

**BRETtenham  
MAGAZINE**

**MARCH 2024  
No 434**

**Apple blossom time**



**Welcome...**

... to the latest edition of the Magazine. Rain, pot holes, and road closures are three good reasons to stay local and enjoy our beautiful village this Spring, throw in a recession as well and just head for the Village Inn! Village life and our community activities continue to serve our needs—company, comfort and laughter being at the top of everyone's list. Well done to Pete and Martin for another terrific quiz at the end of January. As usual the following pages are jam packed with activities and opportunities to get involved. Brettenham has always welcomed new residents and this magazine and our website are great windows to see into the heart of our village. We look forward to meeting all our new residents and friends at the Village Inns or some of the other new events coming up— Firepit Friday anyone?

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

Thank you Carrie Dye for the cover photo—blackthorn blossom, a welcome sign that Spring is nearly here.

**Dates For Your Diary**

Friday 1st March—Village Inn 7.30pm

Tuesday 5th March—Coffee Morning 10.30-12.00

Saturday 16th March—Film showing 'The Dig'

Sunday 17th March—Sunday Village Inn.

The start of the Potato in a Bucket Competition 2024.

Collect your potato at the Village Inn  
see page 22 for more details.

Saturday 23rd March - An evening with Charlie Haylock

Friday 29th March—Firepit Friday

Tuesday 2nd April—Coffee morning

Friday 5th April - Village Inn

Saturday 6th April—Gardening Workshop 10.30-12.00

Sunday 21st April—Village Inn

Saturday 20th July—Brettenham Big Summer Quiz

## Village Noticeboard

### Village Hall

To book contact Julie or Ozzie on  
07810434470 or email  
[bvahalbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bvahalbookings@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 Michelle Brown  
[dan.michelle@hotmail.com](mailto:dan.michelle@hotmail.com)

facebook 

### Where to get Village News?

Check out the latest village news on the  
**BVA Facebook** page  
[Facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts](https://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 or be part of the village**  
**whatsapp group** please contact   
[chairbva@gmail.com](mailto:chairbva@gmail.com)

### Mobile Library

Stops at the village Hall  
12.45-13.05  
Church 15.20-15.35  
Friday every 4 weeks  
No visit this month

**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

### Have your say...

**Neighbourhood Plan** – a reminder that any comments you have regarding the Plan need to be submitted by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is available to download at <http://brettenham.onesuffolk.net/> where an online comments form can be completed. If you don't have access to the internet, paper copies of the Plan will be available to borrow for a short period from Nick Tavener (01449 736412) or myself, we will also have a supply of paper forms available if you wish to submit comments.

**Volunteer required** – Internal Auditor – if anyone is interested in helping out the Parish Council in carrying out the internal audit on the Council accounts (commencing 2025) please contact Della, our Parish Clerk, who will explain what is involved.

**Litter in the village** – Parish Councillors undergo an annual litter pick around the village about this time of year before the foliage comes to life again. We are very much assisted by residents - some of whom carry it out regularly and most we know who pick up what they see in their travels if they are suitably equipped. I think you would all agree that we live in a particularly beautiful part of Suffolk and the village is well tended by residents, landowners and the Gardening Club so the smallest amounts of litter can be a blight. Thank you to all those that contribute so much time and energy to keeping Brettenham beautiful and let's hope to see a litter free village in the coming year.

**Flooding in the village** – progress has been made on the flooding issue at the bottom of Chapel Hill on the small piece of green housing the old Coronation Oak, the early investigation work carried out by Peter Truin, Andrew Gooderham and Nick Tavener and some robust intervention by the neighbouring landowner seems to have seen a definite improvement in the water draining away more effectively. The wet weather is not over yet and time will tell but so far the results have been quite dramatic. Many thanks to all involved in getting to grips dealing with this.

**The next Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 11 April.** This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting - a public meeting where you will be free to ask questions and raise any issues - more details in the April magazine.

Finally a reminder that Della does circulate reports, agendas and minutes for the Parish Council. If you would like to be added to the circulation email for these please contact her and let her know.

**Alyson Wilson, Chair** 07798 633044

Parish Clerk [Brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:Brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com)



# Firepit Friday

**Friday 29 March 7pm  
Brettenham Churchyard IP7 7QJ**

*Come to reflect on*  
**Life, the Universe and Good Friday**

*With poems, discussions, music and quiet moments*

**Hot cross buns and hot drinks will be available  
Suitable for 11 years old and upwards**

Please come in outdoor clothing and shoes  
Bring a garden chair if you need to sit  
There will be a 'live' firepit so please take care  
Under 18s must be supervised

**This is not a "Church Service"**

**Dogs very welcome but must be supervised**

Photos: Matzipan Xmas

## Food Bank Update

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

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

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

Alyson Wilson, Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770

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

**Please support this worthwhile locally run charity. Local families and individuals in need can access this food bank easily and the more we can support the food bank the more we are directly supporting them.**

## Brettenham's Big Book Sale

What an excellent event! Thanks must go to Lizzy and Joanne who organised the day, along with their team of volunteers. Many books were browsed, tea was drunk, jewellery bought and cakes enjoyed. As well as a lovely community event, over £460 was raised for restoration of the church roof.

A big **Thank You** to all who donated or bought books and helped before, after and during the day.





## Village Inn

### Friday 1st March

Come and join us for a  
roast dinner on a Friday!

All proceeds to go to the  
Raise the Roof fund raising

Roast Beef (Gluten free option available) £10

Roast Chicken (Gluten free option available) £10

Cauliflower Cheese (Veg) £9

All served with Roast potatoes, Roast parsnips, Roast  
carrots, Peas, Yorkshire Pudding and Onion gravy.

.....

Lemon Meringue Pie and cream £3.50

Chocolate and Rum Roulade and cream £3.50



Dishes may contain  
allergens,  
please ask kitchen.



## Brettenham Charity Quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in the charity quiz on 27<sup>th</sup> January, we really hope everyone enjoyed the evening.

The winners this time around were 'Up The Blue Stones', captained by Cathy Schofield, with perennial high-achievers 'Buggs Beauties' a very close second. If there was a prize for the most imaginatively-named team, then 'You May Have Won, But We've Had Chinese' would surely have walked off with that!

With the combination of the entry fees, raffle ticket sales, and the Heads & Tails game, plus bar profits kindly donated by the BVA, we raised the amazing total of **£1075 for 'Raise the Roof'**. This is the first time we've reached the magic £1k mark for any of our quizzes!

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated a raffle prize, we had some really top-notch prizes. Finally, a big thank you to Em and Cathy S for collecting the moneys and selling the raffle tickets, and to Gary and Lynne G for running the bar so efficiently. And a special thank you to Em for operating our high-tech electronic scoreboard.

We've decided to break with tradition and hold a 'summer quiz' in addition to our usual winter one to try to raise even more funds for 'Raise the Roof' - the date is **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July** so please make a note in your diaries...and just as importantly, book in your team!

**Pete and Martin**





TEAM	FINAL SCORE
UP THE BLUE STONES	104
BUGG'S BEAUTIES	100
RATTLE THEM ST MARY	97
ALWAYS BLUE	94
THE IMPOSTERS	92
THE INTERLOPERS	91
MAIDSTONED	89
SUFFOLKATED	85
BRIAN OF BRITAIN	83
SUFFOLK AND CLEVER	80
BRETT PIT	79
THE EVER HOPEFULS	77
YOU MAY HAVE WON BUT WE'VE HAD CHINESE	65

## Coffee Morning

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

Tuesday 5th March from 10.30 till 12.00.

Hope to see you there!

For more info contact:

Val 07711 562520 or

Michelle 07535 814939



## Work On New Pipeline

I am sure that many of us are finding the disruption caused by the work on the new national water pipeline that is crossing Brettenham very frustrating. When it was discussed in planning, I had no idea that the work would be so major and involve so many road closures. It feels like soon there will be no usable road in or out of Brettenham! However, one positive is that, thanks to the letters warning of road closures, after nigh on 40 years of living in Brettenham, I am finally learning the names of our local roads.

Carrie Dye



### We're closing a road near you

We wanted to let you know about some vital work we'll be doing in your area soon to keep water flowing throughout our entire region. To allow us to work safely we'll be closing Cooks Green (Hares Road), Brettenham, Ipswich, you can find out when and why below.

#### What are we doing?

We're building a brand new, multi-million pound water pipeline to help keep water flowing across our region, which is one of the driest in the UK. This is one of Europe's biggest environmental programmes. Hundreds of kilometres of underground, interconnecting pipelines will stretch from North Lincolnshire all the way to Essex, allowing water to be moved from 'wetter' to 'drier' areas.

#### How might the work affect you?

While we aim to reduce disruption to pedestrians and traffic as much as we can, our top priority will always be the safety of our staff and the public. That's why we'll need to make the following temporary road closure:

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



Taking a school assembly is always a bit of a challenge, especially if you are new to the school and relatively inexperienced. There is often a theme to the assembly and it needs to have a purpose and be engaging for the pupils. In some schools the staff also attend and in others you are left to your own devices. One of my earliest experiences involved a school hall full of 11-14 year olds minus any other teachers. I arrived in the hall several minutes before the pupils to get things ready and ensure I was well prepared. I was met by a couple of burly workmen who were repairing a section of the wooden stage. I asked them if they'd like to take a short break for 15 minutes or so and get themselves a tea or coffee.

"Na mate, we ain't got the time. We've got six other jobs to finish before free O'clock today" Obviously I should have insisted, but I didn't. The two chaps climbed onto the stage, pulled the curtain behind them and got on with things quietly. "At least they've got the sense to do that" I thought to myself. The pupils filed in and after a few minutes I was able to begin the assembly. Everything went smoothly for the first 5 minutes or so until from behind the curtain came the sound of pieces of wood being sawn and then falling to the ground. This continued for 5 or 6 minutes during which time the giggling and chattering from the floor gradually increased. Needless to say the assembly ended rather chaotically and the message to the pupils was completely lost.

**David Golding**



A lovely morning  
Photo: Viv Bourne

## St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Sharon Grenham-Thompson

Tel: 07894 467157

Email: [rectorrattlesden@btinternet.com](mailto:rectorrattlesden@btinternet.com)

Church Warden Annie Tavener:

Tel: 01449 736412 Email: [annie\\_tav@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_tav@hotmail.com)



## March Programme of Services in the Benefice

Sunday 3rd March		
Rattlesden	09:30am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11:00am	All Age Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	09:30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday		
Rattlesden	09:30am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11:00am	Holy Communion
Brettenham	08:00am	BCP Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	09:30am	All Age Holy Communion
Sunday 17th March		
Rattlesden	09:30am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	11:00am	All Age Service
Thorpe Morieux	09:30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday		
Rattlesden	09:30am	Breakfast Church
Rattlesden	10:30am	Quiet Service
Hitcham	11:00am	Holy Communion
Brettenham	08:00am	BCP Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	6:00pm	BCP Evensong

Holy Week		
<b>Thursday 28th March Maunday Thursday</b>		
Thorpe Morieux	7:00pm	Holy Communion followed by watch until midnight
<b>Friday 29th March Good Friday</b>		
Rattlesden	2:00pm	Final Hour Meditation
Hitcham	2:00pm	Final Hour Meditation
Brettenham	7:00pm	Friday Firepit
<b>Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday</b>		
Hitcham	3:00pm	Muddy Church
<b>Sunday 31st March Easter Day</b>		
Rattlesden	09:30am	Holy Communion
Hitcham	06:00am	Benefice Dawn
Hitcham	11:00am	Holy Communion
Brettenham	11:00am	Holy Communion
Thorpe Morieux	09:30am	Holy Communion

## Rector's Reflection

When my children were small, they used to love an Easter egg hunt. Equipped with a basket each, they'd scurry around the garden, (with strict instructions to share!), uncovering the shiny treasures I'd hidden, and whooping with delight at regular intervals.

We had some other traditions too, some of which still play a part in our family Easter. There's the Easter tree – bare branches picked up on a muddy dog walk and stuck into a pot of earth. They stayed bare until after dark on Easter Eve – and then we'd festoon the branches with yellow, green, gold and pink ribbons and tiny decorated eggs. Making spicy Easter biscuits, to remind us of the women with their spices, visiting Jesus' tomb early in the morning of that first Easter. And the Easter garden – a plastic tray filled with soil and small flowering plants, a tomb made from pebbles and a cross fashioned from twigs.

Like the foil-wrapped eggs on our garden hunt, there are so many treasures to be found in the Easter story.

The friends of Jesus, having shared a meal together on Thursday evening, then faced the brutal reality of power and cruelty on Friday. Their master and teacher arrested, tried and dead within 24 hours. They were bewildered and lost on Saturday, waiting, unsure. And then the disbelief turning to puzzlement and finally joy on Sunday, as they grappled with a new reality – their friend, their leader, their inspiration, restored to them. How many whoops of delight did they utter I wonder?!

We know we don't live in a Pollyanna world – too many of us have seen or experienced things that are harsh, unfair, even downright cruel. We've lost friends or loved ones. We've been bewildered and lost, maybe trapped in repeating patterns, fearful of the future and feeling very alone. Sometimes we may feel as if we're waiting and waiting for things to improve, and the winter seems to be never ending. Dry twigs, bare branches, stuck in a pot of mud.

But the story of Easter urges us to keep looking. Keep hunting for the glimpse of colour and light in the long grass or in the shadows. Keep looking for dawn on the horizon. Keep an eye out for the bursting buds, be alert for that lovely scent on the breeze. Easter promises us that even the worst the world can do is not the end of the story. There is always hope to be found, often in ways we can't begin to imagine. Life and love, new possibility, a new beginning – just make sure you share!

Happy Easter.

**Reverend Sharon Grenham-Thompson**





## An evening with Charlie Haylock



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

**Saturday 23rd March**  
**Brettenham Village Hall**  
**7pm for 7.30pm start**

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

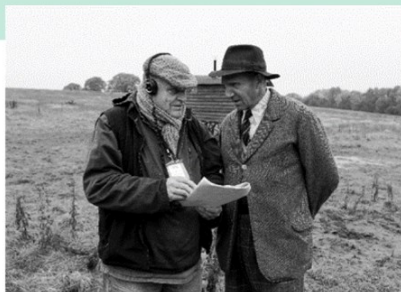


Photo: Larry Horricks, Netflix 2021

Tickets: £20  
01449 736412  
annie\_tav@hotmail.com

# An Auction of Promises

**Closes 8pm Thursday 29th February**

Our amazing auction of promises has almost finished!  
We have a huge selection of promises and you are free to bid until the very last day of February!

The Auction is being held online at  
**<https://auctionofpromises.com/RaiseTheRoof>**  
(or by using the QR code)

To bid on a promise you will need to create an account.  
The instructions on how to do this are available on our Village website.

If you would like any help please email  
**[promise@brettenham.org](mailto:promise@brettenham.org)** it really is very straightforward.

Further details are on the village website **[brettenham.onesuffolk.net](http://brettenham.onesuffolk.net)**



## Raise the Roof

Thank you for your continued support for this project. The immensely successful charity quiz raised over £1000, thanks so much for supporting the evening. Our Auction of Promises finishes on the 29th February and looks to have raised a substantial sum. Congratulations to all the successful bidders and thank you so much to all the kind donors of the promises. Earlier in the month we enjoyed the Brettenham Big Book Sale, which raised a remarkable £460.50. Current figures have our total so far at **£36,500 towards the target of over £200,000**. March events include the Village Inn on the 1st, the screening of The Dig on the 16th and the Charlie Haylock evening on 23rd March.

**Lynne Golding**

Ominous sky

Photo: Rachael Coomber



**Village Inn**

**Sunday 17th March**

**Bar is open from 12.30pm**

**Drinks only**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Come along for a relaxed chat with friends, neighbours and family. Potatoes for the potato competition will also be on sale from 12.30pm**

## Nature Notes

It has been very mild so far this February and I have noticed a significant change in the behaviour of some of our bird species. The skylarks have been singing loudly as they gain height almost vertically from the ground in the field behind the old chapel. They are unusual in that they sing while in flight. At this time of year it tends to be the males that rise to great heights, singing loudly in the hope of attracting a mate. Since the new year I have made a conscious effort to record the birds I have seen in, and flying above, our garden. On most days I have seen between 10 and 13 different species of birds.



Skylark

To my surprise the one that has caught my attention the most has been the Robins. Their red breasts are really bright this time of year and on several occasions I have seen 3 or 4 in close proximity to one another. At this time of year they are fiercely territorial and they are not afraid to fly straight at other robins in an effort to stake their claim for their own territory. Once they have claimed their own territory they sing for long periods to tell other robins to keep away. Like most species of small birds, Robins are very susceptible to cold winters, when they can rapidly lose a lot of body weight and succumb to the freezing temperatures. Our mild winter so far is one reason why I have had several robins in my garden at the same time. If you want to attract or keep Robins in your garden put out mealworms for them. They love them. Just as a side note. How many Christmas cards did you receive with a Robin on the cover? Four or five maybe. This tradition goes back to the Victorian era when sending Christmas cards became a popular thing to do. During that time the posties wore red coats and were nicknamed Robins.

**David Golding**



Robin



A Victorian Robin...

## Stowmarket Chorale perform

Sea Pictures by Edward Elgar and Love's  
Philosophy by Alexander L'Estrange at the John  
Peel Centre, Stowmarket

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm

Contact [Adrienne\\_Marriott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Adrienne_Marriott@yahoo.co.uk)

## Pilates Tuesdays 6pm—7pm in the village hall

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

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

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

For more information, contact Leonie on 07866897651



## 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](mailto:chairbva@gmail.com)



BrushStroke  
FESTIVAL OF ART

## ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 9th March - Saturday 16th March 2024

10am-4pm daily (closed Monday 11th March)

Sudbury Arts Centre, Sudbury (Formerly St Peter's Church)



Guest speaker followed by lunch

10:30am, Monday 11th March

Lucinda Hawksley: Author, Art Historian,  
Biographer and Broadcaster

Tickets £35. For information please email:  
[sas.brushstroke@gmail.com](mailto:sas.brushstroke@gmail.com)



Geoffrey and I will be on duty on Wednesday 13th and Friday 15th  
March from 10-1pm and would love to see anyone from Brettenham.

Viv Bourne





**For Easter**

***Wandering and Wondering***

Family friendly outdoor fun and FREE!

*join us*

at Hitcham Parish Church IP7 7NR on

**Saturday 30th March at 3pm**

to Wander around our church yard and  
Wonder at the Easter Story in a new way.

followed by

**Easter Tea**

Hot Cross Buns, cakes, tea, coffee or  
squash and of course, something  
chocolatey!!!

Parking is available

Please come in outdoor clothing and shoes

**This is not a "Church Service"**

**Dogs are very welcome**

## Brettenham Gardening Club

### Potato in a Bucket Competition

Potatoes will be on sale at the village inn on Sunday 17th March from 12.30 onwards. Potatoes cost £1 each and all monies collected will help buy the prizes given out throughout the year for various fun gardening activities and seeds and compost for the planting workshop on Saturday 6th April ( more details next month) Save the date!!!

If you cant make it to collect your potato on Sunday 17th March please email [brettenhamgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:brettenhamgardeningclub@gmail.com) let me know how many potatoes you need and I'll save some for you. Your potatoes should be planted in a builders sized bucket. (No bigger) You will need to then bring it along to the summer fayre in June for the potatoes to be weighed. Good luck everyone!!!!

### Open Gardens 6<sup>th</sup> July

Jane McDonald and myself are in the process of organising Brettenham Open Gardens. This is to raise money for the church "Raise the Roof" If you would like to take part by opening up your garden to visitors, please get in touch with either Jane or myself and we can give you more details. If you feel you can help by selling plants on the day. Making cakes or serving drinks please let me know.

**Michelle Harvey**



Village Hall Hire Rates	Residents	Non-residents	Commercial
All events	£8.50/hr	£12.50/hr	£15/hr
Community organisations: Parish Council, PCC, Gardening Club No charge			

## Recipe - Roasted Vegetable Lasagne

This is a vegetarian lasagne with a smoky Mediterranean flavor. It freezes well and can be made in advance, so perfect for family occasions.

**Ingredients:** For the vegetable mixture -

**2 large packs (at least 500g) of cherry tomatoes**, de-skinned if possible

**1 Aubergine & 3 courgettes** (covered with salt, weighed down in a colander for 1 hour, rinsed and then patted dry)

**1 red and 1 yellow pepper**, deseeded and cut into quite large chunks

**1 to 2 red onions**, peeled and cut into rough chunks

**3-4 cloves garlic**, chopped

**Also-**

Bunch **Basil** leaves, 75g (3oz) pitted **black olives**, 1 heaped tablespoon **capers**, drained, 150g (6oz) **Mozarella cheese** -grated, 100g **Parmesan**, -grated, approx 12 **Lasagne sheets**, **bay leaf**, **nutmeg**, 3-4 tbsps **olive or rapeseed oil**, **salt and pepper**

Place the vegetables, and some of the basil in a baking tray, then drizzle olive or rapeseed oil over and toss. Season and then roast high on gas mark 9 (240 C) until the edges of the rough cut vegetables are toasted brown, which is 35-40 mins. When the mix has cooked, add sliced black olives, the capers and more torn basil.

Meanwhile make up about approx. 750ml ( 1 and a half pints) of white sauce cooked with a bay leaf and nutmeg for flavour and add grated parmesan cheese (about 5 tablespoons) to turn it into a cheese sauce. Layer a standard lasagne tin with the cheese sauce then the roasted vegetable mixture, mozzarella and lasagne sheets, in that order. Do this again, finishing with a layer of sauce then grate parmesan cheese on top. Bake for approximately 30 mins at the lower temperature of gas mark 4 (180 C) until the top is golden. Serves 4-6

**Lynne Golding**



## Rambling with Gus from Hitcham to Wattisham and back

This is a circular walk that starts and finishes near Hitcham Church.

**Distance 3.30 miles. Time approx. 1 hour 15 minutes.**

Park by the triangular green at the entrance to the church. On foot, go through the church gates then cut right across the church yard to take the lane coming in from the right.

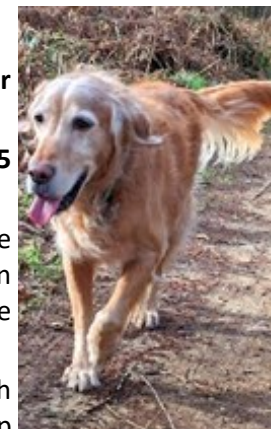
At the end of the lane turn left onto Fen Road which has a gentle incline. It is a dead-end road. At the top

of Fen Road, where the road bends sharply to the right take the foot path to the right of Gypsy Hall. There is a signpost for Clay Hill Lane. You need to cross the stream after which it is important to keep the hedge on your right.

After approx. ½ mile, the footpath becomes a farm track and then a road with a few houses. Eventually, at a T junction, it meets the road which goes from Bildeston to Wattisham. There are a couple of houses at the junction and the Wattisham Stone. Legend has it that the stone turns around on the spot when the chimes can be heard from the clock tower in Bildeston market place – disappointingly this did not happen when I was passing.

Turn left onto the Bildeston to Wattisham road. Walk as far as Baytree Farm on your right then take the footpath on your left. The sign was in the ditch when I walked it so keep your eyes peeled. The path now follows the boundary of Devil's Wood. A local I met on the walk told me that the wood got its name as it was a burial site during one of the plagues centuries ago. The woods are now used for raising game birds so dogs need to be kept under close control.

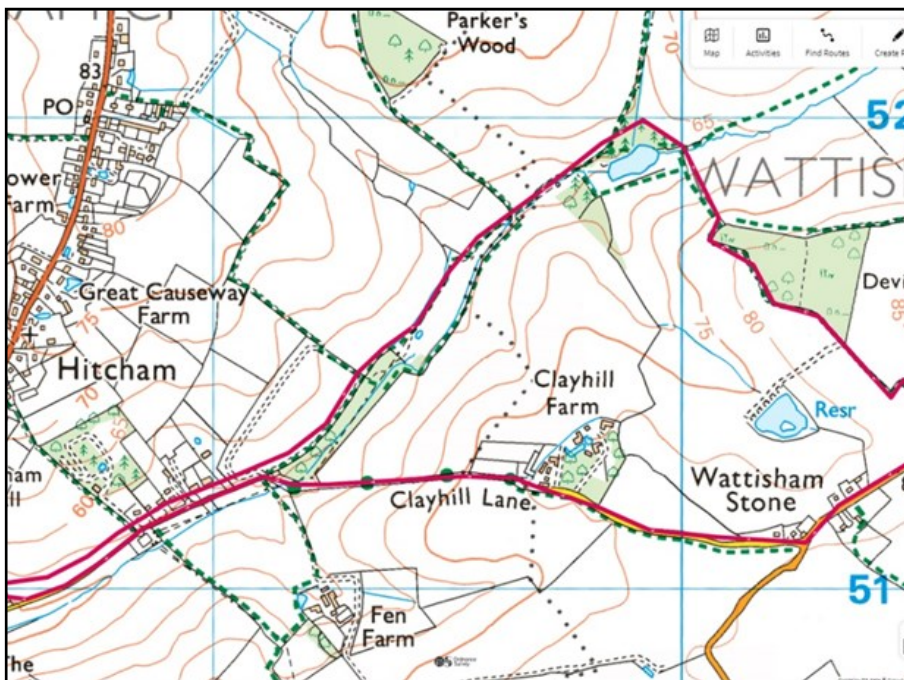
Follow the footpath down to a bridge across the stream then take the path to the left and skirt around the lake. Continue on this path until you come to a meadow that is fenced in. DO NOT go into the meadow as I did, instead at the gate turn right and keep the fence on your left as you follow the fence around the edge of the field onto a well-defined path with a stream on your right. Now follow this path all the way along the field edge back to



Gypsy Hall where you regain Fen Road to return to the Church. The church is certainly worth a look. Indirectly, it has historical connections with Charles Darwin. You will have to call in to find out more...

There are no pubs in Hitcham but the Post Office does serve tea and coffee and has a selection of freshly made cakes. But if it is a pint you're looking for, The Crown at Bildeston is close by.

**Carrie Dye**



You can find this walk at [explore.osmaps.com](https://explore.osmaps.com).

It is listed as Rambling with Gus from Hitcham to Wattisham and back.

### Citizens Advice—Sudbury Branch

This month the Sudbury CA give advice about damp and mould in rented properties and what rights you have as a tenant. The article is printed in full on the village website: [www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net)

## Write on....

Having had rather a lot of rain recently, the second verse of this poem is all too familiar a scene! I do hope we will have more of the weather in the first verse for March.

**Carrie Dye**

### Weathers by Robert Hardy

This is the weather the cuckoo likes,  
And so do I;  
When showers betumble the chestnut spikes,  
And nestlings fly;  
And the little brown nightingale bills his best,  
And they sit outside at 'The Traveller's Rest,'  
And maids come forth sprig-muslin drest,  
And citizens dream of the south and west,  
And so do I.

This is the weather the shepherd shuns,  
And so do I;  
When beeches drip in browns and duns,  
And thresh and ply;  
And hill-hid tides throb, throe on throe,  
And meadow rivulets overflow,  
And drops on gate bars hang in a row,  
And rooks in families homeward go,  
And so do I.

Please send your suggestions for the page, Write On..., to [brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com)

Please remember, there will  
be no mobile library in  
March.





James Cartlidge MP & Sudbury Chamber of Commerce

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