

Don't forget the Mobile Post Office : Every Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm and Friday 2:45-3:45pm at Parkview Chapel

And here's a reminder about the Mobile Library Service that :

- runs every 4 weeks (Wednesday 5th in February)
- stops as follows :

Rickingham

***Rectory Hill 10:40 - 10:55
Hinderclay Road 11:00 - 11:15
Village Hall 11:20 - 11:35***

Botesdale

***Farnish House 11:40 - 11:55
Village Hall 12:00 - 12:15
Back Hills 12:20 - 12:35***

Redgrave

The Cross Keys 12:45 - 1:05

| <i>Date, start and end time</i> | | | <i>>>> What's On in February 2020 <<<</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|--|---------|---------|--|------------------------------|
| Saturday 15 th | 10:00am | 4:00pm | Winter Tree ID | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| Sunday 16 th | 11:00am | 12:00pm | Coffee on a Sunday | Parkview Chapel |
| Monday 17 th | 9:15am | - | Rickingham Ramblers | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 2:00pm | - | Needlecraft | Redgrave Activities Centre |
| | 5:30pm | - | Slimming World | Rickingham Village Hall |
| Tuesday 18 th | 10:00am | 2:00pm | Winter Woodland Adventure | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 6:00pm | - | Fitsteps | Rickingham Village Hall |
| Wednesday 19 th | 9:30am | - | Redgrave Art Club | Redgrave Activities Centre |
| | 10:00am | 12:00pm | Signs, Tracks and Trails | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 10:00am | - | Day Centre | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 2:30pm | 4:30pm | Games & Social Afternoon | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| Thursday 20 th | 7:30pm | 10:30pm | Acoustic Night | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| | 9:00am | - | Headspace | All Saints Redgrave |
| | 1:30pm | 3:45pm | Wet felting family workshop | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 3:30pm | 4:30pm | IT Hub in the Pub | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| Friday 21 st | 7:00pm | - | Botesdale & Rickingham Runners | Rickingham Recreation Ground |
| | 10:00am | 11:00am | Positive Steps | Parkview Chapel |
| | 10:00am | 11:30am | Wild Tots | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 1:00pm | 2:00pm | Wild Babies | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| Saturday 22 nd | 8:00pm | - | Dance Classes | Botesdale Village Hall |
| | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Hedgelaying Course | Mayfield House, Thelnetham |
| Monday 24 th | 8:00pm | 11:30pm | Rickingham Country Music Club | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 2:00pm | - | Needlecraft | Redgrave Activities Centre |
| Tuesday 25 th | 5:30pm | - | Slimming World | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 9:45am | 10:45am | Pilates | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 10:00am | - | Coffee down the lane | Botesdale Methodist Church |
| | 10:30am | 12:00pm | Coffee and Cake Morning | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| | 12:00pm | - | Luncheon Club 898615/898619 | Redgrave Activities Centre |
| | 5:30pm | 7:00pm | Brownies | St Botolph's School |
| | 6:00pm | - | Fitsteps | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 7:15pm | - | Yoga and Relaxation | Botesdale Village Hall |
| Wednesday 26 th | 7:30pm | 9:30pm | "The River Waveney Trust" talk | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 9:30am | - | Redgrave Art Club | Redgrave Activities Centre |
| | 9:30am | - | Headspace | All Saints Redgrave |
| | 10:00am | - | Day Centre | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 7:30pm | - | Heritage Circle | Rickingham Village Hall |
| Thursday 27 th | 7:30pm | 10:00pm | Ian's Quiz Night - 7:00pm for 7:30pm | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| | 9:30am | - | RABBATS | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 6:30pm | - | Quiz night (for Rickingham Inferior Church fabric) | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 7:00pm | - | Botesdale & Rickingham Runners | Rickingham Recreation Ground |
| | 7:00pm | - | Redgrave Garden Club | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| | 8:00pm | - | Rum Smugglers folk session | Cross Keys Redgrave |
| Friday 28 th | 9:15am | - | Rickingham Ramblers | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 10:00am | 11:00am | Positive Steps | Parkview Chapel |
| | 10:00am | 2:00pm | Time to Paint | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 10:00am | 11:30am | Wild Tots | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 1:00pm | 2:00pm | Wild Babies | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 7:30pm | - | Downton Abbey | Cinema at Eye |
| | 8:00pm | - | Dance Classes | Botesdale Village Hall |
| Saturday 29 th | 10:00am | 12 noon | Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting | Rickingham Village Hall |
| | 10:00am | 5:00pm | Willow weaving course - Hanging Bird House | Redgrave & Lopham Fen |
| | 11:00am | 3:00pm | Village Hall Grand Re-opening | Thelnetham Village Hall |



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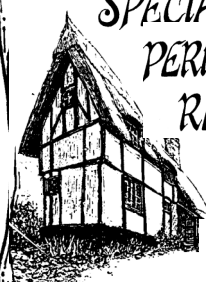
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Club News

Mill Lane Allotment Association MLAA

.We are all enjoying a mild, if wet and windy start to 2020, but it has seen a lot of us visiting the GP Clinic!

Fresh air to blow away the bugs and gentle exercise to whittle away those Christmas excesses, nothing is better than an allotment...

We have another testimonial for you this month, this time from our Treasurer.

PLOT 25

On moving to Redgrave, we brought a house with a fairly small garden.

This will suit us admirably in years to come, but for now we thought we'd ideally like a bit more land to grow some veg so an allotment was the perfect solution. There are no longer any allotments in Redgrave itself, so the Mill Lane ones in Rickinghall were the nearest.

Travelling from Redgrave to Rickinghall isn't a problem at all. It's a 5 minute drive when in a hurry, but good exercise on a bike when the weather is fine and there is a bit more time to spare. The other big advantage of living in one village and having an allotment in another is that we get to know a completely different crowd of people.

We keep on top of our allotment so it doesn't take much time to keep it in check. When we took it on it was a total wilderness and required a lot of taming, but now after 5 years it is relatively straight forward with only a couple of hours a week in the growing season.

I took on the role of Treasurer 4 years ago; it is hardly arduous as it is not exactly high finance! We all pay a small amount of rent for our plots each year, depending on the size of the plot. This income is then used to cover all our running costs- water, electric, mower fuel etc. We always aim to be self supporting where possible.

During the summer months in particular it is a great place to be, I love it. It is really quite therapeutic prodding around with a hoe or trowel in the sunshine, chatting with the other allotmenters, and having the satisfaction of harvesting the fruits of your labour. If you are interested in taking a plot or joining the waiting list please call Mark Wiseman, Club Secretary on 01379 898805 or email mark.wiseman@virgin.net



Botesdale and Rickinghall Community Woodland Group

Writing now, our woods have so far escaped the expected winter weather. Perhaps we will get it in February and

March as in the past two years.

The path in Miller's Orchard is clear now and Low Meadow is tidy. Northfield Wood is being brush cut and so the trees show up better! Those near the lane are a good size now, and the new path is being used.

Doggy Problem

Unfortunately, we are finding poo bags in unexpected places. It seems that some dog walkers pick up their dog's mess but can't be bothered to take it away, so they toss it into the undergrowth where we come across them.

Those plastic bags don't just disappear!

So, there is a pile of them by the path and we hope that it will prick the conscience of the perpetrators and persuade them to carry the bags the short walk to the bin in Mill Lane near Hinderclay Road. The wood isn't meant to be a public toilet for local dogs!

Please, please take responsibility for your animals!

On a happier note, the Tree Warden for Redgrave, John Preston, planned and had set a new wood on Fen Lane, planting whips that he obtained free from the Woodland Trust. The Trust has been in existence for a number of years and this year it is aiming to plant three million trees. These are grown from seeds gathered in native woodlands so there is no risk of them carrying imported diseases. It is such a wonderful initiative, in contrast to the recent and unnecessary destruction of street trees in Sheffield!

There are still some available, if anyone wants to plant a copse or fill in a hedge while they are dormant.

Rosemary Jones, 7th January 2020
01379 890238



We ended 2019 with a flourish, with an enjoyable, leisurely meal at West Suffolk College on

11th December attended by 19 members, followed by a successful Christmas Party the following evening. After a 'bring a plate' buffet we had a fun Christmas quiz and then played 'Call my Bluff'. This caused great hilarity trying to guess the correct meanings of words such as *Dasydrygal* (a hairy bottom!) and *Unnun* (simply a former nun!). Our panel, Jean Wright, Sara Schofield and Lesley Farrer, did an excellent job in reading out the true and false meanings, keeping straight faces all the time. The evening concluded with distribution of Secret Santa gifts to everyone.

Our first meeting of 2020 saw Lesley having to step in at the last minute and tell us about Suffolk Wildlife Trust and in particular Redgrave and Lopham Fen where she is a volunteer for educational activities. The fen is at the source of 2 rivers, the Waveney and the Little Ouse. It was used for many years by locals digging peat for fuel, reeds for thatching, and from 1959 for 40 years water was piped to local homes. Fortunately at that point the importance of the fen was recognised and European funding was granted to create the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in 1961, the first such trust to be formed. The fen is now home to cattle, Polish ponies (including 3 foals born in 2019) and Fen Raft Spiders. It is open to the public most weekends with guided tours.

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Exploring the Past

Jean Sheehan, 01379 890237

Bury St Edmunds Abbey Millennium

This year Bury St Edmunds is celebrating 1000 years since the Abbey was founded as a shrine to St Edmund who had been tied to a tree and shot with arrows by the Danes in 869 as he refused to give up his Christian beliefs. Edmund was born in 841 and was the Saxon king of the East Angles. (1) The body of Edmund had been buried in Bedricesworth, but due to the later Viking invasions his body was removed to St. Gregory's Church in St. Paul's churchyard in London from 1010 – 1013 for safe keeping. (2) The body was returned to its former resting place and Bedricesworth started to be known as Bury St Edmunds. Many legends abound about St Edmund: brides would not cross the Goldbrook bridge in Hoxne as it was believed to be unlucky as a bride had given away King Edmund's hiding place underneath a bridge. It was also believed that he was decapitated and a wolf was guarding his head when it was found. It was thought at one time that King Edmund died at Hoxne, but more recently it was believed he was killed at Bradfield St Clare. Other contenders for place of death are Maldon and Hellesdon.

The new Abbey is believed to have been founded by King Canute, who was King of England and Denmark, as a thank you for victory over the English at the battle of Assington (or Ashingdon) in Essex in 1016.

This Benedictine Abbey was one of the largest Abbeys in Europe and very wealthy. It owned a large part of Suffolk as many manors had been gifted to the shrine of St Edmund. Ulfketel, Earl of the East Angles had already given his manors of Redgrave and Rickingham to the Abbey c. 1005. He was later killed at the Battle of Assington. (3)

At this time the manors of Redgrave and Rickingham Inferior probably had their own churches as they were mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 saying they had a church at the time of the Norman conquest in 1066. These churches were not the same as the ones we have now but were probably on the same sites and may have been built of wood. Rickingham Church was built early in the Norman period and the lower part of the present tower and maybe the north wall of the nave date from this period. Redgrave Church is much grander and dates from the fourteenth century by which time the Abbey was very wealthy which is reflected in the size and architecture of St. Mary's.



Abbott Samson, who died in 1211, built a hunting lodge in Redgrave deer park. The Abbey kept good annual accounts of their expenses most of which are still in existence and were written in medieval Latin shorthand in compotus rolls. The account roll for 1344/5 mentions repairs made to the buildings and from this we can learn a great deal about the property. As well as the main hall and guesthouse, the farm buildings included a granary, barn, new poultry house, dove house, stable, cow shed, goose house, carthorse stable, palfrey stable and workshop. These accounts also show us the materials used in the repairs and their cost as well as the cost per day for the labour. (4)

The Abbey also kept extents with the names of all the tenants and the property they rented. In addition to the rent they also paid in labour services to the Lord of the Manor (the Abbot) until the black death in 1349 after which time labour was short due to the number of people who had died. Before this they also paid in kind, such as 6 eggs at Easter and a chicken at Christmas.

These extents give the location of each house and sometimes it is possible to know where the property is situated. The house known now as The Priory in Botesdale is a good example of this. An extent of 1433 mentions a house called Tirpols 'lying between the common way leading from the aforesaid place up to Micklewood Green on the east and the pigtle where the chapel of St Botolph is situated on the west'. This road is now known as Mill Road and Tirpols was on the site of the house now called The Priory. (5)

Other records kept by the Abbey were the Court Rolls. The first mention of the above property is mentioned in a court roll of 1338 stating that Tirpols is next to the chapel of St. Botolph, the first mention of the chapel, although the present chapel on the site was built nearer to 1500. (5)

The Abbey of Bury owned many of the manors in Suffolk which were very well run by the Benedictine order. At the dissolution of the monasteries the Abbey was closed in 1539 and the manor of Redgrave was bought eventually by Nicholas Bacon. The hunting lodge was in a ruinous condition so Nicholas demolished it and built Redgrave Hall in the parkland, completing it in 1554. He later became Queen Elizabeth's Lord Keeper and was knighted.

Nicholas Bacon also acquired all the records which the Abbey had kept and are a wonderful source of information about Redgrave and Rickingham in the medieval period. Lord Chief Justice Sir John Holt bought Redgrave Hall in 1701 including the documents but the contents of the muniment room were auctioned off in 1921 by George Holt Wilson and many of them were bought by the University of Chicago as they build a good picture of medieval life in a Suffolk Village. (6) However, there are still documents available for research in the British Library and Suffolk Record Offices in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

1. Saints A Visual Guide by Edward and Lorna Mornin published by Frances Lincoln limited.
2. The sacred and Profane History of Bury St Edmunds by Peter Bishop published by Unicorn Press,
3. Anglo Saxon Chronicles collected and translated by Anne Savage
4. Compotus roll – British Library Add roll 63574
5. A Walk Through Botesdale by Diana Maywhort published by Quatrefoil
6. Tim Holt Wilson's web site of Redgrave Park,



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Exploring the Past Again

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Memories Part 6

The memories below, from 'A Millennium Miscellany' were written by Harold Litchfield who was born in Botesdale in 1907. The family lived in Virginia Cottage on the corner opposite Park View Chapel. He emigrated to Australia when he was sixteen.

'My father, John Henry Litchfield settled in Botesdale at the turn of the century. He was a man of several activities, being the dispenser for the practice of Dr H Hanningan, which was the medical centre for the surrounding villages. He was the clerk of the Parish Councils of Botesdale, Rickinghall Superior and Inferior, Redgrave and Hinderclay. He managed the National Health Insurance for the villages. He was agent for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance.

We had a resident maid, Alice. A Mrs Prentice did the laundry work, a Mrs Bullock did all the sewing and repairs to clothes. A Mrs Humphries did the gardening and Bessie Flatman was my nursemaid, and to Bessie I went for everything.

My brother Frank and I were sent to Miss Scates' school in Mowbray House when we were little. I remember the first day we were there. I was given paints and a brush to amuse me. Towards lunch-time, I wanted to go to the WC. There was no Bessie to look after me and everything was strange, so I made a little puddle on the floor. There was an older girl there called Lissie Palmer, daughter of the Rickinghall school master. She had been watching me all the morning, and as soon as she saw the puddle she could not put her hand up quickly enough, waving it about, 'Please Miss, look, he's done it, look! The whole class looked, and Miss Scates told me I must ask to go to the WC when I wanted to. 'Yes Miss', tearfully. I was only four or five.

I think I was six years old when I started at Redgrave School, where I spent some of the happiest years of my life. A mile or so walk to and from school through lovely English and particularly Suffolk landscape, was a boy's paradise, and so much to see and do. Lovely oak trees, beech trees, hedgerows, blackberries, reed arches over a small river, catching the fish in the river, pike carp, tench, tantlittles, seeing old Mr Bob Spinks, who used to mend boots and shoes next to Mr Ray the saddler, near the Market Place, down in the Low Meadows, and going with him catching moles. Ice slides on the road in winter, wasp nests to upset during summer and many other bits of fun.

One day, coming home from school, three or four of us stirred up a wasps' nest in the bank about half way up a hill towards Redgrave, by belting it with stones and clods of earth. The wasps came out in hordes, very angry. Then along came old Sergeant Hoopes on his bike. The wasps' nest must have been reported a nuisance, as he had a can of paraffin ready to burn the nest out. We left the scene hurriedly and hid behind some blackberry bushes which separated the road from a raised lane running parallel with the road, which we called Red Lane. As he got off his bike the wasps swarmed around him and gave him a terrible time. 'Ya young devils,' he roared. 'Do I lay hold on you, I'll knock your bleedin' ears off', and made a threatening move towards us. With this menacing attitude and dire threat urging us on, we took to our heels and did not stop for breath until we got down to where Lizzie's Lane turns off. Looking back, the poor old Sergeant was still waving his arms and

hopping about. I suppose it is the pride and joy of every boy to be able to boast about a narrow escape from the wrath of the constabulary. It remains a nostalgic memory for life, and a good yarn to tell when old school friends meet and 'Do you remember?' events are joyfully talked about.

The chapel of ease: what a lovely little church it was. There was a Latin inscription over the porch door. Unfortunately, this inscription, which is in the arrangement of the stonework, has been partially destroyed by the insertion of a window. A little story about this window, which was nearly the cause of a bad accident. Mrs Prentice, a widow of the village, used to do the cleaning of the chapel, and her little granddaughter, Florrie, used to accompany her on occasions. Florrie was one of those restless, here-there-and-everywhere little girls, and got up into the gallery and played around, opened the window, leant out and lost her balance and, but for her loosely knitted dress, which caught on a projection of the window, would have fallen out to the ground. Her screams soon brought her grandmother to the scene, and she was hauled back to safety. Quite a stir in the village!



Botesdale Chapel of Ease showing the window from which Florrie nearly fell

Another little story about the chapel. There was a small choir of three girls and three boys. Who the girls were I have long since forgotten, but the boys were Fannie Salt, Jack Garnham, and I think the other was Ken Garrard. Why these three reprobates formed part of the choir I will never know, because their singing left much to be desired, and whenever or wherever they were together, mischief was always afoot. The service one morning was pursuing its normal course, and the rector was at the lectern reading one of the lessons. These young boys were fighting about and admittedly trying to suppress laughter at something they found to be very funny. The rector looked up, stopped reading, put the bible marker in where he had stopped, walked purposefully to where these boys were sitting, and boxed each one in turn over the ears. However this was not done with any venom, and with a huge grin on his face, he went back to his lectern and resumed the reading. The little choir girls viewed all this with smug we-wouldn't-behave-like-that looks on their faces, all prim and proper.'

Many thanks to the Committee of the Heritage Circle for permission to use this extract. And thanks to Mrs Kathleen Foulger who wrote with her memories of Miss Scates school.

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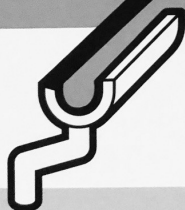
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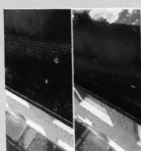
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Nyall's Notes

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Bill's Birds

Bill Cordeaux Tel: 898286

Jesus was crucified. That meant that he was nailed to a cross of wood with nails going through his wrists and ankles in such a way that, passing between the bones none were actually broken. The nails pressed hard against the nerves causing intense pain something aggravated by the fact that the victims weight was taken by the nails through his wrists and that, to breathe, he had to continuously raise himself putting the weight onto the nails through his ankles. It could take days to die and must still rank amongst the most painful of deaths ever devised by man. It was certainly intended to be that at the time. It is believed that the Romans eventually banned it because even they saw it as too cruel.

Two criminals suffered the same fate as they were crucified alongside Jesus. The account given by Luke tells us that one of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" It was a demand from an angry suffering man.

What happened then was that the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God?"

That second one was suffering the most intense pain in the same way. He too was being tortured to death. He was experiencing the worst that could happen to any man yet his words, "Do you not fear God," showed that he saw something that few people these days can see, that there could be something worse to come. He spoke to Jesus saying, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus replied, saying to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

One of the two criminals made a demand with curses, "Save yourself and us," the other simply said, "Jesus, remember me." The first received no reply, the second a promise of paradise.

Both the criminals were in the same position. They were both criminals and deserved their punishment. The second one actually said that. Neither of them could do anything to make amends for their crimes. They might have done some good during the course of their lives but it didn't count one iota when it came to their sentence. Not one of them could now do anything to save his life yet without being able to do anything one of them received the promise of paradise. He had simply realised that he couldn't do anything apart from put all his trust in Jesus.

Ultimately that is the message of Christianity: don't rely on what you have done, don't rely on doing anything but simply trust Jesus and say, "Remember me."

One criminal demanded, "Save us," the other rebuked him. Attitude matters. In the case of the two criminals it determined a future in paradise or something worse than that which they were already experiencing.

Jesus is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him.

Hebrews 7.25

It is at this time of the year that I usually look forward to a tramp along Dunwich beach or the beach at Titchwell Nature Reserve in North Norfolk, hoping for a sight of Snow Buntings. A friend has just had the experience of a flock of over 25 birds. They look like sparrows as they take off and land in front of you, but, they have flecks of white on their wings and bodies making them look like large dancing snowflakes. They are quite commonly seen all along our east coast in winter, migrating from Scandinavia and Iceland. They are not



'Dancing Snowflakes'

usually seen inland, but I did see a flock one winter many years ago on Stanton aerodrome!

Less commonly seen on the east coast are Shore Larks, winter visitors from Sweden and Finland. They have prominent yellow and black markings on their heads. Quite unmistakable, seen singly or in small groups.

Other inland migrants from the north are small thrush-like birds with red under their wings, aptly named Redwings, and large noisy birds also of the thrush family named Field Fares, chattering away in our orchards. Their markings are obvious in the low winter sunlight.

And now an unusual report from the Suffolk Bird Group quarterly magazine 'The Harrier'. On 31 October 2019 a reporter saw a group of very small black and white birds coming off the sea on the coast at Bawdsey. He considered they were Long Tailed Tits: tiny birds from the continent, not an uncommon sight at this time of the year. However on a closer look they were found to be Long Tailed Tits of the northern race with white heads. No Suffolk report since 2011. These birds must have come from Scandinavia—600 miles! Perhaps with a stop on the way in Holland.

Another interesting winter migrant bird seen was a Blackcap Warbler. These usually come to us in the spring and leave in the autumn from and to the Mediterranean. However, these autumn arrivals have been found to come from southern Germany, presumably finding our winter climate and garden feeders food supply enough for their winter months. This bird had a brown 'cap' - a female.

I hear that a murmuration of starlings was present on Redgrave Fen before Christmas and I have seen them there in the past. Originally they were present in their thousands but this has now been reduced to a few hundred birds.

No general information about Waxwings. I suppose they only come here in winter when their home food supply has been exhausted. Waxwings are also from Scandinavia. How do they know we have a good supply of food when their own has dried up? I imagine that they send some 'scouts' ahead and find a supply sufficient to make the trip worthwhile. To confirm my suspicions there were reports of single Waxwings in Lowestoft in early December, then a group of 30 on 21 December.

Many groups of wild geese and wild swans visit us in the winter.. Our own swans, Mutes, (pink beaks), stay here or only move locally in the winter, but Bewick and Whooper swans, both of which have yellow beaks, come from Iceland and north Europe but centre mostly on the Welney Marshes in Norfolk just south of Downham Market. Do go and visit them and you can watch them in their hundreds being fed while you sit in a comfortable heated hide. The centre includes a small restaurant. Happy 2020 bird watching.

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IN YOUR GARDEN

Lawrence Thompson 01379 890667

As my first snowdrops are starting to show, it is a reminder that spring is near and thoughts are turning to a new gardening year. Although the weather has been somewhat topsy turvy in recent weeks and there are fewer jobs to do at this time of the year, nevertheless it is a good idea to get outside whenever the weather is favourable as there is always tidying-up to do and get tasks finished you have been meaning to tackle since the autumn. The seed catalogues have started to arrive to provide inspiration for some fresh ideas for the garden.

Thank you to those who have contacted me with questions, comments and suggestions for topics to cover. There is certainly a very broad church of gardening experience reacting to this column but one theme seems to be paramount and this concerns what I would describe as basics even to creating a new garden. With this in mind, As from March, I will major on topical tasks for each month and whilst space does not permit me to be totally comprehensive, I will endeavour to highlight what needs to be done in that month. For experienced gardeners, the connection is instinctive as they know how to read the seasons but if you are new to gardening or come from a city or urban environment, the association may not be so obvious. However for February, I will focus on some tasks have been undertaking both in my garden and the greenhouse.

One job I have been wanting to tackle is cutting back of a large and overgrown hawthorn hedge and towards the end of the month or early March is an ideal time before the hedge starts to produce new growth in the spring. I was tempted to make a start just after Christmas as the weather was so mild but past experience stayed my hand as frost and cold winds killed the emerging new shoots. To keep the hedge really trim, it will need cutting nearly every six weeks between now and the autumn. Giving it a good crop this month will hopefully spare me too much repeated work. The clipping technique I use is to cut the hedge so the sides slope inwards towards the top. This stops the hedge being top heavy and less likely to splay apart and the base receives more light so less chance of it becoming a skeleton at the bottom.

I have also been busy checking on stored plants in the greenhouse especially my dahlias which I lifted in the autumn having been in the ground for at least eight years surviving the worst of the weather. However, I decided they needed moving and dividing. Having let them dry off and getting rid any adhering earth, I cut away the tubers showing signs of rotting. I then planted the tubers in deep boxes of compost and placed them in plenty of light. When the tubers start sprouting and have two or three pairs of leaves, I will take cuttings making sure to include a tiny piece of the parent tuber, dip the ends into rooting hormone powder and insert into containers of potting compost. They should root successfully in a matter of weeks and together with the original tubers, I will have a good number of plants to put out in May.

I am now off out into the garden to start preparing my raised vegetable beds – an innovation for my 2020 gardening year. Finally may I wish you a successful growing season in your garden.

IN THE KITCHEN



Porky pots

Ingredients per serving

Pork steak – diced (fat removed)
½ small apple - peeled
¼ small onion
Flour, butter, milk
Seasoning
Packet stuffing mix
Chopped sage and rosemary

Method

Fry the chopped onion and diced pork until browned
Make a white sauce
Stir pork and onion into the sauce with diced apple, herbs and seasoning
Put into individual ovenproof dish
Make stuffing according to packet instructions (make sufficient to cover pot)
Spread the stuffing on top of the meat mixture
Bake in oven at 180 for ½ hour

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Rickingham Parish Council contd.

This will form a solid base to work with the planning authority. It also means that we, as a Parish Council, will now get 25% of the CIL money received from housebuilders instead of 15%, as we have the Neighbourhood Plan in place. We will now look into a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan, working alongside our Botesdale colleagues, to best determine the use of the funds. (CIL is the Community Infrastructure Levy which planning authorities charge builders when developments are approved. It is to be used on improving local facilities.)

We also had quite a discussion on the Vehicle Activated Signs, as their presence does not seem to have reduced the speed of vehicles during the time they have been installed. Most people drive within the limit or slightly over, but some see it as a target. We have actually had 90 mph recorded! Despite the concrete evidence, we have had little comment or input from the police and wonder if the initial expense was worth it. However, we decided the on-going running costs were fairly minimal, and we would review it again in a year's time.

We will have our annual litter pick on Saturday 18 April, so if you would like to help, please put the date in the diary now. It will start from the Village Hall from 10 to 12, and black sacks and a litter picker are provided.

Tenders have gone out for a renewal of the Skate Park facilities at the Village Hall, and more news will be known later in the year as things progress.

Lastly, if you feel you could spare an evening a month for the benefit of the village, we have vacancies on the Council and we would love to hear from you. All ages are welcome, and you are encouraged to come to a couple of meetings before finally committing

Botesdale Parish Council contd.

Neighbourhood Plan: Although this has been agreed and just waits for formal adoption by Mid Suffolk District Council, there are Community Actions within it that need to be taken forward. These can be considered and prioritised under the umbrella of a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan, which will also consider the allocation of income from the Community Infrastructure Levy, funding paid by all developers. Botesdale and Rickingham will now get 25% of these funds due to having a Neighbourhood Plan. The rest goes into a common fund held by MSDC, which can be applied to for community projects. Botesdale and Rickingham will be considering how to best take this forward but it is likely that we will be looking for people to get involved in that process as part of an advisory group. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk at botesdale_pc@btopenworld.com.

Christmas 2019: The tree has been removed and a new year begins. The PC extends its warmest thanks to everyone who helped bring Christmas to Botesdale Market Place, with particular thanks to Chris Burnard and everyone who assisted with the visit from Father Christmas, organised by our Chairman, William Sargeant. The bucket collection in aid of the Friends of Botesdale Health Centre resulted in a fantastic £150 donation so a big thank you to Botesdale and Rickingham residents.

Annual Parish Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday, 6 April prior to the regular meeting of the Parish Council. If you would like to submit a report, please send it to the Clerk by 20 March (reminders will be sent as usual closer to the deadline).

Budget: The PC agreed to set a budget of £30,695 for the year 2020-21 and to retain earmarked funds of £44,351. This will require a precept of £30,700 from the District Council resulting in an overall 4% rise on the amount received in 2019-20, adding approximately £3.61 per annum (£0.30 per month) to the Council tax of a band D property. The Parish Council continues to build up a fund for the refurbishment of the play area.

Redgrave's Neighbourhood Plan



WORKING TOGETHER TO PLAN OUR FUTURE

Excellent Turnout at Policy Ideas Exhibitions

Many thanks to all those who attended the exhibition held on the 30th November and the 3rd December. The feedback has been really useful and will be extremely influential in the development and refinement of the policies to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

About 80 people turned out to the exhibitions which is an excellent level of engagement for these types of event.

Update on Call for Sites

The exhibitions included the details of the 5 Sites that were put forward as a response to a Call for Sites. This is a formal part of the plan development process.

Each of the five sites that have been proposed are now being independently technically assessed in terms of their viability, deliverability and impact upon highways, drainage, landscape, wildlife, historic environment etc - the results are expected around March 2020.

Each site will then be considered, taking into account the results of these independent assessments, the results of the exhibitions, as well as any other representations made by local residents.

If you want to submit any views on the proposals before the assessments are completed you can do so before Mid February 2020 and in writing using the Neighbourhood Plan email address. However, there will be an opportunity for local residents to comment upon the draft plan in the Spring once it is ready.

Public Meeting—28th January

A public meeting is planned to provide an update on the results of the exhibitions and to enable residents to find out more about the overall process. Please feel free to come along to the meeting in the pub.

Full details will also be available on the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan website:

<https://redgraveneighbourhoodplan.com/>

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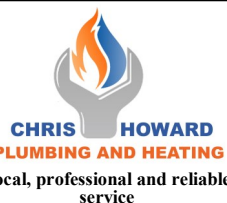
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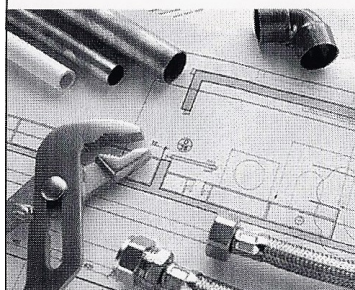
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BE SCAM SMART!

Trading Standards tell us the telephone tricksters did not give up over the festive season with a number of scam calls made to local residents. As well as previously reported contacts purportedly from OFCOM, HMRC and, BT, two new approaches, both offering tax refunds have been circulating.

Overpaid bank charges

Calls claiming to be from a 'Government Department' stated they had a cheque made out to the resident for £3,600 as payment for overpaid bank charges.

The caller confirmed the residents address and said a cheque could be delivered to their home in two hours but the resident would need to purchase a £300 Amazon gift voucher and provide the code on the voucher to cover 'solicitors fees' before the cheque could be delivered.

No genuine company or Government Agency will request payment in gift cards or vouchers.

Just because a cold caller can state some basic personal information about you doesn't mean the call is genuine as this information is available from several sources in the public domain.

Pending Council Tax Refund

Text messages have been received claiming a Council Tax refund is due and providing a link to proceed with your application for the refund via www.councilcitygov.com. If you receive this or similar texts, delete it immediately without clicking on the link.

Remember. Never open an attachment or a link embedded in an unsolicited email unless you are absolutely sure it comes from a reliable source. Never respond to emails asking for personal or financial details. Your email address can be spoofed, so even if the email appears to be from a person or organisation you know, but it is unexpected or unusual, then contact the sender directly via another method for confirmation they actually sent you the email.



Walk this way.....

Botesdale – Hinderclay – Redgrave walk



Start at Botesdale war memorial and keep left past the Old Cock House. Shortly keep left at Corner Cottage and follow Cherry Tree Lane.

Where the road bends sharp right keep on in the same direction on the field path, crossing the footbridge, then at a T junction turn left (Lizzie's Lane) and keep on with the hedge on your right. A slight bend takes you past the end of the hedge and now continue along a track with the river on your left until you come to a concrete bridge.

Turn left over the bridge and follow the track up hill to a farm and follow the waymarks through the farm buildings to the road. Turn right and walk past the church to the next road on the right (Bells Lane) and turn right into the lane.

When the road turns left carry on straight ahead on the bridleway (Cowfen Lane) and follow downhill between hedgerows.

At a T junction turn right and follow the field path back to the farm track where you will see the concrete bridge on the left. Cross the bridge and go straight ahead on the uphill track

Towards the top of the hill you will see a footpath on the left crossing the field to a hedge corner. Carry on with the hedge on your right until you turn right through a gap. Cross the meadow to a kissing gate and follow the path between gardens to the road.

At this point you can divert left along the road to the Cross Keys for some well-earned refreshment (not Mon, Tues)

Emerging from the Cross Keys cross the grassy Knoll and pass the village pond to retrace your steps along the road, passing the path you came out of, to a footpath sign pointing right to a driveway – The Pightle. Follow this drive through trees until it bends gently right and look for a gap on your left and a short path to an unmade road.

Follow this to the end and across a grassy area to a well-defined field path downhill. At the bottom turn right and quickly left to retrace your steps to Botesdale market place.

5.4 miles

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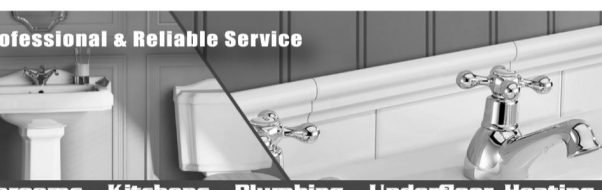
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> > > February & Beyond < < <



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11.00AM-12.00PM

COFFEE, TEA, CAKE AND FRIENDS

2020 DATES : February 16th, March 15th,
April 19th, May 17th, June 14th, July 19th,
August 16th, September 13th, October 18th,
November 15th, December 13th

For more info contact Kev at Parkview on
kevin@parkviewchapel.co.uk or 01379 898924



Basket making courses at Redgrave Activities Centre

Saturday Feb 29th : Hanging bird house

Saturday Mar 21st : Plant supports

Saturday Apr 18th : Round basket

Call Karen on 01379 890897

www.karenlawrencebasketry.com



@ Rickinghall Village Hall

Saturday 29 February

between 10 am and 12 noon



PC Stefan
Henriksen

Police Street Meet

Members of Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team and Rural Crime Team will be present to talk about and provide information on issues YOU want to talk about, such as...

- CRIME PREVENTION
- REPORTING CRIME
- RURAL CRIME
- COMMUNITY SAFETY
- LOCAL POLICING

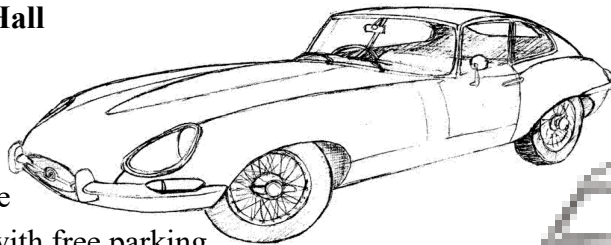
**Sunday
17th May
at**

Rickinghall Village Hall

The Classic Car Show is back!

**Organised by the
Jaguar Enthusiasts'
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- Wide variety of cars
- Craft Fair in the hall
- Entry : Exhibitors free
- £2.50 per person with free parking



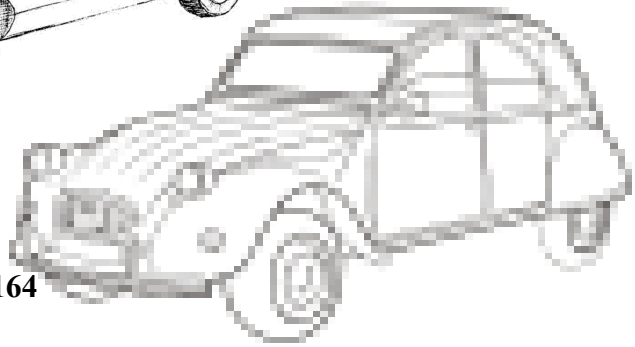
- Bar

Would you like to display your classic car?

Or volunteer to help on the day?

If so, please contact Geoff Short on 01379 897164

or Gordon Lawrence on 01379 890759



theWI **Rickinghall**
INSPIRING WOMEN

⇒ WI Jumble Sale

- ⇒ Saturday March 21st 2pm-4pm
- ⇒ 20p entry; cake stall & refreshments

⇒ WI Fashion Show (by Artichoke)

- ⇒ Open to non-members
- ⇒ Thursday March 26th 7pm for 7:30pm
- ⇒ £5 entry (includes glass of wine/soft drink)
- ⇒ Tickets from Faiths Craft Shop, The Street, Botesdale (01379 898064)

RAHOF (Rickinghall Area Hospice Fundraiser)
cordially invites you to their

"CHEESE & WINE" ANNUAL REVIEW
on Tuesday March 17th
at Redgrave Amenities Centre
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Contact June Hart (01379 897180) for tickets (£6), to include a glass of wine

In aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care, Bury St Edmunds

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February Church Notices



If interested in having your child baptised, or wish to get married in one of our church buildings, please do get in touch with the Rector, Revd Chris Norburn, using the contact details on page 2.

| Date | Service and Readings | Time | Church | Lector | Sidesman | Flowers |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2nd Feb | Holy Communion | 9:15am | All Saints | Mrs F Lamb | Mr J Lamb | Mrs Hilliard |
| | All Saints Together | 10:30am | All Saints | Mrs S Schofield | Mrs C Davidson | |
| | Reading 1 | Malachi 3:1-5 | | | | |
| | Reading 2 | Luke 2:22-40 | | | | |
| 9th Feb | Holy Communion | 10:30am | Rickingham | Mr K Brinkley | Mr & Mrs Miles | Liz Draper |
| | Reading 1 | Isaiah 58:1-9a | | | | |
| | Reading 2 | Matthew 5:13-20 | | | | |
| 16th Feb | Holy Communion | 09:15am | All Saints | Mr J Walker | Mrs L Wills | Mrs Davies |
| | All Saints Together | 10:30am | All Saints | Mrs J Whitehead | Mrs C Davidson | |
| | Reading 1 | Romans 8:18-25 | | | | |
| | Reading 2 | Matthew 6:25-end | | | | |
| 23rd Feb | Holy Communion | 10:30am | Chapel of Ease | Mrs J Wright | Mrs D Hodson | - |
| | Evening Prayer | 3:00pm | Rickingham | Rector | Mrs J Sheehan | Liz Draper |
| | Reading 1 | 2 Peter 1:16-end | | | | |
| | Reading 2 | Matthew 17:1-9 | | | | |
| 26th Feb | Ash Wednesday | 7:30pm | All Saints | - | Mrs C Hilliard | Mrs Davies |
| | Reading 1 | TBC | | | | |
| | Reading 2 | TBC | | | | |

If any duty dates are inconvenient, please swap with someone AND inform the Rector on 01379 898685

Rickingham Relief in Need Fund

- The Trustees of the above Fund administers a modest income to benefit the residents of Rickingham and we are able to give grants throughout the year to those who need financial assistance.
- With the winter approaching you may be experiencing difficulty in affording your heating bills.
- Other donations in the past have been made to help with books for students, support due to illness, help towards a purchase of a microwave to heat meals for an elderly person, support to children at the school with the costs of uniform, school outings and trips.
- If you feel you would qualify for help then please contact the Rector, Chris Norburn on 01379 898685, or in writing to The Rectory, Bury Road, Rickingham, Diss IP22 1HA.
- All applications are treated with the utmost confidence.
- There are also similar charities for the residents of Redgrave and Botesdale, and if you require further information on these, again please contact The Rector.

Nothing From the Registers

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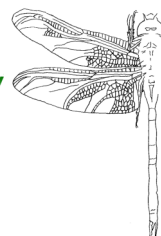
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Di Maywhorl (01379 898785)

full details of all books and
our events are available at:

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Botesdale Methodist Church & Parkview Chapel in February

Parkview Chapel

For more details on any of the following, please call Kev Gladwell on 01379 898924 or see <http://www.parkviewchapel.co.uk>

Sunday Services

Refreshments served on all Sundays from 10.30am

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday 2 nd | One service at 11.00am (including Communion) |
| Sunday 9 th | Communion service at 10.00am and Main service at 11.00am |
| Sunday 16 th | Communion service at 10.00am and 'Coffee On A Sunday' at 11.00am |
| Sunday 23 rd | Communion service at 10.00am and Main service at 11.00am |

Events at Parkview Chapel

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 6 th 2:00pm | Praise Hour |  |
| Tuesday 11 th 9:00am | Coffee On The Corner | |
| Thursday 20 th 2:00pm | Praise Hour | |

PARKVIEW YOUTH - Activities for Children & Young People - all at Parkview Chapel, Botesdale

| | |
|--|--|
| Junior Church : Reception - Year 6 Sundays 11.00am - 12.00pm | Junior Friday Reception - Year 6 Fridays 6.00pm - 7.00pm |
| PYP : Years 7 - 13 Sundays 7.00pm - 8.30pm | Senior Friday Club Years 7 - 11 Fridays 7.30pm - 9.30pm |

A friendly welcome to everyone at **Botesdale Methodist Church** *services and events*

Services (every Sunday at 10.30 am unless otherwise indicated)

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 nd | Mrs J Browne |
| Sunday 9 th | Mrs J Mottram |
| Sunday 16 th | Rev David Ely, Holy Communion |
| Sunday 23 rd | Mr D Freeman |

Events

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Various | To be advised | - |
| Tuesday 25 th | Coffee down the Lane | 10.00am-12.00pm |

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**All Saints
Redgrave**



**St. Botolph's
Botesdale**



**St. Mary's
Rickinghall**

2nd February '20 Presentation of Christ in the Temple



9:15 All Saints, Redgrave, BCP Communion

10:30 All Saints, Redgrave

All Saints Altogether

An interactive service for people of all ages starting with coffee

9th February '20 3rd Sunday before Lent



10:30 St. Mary's, Rickinghall,
CW Communion

3pm Botesdale Village Hall, **The Get Together**

An informal time to meet, eat and explore faith concluding with a light tea

16th February '20 2nd Sunday before Lent



9:15 All Saints, Redgrave, BCP Communion

10:30 All Saints, Redgrave

All Saints Altogether

An interactive service for people of all ages starting with coffee

23rd February '20 Sunday before Lent

10:30 St Botolph's, Botesdale, CW Communion



10.30 Messy Church in Botesdale Village Hall for tea, cake, crafts, songs, stories and family fun.

3.00pm St. Mary's, Rickinghall, Evening Prayer

1st March '20 1st Sunday of Lent

9.15 All Saints, Redgrave BCP Communion

10.30 All Saints, Redgrave All Saints Altogether

BCP Communion = Book of Common Prayer and uses traditional language
CW Communion = Common Worship and uses contemporary language

Also this month:



26th Feb **Ash Wednesday** 7.30pm United Holy Communion, All Saints, Redgrave

Sat. 15th Feb 8.30am

Men's Breakfast at All Saints

Please contact Mark Duxon on 01379 890987 if you wish to join us.

"Midweek Communion"

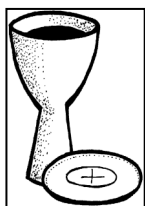
Wed. 5th Feb 10.00am

St Mary's Church, Rickinghall

Thur. 20th Feb 9.45am

Farnish House Holy Communion

These services follow the order of BCP (Book of Common Prayer). All welcome.



Lent Study Weekly from 4th March



7.30pm All Saints, Redgrave
"From Now On"

A 5 session course based on the film "The Greatest Showman" focusing on hope and redemption

"What is Next, God?"



Thurs 6th Feb 7.15pm

The Rectory, Rickinghall

Tues 18th Feb 7.15pm

Bracken Wood, The Street, Redgrave

A time of prayer for the work and ministry of Christ's church in the community

"Together in these villages we offer Christ's healing grace through our worship and service." All welcome to any of these services and events
For more information; Revd Chris Norburn 01379 898685

