

An evening with Charlie Haylock



Join us for a fascinating evening with Suffolk author and dialect expert Charlie Haylock who will take us behind the scenes of the Netflix hit film *The Dig*

Saturday 23rd March Tickets £20

Ticket price includes the talk, a two course meal and showing of the film 'the Dig' on Saturday 16th March



Photo: Larry Horricks, Netflix 2021

We will be showing the film on Friday March 16th, and Charlie will talk about it on the evening of 23rd March. The evening will combine a meal and talk by Charlie, and include the film showing the week before. The movie tells the story of an unlikely hero, Basil Brown of Ipswich Museum, the self-taught archaeologist and modest man who discovered the Sutton Hoo treasure, the most magnificent ever found in this country. We will enjoy an intriguing and sometimes hilarious look at *The Dig*. Historian and author Charlie will explain how a potential "scam" email from the film producer turned out to real and was followed by a personal call from actor Ralph Fiennes. He will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played Basil Brown, and the other "Suffolk" actors learnt their Suffolk accent and managed not to sound like West Country pirates! He will also explain the extreme lengths that Fiennes took not only to play Basil Brown.... but to become him. It looks set to be an entertaining evening for all!

Please contact **Annie Tavener** for tickets
01449 736412 email annie_tav@hotmail.com

**BRETtenham
MAGAZINE**

**JANUARY 2024
No 432**

Happy New Year!



Welcome...

... and Happy New Year to all the residents and friends of Brettenham. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas with friends and family. As these winter days continue there is still plenty to get involved with in the village. This month's coffee morning will be on Tuesday 9th January so do try and come along. We also have the quiz to look forward to at the end of the month which is always such a fun evening. At this time of year we can all feel a bit hard up but don't worry, the dogs in the village can help us out—they seem to win the Bigger Ernie more often than us humans! (page 14). The Raise The Roof campaign for the church will give us plenty of opportunities to meet up in 2024, in particular the evening with Charlie Haylock (see back page) is one for the diary but book early!

As always we are very grateful for your contributions, news, photos, jokes and anything else of relevance, so please keep them coming to: brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 5th January—Village Inn 7.30pm
Monday 8th January—BVA meeting
Tuesday 9th January—Coffee morning 10.30–12.00
Tuesday 9th January—Pilates 6-7pm
Friday 12th January—Mobile Library (see info opposite)
Sunday 21st January—Sunday Village Inn
Saturday 27th January—Charity Village Quiz
Friday 2nd February—Village Inn 7.30pm
Tuesday 6th Feb—Coffee Morning 10.30-12
Thursday 8 February — Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Sunday 18th February—Sunday Village Inn
Friday 1st March—Village Inn 7.30pm
Tuesday 5th March—Coffee Morning 10.30-12.00
Saturday 16th March—Film showing 'The Dig'
Saturday 23rd March - An evening with Charlie Haylock

For a quick response to all your pest problems call... **COMMAND**

- ★ Commercial, agricultural and domestic
- ★ Rodents, insects and bird proofing
- ★ Fly screens and insectocutors
- ★ Timber treatment / damp proofing
- ★ Very competitive rates



Established 1986
Member of the BPCA

Telephone 01787 248049

Fax 01787 247113

E Mail: info@commandpestcontrol.co.uk

Web: www.commandpestcontrol.co.uk

**Command Pest Control Ltd,
Command House, College Farm, Church Lane,
Preston St Mary, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9NQ**

'We cover East Anglia and beyond'

Keith Purvis

Electrical

All domestic electrical work undertaken. Electrical vehicle charger installation

Mobile **07788 633276**

Home **01787 249795**

Email



Advertise Here

If you are interested in advertising in the magazine, please contact Michelle Harvey at brettenhammagazine@gmail.com

Prices per edition are:

1/4 page £4

1/2 page £7

Full page £13



07902 141140 01449 737307

hello@michellebrownsewing.co.uk

www.michellebrownsewing.co.uk

From small repairs to clothing, made to measure blinds or full upholstery of your special chair.

Please visit website for services and price guide



LOCAL INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

24 Hour Personal Service

01449 771666

The Nutshell, Milton Road
IP14 1EZ



South, Stowmarket,

www.andrewbingham.co.uk



Village Noticeboard

Village Hall

To book contact Julie or Ozzie on
07810434470 or email

bvahallbookings@gmail.com

To request a licenced bar
contact Peter Truin 07799
640326 or petertruin@aol.com

Village Website

www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net

If you would like to see
something new on the website
please contact Michelle Brown
dan.michelle@hotmail.com



Where to get Village News?

Check out the latest village news on the
BVA Facebook page

[Facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts)

If you would like anything added to
the page contact Greg Potter at
greg.potter66@me.com

If you would like to receive regular village
**email updates or be part of the village
whatsapp group** please contact
chairbva@gmail.com



Mobile Library

Stops at the village Hall
12.45-13.05
Church 15.20-15.35
Friday every 4 weeks
Next visit- 12.01.24

February Mag Deadline:

15th January

Brettenham magazine is published and edited by the Brettenham Magazine Editing Team (brettenhammagazine@outlook.com) on behalf of Brettenham Parish Council. The views expressed by the contributors to the magazine are not necessarily those of Brettenham Parish Council. As well as the printed copy, the magazine is available online, in full, via the village website: www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net

Brettenham Parish Council

Have your say...

Flooding – The Parish Council and Highways continue to monitor flooding issues throughout the village as the wet weather continues and further investigation near the gates of OBH school has been encouraging. Where the flooding does remain to whatever extent please approach with care and consideration for other road users.

Neighbourhood Plan- If all goes according to schedule your household should receive information regarding this shortly and we hope to present the draft Plan for its first consultation at the Sunday Village Inn on Sunday 21st January 2024. Confirmation of this will be posted on the noticeboard nearer the time as well as on the village website, community whatsapp and facebook.

Finally a reminder that Della does circulate reports, agendas and minutes for the Parish Council. If you would like to be added to the circulation email for these please contact her on the below email address and let her know. In addition, all our updates, plus reports and information from District and County Councils can also be found on the village website.

The next Parish Council Meeting is **Thursday 8 February 2024**.

A very happy and safe New Year to all from your Parish Council.

Alyson Wilson, Chair

07798 633044

Parish Clerk

Brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Rattlesden and District Community Shop and Post Office

We are **your** local community shop, run entirely by volunteers.

We aim to stock local produce and we have recently introduced cooked and frozen meat from Thurston Butchers.

We stock daily and Sunday papers and are open on Sunday morning for papers and all other goods. Orders can be taken for papers and magazines.

We take credit and debit cards and have introduced a loyalty card for customers. £5 purchase gets a stamp and a book of 10 stamps entitles you to £2 off your next purchases.

Post Office services include cash/foreign currency, home shopping returns, dry cleaning, shoe repairs and flower deliveries.

Open daily 9am to 5pm: Saturdays 9am to 1pm and Sundays 9am to 11am.

01449 736199

The Post Office opens 9am to 1pm (12.30 Sat) 01449 736197

CAPSTICK CARPET CLEANING

Fast drying · Stain removal · No job too small

Based in Lavenham

Call to book an appointment for a
free no obligation quote.

07791 582806 / 01787 249795



KUTZ 4 MUTZ

Complete Professional Dog Grooming Service

Stress free 1 to 1 appointments, individual requirements catered for.

Bathing, drying, clipping, scissoring, hand stripping, nails, anal gland relief, ear cleaning.

CALL JAN 07716 034521



1 Manor Cottage, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary CO10 9LU

TOMLINSON GROUND CARE

Horticultural & Garden Machinery Suppliers

Sales Service Parts Repairs Toys

Large selection of ride on mowers

Walk behind petrol & battery mowers

Strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers, chainsaws etc.

Garden tools, paddock & turf machinery

Service & repair of all makes

Set in over 20 acres – Try before you buy

Established in Buxhall since 1991 – We hope to see you soon

Brettenham Road, Buxhall, Stowmarket IP14 3DL

01449 736060 www.tomlinongroundcare.co.uk



Coffee Morning

Come along for tea, coffee and
more importantly a chat and a laugh with
fellow villagers

Tuesday 9th January from 10.30 till 12.00.



Hope to see you there!

For more info contact:

Val 07711 562520 or
Michelle 07535 814939

Coffee Morning News.

A big thankyou to Wendy for the xmas goodies. Wendy has occasionally provided delicious treats for the coffee morning from our very first morning back in February. A huge THANK YOU Wendy!!!!!!

We have also decided that any profits made from the coffee mornings will be donated to different charities.

Our 1st donation goes to 'Raise the roof' £37.07. Well done Brettenham.

Truly a wonderful place to drink Coffee.



Michelle
Photos: Marzipan Xmas

Food Bank Update

Many thanks for all your Christmas donations. Financial aid continues to be accepted by cheques payable to Bildeston Community Support or via BACS to Bildeston Community Support, Account No 49886479, Sort Code 52-30-31.

Food donations can be left in the church porch or in the box next to the woodstore on my drive at Spinney Cottage, Brettenham.

Individuals/families do not need to be referred by the authorities. Locally, for either help with giving or receiving donations, please contact in confidence:

Alyson Wilson, Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770

If you would rather contact the Foodbank directly you can do this through Facebook messenger from the Bildeston Foodbank Facebook page, email or call: Bildestoncsg@gmail.com Tel: 01449 257136

Please don't forget to support this worthwhile locally run charity. Local families and individuals in need can access this food bank easily and the more we can support the food bank the more we are directly supporting them.



Photo: A beautiful chilly morning—Rachel Coomber

BatesWells & Braithwaite

Solicitors advising on:

- Accident Claims/Personal Injury
- Agriculture and Rural Business
- Children
- Commercial and Company Law
- Commercial/Business Disputes
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Estates, Trusts and Wills
- Family
- Litigation/Dispute Resolution
- Residential Property
- Matrimonial

Bates Wells & Braithwaite Limited
27 Friars Street Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AD T: 01787 880440 F: 01787 880488
www.bwblegal.com solicitors@bwblegal.com

STANSTEAD HALL B & B

Hitcham IP7 7NY



Moated Farmhouse surrounded by open countryside, quiet location away from the road. 2 Large Double rooms with adjoining showers

Full Traditional English Breakfast with local produce
ALSO Adults only CARAVAN CLUB CL SITE on Farm.

Reservations: 01449 740270 or stanstead@btinternet.com
www.Stansteadcamping.co.uk

Hitcham Village Hall

There are many regular activities at Hitcham Village Hall that are open to everyone, including:

Yoga, line dancing, art, gardening, crocheting, floral workshop, pub night, bingo and much more..

All activities are very reasonably priced. For more information look at the Hitcham Village Hall page on Facebook or email hitcham@aol.com or call 07774744723



Megan is a Beauty Therapist with 19 years experience.

I work from my log cabin, a rural retreat in Hitcham.

With off road parking.

Treatments are by appointment only.

You are guaranteed complete privacy and your treatment time is exclusively for you.

A variety of treatments include:

Dermalogica facials/Spray tanning/Waxing/Eye treatments/Jessica manicures & pedicures/Jessica Gel Nails/

Foot health maintenance

LVL Eyelash perming/Reflexology

NEW TREATMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

HD Brows & HD Lamination

Cryotherapy – skin lesion removal using the freezing technique

Skin tags/warts/verruca/cherry angiomas

Please contact me for any enquiries or for a full price list.

Megan Pryke VTCT, BABTAC 07876 717 008

megz_pryke@hotmail.com

Facebook: Beauty by Megan (look for my logo)

Instagram: [beautybymeagan_suffolk](https://www.instagram.com/beautybymeagan_suffolk)



Village Inn



Friday 5th January

The Bloaters proudly present:

Main Course

Beef bourguignon with mashed potato, carrots and peas £10

Chicken curry with dahl and flatbread £10

Vegetable curry with dahl and flatbread £9

Dessert

Banana pudding with custard or cream £3.50

Apple crumble with custard or cream £3.50

All dishes may contain allergens, please ask kitchen staff.

From the BVA

First and foremost - Happy New Year to all within the BVA and extended members, many of whom will have had the pleasure of seeing in the New Year with live music and great company in the village hall. That said, I'm sure that most within our community will have celebrated the start of 2024 in their own personal way whether with friends or quietly watching the festivities unfold around the world on TV.

We now look forward to discovering what 2024 has in store for us all within the BVA. In order to do this, I'd like to draw your attention to the first matter on our agenda...

BVA Meeting - 8th Jan 24 - Have your say.

The turn of the year generally brings our attention, certainly mine, to those upcoming fixtures and events which will have been planned or factored-in throughout the coming year. Alongside the usual events, such as Summer Fair, Apple Day, etc, we will hopefully have more new and exciting initiatives, such as the previous year's pumpkin carving competition, wine tasting and shanty night, to name a few. These BVA meetings are your opportunity to decide what events/functions you'd like to see within our community. Moreover, it's these collective opportunities where we're able to discuss improvements and expenditure to the village hall, which is central to the BVA. In the next meeting we'll be discussing the exciting bar renovation and the conclusion to the repairs to the outside of the hall following the brush with an articulated lorry back in Jul 23. Yes, it was that long ago! The BVA will need your input and support in whatever we decide so what better way to start off 2024 with a plan that incorporates all your thoughts and vision for the year ahead. The meeting will promptly start at 19:30 hrs and should only take up an hour of your time.

BVA Vacancies

Correct at going to press, there are still positions within the BVA Exec Team (Termed as 'Trustees' under the Charity Commission guidelines) which will require filling, namely the Chair, Caretaker/Cleaner and Booking Clerk. If you are interested in taking up any of these worthwhile and rewarding positions please don't hesitate in contacting either myself or Vice Chair - michaelkelly@live.co.uk for more details. There will be an AGM scheduled for Apr 24 (date and timings tbc) where we would hope to fill these positions with volunteers. As previously stated, it's my aspiration



Photo: 'At the ready' - Carrie Dye



Photo: The Street at day break - Shelly Faulds

JAN DAVIS: DECORATING

**A complete professional service from
an elite craftsman. Estd. 1994**

Painting & Decorating

Free Estimates & advice

Tel: 01449 736 637

Mob: 07958 997 506

j.davisdecorating94@gmail.com

Hello and happy New Year from us all at Rattlesden School!

Everyone has worked hard throughout the long and very busy Autumn term. We have raised money for a number of causes, including the Royal British Legion with our poppy sales, Children in Need, and a sponsored 'survival' walk that was part of our Key Stage 2 topic 'Emergency Rescue', that saw funds reach well over £2000 for RNLI, SULSAR, SARS and Red Cross.

Reverend Sharon had her first visit to the school to lead Collective Worship, and was very well received by the children. We also went to the church for our first service since Tiffer left, which was a welcome return to this tradition.

This term threw new challenges our way, in the form of the extreme weather that caused flooding. We had to evacuate the school on one occasion, which resulted in staff (including myself) having to leave their cars at school and get a truck to get us home. On the second occasion, I took the decision to close the school, which is a decision I never take lightly. Keeping the children and adults safe has to be our priority though.

In school the Christmas festivities went beautifully! The younger children performed their songs and nativity, the bell choir is rehearsing, and parents came in for the decoration making afternoon, for the Christmas Fayre on the 3rd December. It was challenging, but fun to keep a lid on the excitement as we moved towards the end of term.

I think the best place to work is in a Primary school leading up to Christmas, and feel so blessed to have spent the season with our lovely children at that time of year!

Helen Ballam, Headteacher

that the position of Chair is rotated on a 2-yearly basis, if not earlier, in order to keep the BVA relevant and invigorated with fresh impetus.

January Events

We'll see the return of the 'Bloaters' in the kitchen to kick start the year off with a banger or two at the Friday Village Inn along with the much anticipated Brettenham Quiz night returning at the end of the month. While I understand that the book is now closed for this event the organizers would like me to utilise this opportunity for a plea for raffle prizes. All items would be greatly appreciated.

WhatsApp Success

The village community WhatsApp group has swollen to nearly 60 members and has already demonstrated its worth with reports of downed trees, burst water mains and a myriad of functions which have been going on in and around our vicinity. If you'd like to join in and get instant messaging then contact me directly and I'll send you the link. chairbva@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

Ozzie

Brettenham Village Green Christmas Tree

Thank you to Rougham Estates.

By the time that you read this in the January magazine, with Christmas and New Year festivities over, it will be time to take down the Christmas tree that has been on the village green this year. The tree has looked amazing and we would like to extend many thanks to Rougham Estates who donated the tree to the village this year. Of course, we must not forget to extend thanks to the volunteers who helped position the tree and put up the lights on what was more likened to a boggy wetland rather than a village green! Thank you to everybody and in particular Rougham Estates.

<https://roughamestate.com> Happy New Year.

Grahame and Jane Moulding



A view from the other side of the teacher's desk

I've enjoyed reading about Stuart's memories of his time as a pupil at Rattlesden Primary and Beyton Middle School. I thought you might like to read a few anecdotes of my time in education in London and Suffolk.

I started my teaching career in a Junior High School in Leytonstone, East London. One afternoon, a couple of years into my career, I was teaching a class of 13-14-year olds a Humanities lesson. There was a knock at the door and the Headteacher came into the classroom followed by a Police officer. "Sorry to bother you Mr Golding, I was wondering if Eddie was here?" "Yes, he is" I replied. Eddie got up out of his seat and left the room with the Headteacher and the Police officer. Normally in those situations the pupil returned to the class several minutes later but on this occasion, Eddie didn't return for the whole afternoon. I was a bit intrigued to find out why Eddie hadn't returned, so at the end of the day I popped down to the Head's office to find out what had happened.

"I was wondering what happened to Eddie this afternoon Sir, as he didn't return to class" I said.

"It turned out that Eddie sneaked out of school at lunchtime" the head replied. "He stole a car and went for a joyride around the local streets, parked it up again and returned to school in time for afternoon registration."

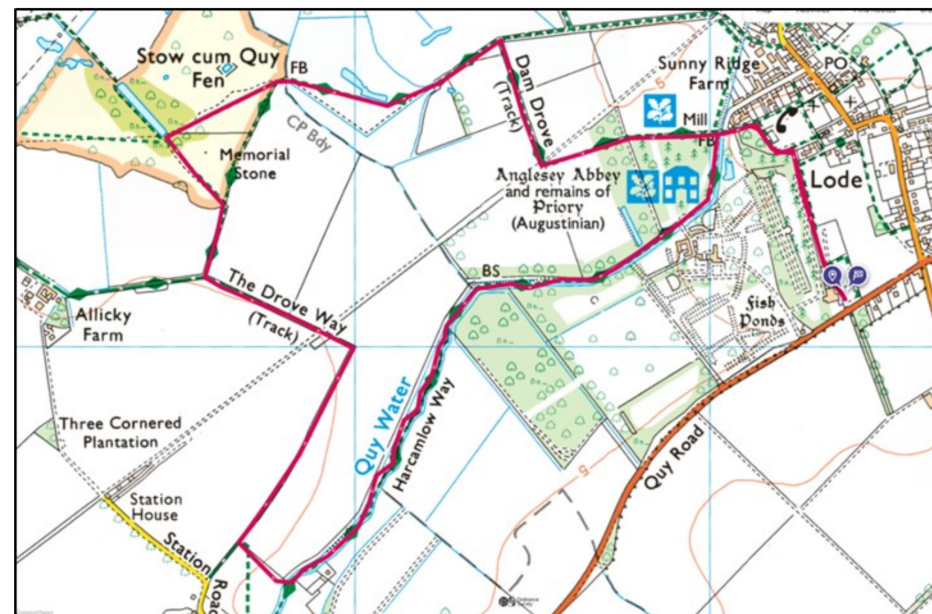
"How did you know it was him?" I said

"He left his maths book on the back seat" The head replied with a wry smile.

David Golding

Village Hall Hire Rates

	Residents	Non-residents	Commercial
All events	£8.50	£12.50	£15
Community organisations: Parish Council, PCC, Gardening Club	No charge		



You can find this walk at explore.osmaps.com.

It is listed as Lode Mill & Quay Fen, Cambridgeshire.

Village Inn Sunday 21st January

The bar is open from 12.30pm.

Drinks only. Come along for a relaxed chat with friends, neighbours and family.

Pilates Tuesdays 6pm—7pm

in the village hall

This is a friendly group with an experienced teacher. It is suitable for all levels of fitness (unless pregnant or injured).

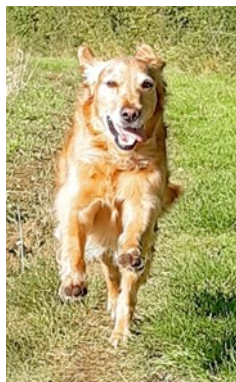
Please note, classes start again on the 9th January 2024.

Classes cost £7 a class, pay-as-you-go.

For more information, contact Leonie on 07866897651



Rambling with Gus



Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridgeshire CB25 9EJ: Distance 4.35 miles. Time approx. 1.5 hours. Start at Anglesey Abbey carpark.

Anglesey Abbey, which is owned by the National Trust, is about a 50-minute drive from Brettenham. This is further afield than our usual rambles, but it is a great destination if you are looking for an outing over winter as it is open daily throughout January and February when many other places are closed.

The gardens are beautiful even on a grey winter's day and are well known for their stunning display of snowdrops in February and Dahlias in the autumn.

The Anglesey Abbey estate has a great network of paths so you can extend or shorten your walk as you wish. Many of the paths are public rights of way which cut across the edge of the estate, these are all accessible for free and are dog friendly. And, at the end of your walk, you can enjoy the delicious refreshments available at the NT café.

However, if you use the carpark and wish to visit the house (there is no longer an abbey despite the name) and gardens, admission and parking charges apply. You can check opening times and prices at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lode-mill

This walk starts and finishes at the National Trust carpark. From there, follow the signs to the Mill. At the Mill take the footpath to your left that takes you for approx. 1.5 miles alongside the river, Quy Water, until you reach a path on your right. This path takes you on a big zigzag to the Quy Fen before circling back to the Mill where you rejoin the path to the carpark.

Carrie Dye



Bigger Ernie

Bigger Ernie - final chance!

This is your last chance, so don't miss out on renewing your Bigger Ernie subscriptions for 2024 or joining for the first time, you really do have to be in it to win it! There won't be a draw until Friday Village Inn on 2nd February 2024 but best not to leave it to the last minute.

For the benefit of any "newbies", Bigger Ernie is our village lottery - the cost is a meagre £12 per year per ticket, and you can purchase as many tickets as you like. There are monthly draws with first, second and third prizes - the amounts depend on the number of tickets purchased but in previous years monthly prizes have been £30, £15 and £10, plus the occasional bonus draws, normally in June and December.

50% of the funds raised are allocated to prizes and 50% contributes to BVA funds, this 50% forms a vital part of helping to maintain the village hall and contribute towards BVA activities and events. The draws are made at the monthly Friday Village Inn, with results being published in the monthly magazine.

There are now 3 different ways to renew or purchase your ticket/s, I will start with the easiest option:

1. Electronic payment – make it payable to 'Brettenham Village Association', bank account number 49882120 and sort code 52-30-31. Once you have made the payment, please email biggerernie@outlook.com stating the bank transfer date, amount and ticket holder names – ***I have previously quoted the standard BVA account so please make sure you do transfer your money into the above account specific to the Bigger Ernie.***

2. Cheque – if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass your cheque to them along with the ticket holder names or place your cheque along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street. Cheques should be made payable to 'Brettenham Village Association'

3. Cash – as above if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass the cash along with the ticket holder names or place the cash along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street .

On behalf of the BVA, thanks in advance for your continued support and a happy new year to everyone.

Emily Woods

St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Sharon Grenham-Thompson

Tel: 07894 467157

Email: rectorrattlesden@btinternet.com

Church Warden Annie Tavener:

Tel: 01449 736412 Email: annie_tav@hotmail.com.



Rector's Reflection

Human beings are very good at putting things off - whether it's writing a lengthy report, tidying a bedroom, or starting the diet - 'tomorrow' is always a better day for it, and of course, it never quite comes! Even at the start of a new year, when resolutions are still fresh and gleaming, the whole 'changed life' notion often wavers at the first challenge.

Life can seem full of things we don't really want to do, but know we must. There's a view that says 'why should we waste our precious time doing things we hate, or just dislike?' The 'life's too short' argument. Well, yes, up to a point, but many of us don't get a choice - work has to be done, cleaning eventually becomes necessary, and life might be very short indeed if we don't sort out our diet or health issues.

But it's not just about necessity. St Paul wrote about life being like a race, with us as athletes, eyes on the prize. We know that success in sport needs discipline, sacrifice, inner strength - getting up at silly o'clock, training in the dark and cold, even feeling lonely at times. And we admire the strong and focussed characters of our sportsmen and women, as well as their achievements. If we never put ourselves through boredom, if we never have to learn resilience and determination, if we never grit our teeth and just get on with it, there's a side of *our character that won't develop*.

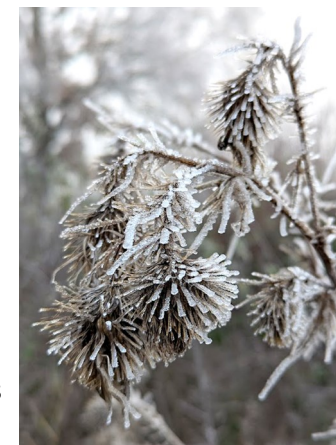
So whether we're plunging into Dry January, starting a new fitness regime, or just feeling a determination to meet up with that friend this year, there's a road ahead of us, and a race to be run. Let's encourage one another to get on with the things we'd rather avoid and avoid the things we need to. You never know, we might learn a new skill, find a new strength, or make a new friend.

Reverend Sharon Grenham-Thompson

- Consider using LED lightbulbs, which cost less to run.
- Watch your water usage: Cutting your shower time by just one minute can make a difference. If everyone in a four-person household with a water meter did this, they could save around £75 a year.

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you might be able to get support from the government or your energy supplier. The first step is to contact your supplier to find out what they can offer. You may be eligible for benefits including the Warm Home Discount, Cold Weather Payments or the Household Support Fund, find out more about these on our website. For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website, <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact>

We are providing advice by telephone and email Monday – Thursday, 10am – 3pm.



Photos: Frosty seed heads and berries
- Carrie Dye



Sudbury & South Suffolk Citizens Advice

Winter Fuel Bills

I am a single parent with two kids, and I'm really worried about how I'll afford to pay my energy bills when I have to start putting the heating and lights on more now winter is here. At the moment I just about have enough money to cover my bills but there is nothing left over. The thought of getting into debt keeps me awake at night but the idea of my children being cold and possibly unwell as a result is just unbearable. What can I do?

You are not alone - a record number of people came to Citizens Advice with energy debt in the first four months of 2023 (32,400) - a 112% increase on the same period in 2020 (15,200). There are things you can do to feel in control when it comes to your energy bills.

There are some simple tips to help save money on your energy bills. They won't cover all the extra costs, but they can make a difference:

- Check your thermostat: A room temperature between 18°C and 21°C is ideal for most people. Try turning your thermostat down by one degree within this range – it could save you around £115 a year. If a medical condition means you need a warmer home, ask your GP what room temperature you should aim for.
- Keep the heat in: Check your home for any gaps in the doors, windows and floors. Blocking any holes where you could get a draught could save you around £30 a year. It is important to allow for some ventilation as without it mould and damp can form.
- Turn off anything you're not using: Turning your appliances, like TVs and washing machines, off instead of leaving them on standby could save around £60 a year. Turning off lights when you're not using them – even if it's just off for a few seconds - could save around £25 a year.

January Programme of Services in the Benefice

Sunday 7th January Epiphany		
Rattlesden	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	11:00 am	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11:00 am	All Age Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	9:30am	Morning Prayer
14th January Plough Sunday		
Rattlesden	9:30 am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11:00 am	Holy Communion
Brettenham	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	9:30 am	All Age Holy Communion
Sunday 21st January		
Rattlesden	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	11:00 am	All Age Service
Thorpe Morieux	9:30 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th January		
Rattlesden	9:30 am	Breakfast Church
Rattlesden	11:00 am	Quiet Service
Hitcham	11:00 am	Holy Communion
Brettenham	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	6:00 pm	Evensong

Write on....

Thank you to Jane McDonald for this month's poetry recommendation.

Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was born 15 April 1958. He was a British writer, dub poet, actor, musician and professor of poetry and creative writing. Described as "the people's laureate" by the Birmingham Mail, Zephaniah drew on his lived experiences of incarceration, racism and his Jamaican heritage to encourage a wide range of audiences to engage with his creative works. He died in 2023 aged 65. There are countless poems, books and music to enjoy but *'Talking Turkeys'* would seem a fitting choice albeit a little late to bring to the table...



Use this link <https://benjaminzephaniah.com/books/talking-turkeys/>

Please send your suggestions for the page, Write On..., to brettenhammagazine@outlook.com

Bigger Ernie Winners

December

Gus Dog £30

Martin Schofield £15

Chris Clarke £10



Christmas Draw

Sophie and Daisy Dog £100

Maasi Dog £50

Marion Hatton £30

Winter Warmer—Parsley Dumplings



Ingredients:

6oz Plain Flour

1 teaspoon Salt

2 Teaspoons baking powder

1 Tablespoon Olive oil

2 tablespoons chopped Parsley

3 tablespoons snipped Chives

3 fl oz milk

Whilst your stew is cooking make your dumplings ready to put into the stew 30 minutes before you serve.

Put the flour, salt, baking powder, parsley and chives into a bowl and mix well.

Make a well in the centre of the mixture and add the milk and oil.

Mix well adding a little milk at a time if more is needed to make a soft and pliable dough.

Divide the mixture into 8 and make into balls. Add to the stew.

Cook for approx. 30-40 mins

Thankyou to Wendy O'hara Wakeman for her Winter Warmer recipe.

Please send me in your recipes if you would like to share them with the rest of the village

Michelle

Brettenham Gardening Club

The extremely wet weather this autumn played havoc with our plans for planting the flower beds for winter on the village green.

When we postponed our first planting date in October due to severe weather warnings, we did not realise that the “weather” was going to continue for the next six weeks leaving much of the countryside and the village green underwater. Finding ourselves in the second week of

December and the tulips still not planted, Jane McDonald and Carrie who together organise the planting on the green, took the decision it was now or never. With the help of Mark Baker and Jane Moulding they set to making the most of a couple of dry hours on a Sunday morning, fuelled with tea/coffee provided by Michelle Harvey.

As a result, the three smaller triangular beds are now planted with tulips and forget-me-nots. The central round bed had to be left as it was completely waterlogged, but the “green team” have taken home and potted up some tulips and lavenders that can be transplanted early next year when conditions are more favourable – hopefully! At least we don’t have to organise a watering rota.



Save the date...and your books!

In aid of ‘Raise the Roof’ we will be holding a second-hand book sale in the village hall from 10am - 12 noon on Saturday February 10th. There will be teas, coffees, cakes and a fantastic array of books at bargain prices. What better way to spend a winters morning?

In the meantime, If you are having a clear-out either now or after Christmas, we would be very grateful for any books you would like to donate.

Please leave at the back of the church, or contact: Jo Buckingham or Lizzy Keoghane directly – johart82@hotmail.com

Out and about—Brettenham in the cold

Photo—Michelle Harvey



Photo: Dux Street Footpath—James Buckingham

An Auction of Promises

Auction starts at 11am— 1st Feb

Closes at 20.00pm—29th Feb

Our amazing auction of promises is back! All funds raised will go to the Raise the Roof campaign. Please donate if you can, there may be something you can offer, from teaching a new skill, to an experience, service or item, all promises will be much appreciated.

Please send The title, contact e-mail address, description of the promise, a reserve price, if any. Location (i.e. within certain radius, specific location or if item will be delivered to the winner), and photos or an image of some sort if possible to: promise@brettenham.org

The Auction will be held online at

<https://auctionofpromises.com/RaiseTheRoof>

(or by using the QR code)

Please note—these links will only be
Accessible once the auction has started



Further details will be published on the village website.

<http://brettenham.onesuffolk.net/>

acres who are taking 25% out of food production! At the moment, we would run out of food each year on August 21st if not for imports and this looks likely to get worse. My view is that there is little point in cutting our production here if it means we are encouraging other parts of the world to intensify agricultural production, using methods and products which we have banned, to make up the shortfall!

I think the biggest short term impact will be seen by businesses like machinery dealers, as even the large scale farms are going to be forced to tighten their belts and run machinery for longer before upgrading. This will also affect smaller scale farmers like me as there will be less good quality second hand machinery coming through the market at a time when new machinery is already so expensive as to be out of reach. The new scheme is currently only guaranteed until 2026 though so who knows what a change in government will bring? It might well be back to square one at the end of next year!

Winter is normally a very quiet time of year on the farm but that's not going to be the case this year - Anglian Water have now made a start on excavations for their pipeline on the fields just north of our yard. This is still just for enabling works at the moment but they are planning to return in late March to start the actual build, so let's hope things have dried up considerably by then!

Tom Tavener



Photo: My best field of milling wheat!
- Tom Tavener

Farming Focus

The rain seems to have been never ending this autumn but thanks to a brief spell of bright, dry and windy weather I finally managed to drill the last remaining field of wheat on the Ryece Hall land at the end of November. I got the final bits of spraying up to date without making too much of a mess which was quite satisfying considering the conditions we have had.

One of the main jobs I've been trying to get on top of during the wet weather has been sorting out our application for the new farm environmental stewardship scheme. We were previously in a Countryside Stewardship scheme which came to an end about 10 years ago. We decided that we liked having grass field margins etc so we kept them in place when the old scheme expired and they have mostly become valuable wildlife habitat since being established 20 years ago. They mean that we don't have to cut the hedges where we don't want to and it has allowed a good layer of scrub to form along the base, providing plenty of cover for ground nesting birds and small mammals. All of our existing margins and hedges will remain much the same once we start the new scheme, but the main visible change will be that we will grow a legume-based cover crop each year as part of the rotation. This will not be harvested, but incorporated back into the soil the following year before drilling a wheat crop. The idea is that it will replace a traditional break crop with something that needs no spray or fertiliser and will help to improve soil health, whilst also providing flowers for pollinators. Although this will not be a particularly profitable crop for us, it is the right thing to do for the overall rotation now that we are no longer growing sugar beet. I am starting with a relatively small area to see how well it works but will increase it in future years if it is successful.

The old farm subsidy scheme has now been scrapped and the payments cut by about half, before being cut completely in 2027. This new environmental scheme is meant to replace the subsidy payment, although for most, it will be very difficult to get more than 25%-30% of what they received under the old system. It will be interesting to see how these changes affect farmers and the wider associated businesses in the coming years. At the moment, it looks as though farming will be less profitable and less food will be produced nationally as more land is put into environmental schemes. I know of people farming multiple thousands of

Raise the Roof

Thank you to all readers who have supported our urgent fundraising appeal. We are pleased to announce that a good start has been made, with **£19,500 towards the target of over £200,000**. Please keep an eye on the lovely new target board outside the church, where you will hopefully see the amount we have raised change regularly. Thank you to everyone who has supported recent fundraising efforts and we look forward to more enjoyable activities throughout the next months.

January sees the annual Village Quiz, with an opportunity to join the fun and win a prize at the raffle even if you couldn't get a ticket for this sold-out event. February sees the village Inn, Big Brettenham Book sale and our fantastic Auction of Promises! Charlie Haylock's talk on the film 'The Dig' will be another popular event so buy your tickets early!



A big thankyou to Grahame Moulding for creating and building our target board.

Nature Notes



As natural food becomes harder to find, garden birds are attracted to feeders, particularly during cold and/or snowy weather. Predators are wise to this and sparrowhawks are occasionally seen hunting in gardens at this time of year. They are very agile and speedy and it is

difficult to observe them for any length of time. If they do rest in your garden you will notice that actually they are quite colourful birds with bluish-grey wings and back, yellow or orange eyes, yellow legs and talons and orange-brown bars on their chest and stomach. They are about 34cms in length, with a wingspan of between 55-70cms. It is estimated that there are about 35,000 pairs across the entire UK bar the highlands and northern Scotland.

They nest in dense woodlands and are not always welcome visitors to our gardens. Their method of attack often involves following a regular route to get close to prey, often using a hedge or shed for cover. You can reduce the chance of a sparrowhawk attack by regularly moving your bird feeders around your garden.



David Golding



Blinkers

The BLINKERS enjoyed a festive smorgasbord of food at “The Six Bells” Felsham for their Christmas outing which included a Chinese auction. If you don't know what that is (we didn't either) ask Tina. Suggestions for venues and activities are already being discussed for outings for next year.

BLINKERS has been a great addition to the social life in Brettenham. All Brettenham ladies are welcome, just contact Michelle and she'll add you to the Whatsapp group. Thank you to Michelle Harvey for getting the BLINKERS going this year. We look forward to seeing where the BLINKERS go in 2024.

Carrie

The Brettenham Flyers

If you're considering a new challenge, or just fancy joining us on a morning jog/walk around the village for a little exercise (approx. 5.7K), come and join the Brettenham Flyers for a Sunday morning lift.

Every Sunday at the Village Hall

Walkers / Dogs—08:50

Runners / Cyclists—09:00

All ages, abilities & animals welcome

For more info contact Ozzie:

chairbva@gmail.com

