

Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield *NEWS*



**SPRING 2023
ISSUE No. 60**

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Last year was exceptional. After lockdowns etc everyone was ready for a big year of events and boy did our villages deliver. We seemed to pack a couple of years worth of fun into 12 months. So, you could forgive me for expecting 2023 to look a bit boring in comparison. We've got a long weekend to celebrate the Coronation rather than months of Jubilee festivities, but looking at what's on this year there's lots on the horizon. Just check-out the what's on calendar on pages 20-21. There's much I'm looking forward to but among the highlights must be the 80th Anniversary Reunion at Station 119 (The Red Feather Club Museum). Visitors from the US will arrive on 25th May and depart on 31st May. Our friends from across the pond will go on trips organised by Linda Woodward and Beverley Abbott. More importantly, though, they'll be spending quality time at the Red Feather Club meeting or reconnecting with locals and volunteers.

It has been a mixed bag for the wildlife in our garden with plenty of the usual suspects on the bird feeders being occasionally supplemented by more unusual visitors including a pair of gorgeous bullfinches. Bird numbers seem quite good, however, we seem to be completely lacking any frogs, toads or newts. For years we'd have toads in our wood piles and young frogs on the lawn on wet evenings or in the pets' water bowls. No more. They have become a real rarity.

Horham has lost a stalwart villager, Michael Whatling, who died in January. Our thoughts go to his family and friends. We hope to have a full tribute in our next issue.

Particular thanks to Rev Richard Court and Midge Gibbons for proofreading the magazine. Any errors are mine. *Mike Ager*

■ **CROWNING GLORY:** Following on from the success of last year's Jubilee Corgi Trail Athelington is inviting everyone to view a display of Crowns fit for the Coronation. On Sunday 7th May the Crowns will go on display at St Peters Church with a Royal Breakfast following a service in the church at 9.30am. The Crowns will be on display with visiting Corgis at the church until Sunday 14th May. More information to follow or you can contact Colin 07736 894078, Edmund 07855 104572 or Nick 628661.

If you would like to advertise or contribute to the magazine or have an event or organisation you would like featured contact editor:

Mike Ager on mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

Deadlines for adverts & editorial:

Spring issue (covering Mar, April & May) **Final deadline February 14**

Summer issue (covering June, July & Aug) **Final deadline May 14**

Autumn issue (covering Sept, Oct & Nov) **Final deadline August 14**

Winter issue (covering Dec, Jan & Feb) **Final deadline November 14**

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**Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield News was founded in 2008
by Evelyn Adey and Mike Ager.**

Hawks, waders and more as spring shoots show

Trevor Edwards' latest slice of Wash Farm Wildlife

BIRDWATCHING FROM THE tractor seat is always rewarding and last autumn it included our three common birds-of-prey: buzzard, kestrel and sparrowhawk and, on one occasion, a merlin flying low along Church Road near the Hall. This is the UK's smallest falcon with both a direct fast flight and great agility to twist and turn when chasing smaller targets. It's an upland bird which moves to winter in lowland farms and sightings are not too common in Redlingfield.

Steve Damant was lucky enough to see a sparrowhawk in highspeed

action going for the kill. It hurtled across the farmyard hot on the tail of two collared doves, one of which flew headlong into the grain-store roller door which he had just closed. With its meal stunned if not dead on the concrete, the sparrowhawk dragged the dove to the hedge, trying to hide away as far as was possible in a busy farmyard and started plucking away.

If you see a perfect circle of pigeon or dove feathers out walking in the countryside you are probably looking at the remains of a sparrowhawk meal. The female is larger than the male and heavy enough to take down such prey,

she then holds the victim under the talons of one foot and plucks out the feathers in a tidy circle.

APART from overnight fog, St Valentines' Day was sunny and spring-like and this week coincided



Drew on biosecurity control with the farm's newest sprayer.



Top: The Avocet equipped for shallow water feeding. This picture: The Curlew digs deep in the mud for food.

good result.

We will continue to disinfect the concrete surrounds to the turkey sheds whenever the threat is high from pooping wildfowl passing overhead.

WINTER birding in Suffolk with its excellent estuary habitats is often rewarded with a good variety of species and a November trip on the old Victor sailing barge was no exception.

Organised by Doc Brown and members of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club to start at Woolverston marina, we sailed

the Orwell and Stour, with our onboard RSPB guide noting 39 species which included the avocet and curlew.

Both are exceptional birds due to the length of their bills, the avocets' is upturned at three inches long whereas the curlews' is downturned and a mighty six inches long. Evolved over millennia, one probes deep into estuary mud and the other sweeps side-to-side for food in shallow water, totally different feeding techniques and both highly successful.

Continued on page 4.

with our turkey flock break. Dare we hope that as spring approaches the threat of bird-flu retreats? The number of cases on the Defra website has declined considerably and the warming weather should be helpful too.

Our biosecurity has been upgraded by an ingenious bit of kit put together by Drew. Will had acquired a neat 2m mini-sprayer with a motor powered from a tractor battery and Drew fitted it into a small grass trailer towed behind the Stiga lawn mower. What a

Continued from page 3.

An unusual sighting at home was a Snipe in the mid-December cold snap crossing the road from the Doorstep Green, something we didn't have on our list on the Victor barge. A small number of pintail ducks could be seen at Minsmere on a winter walk, the most elegant of ducks, fast flying and well-named when you see them at close range.

IT WAS MILD IN EARLY JANUARY after the pre-Christmas cold snap and

the visible shoots of spring bulbs had got everybody's hopes up. But hold you hard, the temperature then dropped to minus five again one morning in mid-January and I got a photo of one of three robins checking the frozen vegetable garden in vain for grubs. It was puffing up feathers like a little balloon in an attempt to warm up.

Two other unusual visitors to the garden bird feeder in the frosts were the magpie and the fieldfare, both overcoming their shyness to grab some food. As the main purpose of bird song

is to attract a partner and stake out a territory, birds generally fall silent throughout the winter with the exception of the robin amongst our common songbirds.

Rooks can be noisy, and it is pleasing at dawn and dusk to hear the chatter of hundreds in Caroline's wood where they circle in an untidy imitation of a



Two male pintails seen from the East hide at Minsmere.



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FEATURES & NEWS

starling murmuration. Some rise quickly in the pre-dawn sky to chatter away and disappear whereas others drop back to perch again like teenagers wanting another five minutes in bed.

Other bird sounds are the woo-wooping of tawny owls and the bickering of house sparrows, the owl courting at a distance and the sparrow just being sociable. After dawn the bird feeders get their early customers, bluetits being the first to arrive, followed by robins and blackbirds. The house sparrows are inclined to be slow starters and don't get down to breakfast until much later.

Farmer Joe ... *My harvest was nothing special, how was yours?*

Farmer Bill ... *Not good at all, but I expect it was better than next year's.*

Trevor Edwards



*The robin puffs its feathers up for more insulation.
A Mallard exploring, and hopefully rejecting, a trellis for a nest site.*



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Very busy winter for Colnet

HELLO EVERYONE! WE'VE had an extremely busy winter, working on lots of conservation projects both at home and at school.

We cleaned out all of our nest boxes ready for the birds to start breeding again, but we also realised that a lot of our boxes needed a bit of mending. We got out the wheelbarrows and took them all down and brought them back to the workshop.

We helped to fix them all, making the roofs strong again and making sure the entrance holes hadn't been enlarged by woodpeckers or squirrels and mending and protecting them where they had. TIP: If you haven't any metal hole protectors, some small screws around the entrance hole can work just as well. Just make sure they don't stick through into the box. We then preserved all of the boxes (we had a great little production line going!) and numbered them all.

Henry drew a great map of the garden and meadow and we noted down all of the box locations, along with their numbers, so that we can monitor them and report back to the BTO after the breeding season. It's very exciting and having them all numbered makes it feel like a proper conservation project!

We took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and displayed all of our sightings on our Conservation notice board, which some of you may have seen. Our kestrel made an appearance as did a treecreeper, which was lovely. The 29 wood pigeons took quite a lot of counting though!

About three weeks before the birdwatch, we asked our school (Earl Soham Community Primary) whether we could help them set up their bird feeding station as they also like to take part. We are now in charge of topping up the feeders every morning and sprinkling some ground food. It is a great success and it was really busy for the

birdwatch too. The birds particularly like the suet balls and suet pellets which are really high in energy and often come to them before we've even finished topping up!

We made some nest boxes over half term and put them up around the school field. We also installed a solar powered camera nest box which we really hope will be successful, as we would love to be able to watch them on the big screen in the school hall! We will be monitoring all of the nest boxes and reporting back to the BTO on behalf of the school too. The BTO may even be able to come and ring any



Conservation

young which would be lovely for everyone to see.

Also over half term we planted a lot more trees. We found that many of the trees we planted last year that we thought had not made it through the hot summer, are actually alive and in bud which is great news. We did lose a few, the less hardy trees such as the downy birch and crab apple didn't all make it, but the hornbeam and oak trees are looking healthy so we are really pleased. Hopefully this summer won't be quite such a hot one!

We had a lovely trip out to Lackford Lakes, which is a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve near Bury St. Edmunds. We got really close to a little grebe and watched a sparrowhawk swooping towards the flock of teal on the water! We plan to go there again soon and hope to find the friendly little robin that ate from our hands – it was amazing!

In our Christmas sacks, we were given some boxes of bee and butterfly wildflower seed mix. Last year our wildflowers were really successful and flowered up until Christmas, so this year we plan to sew lots more. We also hope to clear an area at school and sew some there too. They've got a great conservation area which we are hoping to help them maintain – we may even be doing some pond dipping in Forest Schools!

We hope you've enjoyed our news and we look forward to updating you on our projects in the next newsletter.

From Henry and Arthur



***Inset: birdwatch results.
Fron top: Arthur helping
mum Sarah plant trees, dad
Daniel and Henry fixing bird
boxes in the workshop and
Henry and Arthur at
Lackford Lakes with a
friendly Robin.***





Woodland management

WITH THE WINTER solstice behind us and the days starting to lengthen the prospect of outdoor work becomes more appealing. The management of the woods has been a topic for discussion for the group over the last year.

Objectives for a wood should reflect its ultimate use. These might be single, such as softwood timber production or complete non-intervention for research; they can be several, including sporting, public and private leisure, firewood and fruit production, landscape improvement, research and record-keeping, shade and shelter etc, etc. Some work well together, others may be mutually exclusive.

‘Thinning’ (removing a proportion of) new trees in a woodland is the most important operation for the woodland manager. It determines the character of the woodland for decades, until objectives are achieved. Thinning must be carefully considered, as mistakes are difficult to rectify!

With most woodland tasks, doing nothing is not necessarily the worst option ... at least in the short to medium term; trees develop slowly, so years of observing and considering options after planting will not be wasted. Wading in at the earliest opportunity risks undoing the hard work of creating it, limiting future possibilities and benefits.

At Pound Lane Wood (PLW) for example, natural ash tree regeneration was at first so prolific and widespread it was tempting to promote it as the predominant species there at the expense of others. However, Chalara ash-dieback following shortly afterwards decimated that sapling population and is an issue still. Thank goodness we waited!

Now, over 15 years since planting, trees are developing well; the mixture of transplants and natural regeneration presenting a vigorous and diverse tree community. Inside the woodland blocks, close spacing means competition for light is driving the



for Pound Lane Wood

most vigorous trees upwards, creating tall straight specimens. Greater access to sunshine on the ride edges allows others to develop more spreading canopies.

PLW has reached impenetrable ‘thicket’ or ‘pole’ stage in its development. It has grown a ‘character’ – semi-natural lowland, broadleaved and predominantly native species woodland, including some fruits and exotics. This is a period of significant biodiversity benefit ... and for selecting objectives and the thinning regimes to achieve them.

Multiple objectives can be hard to achieve on a small site like PLW. Sticking to two or three is most practicable. Limiting factors including public access, availability of labour and equipment, inform the process.

The New Reeding Woods Group is responsible for the management of PLW and has been considering its objectives for some time. Encouraging public access and participation while improving and maintaining

biodiversity value are the prime ones. There are very obvious potential points of conflict with these, so the biodiversity objective will be the ‘senior partner’ when questions of priority arise – temporary public exclusion from the pond and surroundings during Great Crested Newt breeding season, for example.

PLW also includes areas of short grass and meadow which, with the pond, create the widest range of habitat the group could establish on such a modest area (1ha).

So to the thinning process; this is really a way of managing light and space for the growing trees by removing others. One option is the formal approach, removing all competing vegetation from the better specimens so they can grow on and leaving trees in straight lines for easy mechanical/pedestrian access. This creates a rather ‘orchard-like’, appearance, requiring significant time and effort to maintain – at the expense of biodiversity. *Continued on page 10.*

Continued from page 9.

The management group is allowing a more naturalistic woodland to develop – following nature as the trees develop and grow.

Access within the woodland blocks is not essential for PLW users, as there are adequate paths and spaces to negotiate the space. Leaving the trees mostly inaccessible is beneficial to wildlife, especially nesting birds. Disturbance will be further minimised by maintaining the thorny, dense, woodland block perimeters. These offer valuable ‘edge’ habitat and, since most species are flowering/berrying shrubs, of greatest value for foraging and commuting wildlife.

Thinning will be targetted at individual trees, particularly where larger growing species such as oak are

competing with others and shading out surrounding vegetation. PLW will ultimately hold few forest-sized trees, perhaps a dozen or so. This will allow the more environmentally valuable ‘scrub’ tree species to continue offering shelter and habitat.

So the woods will remain largely untouched with our work focused on removing the fence by the pond that needs repair. We hope future visitors will understand our strategy for managing the woods and continue to enjoy the wildlife there. We also have a Facebook site where we share photos and information about the woods.

If you are interested in joining us and helping improve our environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary *Peny Conway* on 07495 875299.

Peny Conway

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■ **REDLINGFIELD EVENTS:** Dates for 2023 **Pubs on the Green** (from May till October, 6pm-11pm unless otherwise stated with BBQ) are: **Saturday 6th May - King Charles Coronation Pub on the Green** 4pm onwards, BBQ & more Kings & Queens theme; **Saturday 3rd June - Pub**; **Saturday 1st July - Summer Fayre & Dog Show** (joint event with PCC); **Saturday 5th August - Pub**; **Saturday 2nd September - Pub**; **Saturday 7th October - Pub**. *Other events:* **Village Cheese & Wine Saturday 15th April** at Horham Community Centre. Village Committee to organise and volunteer help welcomed with contributions of food etc and for a raffle; **Churchyard Tidy** - PCC to decide; **Village Litter Pick - Weekend of 1st/2nd April** (We have gloves, hi-vis waistcoats and litter picker tools, plus rubbish bags); **Doorstep Green Tidy** - Wednesday **April 26th** 4pm onwards & **Saturday & Sunday April 29th & 30th** 10am onwards. Fence to be repaired with new posts, general trimming tidy, empty, clean & stocktake both container & shed. **Redlingfield Village AGM** (Annual Parish Meeting) **Wednesday 17th May**. Next **Village Committee Meeting** Wednesday **7th February 2024**. The **Coffee Caravan** restarts on 5th April - first Wednesday of the month from 10am till 12 noon on the village triangle till 4th October inclusive. *Church events:* The annual Redlingfield Produce Show will be on Sunday 10th or 17th September and a Christmas Windows event in December. Church events dates are being set at PCC meeting on 3rd March.

Redlingfield Parish Clerk, Janet Norman-Philips,
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Some enjoyable tastes of

THE NOSTALGIC PUDDING night went well thanks to Maryann and her team.

There was due to be more nostalgia with Station 366 1940s American Swing Singing Group, on Wednesday 22nd. February. Open Mic nights will resume on Saturday March 11th.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep Horham and Athelington Community Centre running and members who have renewed, we look forward to seeing you all.

Application forms for new

membership can be picked up at the centre's bar.

We had a spell of maintenance work – starting with a leaking oil tank, now replaced. That was quite expensive even though it was installed by volunteers – thanks to Neil, Tim and David.

A Smart Meter has been installed at no charge.

The main hall lights fused and were repaired by electrician David Varela; who noticed that the exit lights were showing a fault light.

“Those who we love and see no more”, Michael Whatling died on 22nd January. His service was at St. Mary’s on Thursday, February 23rd, at 2.30pm. Donations in lieu of flowers for St. Mary’s and St.Elizabeth’s Hospice.



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nostalgia

Work is needed on the tiling in the kitchen and bar along with structural brickwork and an internal door that needs re-aligning.

There's nothing further to report on "Petanque". The permissions are all in place.

We look forward to King Charles' Coronation weekend; ideas please and suggestions and help for the Monday afternoon and evening of 8th. May, for the "The Big Help Out".

*Margaret Streeter, on behalf of
Horham Village Hall Trust &
Horham and Athelington
Community Council*



2 Lambseth Street, Eye,
Suffolk, IP23 7AG

**We hope to see
you soon!**

OPENING TIMES 2022

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Saturday	8am-3pm

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Old School carries on as a

WRITING THIS ON a warm day in glorious sunshine, Christmas seems a long time ago! For the first time we opened the bar at The Old School on Christmas Day; it proved so successful we are planning to do it again! We also enjoyed a pre Christmas evening of traditional music and a bring and share supper with The Old School musicians, a lovely start to festive season.



The Old School continues to be a warm hub on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 3pm, thanks to funding from Babergh/Mid Suffolk Winter Warmth fund. We have a microwave to

heat up a lunch, use of a kettle, tea, coffee, free broadband, use of a printer (small charge for printing), books and games during these sessions. Thank you to Kathy McGregor who delivered a donation to our Warm Hub project from the NSA MU.



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warm hub

Our usual coffee mornings are from 10.30am to noon.

On Sunday May 7th, to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty Charles III, The Old School will host a Big, Bring & Share, Celebration Neighbourhood lunch. The bar will be open and we hope lots of you will come to make it a memorable day. Please keep an eye on Facebook and posters for more details.

The Old School wants to help Tracey Davey with her work for the TEECH charity www.teechorg.weebly.com and The Moldova Project www.themoldovaproject.org.

We understand that the need at the moment is for warm clothes, baby clothes, blankets, food with a long use by date and toys that can fill shoe boxes. There is a lorry going out in the summer. Tracey can also use anything that can be sold and turned into cash.

She says: "I have volunteered in Moldova with both of these charities several times and can guarantee any donations will be put to very good use. Both charities have also been helping support Ukranian refugees that have escaped to Moldova, so the need is even greater than before."

If you have anything to donate please bring it to The Old School on any Wednesday morning.

- Coffee Mornings Wednesday 10.30am-noon.
- Sunday Bar open noon-5pm.
- Warm Hub Wednesday 9.30 am-3pm.

Horham and Athelington Village Hall Management Committee



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FEATURES & NEWS

■ **ALTERNATIVE FUEL PAYMENT:** Households that do not use mains gas will be getting a £200 Alternative Fuel Payment. This is intended to help those off the gas grid with their heating costs during the winter 2022/23. It is a government discount which you don't pay back. You don't need to apply for the scheme and for many this payment will be seen as a Bill Adjustment on your account. If you are on a pre-payment meter you should receive £200 of vouchers. These should be added onto your pre-payment key at a Post Office as soon as possible as they are only valid for a limited period.

■ PLANNING:

AWAITING DECISION: Application for approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Planning Permission DC/18/04801 and appeal APP/W3520/W/19/3230783 dated 05/12/2019. Submission of Details for Appearance, Layout, Landscaping and Scale for Erection of up to two detached dwellings with garages. **Land opposite Wheatcrofts, The Street, Horham, IP21 5DX** (No:DC/22/05501).

GRANTED: Application for erection of single storey rear extension. **Honeysuckle Cottage Athelington Road, Horham, IP21 5EH** (No: DC/22/06225). Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/01457 - Biodiversity Enhancement Layout, Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Design Scheme. **The Old Rectory, Stradbroke Road, Horham, IP21 5DY** (No: DC/22/05664); Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/01460 - Sample Panel, Render, Windows and Doors and Eaves to Barn. **The Old Rectory, Stradbroke Road, Horham, IP21 5DY** (No: DC/22/05639).

Planning information from Midsuffolk District Council <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>



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Spring 2023 **17**

You will need a photo ID to

THE GOVERNMENT has brought in major changes to the way elections are run. One of these changes is that, from May 2023, you must show photographic identification (photo ID) when you visit a polling station to cast your vote.

Voters can, however, still apply for a proxy vote, where someone goes to the polling station and votes on your behalf or for a postal vote, which you can send off, or even drop it off at the polling station by hand, without having to show any ID.

So to vote in person in the local elections on the 4th of May you will need to bring photo ID with you to the polling station.

If you don't, you will not be allowed to vote.



If you don't have any acceptable photo ID documents you can apply for a "Voter Authority Certificate", which is issued free of charge by Mid Suffolk. You must apply by 5pm on Tuesday 25 April.

Acceptable photo ID documents include: passports; photographic driver's licences

(including provisional); identity cards that bear the Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS Scheme) hologram; Blue Badges; and government or council concessionary travel passes

Only original documents are accepted. Scanned images or copies will not be accepted – although expired documents are accepted if the photo is still a good likeness.

You can apply for your free Voter Authority Certificate direct from Mid Suffolk District Council by applying online at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/elections/voter-id. For paper application forms email elections@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk or phone 0300 1234000 (option 7).

For the Voter Authority Certificate, you will need a digital passport-quality photo, your application may be rejected if you submit an unacceptable picture. Things such as a shadow behind your head, glasses or objects in the background can all result in photos being rejected.



vote on May 4

To vote in the local elections on the 4th May you need to make sure you are on the electoral register by Monday 17 April.

If you wish to vote by post you need to apply by 5pm on Tuesday 18th April. Existing postal voters now need to make a new application every three years. If you want someone to vote on your behalf at the polling station you need to apply for a proxy vote by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April. The person voting on your behalf must bring their own photo ID to the polling station to be issued a ballot paper and they can only vote on behalf of up-to two other people.

Links to application forms for postal and proxy voting can be found here: www.babergh.gov.uk/elections/how-to-vote. To obtain paper application forms email elections@babermidsuffolk.gov.uk or phone them 0300 1234000 (option 7). Please also contact them if you have any questions or concerns.

Paper forms should be returned to: Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Electoral Services, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX.

Remember to use your vote!

Mike Ager

Registered to
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■ **THE GOOD LIFE:** An Evening With Ade Sellars Living 'The Good Life' Is it as good as it's cracked up to be? is being held in aid of Denham Church. It charts Ade's journey from the City to professional gardener followed after the interval by a gardeners' question and answer time. The event on Saturday 15th April is at Hoxne Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 to include nibbles. Refreshments on sale in the interval. Bar will be open. Contact Barbara Irwin 01379 669077.

■ **CHURCH EVENTS:** Redlingfield Church Produce Show will be held on Sunday 10th or 17th September and a Christmas Windows in December. Church events dates are being set at PCC meeting on 3rd March. This year there will be a Joint Dog show with village Summer Fayre 1st July.

■ **COFFEE CARAVAN:** The Coffee Caravan restarts its visits on 5th April – visiting on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am till 12 noon on the village triangle until Wednesday 4th October inclusive.

■ **CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** Father Christmas was very pleased to visit Horham and Athelington on Christmas day. A total of £515 was raised and has been sent to East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Thank you to Steven for driving Father Christmas around. Very many thanks to all who donated.

Mother Christmas

■ **THANK YOU:** A big thank you to all those who donated on the 20th November at Horham St Mary's Gift Day. A magnificent £835 was raised.

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WHAT'S ON

Saturday 11 March

Craft Fair: 10am-3pm, Eye Town Hall, free admission.

Art Fair: 11am-4pm, The Bank Centre, Eye.

Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle: 7.30pm, Eye Town Hall, Eye Bach Choir, £18.

Sunday 12 March

Puzzle House Pantomimes presents Robin Hood: 3pm, Wingfield Barns, tickets £7 from 01379 384656.

Thursday 16 March

Stradbroke Cinema - See How they Run (12A): 7.30pm, Community Centre.

Saturday 18 March

John Ward Trio: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £12 in advance, £14 on door.

Friday 24 March

Eye Cinema - The Railway Children Return (PG): 7.30pm, Eye Community Centre.

Saturday 25 March

RoughCast Theatre Co. presents Lovesong: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £12.

Thursday 30 March

Chris Wood: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £16.

Saturday 1 April

Film Show: Magpie film screening & evening entertainment. Red Feather Club.

Saturday & Sunday 1 & 2 April

Redlingfield Litter Pick: Get out & give the village a clean up. Co-ordinate efforts with Janet Norman-Philips or Midge Gibbons.

Sunday 2 April

Traditional Entertainment: 2-4pm, Yaxley Village Hall. Entry free.

Wednesday 5 April

Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon, Redlingfield.

Redlingfield & Occold WI: 7.30pm, Occold Village Hall. Speaker Michelle Attrill on British Sign Language.

Sunday & Monday 9 & 10 April

Easter Steam Up: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Saturday 15 April

Mark Harrison Band: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns. Tickets £14.

Redlingfield Cheese & Wine: Horham Community Centre. Details to be finalised. Check website or notice board..

Thursday 20 April

Stradbroke Cinema - Living (12A): 7.30pm, Stradbroke Community Centre.

Friday 21 April

One For The Road: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £12.

Saturday 22 April

Dance: The Ding Dong Daddios - Red Feather Club.

Wednesday 26 April

Redlingfield Doorstep Green Tidy: 6-8pm.

Saturday & Sunday 29 & 30 April

Redlingfield Doorstep Green Tidy: 10am-6pm.

Sunday 30 April

Red Feather Club Open Day: 10am-4pm.
Bank Holiday Steam Up: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Wednesday 3 May

Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon, Redlingfield.
Redlingfield & Occold WI: 7.30pm, Occold Village Hall. Resolutions meeting.

Thursday 4 May

District Council Elections.

Friday 5 May

The Shackleton Trio: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £13.

Saturday 6 May

Redlingfield Coronation Pub on the Green: 4pm -11pm, BBQ and more, Kings & Queens theme. Doorstep Green.

Sunday 7 May

Big, Bring & Share, Coronation Celebration Neighbourhood lunch: Horham Old School.

Sunday & Monday 7 & 8 May

Bank Holiday Steam Up - Coronation Gala: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Sunday 7-Sunday 14 May

Crowns fit for the Coronation: Athelington Church.

Saturday 13-Sunday 28 May

Suffolk Walking Festival.

Wednesday 17 May

Redlingfield Parish AGM: 8-10pm, Horham Community Centre.

Thursday 18 May

Dan Whitehouse with Eliza Marshall: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns. Tickets £15.

Wednesday 24 May

Jim Causley: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £15.

Thursday 25 May

Open Space Theatre Co. presents The Suffolk Miracle: 7.30pm, Wingfield Barns, £12.50.

Thursday 25-Wednesday 31 May-95th BG reunion tour

Sunday & Monday 28 & 29 May

Middy in the 40s: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market:

11am-7pm, Helmingham Hall, £8 advance £10 on day, children 15 and under free.

Wednesday & Thursday 31 May & 1 June

Suffolk Show

Saturday 3 June

Redlingfield Pub on the Green: 6-11pm.

Sunday 4 June

Steam Railway Day: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.

Wednesday 7 June

Coffee Caravan: 10am-noon, Redlingfield.
Redlingfield & Occold WI: Outing.

-
- **The Arts Bank Eye** www.thebankeye.org
 - **Helmingham Hall Gardens** www.helmingham.com
 - **Mid-Suffolk Light Railway** www.msrl.org.uk
 - **Redlingfield** www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk
 - **Stonham Barns** www.stonhambarns.co.uk
 - **Suffolk Owl Sanctuary** www.owl-help.org.uk
 - **Stradbroke Cinema** Stradbroke Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30 pm.
 - **Wingfield Barns** www.wingfieldbarns.com tickets via www.wegotickets.com

FEATURES & NEWS

■ REDLINGFIELD VILLAGE COMMITTEE:

From the meeting on 8th February...

Doorstep Green: At our Jubilee Summer Fayre youngsters got a chance to vote for the play equipment they most wanted to be installed on the Doorstep Green. They enthusiastically chose from a large selection with the favourite being a zipwire, closely followed by a giant basket swing, climbing frame/obstacle course and seesaw and roundabout, with mothers of very small people requesting play items for toddlers. The value of items chosen amounted to around £50,000 plus VAT. Taken alongside the repairs needed to the paths and gates as well as the need to provide toilet facilities, the amount of funding needed is around £80,000-£90,000. It was going to take a lot of work to move the project forward. The next stage will involve

questionnaires for villagers including youngsters – to find out what they want from the Doorstep Green and what facilities are needed in the village. It has been suggested to the PCC that we could work together on this to include the facilities needed at the church and how people might use an updated building. A composting loo, like those at Thornham Walks, was agreed to be a long-term solution as part of any Doorstep Green upgrade. A new earmarked fund will be created for future updates of the Doorstep Green and to contribute match funding for external grants. The yearly amounts to be decided by the Village Committee and Parish AGM.

Household Support Grants: In January-March Suffolk Community Foundation awarded Redlingfield a grant of £3,000 to assist households in need (assistance

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was provided to six households - 13 individuals). In September–October Suffolk Community Foundation awarded Redlingfield a grant of £7,000 to assist households in need (assistance was provided to 14 households - 34 individuals). Both grants were distributed by Janet Norman-Philips and Alison Smith with oversight by Midge Gibbons.

Jubilee Fund: Fundraising for the Jubilee Fund to help Redlingfield village youngsters with the expenses involved with starting college or their first job, has been put on hold due to the cost-of-living crisis. The AGM will decide on how to proceed with the Auction of Promises to raise funds for both the Jubilee Fund and Doorstep Green.

Jubilee Jump & Jive: The dance at the Red Feather Club raised around £900 for the Doorstep Green. The committee thanked

the Red Feather Club for hosting the dance and its volunteers for making the event such a wonderful success.

Queens Jubilee Pedal to the Palace: The event was a great success raising more than £5,000 for the PCC which will go towards updating St Andrews Church and the Doorstep Green. Midge Gibbons congratulated the team on the wonderful success.

Queen's Canopy Trees: Redlingfield's project to plant 10 trees for every household has been achieved – some 600 trees have been planted.

Queen's Jubilee mugs: If any youngsters haven't had a mug please contact the Parish Clerk.

Full minutes on noticeboard & at www.redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk.

**Janet Norman-Philips, 01379 678835,
pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk**





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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.

Contact editor Mike Ager on
mike@gn.apc.org or 01379 678835 at Hidcote
Lodge, Mill Road, Redlingfield, IP23 7QU.

■ **STEP BACK IN TIME:** Have you ever wondered about what went on in East Anglia before the delights of TV captured us? East Anglian Traditional Music Trust (a charity) hold some keys to the past in our area. On Sunday 2nd of April between 2 and 4pm in Yaxley Village Hall, Old Ipswich Road, Yaxley IP23 8BX, we invite you to join us for two hours of entertainment. Entry is free. We will show you how to work jig dolls, you can watch Suffolk/Norfolk step dancers, and an energetic broom dance, hear tales told in dialect, listen to or join in with our talented musicians and singers. We look forward to seeing you at our event and hope that it wets your appetites to learn more about East Anglian Traditions and Music.

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■ REDLINGFIELD &

OCCOLD WI: We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Occold Village Hall at 7.30pm. In January we learned about The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and in February some of our own members shared their experiences of Walking Suffolk's Medieval Churches. They began these walks during lockdown, wanting a purpose to their walks rather than just trudging round muddy fields. We were treated to a very interesting talk that described some of the historical, architectural and artistic features of some of the 123 churches in Mid Suffolk. We usually organise a group outing in June and other speakers booked for

the year include:

- Sing-a-long with Stephen Amer (1 March);
 - Michelle Attrill: British Sign Language (5 April);
 - Resolutions meeting (3 May);
 - Outing (7 June, tbc);
 - Suffolk Lacemakers: Nicky Hoewener (5 July).
- On Saturday 10th June the Suffolk East Federation are holding a "Dabble Day", hosted by our group at the Village Hall 10am-3pm. Soup & roll lunch will be available, cost for the day £5. WI members and groups from the surrounding locality are invited to attend to take part in and have a go at a variety of craft activities. These will include experiencing whittling, sugar craft, hand-formed pottery to name a few.



In September we will also be celebrating the National WI Day by hosting an afternoon tea in the hall for our members and other local groups. If you or anyone you know lives in Redlingfield and would like to come along please contact Carol. If you would like more information about our activities please contact our President, Carol Peters on 01379678597, or just come along to a meeting. We look forward to welcoming you.

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Shows at schoolroom to

**Entertainment at
Horham Schoolroom
IPSWICH JOURNAL,
April 1885:**

“A dramatic and musical entertainment was given in the parish schoolroom on Tuesday evening before an appreciative audience amongst whom were the esteemed rector of the parish the Rev. E. H. Frere and his family. In front of the stage was suspended a beautiful wreath of primroses, and a conspicuous object in the background was the Union Jack. The entertainment opened with the “Cornelius March,” which was well rendered by Miss Frere (Horham) and Miss Frere (Yarmouth) piano, and

the Rector, violincello; being followed by “O Swallow, Swallow,” sung by Miss Agnes Gray. Miss Dora French having delighted the audience with a concertina performance, the Rector followed with one of his masterly solos upon his favourite instrument, the ’cello. This was succeeded by a song in character, “Old Susanah White,” by Mr. A. H. Frere. The song was vociferously encored. Part II was a farce entitled “Old Gooseberry” in which the cast was as follows:- Mr. Fizzington Corker, a retired wine merchant, aged 63, who is very deaf, Mr. A. H. Frere;

Simon Snapshot, a “sportsman” from the town, Mr. Hetherington; Laura, Corker’s lovely and accomplished daughter, Miss Gray; Matty, a lively and discontented housemaid, Miss Hobson. The piece was extremely amusing. The National Anthem was sung at the close.” **EADT, September 1887:** “An entertainment was given in the Horham Schoolroom on Thursday evening. The Rev. E. H. Frere and family, who are always endeavouring to do something for the amusement as well as the good of their parishioners, got up this affair in order to raise

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raise funds for school

money for the purpose of buying new books for the lending library. The schoolroom was well filled, and a capital programme was gone through. One and all of the performers proved themselves thoroughly capable, the instrumental portion of the programme being especially good, particularly the full band of toy instruments. The conjuring tricks of Mr. E. A. Holmes gave unbounded delight, and caused frequent outbursts of laughter. Miss Dora French, so well known at the Horham entertainments, was vociferously encored for her second

song, "Turn again Whittington." The Rev. F. W. Cogswell, for his excellent reading of extracts from "Handy Andy," also received well-merited applause, but the comic features in the programme seemed to be most favoured by the majority of the audience. Mr. Peterkin and Mr. A. H. Frere, in their ludicrous rendering of "The Twins," elicited uproarious outbursts of gratification, and Mr. A. H. Frere completely brought down the house with "Never, never, never no more," and

"Cousin Sarah Sukey," both of which were vehemently encored. A violincello solo by the Rev. E. H. Frere was very tastefully rendered."

Other newspaper articles tell us that in 1853 the recently appointed Rev. Edward H. Frere was raising funds for the building of a school in Horham and that the school opened in 1858. He died in Horham in December 1899. His son Arthur H. Frere became a surgeon.

Linda Hudson



'Entertainments' raised funds to build what is now called the Old School.

Spring news from Wilby

WE HAVE HAD A BUSY start to the New Year at Wilby School. We began the year with a week looking at the importance of prayer, being grateful for what we have, and reflecting on the needs of others.

Particularly in these times when the war in Ukraine continues on through the winter months and the people of Turkey and Syria suffer from the devastation of the recent earthquake there, we believe it is so important for our children to ‘think outside themselves’.

They have created beautiful prayer trees and across the school we have

been learning to sign and sing the Lord’s prayer.

● **Mini-medics:** In January all year groups received mini medics training – the children loved learning about these life-saving techniques and we have no doubt that it will give them the confidence and knowledge to respond and support others if ever the need arises.

● **Young leaders:** Our Junior Road Safety team led a brilliant assembly on the importance of wearing cycling helmets and our Collective Worship Leads have been thinking about the theme of Peace in their assemblies.

● **Class trips:** Wren and Kingfisher

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School

classes enjoyed two wonderful trips to the SEA LIFE Great Yarmouth. Their focus on being under-the-sea explorers led to some fantastic writing back in school.

● **Looking ahead:** We are already excited about the second half of the term when, amongst other things, the world-famous author Julia Jarman will be visiting us for World Book day and Owl Class will be off to the Gressenhall Workhouse Museum for a Victorian adventure.

*Roisin Wiseman
(Headteacher)*

*Wilby youngsters at SEA
LIFE Great Yarmouth.*



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Twenty-two years of hurt

MOST TEAMS HAD A realistic chance of an appearance at Wembley in the last two decades of the twentieth century. The introduction of play-offs, cups for teams not in Europe, an Anglo-Italian futility, cups with a new sponsor each year for lower division sides and the insulting indifference that the glamour clubs treat the League Cup improve your chances.

Nevertheless, 1978-2000 proved a barren one for my hopes of seeing Ipswich Town visit the famous Twin Towers.

Economics and my naivety as a 13-year-old meant I didn't go to the 1978 FA Cup Final. I passed on my match vouchers to a person who ironically became a Norwich City fan on our relegation in 1986.

After winning against Arsenal I thought, with our team and management, we would be back soon and I would be there. (We were for an embarrassing five-nil defeat by Nottingham Forest in the Charity Shield three months later but the same

restrictions applied). The next season saw FA Cup hopes end at the quarter final against Liverpool and the die was cast, seemingly never to be broken.

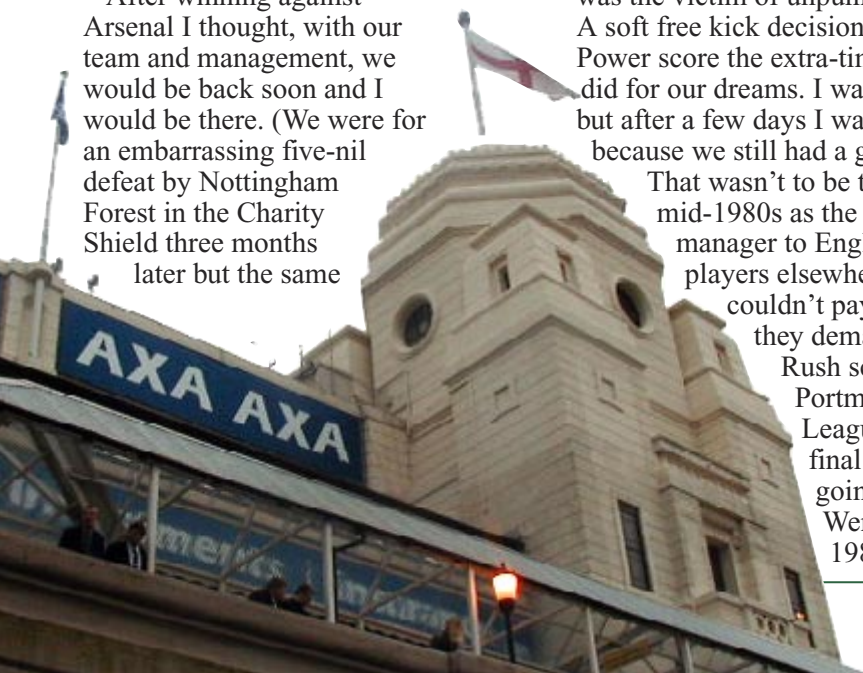
Our club had known the pain of missing out at Wembley when controversially beaten 2-1 by West Ham United in a 1975 FA Cup semi final replay. Roger Osbourne's winner in 1978 and that feeling of success meant it would happen again soon though wouldn't it?

1980/81 was possibly the greatest year in the club's history. We finished second in the league to Aston Villa, who we beat three times in the season, and won the UEFA Cup. Manchester City though beat us in the FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park.

I was there to watch as Arnold Muhren, on at least three occasions, was the victim of unpunished late hits. A soft free kick decision saw Paul Power score the extra-time goal that did for our dreams. I was disappointed but after a few days I was upbeat because we still had a good side.

That wasn't to be the case by the mid-1980s as the club lost their manager to England and better players elsewhere as they couldn't pay the money they demanded. Ian

Rush scored twice at Portman Road in a League Cup semi final to stop us going back to Wembley before 1984/85 provided





was finally pacified

a disappointment so gutting and abhorrent that it changed me as a person. A lot of frustrated words about that semi-final defeat have been said.

For the next ten years Ipswich seemed to accept the futility of wasting effort in Cup competitions. Getting through two rounds was an achievement. We lost worryingly close to Wembley to 'our friends' from Norfolk in a Full Members Cup last eight game, but they lost before Wembley themselves. In 1993, Arsenal won 4-2 in a FA Cup Quarter-Final. In 1996 Port Vale ended our Anglo-Italian run with thoughts of Wembley close by.

Still it was the play-offs that really built the disappointment to intolerable levels of pain. We blew our chances in 1996 on the last day by failing to beat relegation candidates Millwall and dropped out of the play-off places. 1997 saw Sheffield United (dubbed the Northern Budgies by some fans because of their manager's criticisms of us and their general attitude), beat us on away goals.

1998 saw Charlton Athletic muscle us all over Portman Road for most of the first leg. By the time the referee acted the tie was well on the way to being lost. I had no gripes at Bolton Wanderers beating us on away goals the next year but wondered what would have happened if we had the ascendancy, which we could have had if we had scored one of the two good penalty shouts we weren't awarded. Given that when we eventually got

there in 2000 at Boltons' expense.

That second leg at home to Bolton had the worst atmosphere I can remember at Portman Road. Ipswich fans are passive but that night they were fuming at Barry Knight letting Bolton foul and intimidate us out of the Play-offs.

I genuinely feared crowd trouble if Mr Knight had not come out for the second half with a change of mindset to punish foul play with cards. Bolton players kept fouling and infringing, the referee kept showing cards. Neither changed their approach, Bolton went down to ten men, then nine, got beaten after extra time and went home fuming. We looked forward to a day of destiny.

We were at Wembley, the promised land. After the frustration and near misses of the previous 22 years, Ipswich Town Football Club was going there.

I was going there. Win, lose or draw would only matter on the day but until then it was dream came true.

On the day the dream came true. Barnsley were beaten 4-2 and we had a second chance at the Premier League (we were founder members on winning Division Two in 1992 and lasted there until 1995). When Martijn Reuser scored the fourth goal late on it was why being a fan is just occasionally worthwhile. The ending of that 22-year wait for a Wembley day out was just so rewarding. *Ian Crane*



**Simon Green PC 187,
Community Engagement
Officer, Halesworth Locality**

CARS STOLEN: In the past month in our area, four high-end 4x4 vehicles have been stolen using 'keyless entry' (KE) techniques.

Most vehicles have been taken from the driveway of the home address of the owner and all are relatively new, the oldest being a 2016 registration.

KE offers convenience for the driver because no key is needed to unlock the car doors or start the vehicle. In fact, many KE vehicles have no key or traditional fob and merely use a buttonless fob which communicates constantly with the vehicle and activates unlocking of the doors and ignition once within range, usually about three to five metres.

The weakness of this system is that the constant signal generated by the fob can be intercepted by criminals with inexpensive and easily acquired equipment which then transmits the signal towards the car, fooling the car's electronic control unit (ECU) into thinking

the owner is present with the genuine 'fob' and so the doors are unlocked and the start button on the dash can be used to start the car, all with no damage or noise being caused. This of course means less remedial work for the thief before selling the car to a buyer.

The best way to protect this type of vehicle is to use a 'Faraday' bag. Storing your 'fob' in a Faraday bag, lined with layers of metallic material, is the way to foil car crime and keep your car safe.

The fob needs to be placed inside the bag from the moment you open or lock the car. If large enough, it can also be used for a mobile phone and credit cards to prevent hacking and fraud.

Faraday bags are inexpensive and may just prevent the theft of your car or its contents. Watch out for our Four Towns Crime Prevention Team at events throughout the year who will be selling Faraday bags.

Storing your KE fob in a microwave oven will also prevent the signal being intercepted, just remember they're in there before re-heating your Bolognese!

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A TIME TO SOW

Spring is a time to sow seeds, in the hope and confidence that they will grow and flourish over the summer months, nurtured by the warming earth and some gentle (we hope!) rain and sunshine.

For us spiritually, too, Spring is a time of growth. The season of Lent, which runs from 22nd February to Good Friday on 7th April and Easter Day on 9th April this year, is a time to examine ourselves and seek to cast out the bad things like selfishness and foster the good: love, generosity and kindness.

I am recommending the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book: *Failure* by Emma Ineson, which deals positively with "sin, mistakes and messing stuff up".

We'll be meeting at 6pm on Thursday 30th March in a book club format to discuss the book. Contact me for further details.

As churches we will also be doing some self-examination in preparation for and at our Annual Meetings which take place at

this time of year. Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meetings to hear about what we have been doing, the opportunities we see and the challenges we face. And everyone who lives in our villages can vote for Churchwardens for the coming year.

We will be aiming to identify our priorities for the future and hope you will contribute your ideas on what you see as important. Some examples are:

- we are returning to regular monthly services at Athelington, with a Holy Communion service at 9.30 am on the first Sunday of the month.
- we want to expand our work with children and young people with the help of a part-time Children's and Youth Worker (if there is anyone out there who has appropriate experience and would like to help with this, please get in touch).
- we also continue to develop plans to make Redlingfield church a space which the whole community can use and enjoy.

Let us know your thoughts, what's on your mind and where we should focus.

Eleanor

■ **ENQUIRIES:** Daphne Harvey, St Mary, Horham (384216) or David Spall (384239); Colin Palmer, St Peter, Athelington (01728 628747); Hazel Abbott, St Andrew, Redlingfield (678217).

■ **BIG WEEKEND:** Friday 14th April 2023, 6pm–Sunday 16th April, 4pm, Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16 4TX. Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend - a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the 21st century. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers from around Suffolk, it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. For school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus, you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! For further details, contact Revd Eleanor Goodison.

CHURCH SERVICES: Planned church services in March, April and May.

Online Services Every Saturday & Sunday: CW Morning Prayer at 8am on facebook.com/WingfieldChurch. **Every Friday:** Compline at 6pm on Zoom. For a Zoom invitation, e-mail eleanor.goodison@gmail.com.

Sunday 5th March -

Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am Holy Communion, Athelington;
11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church, Syleham Village Hall.

Sunday 12th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield;
9.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

Sunday 19th March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong on Zoom.

Sunday 26th March - 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Syleham;
11am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Athelington;
11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church, Syleham Village Hall.

Tuesday 4th April

6pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel, Hoxne.

Wednesday 5th April

6pm Compline, St Edmund Chapel, Hoxne.

Thursday 6th April - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Stripping of the Altar, Horham.

Friday 7th April - Good Friday

12 noon Good Friday service, Wingfield;
2.30 pm Good Friday service, Hoxne.

Saturday 8th April - Easter Eve

7.30pm Service of Light, Denham.

Sunday 9th April - Easter Day

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield;
10am Village Service, Syleham;

11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
4pm Messy Church Easter Egg Hunt, J's Meadow, Syleham; 6pm Easter Songs of Praise, Athelington.

Sunday 16th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong, Wingfield.

Sunday 23rd April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham;
11am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Sunday 30th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

11am Benefice Holy Service, Wingfield.

Sunday 7th May - 5th Sunday of Easter/Coronation weekend

9.30am Holy Communion, Athelington;
11am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield;
4pm Messy Church will be joining in Coronation celebrations.

Sunday 14th May - 6th Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Redlingfield;
9.30am Café Church, Hoxne.

Thursday 18th May - Ascension Day

7.30pm CW Holy Communion, Hoxne.

Sunday 21st May - 7th Sunday of Easter

9.30am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
11.15am BCP Holy Communion, Horham;
6pm Evensong, Wingfield.

Sunday 28th May - Pentecost

9.30am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham;
11am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne;
4pm All Age service, Hoxne.

Abbreviations: BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship.



As I write these words on a crisp January day, with the festivities seeming far behind, I'm aware the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine

approaches later this month. Like many of you I have been reflecting on the impact this has had across our country and particularly here in Suffolk.

The tragic loss of life in Ukraine is deeply saddening and many people have been forced to flee their homes. The UK response to the crisis has been commendable, not least of all here in Suffolk where, as ever, I've been heartened by the response of our local communities.

I've seen first-hand, the compassion for Ukrainian refugees from residents across Suffolk and it is humbling to witness the way the Ukrainian families have settled into life here, with children attending schools and parents finding work. How difficult attempting a normal life in a foreign country must be, whilst worrying about loved ones forced to stay behind.

As a regular visitor to our local schools, during a recent visit I was delighted to meet with a young Ukrainian student whom my parliamentary team and I assisted in settling here. The student is now thriving within the school, and I was impressed to learn how easily they had settled into school and Suffolk life, supported by staff and fellow pupils.

Perhaps the biggest impact the conflict

has had for many in the UK and around the world is on the cost of living. We still find ourselves in the midst of a challenging winter as we count the cost of Putin's energy war. However, despite this, we welcome the news that in recent weeks, gas prices have thankfully stabilised and started to fall. This will help in reducing the impact of the war on the UK's inflation and cost of living for everyone.

In addition to the impact on energy supplies and prices, Putin also appears to be weaponising food supplies. Both Russia and Ukraine are among the biggest exporters of fertiliser and a further consequence of the conflict has been a reduction in supplies of fertiliser to the UK. This has increased the cost of growing food and resulting in increased prices in the shops.

We all remain concerned about what the future holds for Ukraine and hope for a resolution soon, in the meantime our continued support for the UK Government's position in standing shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine is right. I shall do everything I can to ensure the needs of Suffolk's residents and businesses are heard in Westminster during these challenging times.

As always, if you have any issues which I can help with at one of my local advice bureaus, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office via www.drdanielpoulter.com

Dr Dan Poulter, MP, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
Tel: 020 7219 7038 Email: daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk

■ **VILLAGE DIRECTORY:** I have started work on a new village directory for Athelington, Horham & Redlingfield. I'm a bit behind with things as usual but I hope it will go out with the next magazine. If you have details about groups etc you think should be included please get in touch.

Mike Ager

Fleurs Artisan Florist & Greengrocer



Something to celebrate ... Mother's Day Sunday March 19

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