

BRETtenham MAGAZINE

JULY 2022
No 414



Welcome...

...to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. June was a month full of happy celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we have a great selection of photos from events below and on pgs 18 & 19. We have a welcome by the new BVA Chair, Ozzie on pg 6, and a new food provider at the Friday Village Inn - Real Thai Food, don't miss their menu on pg 7. July also brings the Summer Fair on 9th July, more details on pg 14 & 17. Enjoy!

Please keep sending your news, articles and photos to brettenhammagazine@outlook.com. Sorry if we can't fit them all in.



Planting of the Oak tree to celebrate the queens Jubilee.

Thank you to Peter Truin for donating it to the village and for Andrew Gooderham for the tree guard. Photos by Pete Knight

Front cover image of the Beacon lighting created by Simon Harvey

Bigger Ernie Winners

June Draw

- 1st Hamish (Barley View)
- 2nd Marion Hatton
- 3rd Jane McDonald

Summer Draw

- 1st Dennis Cook
- 2nd Jane McDonald
- 3rd Edith Bere

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 Beth Clarke
clarkeeac3@gmail.com

facebook 

Where to get Village News?

Check out the latest village news on the
BVA Facebook page
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



August Mag Deadline:

15th July

*Brettenham magazine is published and edited by the Brettenham Magazine
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the printed copy, the magazine is available online, in full, via the village
website: www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net*

Brettenham Parish Council

Many thanks to Chris Clarke

You will no doubt be aware that the long standing Chairman of the Parish Council, Chris Clarke, stepped away from this role after many years' service and hard work. During the time I have known him, he has had some significant issues to deal with, most notably last summer the extreme flooding which, as well as turning out and offering practical help at the time, he then negotiated to have village surveys done and reparative work to try and avoid the chaotic scenes witnessed and subsequent difficulties suffered by some residents. He is also continuing to carry forward the considerably large task of delivering the Neighbourhood Plan which, when complete, should have a long term positive impact on our village and community. The role of Parish Council Chairman has sat alongside various other roles that he carried out with care, enthusiasm and commitment.

I am sure that many of you will have had dealings with Chris in his various guises to some degree or other. Some of you will know just how many hours he puts in and what extent he will go to on behalf of the village, but most will be unaware as much of what he does is quietly carried out behind the scenes - a brief report delivered at a meeting does not always reflect the work that has gone into it.

I am sure you will join the parish councillors and myself in thanking Chris wholeheartedly for looking after us for so many years and wishing him the very best in his future endeavours – may they be restful and relaxing - as the new Chair I will do my best to leave him in relative peace.

Jubilee Celebrations

You will see many references to the Jubilee weekend in the magazine and some fabulous photographs, but on a personal note I would like to thank the band of volunteers who prepared the Hall and Marquee, those who delivered the barbeque and amazing desserts and those who ran the bar for so many hours, with barely any respite in queues on Jubilee Day. Further thanks to those who came back again to prepare the hall and run the bar for a rather soggy Big Lunch on the Sunday. A tiring weekend for all the best reasons – what an amazing turnout and fantastic atmosphere, reflecting the national mood over the weekend.

Even knowing the village and its legacy of being a strong, supportive community, we could not have foreseen the numbers that would turn up

and stay so long on Thursday, many braving a chilly wind and a long wait between eating and the scheduled beacon lighting at 9.45 pm. This was expertly carried out by one of our longer standing residents, Brian Gooderham, helped by two of our youngest – Wilf and Florence, so many thanks to them for their patience and willing participation, very much appreciated by all, especially being able to huddle around something warm at last!

Our thanks also go out to Peter Truin for providing a fine young oak tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, planted by him and Andrew Gooderham (who provided a handsome guard for it) on Jubilee Day. Thanks also to Nick Taverner for preparing the site on the green next to the Church, a small but enthusiastic crowd witnessed it's planting and we await the commemorative plaque to sit next to it.

Alyson Wilson

BPC Chair

Food Bank Update

Contributions continue at a steady pace, it was good to see some special treats going into donations in time for the Jubilee weekend.

Please remember Anne-Marie or myself are happy to pick up from you if you are not able to get your items to the Church or my woodstore.

If you prefer to donate financially, cheques are payable to Bildeston Community Support or via BACS to Bildeston Community Support, Account No 49886479, Sort Code 52-30-31.

Please do remember that if you or someone you know might appreciate a helping hand please contact one of us or if you would rather contact the Foodbank directly you can do this through Facebook messenger from the Bildeston Foodbank Facebook page or by telephone or email as below.

Tel: 01449 257136

Email: Bildestoncsg@gmail.com

Many thanks again

Alyson Wilson, Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770



Brettenham Village Association (BVA) Chairperson 'Changing of The Guard'

Some of you may be wondering who might be insane enough to even consider replacing such a steadfast and dedicated Chairman of the BVA, such is the reputation Peter Knight has generated during his tenure. Please look no further. It gives me immense delight in informing all that I have finally succumbed to peer pressure and placed myself at the fore, albeit as the only front runner, and accepted by the BVA Officer Group as the new BVA Chairperson.

First and foremost, I must pay tribute to the outgoing Chairman and thank him for his unending support, steadfast commitment and positive outlook, particularly over the recent difficult years. Without his consistent engagement and passage of information throughout our community we may have experienced seemingly longer periods of isolation. (Lockdown - a taboo word in my head). From all within the BVA, we thank you!

After living in Brettenham (The Jewel in the East) for little over 8 years I am always left amazed how the village consistently manages to create fantastic events even through adversity. A recent conversation with Tiffer confirming this view, deeming us to appear stronger as a community after resurfacing from the misery of the pandemic. The recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations have been a good case in point.

There's plenty to look forward to this summer with the usual Fair, Apple Day, regular monthly Village Inns and more, so please keep abreast of the diary dates within this mag and my quarterly updates throughout the year. If you would like to add to the chat, suggest an idea for future events or simply have your say, please come along to the BVA meetings or email me (Ozzie) directly chairbva@gmail.com

Signing off from this introduction, I hope that I'll be able to provide continuity, added value and contribute a fraction of my predecessor capacity, but leave you with this - I wrote this piece while firmly in the grip of a bout of Covid, so there's a positive to end on.

See you all soon

Ozzie

BVA Chair

Friday Village Inn

1st July, Brettenham Village Hall

With food provided by Real Thai Food from 7-9pm
Food can be pre ordered via WhatsApp on 07951 613382. For any groups over 3 people pre ordering is essential

Real Thai Food BRETTEHAM

Menu

Prawn Cracker +Dip £ 2.95

Chicken Satay £5.95

Spring Rolls Chicken ,Veg £5.95

Beef Massaman on rice 8.95

Panang Curry Chicken on Rice £ 7.5

Padthai Prawn,Chicken,Veg £8.5, £ 7.5, £ 7

Jasmin rice £ 2.5, Egg Fried rice £ 6

Curry Veggie Tofu on Rice £ 7 (Please Pre order)

(Pre order by Thursday for take away) What's app only 07951613382



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



July Programme of Services in the Benefice

3 The Third Sunday after Trinity

Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11.15am	Family Communion
Thorpe Morieux	2.30pm	Confirmation Service
Rattlesden Pavilion (Birds Green)	6.00pm	Praise and Donuts

10 The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Rattlesden	9.45am	Morning Prayer (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Family Communion
Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion

17 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11.00am	Family Service

24 The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Rattlesden	9.45 for 10.15am	Breakfast Church (Streamed)
Rattlesden	11.00am	Quiet Service
Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	6.00pm	BCP Evensong

31 The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Hitcham	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist (Streamed)
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July is a strange month, of new beginnings and endings. New beginnings because it seems to be the month that everyone is getting married this year, but endings because it's when term ends, and children move up a year whilst some are leaving their schools and going somewhere new.

I still remember that feeling of sadness and excitement about leaving school, a feeling which has come back every time we've moved on from one thing to another in life. Every year we hold a leavers service at Rattlesden school, and the children there are asked what they would like prayer for, and every year they say "that we don't get lost in our new school", as going from a school of 120 to, say, Thurston with nearly 2000 students is understandably daunting! Changes are always scary though, and moving to a new area often means learning where everything is, and where the best food delivery is (if it delivers to your home at all!)

Easter was a while ago now, but during Easter the Church always reads through Acts on Sundays, which tells the next chapter of the story of salvation after Jesus has been raised from the dead and ascended to the Father. It tells of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples, but also how they were led by the Spirit to new places. Travel in the ancient world wasn't easy, though the Roman Empire made it a bit safer and more possible, and they soon ran into trouble, persecution, and opposition. It's quite an adventure though, and the miracles they saw and the numbers they brought to faith were astonishing, and account for why Christianity spread throughout the known world in a generation. I sometimes worry that western Christians today would be too comfortable, too settled to go where the Spirit leads us, particularly if it meant sacrifice and suffering, and I count myself as chief of sinners in this respect. There's an apocryphal story about Saint Thomas Aquinas: While walking with a friend in the midst of the splendours of Rome the friend said, "We Christians certainly can no longer say silver and gold have we none." Saint Thomas responded by saying, "But neither can we say to the lame man, in the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk."

At the same time, St Paul says that those who become Christians should initially remain in the situation they were in when they were called to follow Jesus (unless they were a bank robber presumably). This can be hard: living a new life in your old situation is in many ways much harder than a totally fresh start. The challenge for many of you is this: How can we live out our calling to follow Jesus wherever he calls us, whilst staying in the same place?

For those who do have to move on, leaving places and people we know and love is always hard, and there are no guarantees that what we are going to is any better than what has come before. Sometimes we become attached to particular possessions or keepsakes that we can take with us, to make us feel secure. I remember a piece of advice I heard for Christians moving to a new boarding school - make sure your bible is the last thing you pack in your case, and the first thing you take out when you get there, so you and all your new friends know what you cling to. Wherever we go, if we trust and know Jesus Christ, we will always have someone we can cling to, someone who makes us feel secure and loved, wherever we find ourselves

Reverend Canon Christopher "Tiffer" Robinson

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 1st July - Village Inn 7.00pm
Saturday 9th July - Summer Fair at the village hall, see pages 14 & 17
Thursday 14th July - Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
Sunday 17th July - Village Inn 12.30pm
Friday 5th August - Village Inn 7.30pm
Sunday 21st August - Village Inn 12.30pm
Friday 2nd September - Village Inn 7.30pm
Thursday 8th September - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Sunday 18th September - Apple Day 12pm
Friday 7th October - Village Inn 7.30pm
Sunday 23rd October - Village Inn 12.30pm
Friday 4th November - Village Inn 7.30pm
Thursday 10th November - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Sunday 20th November - Village Inn 12.30pm

Sunday Village Inn

Sunday 17th July, from 12.30pm

Brettenham Village Hall

Wedding at St Marys

My wife Megan and I have been living in Brettenham for just over two and a half years now and we really love it here. We have found Brettenham to be a wonderful place to live and we have had the pleasure of getting to know many of the friendly neighbours we share it with. Never have we felt more welcome than on Saturday 4th June when Megan and I got married at St Mary the Virgin Church. We had the perfect day, which was in no small part thanks to the village and our friends and neighbours. We therefore wanted to write a short message of thanks to those involved.

Reverend Cannon Tiffer Robinson conducted a simply beautiful ceremony at the Church which was enjoyed by all who attended and made us feel extremely special. Many kind volunteers helped to clean and prepare the church and its grounds in advance, which went such a long way to making everything look wonderful. A fantastic choir accompanied our hymns and sung in fine voice. In particular, we owe an enormous thank you to Dr Rollo, Mrs Whitehouse and all the staff at the Centre Academy who kindly allowed us to have our marquee reception on their playing field behind the church. It was a perfect setting, with beautiful open views and we cannot thank them enough for their generosity. We have also received many thoughtful cards and gifts from our lovely neighbours, which we never expected. There are countless names that we have not been able to mention but we both want to sincerely thank everyone involved and we look forward to many happy years in this lovely village which, now, feels even more like home.

Henry and Megan Perrins



Recipe Page

Sourdough Crackers

These sourdough crackers are very quick and easy to make.

Ingredients

50g Butter

75ml Olive Oil

150ml Sourdough Starter

150g Bread Flour

Optional extras (Mixed herbs, paprika, sea salt, grated cheese)



Melt the butter in a large mixing bowl, mix in the olive oil. Add the sourdough starter.

Add the flour. (You may need to add extra flour depending on the consistency of the sourdough.) Mix it all together to make a ball.

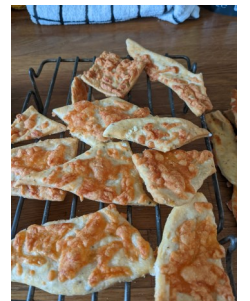


With a rolling pin roll out the mixture thinly. Sprinkle with toppings of your choice and gently roll it into the mixture.



Using a pizza cutter, cut out the cracker shapes.

Place the crackers individually on a floured baking tray and cook at 180F for approx. 20 mins or until golden brown.



Place on a wire rack to cool.

These are lovely served with a smoked cheese, strong Cheddar or Blue cheese.

Michelle Harvey

Childhood Memories, Allen Artiss

This month we spoke to Allen about his Childhood memories In Brettenham.

Allen was born in the village in 1939. He was the youngest one of 4 children. His birth place was 28 Quality Row. The set of 4 cottages which are opposite the Village Hall was called Quality Row. One of the cottages was also a shop. This is where cigarettes and rationed sweets were sold.

He spent his pre school years playing in the road with a pull along truck and he remembers a bicycle that he used to ride on. Allen also remembers spending a lot his time with Jack Smith, the Village Barber. Home farm was one of his earliest memories and Allen spent a lot of his time there. Time was also spent at The old forge on the street.

Allen went to school at the age of 5. There were 31 children and two teachers in the school. The school was 'The old school' on The Street. He also remembers opposite the school was the police station.

He had fond memories of school, he told me, Just the boys had gardening lessons and the girls had knitting, sewing and cooking lessons. They had a garden to work in at the back of the school.

Between Buckingham House and the village Hall was one big orchard, Allen remembers himself and 3 others at a very young age apple scrumping in the Moonlight. Mr Evans, manager of the farm caught them and chased them off.

The houses in the village were put up for sale in 1957. If you were a sitting tenant you were offered the choice to buy it. Charlie and Sarah Artiss bought their house for £200 in 1957.

Michelle Harvey



Summer Fair Saturday 9th July

From 12 - 3pm at Brettenham Village Hall

BBQ lunches, licensed bar, cake stall, bric-a-brac.
Games: bagatelle, ladder, golf, bowling, whisky draw
etc.

Grand draw: 1st prize £100
2nd prize £50

Everyone welcome, **FREE ENTRY**
All proceeds to church funds

Summer Fair Volunteers Needed

The PCC is delighted to say that the Summer Fair will be taking place on Saturday 9th July from 12 noon. There will be BBQ lunches, the bar will be open and there will be the usual traditional games and stalls. The raffle draw will take place at 3pm, 1st prize £100, 2nd prize £50. Remember, you have to be in it to win it! Tickets will be on sale before and on the day. The Garden Club will be running a plant and produce stall, and the Potato in a Bucket competition will be judged and the winner announced. Everyone is very welcome and entry is free, so do come along and join in the fun and help raise funds for our church.

If you are able to help with a game or a stall on the day do please let me know, and if you have any items for the bric-a-brac stall they would be very much appreciated.

Annie Tavener 01449 736412 annie_tav@hotmail.com

Rambling with Gus

Thornham Walks

Thornham Walks is located in the pretty village of Thornham Pava which is just off the A140 north of Stowmarket. Depending on your route it is approximately 17 miles from Brettenham.

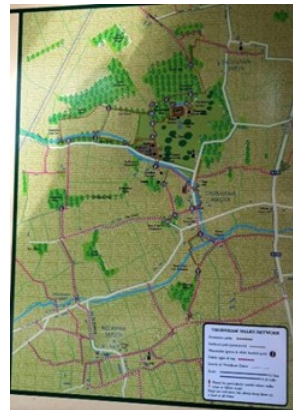
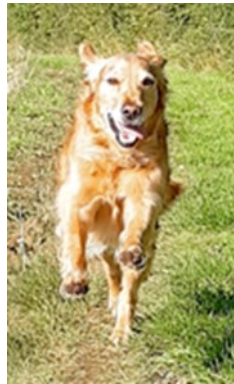
The walks are part of an old estate. In its hey day, the estate was as vast and grand as "Downton Abbey", but the family's fortunes dwindled in the 1800s. Land was sold to pay debts reducing the acreage from 30,000 to 3,000 and the magnificent house was destroyed by a fire in 1954.

Despite so much of the original estate being lost, there is still much to enjoy here. Some of the old farm buildings remain and are used as shops, galleries, and a café. There is a children's playground and a picnic area. And there is a fabulous network of well-maintained footpaths. There are many route options so you can have a short stroll or go for a 12-mile hike, and a good number of the paths are accessible with children's buggies and sturdy mobility scooters.

The walks map below is displayed on the noticeboard in the carpark, best to take a photo of it on your mobile phone before you set-off so you don't get lost.

If you prefer a pub for refreshment after your walk, there is the excellent Four Horseshoes in the village of Thornham Pava.

For more information about the walks and the estate visit: www.thornhamestate.com/thornhamwalks. Carrie Dye



Brettenham Gardening Club

Summer Fair Saturday 9th July

We hope that the competitors have been carefully nurturing their potatoes and are ready for the great weigh in at the Summer Fair. The Potato in a Bucket Competition will be judged at the fair so please bring your buckets of potatoes on the day labelled with your name and address and phone number.



Also, please also bring your entries for The Gardening Competition to the marquee on the morning of the fair where it will be booked in and displayed ready for judging. Please see separate entry for details of the competition. If you do plan to submit an entry please let Jane or Jane (contact details below) know in advance so that we make sure we have enough space to display all your wonderful entries. Don't be shy, do enter even if you have never done anything like this before. It is very low key and just a bit of fun so anything goes!

Again, please bring any contributions for our **Plant and Produce Stall** - plants, jams, chutneys and any surplus fruit and vegetables you can spare will be gratefully received.

Garden Visit to Holm House Gardens, Drinkstone

Some members and their guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon visiting these local gardens, which are absolutely exquisite. The owners made us very welcome providing lots of tips for planting as well as refreshments. For those that were unable to attend, it is well worth a visit, the gardens are opened under the National Garden Scheme, so keep an eye out for their opening times next year.

Date for the Diary 13th August

Sara and Peter Lennard have kindly agreed to open their gardens for the club members to visit. So please let us know if you wish to attend. More details will be provided closer to the time.

Contact Jane McDonald 01449 736957 felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk or Jane Moulding 01449736178 grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com

Brettenham Great Gardening Competition



Open to all residents of Brettenham young and old
Please submit an entry on the
morning of the fair to celebrate
the Platinum Jubilee



This could be:

A vase of flowers that you have grown

A selection of vegetables or fruit arranged on a plate or tray

A miniature garden on a plate or tray

A 3 D model

Strange looking vegetables

A painting

A drawing

A collage

A Photograph or a collection of photographs

(Please mount any pictures or photographs on card so they can be displayed)

The competition will be judged at the Summer Fair by our president Mr Stuart Kershaw and first prize will be a Garden Voucher and THE CYNTHIA CUP donated by Stuart in memory of his wife who was a very loyal supporter and founder member of the club.
Other prizes will be awarded for second place and for children under 13

For more information, please contact Jane Moulding on 736178 or email grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com or Jane McDonald on 736957 or email felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Photos by Pete Knight,
Tim Schofield, Victoria
Savidge and Wendy



Getting to Know... Allen Artiss

Full Name:	Lesley Allen Artiss (known as Allen Artiss)
Birthplace:	Brettenham Born at 29B Quality Row. One of twins. My sister twin was still born.
How long have you lived in Brettenham?	All my life. 83 years
Current/Last Job:	Self employed builder
Do you have any pets?	No
What is your biggest fear?	Growing old
What makes you laugh the most?	Old fashioned comedy shows
What would you change about yourself if you could?	I wouldn't change a thing.
What is the favourite place you have visited?	Austria 10-15 years ago
What really makes you angry?	People that don't comply with the law
What is your favourite book/film/play/show?	Bible
What has been the proudest moment of your life?	Getting married and the birth of our children.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?	Builder. Used to play with an old bedstead and pretend to build it up with mud.
If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?	To be younger
What is your favourite game/sport?	Darts
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	Bacon sandwich
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?	When in the Army (Arty)
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why?	My wife
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery?	Would like to help people in need (would like to help people needing operations)
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why?	Going back to 1961 – The year we got married
What's your best claim to fame?	Worked on four churches in the area. Brettenham church being one of them. Repaired windows and flint work. Secured the cross and some floor work. Tracery on the window, and made the pattern up to requirements.
What skill would you like to master?	Learn to be a Pilot

Nature Notes

July is the start of the summer holidays for many of us and its an excellent time to be outdoors. By now, birdsong has greatly reduced as their breeding season comes to an end, but the warmth of the summer months make it an excellent time to see an abundance of insect life. Dragonflies and damselflies can be spotted close to even the smallest stretch of water. They have excellent vision to hunt for other flying insect prey. The Emperor Dragonfly can be up to 78mm long and is Britain's largest species. It's a regular visitor to our pond each year. They are superb and very agile flyers, unlike the damselfly who appear much more fragile with a gentle fluttering flight.

The Banded Demoiselle is another common visitor to Brettenham's ponds and waterways and grows to a length of about 45mm. There are 18 species of bats in the UK and warm July evenings is an excellent time to see them. The bat we are likely to see in Brettenham is the pipistrelle, the UK's smallest and most numerous species. They weigh about 5 grams, the same as a 20p piece and can eat up to 3,000 tiny insects per night.

By now the young stoats and weasels will be about 2-3 months old. Stoats and weasels can both move very quickly in long grass along field edges and ditches. These are two animals that probably are the most difficult to tell apart. The old saying "that one is weasily identified, while the other is stoatally different" is of little help really, but there are ways to tell them apart. Weasels tend to scurry along the ground, while stoats bound with an arched back. The food they eat is also different and is linked to their difference in size. The larger stoat tends to go for rabbits and rats, while the smaller weasel prefers mice, voles and small birds. The best way to tell them apart is to look at their tails, if you're able to catch a glimpse. The stoat's tail is longer than a weasels and has a black tip, whereas the weasel's tail is shorter and is more or less the same colour for it's whole length.

"Some of you may remember this rhyme when you were young "Pop! goes the weasel". There seems to be several explanations as to what its all about. One idea is that its linked to Cockney rhyming slang; "weasel" means a coat and "Pop" is all about pawning possessions. The other suggestion is that it refers to the weaving trade that was important around Spitalfields in London's Eastend. When weaving fabrics, they used a machine called a "weasel", which when operating, made a popping sound. Another suggestion relates to people's finances. One minute you have some, the

next minute its gone.

As in "Half a pound of tuppenny rice,
Half a pound of treacle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop goes the weasel.

And
"Up and down the City Road,
In and out of the Eagle, (a pub)
That's the way the money
goes,
Pop goes the weasel.

David Golding



Banded Demoiselle



Emperor Dragonfly



Common Pipistrelle



Stoat



Weasel

Bloaters Tenth Year Success by Larry

Following the two year Covid interruption, the annual Bloaters tour resumed this year, between 10th and 13th June, this time to Brussels. For those who don't know, the acronym stands for Brettenham Lads On A Tour. Neat. We usually visit Belgium (though Lille was a delightful destination one year) and as stated, this year was no exception.

Why Belgium you might ask? Well, perhaps because it is the most invaded European country, the people are very friendly. It also has a rich history, especially in terms of architectural styles, in part reflecting various occupiers over the years. Brussels is no exception: aside from the 15th century town hall, all the other buildings in the Grand Place (Central Square) were built after 1694, when King Louis XIV of France kindly burnt everything else to the ground. Well, maybe not kindly...

This year's trip saw six hardy souls venture into EU territory (The Super Six as they are modestly known), and got off to an almost perfect start. Following a novel scenic route initially, our transport brought us to our London departure point in good time. Even the coffee at St Pancras Eurostar Terminal tasted nice, so much so one of our number had two cups in quick succession.

We arrived in Brussels just in time to visit a local tea-shop, in line with our eternally ostensible mission to sample every single one in Europe. This first was the 'Blue' tea-room, with a most congenial host, a mine of information not just on tea but coffee too. Throughout we explored the city on foot, and to give an idea of how relentless our search for the ultimate infusion was, my step counter registered 25,000 for Day 1, and 41,000 for Day 2 (honestly!). A most riveting episode was our detailed examination of window structures on the final evening, enabling us to encounter a truly diverse local community.

Aside from tea-rooms, three highlights stood out. Firstly, a most illuminating and entertaining walking tour, led by a guide who seemed half-stoned, which added to, not detracted from, the entertainment. Informative too. Secondly, our visit to the splendid museum containing the paintings of Surrealist artist Rene Magritte. The well-organised displays covered various decades in his career, from enfant terrible to advertising journeyman, all the time subverting our notions of what art is, or is not. So subtle was his work, blending with the surroundings while simultaneously

challenging them, that one of our number failed to recognise that the famous painting of a bowler hat was in fact a painting, or even there at all. Highlight three was the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula, an impressive Gothic structure superimposed on an earlier 11th century Romanesque building. A truly awe-inspiring place, even the magnificent stained glass window commissioned by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, which managed to portray him as double the size of God the Father. Yeah right.

The trip concluded with the customary award ceremony, following a lavish meal, where culturally sensitive prizes were given for outstanding dedication to Tea Studies. The picture accompanying this article is unique in that it shows trip members having a beer for once. Apparently, Belgium is quite well known for beer....

To end on a serious note, we always welcome newcomers to our trips, no matter how long you have lived in the village, so if you want to come next year, why not contact our CEB (Chief Executive Bloater) on martin.schofield@gmail.com in the first instance. You know you want to...



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Super 6

The Brettenham 'Torpedo Carrow Road' Super 6 Premiership 21-22 season once again draws to a close with a new recipient of the Super 6 Shield.

A valiant effort throughout the season witnessed a former resident, Stuart Wilcox, lead for the majority but sadly (for him) had been superbly overhauled by a consistent performance and late rally from Martin Schofield. Well done to Martin and all those who take part in this swelling league.

1st Place: Martin Schofield – 461 points

2nd Place: Stuart Wilcox – 443 Points

3rd place: Ian Gooderham – 421 Points

(18 players, and an honorary mention to Greg Potter for turning up!)

If you would like to enter next seasons Brettenham Super 6 league with a chance to have your name engraved on the, quite beautiful, Brettenham oak shield, simply download the Super 6 App onto your smartphone or tablet, contact oilyturk67@hotmail.com and I'll be happy to guide you through the process. It really is that simple.

Last seasons winner Peter Truin handing over the Super 6 Shield to this year's proud champion. Well done Martin Schofield! **Ozzie**




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