

# BRETtenham MAGAZINE

MARCH 2022  
No.410



## Welcome...

....to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. There are many delights for you in this month's edition, the most exciting is the growing number of events being planned in, to make sure you don't miss any of them please see the 'Dates for your Diary' on page 11. For this month there is a fascinating talk titled 'Treasures of the Turf' - see the full advert on the back page. Also featured is a book by our own Stephen Keoghane on page 24/25. Of course there are the normal regular articles, updates and news so please enjoy the read.

Please keep sending your news, jokes and photos to...[brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com).

## Bigger Ernie Winners

### Jan 2022

1st Polly Dog  
2nd Ray Coulson  
3rd Pat Harpley

### Feb 2022

1st Cathy Schofield  
2nd Carl Gamekeeper  
3rd Sophie & Daisy Dog

Look who we found in a hard  
to reach part of St Mary's  
Church, Brettenham's roof!



Thank you to Michelle Harvey for the cover photo. The snowdrops and daffodils on our verges and shared spaces are looking fantastic again this year and remind us that Spring is almost here.

### Did you know?

It is illegal to dig up snowdrops, other bulbs and wildflowers growing around the village so do leave them for everyone to enjoy.

## Village Noticeboard

### Village Hall

To book contact Julie or Ozzie on  
07810434470 or email  
[bvahallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bvahallbookings@gmail.com)  
To request a licenced bar  
contact Peter Truin 07799  
640326 or [petertruin@aol.com](mailto:petertruin@aol.com)

### Village Website

[www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net)  
If you would like to see  
something new on the website  
please contact Beth Clarke  
[clarkeeac3@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts)  
If you would like anything added to  
the page contact Greg Potter at  
[greg.potter66@me.com](mailto:greg.potter66@me.com)

If you would like to receive regular village  
**email updates** please contact  
[peterkt@live.co.uk](mailto:peterkt@live.co.uk)



### Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

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



### April Mag Deadline:

15th March

*Brettenham magazine is published and edited by the Brettenham Magazine  
Editing Team ([brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net)*

## Brettenham Parish Council

The meeting of the Parish Council was last held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 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 recent cleaning of the drains. Minutes will be available shortly.

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

DC/22/00120	Chestnuts, 2 Beales Drive	Householder Application. Construction of swing opening garage doors across the current open garage, a rear window and creation of new side access door.
DC/22/00422	Sunnyside, 42 The Street	Householder Application - Construction of dormer to rear roof slope
DC/22/00570	Former Break- ers Yard And Premises, Old School Corner	Full Planning Application - Erection of 4No. one and-a-half storey dwellings with associated detached garages.

**Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke**

**Email: [brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com)**

**Chair: Chris Clarke**

### Parish Councillor Vacancy

Sadly Chris Clarke is stepping down from the parish council at the AGM in May, therefore there is the opportunity for someone new to join the parish council. For more information please contact Della or Chris.

### Litter Pick

Parish Councillors complete an annual litter pick around the village in March/April, focusing on roadside verges, hedges and ditches. I know many of you already pick up litter from your local surroundings. However, if anyone would like to borrow equipment to litter pick an area please let us know. Sadly litter is an ever increasing blot on the landscape of our village, but if we can all do our bit hopefully we can reduce the long term damage.

## Brettenham Footpath Maintenance 2022

During the lockdown period many of the residents took to walking the local footpaths in and around Brettenham. This for many was the only form of exercise and outdoor escape they had from being shut indoors. Many were seen with their dogs, enjoying the fresh air and nature, that is in abundance here, contributing greatly to their overall health and wellbeing. Since the lockdowns the 17 walks around the village have been subject to Suffolk County Council (SCC) Rights of Way and Access departmental cut backs and have resulted in 3 of the walks to the north of the village being taken out of the mowing contract.

Each year SCC has in place a contract to cut the grass around the 17 footpaths in Brettenham twice yearly. This is normally done in May and September. Last year many of the footpaths were not cut, which resulted in them becoming overgrown and unpleasant to walk. As a result the local County Councillor, Cosford Division (Green), Robert Lindsay was contacted in the hope these issues would be brought to the attention of SCC. This he did and SCC replied back saying as well as the reduced mowing programme all the remaining paths in 2020 had been cut and were all considered to be in good condition. This statement was inaccurate as I regularly walk the footpaths and noticed that only a few had been cut. The footpaths that had been cut during the year were by our local farmers and some residents where the footpaths run alongside their properties. On that note a debt of gratitude must be afforded to them for their time and effort in making our footpaths walkable and safe.

We pay year on year council tax increases and see very little in return. We have only one major footpath in the village that runs along the street, have no street lights and some road signs that have eroded and fallen apart. Residents that cannot walk along the overgrown grass footpaths have to resort to walking on the roads, which at times can be dangerous due to the increase in traffic. Alternatively they are forced to deviate from the public footpath and stray onto the farmers' fields, which are not permissible.

We are all encouraged to become healthier by running and walking. This can be done by exploring the Suffolk countryside as is shown on the scan information posters that have recently been placed on all footpath signs around the village and the Discover Suffolk Brettenham walks leaflet recently produced and available from

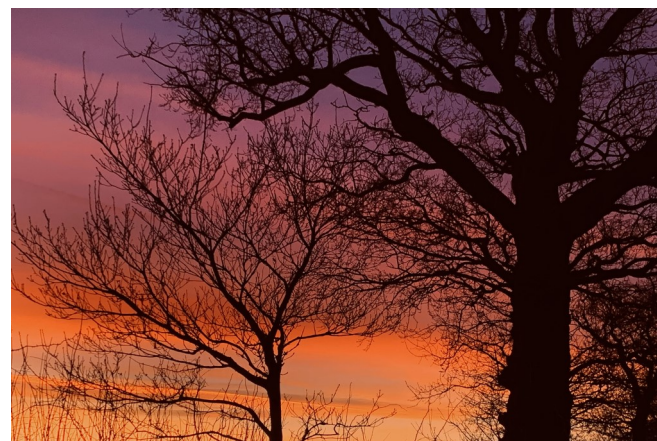


myself and on the footpath sign post outside the village hall. It is therefore ironic that on one side the SCC are encouraging us to get out and explore the walks available and on the other fail to properly maintain them.

During the past year I have reported to the Suffolk County Council "Report a Public Rights of Way Issue" website, the repair of 4 footpath bridges 2 of which were completely destroyed by the rain on 25 July and the other 2 needed rotten planks replaced and a safety hand rail constructed. Another 3 reports have gone in the last month of which one was considered by the SCC as still accessible and therefore not requiring action even though there was a deep hole to the side and no handrail to protect walkers from falling in. As Footpath Liaison Officer I regularly carry out minor repairs, cut back vegetation and replace way markers, signs and posts from the paths and footbridges. I also report damages and areas that have become inaccessible to walk. If you come across any footpath concerns I would encourage you to report any damages either to me [martin.annis291@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.annis291@btinternet.com) or through the Report a Public Rights Of Way Issue portal.

Since the reply the Parish Council received from SCC regarding the mowing cut backs I have asked Robert Lindsay to go back to them in the hope they may revisit their decision and reinstate the 3 footpaths that have been removed from the contract and that the footpaths will continue to be mowed biannual in May and September. We await their reply in the hope it is positive.

**Martin Annis : Footpath Liaison Officer**



Thanks to Pete Knight for the photo - 'Sunset over Dux Street'



## Friday Village Inn

Friday 4th March, from 7.00pm

## Brettenham Village Hall

with food provided by The Mobile Pizza Co.

7.00-9.00pm (no pre-booking required)

[www.themobilepizzaco.co.uk](http://www.themobilepizzaco.co.uk)



**THE MOBILE PIZZA CO**  
EST 2014

**WOOD FIRED PIZZA**  
**OUR FAVOURITES**  
07982 427 483

Any 3 Dips £1.50 (various flavours)  
Garlic Bread £5 (add cheese £1)  
Six Doughballs with Garlic and Cheese £6  
Rocket with a Balsamic Glaze £4

**STARTERS AND SIDES**  
Our favourite pizzas are all made with our 24hr fermented sourdough, with san marzano passata & the creamiest fior di latte mozzarella

**NEOPOLITAN**  
Naples style pizza, the way it's meant to be!

**CALABRIAN**  
Nduja, sun-dried tomatoes & rocket

**CARNE BLUE**  
Local rib, blue cheese & balsamic onion marmalade

**GENOE POLLO**  
Chicken, courgette, toasted pine nuts & pesto sauce

**VEGAN FLATBREAD**  
Hummus base, roasted aubergine, courgette & sweets peppers

**FOLDED FUNGI**  
Traditional calzone with local ham & garlic mushrooms

\* Vegan & gluten free if required

OUR NEXT POP UP IS .....  
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER PLEASE MSG US WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS.....

1 PIZZA TYPE QUANTITY 3 LOCATION / TOWN  
2 PIZZA SIZE 4 PREFERRED COLLECTION TIME

**SMALL £7 MEDIUM £9 LARGE £15**  
7 INCH 9 INCH 12 INCH



**THE MOBILE PIZZA CO**  
EST 2014

**WOOD FIRED PIZZA**  
**HIGH STREET FAVOURITES**  
07982 427 483

Our high street favourite pizza's come with a rich tomato or smokey bbq base, topped with grated mozzarella.

**MARGHERITA**  
Cheese and tomato...  
A true classic

**VEGETARIAN**  
Pepper, mushrooms, sweetcorn, olives & onions

**PEPPERONI**  
Authentic Italian pepperoni

**HAM AND PINEAPPLE**  
Quality ham and chunks of pineapples

**BBQ CHICKEN**  
Chicken, pepper and red onion

**MEAT FEAST**  
Chicken, pepperoni and ham (spice it up if you wish!)

OUR NEXT POP UP IS .....  
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER PLEASE MSG US WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS.....

1 PIZZA TYPE QUANTITY 3 LOCATION / TOWN  
2 PIZZA SIZE 4 PREFERRED COLLECTION TIME

\* Extra toppings / changes to set menu + £1.00

**SMALL £5 MEDIUM £8 LARGE £12**  
7 INCH 9 INCH 12 INCH

**ASK FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!!**

## Sunday Village Inn

Sunday 20th March, from 12.30pm

## Brettenham Village Hall

DRINKS ONLY

Collect your potatoes (see page 17)

## Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Hi all,

I'm delighted to report that we had a very busy Friday Village Inn in February, and it was so gratifying to see the hall almost full again - including a number of regulars who have not been able to attend for a while, and some of our newer residents too. Not only did we have our best bar takings for many a month, but also Wagyu Gourmet Burgers & Street Food did VERY good business. This of course means that they are keen to come back to us again, so we are already in negotiation with them about another date later in the year. As you can see from the advert on page 7, we have The Mobile Pizza Co paying us another visit for the March Friday Village Inn. Originally, we had *Wok 'n' Roll* lined-up, but after me bigging them up in last month's magazine, it was perhaps inevitable that they then pulled out! But I am really grateful for the Mobile Pizza Co stepping into the breach, and I really do hope you will show your appreciation on 4th March.

On the subject of the Village Inns, if anyone would like to join the pool of volunteer bar staff for a Friday Village Inn, or other village event where the bar is in operation, please do let me know. There's no expectation that you would be available for all events, it's just great to have a pool of people we can draw on to spread the effort around. Training will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who subscribed to the Bigger Ernie for 2022, your support really is appreciated. We have 170 subscribers this year, which means that the BVA's coffers have been swelled by just over £1,000 (50% of the subscriptions). It also means that we can not only offer our regular monthly draw prizes of £30, £15 and £10, but we can once again run a couple of Bonus Draws, one in the summer and one at Christmas - the prizes on offer for those will be £100, £50, and £30 for First, Second and Third prizes respectively. My sincere thanks to Em (aided and abetted by her merry band of collectors) for her sterling efforts on the Bigger Ernie front this year.

It's great that plans are starting to come together for a number of social events this year. The BVA and the Parish Council are working in partnership on events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, and you can find some key information about the emerging plans on page 14. The Summer Fair will also definitely be going ahead on Saturday 9th July, and the Gardening Club has confirmed that Apple Day will take place alongside the Village Inn on Sunday 18th September.

As you will see on page 15, we are also hoping to hold another 'Safari Supper' on Saturday 25th June, providing we can get sufficient numbers of residents to commit of course. A Safari Supper was one of the first introductions Em and I had to Brettenham life when we moved in 12 or so years ago, and it was a really great way to meet to people. Please register your interest as soon as possible so we can assess viability. I really do hope you will be able to support as many of this year's events as you can.

I'd like to say a really big thank you to Katrina Kearns who after seven years in the Village Hall Booking Clerk role, has decided to step down. Katrina has been terrific, and she was always going to be big boots to fill. But fill them we have! I'm delighted that Julie & Ozzie have taken on joint ownership of the Booking Clerk role, and I know they will do a great job.

Sadly, we are still lacking a volunteer to take over the Chair of the BVA Chair role. To that end, please see the advert on page 10. Being BVA Chair is an extremely rewarding role, and you get to work with a terrific bunch of people, so I really do hope someone will come forward to take it on. And it doesn't have to be someone who has lived in Brettenham for yonks, just someone with fresh ideas and a willingness to do their bit for community life. A job-share is definitely not out of the question either!

That's all for this month, hope to see you soon.

Pete [peterkt@live.co.uk](mailto:peterkt@live.co.uk) 07752 222 866

### **Brettenham Village Association (BVA)**

Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting

Monday 25th April at 7.30pm

**Brettenham Village Hall**

All Brettenham residents welcome to attend

# **WANTED!**

## **Chair of the BRETtenham VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (BVA)**

**To replace this renegade**



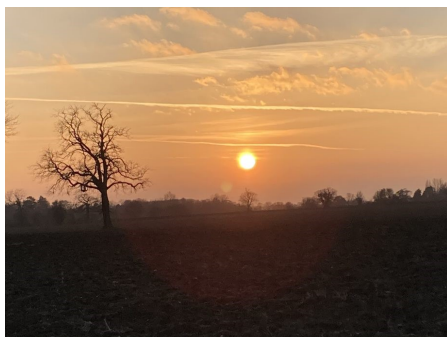
**For more details or just to have a chat about  
what's involved, contact:**

**PETERKT@LIVE.CO.UK**

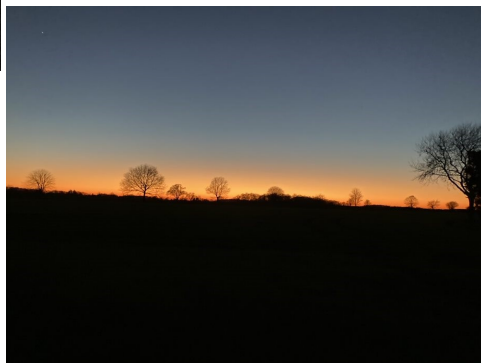
**07752 222 866**

## Dates For Your Diary

Friday 4th March - Village Inn 7pm (page 7 for menu)  
 Friday 18th March - Village Hall Church Fund Raiser (back cover)  
 Sunday 20th March - Sunday Village Inn 12.30pm  
 Thursday 14th April - Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm  
 Monday 25th April - BVA AGM & Ordinary Meeting 7.30pm  
 Thursday 12th May - Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm  
 Thursday 2nd June - Brettenham Jubilee Celebrations 5pm (page 14)  
 Sunday 5th June - BYO Picnic Lunch at village hall 12.30pm (page 14)  
 Saturday 25th June - Safari Supper (page 15)  
 Saturday 9th July - Summer Fair at the village hall  
 Thursday 14th July - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm  
 Thursday 8th September - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm  
 Sunday 18th September - Apple Day 12pm  
 Thursday 10th November - Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm



Lovely photos from  
Jo Coomber



## St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Canon Tiffer Robinson  
 Tel: 737197 or 07789 772024  
 Email: [tifferrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:tifferrobinson@gmail.com)  
 Church Warden Annie Tavener Tel: 736412  
 Email: [annie\\_tav@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_tav@hotmail.com)



## March Programme of Services in the Benefice

### 2 Ash Wednesday

Hitcham	12.30pm	Holy Communion washing
Rattlesden	7.00pm	Holy Communion washing

### 6 The First Sunday of Lent

Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11.15am	Family Communion
Rattlesden Pavilion (Birds Green)	6.00pm	Praise and Donuts

### 13 The Second Sunday of Lent

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

### 20 The Third Sunday of Lent

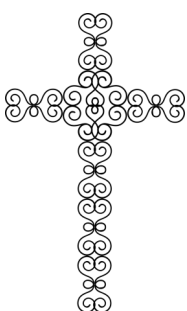
Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11.00am	Family Service

### 27 Mothering Sunday

Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Rattlesden	9.45am	Family Service (Streamed)
Rattlesden	11.00am	Quiet service
Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	6pm	BCP Evensong

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I suspect you don't share my excitement, but I don't care who knows it, I absolutely love Lent! The penance, the abstinence, the sackcloth and ashes. This might surprise some people, knowing how much I enjoy all of God's rich bounty. Yet it's precisely because I enjoy the good things in life that I enjoy lent so much: a chance to re-evaluate them, to see them as gifts rather than taking them for granted, to remember how fortunate I am to have what I need. To remember my need for God, when much of the time I can find ways to pretend I am independent and not reliant upon him for everything in my life.

This year, as the cost of living goes up more than it has for a very long time, being prudent for a period of time perhaps has greater significance. Traditionally, the money saved on luxuries during lent wouldn't just go back into the bank balance, but go toward the poorest in society. A lot more people are going to start falling into that bracket than previous years, and going without so that others can have enough is an important part of



Christian discipleship. Lent can help us to focus on that, and give us a sense of corporate support as we all do so together. When I sometimes feel a bit despondent about things, what inspires me is those I see who, because of the limitless grace of God in their lives, give their time and treasure to support others. Who put their money where their heart is.

Lent is also about a call to simpler living, and that's something I think a lot of us have got used to over the last two years. People are generally doing less than they used to, mainly because of new habits that have been formed, and although I think there's a danger in that becoming the norm, it can mean there's space in one's life for re-evaluating. Saying "no" to good things might leave space to say "yes" to even better things. It might not be the best advertising slogan ever, but self denial might actually be a good thing!

It is a good thing to do for ourselves. It is a better thing to do for God. Jesus said, 'If any one would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' (Luke 9.23) Whatever else this means, it certainly means self-denial is not optional for the Christian. Our discipleship involves death to self, that we may live for Christ – who died for us, that we may live. If Lent is to be any use at all, it will be primarily about the good news of God's self-giving in Jesus Christ, for our salvation and that of all the world.

For more information about online church services or coming back into church for services, contact **Rev'd Canon Tiffer Robinson**. There are also weekly Wednesday online coffee mornings, which you are welcome to join. Tel: 01449 737197 Mob: 07789 772024 Email: [tifferrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:tifferrobinson@gmail.com)



## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Thursday 2nd June – Village Inn



### including BBQ and Beacon Lighting

Yes, with the changes to the public holiday arrangements this year, we will be holding the Village Inn on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (rather than the usual Friday) to tie-in with the overall national Jubilee celebrations and in particular the lighting of the Jubilee beacons.

The bar will be open from 5.00pm, and there will be a BBQ operating from the same time.

The village beacon (which is being purchased by the Parish Council) will be lit at 9.15pm, which is the official time for beacons to be lit across the country.

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - BYO Picnic Lunch

To round-off the long bank holiday weekend, come along with family and friends and a picnic lunch to the playing field as Brettenham hosts its own version of the national 'Big Jubilee Lunch' taking place that day.

The bar will be open from 12.30pm, so come along any time from then.

## Safari Supper

The last Safari Supper held in the village was 2019, for obvious reasons. But it was an enjoyable evening for everyone that took part and at the recent BVA meeting people were keen for another one to be organised this year if there is enough interest. If you are new to the village and want to get to know residents, it's a great way of doing this. So here is a bit more information for you all...

### How does it work?

Each host agrees to provide one course, either a starter, main or pudding, drinks for 4 guests and themselves at their house. The fun bit is that none of



the hosts or guests know where they are going or who they are meeting until they turn up for a pre-dinner drink at the village hall. At the village hall everyone finds out where they are going for their first course, and then after each course the host gives out envelopes letting people know where they are going next.

### When?

Saturday 25th June

### Who?

Hosts don't need to be couples! We had quite a few friends that teamed up as hosts, and it worked well so no excuses there 😊. We can also match you with someone else in the village to make up a pair so please let me know.

### Transport

We have picked mid-June so that people can benefit from the longer, lighter evening and potentially walk to some hosts. The last time we organised this event, Mel was kind enough to transport hosts and guests around the village in a minibus for a small charge, so will be looking into that option again so that everyone can relax and enjoy the evening.

### What to cook?

This event is not about cooking gourmet food, it's about getting to know new and existing residents in the village. In terms of food preparation, it is best to cook/prepare something that is not time sensitive as the timings can slip as the evening progresses.

### Numbers is the key

If you are interested in taking part this year then please let me know asap, so we can be sure we have the right amount of people for the event to go ahead. We didn't quite manage to fit in everyone that wanted to take part last time, so that is our main aim this year, so no one misses out.

Em 07738 127204 [emilysmwoods@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emilysmwoods@hotmail.co.uk)



## Brettenham Gardening Club



As I write this, it is teeming down outside and we are promised storms and gales in the next few days. Not a happy prospect following on from being able to get out and do a bit of gardening in the last couple of weeks. So in order to cheer myself up I looked back at some photos I took last year in the summer and here are a couple of photos; one of how a herbaceous bed looks now, pretty miserable apart from a few cheery snowdrops and how the same bed looked last year mid-summer. I feel a lot happier now!

The other good thing that has happened this week is that we managed to have our first AGM since Jane and I took up the reins of the Gardening Club. Stuart Kershaw was re-elected as Hon. President, Jane Moulding and I were re-elected as joint chairpersons and Mark Baker as our treasurer.



We were also able to agree a programme of events for this year:

**A Garden Visit** for members to Holm House Drinkstone on Monday 13th June at 3pm

**A Plant Stall and competition** at the Summer Fair in 9th July

**A Village Open Garden visit** for members on Saturday 13th August

**Apple Day** on 18th September

More details of all these events will follow in due course and we look forward very much to seeing you all there. If you would like any information about the Brettenham Gardening Club or would like to join please contact:

Jane McDonald 01449736957 [felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk) or

Jane Moulding 01449736178 [grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com](mailto:grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com)



## Potato in a Bucket Competition



**Open to all residents of Brettenham and their families. Collect your potato from Sunday Village Inn on 20th March 2022. How many potatoes can you can grow in a bucket? The heaviest crop wins!**

**Anyone in the village can enter and it's free. Prizes for winning adult (13 – 100!) and winning child (0 -12).**

There is one potato per person/child and anyone in the village can take part. You will need to provide your own compost and a bucket with holes punched in bottom for each potato. A builder's bucket is best but a domestic bucket will be fine as long as it is no bigger than 30cm/1' diameter x 30cm/1' high.

The potato is ready to plant. They have been chitted. To do this they have been laid out in egg boxes in a cool, frost free, light and well aired environment for 4 – 6 weeks to allow the sprouts to develop prior to planting. To plant your potato, put a thick layer of compost at the bottom of your bucket then plant the potato and cover with approximately 15cm (6") of compost. For the first few weeks, if it's very cold, your potato will benefit by being given some protection so choose a warm and sheltered spot in the garden or start it off in a greenhouse. As the green shoots start to appear keep adding more compost to raise the depth of the soil. Other than regular watering and maybe a little feed to help it on its way, your potato requires little attention. The winner of the competition will be the person whose

potato produces the heaviest crop. This will be judged at the Summer Fair in July at the Village Hall. On the day, you will need to bring the potato, still in its container (preferably with the green shoots removed), to the playing field where all entries will be tipped out and the crop therein weighed.

It will be great to see previous participants entering the competition, as well as new competitors, you do not have to be a serious gardener to become involved, it is all great fun and competitive!

**Jane Moulding**

## Getting to Know...Tom Tavener

Full Name:	Tom Tavener
Birthplace:	Bury St Edmunds
How long have you lived in Brettenham?	All my life except for 4 years living in Cambridge
Current/Last Job:	Farmer/Chartered Surveyor
Do you have any pets?	Two labs. One old and well behaved, one young and extremely naughty!
What is your biggest fear?	I was caught in an avalanche recently, which is now top of the list of things I wouldn't want to repeat
What makes you laugh the most?	Our family WhatsApp group
What would you change about yourself if you could?	To have more time off
What is the favourite place you have visited?	The Alps
What really makes you angry?	Littering and dog mess being left around the farm
What is your favourite book/film/play/show?	I love the Flashman books. 'Band of Brothers' is the best thing I've seen on TV.
What has been the proudest moment of your life?	Completing my first Ironman
What did you want to be when you were growing up?	A ski bum!

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?	Skiing deep and untracked powder snow
What is your favourite game/sport?	Skiing in the winter or diving in summer
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	Any seafood dish
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?	Toto
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why?	My brother as he's my spearfishing buddy so we'd eat very well
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery?	Give my house a makeover then get rid of all the ugly asbestos roofing on the barns
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why?	Early 1940s as I'd love to have seen the airfield at the height of its use
What's your best claim to fame?	I was once the cover model of a national magazine*
What skill would you like to master?	Learning to fix potholes would be handy since I live on Dux Street!!

\*It was the widely read and not remotely niche 'Prep School Magazine' and I was 11 ☺

## Walking in Suffolk—Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Suffolk [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk) has hundreds of walks to download and print free of charge, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Contact: [John@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:John@walkinginengland.co.uk)

## Nature notes

As I write this on the last day of January, we are into our second week of dry weather and in the garden snowdrops and Primroses are in bloom and the daffodils and tulips are just poking through the soil. Our native wild daffodil, also known as the Lent Lily is now rare in the wild. It is smaller than the horticultural species, with a deep yellow trumpet-like tube and pale petals. It can be found in damp woodlands, grasslands and orchards. An area around the Gloucestershire villages of Newent and Dymock is well known for its native daffodils and is called the "golden triangle". The area is crossed by a 10 mile path called "The Daffodil Way", passing through woods and meadows. These groups of daffodils have built up over the centuries, but there is concern that the wild daffodils will hybridise with the cultivated varieties.



Daffodil in Welsh is Cenhinen Pedr, which translates as Peter's leek. As well as the national symbol of Wales, the wild daffodil is also the county flower of Gloucestershire. Shakespeare called them the flower that "comes before the swallow dares". The wild varieties were sold on the streets of London by flower girls from as early as the 17th century. However, the farming of daffodils for cut flower sales did not start until the late 19th century. William Trevellick was a potato farmer on the Isles of Scilly and noticed that

these beautiful flowers were in bloom in the verges of his farm from January onwards, weeks before they bloomed on the mainland. The Penzance to London railway had opened in 1859, and by using the weekly boat from the islands to Penzance, he could get the flowers to London within 48 hours. As an experiment he sent 30 bunches in a hat box which earned him seven shillings and sixpence, and a week later, more bunches earned him £1. Realising the scheme had potential, Scilly landholder Thomas Dorrien-Smith encouraged his tenant farmers to create bulb-forcing houses, plant shelter hedges and make special wooden boxes for the daffodils. Dorrien-Smith also obtained different varieties to ensure longer supplies.

In 1885, 65 tonnes of flowers were sent to the mainland; by 1889, this had reached 198 tonnes, and an industry was born. People then started to realise that the daffodil season could be extended by growing daffodils across the country from Lincolnshire to Scotland, thus making the season last well into May. Today Britain produces 90% of the world's daffodils. I have not done this walk, but apparently the Priory Woods, near Butley in Suffolk, offer a stunning spring walk with first daffodils and then bluebells to admire. Also, nearby is Staverton Thicks; an ancient woodland, with some of Europe's oldest trees.

**David Golding**



Amazing skies—Thank you to  
Viv Bourne for this photo



**Write on**



## Daffodils

And now here come the daffodils,  
The trumpeters of spring,  
All tooting joy, which thrills and  
thrills,  
he while again they bring  
Their happiest note attuned with  
cheer  
To tell that spring is truly here.

I am always glad when daffodils  
Lift up their golden horn,  
To wake a day whose waking fills  
With mellowness the morn,  
And lures the southwinds thru the air  
To bear away my winter's care.

I always thought the daffodils  
Which rise from frigid earth  
Were heroines with hearts and wills  
To understand the worth  
Of holding hope thru days severe,  
And burst with joy when spring is  
here.

So blow your best, dear daffodils,  
I will listen full and long,  
To every note which ever thrills  
With your returning song;  
And when at night I rest my head,  
I will dream sweet dreams thus  
comforted.

**By Charles A. Heath**



Please send your suggestions for the page **Write On** to:  
[brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com). It can be poetry, prose, a book or film  
review or something you have written that you would like to share.



## Rambling with Gus

**Felsham circular walks: complete walk 4.23 miles approx. 1 ½ hours but can be done as two shorter circular walks by taking the footpath through the churchyard and joining it halfway round.**

You can start from the carpark at Felsham playing field. From there, turn left onto the road and walk a few yards until you come to a footpath sign on your left taking you onto a path bordered by trees.

This is a delightful walk that winds along the field edges with gentle slopes and small wooded areas. At one point it touches on the boundary of the Bradfield Woods nature reserve which is managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. There are a few short stretches of cross field paths



and quiet lanes, but this does not detract from the overall enjoyment of this walk which is well marked and maintained.

If you want a shorter walk, I suggest starting at the church and taking the path that leads through the churchyard and past the allotments. This path meets

the main path at a T junction, you can then decide whether to do the lefthand or righthand loop. They are both almost the same distance.

Afterwards, I recommend stopping off at the Six Bells pub in the centre of Felsham. The new managers are very friendly, Gus was welcome too and they served delicious soup and crusty bread when I called in. Just check opening times before you go 01449 736268. The walk is listed on the OS online maps as the Gus's ramble at Felsham .

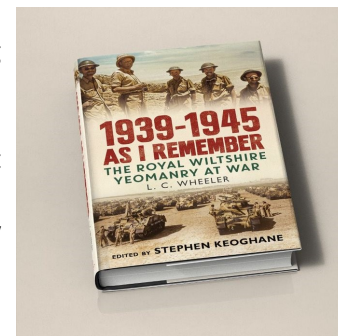
**Carrie Dye**



## 1939 –1945 As I Remember

A Wiltshire tank regiment with a link to Suffolk. A new book edited by Stephen Keoghane.

Second World War military memoirs are frequently written by senior officers or fighting troops with stories of daring do and there are very few accounts looking at what went on behind the scenes. While researching my first book 'Primus in Armis' I stumbled across a photocopied and typed manuscript written by the wartime quartermaster of my old regiment. An advertisement placed in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald enabled me to trace the author's son which led to a family conference that permitted me to proceed with this project, allowing for the first time this tribute to their father's remarkable wartime experience to be made available to a much wider audience.



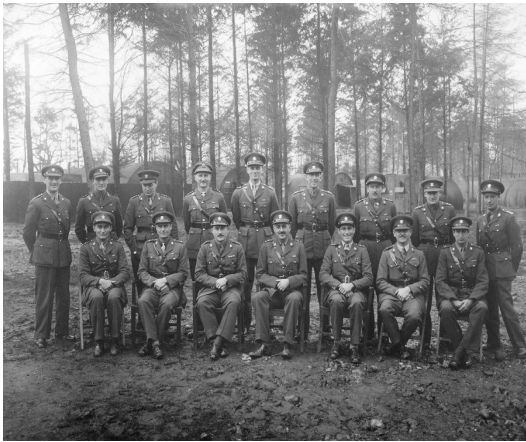
The author's story starts as a mounted cavalry soldier, mobilised in 1939 and transported to Palestine where the horses were soon exchanged for trucks. The regiment fought through the debilitating heat in the deserts of Persia, Iraq and Syria before moving to North Africa and the battle of El Alamein.

This gritty and detailed tale of wartime soldiering is particularly unusual as it focuses on many of the lighter moments of the mobilisation and daily life of a typical cavalry regiment. The diarist describes with timeless humour, familiar to anyone who has had the privilege to serve in the British Army, the routine of a mounted soldier and the excitement of the journey overseas.

The regiment's campaign in Italy is described documenting important days that include when the colonel ran out of wine, before the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry returned to the UK and found itself in Livermere forest outside Bury St Edmunds.

In 2018 I was fortunate to meet ninety-six year old Kenneth Batt, the last surviving RWY veteran from the Second World War; how I wish I could have met the author Capt. Leslie Wheeler.

**Stephen Keoghane**



The officers in Livermere forest in 1944. The author is standing fourth from the right.

Thanks to Pete Knight for the photo - 'After the Storm'



### 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**

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**For more info contact Ozzie:**

[oilyturk67@hotmail.com](mailto:oilyturk67@hotmail.com)

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



## Motoring Memories, Part IX

**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...**

I went to the garage for a newspaper and bought a car. ...Some years ago we lived close to a Skoda garage so it was probably inevitable that I would have one. I went to the garage to buy a newspaper and began a conversation with the owner. He was very enthusiastic about Skoda and was keen to get me to try one. He selected an Octavia Diesel estate and said he would drive first. Performance aplenty and he was soon driving at 90mph assuring me there were no speed cameras so if I wanted to test the performance on my drive that would be fine! I was very impressed with the Skoda which was a 1.9 diesel. It was a well equipped car with electric seats, sunroof, cruise control, xenon lights, auto dimming mirrors, and a folding tow bar. The 130bhp engine was powerful. Overall it had performance, practicality and panache, but in an understated way; perhaps I should have kept it as it seemed to tick most of the boxes.

Since this first purchase from that garage I have become a regular customer, the garage is family owned and these days it is the owner's son who runs things. There is still a very personal service and attention to detail. After the Octavia estate my next car was a Skoda Superb (this was unusual in that it was a "notchback"). The boot could be accessed by opening the lower part, much like a saloon or could function like a hatchback. This was an innovative idea but in this second-hand car it did not work properly and needed two trips to the garage to get it sorted. The Superb was large enough, comfortable enough with sufficient luxuries to fit into the executive category but for the price of a hatchback. In terms of the Skoda range I then moved to the smaller Fabia. This was in a different class but was enjoyable to drive and being a diesel was extremely economical. On one occasion I was able to achieve over 68mpg. This required early planning, meaning little braking, smooth acceleration and maintaining a gentle speed of a maximum of 55mph. I was travelling on quiet fenland roads so there was little traffic and definitely no "hills".

### Classic Vehicles and Shows

Perhaps it is a sign of ensuing age but I am definitely far more interested in things of the past, especially vehicles. As I was growing up it seemed every



car had a distinctive sound, listen to the Morris Minor for example. The cars such as the Triumph Stag had a sound which was equally distinctive. As well as the sound there was much more variety in the looks of cars, take the Mini, the Citroen DS or CX, the Renault 4 or Renault 16. These cars were so distinctive.

Nowadays few family cars have a distinctive shape or sound. Much of this is due to legislation to make cars safer, the windows are getting smaller the structure is getting safer. The visibility in a Morris Minor is not hampered by large A or B pillars but it has no significant safety devices. Over the passage of time companies have merged or formed alliances to keep down costs and use the same basic chassis for the cars they produce. An example would be VW group which uses the Golf platform for the Audi A3 and Seat Leon. Another example would be that of Nissan and Renault cooperating.

Whilst considering the VW Golf that model is now on the Mark 8 but has changed very little and is still a recognisable design despite having being first launched in 1974 to become the “people’s car” replacing the VW Beetle.

Another factor influencing design will be finances, as of course car manufacturers need to be profitable, producing a new car with a distinctive shape would be extremely costly and would first have to be considered by the company accountants. Since the 1960s there have also been many merges or takeovers of smaller companies. Such companies as Singer, Hillman, Sunbeam-Talbot, and Commer became part of the Rootes group. British Leyland took over Austin, Land Rover, MG, Riley, Wolsey, Vanden Plas, Jaguar, Mini, Morris, Rover, Standard and Triumph. Many of the smaller companies produced cars which were quite similar but had specific characteristics. The Hillman Imp and Singer Chamois is an example. Singer stood for luxury cars and Imps with a Singer badge maintained that traditional image. The interior was really beautiful with polished walnut veneer. Seats were larger and more comfortable than in the Imp. A temperature gauge, oil pressure gauge and heater blower were standard fittings. On the outside they sported a large dummy grille, bumper overrides, anodised aluminium wheel trims and an exclusive range of colours with a stripe down its side.

**Stuart Earle**

## Recipe Page

If you enjoy a home cooked curry but find you never have all the right spices, I recommend using the “Curry with Love” pre-mixed curry spice sachets. Each sachet is a curry kit and comes with an easy-to-follow recipe. They have a range of over 20 curry recipes, all giving an authentic flavour, including, Korma, Red Thai Curry, Rogan Josh, Dhansak, Bhuna. I have tried a few and they’ve all been good. The photos below show my Dhansak curry.

“Curry with Love” was created by a mother and daughter from Swaffham who have long had a passion for cooking. The good news is that you don’t have to go all the way to Swaffham to buy the products as they are on sale in Felsham Post Office or you can buy them online at [www.curry-with-love.co.uk](http://www.curry-with-love.co.uk).

**Carrie Dye**





## March Events at Bradfield Woods



Please book your place on events at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org).

Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am Wild Tots for families with children under 5 years

Sunday 13th March - Bowl Carving Course

Do you love being outside? Have you thought about training in environmental education or Forest School? Do you know we now run Open College Network West Midlands accredited Forest School training courses at levels 1, 2 and 3, see below for course dates and visit the website for more information.



Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th March- Level 1 Forest School Ethos and Principles

15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd March - Level 2 Forest School Assistant Accredited Training Course

Monday 28th - Friday 1st April & Friday 13th - Sunday 15th May - Level 3 Forest School Leadership Course



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