

BRETtenham MAGAZINE

**MARCH 2023
No 422**



Welcome...

To the March edition of the Magazine. I guarantee you will learn something new when reading this month's Magazine: Brian Gooderham explains the history of the Magic Lantern, the equivalent of Instagram back in the 1600s - but rather slower; and Tom Tavener explains the different methods of hedging, including how the orientation of a hedge will affect its maintenance.

As he retires from the RAF and returns to civvy life, Ozzie, Chair of the BVA, reflects in numbers on his career. And Stuart Earle takes an amusing look back to his time in the classroom in A Rural Education.

Plus there's information on several events taking place in the village in the next few months including the start of our annual Potato In A Bucket Competition—always a hotly contested event!

The editorial team are very grateful for your contributions whether news, photos, jokes or anything else of relevance, so please keep them coming to:

brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 3rd March—Village Inn 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th March—Village Hall 10.30am (see back page)

Saturday 11th March—Wine Tasting at the Village Hall (page 7)

Sunday 19th March—Village Inn 12.30pm and the start of the
Potato in a Bucket Competition (see page 9)

Friday 7th April—Village Inn 7.30pm

Thursday 13th April—Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd April—Village Inn 12.30pm

Saturday 29th April—An Evening with ShantyFolk (see 13)

Friday 5th May—Village Inn 7.30pm

Sunday 21st May Village Inn 12.30pm

Cover photo, a spring garden, taken by Viv Bourne

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
chairbva@gmail.com



Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

Is no longer coming to
Brettenham. See
blackboard by church for
other stops

**April
Mag
Deadline:**
15th March

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

Brettenham Parish Council—Have Your Say

Voting in the May Elections: For anyone not aware, when you arrive at the polls to vote this year, you will be required to provide photo ID. Details of this are on the village website and facebook page where there will be a link giving the full list of documentation that can be used – it is very comprehensive.

Councillor Vacancy: You may be aware that local elections are being held in May and these include parish councils where necessary. There is at least one vacancy anticipated on the parish council in May so if you are interested in having a part in decision making and planning to keep our village a pleasant and safe place to live, please feel free to talk to one of the councillors about what the role entails. Everyone has their own way of contributing, there is no hard and fast job profile, so if you think you might like to have a go, speak up ☺ Nominations need to be officially placed by 4 April so if you are interested, please let Della, our clerk, or one of us know asap.

Neighbourhood Plan update: You will hopefully remember filling out a fairly lengthy survey last year in relation to the village, what you liked about it, what you would see as an improvement, thoughts on future development etc. The results were fed back into the team working on the plan and a considerable amount of work has been done compiling documents, photographs and information to progress to its next stage. We are now a step closer towards finishing the plan which, once complete, gives the village a voice in how its future will look. The material collated is now being put into a first draft form. At some point in the future, we anticipate holding an informal presentation event in the village hall for you to browse through the proposed plan and ask any questions. This will be part of a formal consultation process and will be followed by a referendum to get your thoughts and agreement to progress to the full plan being agreed. The referendum is held by the District Council and to ensure the plan is successfully implemented, with all the benefits it brings, we need a good response to it. Watch this space for further updates.

We need your photographs! To keep the Neighbourhood plan local and personal we are asking for you to submit your favourite photographs depicting what you see as village life here – a view, a building, an event, seasons, sunsets – anything that reflects your village life experience

here. Whether you have a top of the range camera or rely on the mobile in your pocket when you are out and about let us have them and as many as can be included will be. Photographs should be emailed to BrettenhamNP@outlook.com. Please include your full name when sending.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator Vacancy: Many thanks to Val McGuill for undertaking this role over the last few years. Due to the increased commitments and effective sessions of the village Community Speedwatch Group - also co-ordinated by Val - she feels she would like to be able to concentrate solely on carrying this out, therefore we have a vacancy for a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator. Find out what the role entails from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch enquiries@suffolknwa.co.uk, from Val herself if you know her, or let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch with her for the local aspect of it.

**Next Parish Council Meeting, including the Annual Parish Meeting is on
Thursday 13 April
Alyson Wilson, Chair: 07798633044**

Food Bank Update

Once again, thank you very much for your continued support.

Financial aid continues to be accepted by cheques payable to Bildeston Community Support or via BACS to Bildeston Community Support, Account No 49886479, Sort Code 52-30-31

Food donations can be left in the church porch or the woodstore on my drive.

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

Alyson Wilson, Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770

If you would rather contact the Foodbank directly you can do this through Facebook messenger from the Bildeston Foodbank Facebook page, email or call:

Bildestoncsg@gmail.com Tel:01449 257136

Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Upcoming BVA events at the Village Hall:

- Friday 3rd March, Village Inn 7.30pm. Food provided by the Mobile Pizza Van Company
- Saturday 11th March, Wine Tasting. See advertisement opposite for more details
- Sunday 19th March, Village Inn 12.30pm. And the start of the Potato in a Bucket Competition. Come to the Village Inn to collect your potato to take part. Further information on page 9
- Saturday 19th April, ShantyFolk. There are a limited number of tickets remaining for the ShantyFolk evening so please get ahead of the game if you want to come along to this one-off event. Contact msbaker14@mail.com to secure your tickets. Menu - a choice between Veggie and Meat main followed by a choice of 2 puds. For further information see advertisement on page 13

Here is the latest list of the BVA Officer Group so you know who to contact if needed:

Bigger Ernie Co-ord – Emily Woods

Lizzy Keoghane – Secretery

Peter Truin – Bar Manager and Licensee

Greg Potter - Deputy Licensee

Julie Ozficipi – Booking Clerk

Gary Roberts and Paul Bendall – Trustees

Mark Baker - Accounts

Ozzie – Chair, Caretaker, Cleaner, Event's organiser and anything else to wish to throw at him!

Thank you

A big shout out and thank you to Peter Broughton for donating the splendid Gazebo to the BVA.

Ozzie, BVA Chair

To find out more about the Chair of the BVA look for page 22

Bigger Ernie

January draw

1st Reinette Du Toit £30 2nd Ngu £15 3rd Rachel and Lee Coomber £10

February draw

1st Hannah Watson £30 2nd Pat Harpley £15 3rd Roger Bere £10



A fun evening for everyone

Saturday 11th March, 7.30pm

Brettenham Village Hall

£15 per ticket



An evening of discovery
for vinophiles and
oenophiles with a
tutored trip through a
flight of several wine
varieties with
accompanying nibbles

Hosted by a
knowledgeable
local publican and wine
importer

Wines will be available
to buy on the night

For further info and
tickets contact Mick
michaelkelly@live.co.uk
07779 661034

Nature Notes



Bradfield Woods is one of our local Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It covers an area of approximately 70-80 hectares and is made up of Monkspark Woods, Hedge Wood and Chensil Grove.

If you have visited the site you will have noticed that it is managed in the traditional style of coppicing. It has been managed like this since 1252. This coppicing method means that stems are

Coppicing at Bradfield Woods

cut to ground level which then promotes vigorous re-growth. It is thought that some of the ash coppice stools in the wood are over 1000 years old.

The dense re-growth provides an excellent habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including migrant songbirds such as the garden warbler, willow warbler and blackcaps. Mammals are also resident. They include badger, deer, yellow-necked mouse, stoat and dormouse. In the summer the rides which wind their way through the wood provide the opportunity to catch a glimpse of about 24 species of butterfly.

Suffolk is an important county for the introduction and preservation of our native Hazel Dormice. They are extremely hard to spot as they hibernate for long periods of the year and when they do come out they are only active at night. They save energy by going into a torpor, when their body



A hibernating dormouse

temperature drops. It's been calculated that Dormice can spend almost 75% of the year asleep. Before hibernation they can weigh about 35g and by the time they wake up they could have lost 15g of their body weight. They grow to a length of about 7-9cms, just under half of which is made up of tail. They are encouraged to make their nests in boxes provided by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other organisations. It consists of grass and leaves and their self made nests can be made at the base of trees just below the ground. Their diet consists of insects, berries and hazelnuts. They are preyed on by owls, weasels and grey squirrels but the winter cold is an equal threat to their survival.

If you haven't visited Bradfield woods recently, you really should. You can imagine you're stepping back in time. It's a good site for dog walking, although they should be kept on a lead. Events and courses are regularly held there and in the next month or so the thousands of bluebells will put on a spectacular show.

David Golding



Bluebells at Bradfield Woods



Brettenham Gardening Club



Potato in a Bucket Competition

Open to all residents of Brettenham and their families.

Collect your potato from

Sunday Village Inn on 19th March

12.30pm

How many potatoes can you can grow in a bucket?

The heaviest crop wins! Anyone in the village can enter. There is one potato per person/child. The potatoes are £1 each and you will receive full instructions on how to grow it. There are prizes for the winning adult (13 – 100!) and winning child (0 - 12).

You will need to provide your own compost and a bucket (approx. 30cm/1' diameter x 30cm/1' high) with holes punched in bottom for each potato.

The judging will take place at the Summer Fair on Saturday 17th June at the Village Hall. Good luck!

For more information, contact Michelle Harvey on:

michelle@harvey-family.org.uk / 07535814939

St Mary's Church Brettenham

The services at Rattlesden are no longer streamed however the Church of England service is on at 9am and can be viewed on their website - www.churchofengland.org



There is also the Cathedral communion service which starts at 10.30am and can be found on their facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral/live/>

Benefice contacts

While we do not have our own rector, if you need to talk to someone about a pastoral matter, we have these contacts:

The Rev Canon Sharon Potter, the Rural Dean, on 01284 828599 or 07825 086063 Email: revsharon2@gmail.com (Sharon's rest day is on Fridays).

Alternatively, you can contact our lay readers Stephen Collins on 01449 737541 or on spgc544@gmail.com or Ruth Crocket on 07811333560 or ruth.crocket@gmail.com

Our Benefice PA, Charlotte Faircloth, may be able to help with some issues and her information is: charlottefaircloth13@gmail.com and 07397 240 713. If you need to talk to someone about a local church matter, please contact the church warden: Annie Tavener 01449 736412 annie_tav@hotmail.com.

St Mary's Stall...Stock needed!

Again so many thank you to you all, whether buying or donating BUT stock running low and don't forget even if you don't want it, someone might!

Please put in our cart lodge at Buggs, don't leave on stall as I then don't know if something needs pricing or saved from the rain.

All your efforts are much appreciated and raising necessary funds for the upkeep of St Mary's.

Spring is coming, whoohoo! **Viv Bourne**

March Programme of Services in the Benefice

This maybe subject to change so please check before going

March 5th The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Rattlesden 9.45am for 10am Breakfast Church

Thorpe Morieux 10.00am Morning Prayer

Hitcham 11.00am Morning Prayer

Brettenham 11.15am Family Communion

March 12th The 3rd Sunday of Lent

Brettenham 8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Rattlesden 9.45am Holy Communion

Thorpe Morieux 10.00am Morning Prayer

Hitcham 11.00am Holy Communion

March 19th The 4th Sunday of Lent

Rattlesden 9.45am Mothering Sunday Service

Thorpe Morieux 10.00am Morning Prayer

Hitcham 11.00am Holy Communion

Rattlesden Pavilion 6:00pm Praise and doughnuts

March 26th The 5th Sunday of Lent

Brettenham 8.30am BCP Holy Communion

Rattlesden 9.45am Holy Communion

Rattlesden 11:00 am Quiet Service

Hitcham 11.00am Holy Communion

Thorpe Morieux 6pm BCP Evensong

Unfortunately we are no nearer to finding a new rector as there were no applications in response to our advertisements; however, the Archdeacon is confident we will find someone before too long. Meanwhile we are very lucky to be able to continue our rota of services as normal, thanks to help from Rev Paul Grover and others.

We have now received the Quinquennial report from the architect and as we feared we are looking at raising a lot of money for our roof

repairs. Scaffolding will have to be erected, both sides of the nave roof will need to be stripped, a temporary cover will probably have to be erected overhead, and props installed inside the church while some of the roof timbers are repaired from above, before re felting, battenning and tiling can take place. We are definitely looking at a six figure sum - we just don't know yet what the first of those figures will be! We will be seeking grants from several sources but any monies we hope to receive are conditional upon us raising probably 25% up front. Fortunately the rest of the architect's report has not thrown up any major problems. We have a few fundraising ideas in mind but we will need a lot of help - which leads me on to the Shanty night, and why we are so grateful to the BVA for organising this. Ticket sales have been fantastic so far, thanks to Mark and Oz, so don't miss out on getting yours - numbers will be limited. We will also be hoping for a bumper Summer Fair on 17th June as it is an important part of our annual income. Please keep the date free and if you are able to help on the day do get in touch.

Annie Tavener Churchwarden

Books In The Church

There is a great selection of new books in the church thanks to recent donation s. So, if you have not been in recently, why not call in and take a look. Paperbacks are 50p each, hardbacks £1.



Volunteer/s needed for sorting the books in the church. This is not too time consuming a task, just a tidy up every few months. Books that are not shifting need to be taken to the British Heart Foundation shop in Stowmarket where they are happy to accept all we can give. If you can help, please contact Carrie and Martin Dye on 07553333430

**Brettenham Village Association
proudly present an evening with**



**Saturday 29th April
Brettenham Village Hall
£15 entry (£10 for under
16's)
includes 2 course meal
Doors and Bar open at 19:00.
First performance 19.30
followed by meal and then**

**All proceeds to St Mary's Church plus collection for
RNLI #raisetheroof - In aid of repairs to the roof of
St Mary's Church
Reserve your place contact – 07880 876911 / 07760**

Together we can #raisetheroof

Brettenham Charity Quiz



Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual quiz on Saturday 28th January. We had 13 teams take part, so it was a tight squeeze (as you can see from the photo), but levering in that many teams meant we were able to maximise the amount of money we could raise for this year's extremely worthy cause, the 'Success After Stroke' (SAS) charity.

Buggs' Beauties, who had won for the previous two years, were unable to secure a third consecutive triumph. Instead, this year's winners were 'Easy Riders', led by Hugh and Julia Rivington, with an impressive score of 110. So congratulations to the Riders, although of course the pressure will really be on them for next year!

Thank you also to everyone who donated a raffle prize – we had about 30 prizes in the end which was terrific and definitely added to the impetus to buy raffle tickets. With the combination of the quiz entry fees, raffle tickets, plus a donation, we raised the amazing total of £900 for SAS, for which I know they are incredibly grateful.

As ever, we had a great time developing and compering the quiz. Hopefully even the experience of us "singing" the answers to the song lyrics round hasn't scarred anyone psychologically too much!

Finally, thank you to Em for collecting the entry fee money, Julie for selling the raffle tickets, and to Greg for running the bar and being our 'human megaphone' when required.

No doubt there will be another quiz next year, so look out for details of that...and get those team reservations in early 😊

Pete & Martin

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 (WIPEOUT)	PICTURE	TOTAL	POSITION
EASY RIDERS	7	4	10	12	10	8	16	12	31	110	1
BRATT PITT	5	5	7	10	10	4	18	9	30	98	2=
ALWAYS BLUE	6	8	8	6	10	6	12	15	27	98	2=
BEALES WHEELS	4	4	7	4	7	3	15	18	31	93	4
MIGHTY DUCKS	4	4	8	4	9	7	10	15	31	92	5
BUGGS' BEAUTIES	6	4	9	9	9	6	13	0	34	90	6
NO EYE DEER	6	4	6	8	9	3	14	12	27	89	7=
13TH WARRIORS	6	5	8	7	7	6	16	9	25	89	7=
FIVE STONES & A BOULDER	3	7	6	9	8	4	12	6	30	85	9
SLOIGHTLY ON THE HUH	5	6	7	12	9	4	9	0	30	82	10
WHO'S DAFT IDEA IS THIS?	3	4	4	7	7	4	16	0	32	77	11
BRETENHAM PANIC BUYERS	6	5	5	1	10	5	11	0	30	73	12
CROMER PEERS	6	5	8	5	7	5	5	0	29	70	13

Anyone for Bridge?



Hi all, the Old Chap in the Old Chapel here. Are you fed up with the dark dank nights watching depressing TV full of worrying statistics and national strikes?

I know I am, so I wondered if any of you fancied a midweek social evening playing Bridge, Whist, Snap? (or any other sundry pursuit!) in the village hall. As an ex Bridge player myself I would be happy to introduce all would-be participants to the game, which is basically a more advanced form of Whist. We might even be able to persuade the powers that be to open the bar if enough participants were forthcoming. Another possibility would be a play reading group.

If you're interested, why not give me a call on 07860 828661 or email me at guyandleonie@gmail.com with any suggestions you might have.

I look forward to hearing from you, **Guy Saunders**

Farming Focus

January and February are normally quite quiet months in terms of field work. It's a useful time of year to get up to date with maintenance jobs and paperwork as well as getting away on holiday in the knowledge that any jobs at home can wait. We have had plenty of sharp frosts which have helped to break down the land which was ploughed in the Autumn, so hopefully we will have lovely seedbeds when it comes drilling the beans and barley in the spring. Peter has had his remaining block of sugar beet harvested and delivered into the factory which was good news as a lot of crops locally have been badly damaged by the frost.

The frosts have also meant that I could finish up a few bits of hedge cutting which I had left until the berries had been finished off by the birds. We have just over 10 miles of hedge across the land at Ryece Hall providing a wide range of habitats. Hedges are essentially a man-made landscape feature, with many having been planted as a result of the Enclosures Act in the 18th century, and which are kept in an unnatural state by human intervention. Left unmanaged, a hedge will eventually develop into a gappy line of trees, so sensitive and planned management ensures a network of hedges at different stages of development which provide vital habitats for lots of different species.

We manage hedges in different ways according to where they are and their orientation, the species they are made up of and their impact on adjoining fields through shading and impeding of machinery or their impact on the road and footpath network.

The roadside hedges tend to get trimmed every year for safety reasons, to allow the light through to the road so that it dries out more quickly and partly so that we can enjoy the views from the road! Pruning a hedge back encourages it to branch out, so by cutting it slightly longer each year it's possible to thicken the hedge up and improve it's structure which provides better shelter and more nesting sites for birds. I also usually do some light



Coppiced hedge

pruning around gateways and blind corners just before harvest to improve visibility for the large number of tractor and lorry movements at that time of year.

When it comes to hedges in the middle of the farm, we tend to manage hedges running east-west slightly more intensively than those running north-south, due to the shading effect on the field when they get too tall. This may be in the form of trimming them with the flail every few years or by cutting them back manually with a chainsaw, as Michael has done in recent years on the hedges adjoining the footpaths opposite Tudor Lodge and Keepers Cottage. In-field hedges can only be cut from 1st September to avoid disturbing birds during the nesting season. When trimming with



Layered hedge

the flail, we usually avoid cutting both sides in the same year and only reduce the height every few years to ensure that plenty of food is left for the winter.

The hedges running north-south are mostly left alone and then coppiced in rotation every 10-20 years. Coppicing hedges is a traditional method of management in Suffolk and involves cutting the old growth

right down to the ground. Although this looks drastic, it rejuvenates an old hedge, encouraging thick young growth and lets light through to the base of the hedge allowing wild flowers to grow. As with woodland coppicing, it also provides a useful and sustainable source of firewood.

Michael and Rachel have also recently started laying some hedges with the help of a local contractor, starting in the meadow behind their house at Lower Farm. Although not a very common practice in East Anglia, it is widespread in the more livestock orientated parts of the country as it allows a hedge to be thickened and rejuvenated whilst retaining some nesting habitat and a stock-proof living fence.

With the recent fine weather and sunshine, spring certainly feels like it's on the way so I'm looking forward to getting on with a new season of field work as we near the end of February.

Tom Tavener



Magic Lanterns

The magic lantern was invented about the year 1660 although images had been projected onto flat surfaces long before that date in the form of shadow images etc. Lantern shows were the most popular form of entertainment during the 19th and early 20th centuries. They were the forerunner of movies, videos, DVDs and all the digital stuff we have today.

On New Year's Day 2023, I was invited to take my oil lamp illuminated magic lanterns to the Mid Suffolk Light Railway Museum at Wetheringsett (Suffolk's only standard gauge heritage railway!), to take part in their Steam and Light Festival. This event is one of only a few venues that I can show my oil lanterns locally.

The lanterns themselves date back to the late 19th century while the pictures I show and stories I tell are from the 18th century. This picture shows my Three Wick "Walter Tyler" lantern projecting a moving image of Punch and Judy with Toby the dog skipping, circa 1850. To the left of the photo can be seen a four wick "Newton & Co" lantern oil lamp and two toy lanterns. This display proved to be of great interest to both young and old alike.

The Historic Lighting Club's next event in this area will be at St Peter's Church, Cockfield on 11th March 2023 between 4pm – 8pm.

Brian Gooderham



Photo taken by John Thurman, shows Brian standing behind his 3 1/4 inch long focus projector, which he converted to use with an electric lamp.

Moving On..



Thank you to everyone in Brettenham who made us feel very welcome during the 7 years we were at Brooklands Cottage. What a wonderful network of people and beating heart Brettenham village is. I loved the newsletter and magazine; this was always my way of plugging into the Suffolk life when we arrived from London to let our hair down.

Thank you, Gary for the amazing kitchen renovation, it was a 70s relic before your magic touch and thanks for all your calm building advice and wonderful deep sea diving stories. Thank you Charles and Fiona for your hospitality and putting us right on the correct country paths and thank you Jemma and Lucy for being lovely neighbours. We wish you all a wonderful summer and will be thinking of you very fondly under the big Suffolk skies and wonderful sunsets.

Caryn and Ian

"We are delighted that you enjoyed your time in Brettenham. We hope you will come back and visit from time to time. The Village Inn is always a great way to drop in and catch-up with old friends. Our best wishes to you both for your future adventures. From the Magazine editing team"

The Brettenham Flyers

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

Every Sunday at the Village Hall

Walkers / Dogs—08:50

Runners / Cyclists—09:00

All ages, abilities & animals welcome

For more info contact Ozzie:

chairbva@gmail.com



A Rural Education Part 7

This month we are reminded of how times have changed in the classroom since Stuart Earle was there in the 1970s. But somethings do not change; we see how a good teacher makes a lasting impact and memories on a child's mind—as do bad teachers...

During the latter years at Beyton school there were some Portakabin classes rooms added. The teacher occupying one of these was Mr Dove. He had rather a strange approach and sounded as though he had been used to rounding up wild animals by the way that he shouted at pupils. I recall being taught by him on a few occasions but this was when other teachers were off sick.

The Classes and the Teachers

Woodwork and metalwork were the preserve of male pupils. The girls would attend Domestic Science taught by Mrs Christmas or Needlework taught by Mrs Mansfield. I recall on one or two occasions we all attended a class in the Domestic Science room which was on the second floor. I think we were taught about elements of nutrition.

Woodwork was taught by Lester Cass. He was a bearded gentleman who was a prominent member of the school band and played a large brass instrument. The woodwork shop had wooden work benches which were organised in two rows and would accommodate a pupil on each side. Each bench had a vice and a selection of tools, the larger tools had storage areas around the classroom. At the outset of the class Mr Cass would have the pupils gather around the bench at the front where he demonstrated a particular skill, the pupils then went to their bench to practise the skill. Mr Cass then walked around criticising the progress. It was essential to look out for flying wood as Mr Cass would gain attention by chucking wood. Our class had to choose between woodwork and metalwork and Gary voted twice, for woodwork. Mr Cass discovered the misdemeanour and set about Gary around the head with both hands, Metalwork was then the subject for Gary.

Mr Duxbury taught metalwork. He had an identical accent to Fred Dibnah but much less enthusiasm for his subject. His method of teaching was similar to Mr Cass but there were more electric tools such as drills and

lathes so somewhat more dangerous. Again we would gather around to watch techniques and would then “have a go” but generally under close supervision and often the class finished before everybody had a turn. There were no classroom assistants in those days so being responsible for a class in that environment would have been quite stressful.

Some of the teachers were full of enthusiasm and really enjoyed their subject. The History teacher was Mr John Burt. The classroom was often transformed into a battlefield a Courtroom or a Royal Chamber. Mr Burt would single-handedly put on a theatrical performance to depict the particular event or battle in history. He would use whatever items were around the classroom, the six foot window pole becoming a pikestaff, a stick imaginatively became a musket or the board rubber a pistol or hand grenade and the chalk a bullet.

He would use the whole classroom to carry out his demonstration and it was not uncommon to be caught in the cross fire with desks getting overturned and pupils not sure where they would be safe from the next battle. We would be transported to India to learn about the exploits of Clive of India or to Africa to the Boer war. There were maps on the wall with large areas in red depicting the former British Empire. Occasionally pupils would use the textbooks, (sometimes they too would be used as part of the battle), but more often than not the teaching was by way of demonstration. Mr Burt would not hold back and his charges in battle were accompanied by loud shouting. I suspect that he too may have seen actual military service.

Stuart Earle

Next month, there is unruly behaviour in the classroom...



Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive, (29 September 1725 – 22 November 1774), also known as **Clive of India** was the first British Governor of the Bengal Presidency. Clive has been widely credited for laying the foundation of the British East India Company rule in Bengal. Clive's actions on behalf of the EIC have made him one of Britain's most controversial colonial figures.

Reflecting in numbers



You join me while I ponder my early request to voluntarily leave the RAF after more than 38 years' service and become once again fully affiliated and readjusted into civilian life.

Technically, I should have left the Service May 22, however, gaining a position at Air Command prompted a short extension of 2 years, which I'm cutting short by 12 months for varying reasons.

I'm conscious that many of you are in no doubt of my military background given those combat indicators within some of my previous attempts at emails and articles. Also, perhaps the obligatory RAF Ensign, which adorns the flagpole on our front driveway is a bit of a giveaway. Before I make that final transition back into civilian life I thought I'd reflect and share with you a small backdrop of my military career. In order to do this, I've been reflecting and analysing my military achievements in the form of number crunching (projected to my exit date) as any good service person would.

- 13,884 days of service (38 years, 23 days)
- 19 x diverse tours of duty, operating across 8 different countries, (excluding Wales), through 9 ranks, delivering across a spectrum of leadership complexities and 13 different aircraft platform, rotary and fixed wing.
- 3 x tours of duty with the RAF Regiment, 1 of which with a RAF Regt Rapier Sqn.
- 12 x Operational tours in 3 x austere environments (6 years) – Desert (Afghan), Arctic Circle and Tropical (Belize) (Again, not including Wales)
- 26 x inoculations (not including COVID)
- 8 x medals received with 1 military commendation
- Over 5 Training years,
- Commanding 1250 Aviators (Air Personnel) in my final tour

- Several highs, some extremely challenging moments, a few mistakes with lessons learnt,
-and countless friendships forged along my journey.

For me, these last 38 years have been an extraordinary event packed passage and as I progress through my career transition activity I'll take stock of these experiences and look forward with eagerness in transferring and applying them across our community, where and whenever possible (minus the boot runs and inspection regimes). The RAF has become my very own Marigold hotel where I'm able to check-out whenever I want and yet never able to entirely leave. For those ex-military members out there, I'm sure you'll understand what I mean. Now, however, as I move forward into my next chapter, I see the BVA as the perfect lifeboat with which to weather the storm of modern 'Civvy' life.

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Chair BVA , Ozzie Ozfici

"Congratulations on your retirement after such a successful career, Ozzie. All the best as you acclimatize to civvy life and make future plans, including being Chair of the BVA. Doubtless your experience in the RAF will be useful in this role, but we are thankful that you have promised to go light on the inspection regimes and boot runs (we have it in writing!)"
From the Magazine Editing Team.



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

March 2023

Events at Bradfield Woods

- Saturday 4 March 10am – 4pm Learn to use your axe
- Tuesday 14, 15, 28, 19 March - Forest School Assistant Level 2 course. A 4 day course certified by AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group for people who wish to assist with the delivery of a Forest School programme. 9.30am – 4.30pm
- Sunday 26 March 10am – 4.30pm - Kuksa bowl carving
- Sat 1 April 10am – 4pm- Basket weaving

Booking essential for all courses see suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Recipe- Shakshouka

Shakshouka is an easy and healthy dish which can be eaten at anytime of the day. The recipe is from Israel and other parts of the Middle East and North Africa.

Recipes should be used as a guide, they are a basis for you to adapt for individual tastes. You can add ingredients or take out ones you don't like.



Here is my twist on it.

You will need:

- 1 onion (finally chopped)
- 2 cloves Garlic (finally chopped)
- 1 red or green pepper (chopped small)
- 4 mushrooms (chopped)
- Olive oil
- 1 tsp Paprika
- 1 tsp Cumin
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 Tin Chopped toms
- Fresh Coriander (chopped) or Spinach leaves
- 4-6 eggs
- Grated cheese

In a deep frying pan put the oil, onions and garlic. Lightly fry until soft.
 Add the peppers and mushrooms and the spices.
 Cook over a low heat and stir well to mix in the spices.
 Add the tin of chopped tomatoes and simmer for 5-10 mins.
 Turn off the heat and leave the mixture in the frying pan. Gently stir in the coriander or spinach.
 Carefully crack the eggs over the mixture and sprinkle on the grated cheese.
 Turn the heat back on very low and cook until the eggs have cooked to the preferred consistency.
 This is lovely served with fresh warm sourdough bread.

Michelle Harvey



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For more info contact

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