

*Group 4*  
NEWS



The Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere;  
Boughton; Wereham  
**November 2016**

## WELCOME

A busy month ahead, with services of Remembrance first at the central church of Fincham and later at memorials around the group. The Bishop of Ely will be visiting the group with a service at Fincham on Advent Sunday, to mark the beginning of the church's year and the lead up to Christmas.

As always, 'Happy Reading'  
The Editorial Team  
Eileen and Pam



Thanks to all contributors and apologies to any whose work has not been shown in this issue.

We promise to include your articles wherever and whenever possible. Please do keep them coming.

Many thanks to the distributors, we couldn't do without you!!!

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## GROUP 4 TEAM VILLAGE CONTACTS

**Barton Bendish:** Jill Mason  
Sandmere, Church Rd, Barton Bendish  
Tel: 01366 347 928  
[masons.sandmere@btinternet.com](mailto:masons.sandmere@btinternet.com)

**Beachamwell:** Eileen Powell  
20 All Saints Way, Beachamwell  
Tel: 01366 328 648  
[powells@beechamwell.plus.com](mailto:powells@beechamwell.plus.com)

**Boughton:** Pam Wakeling  
Robet, Mill Hill Road, Boughton  
Tel: 01366 500 429  
[p.wakeling621@btinternet.com](mailto:p.wakeling621@btinternet.com)

**Wereham:** Viv Scott  
Orchard House, Flegg Green, Wereham  
Tel: 01366 500346  
[vivienne.scott@googlemail.com](mailto:vivienne.scott@googlemail.com)

Please submit all information through your Village Contacts.

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## INTERREGNUM NEWS

**During the interregnum, this page will be written by members of our ministry team, the friends who take services for us and help us to keep going. Robin has started us off:-**

As From the Rectory  
November 2016

Dear Friends,

As I look across to Birch Wood from my study window, I notice that the leaves have not yet turned colour although a distinct drop in temperature says that Autumn is surely here. In the Church's year our recent Harvest Thanksgiving with the appropriate celebration gives way to the more reflective season of All Saints-tide, which leads us into Advent.

We are reminded that ' we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' that have preceded us in our pilgrimage ( I take pilgrimage to mean life as a journey with a purpose.) Under God the Church we have today was built by witnesses and saints. We inherit their work and prayer. They doubtless had to face and deal with change and in some cases were the cause of it. So we in our turn continue their work and face change, not for its own sake but where circumstances really warrant it.

Perhaps it is no bad thing that we enter this period of vacancy at this time of thanksgiving, Remembrance, penitence and hope, among the great themes of Advent. Again, from the study window, I am watching sowing, in preparation for next year's harvest. The months ahead will be for us a time of prayerful preparation and in due course of joyful celebration.

Before the next edition of G4N we will have welcomed our diocesan, Bishop Stephen to set us off on our Advent way, and the Church's new year.

.  
With every good wish for the time ahead,  
Sincerely,  
Robin.

## BENEFICE NEWS

### ADVENT SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 27th

As Robin said in his letter, on Sunday November 27th the Bishop of Ely will be celebrating Holy Communion for Advent Sunday. The service will be at Fincham at 10 am, but it is a group service for all the parishes in our benefice. I hope it will be possible for all parishes to be well represented. We have asked Fincham to host several services in the last quarter of the year, as it is central and larger than most. We are grateful to the PCC for their hospitality. Group services will continue to be held in different churches.

#### MOVING ON.....

On Wednesday 12th October a large group of people from the eight parishes journeyed across the dark fen to West Walton, to celebrate Barbara's licensing to her new benefice of West Walton, Walpole St Peter with Walpole St Andrew. We were particularly glad that Gillian Mann was well enough to attend. The magnificent detached tower of West Walton looms up over the arriving visitors and is well worth the journey, although as a bell ringer I am saddened by the fact that the bells inside are no longer ringable. The main church is broad and light in daylight, because of the plain glass, and we all had a good view of the proceedings. Barbara was welcomed, commended and sworn in by the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Ely. There was a large group choir and an enthusiastic organist. Refreshments were served and we had the opportunity to chat with old and new friends. We join together in wishing Barbara a fulfilling life in her new parishes and pray that she will be nurtured and helped.



# SWAFFHAM & LITCHAM HOME HOSPICE SUPPORT

It was gratifying to learn that the TSB here in Swaffham have chosen the Home Hospice as their Charity for 2016/17. The bank ran a survey with their customers asking who they would like to see benefit from their charity efforts over the year and we were lucky enough to be named. They are planning to stage events throughout the year and already they have completed a 23mile bicycle ride within three weeks of us being notified of their intentions. Those who rode amassed a total in excess of £500.00 and we must thank all those customers who donated towards the event too.

Our third Concert of Choirs was once again a sell-out evening, which was well received with an appreciable audience who enjoyed a varied programme sung and entertained by the RAF Marham Military Wives Choir (The Bluebirds) and the King's Lynn Male Voice Choir. Both choirs came together at the end and sang a rendition of Amazing Grace followed by a standing ovation from the audience. The total raised was a phenomenal £1161.00.

Katarina Sell from Boots Pharmacy decided she would like to raise funds for the Home Hospice by dressing up for a week in a different costume at work each day and by doing so she raised a total of £500.00. This is being match funded by Boots to £1000.00. Huge thanks go to the generous customers who supported her during this time and of course Boots.



As we draw closer to December, just a timely reminder of the Tree of Lights at the Green Britain Centre on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm, more information will be announced in December's edition of the Newsletter.

Our next fundraising event will be the annual Christmas Draw in November and once again Tesco have allowed us to sell tickets in the entrance of the Store, so please support us. Tickets are available at Jill's Hairdressers in Station Street and our Main Office. We will be having a stall on Swaffham Market on the 26<sup>th</sup> November too. The draw will take place at Tesco on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The Charity has been chosen to oversee one of the Snowdrop Walk events on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Lexham Hall, of course early days as yet but worth mentioning to you as we will be seeking your support in assisting us to bake cakes for us. It is a very popular and well supported event and will be advertised throughout Norfolk. **David Gulliver**

# SHOULDHAM'S WW1 WAR DEAD REMEMBERED

**By Duncan Prior**

October 9<sup>th</sup> 2016



Shouldham's War Memorial lists 27 names for the fallen in the Great War, with an age range from 19 to 42. Among these are five sets of brothers, as well as several cousins. All, bar one served in the army including Edmund Stanley Preston who died in April 1918 while serving in the Labour Corps. 1917 was the year that saw the most of the dreaded War Office telegrams arrive in the village as eight men fell that year, including three who died in the horrific Battle of Passchendaele – Gunner Arthur J Plaice aged 26 on 11<sup>th</sup> August, Private Robert Howell aged 19 on 8<sup>th</sup> September and Private Ivor Callaby aged 31 on 4<sup>th</sup> October; in addition Private Leonard Wright, who died aged 24 at 20<sup>th</sup> November at the battle of Cambrai, which was the first large-scale deployment of tanks.

These battles in the mud, trenches and no-man's land of France and Flanders are what we normally associate with the war. However it is important to note that the British and Imperial Army stayed consistent to its traditions of the past

250 years by deploying men to fight the enemy in many remote theatres of war. Shouldham made its painful contribution to this policy as no less than 7 men died as a result of fighting away from the Western Front.

The Second Norfolk Battalion was sent to India in early November 1914 around the time Britain and France declared war on Ottoman Turkey. After a short stay, it was put to sea again, this time for the Persian Gulf to protect British Oil Interests in what is now Iraq. The subsequent campaign is often portrayed as one of the worst commanded military operations of British military history and it was the unfortunate fate of two men of the village to be serving in it. Lance Corporal Sidney Carter was killed in action aged 23 on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1915, probably in the bayonet charge at Shaibah (incidentally a British military hospital for 4 years during the recent occupation): over 200 yards of open ground which resulted in four officers and 29 other ranks losing their lives. On 28<sup>th</sup> May the battalion left its base in Basra travelling upstream to occupy Baghdad. Only it never reached its destination but was besieged in the small town of Kut, surrendering unconditionally on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1916. Corporal Edward Porter was probably one of the 13,000 soldiers from Britain and India put into captivity that day. He died shortly afterwards on 28<sup>th</sup> August, most likely resulting from the appalling conditions commonly suffered by these men. This was the second fateful telegram received by his parents, William Porter and Emma (ne Grief).

We are more familiar with the Gallipoli or Dardanelles campaign which saw the deaths of two brothers from Shouldham. On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1915 the 1/5<sup>th</sup> and 1/4<sup>th</sup> battalions of the Norfolk regiment attacked the Turkish lines above Sulva Bay to clear out snipers. Witnesses later testified that the men simply disappeared, and entered in legend as the “vanishing Norfolks” and were the subject of the BBC film starring David Jason. Among the men was Private Bertie Plaice. Three months later his brother, Harold of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, died in Cyprus almost certainly due to wounds or disease from that theatre. His unit fought in Sulva Bay where his brother had died only a few days before but it is not clear when he was evacuated from the peninsula. To add to the tragedy of the family a third brother, Arthur, was killed in action in fierce fighting at Gaza on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1917. He was serving the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Norfolks who were ordered to attack at first light alongside the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> against strong Turkish defences. The total casualties for the two units that day were 37 officers and 1103 men, which is comparable to the losses experienced by other units on the first day of the Somme and with similar results. No doubt many of Shouldham’s neighbouring villages have names of men who are buried alongside Arthur in Palestine. All three brothers were aged 20 or under

and their mother, Mary Elizabeth, appealed to the war office for her remaining son, Ashley, to be returned. Her wish was granted and he returned home in early 1918 from his position as a clerk in the air-force and settled down to become Shouldham's postmaster for about 40 years.

Far less known is the Bulgarian or Salonika campaign which saw Allied forces engaging against Germany's ally, Bulgaria. Two men from Shouldham, coincidentally both aged 38 or 39, lost their lives in this campaign and both are buried in Thessaloniki in Greece. Corporal (listed as Private on the war memorial) Robert Button of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers died of wounds on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1916 probably as a result of fighting in Northern Greece. William Grief died of wounds while serving in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917, almost certainly in the defeat at the battle of Dojran in today's Macedonia.

We return to the only non-soldier of the village to lose his life: 36 year old Private John Buckenham of the Royal Marine Light Infantry died on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916 as his ship, HMS Hampshire, sank after hitting a mine off the mainland of the Orkneys. Only 12 crew members survived because the ship sank in only 15 minutes and many of the life-boats broke up against the sides of the ship. Among the 737 dead was Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War who image called so many men to arms, including many from Shouldham.

There can be no question that the village made enormous sacrifices during the four and half years of the Great War. From the beginning to the end.

On the outbreak of war in August 1914 the British Expeditionary Force allegedly dismissed by Kaiser Wilhelm as a "contemptible little army" including at least two men from the village – Privates Lister Box and William Porter in the first battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade / 5<sup>th</sup> Division – set sail for France. The former died of wounds on 2<sup>nd</sup> November later in the year and is buried in Plymouth. The latter had moved to a little village called Springfield on the outskirts of Chelmsford and had served in the army for 3 years from 1902 before settling down to married family life. Perhaps because of the insecurity of work as a bricklayer and ostler he signed an extension of his terms in the army reserves for four more years in March 1914. Consequently he was called up later that year and found himself on the boat and train to the front before the 4 day march through the dust and heat of the summer. On 21<sup>st</sup> August the first British dead of the war was registered, John Parr of London, and the following day William Porter was reported as missed or dead. It is really not clear how he died, particularly as the Norfolk

Battalion did not engage with the Germany infantry until 24<sup>th</sup> August. Despite the fact his wife was only informed on 1<sup>st</sup> March the following year that he was missing, he probably was one of the first British dead of the war.

Equally heart-breaking is the fate of 19 year old Private Reginald James Green in November 1918. Germany was collapsing; in fact there was open revolution ever since 3<sup>rd</sup> and widespread calls for Kaiser Wilhelm to abdicate from 6<sup>th</sup>. The Allied forces continued to apply pressure, which of course resulted in deaths including Wilfred Owens at the dangerous crossing of the Sambre-Oise canal on 4<sup>th</sup> before a small force including the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was assembled for an attack around St Remy du Nord. Private Green was killed in action only three days before the end of the war and is buried in a French civilian graveyard along with 3 comrades who fell on either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> November. He would have been unaware that a small German delegation had earlier crossed Allied lines to sue for peace. His body is less than 20 miles from where Private Porter met his fate.

In the intervening years Shouldham's young men were in action across the Western Front and a variety of different theatres throughout the world. They participated in the artillery and machine gun fire, gas attacks, the terrors of no man's land, the mud of Flanders, the heat of the Middle East, the boredom of the daily routine and the terrors of action. Tragically 27 did not return.

(thanks to Jennifer Malby and John Porter for assisting the research for this article).



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. / At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

**Laurence Binyon, For The Fallen**

## COUNTRYSIDE NOTES FOR NOV 2016

### POPIES AND BLEUETS

November is the time when we honour those who died in the First World War which came to an end at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Back at the beginning of July centenary commemoration services were held at Westminster Abbey and at Thiepval in France for those who lost their lives in the battle of the Somme. One of those was Lance Corporal Arthur Bernard English from Eastmoor, Barton Bendish who served in the 9th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, died on September 15th and is remembered with honour on Thiepval memorial. Horrifyingly his name is but one of 72,000 inscribed on the memorial; and Thiepval is just one of many. The televised coverage was very moving and also educational. I wasn't previously aware that the French equivalent of our poppy is the Bleuets de France, the blue cornflower which appeared alongside red poppies in the fields devastated by the thousands of shells which fell along the Western Front. Both flowers were adopted as symbols of remembrance after WW1. Following the 1916 battles warm weather the following spring brought to life the seeds of many wildflowers scattered across the desolate landscape. In fact the seeds of both poppies and cornflowers will lay dormant in the ground for many years to resolutely reappear whenever the earth is freshly disturbed.

Suzanne Lenhardt, a head nurse tending the wounded, lost her own husband, a serving officer, in 1915. She organized workshops making the bleuets from tissue paper as occupational therapy for the wounded soldiers in her care. These badges were sold to the public and the money raised provided the men with a small income. This continued for many years after the war ended although the sale of bleuets in France on Remembrance Day was only officially recognised in 1935.

The idea of making poppies a symbol of remembrance was first adopted by American academic Moina Michael who introduced it to Britain in 1918. In 1921 the Royal British Legion ordered nine million poppies made by disabled ex-servicemen and sold them on November 11th. They sold out almost immediately and the tradition continues until this day. In 1922 the poppy factory was established in Richmond, London and a work force, most of whom are disabled, produce 36 million poppies, 5 million poppy petals, 900,000 crosses and 100,000 wreaths each year. When this tradition first began there weren't enough left over for Scotland so Lady Haig's Poppy Factory was established in Edinburgh and now produces 5 million poppies and 12,000 wreaths annually made by ex-servicemen, many of them registered disabled. Apparently Scottish poppies differ from ours as they do not include a leaf.

Dr John Macrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Field's' was the inspiration behind the choice of these flowers in remembrance.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below*



**Rudyard Kipling (**

"When you go home, tell them  
of us and say, for their  
tomorrow we gave our today."

**John Maxwell Edmonds**

"The legacy of heroes is the



memory of a great name and the  
inheritance of a great example."



7 ARMOURED DIVISION THETFORD FOREST

# Remembrance Day Service

at the CROMWELL memorial at High Ash  
IP26 5BZ

Sunday 13th November 2016  
Starts 10.30am



Limited chairs so bring your our if needed.



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## Forthcoming events at Downham Market Library

### Regular events

#### Scrabble Club

8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

1pm – 3pm. No need to book but places on first come basis.

#### Knit and Natter

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, term time only.

1.30 – 3pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November

#### Baby bounce and rhyme

Thursdays – 10-10.30 term time only

### Other events

#### Tax, Care and Toy Boys

A talk by Collective Legal Solutions on Inheritance tax, long term care and sideways disinheritance.

Tuesday 1st November 1 - 2pm.

Please note this event is part of the Friendship group so £1 is payable on arrival, includes refreshments. Booking essential.

#### Make a gem card for Christmas

Come along and make a Christmas gem card.

Tuesday 8th November 10.30am - 12 noon

£2 covers cost of materials and refreshments. Booking essential.

#### Internet for beginners

For those struggling to get started

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 12 noon. Free –

Booking essential.

#### Downham Market Library Friends Group

Are you interested in finding out how you can support your local library? If so then contact us to find out more about our Downham Market Library Friends group. The roles are very flexible and vary depending on the time you can give. For further information give Fran, Linda or Elena a ring on 01366 383073

**November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – Love to Read Weekend**

Visit your local library and find out what books the library staff are recommending.

Find out what else you could be reading...

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blog.wordpress.com](https://norfolklibrarybookreview-blog.wordpress.com)  
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NorfolkLibsUK/](https://uk.pinterest.com/NorfolkLibsUK/)

Elena Parkin, Community Librarian  
Norfolk County Council, Gaywood  
and Downham Market Libraries



**Wine Tasting**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>  
November, 7.30pm**

**Boughton Church**

Back by popular demand...in support of the  
Boughton Playground project

Fancy trying out some different wines this  
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Join Boughton's resident wine expert, Giles for  
a fun and informative evening.

Contact Carol on 01366 502012 or email  
[boughtonplayground@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonplayground@gmail.com)

**Swaffham Jazz  
Club**

**Colin Mason Quartet with  
Eleanora on vocals and  
keyboard**

**Tuesday 8th November  
7.30pm**

Swaffham Conservative Social  
Club

23 London Rd PE37 7DD  
Entry £5

Enquiries:  
01366 328730 or 01760 722384



**Close Harmony with  
Jill Dobbs**

**Saturday November 26th  
7.30pm**

Swaffham Assembly Rooms

£9.00 for members

£12 non-members

Accompanied children free

Tickets from

Green Parrot 01760 724704

Ceres Bookshop 01760 722504

Enquiries

01366 328648

## REMEMBER, REMEMBER, THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER.....

In 1605, thirteen young men planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Among them was Guy Fawkes, Britain's most notorious traitor.

After Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, English Catholics who had been persecuted under her rule had hoped that her successor, James I, would be more tolerant of their religion. James I had, after all, had a Catholic mother. Unfortunately, James did not turn out to be more tolerant than Elizabeth and a number of young men, 13 to be exact, decided that violent action was the answer.

A small group took shape, under the leadership of Robert Catesby. Catesby felt that violent action was warranted. Indeed, the thing to do was to blow up the Houses of Parliament. In doing so, they would kill the King, maybe even the Prince of Wales, and the Members of Parliament who were making life difficult for the Catholics. Today these conspirators would be known as extremists, or terrorists.

To carry out their plan, the conspirators got hold of 36 barrels of gunpowder - and stored them in a cellar, just under the House of Lords.

But as the group worked on the plot, it became clear that innocent people would be hurt or killed in the attack, including some people who even fought for more rights for Catholics. Some of the plotters started having second thoughts. One of the group members even sent an anonymous letter warning his friend, Lord Monteagle, to stay away from the Parliament on November 5th. Was the letter real?

The warning letter reached the King, and the King's forces made plans to stop the conspirators.

Guy Fawkes, who was in the cellar of the parliament with the 36 barrels of gunpowder when the authorities stormed it in the early hours of November 5th, was caught, tortured and executed.

It's unclear if the conspirators would ever have been able to pull off their plan to blow up the Parliament even if they had not been betrayed. Some have suggested that the gunpowder itself was so old as to be useless. Since Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators got caught before trying to ignite the powder, we'll never know for certain.

Even for the period which was notoriously unstable, the Gunpowder Plot struck a very profound chord for the people of England. In fact, even today, the reigning monarch only enters the Parliament once a year, on what is called "the State Opening of Parliament". Prior to the Opening, and according to custom, the Yeomen of the Guard search the cellars of the Palace of Westminster. Nowadays, the Queen and Parliament still observe this tradition.

On the very night that the Gunpowder Plot was foiled, on November 5th, 1605, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the safety of the King. Since then,

November 5th has become known as Bonfire Night. The event is commemorated every year with fireworks and burning effigies of Guy Fawkes on a bonfire.

Some of the English have been known to wonder, in a tongue in cheek kind of way, whether they are celebrating Fawkes' execution or honoring his attempt to do away with the government.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Brunch Croissants

*Serves 2*

4 croissants  
250g chestnut mushrooms  
125g reduced fat mozzarella  
bunch spring onions  
1 green chilli (*optional*)  
1 tblsp olive oil  
salt and pepper

Start by making the filling. Slice the mushrooms thickly. Cut the spring onions into 1cm lengths. If using the chilli, de-seed if you prefer, or leave the seeds in if you want to wake up faster, and chop finely. Heat the oil in a wide pan and cook the vegetables over a medium heat until the mushrooms soften, seasoning to taste. If there is a lot of moisture in the pan, turn up the heat for about a minute at the end to drive off some of the excess liquid, as you don't want your croissants too soggy.

While the mushrooms are cooking, preheat the oven to 150°C /gas mark 2. Drain the mozzarella and cut into 8 slices. Cut the croissants horizontally, but try to leave a 'hinge' between base and lid.

Place the opened-out croissants on a baking tray. Divide the mushroom mixture between them, and place 2 slices of mozzarella on top of the mushroom mix in each. Replace the lids and bake in the oven for about 10 minutes. The croissants should be warmed through and the mozzarella melted.

*Kirstie Urquhart*

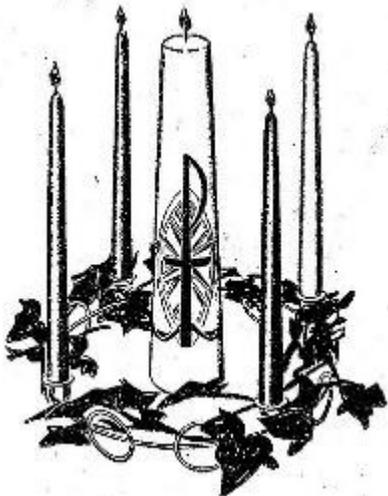
**A**dvent begins on the Sunday nearest November 30, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and covers four Sundays. Because the day it begins changes from year to year, so does the length of each Advent season. In 2016, Advent begins on November 27.

The word advent, from Latin, means “the coming.” For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. Even as the Christmas season has become more secular Advent still brings joy and the observance of ancient customs. Christian families find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent wreath, and children use Advent calendars to count the days until Christmas.

### **The History of Advent**

Advent has probably been observed since the fourth century. Originally, it was a time when converts to Christianity readied themselves for baptism.

During the Middle Ages, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming. In early days Advent lasted from November 11, the feast of St. Martin, until Christmas Day. Advent was considered a pre-Christmas season of Lent when Christians devoted themselves to prayer and fasting. The Orthodox Eastern Church observes a similar Lenten season, from November 15 until Christmas, rather than Advent. Many Christians still view Advent as a season to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. In the last fifty years, however, it has also come to be thought of as a time of anticipating the Nativity, on Christmas Day.



**Advent Wreaths** Advent wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of northern Europe, where in the deep of winter people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and the circular shape symbolized ongoing life. The candlelight gave comfort at this darkest time of the year, as people looked forward to the longer days of spring. Later, Eastern European Christians adopted this practice. By the sixteenth century, they were making Advent wreaths much as we know them today. An advent wreath traditionally contains four candles—three purple and one rose. Purple dyes were one so rare and costly that they were associated with royalty;

the Roman Catholic Church has long used this color around Christmas and Easter to honour Jesus. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace, and love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes joy, is usually lit on the third Sunday. Sometimes a fifth candle is placed inside the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Day. It is white, the colour associated with angels and the birth of Jesus. Because Advent wreaths are an informal celebration, not all are the same. Instead of purple candles, some people use blue, which recalls the color of the night sky before daylight returns. Others use all white candles.

**Advent Calendars** An advent calendar is a card or poster with twenty-four small doors, one to be opened each day from December 1 until Christmas Eve. Each door conceals a picture. This popular tradition arose in Germany in the late 1800s and soon spread throughout Europe and North America. Originally, the images in Advent calendars were derived from the Hebrew Bible.

Considered a fun way of counting down the days until Christmas, many Advent calendars today have no religious content. Now, alongside traditional Advent calendars depicting angels and biblical figures are those whose doors open to display teddy bears, pieces of chocolate, or photos of pop stars.

**Bell-Ringing** — At the Wisbech District Ringers' Striking Contest, held on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> September at Wisbech St. Mary, Shouldham ringers regained the change-ringing trophy which was won by March ringers the previous year. The contest operates at two levels; Called Changes for the less experienced bands, and Method ringing for the more advanced teams who must ring 120 different changes as near-perfectly and rhythmically as they can. The two judges, who are located outside the church but do not know which team is ringing, mark clashes and faults with the respective pieces of ringing on their notepads. Each band is allowed five minutes' practice, then – after a brief silence – the smallest bell is rung to signal to the judges that the test piece is to begin. We used the practice time almost to its fullest extent and then successfully completed our test piece.. The two judges, Sheila and Phillip George from Great Gransden, then presented the results to the assembled contestants who awaited the outcome with some trepidation. So – marking for overall accuracy of ringing – the final line-up was: Shouldham 93%; Methwold 'A' 88%; Walsoken 86% and the scratch band 66%. Taking part for Shouldham were: Ann Hullah...Treble; Rev. Brian Redgers...2<sup>nd</sup>; Pam Wakeling...3<sup>rd</sup>; Gary Bainbridge...4<sup>th</sup>; Brian Hullah (conductor)...5<sup>th</sup>; John Porter...Tenor.



# CENTRE STAGE SWING BAND

**Monday 12th December**

**7.30pm**

**Leziate Village Hall,**

**Brow of the Hill, Leziate, King's Lynn, PE32  
1EN**

**Tickets £6 on the door**

**Includes a glass of wine/soft drink and a  
mince pie**

**Enjoy an evening of music from the  
great names in Swing.**

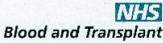
**Featuring the mellifluous tones of**

**Tom Melvin**

**With**

**Tickets £6 on the door**

**Includes a glass of wine/soft drink and a  
mince pie**



**Save a life – give blood**

Wednesday 9 November  
13:00 to 16:00 & 17:00 to 19:45

ASSEMBLY ROOMS  
MARKET PLACE  
SWAFFHAM



For more information  
visit [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) or call  
**0300 123 23 23**



**Free home assessments on offer**

Older, disabled or vulnerable residents of West Norfolk are being encouraged to book an appointment for a free home assessment from Careline Community Services.

The assessments, which are carried out by a team of qualified staff, will help residents, who may be living with a disability or dementia, or who are simply older and less mobile, to identify concerns in their property which may be affecting their day-to-day life.

The assessor, trained by the Disabled Living Foundation, will inspect the home to see whether measures could be introduced that would reduce the possibility of slips, trips and falls and generally make it easier for people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Measures that could be considered include installation of a Careline personal alarm, improved lighting arrangements, heating checks, draught proofing, smoke detectors and easy-to-use taps along with recommendations for other adaptations that may reduce any potential risk to the resident. Practical solutions for those living with dementia are also available, this includes signage or colour differentiation for those who suffer with memory loss and are visually impaired.

**Bonfire**

at

**BARTON BENDISH HALL**

on

**Friday 4th November 2016**

From 6.30 p.m.

▪



▪

£6.00 per adult

(no charge for accompanied children)

▪



▪

Price includes hot dog and a glass of wine

▪



▪

Proceeds to: St Andrew's Church,  
& Village Hall,  
Barton Bendish,

# Wereham

## Pop-Up Café



1st Tuesday  
every month  
10.30 to 12.00

Fresh coffee/tea, home-made cakes, sit and read papers or have a natter....



Just £ 1.50



All proceeds go to Village Hall.

# Wereham Weekly Cash



Wereham Village Hall  
Wednesdays

Doors open 6.45 pm  
Eyes down 7.30 pm

Raffle and Refreshments  
with complimentary biscuits



Enquiries: Doreen Rolph  
01366 500218

All proceeds go to Village Hall  
Registered Charity Number 1151336 Wereham Village Hall

## SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED?



**NEW Range cooker  
and spacious larder  
fridge/freezer  
available when you  
hire**

## WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL!

Contact Doreen on  
500218 for Book-  
ings



### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT & VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2-8PM



MARKET PLACE, SWAFFHAM

See Santa and his real reindeer, bright new Christmas Lights, music by Fakenham Town Band, Oasis Church singers, Thursford Steam Organ, craft/gift & catering stalls, funfair rides for all children and so much more. Come along and join in the fun.

Joint event by Swaffham Trade Association & Swaffham Town Council



**CHRISTMAS WREATH  
WORKSHOP**

Would you like to have a go at making your own Christmas Wreath?

Then come along to Barton Bendish Village Hall on

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm  
and also Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

The cost of this fun and informal workshop is £15 per person and includes festive refreshment. All basic materials are provided but you can bring your own ribbon or everlasting decoration to add if you would like to, no experience is necessary and you will go home with your own beautiful Christmas wreath.

Just bring a pair of secateurs and dress for mess!

For more information and to book a place please contact

Mhari – 01366 347 849 or Linda –  
01366 347 563.

**Barton Bendish**

**A Victorian Evening of  
Christmas  
Entertainment, Music  
and Carols**

Come and join in the Christmas celebrations at this evening of entertainment for all ages!

**Saturday 10. December at 6pm**

Victorian dress is optional for the audience but if you have any 'suitable costumes' you could lend us for the 'cast' we would be very pleased to hear from you! If you would like to take part, we would also be very pleased to welcome you to the 'concert party'!

The entertainment will be followed by light refreshments and mulled wine. Entrance is free but donations are gratefully appreciated.

For more information and to book your seat please contact

Mhari 01366 347849 or Linda  
01366 347563

## FROM THE SMALLHOLDING

### AUTUMN 2016

### HOW TO DOWN SIZE.

You will be familiar by now of my fascination with small holdings and vegetable gardens in northern Greece. There are two models of the vegetable patch. One is the allotment strip; about ten strips side by side of fine alluvial soil with the tenants probably having access to a rotorvator and a piped water supply, no doubt sourced from the lake about 100 metres away. These allotments are mostly tended by elderly women who manage to keep them spectacularly weed free and produce prodigious crops of vegetables and strawberries from May to October when it is time for the preserving and get ready for the snow!

The other model which I admire and envy is the 'back yard' type of garden around the house well fenced against village animals and predators and chickens and tended by a very elderly man and his equally ancient wife. What I admired from the balcony of our modest hotel next door was their *modus operandi*; from what I could see 'he' spent most of his time sitting in a comfortable plastic chair and occasionally taking a hoe for a short walk amongst the peppers, courgettes, tomatoes. There was a heavily laden fig tree near an open sided shed. 'Her' role seemed to be to supply 'him' with drinks when 'he' was seated. Now all that is enviable enough but add to it a simple irrigation system of saucer shaped reservoirs around the tomatoes and courgettes etc and you have your veg supply for the year; if you don't, then, at least twice a week a pickup visits with cries of "patates!, tomates " and seasonal fruit. Enough produce for plenty of preserving.

**Back at home--** it is quite clear that my veg plot is now more than I can handle, in other words I could be producing more from a smaller area and keep on top of the weeds. This year the down sizing has begun almost by default. Not having the energy to prepare the ground properly, planting and sowing happened wherever there was a space without weeds, not generally a good idea but we did have good crops of beans and courgettes and the early potatoes were satisfactory too. One intended down-sizing innovation that did work was to use a 1 metre x 2 metre enviromesh corral to surround the sowings of carrots, parsnips and brassicas; advertised to protect against carrot fly and flea-beetle, it really was effective and we have acceptable carrots and parsnips, ( the brassica seedlings looked good until caterpillars got most of them later on!).



Probably because they are limited and controlled spaces the polytunnels were planted up more or less on time and have contributed to the comforting cornucopia on the kitchen table. There too are apples and pears, abundant crops of both this year with later apples glowing beautifully in the autumn sunlight. A late surprise to the kitchen table are aubergines which quietly got on with it and so making a welcome contribution, as are a few good looking butternuts.

As part of the down-sizing exercise a raised bed is now in kit form and will soon be erected; we shall see whether no bend gardening is as comfortable as it sounds. The possibility of tending vegetable beds from an upright position is most attractive.

A Robin , *Erithacus rubecula*, that is, sometimes two, have taken to following me around as if checking up. They have had a good breeding season so I am wondering if they are

asking for help with their territorial arrangements. Now that's tricky and I shall have to tell them that in that matter they are on their own.

A final indication that Autumn is here is the return of the fieldfares, it is always good to see them back.

### *Robin Blackall*

Answers to quiz on page 71

1. Pandemonium – Hell's capital
2. Stromboli
3. James Thurber
4. Bambi
5. John Milton
6. David Copperfield
7. Steven Potter
8. Ambulance Driver
9. Actor
10. Robinson Crusoe
11. Wrote her books
12. Catherine Cookson
13. Samuel Pickwick
14. Bunyan's The Pilgrims Progress
15. Broomsticks
16. A Clockwork Orange

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### Could you help a young person with a disability to think about their Future?

The CSV Futures Project supports young people with learning disabilities to explore their options as they think about leaving education.

Volunteer Mentors provide one to one support to a young person to help them develop a personal profile of their skills and interests, their likes and dislikes and their future goals. The Mentor can then support the young person to start working towards these; this can include accessing work experience and training opportunities plus the chance to try out volunteering and new social activities.

CSV needs volunteers who can offer a couple of hours of their time each week to mentor the young people as they make choices about their futures, raising aspirations by exploring together the young person's skills, interests and abilities.

We are looking for people ages 16+ - Mentors can come from all walks of life and no experience is needed but patience, the ability to listen and a sense of humour are all useful skills. Mentors receive full training and support and out of pocket expenses are paid.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Volunteer Mentor for the CSV Futures Project please contact Vicki Howling, the project co-ordinator for an informal chat. Telephone 01366 386972 or 07926 044845 or email [vhowling@csv.org.uk](mailto:vhowling@csv.org.uk)

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) is the UK's leading volunteering charity. Social justice is at the heart of what we do; empowering people to have a positive stake in society and tackle barriers to community participation through creating volunteering and learning opportunities.

# BARTON BENDISH NEWS AND EASTMOOR NEWS

## **Arts, Photography and Craft Exhibition**

The weekend did not start well with the strong northerly wind succeeding in demolishing a large gazebo erected to house the weaving and spinning demonstrations. However Mel and David hastily remedied the problem by erecting their own smaller gazebos side by side in the lee of the large refreshments marquee. From then on everything went well with plenty of visitors from near and far. David was very impressed with how well his signs worked as they even drew in some visitors from Idaho, USA!!

Each year our exhibition has gone from strength and with 15 craft people, 29 artists and three photographers exhibiting there was a wide range of work to admire and maybe purchase. Once again Maurice Cornelius was there making and selling his fabric boxes which proved as popular as ever. A new exhibitor was Sally Thomas with her handcrafted pottery which attracted a lot of attention.

When a small village like Barton organises such a big event as this it is literally all hands on deck and once again not only the village people but ex villagers who have moved away came up trumps. They manned the sales desks, sold raffle tickets, stewarded, baked innumerable cakes, made soup, grilled bacon for the ever popular bacon rolls, served refreshments and were continually washing up! Behind the scenes Linda and Mhari worked many hours to put it all together and particular thanks must go to Elizabeth who was not only involved with contacting exhibitors and processing entry forms but also found time to hang the pictures, do the flower arrangements and assemble some fantastic raffle prizes.

Thanks go as well to The Berney Arms for the nibbles on the preview evening - they were delicious! And to Hylton Gott for generously sponsoring the wine.

All the hard work resulted in a net profit of around £1,650 making it our most successful Exhibition yet. *Jill*

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Huge thanks to everyone for helping us raise the magnificent sum of £474.30 for Macmillan - our best total yet. Thank you for your generosity shown in so many different ways by cake making, by giving raffle prizes, sparing time to help and by those who were unable to come but made donations. We mustn't forget either

all the cake eaters and tea/coffee drinkers who came along to make it all worthwhile. It was great to see so many people from outside the village joining us to support this worthy cause.

Thanks again *Jill and the Gang*

### **Harvest**

### **Supper**

It was lovely to see so many people at our Harvest Service in St Andrew's church on Saturday 8th. Robin and Pippa took the service and the singing was helped by the super organ playing of Chris Young. Straight after that it was over to the village hall for a Harvest Supper of good old bangers and mash then delicious fruit crumble and custard. We were then entertained by Lissa and Sandy who sang some favourite old songs and managed to get everyone joining in. We then had a visit from Barton's Singing Shepherd who kept us all laughing with his jokes and stories and entertained us with a couple of songs. Thank you all for your regalement! Catering for our 60 guests was no mean feat and a huge hearty thanks goes out to all the ladies who helped in the kitchen with food preparation and washing up - that includes Lee too. Also the young people, James, Zach and Emily for helping serve and to everyone who made crumbles, mashed tatties, cooked sausages and made gravy. It was a super traditional evening of fun, food and friendship. Thank you all for your continued support.

*Linda and Mhari*

### **Barton Bendish Hall - Bonfire with BBQ Friday 4th November 2016**

Please come along and enjoy a bonfire with a hot dog and refreshments at Barton Bendish Hall on 4th November between 6:30pm-9:30pm. Suggested donation of £6 per adult to include BBQ and a glass of wine. All proceeds to St Andrews Church and the Village Hall. Accompanied, supervised children welcome.

### **Remembrance Day Service 13th November**

We will lay our village wreath at the War Memorial at St Andrews after the G8 service at Fincham. Estimated time at our memorial is 12.30 for the short service.

### **Wreath Making Workshops 2016 November 17th, 18th and 19th**

Mhari and Linda have already taken a lot of bookings for these ever popular workshops. This year's sessions have been organised for the Thursday, Friday

and Saturday evenings all at 7.30pm and also on the Saturday morning at 10am. The cost is £15 per person.

Please make a note of these dates and times and book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact either Mhari on 347849 or Linda on 347563

**Barton Bendish Film Club present 'A Christmas Carol'  
Saturday December 3rd at 7.30 pm**

A Disney adaption of the Charles Dickens story of the same name. Starring Jim Carrey and with Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Bon Hoskins, Robin Wright Penn and Cary Elwes in supporting roles. Running time 95 minutes

Tickets £4 Book on 01366 347849 or email [cinemabarton@gmail.com](mailto:cinemabarton@gmail.com)

**Christingle Service Sunday December 4th 3pm St Andrew's**

**Victorian Evening Saturday December 10th at 6pm**

Once again Barton Bendish will be presenting its own Victorian Evening. It's free and everyone is very welcome to come – the more the merrier. If you feel like dressing up appropriately for the era or actively take part in the entertainment please let Linda or Mhari know. Some fresh talent would make a very welcome addition to the evening so get rehearsing!

**Christmas Lunch at RAF Marham**

Each year in early December, as a goodwill gesture, RAF Marham invite 15 Senior Citizens from each of the surrounding villages to a Christmas lunch on the base. If you consider yourself eligible (over 65) and would like your name added to the existing list for the parish of Barton Bendish please see the relevant section in the Parish Council Report although it is unlikely that you would be able to be included this year. However your turn should come in due course.

*Val*

**Telephone Box**

As you will also see in the PC report it has been agreed to adopt the telephone box sited in the heart of the village. As it will be redundant as a phone box it would be ideal if it could be put to good use of some kind. If anyone has any

suggestions please contact Val McAlister who would like to hear from you on 01366 347570 or email [valerieathoofbeats@hotmail.com](mailto:valerieathoofbeats@hotmail.com)

or email me at [masons.sandmere@btinternet.com](mailto:masons.sandmere@btinternet.com)

## **Village Hall**

Following discussions about the renewal of the lease for the Village Hall it has been suggested that it would be nice if it could be used more frequently for further community fund-raising events. With this in mind would you like to have regular coffee mornings? Say once a month? Would you come? Would you like to organize an event yourself such as a quiz or a talk? They are always popular. The Village Hall is there to be used but most of the people at present actively involved with organizing events don't feel they are able to take on much more so any suggestions or involvement would be most welcome.

Our well equipped Village Hall is also available to hire for private functions. *Jill* [masons.sandmere@btinternet.com](mailto:masons.sandmere@btinternet.com)

## **Barton Bendish Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Cllr Carter was in the Chair. Three parishioners were in attendance.

Cllr Tasker and Cllr Richardson had attended a meeting with the Highways Engineer, Mr Wallace. All outstanding highways issues in the parish had been discussed along with a request to extend the 30mph area to include Boughton Long Road. Mr Wallace had made a note of all outstanding issues and had advised that the 30mph speed limit could not be extended as there was no funding available for this and he did not believe that motorists would comply with a 30mph speed limit in this area.

The Annual Return for 2015/16 had been completed by the External Audit; there were no comments or suggestions.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the telephone box in Barton Bendish. BT will be contacted to make arrangements to start the process which will take a few months and involve planning permission from the Borough Council.

A complaint had been received from a resident regarding the condition of the Parish Council notice board in Eastmoor. Cllr Webster had taken a look at the board, carried out some remedial maintenance and updated the notices. It was agreed that further maintenance would be carried out and the notices would be

updated regularly.

Cllr McAlister is currently collecting a list of nominees to attend the next Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at RAF Marham, which is normally held in the first week of December. If you are a senior citizen who would be interested in attending and have not already been contacted by Cllr McAlister please contact her directly on 01366 347570 or contact the Clerk on the details shown below. The Parish Council is able to nominate 15 residents to attend so if there is insufficient space for everyone to attend this year your name would be carried forward to next year.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. This will be an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Miss	Sarah	Thorpe,	Parish	Clerk
Telephone		number:	01945	430930
Email:	<a href="mailto:bartonbendishparishcouncil@aol.co.uk">bartonbendishparishcouncil@aol.co.uk</a>			

Further information is available on the Parish Council website at [bortonbendishparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://bortonbendishparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Friday NOVEMBER 4th BBQ and Bonfire Barton Bendish Hall at 6.30 See advert**

**Sunday NOVEMBER 13th Remembrance Day Service approx 12.30 St Andrew's**

**NOVEMBER 17th, 18th and 19th Wreath Making Workshops See advert**

**Saturday DECEMBER 3rd Film A Christmas Carol at 7.30pm See advert**

**Sunday DECEMBER 4th Christingle Service 3pm St Andrew's**

**Saturday DECEMBER 10th Victorian Evening 6pm Village Hall See advert**

**Saturday JANUARY 28th 2017 Burns Supper Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

# Beachamwell Book Group

**Tuesday 1st November**

7.30 -8.45

Beachamwell Memorial Hall

Book to be discussed over a glass of wine

**'The Taxidermist's  
Daughter'  
by Kate Mosse**

**Annual Subscription £15.00**

**New members welcome**

# Beachamwell Wednesday Walkers

**Explore the rights of way in and  
around Beachamwell with us**

We meet at the Village Hall at 10.00 am  
**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH**

*Walks last between one and a half to  
two hours*

*All, including dogs on leads, are wel-  
come*

Some paths may be rough underfoot,  
there may be stiles or fields may be  
ploughed: come at your own risk and  
please wear suitable clothing and shoes  
for the outdoors



# Beachamwell WI

**Thursday 3rd November**

7.30pm

Beachamwell Memorial Hall

**"Annual Meeting and  
Autumn Supper"**

Visitors Welcome  
Tickets £3.50

Enquiries:  
01366 328325



# Beachamwell WI 'Craft Evening 2016'

**Tuesday 15th November  
7.30 - 9.30**

**Beachamwell Memorial Hall**

Learn, improve and share a  
wide range of yarn and fabric  
crafts

Non-WI members and beginners  
very welcome

£3 inc refreshments

## **Beachamwell Afternoon Tea and a Chat.....**

Wednesday  
**November 16th**  
2 - 4pm

Beachamwell  
Memorial Hall

Enquiries  
01366 347673

## **Beachamwell**

### **Local History Group**

#### **“Victorian Rural Women”**

An illustrated talk by  
Charlotte Paton

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

7.30pm

Beachamwell Memorial Hall

Visitors £3  
All welcome

Enquiries:  
01366 327023 or 01366 328242

## **Beachamwell Craft Group**

Thursday 24th November

2 - 4.00pm

Beachamwell Memorial Hall

Bring along something you are  
already working on or start a new  
hobby in a friendly group of like  
minded people.

£2.00 + Bring and Buy

All welcome.

Enquiries:01366 328536



## **Beachamwell WI**

Saturday November 26th

12.00 – 3.00pm

Beachamwell Memorial Hall

### **‘Christmas Fayre’**

Seasonal Refreshments  
Cakes and Preserves, Raffle  
Handmade Gifts Decorations

Enquiries  
01366 327023

# BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

## Ralph Bateman



We were all sad to hear that Ralph died in October.

He and Alma moved to Heacham last year to be near to their daughter.

Our condolences to Alma and her family.

***All their Friends in Beachamwell***

## Parish Council

Dates for future meetings are:

2016: November 14<sup>th</sup> 2017: January 9<sup>th</sup> March 13<sup>th</sup> May 8<sup>th</sup>

If you have any items for the agenda please give them to me in writing at least a week beforehand.

As always, if you have a query or a problem, you can consult the Councillors at any time – they are more than willing to listen and help if they can.

The Parish Council website is [beachamwell-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://beachamwell-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

***Eileen Powell (Parish Clerk)***

## St Mary's Church

Fabric – There is a new bench in the churchyard as, unfortunately, the old bench from the school was damaged beyond repair (one of the concrete legs had split and was unsafe). The grass cutting contractor, CGM, removed the old bench and provided the new one at cost price.

Afternoon Tea and Cake will be on the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (November 16<sup>th</sup>) in the Memorial Hall. Come along and enjoy a chat, tea/coffee and delicious homemade cakes, all welcome.

Services for November are varied around the parishes with Holy Communion at St. Mary's on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a Family service on the 20<sup>th</sup>, both at 11am, all welcome. There will be a joint Remembrance Service at Fincham on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Also at Fincham we will have an Advent service with the Bishop.

See the centre pages of G4N for all the service details.

Advance notice for the popular Carols by candle light; this year it will be on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30pm.

***Dick Wainer, St. Mary's PCC***

# BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

## Flower Rota for November

6<sup>th</sup> Pat O'Donnell, 13<sup>th</sup> Eileen Powell, 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Riches, 27<sup>th</sup> Susie Rix

If anyone is interested in joining the Flower Rota please contact me and I will explain what is involved.

*Eileen Powell*

## Mobile Post Office

Monday and Thursday 12.45 – 13.05

Tuesday and Wednesday 11.25 – 11.55

## Beachamwell Village Hall (Charity registration number 303900)

We are delighted to report that, despite the rain, the Beachamwell Fete and Country Fair raised an amazing £3,881.88. Well done to everybody who helped and a big thank you to everybody who supported the event (including Chris Marshall from the Gold Shop, Dereham who donated his Beanbag Throwing prize to the Fete's funds!)

We are waiting to hear from Breckland if our planning application for a path and disabled parking area has been approved and at the end of October we should hear whether or not our grant application to WREN has been successful. If it has been, we shall be embarking on the first stage of improving access to the hall. Look out for more news in the December edition!

## Beachamwell Village Hall Committee

**Contact: Leah Spencer 01366 328536 or [leah@wissey.co.uk](mailto:leah@wissey.co.uk)**

## Beachamwell Quilting Group

We would like to say a great big thank you to everybody who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Craft Sale on 29 September. It raised an amazing £626.00 for a very important cause. The coffee morning was held in memory of Mim Scott, a wonderful member of the group, who died earlier this year and is sadly missed.



**Brenda Wright and Kate Davies**

## BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

WI



The Speakers at our October Meeting were Members of the Beachamwell History Group. Maggie introduced the session explaining how the Group started, Leah elaborated on the Project “Connecting Threads” and Carole talked about the artefacts that she and Brian had found in their garden at The Old Rectory. The artefacts have been dated by Gressenhall Rural Life Museum and included amongst many items a 14th

Century shoe buckle, a neolithic scraper and axehead and a palaeolithic blade, just think people were walking the garden thousands of years ago. Pat talked about the information she had found on the men named on the War Memorial which is in St. Marys Church and what became of them. Anita thanked the History Group very much for a most interesting and informative talk. If anybody reading this is interested in local history, then why not join us? Contact Maggie 01366 327023

The Memorial Hall Committee thanked Members for their fantastic effort in baking cakes and organising and manning the Refreshments at the recent Fete. It was certainly a busy afternoon and we were proud to have raised in excess of £700.

Next Meeting is our Annual Meeting with Cheese and Wine too. Nominations for Committee should be sent to President Irene.

**Carole Wilson**

### **Wednesday Walkers**

October 5<sup>th</sup> was a red letter day for the Wednesday Walkers – our fifth birthday! We have completed sixty walks on the first Wednesdays of the month since that first walk in October 2012 and have covered almost every inch of public rights of way and open access land in the parish. We have also strayed outside Beachamwell and have plans for extra adventures further a-field for the coming months and years.

## BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Our anniversary walk took us up to Larch Wood then, via Warren Farm and the Peddesty, to the forest in the hope of finding exotic looking and named fungi – earthstars, egg-on-a-stick and horse-hair – but they were elusive and not to be



seen. Perhaps next year?

If you would like to walk and explore with us, do join us on Wednesday, 2nd November at Beachamwell Memorial Hall at 10.00 am. We shall walk to Shingham then, passing the tumulus that marks the boundary between Beachamwell and Oxborough, we shall do a circuit near Langwade and back to Shingham.

For further information, please telephone

**Leah Spencer 01366 536 or Sue Pennell 01366 328452**

***(Photograph of earthstar fungus by Sue Pennell)***

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

### MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS - Please note changed days/times

DATE	VILLAGE	LOCATION	TIME
Thursday 21st November	Beachamwell	Post Office	10:05 am
	Drymere	Telephone Box	10:40 am
19th December	Boughton	Sycamore House Mill Road	15:20 pm 15:35 pm
	Barton Bendish	Hatherley Gardens	9:40 pm
Thursday 7th, 21st November 5th, 19th December	Wereham	The Pond Queen's Close	9:30 am 16:20 pm

For services to all 'Group 4' villages ring Mobile Library Information on 01603 222267 or look at the website - [www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure\\_and\\_culture/Libraries/Mobile\\_libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries/Mobile_libraries)

### VILLAGE BUS SERVICES

FROM	ROUTE	OPERATOR	DESTINATION
Barton Bendish	31 (Saturday)	Lewis Coaches	Swaffham
Beachamwell	31 (Saturday) 18 (Tuesday)	Lewis Coaches Eagles Coaches	Swaffham King's Lynn & Swaffham
Boughton	18 (Tuesday)	Eagles Coaches	King's Lynn & Swaffham
Wereham	28 (Mon to Sat) 40 (Mon to Sat)	Coach Services Coach Services	King's Lynn Thetford/Downham

Timetable requests:- (01603) 228888, Traveline (08706) 082608 ([www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk))

### FARMERS' MARKETS

Ely	Second and Fourth Saturday 8:00-2:00pm
Fakenham	Fourth Saturday 8.30am to 12:00pm
RAF Marham	First Thursday 12.00pm to 5.00pm
Swaffham	First and Third Sunday

For information:- [www.farmersmarkets.net](http://www.farmersmarkets.net) or your local Tourist Information Office

### VILLAGE, COMMUNITY and PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

Barton Bendish	Bill Tasker	01366 347432
Beachamwell	Leah Spencer	01366 328536
Boughton	Pam Wakeling	01366 500429
Wereham	Doreen Rolph	01366 500218

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER**

**Sunday November 6th 3rd before Advent**

9.30 am	Shouldham	Morning Prayer
10.30 am	Marham	Café church
11.00 am	Beachamwell	Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Wereham	Evening Service

**Sunday November 13th Remembrance Sunday**

There will be a joint service of Holy Communion at Fincham with an act of Remembrance where the wreaths can be blessed as in previous years. The service will start promptly at 10.45 am. Please bring your parish wreath and a list of the fallen from your parish. Refreshments will be served.

**Sunday November 20th Christ the King**

9.30 am	Shouldham	Holy Communion
10.30 am	Marham	United Morning Worship
11.00 am	Beachamwell	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Wereham	Holy Communion

**Sunday November 27th Advent Sunday**

10.00 am      Fincham

A group service of Holy Communion led by the Bishop of Ely. This service is the Bishop's visit to ALL the parishes in the benefice, so please come along. It will be followed by refreshments and I'm sure Fincham will appreciate help from the other parishes.

Thursday services ( all at 10 am and followed by refreshments) are at Fincham except for the 10th November, when the service will be at Boughton.

### **THURSDAY COMMUNIONS**

1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at Fincham. 2nd Thursday at Boughton. Service at 10 am, followed by coffee and biscuits. Everyone welcome, even if you don't wish to take communion.

### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Barton Bendish	Mhari Blanchfield	01366 347849
	Linda Webster	01366 347563
Beachamwell	John Sanderson	01366 328818
	Vesna Budson	07854261273
Boughton	Pam Wakeling	01366 500429
Wereham	Sheila Smith	01366 858165

**BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS** Please contact the Churchwarden in your parish.

## **BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS**

### **Boughton Fen Report for Parish Council Meeting 21.10.2016**

Firstly, I would like to welcome Andrew Faherty to the Fen Committee.

The time of year has now arrived when our activities swing into action to keep the fen looking good.

The first working party of the year took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, to clear the incredible growth of brambles that has occurred over the summer on the entrance into Highland Fen. On the Friday, a small team including Paul Coulten with his tractor and cutter, trimmed back the encroaching brambles and branches, ready for the clear up team on the Saturday. Thank you Paul for your help.

The committee appointed our specialists to cut grass, reed and scrub during the autumn and winter. Working parties will back up this work with cutting back and treating re-growth areas along with other work that will improve the fen, as well as keeping the wildlife walk clear through the autumn and winter.

The EA will be carrying out some work during the next few weeks to raise our water retaining back at the South End of Middle Fen. This should help reduce the water flowing across the path and, of course, help to balance the water levels.

We are also hoping to install another outfall weir at the northern end of Middle Fen again to give us more control over the water levels which are critical to the management of any wetland.

If you would like to help us look after this award winning wetland, please call me on 01366 500461, or email me at [mark@pogmore.myzen.co.uk](mailto:mark@pogmore.myzen.co.uk)

*Mark Pogmore*

-

All Saints Donation Bottle. Continued.

Hard to believe that we had a call from The White House. Yes THE white house

“President Obama would like to talk to you, if convenient, would you take his call Please ?” what could I say ? other than yeh ok ! but tell him to be quick, I’ve got to help cut the village green.

On came this smooth American accent, Hi Mr Reid, this is president Obama, so good of you to take my call at this time.

“What can I do for you Mr President “ ?



“Well as you know my tenure in the White house is drawing to a close, sadly we will be vacating next January 2017.

During the next few months my presidential duties will mainly involve diplomatic and private functions in support of various charities. I would really appreciate borrowing your famous donation bottle, so that we can raise as many dollars as possible.”

“How do you know about our bottle Mr President ?”

“ Our Astronauts had it on the moon “

“ Oh yes I remember “ Well, how could I say no ?

So a stretch limo arrived, with a very smart driver, and off went our bottle. Flew on Air Force One, all the way to Andrews Air Force Base.

Transferred to the White house lawn by helicopter. So there it was, safe and sound. The president was kind enough to send us a picture of the bottle in the Oval Office Looking very comfortable.

I did ask a member of the white house staff, when could we expect our bottle back.? The reply amazed me, “ In about four weeks Mr Reid.



The President was so pleased with the donations collected by your bottle Mr Obama has sent it for a holiday to the Bahamas “ – photo supplied. Mr Obama called me back to ease my concern, and asked if he could borrow it again in December. Thank you Mr President I look forward to getting it back to Boughton. One final question, where is the Bust of Winston Churchill ? We really do think that it should have been in the picture next to our Bottle. Mmmm !

*Frank Reid—with help from Tim Scrivener ( official photographer).*

**Further church news!**

We enjoyed a lovely harvest festival service, taken by Robin. The church had been decorated for the occasion, including this lovely display by children from the village



Tinned and packeted food was collected and taken to the Foodbank in Downham Market and the collection of £116 was sent to Farm Africa.



Another joyous occasion was the wedding of Stacey and Luke, who have become popular members of our church over the last year or so. The church was decorated again by members of the congregation, led by Sandy. The sun shone for them and it was a lovely day. We wish them every happiness in the years to come.

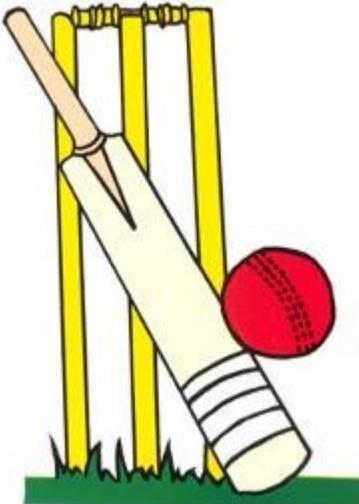
We rarely have baptisms, weddings or funerals at Boughton. Something to do with the demographic. This year we've had them all, a baptism, two weddings and we had our third funeral a few days after the wedding. Janet Tidy's husband, was buried in the churchyard.

Ivor has always participated in the

laying of the memorial wreath on the village war memorial in the churchyard and will be missed at this year's ceremony.

Work will start soon on relaying the church path to make it easier for wheelchair users to access the church. It is being delayed by the busy church programme.

*Pam Wakeling*



The new cricket pavilion is growing rapidly!

## WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

**Wereham Heritage group** invite you to

Come and have a 'mardle' about Wereham past and present.

Saturday 12th November 2-4pm

Wereham Village Hall

Refreshments provided

Come and see an array of old photos, documents and items relating to Wereham's history.

For more information please contact Eleanor Smith (501224) or Ian Rye (502083)

### **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Well done Wereham!

How lovely to see the Village Hall full of supporters of Macmillan. We were served countless teas and coffees together with scrumptious sweet and savoury cakes and pastries. There were cakes for sale, a bumper array of raffle prizes all kindly donated, crafts, a bring and buy stall together with books. Stina kindly displayed her beautiful art work and all purchases she gave to Macmillan.

Pammie and her customers from the George and Dragon took part in a 'coffee bean competition, this helped boost our grand total to £694.00. Well done and thank you to all.

Lots of people commented on what a lovely friendly atmosphere there was in the hall which helped turn a drab, rainy Saturday morning into a very bright spot indeed. *Angela*

### **Wereham Parish Council**

Meeting Dates

Tuesday 8 November 2016, 7 pm, Wereham Village hall

Tuesday 10 January 2017, 7 pm, Wereham Village hall

Tuesday 14 March 2017, 7 pm, Wereham Village hall

Tuesday 9 May 2017 (AGM and Annual Parish Meeting), time TBC

Agenda items must be received before the end of month before each meeting. Please send to the Parish Clerk at werehampc@gmail.com. The Agendas for meetings are always published on the Wereham Village Notice Board three clear days before the meeting, on the Wereham Parish Council Facebook Page and on the website [www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk) You will also find minutes of all meetings here too.

### **Wereham mummers play**

I have long been interested in the history of drama. I taught drama for over 30 years in a tough school in North Warwickshire. I developed a passion for all forms of theatre especially that aimed at children and the "non-arty"

I also have a long-standing ambition to direct a mummers play and the foundation of Wereham Heritage group has given me the opportunity to do this. This is the year! I have assembled a cast of promising actors and last evening we had our first meeting. I was in full flow about my vision when I was stopped by one of the actors who said

"What is a mummers play?"

"What is the plot so strange?"

He summed it up as "like Monty Python on speed"

This was followed by murmurs of agreement from the other actors. Thinking that the audience might be similarly bemused I thought it would be a good idea to provide some information about mumming.

Mummers plays were folk plays performed since the middle ages by troops of amateur actors usually in rural locations. The all-male cast would visit house and pubs to perform, passing the hat round afterwards. Mummers plays are meant to be funny with some elements of pantomime (you should see our Dame!!) They often feature St George and the Dragon along with a manic doctor or quack who has the power to revive the dead and a Turkish knight. They ended with a Morris dance.

We will be sharing our evening with the talented Fincham chorus who will be performing Christmas music

Come along and experience a genuine English folk tradition with lots of laughs and festive fun. Bells will be tinkled, hankies will be waved. Gasp at the doctors power. Thrill to St George's swordplay. Quake at the ferocious dragon, but most of all, enjoy yourself.

Wereham Mummers and Fincham chorus concert Saint Margarets Wereham 9th December

Saint Martin's Fincham 10th of December *Debbie Rye*

**Wereham Messy Church.**

**Messy Advent**

Thursday November 24th 4pm -5.30pm

Starts in the church followed by activities and a free meal in the Village Hall

The next Messy church is on November 24th. The theme is Advent. It will again be informal, fun, and enjoyable. It will include stories, singing, activities, and FOOD. Don't miss it. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Children attending will receive an advent calendar

Please also put this date in your diary

Sunday 18th December 4pm Nativity service

For further information please ask Debbie or Ian Rye telephone 502083 or call in at The Old Chapel by the pond.

**Wereham Crafty Women..**

We are currently making Christmas decorations etc

ready for the Christmas bazaar on November 26th when we will once again have our stall out. We very much look forward to seeing lots of you on that occasion. There will also be the usual bags, aprons oven gloves, soft toys and knitted items ready for the cold weather, memo boards, and cushions, all suitable for Christmas gifts. See you then.

Rosemary. Tel 01366 501330 or

e-mail: [rosemary.pease@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemary.pease@btinternet.com).

**October Update from Wereham Village Hall Committee**

We held our AGM on Monday 26th September 2016 during which our 2015/16 accounts and Chairs Report were presented, followed by the re-appointment of all of the current elected members.

Whilst I don't like to mention it, Christmas is now not so very far away and so the Friends of Wereham Village Hall have turned their attention towards a raft of festive fundraisers. First is the Xmas Bazaar on Saturday 26th November. As always, a great place for some Christmas shopping as well as the opportunity to

share your Christmas wish-list with Santa. This year we are also expecting a special visit from Peppa Pig.

Our Christmas family prize bingo is on Wednesday 7th December and we'd be very grateful for any donations of prizes to support the evening.

Finally, Christmas carols by the pond will be held on 18th December this year – for more details see the December edition of G4 or contact Doreen on 01366 500218.

If you would like to get involved with the Friends of Wereham Village Hall Group, we are always looking for new volunteers and, now really is the time that we need as much help as possible. There are jobs for everyone so contact Doreen on 01366 500218.

### **Update from the New Build Project Team**

Since we received the news of our success from the lottery, we've been busy submitting other grant applications to cover the rest of the project cost. To date we have applied to another 10 potential funders.

In addition, community fundraising is a vital part of our fundraising strategy and you will find that a leaflet explaining the launch of our 'Buy-a-brick' campaign landed on your doormat along with this edition of G4. The lottery require us to have 100% funding in place before they will release their funds and this must be achieved within 6 months of the award date. That means we need the total project budget in place by the end of February 2017. Please, please do take a moment to read the leaflet and if you can make a donation, visit our online donation portal which is accessed via our webpage <http://www.werehamvillagehall.co.uk>. Every donation, however big or small, will push us closer to delivering exciting new activities for you, your family and your community in a new eco community hub - in 2017!!!

We have also submitted a grant application to the Aviva Community Fund. For a chance to reach the finals, we need to be one of the highest scorers in a public vote. Please help us by registering on the Aviva Community Fund website and voting for us before 18th November.

Victoria, John E, John M & Rachel.

### **Wereham Village Hall Bonus Ball Club**

The lucky winners of £60 each in September were Tony Meers and Jean Carter – congratulations to you both! *Helen Richardson, Secretary.*

### **Events list**

**Bingo** - Wereham Village Hall "Cash Prize" Bingo every Wednesday, doors open

**Pop up Café** – first Tuesday of the month, 10.30-1pm. Next dates Tuesday 1st November and Tuesday 6th December. Join us for a slice of homemade cake, a hot drink, a natter and a read of the daily papers all for just £1.50. Light lunches also available – look out for our monthly specials! Cake donations/queries to Doreen on 01366 500218.

**Indoor/Outdoor Car Boot** – last Sunday of the month, 9am-1pm (café opens at 8am). Final car boot of 2016 on Sunday 27th November. Café serving bacon butties, hot dogs and hot drinks. £5 per pitch or, if you have earned time credits, there are two pitches/tables available at a cost of 4 time credits each. To book call Colin on 07961130251/01366 502281.

**Xmas Bazaar**– Saturday 26th November. Loads of stalls, Santa's grotto, raffle, tombola, cake stall. Donations of prizes and cakes gratefully received. Contact Doreen on 01366 500218.

**Christmas Family Prize Bingo** – Wednesday 7th December. Everyone welcome. Doors open 6.45, eyes down 7.30pm. For further details call 01366 500218 or 01366 500798.

**Christmas Carols by the Pond** – Sunday 18th December. See December G4 for full details or contact Doreen on 01366 500218.

For all the pictures and feedback from our events, log onto [www.facebook.com/werehamvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/werehamvillagehall). By clicking on the 'Like' option, you will be kept up to date on events, pictures and the progress towards a new village hall.

If you have any queries with regards to the plans for funding a new village hall, or anything we're doing, please contact Victoria Gray, Chair, Wereham Village Hall Committee

Home: 501277 Mobile: 07725513583

Email: [darren.gray@tesco.net](mailto:darren.gray@tesco.net) or via [www.facebook.com/werehamvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/werehamvillagehall)

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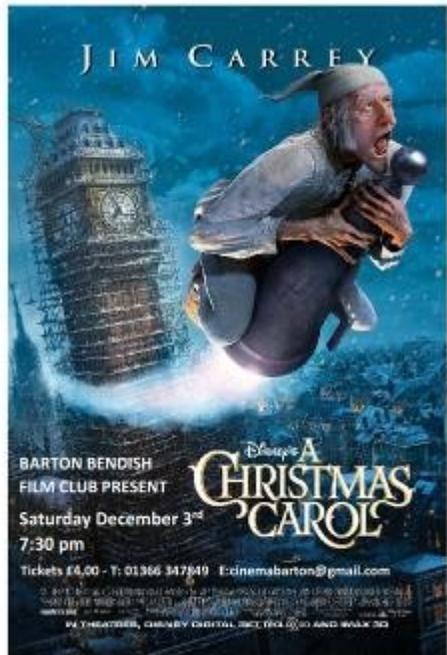
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Email: [admin@homestartswaffham.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartswaffham.org.uk)**



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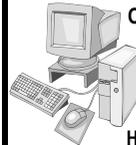
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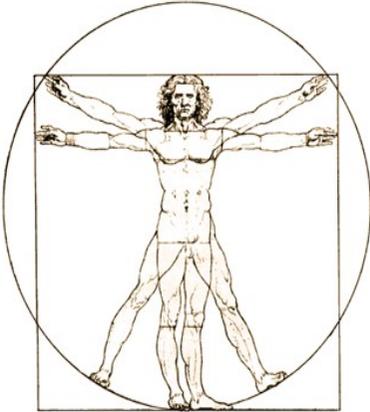
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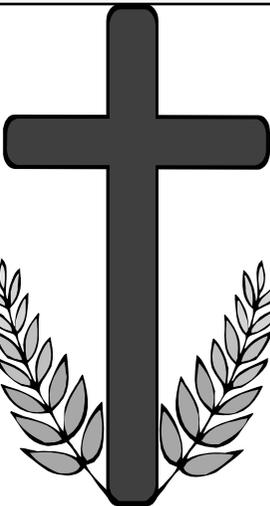
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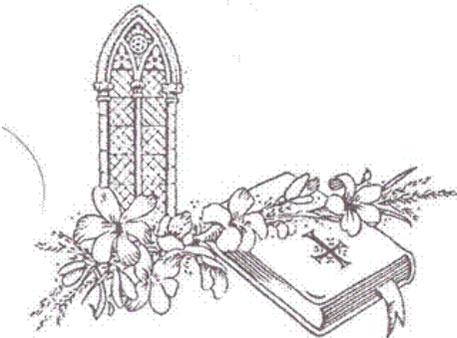
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"Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag and smile, smile, smile, / While you've a lucifer to light your fag, smile, boys, that's the style."

**George Henry Powell, Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag**

"We shall want you and miss you but with all our might and main / we shall cheer you, thank you, kiss you when you come back again."

**Paul Rubens, Your King and Country Need You**

**MAGPIE CENTRE UPDATE** Next up is the Art and Craft Fair on Saturday November 12 from 10 am to 4.00 pm. This is at a new venue, Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PE, which will be very warm and comfortable. More than 20 stallholders have booked pitches, and the Fair offers a fantastic range of artefacts, ranging from beautifully-crafted bird tables and pokerwork to paintings, jams and knitted items. Refreshments will be available all day, so come and browse in comfort for handmade Christmas presents and gifts for those who "have everything". One or two pitches may still be available, so if you'd like to book, just call 07725 163758. Grandparents seeking a gift for pony-mad youngsters couldn't do better than gifting a year's pony sponsorship. E Sponsorship or Silver are £12.50 and Gold is £25 for the year. Sponsors will receive a photo, sponsorship certificate, factfile and a letter from their chosen pony, and a badge or keyring. Ponies available for sponsorship are Pebbles, a little pony with a big character, ideal for the tiniest riders; Shannon, a piebald traditional cob; Teddy, who gives rides and also pulls our new Fenix wheelchair-friendly carriage, and Ruby, a 17 hh Irish cob, who carries the bigger riders. For more details, visit [www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk) and click on Sponsor a Pony, or alternatively, call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202.

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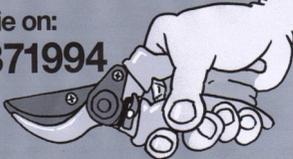
We can also redesign your garden and provide plans, rotovate new or old beds, and organise construction. Whatever your gardening needs, We can help. References available.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR  
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✉ Email: [geoff@norfolkshandyman.co.uk](mailto:geoff@norfolkshandyman.co.uk)  
🌐 Web site: [www.norfolkshandyman.co.uk](http://www.norfolkshandyman.co.uk)

**Thursday, 3 November: Ladybirds, Shouldham: Bodyshop Evening:** The Ladybirds are hosting another popular Bodyshop evening in Shouldham Village Hall at 7:45pm. Pre-Christmas shopping evening with loads of lovely Christmas present ideas with amazing Christmas gifts at good reasonable prices plus ... Fantastic raffle prizes to be won on the evening. For further information, please contact Lorna on : 01760 337089 or Sandra on 01366 347789.

**6 November:** Sunday Cafe. Come along and find out more. Do come along and meet new and interesting people and enjoy tea/coffee and home make cakes.

**Tuesday: 15 November: Ladybirds, Shouldham: Truffle Making Evening**

The evening includes making alcoholic and non-alcoholic truffles from special recipes. Nice idea on lead up to Christmas. Little truffle boxes will be includes glass of wine; mince pie; tea; coffee) call Lorna on 01760 337089 or Sandra on 01366 347789



## LITERATURE QUIZ ANSWERS ON PAGE 23

1. In Milton's "Paradise Lost" what was the lowest point of Hell?
2. Pinocchio was captured and kept in a cage by who?
3. The character Walter Mitty was created by what author?
4. Which Disney cartoon did Felix Salten write?
5. What author wrote the epic poem Samson Agonites?
6. Which eponymous Dickens character was born with a caul over his head?
7. The humorous books on One Upmanship were written by who?
8. What was Ernest Hemingway's job in World War 1?
9. What job did Hans Christian Anderson have before writing?
10. The author of Moll Flanders wrote what other famous work?
11. What did Virginia Woolf always do standing up?
12. What author has written the books that are the most borrowed from libraries?
13. In a Dickens book, Sam Weller was whose servant?
14. Where did all of the Richard Hannay books get their titles from ?
15. Mary Norton wrote the children's book Bedknobs and what?



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