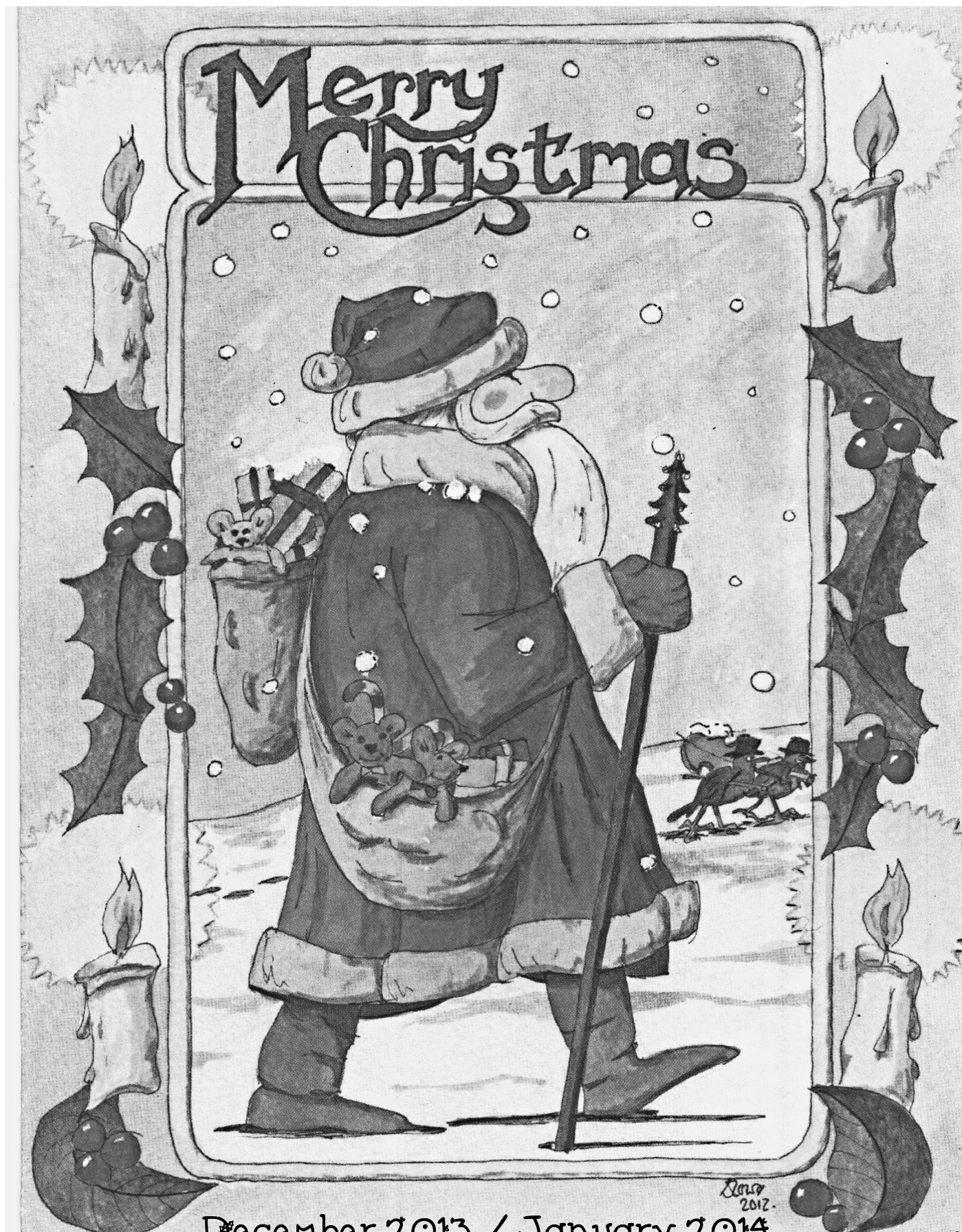


PARISH MAGAZINE

Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls



December 2013 / January 2014

Rev'd Chris Norburn

Rector of Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls

The Rectory, Bury Road, Rickinghall, Diss. IP22 1HA Tel: 01379 898685

St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior has a web site

<http://stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net/> or Google: St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior

The other day I had a letter from the Scripture Union, which is an international, inter-denominational, evangelical Christian movement working in partnership with individuals and churches to encourage the use of the Bible to inspire children, young people and adults to know God in a better and more meaningful way. In this letter they were explaining how many children have no idea what Christmas is about. Their examples included: a 7 year old boy who thought that Jesus was born at either 10 Downing Street or Buckingham Palace and that he didn't know whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas Day; a 10 year old girl who believes that Prince Charles was one of the Wise Men and that the birth of Jesus was announced via Facebook. It appears that many people are growing up thinking that the only thing Christmas is about is a shopping spree, must-have presents and family feasts, or, even worse, a time when families argue or feel ashamed that they can't afford the excesses of their neighbours. (*Examples from a survey by Woolworths.co.uk*)

So what is Christmas all about?

Well the true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, "*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*" The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love. In essence it is a love story.

The real Christmas story is the story of God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Saviour! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (*1 John 4:8*). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember Jesus' birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "*But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (*Romans 5:8*).

As part of celebrating Christmas many Christian Churches also observe the season of Advent. This is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. It covers a period of four Sundays before Christmas Day starting on a date between November 27th and December 3rd inclusive. This time is not only used for the preparation of the birth of Jesus Christ, but also to think about and prepare for His second coming, for the Bible tells us that Jesus will one day, in simplest terms, return to earth and take all who believe in Him to heaven.

Many churches have an Advent wreath, a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life. Four candles (not fork handles!) stand in the circle and each one represents one of the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is a fifth candle the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. The wreath reminds Christians

of God, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end and the green of the wreath speaks of the hope that Christians have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.

The Advent candles have symbolism as each Sunday in Advent traditionally has a theme, but the overriding symbolism is that they symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son, Jesus.

The first candle is traditionally known as The Candle of Hope. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. The light of this candle celebrates the hope that Christians have in Jesus Christ.

The second candle represents the Old Testament prophets and is known as The Candle of Peace. Peace is like a light shining in a dark place so the light of this candle celebrates the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

The third candle reminds us of John the Baptist, and is often known as The Candle of Love. Love is like a candle shining in a dark place, so we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

The fourth candle is for Mary the mother of Jesus, and is known as The Candle of Joy. Joy is like a light shining in a dark place and reminds us that our joy is complete in Jesus Christ.

And finally the fifth candle represents the birth of Christ. The flame of which reminds us that He is The Light of the World and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

So as we all prepare for Christmas, let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas, that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, the Light of the World, so that we can know the full extent of God's love for us.

May you experience the love and joy of Christ as you celebrate Christmas.

With every blessing for the Christmas season and for a prosperous New Year.



Rev

Chris Norburn.

Benefice Gift Day

This year's **Gift Day** will take place during Advent, on **15th December, Christingle Service, Chapel of Ease, Botesdale at 3.30pm and 22nd December, Carol Service, St Mary's, Rickinghall at 3.00pm**. However, envelopes will be available from the beginning of December as well as at the two services mentioned above. Gift Day is a way of giving thanks to God for the work and ministry of the church throughout these villages and beyond.

If you are unable to attend either of the above services and you wish to make a gift please forward your envelope to the Rector at The Rectory, Bury Road, Rickinghall, or to our Treasurer, Mr. Rob Rixon, Calkewood, Calkewood Lane, Rickinghall. IP22 1NB

Finally, if you are a tax payer please can I encourage you to Gift Aid your donation. This allows all charities to claim the basic rate of tax, on your donation. All you need to do to Gift Aid your donation is to complete the form on the front of the Gift Day envelope. If you have any queries on this please do speak to me or our Treasurer.

With every blessing. Revd Chris Norburn



St Mary's Church Rickinghall Inferior

The church will be open to visitors on the first and third Saturday of each month until the end of March 2014 from 10 am to before dusk.

December & January Events

OPEN HOUSE AT ALL SAINTS
OPEN HOUSE AT
ALL SAINTS, REDGRAVE
1st Tuesday of each month

3rd December & 7th January
 10.00 am to 12 noon

Everybody welcome. Coffee & cakes provided

FARMERS' MARKET AT
RICKINGHALL VILLAGE HALL
NEXT MARKETS :
SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2013
CHRISTMAS MARKET
AND SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 2014
9 AM TO 12.30 PM



Buy your food from the people who produce it—for truly local flavour Stalls expected : Eggs, Local Fresh Vegetables, Mushrooms, Cakes and Bread, Meat Pies, Flour from Pakenham, Local Lamb, Pork, Beef, Venison, Chicken, Honey, Preserves, Jams, Chutneys, Suffolk Cheeses, Home-made Cup Cakes, Chocolates, Sweet Treats, Apples and Apple Juice, Freshly Ground Coffee, Plants and Home Made Curries. And, for 14th December : Christmas Trees and Wreaths, Gislingham Silver Band, and FATHER CHRISTMAS.

LATEST COPY DATE BY 12 NOON FOR :

February 2014	Friday 17th January
March 2014	Friday 14th February

Divine Inspiration:	Chris Norburn	01379 898685
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Printed by	321 Printing, Ipswich	01473 210321

Will contributors kindly e-mail copy to Charles, or deliver to **The Pightle, Water Lane, Rickinghall, Diss, IP22 1EL**. Emails are acknowledged within 48 hours. **The Editor welcomes reports on items of local interest. Please get writing!**

Please feel free to deliver your copy before the cut off date if you have it available. THE EARLIER IT IS RECEIVED, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS TO BE INCLUDED. The magazine is sent to the printer on Friday afternoon of the copy date.

We accept items for submission in any of the following formats :-)
 MS Word, e mail, .jpg, .bmp, .pub, Basildon Bond, Back of Envelope.

Our waiting list for prospective advertisers is oversubscribed. We have therefore closed the list until July 2014.

Notices from voluntary organisations within the Benefice are printed free of charge. We try to help similar organisations from outside the Benefice wishing to place a notice in our magazine; this is subject to space being available and we also make a small charge.

Web site for this parish magazine:
www.stmarysrickinghallinferior.onesuffolk.net
OR Google 'Redgrave Parish Magazine'

the WI Rickinghall Village Hall
RICKINGHALL 7.30 pm

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER 2013
'Corsets and Christmas'
 Speaker : Rosemarie Jacob

THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2014
Collections and Hobbies - Members

Refreshments

New members and guests always welcome

WHIST DRIVE

Friday 13 December 2013
& Friday 17 January 2014
7.30 pm at The Bowls Club

Refreshments

This is a friendly fun evening, open to everyone.
 Further information from 01379 898566.




PROGRESSIVE WHIST DRIVE

Tuesday 21st January 2014
Redgrave Activities Centre
at 7.30 pm

Beginners Welcome **Refreshments**

Ring 898 619 for further details



 **HERITAGE CIRCLE**
www.onesuffolk.co.uk/HeritageCircle

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING
With entertainment by
BRIAN THURLOW -

MEMORIES OF THE MUSIC HALL
Rickinghall Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Wednesday 11th December 2013

Everybody welcome.
 Cost : £9 including buffet supper and glass of wine/fruit juice.
 Tickets from Brenda Deaville on 01379 898561.

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014
Rickinghall Village Hall at 7.30 pm
VENICE PAST TO PRESENT
With Frances Hart

New Members and Guests Welcome

Refreshments **Raffle**

A Christmas definition:
 The time of year when you exchange "hello's" with strangers and "good buy's" with friends!



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Sunday Monday 5.00PM – 10.30PM
 Tuesday CLOSED
 Wednesday Thursday 5.00PM – 10.30PM
 Friday – Saturday 5.00PM – 11.30PM

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 ~ HOLLY & MISTLETOE ~
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 ~ PRESENTS FOR THE FAMILY ~
 ~ YOU CAN EVEN PRE-ORDER YOUR XMAS
 TURKEY & VEG ~



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Saturday 7th December 2013
9:30am – 4:00pm

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 some of the goodies we have in for
 the Christmas Season!

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Mon-Sat 12 noon - 2.30 pm & 6.00 pm - 9.30 pm

Sunday Food Served All day 12 noon - 9.30 pm

Please see our Notice Board for forthcoming events

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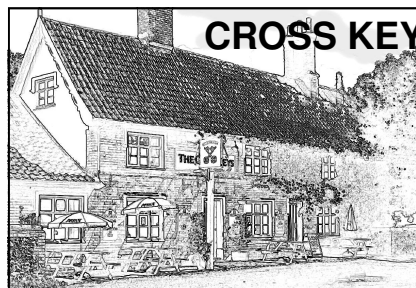
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 Monday - Saturday
 9 - 1.00 Sunday



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Orders taken

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Mon – Fri 8:30 – 1:00pm
 3:30 – 6:00pm
 Sat 8:30 – 1:00pm
 Sun 9:00 – 11:00am

More Dec & Jan Events

Special December Events

Redgrave Garden Club

7.30 pm at the Activities Centre

THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER

Wine, Nibbles and Fun Quiz Night

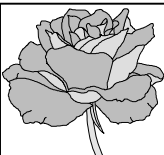
THURSDAY 30th JANUARY 2014

'Little Ouse Headwaters Project, Flora, Fauna ...'

with Dr Helen Smith

Enquiries / information from : Chris Tindall on 01379 890548

www.redgrave.org.uk/redgrave-garden-club



Redgrave & District Ladies Club

TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MEAL

at The Activities Centre

with entertainment by Neil Lanham

REDGRAVE & LOPHAM FEN



Enquiries or to book : 01379 688333

Sunday 1st December, 10 am to 4 pm

Printmaking Workshop with Sheila Tilmouth (adult course)

Learn black, white and coloured monoprint techniques and make prints from plants and leaves using a press. Suitable for anyone new to printmaking and those with a little experience. Bring a packed lunch.

Cost : £35 + £5 for materials. Booking required on 01473 890089

Saturday 4 January 2014, 10.30 am to 1 pm

Guided Fen Walk

Enjoy a walk around this stunning National Nature Reserve with naturalist and enthusiast John Hill, who will help you spot some of the wildlife to be seen at this time.

Meet at the Education Centre. No booking necessary.

Donation : £3 per person

Tuesday 28th January 2014, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

The Little Ouse Valley Fens - the road to recovery

Evening talk with Valley Fens Wildlife Group

No need to book. Donation £2 including refreshments



WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP at Redgrave Fen

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Saturday 14 December

A winter walk to note seasonal changes and seasonal crafts

Saturday 11 January 2014

Bird food and feeders

A club for 6-12 year olds. Nominal charge of £1.00 to cover costs and refreshments.

Tel : Mike Wraight on 01379 644 508 for further information.

For more information on the events go to :

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/reserves-and-visitor-centres/redgrave-lopham-fen/

THE FRIENDS OF ST BOTOLPH'S INVITE YOU ALL TO OUR ANNUAL,



FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER

3.30 to 5.00 pm

ST BOTOLPH'S SCHOOL

COME ALONG FOR SOME TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FUN, INCLUDING GAMES, TOMBOLA, CAKE STALL, RAFFLE, CHRISTMAS CARDS TO MAKE AND BUY AND, OF COURSE, CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS. SO START THE FESTIVE SEASON BY HELPING THE FRIENDS RAISE MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND JOIN US FOR A MINCE PIE!

Rickingham Area Hospice Fundraisers



Fundraising in aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care

RAHOF ...

christmas event

With Guest Speaker -

Linda Scoles

**who will entertain us on the subject of
'Unwanted Christmas Presents!'**

Rickingham Village Hall

Friday 6th December

6.30 for 7 pm

Hot Buffet Supper, Bar and Bumper Hamper Draw

Admission by ticket only.

Tickets at £12 each are available through June Hart on 01379 897180. Ticket enquiries after 1st December to Jennie Labdon on 01379 783598.

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LEGION

Royal British Legion—Botesdale Branch

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW
& BINGO**

Friday 6th December

at St Botolphs Bowls Club

Doors open 7.00 pm

Eyes down at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available at the door - Bar

All Welcome





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Saturday 7th December

10 am until 3 pm

at Rickinghall Village Hall

Over 25 stalls
Refreshments
Raffle
Admission only £1.00.



For information call Monty on 07747 846605

Christmas Wrapping

Thursday 12th December

7.30 pm at Parkview Chapel

Bring along your Christmas presents and wrap with friends.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Kevin at the Chapel on 01379 898924 or email : kevin@parkviewchapel.co.uk



WARTS PRESENT



By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Tim Hall

**12th - 14th December
at 7.30 pm at Botesdale Village Hall**

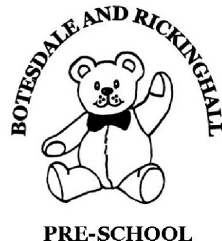
DOORS OPEN 7.00 pm

BAR & RAFFLE

**TICKETS £8.00 (£6.00 concs) AVAILABLE FROM
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**Saturday 7th December
1 pm to 4 pm at Botesdale Village Hall**

**Cake Stall Games Raffle
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Father Christmas
and much more ...**

Tables available £5

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Start the festive season on
**Saturday 7th December
at 6.15 pm
Botesdale Market Place**

There will be music by David Freeman, mince pies and mulled wine.



The "Massed Choirs" of
The Rickinghalls and Botesdale
**Christmas Carols at The Bell Inn
Friday 20th December at 7.00pm.
Mince Pies & Mulled Wine**
Everybody is cordially invited to join in.
There will be a collection for Church Funds

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE with Brian Mann at Rickinghall Village Hall, 8 til late. Bar. Bring your own nibbles. Further information from Keith or Kathy on 01379 898758.

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contact Pieternella

on 01379 890955

pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com



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or email

juliedyoga@msn.com

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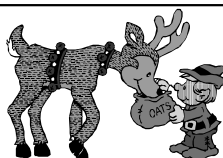
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Club News 1



BARWOODS

Botesdale & Rickinghall
Community Woodlands

We were approached by Rickinghall WI who wished to plant a memorial tree in Northfield Wood in memory of several members who have died recently. On 3rd November four representatives : Jennie Labdon, Philippa Rixon, Val Goodwin and Irene Robertson, planted a rowan (mountain ash) tree opposite the three spindle trees that were planted last year. It is gratifying to know that people wish to leave memorials in this community wood that we are striving to create.

I say striving because our numbers are few. We would welcome the help, even if only occasionally, of anyone who would like to plant trees, weed and mulch them, rake grass off Low Meadow, trim back/coppice in Millers Orchard, etc. Please contact Anita Burnard, Tony Emerson, Doreen Culverhouse, Linda Green, Di Maywhort, or Patrick Robinson.

This winter one of our tasks is to plant a new hedge in front of the fence in Low Meadow. Unfortunately the holly plants that were given to us did not survive through the dry summer. We shall have to prepare the ground thoroughly and of course winter is the better time to plant.

Rosemary Jones

What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas?
Sandy Claus.

Coffee On



The Corner

Once again, the room was buzzing with the sound of happy conversation and munching. As usual thanks to those who provide the cakes and refreshment, a great team effort.

Your generosity never fails to amaze and this month the sum of £140 will be sent to help the work of VfMH - Volunteers for Mental Health .. Romania. This is a small charity based in the UK and run entirely by volunteers who send skilled and dedicated people to work with adult patients at Tarnaveni Psychiatric Hospital in Romania. The monies will undoubtedly be gratefully received by those at this hospital, where many of the long term patients live in overcrowded conditions with few opportunities for normal social interaction. Thanks again for what you give.

In December we will be serving tea, coffee & cakes once again - on Tuesday 10th. Sometimes in December we are fortunate enough to have entertainment in the form of singing by the children from the school or by members of WARTs, the local am dram society. I am not sure what is happening, but, if you don't normally come along, why not take a risk, you might be glad you did! Any donations then will be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care; so many people are afflicted by this horrible disease, so come and support us if you can.

We then meet on Tuesday 14th January 2014 and look forward to seeing you all again then.

If you feel you would like to know more about the coffee shop or any of the happenings at Parkview, please call me on 01379 890423.

Sue Allen

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Botesdale Parish Council

Clerk, Leeann Jackson-Eve

Report for the Meeting held on Monday 11th November

The Parish Council Meeting was attended by 5 councillors, with apologies for absence having been received from Cllrs Appleby and Burgess. The PC was very pleased to welcome John Abraham to the Council, to fill a casual vacancy. This means that there is now just one vacancy on the Parish Council. Please contact the Clerk for more details or to put your name forward.

Public Forum: District Councillor Sara Michell reported that more petitions had been presented to Government concerning the disparity in funding to rural areas compared to urban areas, with 50% more funding received per capita in urban areas. Government has pledged to consider the issue.

Budget 2014/15: The PC set a budget of £19,710 for next year. This is a rise of 12.4% but in reality means only £0.60 extra per month on Band D Council Tax. The PC has had to add a significant amount to its budget to pay for the replacement of aging parish-owned street lights following a maintenance inventory by Suffolk County Council. Two lights will be replaced before the end of the current financial year, with another three to be taken care of in 2014/15. That will leave another 12 lights which will need to be replaced from 2015.

Winter Grit Provision: Grit will be provided in the same locations this year to be used on public property, e.g. footways. We receive a limited supply from the County Council so the PC would ask that you please don't take the grit for use on private property.

Footpaths and Streams: The Maintenance of Footpaths and Streams project has started work again. Anyone interested in joining the work party can contact Cllr Chris Lambert on 01379 897053 or via email at chris@prewarminor.com

**The next Parish Council Meeting
will take place on
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2013
And MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2014
at 7.30 pm
at Botesdale Village Hall
All residents welcome
www.botesdale.suffolk.gov.uk**

Play Area: The PC agreed that the safety surface under the wooden climbing frame needed topping up now that it had settled, and the litter bin needed a fixed base. These improvements will take place over the next few weeks.

Christmas Events: Councillors had the pleasure of voting on the Christmas-themed drawings from children at St Botolph's Primary School. Prizes would be presented at a school assembly. The winning drawings came from Reception: Mae-Li Sun (1st) and Ruby Stratton (2nd); Year 1: Hollie Clarke (1st) and Forbes Irvine (2nd); Year 2: Samuel Coe (1st) and Freya Jackson-Eve (2nd); Year 3: Henry Jones (1st) and Molly Davies (2nd); Year 4: Megan Dickson (1st) and Molly Largent (2nd); Year 5: Milo Nicholls (1st) and Sophie Royal (2nd); Year 6: Jack Largent (1st). All winning drawings will be displayed around the Christmas tree in the Market Place. A big thank you to all the children who entered the contest! It was a tough decision and we wish we had the space to display all of the drawings.

The Lights On event will be held on Saturday 7th December this year at 6.15pm.

In recent years the tree has become a focus for the festive season. It has been almost totally funded by Botesdale Parish Council and costs the parish in the region of £750 per annum, this at a time when the council's resources are being increasingly stretched by the effects of budget cuts and increases in the cost of services. In the past residents have given generously towards the Christmas Tree fund at the Soap Box Derby but this is no longer an option. We are therefore seeking support from the community. Any contributions to our Christmas tree fund, no matter how large or small, will be welcomed and formally acknowledged. Thank you for your support!

Meeting Dates for 2014: 13 Jan; 10 Feb; 10 Mar; 14 Apr; 12 May; 9 Jun; 14 Jul; 11 Aug (Planning only); 8 Sep; 13 Oct; 10 Nov; 8 Dec. Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed in 2014.

**Your Clerk is: Mrs Leeann Jackson-Eve,
Wayside Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane,
Botesdale, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 1DL.
Tel : 01379 890 141
Email : botesdale_pc@btopenworld.com
Please contact her during OFFICE HOURS ONLY.**



Changes to the 2013 Telephone List

Page S1 Under Botesdale Parish Council
Please add : Cllr John Abraham
tel : 890221.

Under Redgrave Parish Council
Please delete all reference to
Cllr James McCluskey

Under Rickingham Parish Council
Please add : Cllr David Lister
tel : 07930 891073

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Redgrave Parish Council



Councillor Bob Hayward

Report of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November

On the first really frosty night we were pleased that there is a fast acting heating system!

Two councillors were unable to attend but the public numbers were much the same as usual.

Jim McCluskey advised that it would be his last meeting and he was thanked by all for his fine contribution over the past 8 years. This will leave a vacancy for one councillor to be co-opted. Please could anyone who would like to join us as a councillor contact Jason Walker on 01379 898 696.

County Councillor Jessica Fleming informed us that Highways would shortly be making road works information and timing for filling potholes available on the internet for access by anyone. Details will be advised.

District Councillor Sara Michell was unable to attend but sent a note that the Rural Services Network found that people pay higher council tax in rural areas and yet receive substantially less support for public services. The government's funding formula for local authorities means urban councils currently receive around 50% more money per person than rural councils. Rural communities are getting a raw deal from government. More than 100 petitions calling for fairer funding (including ours from Mid Suffolk) have been presented by MPs to the government. David Ruffley has highlighted the issue in the House of Commons. This week the government has pledged to listen to rural concerns and meet with campaigners and the Rural Service Network over the unfairness and disparity in the funding issue. The comment from councillors was "don't hold our breath".

Planning was relatively quiet with just the time limit for the dwelling adjacent to Timbers being extended and listed building consent being given to Priory Barn.

The budget was set for 2014/2015 but the major part of the discussion was in trying to understand the information from meetings at Mid Suffolk on how the precept would work in future.

The precept is the amount the parish council requires to do its work and which is a small part of the council tax paid by us all. At the moment for a middle of the range household the Redgrave Parish Council part of council tax is £29 per year. Redgrave Parish Council requires a total of £7,500 per year to act on behalf of the residents. That has remained unchanged for 11 years due to the efficiencies achieved over that time. Due to changes imposed by central government, although the £7,500 remains unchanged, a resident will probably see the Redgrave part of the council tax increase by £3 per year from £29 per year to £32 per year. We will wait until February to finalise what we request from Mid Suffolk for our precept as our view is that neither local or central government seems to have any clue what is happening on this subject. If any resident would like to come and hear the final outcome they are most welcome, as always, to attend our next parish council meeting on 8 January 2014.

Thanks to Suffolk County Council for replacing the footbridge on the footpath from Bier Lane to Moneypot.

There still appears to be unusual noise disturbance from Gressingham foods so John Giddings and Jim McCluskey will meet with them to consider the situation.

There is no meeting in December.

REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL NEXT MEETS ON

**WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2014
AT THE ACTIVITIES CENTRE
AT 7.30 pm**

**All Parishioners are cordially invited to attend
www.redgrave.org.uk**



* "In Your Garden" *

with Ian Shilling of Tripp Batt Country Store of Stanton

We have had a late autumn with no notable frost until the second week of November, which in turn helps the process of turning leaf colour. It has been particularly wet though, and heavier plots will be harder to turn. December though, can be one of our driest months of the year, albeit with a risk of snow. Lawns can be aerated when not frosty, and this will aid root growth and reduce the incidence of moss, which likes poor drainage as well as shade. If your lawn has such a troublesome corner, why not give it a re-shape, reducing its area, creating a feature, or introduce shade-loving plants. Generally, plants with broader leaves (e.g. Hostas, Aucubas, Bergénias) tolerate the most shade, the theory being that they have more area for absorbing the sunlight. Seeing Fuchsias and Geraniums still in flower in mid-November reminded me of a competition run by the Cottage Garden Society, in which they asked gardeners to record every plant in flower in their garden on Christmas Day. Whilst there were plenty of what you'd expect, i.e. Jasmine, Snowdrops, Viburnums, there were also some surprises like Roses and Rosemary. The point was though, that it is possible to choose plants for your garden which ensure flowers of one kind or another, all year round. What a nice new year's resolution!

Tasks for this month include important protection work; reduce the chance of your pond completely icing over by floating a small plastic ball or two; check that greenhouses and sheds are fully repaired and reasonably wind-tight. Is glass in good order, and roof felt well secured? Young trees may need staking and tender plants and pots can be covered with woven fabric or bubble-wrap. You are really protecting against two things, frost and wind burn, but the effect of the wind is worse when the ground is frozen.

Happy Gardening!



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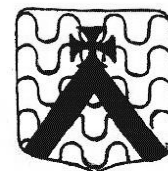
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School Snippets



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Grilled Salmon with Lime & Chilli Butter

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
4 salmon fillets
knob of butter
6 spring onions, finely sliced
1 large red chilli, halved, deseeded and finely chopped
zest and juice of 1 lime
small bunch coriander, chopped

Method

1. Heat the oil in a griddle (or a large frying pan) and cook the salmon, skin side down, for approx 5-6 minutes until the skin is crispy and golden, then turn the salmon fillets – go carefully, and cook for a further 2 mins. Remove the salmon from the pan and set to one side.
2. Place the butter in the pan until melted, add the spring onions, chilli and lime zest and let sizzle in the butter for 2 minutes, then add the lime juice. Using a spoon pour the chilli and lime butter over the salmon. Scatter with the coriander and serve with boiled rice.



This Year marks the 20th Anniversary of St Botolph's and it also marks the start of our school library project. We are aiming to refurbish one of the rooms in the school and transform it into an inspiring and well equipped library which will serve our current and future children. We hope to have the room ready by the end of Easter so that we can begin to add the vital ingredients; books! It is also our intention to have the technology that will enable our children to access information and reading materials electronically. Although this is an ambitious project we are aiming to have the library open in time for the start of the new academic year. The whole school community has really got behind the project and many parents have offered their services, expertise and time to help make our ambition become reality. Our Friends association has been amazing and has organised numerous events to help the school along. To celebrate our 20th Year in style we are also planning to organise and enjoy a carnival which will include all of the children and the communities in which they live. This will be followed by our annual music and arts festival.

The children returned to school after a welcome half term break and got back into the swing of learning very quickly. The half term leading up to Christmas is always a busy one. This year we are planning to deliver our Key Stage 1 Christmas production and a Key Stage 2 Carol Service. It's always wonderful to see the many parents and carers attend such events. The children really enjoy performing for their parents and they put in such effort and determination.

In November our Yr 6 children went off to stay at Aylmerton in North Norfolk. The week-long residential visit is so worthwhile as it is often the first time that the children have been away from home. The children were engaged in a variety of activities which included outdoor adventurous tasks and learning relating to the local geography of North Norfolk. Although the weather was cold the children learnt so much and had a wonderful time with their friends and peers from other local primary schools.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr M Cobbold, Headteacher

Job Spot

Botesdale Village Hall Management Committee Charity No 1033068

Applications are being sought for the post of cleaner at Botesdale Village Hall.

The work includes two hours work on Thursday evenings and two hours at a flexible time at weekends.

The applicant will need to be self employed and would take a total of a month's holiday out of term time at his/her convenience.

The rate of pay is £9.00 per hour.

The closing date for applications is 10th December 2013.

Further information and written applications to the Secretary :
Anita Burnard (Hon Secretary), tel : 01379 898652
Woodhouse Farm, Botesdale, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 1LG.

10 Reasons Why a Woman WOULD LIKE to Be Santa Claus

1. There'd be no more early morning decisions about what to wear to the office.
2. No one would bother to ask Santa Claus for a ride to work.
3. Buy one big brown belt and you'd be accessorized for life.
4. You'd always work in sensible footwear.
5. You'd never be expected to make the coffee.
6. There'd be no need to play office politics; a hearty ho-ho-ho would remind everyone who is the boss.
7. Juggling work and family would be easy. All your children would adore you; even your teenagers would want to sit in your lap.
8. You'd never take the wrong coat on your way home.
9. You could grow a tummy the size of Wales and consider it a job requirement of a funny Santa Claus.
10. No one would ask to see your job description.

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Rickinghall Parish Council



Councillor Geoff Short

Our 7th November meeting was attended by four councillors, with apologies from Councillors Smith and Clarke. We were also pleased to welcome David Lister to the Council, to fill a casual vacancy.

On opening the meeting to the public forum, our County Councillor Jessica Fleming briefly commented on the recent Ofsted report on Suffolk schools, and advised that most of the comments were directed at Ipswich, with the rural schools performing better. She also advised that a request for funds had been put in to the community budget at Suffolk County Council to provide a grant for hedging for the allotments. Representatives had attended our last meeting to try to secure funding for this project, and we had suggested that this may be a suitable source.

Peter Beck, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, fortunately had no crime to report this month. He advised that the No Cold Caller Zone had now been set up in Church Meadow, and the elements involved explained to residents.

Also in the public forum, the owners of 36 Church Meadow briefly spoke in relation to their planning application.

Planning Applications this month were limited to the continued use of outbuildings at 36 Church Meadow in connection with their business, and a single tree to be felled in Brook Park – both were approved. We also had notification that an extension and internal alterations to Sunnysdale House, The Street had been passed by MSDC.

The clerk had a meeting with John Simpson from Suffolk County Council Highways Department, regarding the double yellow lines on The Street adjacent to the Co-op entrance. We have expressed

concerns in the past about the very poor visibility on exiting the Co-op, and are aware there have been a few near misses. It now seems the extent of the lines may have been wrongly executed in the past, and we were advised that in the next financial year - ending April 2015 – there are plans for the Council to resurface the road through the village, with an accompanying review of the signs and road markings. The lines should get 'sorted out' at that point.

We discussed the budget for 2014/15 and agreed the precept which should only add 97p per annum to the average Band D Council Tax bill. We agreed to support a grant of £600 to the PCC for churchyard maintenance, the same sum as last year, and we are trialling a table in the Village Hall for the next three months at the Farmers Market. This is to provide a presence in the village where a councillor will be available for you to discuss any queries or issues you wish to raise – do look out for them when you next visit the market.

At our next meeting we will revisit the subject of setting up a CIC (Community Interest Company) for the villages. This was discussed earlier in the year, and details sent out to 'test the water' with no reaction. Our chairman is eager to look at the project again, which would aim to achieve benefits for the community. These could encompass renewable energy, the internet, local transport, or whatever was needed. Perhaps we are all 'happy with our lot' here in Rickinghall. Is there a need for a CIC? What do you think? Do let us know!

Meeting Dates for 2014: 9 Jan; 6 Feb; 6 Mar; 3 Apr; 1 May; 5 Jun; 3 Jul; 7 Aug (Planning only); 4 Sep; 2 Oct; 6 Nov; 4 Dec.
The Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed in 2014.

Your Clerk is :

Mrs Leeann Jackson-Eve
Wayside Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane
Botesdale, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 1DL
Tel : 01379 890 141
Email : rickinghall_pc@bopenworld.com

Please contact DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Rickinghall Parish Council

next meets on

**THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2013
AND THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2014
at 7.30 pm in Rickinghall Village Hall**

All welcome

www.rickinghall.onesuffolk.net

Quatrefoil

The following books about our local history are still available :

A Suffolk Boy in East Africa, the story of Samuel Spear of Rickinghall at £5 per copy
(£1.70 from the sale of each book will be donated to St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior Fabric Fund).

A Walk Through Botesdale by Diana Maywhort, at £5 per copy

A Guide to St Mary's Church, Rickinghall by Jean Sheehan, at £3 per copy. (£2 from the sale of each book will be donated to St Mary's Rickinghall Inferior Fabric Fund).

Post and packing extra (if applicable).

Books are available from : Jean Sheehan, 01379 890237
Di Maywhort, 01379 898785

The next three books in the series will be available shortly :

A Walk Through Rickinghall by Diana Maywhort
Reflections on Redgrave, Part 1 by Jean Sheehan and
Victorian & Edwardian Rectors by Sarah Doig



**RICKINGHALL PARISH
COUNCIL**

SURGERY

To be held at Rickinghall Farmers Market

On Saturday 14th December 2013

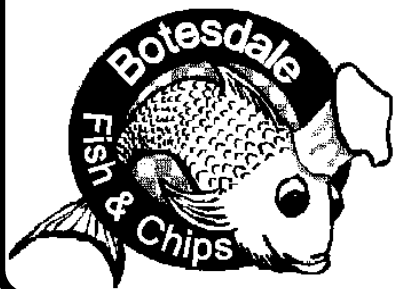
And Saturday 11th January 2014

Residents of Rickinghall are invited to come along and speak to their parish councillors about matters concerning the parish

**Parish Councillors will be in attendance from
9 am to 12 noon**

What not to buy a man for Christmas

Never buy a man anything that says "some assembly required" on the box. It will ruin the Special Day and he will always have parts left over. No one knows why.



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Tues	11.30 – 1.30	4.30	-	8.00pm
Wed	Closed in morning	4.30	-	8.00pm
Thur	11.30 – 1.30	4.30	-	10.00pm
Fri	11.30 – 1.30	4.30	-	10.00pm
Sat	11.30 – 1.30	4.30	-	10.30pm
Sun	Closed in morning	5.00	-	8.00pm

Sunday 1 December	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Printmaking Workshop. Booking required on 01473 890089 Zumba	Redgrave Fen Rickingham Village Hall
Monday 2 December	9.30 am 2.00 pm 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Suffolk Family Carers 'pop in' session Needlecraft Royal British Legion Women's Section. Flowers for Christmas Slimming World	Botesdale Health Centre Activities Centre Farnish House Rickingham Village Hall
Tuesday 3 December	9.30 am 10.00 am 6.00 pm 7.15 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Yoga. Booking essential on 01379 890955 Open House Zumba Yoga & Relaxation Julie's Aerobics Botesdale & Rickingham Neighbourhood Watch Group Meeting	Rickingham Village Hall All Saints Rickingham Village Hall Botesdale Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall Function Room, The Bell Inn
Wednesday 4 December	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.30am 2.15 pm 7.15 pm	Redgrave Art Club Day Centre Macmillan Outreach Service Forget-me-not-Club - Christmas Party Wives Club Christmas Dinner	Activities Centre Rickingham Village Hall Botesdale Health Centre Farnish House
Thursday 5 December	9.30 am 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	RABBATS Rickingham Parish Council Meeting Redgrave Garden Club	Rickingham Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall Activities Centre
Friday 6 December	9.00 am 9.00 am 9.15 am 3.30 pm 6.30 pm 7.00 pm 8.00 pm	Church Cleaning Yoga. Booking essential on 01379 890955 Rickingham Ramblers. Tel : 01379 788275 St Botolphs Christmas Fayre RAHOF Christmas Event. Ticket event only Royal British Legion Annual Christmas Draw & Bingo Dance Classes	St Marys Redgrave Rickingham Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall St Botolphs Primary School Rickingham Village Hall Bowls Club Botesdale Village Hall
Saturday 7 December	10.00 am 10.00 am 1.00 pm 6.15 pm	Open Church Annual Christmas Craft Fayre Christmas Bazaar Christmas Lights-On Ceremony	St Mary's Rickingham Inferior Rickingham Village Hall Botesdale Village Hall Market Place
Sunday 8 December	6.00 pm	Zumba	Rickingham Village Hall
Monday 9 December	9.30 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Suffolk Family Carers 'pop in' session Needlecraft Slimming World Botesdale Parish Council Meeting	Botesdale Health Centre Activities Centre Rickingham Village Hall Botesdale Village Hall
Tuesday 10 December	9.00 am 9.30 am 6.00 pm 7.15 pm 7.30 pm	Coffee on the Corner Yoga. Booking essential on 01379 890955 Zumba Yoga & Relaxation Julie's Aerobics Redgrave & District Ladies Club Christmas Meal	Parkview Chapel Rickingham Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall Botesdale Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall Activities Centre
Wednesday 11 December	9.30 am 10.00 am 7.30 pm	Redgrave Art Club Day Centre Heritage Circle Christmas Social Evening	Activities Centre Rickingham Village Hall Rickingham Village Hall
Thursday 12 December	9.30 am 12 noon 7.30 pm 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	RABBATS Phoenix Christmas Lunch Rickingham W I Christmas Wrapping A Christmas Carol	Rickingham Village Hall The King's Head, North Lopham Rickingham Village Hall Parkview Chapel Botesdale Village Hall
Friday 13 December	9.00 am 7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Yoga. Booking essential on 01379 890955 Whist Drive A Christmas Carol	Rickingham Village Hall Bowls Club Botesdale Village Hall

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

Victor Borge