl.org.uk/open-days/santabookings/)) £12 per person. Travel from Brockford Station to meet railway Santa at North Pole Halt. Each child receives a special ticket & present.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**Jonathan Wyatt Big Band - Swing into Christmas:** Diss Corn Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £13.50, DCH Friend £12.

**Framlingham's Charity/Voluntary Organisations Christmas Market:** Market Hill, 11am-3pm.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**Redlingfield Christmas lunch:** The Red Lion, Needham near Harleston from 1pm. Contact Linda on 678984.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**Christmas Dinner & Dance:** Horham Community Centre.

**The Fabulous Framlingham Xmas Festival:** Santa, live music, entertainment & late night shopping, 6pm-9pm.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 & 13**

**Cinderella:** Dove Players' Cinderella at Eye Community Centre, 7.30pm both days & 2.30pm Sat. Adults £7, conc £6, children 12 & under £5. Discounts for four-plus. Tickets Mary Mills 870455.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

**Hoxne Music Festival:** Keilidh Klezmerized, Hoxne Village, 7pm. £7.50, under 16s free. Tickets from Hoxne Post Office or Janet 668228.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13-MONDAY, DECEMBER 15**

**Carols, Christmas trees & wreaths:** St Mary's Worlingworth (see story).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**Children's Christmas party:** Horham Community Centre, 3.30 to 5.30pm. £3 per child.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**Community carol service:** Horham & Athelington Community Centre, 7pm.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**

**Crossing The Border:** The Bank Eye, 8pm/doors 7.15pm. Tickets TBC.

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19-21**

**The Perils of Pinocchio:** The Keepers Daughter at Diss Corn Hall. Friday, 7.30pm; Saturday & Sunday, 11am & 4pm. Tickets £9; under 16 £7; DCH Friend £7.50; family (2 adults, 2 children) £30.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19-SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**

**Circus & family fun fair:** Russells international circus at Stonham Barns. Three shows a day: noon, 3pm & 6pm. No show Christmas Day. Bookings 07752 218805 or [www.russellscircus.co.uk](http://www.russellscircus.co.uk).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**Horham Craft Sale:** Rose Cottage, The Street, Horham, 10am to 3pm.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 & 21-**

**Christmas Craft Fair & Farmers Market:** Stonham Barns.

## WHAT'S ON

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### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Santa Special:** Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

**The Snow Child:** The Bank Eye, 6pm.  
Tickes £6.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve at Horham Community Centre.**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

**Christmas Carol Sing-song:** St Andrew's Wingfield, 5pm. Champagne, wine & soft drinks afterwards (see story).

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

**New Year's Eve:** Horham Community Centre, bring a plate of food & welcome in the New Year. There will be a live band!

**New Year's Eve:** Thorndon Village Hall, from 8pm. Live music by The Zephyrs, buffet supper, late bar, raffle. Tickets £15 from Clinton 678551 or Graham 678676.

### 2015

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

**Redlingfield winter coffee morning:** at the home of Jan & Neville Butcher, Hill Cottage, 10am-noon.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Before I Go to Sleep.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 15-17

**Aladdin:** Debenham Players, Debenham Community Centre, 7.30pm every day & 2.30pm Sat. Adults £8, conc £6, family £22 (two adults, two children). Tickets [www.debenham-players.co.uk](http://www.debenham-players.co.uk), Henry Abbott Hardware & Houseware.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

**Paul Jones & Dave Kelly:** Diss Corn Hall, 8pm. Founder members of The Blues Band perform a live acoustic set. Tickets £15; DCH Friend £13.50.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**Redlingfield winter coffee morning:** at the home of Pauline & Herbert Abbott, Rookery Farm, 10am-noon.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**The Whodunnit Hamlet Theatre:** Made to Measure Theatre Company at Diss Corn Hall, 7.15pm. Tickets inc a two-course supper & coffee £15.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**Big Daddy vs Giant Haystacks:** Komedia Entertainment & The Foundry Group's comedy drama at Diss Corn Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £11; DCH Friend £9.50; conc £9; conc Friend: £7.50.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**Potato Day: Stonham Barns:** The annual East Anglia Potato Day established in 1996 is dedicated to the humble potato. Up to 100 varieties of seed potatoes are displayed & on sale.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Magic in the Moonlight.

**United We Stand:** Townsend Productions' play about 1972 builders' strike at Diss Corn Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets £11; DCH Friend £9.50; conc £9; conc friend: £7.50.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**The Electric Swing Circus:** Fusion of 20s swing & electro beats at Diss Corn Hill, 8pm. Tickets £8; DCH Friend £6.50.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**Just For Kids - Heroes & Villains:**

Framlingham Castle. Adult £7.70, children £4.60, conc £6.90 & family £20.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**Charles Dickens' Bleak House:** The Pantaloons Theatre Company at Diss Corn Hill, 7.30pm.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**Barb Jungr - Hard Rain:** the songs of Bob Dylan & Leonard Cohen at Diss Corn Hill, 8pm. Tickets £8; DCH Friend £6.50.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**Mad March Hare Ceilidh:** Diss Corn Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets £10; DCH Friend advance £8.50; advance conc £8.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

**Jayne Eyre:** Blue Orange Theatre Company at Diss Corn Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets £10; DCH Friend advance £8.50; advance conc £8.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

**Stradbroke Cinema:** The Imitation Game.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

**Bombed Out Blitz Dance:** Red Feather Club with in-house band.

**An Evening with Simon Weston:** Diss Corn Hall presented by 1st Fressingfield Scout Group (see story).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

**Stradbroke Cinema:** Film TBC.

**The Bank Eye:** The Bank, 2 Castle Street, Eye, IP23 7AN, 873495 & [www.thebankeye.org/](http://www.thebankeye.org/).

**Diss Corn Hall:** Corn Hall, St Nicholas Street, Diss. Box Office: 652241 &

[boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@disscornhall.co.uk). Full programme at [www.disscornhall.co.uk](http://www.disscornhall.co.uk) ; **Framlingham:**

[www.framlingham.com](http://www.framlingham.com). **Helmingham Hall:** 01473 890799, [events@helmingham.com](mailto:events@helmingham.com),

[www.helmingham.com](http://www.helmingham.com). **Horham & Athelington Community Centre:** Karen, 384754; Clare, 388878; & Kerina, 669376, **Hoxne Cinema:** Tickets from Jenny Knights 668060, Hoxne PO

& Stores, or via [www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hoxnevillagehall.co.uk). **Midsuffolk Showgrounds & Stonham Barns:** Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT, <http://stonham-barns.co.uk/>.

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

Suffolk IP14 5PW, [www.mslr.org.uk](http://www.mslr.org.uk), general enquiries 01449 766899. **Museum of East**

**Anglian Life,** Stowmarket, 01449 612229, [enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastanglianlife.org.uk). **Redlingfield,** 678835, [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk), [www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk). **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](mailto:info@owl-help.org.uk), [www.owl-help.org.uk](http://www.owl-help.org.uk). **Wingfield Barns,** 384505,

[enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com](mailto:enquiries@wingfieldbarns.com), [www.wingfieldbarns.com](http://www.wingfieldbarns.com), tickets also available from

[www.wegottickets.com](http://www.wegottickets.com)

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

**TUESDAYS: T Plus:** Community Café with stalls, All Saint's Church, Thorndon every Tues,

10am-noon. **Bingo:** Thorndon Village Hall, 7.30pm every other Tues. 678178. **Zumba:**

Horham & Athelington Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 &

07563534086. **Debenham Historical Society:** Regular lectures at Room 31, Debenham

High School, 7.30pm, £3 per lecture, including a soft drink in the interval. Enquiries:

Clive Cook 01728-861754. Non-members welcome see what's on.

**WEDNESDAYS: Coffee mornings,** every Wed, 10.30am -noon at Horham Old School.

**Redlingfield & Occold WI,** 1st Wed of the month at, 7.45pm, in Occold Village Hall. **Hoxon**

**Hundred:** Summer dance-outs at local pubs. Winter practices. Ron Ross, 643563. Eye

Country Market, every Wed 10am-11am, Eye Town Hall (closed Jan). **Social mornings:**

Horham Old School. 10.30am each Wed tea, coffee, cake, crafts, a chat and good

company. Info from Christine (384168) or Pip (384370). Admission free - small charge

for refreshments.

**THURSDAYS: Zumba:** Worlingworth Community Centre, 7pm, Terri Cave, 01728 627756 &

07563534086. Over 50s Belly Dance Class: Occold Village Hall, 11am-noon, £30 for 6

weeks 27 Feb till 3 April.

**FRIDAYS: Bingo:** Stradbroke Community Centre, Wilby Road, 2nd Fri monthly. 7.30pm. Mary

Ellis, 384642. Worlingworth Swan, live music, last Fri evening of month.

**SATURDAYS: Occold Market & Car Boot:** Occold Village and Village Hall, 9.30am-noon, last

Sat of the month from March to November.

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

# Best-ever 95th BG reunion

**M**ORE THAN 30 AMERICAN visitors were hosted by the Red Feather Club in September for what many called the best-ever UK reunion.

Among the guests of the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association were veterans Lt Herb Wilkov, who was navigator with the 336th Bomb Squadron, and S/Sgt Bob Fay, who was a ball turret gunner with the 334th Bomb Squadron. Belgians Luc Zaman and his wife Marleen joined their American guests – the couple care for the grave of 335th ball turret gunner Frederick Zapatka from the Stanley Foutz crew.

Serving USAF personnel from Lakenheath and Mildenhall were among

those involved throughout the visit.

Col David T McKnight, one of the key men in 95th Bomb Group history, was honoured with members of his family

opening the new McKnight building, the latest addition to the Red Feather Club. During a packed welcome night the new PX (shop) was also officially opened.

Wreaths were laid at memorials at the Red

Feather Club, in the village of Horham, the village of Redlingfield and sister bomb group the 100th at Thorpe Abbotts. The last two were visited as part of a tour of the area in an 18-strong convoy of WW2 vehicles.

There were also visits to Parham, home of the 390th Bomb Group, which along with the 95th and 100th made up



***This page: the visit to RAF Mildenhall and veterans Bob Fay and Herb Wilkov with reunion organisers Linda Woodward and Beverley Abbott. Facing page: Red Feather Club regulars on the jeep tour.***





the 13th Combat Bomb Wing.

Events included a 1940s dance with Red Feather Club's in-house big band Skyliner, a 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association members-only open day with a vintage softball game, a service of thanksgiving at St Mary's church Horham and a day at RAF Mildenhall hosted by the USAF. The visitors also got to see the sights with trips to Southwold and Helmingham Hall.

The theme of the reunion, organised by Beverley Abbott and Linda Woodward, was the commemoration of the 71st anniversary of 95th's successful completion of 200 missions. Matt Miles designed special logos which were used throughout and feature on new association t-shirts.

A series of events have already been lined up for 2015 at the Red Feather Club...on Saturday March 28th there will be a Bombed Out Blitz Dance with the Red Feather Club's in-house band Skyliner; on Saturday July 4th a 1940s & 1950s Retro Swing Dance with the band The Hot Tin Roofs is planned; and on Saturday October 24th there will be a Help For Heroes Dance. Public open days at the Red Feather Club are the last Sunday of the month, May to October inclusive, with a vintage softball match in September.

*Mike Alger*

■ **AN EVENING WITH SIMON WESTON:** As part of 1st Fressingfield Scout Group's fund-raising campaign for its new HQ – an evening with Simon Weston has been organised. Simon a veteran of the Falklands War – will be recognisable to many, his speaking engagements are both moving and uplifting. The event is on Saturday 28th March at the Diss Corn Hall. Tickets £15 per person can be purchased from the Corn Hall (with 50p going to the Corn Hall) or can be reserved by emailing dawn@dawncj.co.uk with the full £15 being received by the Scout Group. Bar and refreshments available along with a raffle. **Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne**

■ **PLANNING: TO BE DECIDED** - application to use airfield concrete for outside storage, with associated fencing and bunding, **Horham Business Park, Horham Road, Hoxne**; plan to build a new barn at **Dove House, The Street, Horham**; plan to build three-bedroom and four-bedroom detached two-storey properties (including change of use of land from agricultural to residential) at **Firethorn, The Street, Horham**; application outline planning permission for erection of agricultural workers dwellinghouse at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**; application to use land for siting marquee for events at **Athelington Hall, Horham Road, Athelington**. **GRANTED** - plan to erect a timber porch at **The Homestead, The Street, Horham**; plan to demolish existing single lean-to, attached garage and build attached double garage at **Carousel, Redlingfield**; plan to erect an extension to the existing house containing a living room, bathroom and storage loft at **Malsters, Chapel Lane, Horham**; plan to erect a detached one-and-a-half-storey dwelling and new vehicular access at **The Old Eight Bells, The Street, Horham**;

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council' ([www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/)).

# Saving village's historic

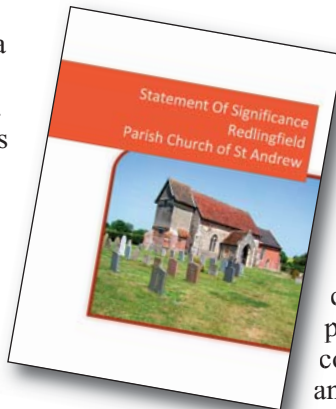
*Janet Norman-Philips reports on a lottery bid to save Redlingfield's St Andrews and improve the Doorstep Green*

IN THE LAST MAGAZINE I wrote about our plan to repair and update the Church of St Andrew in Redlingfield and expand the Doorstep Green – which alongside a larger play area would provide road access and parking for the church.

Since then the project has moved on. To repair the roof, walls and sort out the penetrating damp will cost £150,200. We also plan to re-open the “back door” of the church and create a path to it as well as install a water supply along with a toilet. We plan to do

more to the celebrate the history of the church – an information board, a new website and booklets for visitors. The total project cost is £170,100. We have

asked the Heritage Lottery Fund for £143,700, around 85% of the costs. We will put in the remaining £26,400:- that's £4,000 from the Church PCC, £2,500 from fundraising events and £19,900 from counting volunteers time put into the project (which contributes between £300 and £50 a day depending on the work done).



**STRANGER THAN FICTION:** In October we went on a walking holiday in Montenegro which has been an independent country for eight years and is in the southern part of what used to be Yugoslavia. We stayed near a small town on the Adriatic coast called Budva. Montenegro has a population of 625,000 and they are keen on football – in the Euro 2012 competition they beat Wales, Bulgaria and Switzerland and drew with England all without conceding a goal! The country has 53 teams spread over three divisions and the team in Budva is in the top division. The Budva team is called F.K. Mogren and plays in the Stadion Lugovi. The stadium holds 4,000 spectators. F.K. Mogren want a new stadium and they have plans to demolish their current ground and build a four-storey hotel in its place. They then intend to build a stadium for 15,000 spectators on the roof of the hotel! Two things cross my mind. Firstly what happens when a ball is kicked out of the ground and falls four storeys on to a passer-by? Secondly, what if you have a room on the fourth floor with a football match going on over your ceiling with 15,000 spectators cheering on their team? I don't know the name of the proposed hotel but I think that I will give it a miss.



**David Love**

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# church

It will be next March before we get the bid results and the end of 2016 before the church is fully repaired.

In researching the history of the church for the bid we have found out a lot of interesting things:-

Built by the Anglo Saxons and recorded in the Domesday Book, St Andrew is Grade2\* listed. Originally belonging to the village of Redlingfield (known as Radinghefelda at that time), in 1120 a Benedictine Nunnery was created and the village church was taken by the nuns for their own use.

When Henry VIII disbanded the monasteries in 1536, it was given to Sir Henry Bedingfield, Knight, whom Queen Elizabeth called her “Jailor”. Eventually the church was returned to the village as the Parish church.

The church has been “improved” a number of times over the centuries. Traces of its Anglo-Saxon origins remain, most of the windows are 14th century, the early Tudors raised the height of the nave walls and added or replaced the base of the tower and the Victorians rebuild the chancel (where the altar is) but reused all the old doors and windows.

There are even mediaeval paintings in the church that were covered over in the 1980s to protect them.

Read more about this on our website in the “Local History” section and download a copy of the new “Statement of Significance” booklet.

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## ■ A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-SONG:

On Sunday 28th December at St Andrew's Wingfield from 5pm there is a chance to sing 18 Christmas carols. You can join in or sit and listen, as you wish. It is not a concert but a celebration of Christmas. All voices and abilities are welcome as are musicians. If you would like copies of the music or are planning to bring an instrument, contact peter\_midpet@btconnect.com. Champagne, wine and soft drinks will be served afterwards.

## ■ TIGER CUB PACK RELAUNCH: 1st

Fressingfield Scout Group's Tiger Cub Pack will relaunch officially in January with Julia Green, Cub Leader, Tigers. The pack will move to a Thursday evening and will operate the same times as the group's Wolf Cub Pack (6pm-7.30pm). Julia is visiting local schools to recruit new members – there will be the first 'meet and greet' meeting of the Pack on Thursday December 4th.

**Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne**

■ **FUNDRAISING SUCCESS:** Thank you to everyone who helped with Red Cross Week and Open Gardens this year – we raised £32,000 which is a best ever result for the county and will enable us to help approximately 1,300 vulnerable people in Suffolk.

**Jane Dow**

■ **DONATE FURNITURE** St Elizabeth Hospice is appealing for donations of furniture to sell in its shops. The charity has a team of volunteer van drivers who will pick up good quality items from your home, Monday to Saturday. Items will be resold in the hospice's shops in Holywells Road, Foxhall Road and Meredith Road, Ipswich, and Stowmarket. To donate furniture call 0845 259 0319.

**Samantha Catling**

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



AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER Parliament was recalled to debate whether the UK should join with our international partners and intervene with air strikes against the terrorist organisation ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant).

Parliament is only recalled to discuss the most serious and urgent issues of the day. ISIL present not only a threat across the Middle East but a threat to the British people at home and abroad.

The threat we face from ISIL is very different to ones this country has faced before. They are well funded, backed by billions of dollars, and have a formidable arsenal of modern weapons, along with the ability to use them. ISIL also has a complete disregard for human life.

In a short space of time ISIL has spread across parts of Iraq and Syria. It controls an area larger than the size of Great Britain. If we do nothing, they will continue to spread their tentacles of fear and destruction. Parts of the Lebanon have already faced attacks from ISIL terrorists. Unchecked we will face a terrorist caliphate stretching from the eastern Mediterranean to the borders of Turkey and beyond.

Without continued military intervention I do not believe ISIL will be defeated.

As the Prime Minister said when addressing the United Nations General Assembly, this is "a fight you cannot opt out of". We cannot abandon large numbers of people to live in fear of their lives, condemned to die because of their faith or political beliefs.

***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](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com). For more information please visit [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com)***

### ***THE LOVE LIGHT LINGERS by Mandy Miller***

*You never appreciate the little things, You do not notice the touch left here or there,*

*You do not see loves tender touch, Life is far more here and now so much to do.*

*No time to pause or catch a breath, Or stop and linger or look and see, You never see the truth that lies at your feet, Love lies lost alone, forgotten, such a little thing.*

*Why I do not need it now, so much must be done, Tomorrow is just too late it can wait, Talk later, touch later, tomorrow it will be done, Today is far too pressing – here and now.*

*Have you not heard nor seen a word, For love light never lingers it shines, It quickly dies, it hides away, only a memory lingers, All so soon wasted. I'll catch love tomorrow – it never comes.*

*But if you catch it, hold it, the light never dies, Love never dies it burns, it shines, it lingers, So when love comes calling, Quiet or loud in a rush do not send it packing.*

*For love comes – don't be blind see it, When it is gone emptiness is left behind, No warmth of love golden glow, Not loves warm caress – love has gone long since.*

## ***YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR***



AT THE END OF 2014 MID Suffolk and Babergh district councils have all but finished the integration started almost two years ago. Whilst we are still two different councils we have now integrated the staff and officials making huge savings on staff and adding to our purchasing power. 'Better together' has a good ring to it although we have not yet settled on a single headquarters and that will not be finalised before May 2015.

It is a fact that by the year 2020 the Government (whoever is in power) will no longer allocate money to local councils so we have to be ready to be more self-sufficient.

Money will be raised by new homes and bidding for services and partnership initiatives. We are told that our councils are well placed to face the oncoming difficulties.

The care home at the Hartismere hospital site is being built. Unfortunately, Care UK have had some bad publicity regarding two of their other care homes in the county. I questioned them at the SCC Health Scrutiny Board about their failings and have been given assurances the problems have been dealt with. However, they are due to come back to the board in January when they will be asked to record improvements and be

more transparent about the running of their homes.

The best news is that the planning department is now up to strength with experienced officers and they are beginning to take a more user-friendly approach to planning applications. Whilst we do need more houses and homes of every kind in the area we do need to protect the villages and the landscape. There is a need to bring empty properties back into use so if anyone knows of a property that could be used whether it is listed or not, the council would be happy to talk to the owner or the village representative.

We are working on the possibility of creating a hub in Horham so that anyone who would like to learn about computers, or just to make use of them, can do so. Almost all information is on websites these days, from doctors' surgeries to shopping and travel times, so we aim to assist anyone who is unfamiliar or afraid of a laptop!

I am still concerned about anyone living alone this winter, if you have a neighbour or relative who might be vulnerable in the cold please either look in on them or contact the parish council or me and we will arrange a visit. Happy Christmas everyone and a jolly good New Year.

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

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**CAROLS, TREES AND MORE:** St Mary's Worlingworth will be holding events from Saturday December 13th to Monday December 15th. A Carol service will be on Sunday at 3.30pm. Families, groups and children are decorating trees or wreaths to be judged in categories. The church will also be full of school children from 3pm on the Friday as it is holding the Pyramid carol concert for the Stradbroke area. It will cost £2 to visit the church and vote in the appropriate categories. There will be a raffle and light lunches on Saturday and Sunday.

***Valerie Swallow***

**RUTH KATHLEEN REEVE, April 24th 1913- September 27th 2014:** Ruth Kathleen Reeve, nee Archer and nicknamed “Pip” by her father, recently passed away at the splendid age of 101 at Maynell House, Felixstowe. She died on September 27th 2014 (her eldest son’s birthday) and, amazingly for a person of those years, the only stated cause of death was “old age”.

Ruth was born on April 24th 1913 in Braiseworth Suffolk to Oscar and Emma Archer. She was one of seven children and attended the local school until, at the age of just 13, she went into service in a large country house in Surrey. In 1939, at Denham Parish Church, she married Victor Harold Reeve from Horham, and they spent their married life in Horham, Ipswich and then returned to Horham when Victor left the army. They had two sons, the first born was Harold in 1940 and then nearly six years later, after the end of the World War II Richard arrived.

The boys grew up and married and presented Ruth and Victor with four grandchildren – Matthew the eldest – Harold’s son, and then Stephan, Martin and Heather – Richard’s children. Sadly Victor passed away in 1987 one week short of his 79th birthday, however Ruth continued to live in



Horham on her own until 1990 when she moved to Felixstowe. A happy move for her as she was now near her sons as both Harold and Richard lived in the town.

When Ruth was 94 her first great grandson, Felix, was born and over the next four years five more great grandchildren arrived, Lucas, Amelie, Isobel, Oscar and Finlay. All her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were at her 100th birthday on 28th April 2013. She is sadly missed by all the family and was proudly and lovingly known by the great grandchildren as “101 Great Grandma”

**Joy Reeve**

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED:** St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich is appealing for volunteer drivers to collect and take patients to and from the hospice. Volunteer drivers can also take patients to hospital appointments if needed and can be a lifeline for a patient who is unable to reach other forms of transport. Rebecca Barwick, volunteer development officer at the hospice, said: “We rely on our volunteer drivers so much and we need more to join the team.” Drivers usually use their own car and are reimbursed for their mileage, although drivers do have access to the Hospice’s wheelchair adapted vehicle if needed. To find out more or to apply visit [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/volunteer), email [volunteer@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@stelizabethhospice.org.uk) or call 01473 707016.

**Samantha Catling**

## **THE RECTOR REFLECTS ... I ONCE MET LINDA BELLINGHAM**

*... not that I can claim a particularly long encounter with her.*



AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL I was working in the British Rail ticket office at Bishops Stortford and sold a day return to a pleasant lady who made no impression on me. It was only after I'd gone that my fellow booking clerk told me that I'd sold a ticket to the actress Linda Bellingham.

This unassuming lady recently made a big impression on me, and I suspect many other people by stopping her chemotherapy. In one of her final interviews, Linda declared that she wasn't giving up so much as taking back control. She has invigorated the debate about how we deal with end of life issues and that is long overdue.

In Catholic parlance, she died a good death; one of the key Catholic authors of the twentieth century was Gerald Hughes. His seminal book *God of Surprises* came out in the 1980s and helped many people to encounter the divine in ways that they

had never considered. Gerald has also recently died of cancer. In one of his final interviews, he said that God is waiting to be encountered everywhere in life; with a reference to the story of Moses and his encounter with the divine in the burning bush, Gerald said that every bush is ablaze if only we had the eyes to see.

Finally, Wilko Johnson of the Essex band Doctor Feelgood was diagnosed with cancer last year. He declared that on learning he had cancer he felt alive like he had never done before and that everything became supremely vivid for him. In her interview, Linda spoke of how every little moment, such as Sunday lunch with the family, became very special to her.

They may not have used the language of Gerald Hughes, but it seems both Linda and Wilko have learnt to appreciate that every bush is ablaze. It would be a great pity if it took something as drastic as cancer for us to learn the same lesson.

**Michael Womack (hoxnebenefice@gmail.com or 388889)**

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**NEW REEDING WOODS GROUP:** In August the group held their 13th AGM. The chairman reported 2014 had been an almost perfect tree growing year, with an excellent degree of extension growth, particularly in the oaks. He reported that this has also been a great year for wild flowers, and the pyramid orchid had once again flowered, and an exceptional display of ragged robin had enhanced the area around the pond. Butterflies have been copious, with red admiral, peacock, painted lady, holly blue, skippers, small tortoiseshell and even a clouded yellow having been seen. The recent cutting of the wildflower meadow caused a mass exodus of small mammals, but the boundary fencing still protects the young trees from rabbits, hares and deer. Pound Lane wood has become an established rendezvous for walkers and dog owners. Following the AGM the visitors and committee enjoyed a BBQ. The group once again intend to hone their wood crafting skills by making Horham hammers, stools, pegs, birdfeeders and whistles which they plan to sell at the Hoxne Christmas markets. Orders for these items can be placed by calling Mike Reeves on 668 179. **Mike Reeves**

## CHURCH

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

**Dec 7 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, Baptism; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church (Village Hall).

**Dec 14 Horham**, 11.15am Christingle; Hoxne, 11.15am, BCP Mattins; Wingfield, 4pm, Carols by Candlelight.

**Dec 21** Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP Holy Communion AV; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Hoxne, 10am, Christingle; Syleham, 11.15am, Carols with the Amici Singers; Denham, 3pm, Carols; Wingfield, 3.30pm, Christingle; **Horham**, 4.30pm, Carols by Candlelight.

**Dec 24 Athelington**, 6pm, A reflective service; **Horham**, 11.30pm, Midnight Mass.

**Dec 25** Wingfield, 8.30am, BCP Eucharist; Syleham, 9.30am, CW Eucharist; Wingfield, 10.30am, Family Service; Hoxne, 11.15am, Family Service followed by Eucharist.

**Dec 28 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, Morning Prayer; Syleham, 9.30am, HC; Denham, 11.15am, FS; Wingfield, 5pm, Carol Sing-song.

**Jan 4 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church (Village Hall).

**Jan 11 Horham**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 11am, HC; Hoxne, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

**Jan 18** Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP HC; **Athelington**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, Plough Sunday; Syleham, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

**Jan 25 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, MP; Syleham, 9.30am, HC; Hoxne, 10am, FS; Wingfield, 10am, BCP Mattins; Denham, 11.15am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS.

**Feb 1 Redlingfield**, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, MP; Hoxne, 11.15am, HC; Syleham, 4pm, Messy Church (Village Hall).

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

**Feb 15** Hoxne, 8.30am, BCP HC; Athelington, 9.30am, HC; Wingfield, 10am, FS; **Horham**, 11.15am, FS; Hoxne, 11.15am, Our Heritage; Syleham, 11.15am, BCP Mattins.

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

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

**Births:** September 1st - to Sarah and Dan Colnet of Grove Farm a son, Arthur George Daniel, brother to Henry who is being very caring of the baby. September 30th - to Vicky and Adam Blowes of Chapel Manse a daughter, Sophia Grace, sister to Joshua, also a caring brother.

**Baptism:** October 12th - Meghan McKenzie Ann Rackham & Charlotte Jane Whitwood

**Burial:** October 16th - Ruth Reeve (see in memoriam).

**CHRISTMAS 2014 & NEW YEAR WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION:** Due to the bank holidays during the Christmas and New Year period Mid Suffolk District Council has amended the usual collection schedules. See below (please ensure your bins are out by 6.30am on the day of collection). The calendar for 2015 is available at [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) or Redlingfield village website. Any missed collection must be reported within 48 hours via the website [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk). To check if there are any bin collection problems in your area visit the update page on MSDC's website.

Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised	Usual day	Revised
Mon 22 Dec	No Change	Mon 29 Dec	Tues 30 Dec	Mon 5 Jan	Tues 6 Jan
Tues 23 Dec	No Change	Tues 30 Dec	Wed 31 Dec	Tues 6 Jan	Wed 7 Jan
Wed 24 Dec	No Change	Wed 31 Dec	Fri 2 Jan	Wed 7 Jan	Thurs 8 Jan
Thur 25 Dec	Sat 27 Dec	Thurs 1 Jan	Sat 3 Jan	Thurs 8 Jan	Fri 9 Jan
Fri 26 Dec	Mon 29 Dec	Fri 2 Jan	Mon 5 Jan	Fri 9 Jan	Sat 10 Jan

**RECYCLING BINS:** Items you can now put in your recycling bins for collection include: aerosol cans (must be empty – no paint, fertilisers or weed killer cans); pots and pans (no glass lids, cutlery or knives); and textiles which should be in authorised textile bags and in the top of your recycling bin. Textile bags can be obtained from any Library within Suffolk or by calling 0845 606 6045. Extra recycling will be collected if left beside your recycling bin within clear bags. Check [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) for full details.

**BROWN BINS:** All brown bin collections are suspended for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.

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



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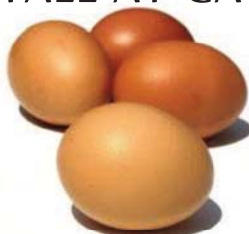
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