



**Happy
New
Year**



Welcome...

....to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. Our first magazine of 2022 brings you the latest news from the Parish Council and BVA, thought provoking information about how to garden more sustainably, Stuart's ongoing quest to find the perfect car, plus a good walk to blow away the cobwebs, and your lovely photos. We hope you enjoy the read and wish you a very happy New Year!

Please keep sending your news, jokes and photos to...brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.

Dates For Your Diary

As a result of the ever changing guidance due to Covid, please be aware that events may have to be cancelled at short notice. To check on the latest situation visit the BVA Facebook page—see details opposite.

- Friday 7th January—Village Inn from 7.30pm: The Bloaters will be in the kitchen see back page for more details
- Monday 17th January—BVA meeting 7.30pm
- Sunday 23rd January—Sunday Village Inn from 12 noon, drinks only
- Monday 7th February—Brettenham Gardening Club AGM
- Thursday 10th February—Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- Friday 18th March—Church Fund Raiser



Bigger Ernie

December Draw

1st Fred Rufus
2nd Vanessa Hall
3rd Penny at Barley View

Christmas Draw

1st Dezy at Barley View
2nd Carl Gamekeeper
3rd Liz Artiss



February Mag

Deadline:

15th January

Village Noticeboard

Village Hall

For village hall bookings contact
Katrina Kearns 737987 or
katrinakearns2@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 Beth Clarke
clarkeeac3@gmail.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 please contact
peterkt@live.co.uk



Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

Every Thursday, from
6.40pm to 7.10pm
outside the church



Brettenham magazine is published and edited by Emily Woods (07738 127204), brettenhammagazine@outlook.com and Carrie Dye 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

The meeting of the Parish Council was last held on 11th November 2021 and reports were heard from Robert Lindsay (SCC and BDC Councillor). We also heard updates from the BVA, the Footpaths Officer and there was an update on the neighbourhood plan and the flooding. Minutes will be available shortly.

The following planning applications have been received since our last report:-

DC/21/05777	Fern Hall, Beales Drive, Brettenham, Suffolk IP7 7QL	APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO TREE(S) PROTECTED BY A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER
DC/21/06003	Fern Hall, Beales Drive, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7QL	Installation of 2no. roller shutter doors and infill side walls of cartlodge
DC/21/06670	Hall Lodge Cottage, The Street, Brettenham, Suffolk IP7 7QP	Erection of an annexe to provide guest and family accommodation
DC/21/06672	Bury To Colchester Pipeline Scheme	Request for formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion - Bury St Edmunds to Colchester Water Pipeline Scheme affecting parishes as per Schedule A

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on 10th February 2022, in the village hall as far as COVID-19 allows

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke

Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Chairman: Chris Clarke

Bin Collections over the Festive Season and Christmas Tree Recycling



Recycling/blue bin: no collection Fri 31st Dec, will be collected instead on Wed 5th Jan. And no collection on Fri 14th Jan, will be collected instead on Tues 17th Jan.

Refuse/black bin: no collection Fri 7th Jan, will be collected instead on Tues 11th Jan. And no collection on Fri 21st Jan, will be collected instead on Sat 22nd Jan.

Garden waste/brown bin: no collections during weeks commencing 27th Dec and 3rd Jan.

From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Recycling Christmas Trees

During January, you can leave your real Christmas tree, with all decorations removed, beside your brown bin on collection day. Trees must be under 7ft tall, or have a trunk less than 7cm. Larger trees can be taken to a Suffolk Recycling Centre or collection point. To find out more about this visit:

www.babergh.gov.uk/waste-services

Bildeston Food Bank Update

I hope everyone had a good Christmas. I know the contributions made to the Bildeston food bank made a difference to many families. Contributions going into the new year will be much appreciated. As always, anything dropped in the church porch or my woodstore will be taken to the collection point.

If you would rather make a financial donation towards to the food bank ,the details are:

BACS to Bildeston Community Support

Account - 49886479 Sort Code - 52-30-31

Cheques made payable to Bildeston Community Support

Please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence if you would appreciate some support through the scheme.

Alyson Wilson - 07798 633044

Many thanks, Alyson Wilson Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

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 – 0850

Runners / Cyclists – 0900

All ages, abilities & animals welcome.

For more info contact Ozzie:

oilyturk67@hotmail.com

.....Jog on, jog on....

**The Bretttenham Flyers
celebrating Mark Baker's 65th
birthday after their Sunday jog/
walk. Photo by Em Woods**



Bigger Ernie Update

Thank you to everyone who has already purchased their 2022 Bigger Ernie tickets. To everyone else, this is your last reminder to get your 2022 tickets now. The first draw will not take place until early February 2022 so you have until the end of January 2022 to get your tickets bought. Please see below information on how to purchase tickets.

1. **Bank transfer** – make it payable to 'Brettenham Village Association', Sort Code 52-30-31, Account No. 49882120. Once you have made the payment, please email biggerernie@outlook.com stating the bank transfer date, number of tickets purchased, ticket holder names and total amount.
2. **Cheque** – if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass your cheque to them along with the ticket holder names; alternatively 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 them the cash along with the ticket holder names; alternatively place the cash along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street.

These funds help the BVA to put on community events, keep the village hall maintained, bar prices low and subsidise village events. Feel good by contributing to your community with the chance of winning cash prizes, what more you could ask for?!

Emily Woods, Bigger Ernie Co-ordinator, biggerernie@outlook.com



Sunrise over Brettenham : photo taken with a drone by Tom Tavener

Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Hi all,

I hope you managed to have a great Christmas despite the strangeness of the times and got to spend some quality time with your nearest and dearest.

With Covid cases on the rise again, it's never felt trickier to provide a meaningful 'looking forward' BVA update for the magazine. As I write this, our series of events planned for late December are in jeopardy, which is a real shame as I know how much people enjoy events in the run-up to Christmas and the New Year. Here's hoping at least one of these can/did go ahead! It's also difficult to plan for the early part of 2022 not knowing what restrictions might be in place. So, all in all, it's a really uncertain time, but the most important thing of course is that everyone stays safe and healthy.

Because of the fast-changing situation, the best way for Brettenham residents to keep abreast of the latest village news and developments is either to be on the village email list and/or join the BVA Facebook page. You can find details of both of these on page 3.

On a more positive note, I'm delighted to report that we had a really successful charity quiz night on 27th November, and raised an amazing £800 for the Young Minds charity – so a massive thank you from Martin and I to everyone who supported by taking part and/or donating a raffle prize. In terms of the quiz itself, although it was nip and tuck all the way, 'Buggs' Beauties', led by Viv and Geoffrey Bourne, came out on top again, with Hugh & Julia Rivington's 'Rivals' in second and Jo Hart's 'Shambolic' a close third.



As you can see from the advert below, our next BVA meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 17th January. At the moment, we are still hoping that this can be held in person at the village hall, but if the Covid restrictions preclude us from doing so, then we will hold the meeting 'virtually' via Zoom. We've done that before, and it's worked reasonably successfully, so we won't be starting from scratch. Again, we will confirm the details for the meeting nearer the time via the village email list and Facebook page.

And lastly from me, as some of you know, I will be standing down as BVA Chair in April. I will have filled the role for three years by that point, and I really do think it's time for someone else to take the helm. In many respects, it's been a really strange time to be the BVA Chair with a considerable portion of my tenure affected by Covid, but that's also made it interesting, challenging and rewarding in equal measure. I've tried to fulfil the role to the best of my ability, and I've had terrific support from all the other BVA Officers. If you're interested in taking on the BVA Chair role, please do let me know over the next couple of months.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Pete: peterkt@live.co.uk / 07752 222 866

Village Inn dates for January

Friday 7th January, from 7.30pm Brettenham Village Hall

With food provided by the Bloaters. See menu on back page.

Sunday 23rd January, from 12 noon Brettenham Village Hall

Drinks only. NB please check nearer the time on the BVA Facebook page that events are running.

Brettenham Village Association Meeting

Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Brettenham Village Hall

(or via Zoom if Covid restrictions are in place)

All village residents welcome to attend

St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Canon Tiffer Robinson

Tel: 737197 or 07789 772024

Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com

Church Warden Annie Tavener Tel: 736412

Email: annie_tav@hotmail.com



January Programme of Services in the Benefice

2nd January: Epiphany

Rattlesden	09.45	Holy Communion Streamed
Thorpe Morieux	10:00	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11:00	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11:15	Family Communion
Rattlesden Pavilion	18:00	Praise and Donuts

9th January: Plough Sunday

Brettenham	08:30	Holy Communion BCP
Rattlesden	09:45	Plough Service Streamed
Thorpe Morieux	10:00	Family Communion
Hitcham	11:00	Holy communion

16th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany

Rattlesden	09:45	Holy Communion Streamed
Thorpe Morieux	10:00	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11:00	Family Service

23rd January: Third Sunday of Epiphany

Brettenham	08:30	Holy Communion BCP
Rattlesden	09:45	Family Service Streamed
Hitcham	11:00	Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	18:00	Evensong BCP

30th January: Candlemas

Hitcham	10:30	Benefice Communion Streamed
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A month ago when I wrote the last letter I didn't even know that there was a Greek letter called Omicron (and I did a year of New Testament Greek!), but here we are.

I hope some of you were able to have a relatively normal Christmas and New year. It's nearly a year since partygoers breaking lockdown rules in Basingstoke said they "never watch the news" so were unaware of the global coronavirus pandemic. I suspect this was an amusing and unsuccessful attempt to get out of a police fine, but can you imagine if it were true? If you'd managed to get through the last 2 years without ever having heard of covid? What bliss! Sadly we've had it as the general background of our lives throughout, and even the Rector can't stop going on about it. And as we look ahead to 2022, what new Greek letters are we all going to learn? Will we ever get to Omega?

I have two Greek letters on one of my stoles: the coloured scarf like thing I wear in church on Sundays. It's the one I wear during Advent and Lent, but also for funerals: purple, the colour for penitence. My mother in law made it for me when I was ordained deacon, and the letters are Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.



In the book of Revelations God is referred to as "The Alpha and Omega, the first and the last", because God being eternal is outside of time. This brings comfort at funerals because, in the midst of our suffering and grief, we know we can cling to God who is always there, always faithful, who has no beginning and no end, who does not decay and change as everything else does. His

love for us is unfailing, and never ending.

As we herald a new year with hope, it's likely that, covid wise at least, it should be better than the last, we do so knowing that we go with God, who transcends all of our sufferings and joys.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

*And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your
hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better
than light and safer than a known way".*

Minnie Louise Haskins

Rev'd Canon Tiffer Robinson

For more information about online church services or coming back into church for services, contact Tiffer. There are also weekly Wednesday online coffee mornings and monthly quiz nights:

Tel: 01449 737197 Mob: 07789 772024 Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Stall

A big thank you to everyone who is supporting the stall by both donating and buying. It has been a bigger success than we imagined.
Can I remind you that there is a selection of individual cards for sale in the church: £1 each or 6 for £5.

Also, books are 50p for a paperback and £1 for a hardback and include some of the latest best sellers.



Thank you! Viv Bourne

Treasures of the Turf
7pm, Friday 18th March 2022,
Brettenham Village Hall



'Quiz, After His Last Race at Newmarket' by Henry Bernard Chalon, 1807. Picture courtesy of the Yale Center for British Art (Paul Mellon Collection)

The PCC invite you to an illustrated lecture entitled **Treasures of the turf** presented by Chris Garibaldi in aid of church funds. This fully illustrated lecture looks at the history of horse racing, the 'Sport of Kings', from the late 17th century to the modern period through the fine and decorative arts. Chris was Director of the National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket, Senior Curator at Norwich Castle Museum and is a highly acclaimed Arts Society Lecturer and nationally recognised expert in his fields. We are extremely lucky that he has agreed to present this lecture and know that it will be a very interesting, informative and entertaining evening.

Tickets are £10 in advance (or £12 on the night) and include a glass of wine and are available from Annie Tavener 01449 736412 or annie_tav@hotmail.com. There will also be a raffle. All the proceeds will go to much needed church funds.

The Challenges Facing Gardeners
Now and In The Future Part 7

Every year, gardeners spend millions of pounds on buying pesticides, herbicides and fungicides for use in our estimated 22 million gardens. Pesticides are chemicals that kill insects and other organisms. Herbicides are chemicals that are toxic to plants, and fungicides will destroy fungus.

The RHS say that "accepting and avoiding pests, diseases and weeds by good practice in cultivation methods, garden hygiene and encouraging natural enemies should be the first line of control for the gardener. If chemicals are used, they should be only used in a minimal and targeted way."

Some people might say "pesticides protect my plants from pests and diseases." "Herbicides get rid of the weeds and other unwanted plants from my garden." And "fungicides control black spot and mildew in my garden as well as rust on my roses."

Professor Dave Goulson of the University of Sussex, a leading expert on insects launched a petition in August of this year urging the Government to ban chemical spraying in private gardens, along with road verges, parks and other green spaces. If this happened it would slow insect decline by creating a network of nature friendly habitats where insects can recover. The petition urged the Government to follow the example of France which banned all use of synthetic pesticides in public spaces in 2017 and banned garden use in 2019. Here are a few tips to encourage us gardeners not to use chemicals;

1) Attracting wildlife into your garden will bring in lots of natural predators. A log pile will attract a variety of invertebrates which in turn will draw in natural predators like birds.

2) Make your garden hedgehog friendly with shelter, food and highways. They love a slug or two as do slow worms who can be attracted into your garden by laying down a corrugated metal sheet which provides a warm refuge for them.



3) Reduce the risk of aphids by encouraging frogs and dragonflies into your garden by building a small pond. Grow a small patch of nettles which will attract ladybirds who love eating aphids.

4) Try companion planting. This involves creating areas of plants that provide benefits to each other. Some examples are;

A) Plant borage near to strawberries and tomatoes - bees are attracted to help cross pollination

B) Plant comfrey in flower beds and vegetable plots. The deep tap roots bring vital minerals to the surface.

C) Harvest the leaves of comfrey three times a year to make comfrey liquid which is a fantastic and free potassium-rich liquid fertiliser to encourage plants to flower and fruits (such as tomatoes) to set.

D) Plant garlic and chives below roses - they can keep aphids and black spot away.

5) Plant deep rooted plants beside shallow rooted plants. They will seek nutrients from different levels of the soil.

6) Use physical barriers, such as horticultural fleece to protect your plants while they establish themselves. Netting and cloches are usually made of plastic, but if looked after, can last for many years so you may not feel so guilty about using them.

7) Improve your soil structure and its health by making your own compost.



Companion Plants

Left: Borage

Right Comfrey—NB this can be invasive so needs to be managed



At the end of the day, a few holes in your brassica and flower leaves and a few weeds here and there are a small price to pay for a rich and bio diverse garden.

Dave Goulson has written several books on the importance of insects to our planet. Two I can recommend are: "Silent Earth. Averting the Insect Apocalypse". And "The Garden Jungle: or Gardening to save the Planet".

David Golding

Brettenham Gardening Club



We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, despite all the issues surrounding us at the moment.

As the shortest day has passed us now, we can at least look forward to the first signs of Spring as the hellebore and Snowdrops bloom in the garden, lifting our spirits.

We are hoping that during 2022 The Gardening Club will have a slightly fuller calendar and we will be looking to plan events for the Spring and Summer at the AGM. We have tentatively put a date for the AGM in the diary for Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.30pm. We would love to hear from all members new and old for ideas about Garden Visits, so please attend if you can. An Agenda will be sent out to all members ahead of the meeting. Of course, we will have to consider any restrictions placed upon us.

If you would like to be a member of the Gardening Club, Membership is just £5 a year and we have a calendar of events which involve the whole village. We share tips and advice on plants and meet as regularly as we can. If anyone would like further information about the club or would like to join please contact either of the Jane's.



Jane McDonald 01449736957
felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk or
Jane Moulding 01449736178
grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com

Left: some of the many varieties of hellebore

Right: snowdrop



Nature Notes

Ivy grows throughout the UK and can be found in many varying habitats. It is a misunderstood plant - often being accused of strangling trees but it has its own root system so is not a parasitic plant. It can be a danger to ailing and dying trees, but for the vast majority of trees it does absolutely no harm whatsoever, and on the plus side it can support at least 50 species of wildlife.

Ivy is a woody climber that can grow to a height of 30m. Its climbing stems have tiny hairs which help it to stick to surfaces as it climbs. It is unusual in that it flowers very late in the year - from September to November and then produces ripe fruit from November to January. Consequently it is vital in supporting a wide variety of wildlife during the cold winter months, when the majority of other berries and fruits have been eaten.



The pollen, nectar and berries of ivy are a vital food source for insects and birds as well as providing shelter for insects, bats, birds and other small mammals. The berries have a high fat content and are eaten by a wide variety of bird species including blackbirds, fieldfares, thrushes and wood pigeons. The flowers are important to

wasps, bees and hoverflies which forage for nectar and pollen in the autumn before they go into hibernation.

Ivy is a symbol of fertility and in the past priests would present a wreath of ivy to newly married couples and it is still customary for brides bouquets to contain a sprig of ivy. It was also said in the past that wearing a wreath of ivy would prevent you from getting drunk. Bacchus was the Roman god of intoxication and was often depicted wearing a wreath of ivy and grapevines. It was also worn by winners of intellectual achievement - for example the winners of poetry competitions. In Ancient Greece they were also presented to winning athletes in sporting competitions.



David Golding

Getting to Know...Michelle Brown

Full Name:	Michelle Janet Brown
Birthplace:	Perth, Western Australia
How long have you lived in Brettenham?	Since March 2020
Current/Last Job:	Seamstress/Upholsterer and Teaching Assistant
Do you have any pets?	Left the Chooks with the people we sold our house to in Rattlesden...
What is your biggest fear?	Losing my family
What makes you laugh the most?	Rob Beckett, Josh Widdicombe..
What would you change about yourself if you could?	To know when I've gone too far (before it's too late)
What is the favourite place you have visited?	Vietnam. It's got it all.
What really makes you angry?	Entitlement and Pessimism.
What is your favourite book/film/play/show?	We will Rock You (Queen Musical)
What has been the proudest moment of your life?	Tiling our bathroom. Lame, but I loved the power of the angle grinder!
What did you want to be when you were growing up?	Costume Designer
If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?	Have a big beach party (preferably with a reef to snorkel to), with all the people around the world I love, with all the food I love. And a free bar. Mm.

What is your favourite game/sport?	My body is not particularly agreeable to traditional sports, but I do really enjoy kayaking and cycling if I have the chance. I do enjoy a good game of Uno too.
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	Salt and Pepper Calamari on an Asian style salad to start. A really delicious homemade Lasagna, half beef, half vegetarian with big hunks of garlic bread. Finished with some proper Pistachio gelato in a fresh waffle cone.
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?	Poodle. Due to hair.
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why?	Dan. Not only would he ensure we survive, the practical man he is; he would realise his lifelong dream of having 'Danland'.
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery?	Family trip to Botswana, Senegal and Kenya. Go all out on it.
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why?	I wouldn't want to! Wouldn't like to live as a woman in past times, and don't want to know what the future holds. I'm happy in my little village life!
What's your best claim to fame?	I was the mud wrestling champion in Copenhagen in 2005 (although this was in an international college, with 6 contestants, on gritty, wet sand).
What skill would you like to master?	I'd love to be able to Flamenco.

Motoring Memories, Part VII

Stuart's motoring memories are based on his childhood in the 1960s and 70s growing up in Brettenham where his Father ran a village shop and filling station. Stuart continues with his quest for the perfect car

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I have never owned a Ford but came very close to doing so about fifteen years ago. I had read that the Focus was an exceptionally good car to drive so made my way to the local garage to try one. A test drive could not be arranged immediately but the garage took my details but did not contact me. I suspect that if I had liked the Focus, I would have purchased it and would have probably become a regular customer. I have been a passenger in a number of Focuses over the years and found the latest model quite impressive especially the balance of comfort, handling and performance.



Jaguar X type estate 2004

I did have a Jaguar X type estate and at the time Jaguar was owned by the Ford Motor company (between 1999-2008). It was a good car doing everything well. One feature I particularly liked was the heated front windscreen. This was first seen on a Rolls Royce in 1969. Like the back window, there were elements in the front screen glass to clear the screen which happened very swiftly.

The patent was owned by Ford until

2005; since then, it has become a common feature on many cars.

The French seem to have a knack of producing cars with a very good chassis. I have had a number of Citroen, a couple of Renaults and a Peugeot 306. At the time I had the 306 I was travelling a couple of hundred miles twice a week and found the car to be comfortable and handle well. It was a 2.0 litre diesel turbo and returned around 50mpg.

Renault have made some quirky cars over the years, the Avantime, the Twizy and the VelSatis. In early years they produced the 4 CV which to my eye was a mix of Citroen 2V and VW Beetle. The Dauphin was one of their earlier productions. The last Renault I owned was the Megane. You

will probably remember the advert “shaking that ass”. In fact, this became the subject of a complaint to the Advertising Standards Agency and Renault were only allowed one shake of the ass before 7.30pm. Sadly the car did not shake my boat and despite many return trips to the garage the steering noise was never



Peugeot 306

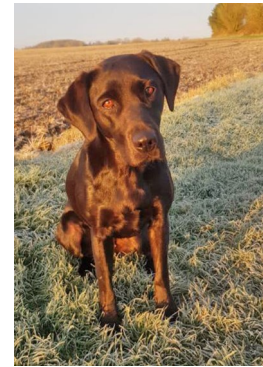
eliminated, and I did not get on with the steering which I found too biased towards returning to the straight-ahead position.

In 1984, I was a passenger in a Renault 16 and was taken aback by the comfort. This car was the first real hatchback to become popular before the term hatchback was widely used. The style of the body was between a saloon and an estate and was designed so that the space could be configured in many ways which was facilitated by sliding back seats which also split and laid flat.

I was also interested in the way the car was being driven as I was unaware of the gears being changed or braking taking place; everything was done very smoothly and without fuss but nevertheless the journey was completed in good time. Talking to the driver I discovered that he was a retired traffic policeman and this accounted for his style of driving. He encouraged me to take up advanced driver training. I recalled that a few years previously I had again been a passenger travelling from Ipswich to Sudbury. I was on a placement with the Probation Service in Ipswich and was attached to the Community Work Placement Programme Manager. He called on one of his colleagues to drive him and I from Ipswich to Sudbury. The driver was a former traffic policeman and covered the distance in a very swift time, I suspect the distance was somewhat shortened by “straightening” the bends. Again, I was very impressed by the smoothness of the drive and it seemed that he somehow knew everything that was going to happen way beforehand and was able to make good progress. I wondered if he knew the car was not equipped with the blues and twos though.

Stuart Earle

A New Year Yomp



Weeda

I can think of no better way to start the New Year than to go for a good long hike. This ‘yomp’ certainly fits the bill. It is suggested by Charles who walks it regularly with his dog Weeda.

It is all on roads so no muddy fields to negotiate and particularly good to do on the Bank Holidays when the roads especially quiet (Hi-viz clothing recommended).

The route is just over 9 miles and should take approx. 3 1/2 hours. Start at Brettenham church.

Leaving the church on your right head down the road past the Centre Academy. Take first left into Dux Street. Walk all the way along Dux Street until T junction at other end of Brettenham. Turn right. Take next right opposite OBH gates and head to Thorpe. By Thorpe church turn left. At bottom of hill take next left. At end of road at T junction turn left. Head back towards Brettenham. At grass triangle by Popples turn right onto road towards Hitcham. Take second left by Hill Farm. You are now in Lower Dale Road. At cross roads turn left and follow road back to Brettenham church. Happy hiking! **Carrie**



If you enjoy walking, I highly recommend using the OS online maps.

Eds Art Classes Brettenham Village Hall

- Friendly and Supportive Art Classes for All Abilities
- Every Friday Morning at Brettenham Village Hall - 10am - 1pm
- Focus on Oil's and Acrylics
- Classes are Drop In - No need to Book

£20 - Per Session *"I found Ed to be a very patient and encouraging teacher. He always spoke about the good in a painting while also pointing out any mistakes."*



www.edcooper.art
Tel:07906 048 418



Anglian Water Pipeline Update

Just to remind you, Anglian Water have begun a five-year project to build a major pipeline to enable them to transfer water from the north of Lincoln down into Essex. It will go through Brettenham, west to east, crossing Dux St. near Ryece Hall, and Church Road to the north of Number 8.

All through the summer and autumn, we have had many visits from hi-vis clad researchers doing "non-invasive" surveys. These have been looking for dormice, bats, badgers etc as well as surveying the trees and hedgerows. I can't stop thinking this is largely a tick-box exercise as I really can't believe they will stop the pipeline if they find some dormice. However, I did ask one of them if they had found any, but unfortunately they hadn't. Some believe the surveys were designed **not** to find what they were looking for. For example, why do a bird survey on a filthy wet, windy day in mid November? Had farmers actually been asked, "where should we look?" their surveys would have been much more successful.

After hearing so much about non-invasive surveys, I began to wonder, are they calling them that because there are some "invasive" ones to come? And in the last month or so, I have received the answer ... yes, there are!

They are planning to dig several exploratory trenches in each field along the route. This according to the statutory notice I have received is "To confirm the position of existing Anglian Water assets (there aren't any, of course) and/or to confirm the ground conditions." One of my farmer neighbours said, "I can tell them the ground conditions – bloody wet!" There are also supposed to be archaeological surveys, but these are not mentioned this time. Quite why this work is being done at such a wet time of the year, when the pipeline is not expected to reach us until 2023 is difficult to understand.

I have received one piece of good news, they have changed the route through the Church road area of the village. Some of you may have seen the map near Datchett house, showing the pipeline crossing the tree lined footpath near there, but this has now been changed so that it runs parallel with the path instead. This is so much better, as several of the trees would otherwise have had to be removed, and also the path through to Dux Street should now remain open throughout the work.

Peter Truin

The NFU Rural Road Safety Campaign

Thank you to Ray Latimer for bringing this to our attention as it is something that affects all of us living in Brettenham.

As the UK's leading rural insurer, we know that road safety is a major concern for our customers – and it is for us too. That's why we want to tell you about our new Rural Road Safety campaign. Our aim is to make rural roads a safer place to be for anyone who lives in, works in, or visits the countryside - from motorists, motorcyclists and agricultural vehicle drivers to horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists. That's why we've teamed up with The British Horse Society, British Cycling and THINK! - the UK Government's road safety campaign – to try to reduce the risks for all rural road users.

Less traffic. More danger. Did you know? You are more likely to be involved in a fatal accident on a rural road than an urban road.

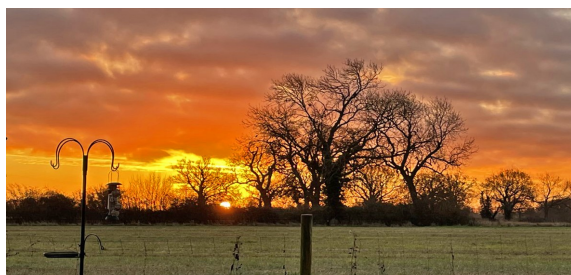


To find out more about safety on rural roads, please visit our Rural Road Safety hub and help us spread the word by sharing the campaign with your friends, family and colleagues.

Visit nfumutual.co.uk/ruralroadsafety

Below: Sunrise by Tina Potter

Right: Visitors to Aylson Wilson's bird feeders



Citizens' Advice Column

I'm a bit anxious about going out into shops at the moment so I want to do more shopping online, but there's been things in the news about delivery problems. I'm worried about not receiving things on time or packages being lost. What should I do if my parcel goes missing?

When you're online shopping, it's not always clear whom to contact if things go wrong.

As a customer, your contract is with the seller that you bought the item from. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. They should chase the courier to find out what happened to your order if there's a problem.

If your parcel hasn't arrived:

Check the delivery address you gave the seller, to make sure it's correct. Then contact the seller and ask where your order is.

If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential, and you let the seller know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, you can ask the seller to deliver the item to you again if the item wasn't delivered either by an agreed date, or within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days.

If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time, you can ask the seller for a refund.

If your parcel was left somewhere:

Another problem people face is when parcels get left in different places, for example outside or with a neighbour.

If your item was delivered by Royal Mail:

If Royal Mail left your package with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility

if it gets lost.

If they leave it somewhere you hadn't instructed, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund.

If the item was delivered by a courier:

Check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's or courier's responsibility if your order has gone missing. However, if you did not agree to this, then it's the seller's responsibility if your order goes missing.

If you ordered something from a private seller or you're still having trouble after trying the tips above, you can contact the Citizens Advice [consumer helpline](#) on 0808 223 1133 for help.

If you need advice or information, contact Sudbury & District Citizens Advice. We are providing advice by telephone and email, Monday – Thursday, 10am – 1pm. Please phone 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. You can also telephone our advice line on Freephone 0800 278 7868 or 0800 144 88 48.

Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website www.sudburycab.org.uk



Above: Culinary preparations for Christmas at Ray Latimer's house.

Right: The tree on the green by Jo Schofield



Activities at Hitcham Village Hall

These events are open to all whether a resident of Hitcham or not.

Every Monday restarts 17 January HITCHAM BOWLS CLUB. 19.30. Call Bill Gray on 07526 069 631

Every Tuesday restarts 4 January EXERCISE FOR ALL. 14.00 - 14.45. £5 per class or 6 sessions at £24 Call Gill on 01449 741 169 or 07977 746 244.

Tuesday 25th January BINGO. 19.00 for 19.30pm. December top cash pay-out was £150. Bingo books and flyers £1 each plus raffle for great prizes. A fun night with unlimited free cuppas and biccys or a cash bar!

Every Thursday restart 6 January HATHA YOGA. 19.45 - 20.45 Sadie Clarke, qualified yoga teacher, on Facebook info@32yoga.co.uk or call 07598 425 976. £5 per class or save money by paying in advance for 4 sessions at £18.

Second Thursday of every month 13th January THE RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN. 14.00-16.00. Welcomes everyone for a friendly natter over complimentary tea, coffee and cake at Hitcham Village. For more info www.ruralcoffeecaravan.or.uk or call 01379 855 338

Every Friday restarts 7 January LINE DANCING. 18.00 - 19.00.. £5.50 to pre-booked & check availability or £18. course of 4 classes. For more info email Rosie on ldrosie@yahoo.co.uk or call 07748 563 926

Every Friday PUB NIGHT 19.30 – 22.30 18+ For more info Nicola 07907449194

Friday 21st January THE ORIGINAL PUB NIGHT WITH FOOD - 19.30-22.30 18+ Chicken or Vegetable Curry & Nan £8 & desert £3 pre-booked and paid by 17th Jan at Hitcham P.O. or Nicola 07907449194

Third Saturday of every month 22nd January COFFEE MORNING. 10.00 - 11.30am. Complimentary hot/cold drinks & biscuits. Raffle & cake stall.

Third Saturday of every month 22nd January CHOOSE REFILLS. 10.00 - 12.00. Bring your own bottle to refill with household cleaning or body care products and only buy what you need without unnecessary packaging. www.chooserefills.co.uk 01449 612 289.

Sunday every month 9th January HITCHAM SCRIBBLERS 10.00-12.00 an art group for everyone from complete beginners to established artists. Contact Simone Beadle on 07775786850

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£8

Dessert

Chocolate Torte with Cream

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£3