

BRETtenham MAGAZINE

**NOVEMBER 2023
No 430**



Welcome...

Absolutely something for everyone this month but you will need to your 2024 calendar at the ready. Details on page 15 of several events to support the 'Raise the Roof' campaign. We also have our first film night to look forward to on 17th November. As the nights close in meeting up for company and a chat becomes more important and there are plenty of opportunities within the pages of this month's magazine. As always we are very grateful for your contributions, news, photos, jokes and anything else of relevance, so please keep them coming to: brettenhammagazine@outlook.com. The Editorial Team

Front cover photo: Michelle Harvey



Photo by Carrie Dye

Little Ernie Winners October

- 1st Lana Neffe
- 2nd Patrick Murphy
- 3rd Julie Allard

Dates For Your Diary

- Friday 3rd November— Village Inn 7.30pm
- Monday 6th November—Gardening club meeting 7.30pm
- Tuesday 7th November—Coffee morning 10.30-12.00
- Thursday 9th November—Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- Friday 17th November—Mobile Library (see info opposite)
- Friday 17th November—Brettenham Film Night 7.00pm
- Sunday 19th November - Sunday Village Inn
- Friday 1st December—Village Inn 7.30pm
- Sunday 24th December—Christmas Eve pre carol service drinks
- Sunday 31st December—New Years Eve party featuring Funkshed!
- Saturday 27th January—Charity Village Quiz

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 Michelle Brown
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
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



Mobile Library

Stops at the village Hall
12.45-13.05
Church 15.20-15.35
Friday every 4 weeks
Next visit- 17.11.23

December Mag Deadline:

15th November

*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...

Thank you for those who attended the last meeting on 21st September
Also thank you to our District and County Councillors Deborah Saw and
Robert Lindsay who gave informative reports. If you wish to have a copy
of these please contact Della, our Parish Clerk, details below.

Among items raised in the public forum was the matter of road closures,
particularly poor signage and tardy removal of such, causing unnecessary
inconvenience once the actual works were complete. It is worth
reporting specific issues on the online tool on the council website
(babergh.gov.uk) but please let us know where there are current issues
so that we can chase these up where possible.

Neighbourhood Plan- your photographs please! I have appealed for
these in the past, to assist in adding to the draft of our Neighbourhood
Plan. After much discussion and deliberation this is now going forward
to the Parish Council to seek approval to move to the first stage of
consultation, so photographs of treasured views, buildings etc will be
much appreciated. Any photos can be sent directly
to BrettenhamNP@outlook.com

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.

Next Parish Council Meeting is Thursday 7th November.

Alyson Wilson, Chair 07798 633044

Parish Clerk Brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Village Inn

Friday 3rd November

The bar is open from 7.30pm

Food organised by Meat and Greet

Thank you for your kind donations for a local food bank from the Harvest festival service.



Food Bank Update

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 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 Tel: 01449 257136

Please don't forget to 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.

BVA Update

You join me in the last throes of a dank Thursday afternoon after a continuous downpour, bookended by complete deluges, comes to a miserable end. How welcome was that rain!?. This presented me with a perfect opportunity to highlight some BVA developments and a chance to promote some vacant positions which will soon appear within the BVA Exec Team. More on those later.

Staying Connected Firstly, following the BVA meeting held on 2nd October, it was decided that we would look to adopt a quicker and more secure form of comms within our community. Particularly, one which provides instant messaging whether on your smartphone, tablet or laptop.

After musing over various available platforms it became apparent that WhatsApp remains the preferred and obvious choice. Whilst I appreciate that there are many within our community that prefer to utilise other platforms, such as FaceBook or staying connected via email, it is not intended to replace these forms of communication, which will continue, but enhance these already established links with an additional form of messaging. I would add at this stage - email messages from within our community, which are not BVA related (i.e. from clubs, social networks or sales & wants) will no longer be promulgated from my email address.

If you would like to share information, remain connected to all village functions and initiatives or would merely prefer instant emergency/priority notices then please contact me directly and I'll add you to the Brettenham Community WhatsApp group. It's that simple. By the time you read this it's anticipated that the number of group participants will be in excess of 50.

Village Hall Repairs Highlighted and illustrated at the meeting was an opportunity to reconfigure the end of the hall and create additional space for a cleaners store room while future proofing the outside from further damage by repositioning the old pier which supported the gates to OBH. Since the meeting the rebuild team have realised that extending the end room for a purported £8k did not offer value for money and have therefore proposed a simpler re-configuration of the existing footprint without an extension. Over to Gary Roberts (Trustee) for an update regarding the recovery of the funds and options for change....

Previous collision damage has always been dealt with in a timely manner due to Brettenham having many resident builders covering most trades.

The fact that the previous damage repair costs were less than the haulier's insurance excess and an increase in their future premiums, was a real incentive for them to settle early without involving their insurance company. This is how it was handled in all earlier collisions.

Unfortunately this time the collision was more than a glancing blow. In the driver's urgency to extricate himself and the lorry, he managed to destroy the brick pier with coping and ball finial, crack open and dislodge the rear corner and back wall section together with the roof copings. Due to the potential high costs of the repairs, the only option for the haulier was to claim through their insurance.

The claim process is slow and after 14 weeks of meetings with the structural engineer, 3 building contractors and many phone calls, the insurance company has finally agreed to cover the repair costs.

After five vehicle collisions with the porch pier it is clear that driving skills are not improving and the best way to avoid future possible damage is to relocate the pier with coping and ball finial to the rear corner of the porch in line with main porch wall, which will increase the available farm access width by 60cm/2feet.

While we have this reconstruction opportunity we have looked at ways of incorporating a storage cupboard, reconfiguring the existing porch interior space by rehanging the double fire exit doors from the main hall creating a storage cupboard and a more streamlined fire exit route through the porch to the external arched main door.

Once completed we will have a porch that will have a greater chance of avoiding large lorries, a much needed storage area and a more streamlined fire exit from the main hall. Thank you for the update Gary

BVA Exec Team Vacancies By the end of this term (Apr 24) there will be several vacancies within the BVA Exec Team which will require filling. For those who attended or have read the minutes from the 24th October meeting, it was announced that key personnel will not be standing for re-election, namely the Chair, Booking Clerk and Caretaker. From a personal and Chair perspective, I feel it essential to keep the position Chair fresh and energised while ensuring that all facets to the BVA remain relevant, hence the reason why I intend to stand down after completing 2 turns of the handle. Handing over to a new incumbent after a 2 year tenure is the right way to meet this philosophy.

We now have 6 months notice to find replacements for these positions, so if you would like to take your turn in helping to shape the BVA for the future, whether you would consider to take on the role of Booking Clerk, Chair or indeed a caretaker, then please contact me directly and I'll be able to offer you more details on these worthwhile and rewarding positions.

Friday Village Inn Exciting news! Not only have we secured Meat & Greet for this month's Friday Village Inn, I can now confirm that we'll also have chefs in the kitchen for the first 6 months of '24! This is significant. Not only will these months give us a nod back to those pre-pandemic Village Inn evenings, three of them will also help contribute to the repairs of the church roof with their proceeds assisting with the #raisetherooft strategy. What an uplifting point to finish on.

Ozzie

Brettenham Coffee Morning

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

Tuesday 7th November from 10.30 till 12.00.

Hope to see you there!

Val and Michelle

For more info contact:

Val 07711 562520 or

Michelle 07535 814939



Bigger Ernie

It will soon be time to renew Bigger Ernie subscriptions for 2024 (and its never too early!) or join for the first time. For the benefit of any "newbies", Bigger Ernie is our village lottery - the cost is a meagre £12 per year per ticket, and you can purchase as many tickets as you like. There are monthly draws with first, second and third prizes - the amounts depend on the number of tickets purchased but in previous years monthly prizes have been £30, £15 and £10, plus the occasional bonus draws, normally in June and December.

50% of the funds raised are allocated to prizes and 50% contributes to BVA funds, this 50% forms a vital part of helping to maintain the village hall and contribute towards BVA activities and events. The draws are made at the monthly Friday Village Inn, with results being published in the monthly magazine.

There are now 3 different ways to renew or purchase your ticket/s, I will start with the easiest option:

Electronic payment – make it payable to 'Brettenham Village Association', bank account number 49882120 and sort code 52-30-31. Once you have made the payment, please email biggerernie@outlook.com stating the bank transfer date, amount and ticket holder names – *I have previously quoted the standard BVA account so please make you do transfer your money into the above account specific to the Bigger Ernie please.*

1. **Cheque** – if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass your cheque to them along with the ticket holder names or place your cheque along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street. Cheques should be made payable to 'Brettenham Village Association'

2. **Cash** – as above if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass the cash along with the ticket holder names or place the cash along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street

On behalf of the BVA, thanks in advance for your continued support.

Emily Woods

Village Inn Sunday 19th November

The bar is open from 12.30pm.

Drinks only. Come along for a relaxed chat with friends, neighbours and family.

St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Sharon Grenham-Thompson

Tel: 07894 467157

Email: rectorrattlesden@btinternet.com

Church Warden Annie Tavener:

Tel: 01449 736412 Email: annie_tav@hotmail.com.



November Programme of Services in the Benefice

5th	4th Sunday before Advent		
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Breakfast Church
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11.00am	Morning Prayer
	Brettenham	11.15am	All Age service
11th	Remembrance Day		
	Rattlesden War Memorial	10.45am	Short act of Remembrance
12th	Remembrance Sunday		
	Rattlesden	10.30am	Remembrance Service
	Thorpe Morieux	10.50am	Remembrance Service
	Brettenham	08.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Brettenham	10.45am	Remembrance Service
	Hitcham	10.50am	Remembrance Service
19th	Christ the King		
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Hitcham	11.00am	All Age Service
26th	Sunday before Advent		
	Brettenham	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	11.00am	Quiet Service
	Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	6.30pm	BCP Evensong

Rector's Reflection for Remembrance

A few years ago, there was an ad on TV for baby milk. The ad featured little ones playing games, the way kids do - maybe playing with a wooden railway, taking their teddy's temperature, or dancing in their bedroom. But then you see them as grown-ups, driving a train, walking the hospital corridors, or performing on stage. The ad suggested that the milk helped them to grow up into whatever they imagined they could be.

Well, that's baloney of course, but I like the idea of being able to catch a glimpse of the future when you look at a little child's preferences and games. And we know the psychology that says the experiences you have as a child influence the kind of person you grow up to be.

This month we mark Remembrance Day, recalling all those people who have lost their lives fighting in war and conflict. Not just soldiers in the First World War trenches, but those in the Second World War too, and those who've fought and died across the world since. Each and every one of them - some remembered by name, some unknown - grew from a little child; a child who played games and imagined the future, and who carried the spark of God's creativity within them. Some of them will have imagined being a soldier, or a medic or whatever, but I should think very few of them could ever have imagined what the reality of battle would be like - the noise, the adrenaline, and eventually the shock and pain of injury or death.

War is a terrible thing, and of course there were many who felt powerless and reluctant and afraid. There's no real glory in violent death, as Siegfried Sassoon and others made clear in their poetry. We may disagree with choices made, or reasons for fighting. But whatever the politics involved, however profound the mistakes, however doubtful the decisions of leaders, those who fought were ready to be called upon, and they gave it their all, even if it meant giving up everything they imagined or hoped for - even life itself.

We know that poppies are the symbol of Remembrance. They are incredible little flowers. Their seeds are very tiny. When they fall to the ground they sit there, sometimes lying dormant for years and years. For a long time, they may appear to be dead, but those tiny seeds are just waiting, until the time comes for them to spring into vibrant life. And then they seize the moment, they sprout and grow and reach their full height and glory.

What a wonderful symbol of the possibilities given to us by the sacrifice of others. Their bodies may be gone, but the legacy of those who have fought and died lies within each of us. Lives laid down have made it possible for us to fulfil our life's calling. The fallen call out to us to fight for love and peace and a better world. And the greatest sacrifice of all, the Son of God, risen from the dead, promises us, and all who have gone before, a new hope and a new dawn.

Reverend Sharon Grenham-Thompson

Gardening Club

The next meeting will take place in the village Hall at 7.30pm on **Monday 6th November**. All gardening club members are welcome and also non members that are considering joining the group. It would be lovely to have some new members. We meet twice a year to discuss events and activities that people of Brettenham village would like to take part in.

We are a small very friendly group of gardeners of all abilities (some have loads of knowledge, others just a little, some none at all but are interested in learning)

If you would like more information regarding the gardening club email brettenhamgardeningclub@gmail.com

Michelle Harvey

Pictures of Michelle's autumn garden



Bonfire Night Toad in the Hole

Ingredients

For the Batter

140g of Plain flour
4 eggs
200ml milk
Teaspoon of mustard
Teaspoon of salt
2 teaspoons of dried mixed herbs
Olive oil for cooking

You will need 6 good quality sausages

Gravy

2 small red onions,
1 glove garlic
Seasoning of choice
Boiling water
Corn flour to thicken

- Mix all the batter ingredients together and whisk until you have a smooth consistency and the mixture is completely lump free.
- Heat the oven to 220 C
- Place the sausages and olive oil into a large baking tray and heat in the oven until the oil is sizzling hot. Remove the tray from the oven and add the batter mixture evenly over the base of the baking tray, ensuring you return the tray to the oven whilst the oil is still sizzling.
- The oven door should not be opened until you are sure the mixture has risen. This will take approx. 25-30 mins or until the pudding mixture is golden brown.

For the gravy. Chop the onions and garlic finely and fry until soft add water and bring to the boil. Add seasoning or stock cube and cornflour to thicken.

Serve with mashed potatoes and vegetables of your choice.

Michelle Harvey



An Auction of Promises



Coming February 2024

Our fantastic auction of promises is back! All funds raised will go to the Raise the Roof campaign.

To make a start on the auction we need to have a range of items or services people are willing to donate. These can be anything you would be willing to offer and could range from: cooking a meal, baking a cake, gardening, a hand car wash, piano lessons, baby-sitting, dog-walking, a ride in a vintage car, a weekend in a cottage.

More details to follow but please have a think about what you could offer.



Raise the Roof Fundraising Group

In November Brettenham residents will receive a personalised letter from the fundraising group. Please keep a look out for it, and if you are in a position to respond positively, you can make your contribution to the future of the church.

We are in a situation where urgent fundraising is needed for repairs to the roof, but are pleased to announce that we have already made a good start with **£8000** in the account so far from donations and activities this year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising efforts so far. We hope you will continue to do so.

The fundraising group for St Mary's Church roof are planning events in the coming months, some of which are listed below.

In the meantime if anyone would like to make a donation please feel free to contribute via the justgiving page.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/raise-the-roof-19>

Please support however you can and save the dates!

November		Letters to residents and friends
December	TBC	Christmas Fayre with Christmas Tree Festival
January	TBC	Talk on Faberge
	27th	Brettenham Charity Quiz
February	2nd	Village Inn
		Auction of promises
March	1st	Village Inn
	16th	Haylock and 'The Dig'
	23rd	Talk by Charlie Haylock
April	5th	Village Inn
May	TBC	Christopher Garibaldi presents 'Alfred Munnings'
June	29th	Village Summer Fete (some stalls for RTR)
July	6th	Brettenham Open Gardens

Nature Notes

Grey squirrels are a common sight in our woods and gardens. They have been particularly active in the last month or so gathering nuts, seeds and berries and storing them in the ground for later in the winter. They are native to North America where they play an important role regenerating



native forests. In Europe, on the other hand, they have been on the list of "Invasive Alien species of Union concern." This means they cannot be imported, bred, transported, commercialised or intentionally released into the environment across the whole of Europe. They have been on this list since 2016.

In the UK they have displaced the native red squirrel across huge areas of England and large parts of Wales and the lowlands of Scotland. They were introduced by the Victorians in the 19th century and the first established wild population was seen in 1876. It is estimated that their current population numbers around 2.7 million and rising. They are a serious threat to the native red squirrel, competing with them for food and infecting them with a virus called squirrelpox. They are immune to it themselves, but can pass it on to the red squirrel. Consequently the two cannot successfully live together. In places, they are culled to protect the red squirrel and more recently trials have begun to feed them contraceptives to prevent them from breeding.

Red squirrels have lived in the UK for around 10,000 years and number around 287,000 so are seriously outnumbered by the greys. They still have a stronghold in Anglesey, parts of northern England and Scotland, the Scilly Isles and Isle of Wight. They are smaller than the grey squirrel, 300g compared to about 540g and have large tufts on their ears that the grey squirrel doesn't have. Both squirrels nest in dreys high up in the trees, lined with moss, leaves and other soft materials. One interesting fact (I thought it was anyway); Red squirrels have a body length less than 25cms, but can jump more than 2 metres.



David Golding

Ride and Stride Champion

Are you a keen cyclist or willing to become one? We are looking for a village champion to take on the historic churches ride and stride event in 2024 on behalf of the 'Raise the Roof' campaign.

As you will be aware we are in need of a new roof which will cost an enormous amount, so would love to select a champion rider to be sponsored on behalf of the village next September. If you're willing to ride, we're willing to muster sponsors!

If you're interested please phone : **Annie Tavener 01449 736412**

Pilates Tuesdays 6pm in the village hall



Pilates tones and strengthens the whole body improving posture and wellbeing. This is a friendly group with an experienced teacher. It is suitable for all levels of fitness (unless pregnant or injured).

The class takes place every Tuesday 6pm—7pm.

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



Farming Focus

As I write this I think we've just had a week of the hottest October weather I can ever remember! It has been the perfect opportunity to get on with the autumn drilling and, with rain in the forecast, conditions look ideal for good establishment of the winter cereals.

Before drilling, most of the fields will have at least one pass with a harrow to create a fine tilth and level any bumps or hollows. This should also pull out some of the weeds which have grown over the last few weeks since the primary cultivations we did in September. If you've been walking down Dux Street or Lower Road, you may have noticed the large numbers of beans which have grown since harvest. These are beans which either shelled out before the combine got in the field or which were lost as they went into the combine header, as it was very dry when combining. They have grown particularly vigorously this year because there is so much moisture in the soil. A lot will have been pulled out by the harrows and drill tines and hopefully most of what's left will be killed by the frost over winter before they start to compete with the growing wheat.

The land which was ploughed and pressed early on in September has broken down very well and we have had some good seedbeds. I chose not to try any direct drilling this year as the combine and harvest trailers had done a bit of surface damage in places, which I wanted to remove with cultivations, and I was also worried about how much compaction the heavy drill would cause on the headlands which are quite wet in places after all the rain we've had. I did however manage to avoid ploughing any of the bean fields which has saved a lot of time and diesel.

I have a couple of fields which have patches of blackgrass which is now starting to grow, so they will be sprayed off with glyphosate before hopefully drilling towards the end of October, which should then leave a clean crop and eliminate the need for further herbicides in the spring. Glyphosate has been getting a lot of bad press in recent years with suggestions that it is probably carcinogenic. Residues have been found in a number of cereal based foods as a result of some farmers who use it as a pre-harvest desiccant both here and abroad. To my mind, there is a huge difference between using it as a weedkiller on a seedbed prior to drilling compared to using it as a crop desiccant to make harvest easier. I would happily see the pre-harvest use on cereals restricted as long as we

were allowed to continue to use it as a weedkiller, as I honestly don't think it would be possible to make conventional farming stack up financially without it. Interestingly, according to the IARC classification, alcohol, smoking and processed meat are all higher cancer risks than glyphosate but people don't seem to be so active in calling for these products to be banned!

Ideally, most of the fields will be rolled after the seed has been drilled. This consolidates the seedbed, improving the contact between the seed and the soil, as well as leaving a finer and more even finish which improves the efficacy of the herbicides. It is also a key method of controlling slugs, which can otherwise completely destroy the crop as it emerges. I have had a one or two slug disasters in recent years, particularly on the big field opposite our farm gate which has some areas of very heavy land. Whatever happens on the rest of the farm, I'll consider it a personal triumph if I get a decent crop on this one field!

The challenge now is to get the pre-emergence herbicide spray done without making a mess as the ground conditions start to turn wet. There's nothing more frustrating when you've put in a lot of work to do a tidy job of establishing the autumn crops than leaving ruts and messy tramlines behind the sprayer which you then have to look at and work around for the rest of the year!

Tom Taverer

Stained glass at harvest
Carrie Dye



I love science me, which is why I love brewing, and whether the outcomes are expected or not, I always learn from the process. For this year's science experiment, I thought it interesting to see if it was possible to germinate/torrefy raw Brett grown barley & wheat to produce the three malt types that make up the grain bill of our very own Brett Brew.

A range of malts are used by brewers in varying quantities, to create a wort suitable for the style of beer required. Base malts form the largest quantity of the total grain bill (85% or so) and are kilned at low temperatures to avoid adding strong roast flavours. These base malts are complimented by longer roasted malts, at a higher temperature, that enhance a beer's flavour, colour and body. As the Brett Brew is going to be a bitter, the recipe I have written requires a spring barley pale ale base malt (84.2%) to produce the alcohol content, a light crystal malt (8.4%) for its flavour and colour content, and torrefied wheat (7.4%) whose proteins help to add body and retain the fluffy foam head atop the brew.

To achieve this aim, I found a fellow protagonist - Mr Peter Truin, who had grown some high-quality malting grade RGT Planet Spring Barley, the perfect ingredient for our malts. Having never malted before, we researched the process and produced a 15-point plan, which gave me a quiet confidence that we could successfully complete our experiment.

The process started with washing the barley, then weighing the kernels, steeping for 8 hours, removing the water, then dry air resting for 8 hours, and then re-steeping in water for 8 hours to enable the grain to absorb at least 42% water moisture by weight – which we actually achieved first try! Following this, we allowed the barley to germinate in moist conditions, turning it three times a day to avoid root entanglement and to allow all grains to germinate at the same pace (the kernels at the base were moisture rich compared with those at the top and germinated at a faster rate). Germination is complete when the shoot grows to the same length as the kernel (our barley took 3 days), I chewed on a grain to make sure it was crumbly and not hard inside, which meant it was ready. At this stage, the barley is fully modified and is known as 'green malt'.

After producing the green malt, germination must be arrested to keep the starch in the kernel rather than let it move up through the shoot; to this end, a kiln (in our case a fan oven) is used. During kilning, the starch degrades into maltose, a sugar that is later eaten by yeast, producing the alcohol content (and other byproducts including CO², that have caused many an explosion within homebrewing households!). For the pale ale base malt, Peter and I completely dried the green malt in our fan ovens and then roasted it for 4 hours at 80-85°C, which gave off wonderful aromas ranging from freshly cut grass to freshly baked bread.

Instead of being dried before malting, the green malt used to make light crystal (for flavour and aroma) is put straight in the oven under a towel at 70°C allowing the kernels to steam before being roasted at 120°C. This process produces a darker/redder malt with wonderful caramel/treacle aromas, which should give a lovely chestnut-red hue to the bitter and provide sweet caramel flavours to help balance the bitterness of the hop addition. The wheat (also grown by Peter) was dried at 30°C in the oven, then lightly roasted (torrefied) for 10 minutes at 180°C, which filled the house with popcorn aromas. All grains were then allowed to cool before being crushed in the grain mill, producing a finished product.

I must say that this was a thoroughly enjoyable and ultimately successful experiment - albeit time intensive. Peter and I learnt a lot about the malting process, including how we can improve our methods and scale-up the operation to produce enough malt for one year's brewing.

Tim Schofield



Fellow protagonist washing, germinating, kilning and malt milling

Write on....

At the British War Cemetery, Bayeaux, by Charles Causley

I walked where in their talking graves
And shirts of earth five thousand lay,
When history with ten feasts of fire
Had eaten the red air away.

"I am Christ's boy," I cried. "I bear
In iron hands the bread, the fishes.
I hang with honey and with rose
This tidy wreck of all your wishes.

"On your geometry of sleep
The chestnut and the fir-tree fly,
And lavender and marguerite
Forge with their flowers an English sky.

"Turn now towards the belling town
Your jigsaws of impossible bone,
And rising read your rank of snow
Accurate as death upon the stone."

About your easy heads my prayers
I said with syllables of clay.
"What gift," I asked, "shall I bring now
Before I weep and walk away?"

Take, they replied, the oak and laurel.
Take our fortune of tears and live
Like a spendthrift lover. All we ask
Is the one gift you cannot give.

I did not know this poem until I went to see the newly released film, *The Great Escaper*, starring Glenda Jackson and Michael Caine. The poem is briefly referred to in the film but to such affect that I looked it up when I got home and thought it would be apt for this edition of the magazine as

we remember all those lost and affected by war on Remembrance Day. The film was inspired by a true story that made the national news in 2014 when a WWII veteran, Bernard Jordan, absconded from his care home in Sussex to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. The film is well worth seeing with excellent performances by the two leads and great depth and sensitivity in the treatment of the story line.

Carrie Dye

If you have suggestions for the Write on page, please let us know by emailing us at brettenhammagazine@gmail.com



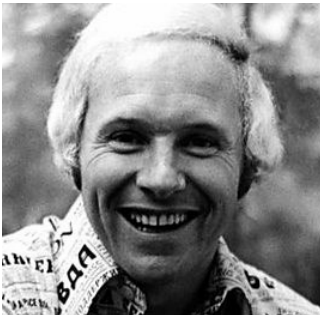
Poppies on the Somme, photo by Carrie Dye

Village Hall Hire Rates

	Residents	Non-residents	Commercial
All events	£8.50	£12.50	£15
Community organisations: Parish Council, PCC, Gardening Club	No charge		

A Rural Education Part 14

During the time I attended Thurston Upper School Goldsmiths Coaches of Sicklesmere were the provider of transport. They were quite a small company and were owned by Alan Brewster, he would always be smoking a cigar when he was driving. Often the coach would not be on time or another company was hired to provide the service. Some of the buses were quite old and had seen better days although there were some newer Bedford Duple buses. One of the things I recall is that the radio was on and it would be “Diddy” David Hamilton broadcasting. This DJ is still broadcasting at aged 84years. In order to keep students safe there was a system to keep the numbers low when moving near the buses in the school bus park. At the end of the school day there would be up to twenty coaches arriving and they would park in designated bays. The tannoy system broadcast in each classroom and was used to call the students for each bus. This seems to be quite a logical system; there were problems however in that Mr Siffleet (from Beyton School) was designated to manage this system. He had a roving microphone and would announce which students should make their way out to the bus. Unfortunately his messages were often unheard as he would be surrounded by pupils shouting into the microphone and some would manage to take it from him in order to broadcast their own message. This would result in the Headmaster or Mr Williams the Senior Master taking control of the situation. Although the system was designed to minimise the number of pupils near the buses one of the problems was that the bus drivers did not want to be waiting too long, it was not unknown for the bus to move off whilst students were still coming out to board it, generally the bus would wait. If the student had missed the bus then on at least two days a week there were late buses to transport students who had attended after school clubs. These buses covered a large area, the drivers planned the routes to ensure that all students got home.



During my last year at school I had passed my driving test and as a sixth former was allowed to drive to school. Often attendance in the last few months was just for specific lectures and exams so it was not necessary to

be at school for the whole day. Being independent and responsible for ensuring that I did attend when required was in itself a good life lesson.

I'm not sure of the exact date but sometime during 1975/6 there was a walkout at Thurston Upper School, it made news in the local Bury Free Press. I can recall that during the morning break the fire alarms were deliberately set off which meant that students could not go back into the building. After the building was declared safe there was then a stand off with pupils refusing to return inside the school. After some time the teachers persuaded students to return, I believe that there was a carrot and stick approach and some students were suspended for their part in the walk out. The founding Headmaster Mr Napier had retired and his replacement Mr Green had introduced changes which had caused students to express their dissatisfaction. Until recently I had forgotten about this event but was reminded of it when finding information, many students have a clear memory of the event and there are some posted photographs of the event on Facebook although the details of why it happened and how it was resolved are somewhat sparse.

I was at school between 1963-76. During that time I attended three schools; I was in the first cohort who attended Thurston Upper School when the comprehensive system was implemented in 1974. As with many government services the system often reverts to how it used to be, this is what happened a few years ago when the three tier system was abolished to return to the former system. Often change is implemented without either adequate consideration or preparation and certainly when Thurston opened it was far from being ready with many areas still being built. Prior to moving to Thurston there was some concern that joining students from Ixworth and Beyton Secondary Schools would lead to difficulties and confrontations; I don't recall this happening, with many teachers moving to the new school too there was the opportunity to create a new identity. Looking at why students walked out it was because a new head had introduced change; the skill and experience of the previous Headmaster in managing the merging of the students and teachers along with the overall management of a significant project would have been a challenge. As a student I believe this was carried out with the least disruption possible to my rural education.

Stuart Earle

Introductions and Welcome

Hello everyone. You may have seen us before walking with our dogs through Brettenham as we lived at Blox Hall in Hitcham for nearly 30 years until 1 year ago. Our favourite walk was from Blox Hall across the fields (footpaths) to Brettenham, along the main street and back across more footpaths. Ann often used to say, "I would quite like to live in Brettenham".



The time came when we needed to downsize but finding somewhere that ticked all the boxes proved difficult and it seems the most important box to tick was location, location, location... we wanted those lovely walks. We really miss Blox Hall especially the gardens, but change happens.

So come early next year we are looking forward to moving into Plot 4 (suggestions for new name welcome) Old school Corner. That is the new house furthest from the village and next to Brinkley's meadow.

Some of you may also have seen us at the Village Inn Friday night. What a great evening; we were made to feel so welcome and it was so good to meet so many people though we did already know a few. Thank you to the organisers and especially the chefs.

We are both nature lovers and enjoy especially birds (hence we are asking the builders to put swift boxes in our new house). We love to travel and try to get a big holiday once a year: last year going to Costa Rica. In between we usually get a few other breaks to Europe or somewhere in the UK but always once a year in the Lake District. We also enjoy eating, drinking and socialising so you will see more of us !

We are both retired but both of us keep busy. Ann volunteers at Rattlesden school, and it was so nice that some of the children on Friday night came running up to her to say hello. She also is often found at Bannatyne doing Yoga, Pilates or her latest favourite Aqua Zumba. And of course, plenty of dog walking. Dick does a number of volunteering roles including School Governor at Rattlesden, Business Mentor at the Princes Trust, Helping the New Anglia Careers Hub (Not for Profit) with Hadleigh school on their careers programme and finally helping three Charities in London with their IT systems and Processes. He also likes to keep fit by doing Les Mills 'Body'

classes at Abbeycroft Leisure.

We both look forward to meeting you and becoming a part of Brettenham Village early next year. Until then you will see us around checking on the house building progress. If you want to get in touch we can be reached at Ann.Eve@bloxhall.co.uk or Dick.Eve@Bloxhall.co.uk (I guess we will have to change that address one day now!!)

Ann and Dick Eve

Rambling with the Blinkers

This month's walk was suggested by the Blinkers after a group walk in the woods in September followed by a slap-up lunch at The Manger at Bradfield Combust. Both the walk and the pub are highly recommended!

Bradfield Woods is a nature reserve that is located 4 miles from Brettenham on the road from Felsham to Bury St Edmunds.



Managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, it is one of Britain's finest ancient woodlands and is a glorious haven for wildlife. It is a working wood that is unique as it has been under continuous traditional coppice management since 1252. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management where stems are cut at ground level promoting vigorous re-growth. You can see this ancient craft still in practice today and buy coppice products such as hazel and ash rods and poles. Some ash coppice stools in Bradfield Wood are thought to be over 1000 years old.

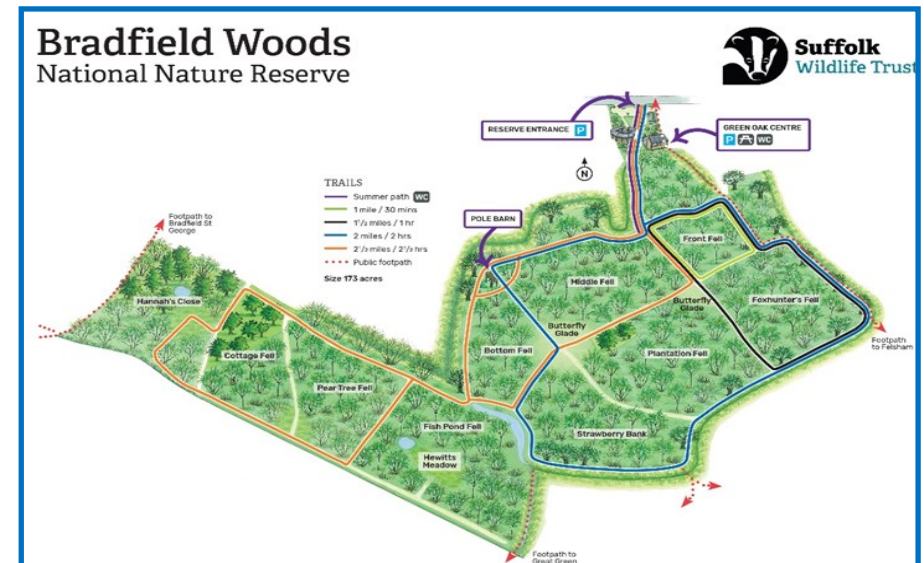
There are 5 miles of paths with 4 coloured trails of different lengths, the shortest being 1 mile and the longest 2 ½ miles as shown in the map opposite. When visiting the site, you will find a trail guide under the notice board near to the entrance or at the visitor centre. All the trails are well

marked so there is no risk of getting lost. On this occasion, the Blinkers did the 2-mile blue trail which took about an hour. In addition to the coloured trails, some public footpaths cut across the wood's boundaries offering additional walking possibilities by connecting to a bigger network of paths. Just be warned, that it can be very muddy in wet weather so appropriate footwear is required and dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads at all time to protect the wildlife.

As well as the walks and coppicing, Bradfield Woods hosts a number of events for children, adults and families through out the year. For more information on all aspects of Bradfield Woods visit the website: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/bradfieldwoods.

Thanks to Michelle Harvey for the Blinkers photo.

Carrie Dye



Brettenham Village Association presents...



***Bring in the New Year at the
Brettenham Village Hall
Live Music by Funk Shed
Sunday 31st December
7.30pm till late***

Tickets £10 (16+) Under 16 go free Complimentary snacks
Limited Tickets are available. Purchase at Village Inn bar or by
contacting Michelle Brown dan.michelle@hotmail.com
Once this event is at capacity, we are unable to admit further to
meet maximum capacity requirements. IF there are available
tickets, we will communicate prior, and they would be at a cost of
£12. Please do purchase in advance to avoid disappointment
We hope this will be an enjoyable Village event for you with a
brilliant live band, our unbeatable bar service and the company of
friends, family and neighbours.



Megan is a Beauty Therapist with 19 years experience.

I work from my log cabin, a rural retreat in Hitcham.

With off road parking.

Treatments are by appointment only.

You are guaranteed complete privacy and your treatment time is
exclusively for you.

A variety of treatments include:

Dermalogica facials/Spray tanning/Waxing/Eye treatments/Jessica
manicures & pedicures/Jessica Gel Nails/

Foot health maintenance

LVL Eyelash perming/Reflexology

NEW TREATMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

HD Brows & HD Lamination

Cryotherapy – skin lesion removal using the freezing technique

Skin tags/warts/verruca/cherry angiomas

Please contact me for any enquiries or for a full price list.

Megan Pryke VTCT, BABTAC 07876 717 008

megz_pryke@hotmail.com

Facebook: Beauty by Megan (look for my logo)

Instagram: [beautybymegan_suffolk](#)

BatesWells & Braithwaite

Solicitors advising on:

- Accident Claims/Personal Injury
- Agriculture and Rural Business
- Children
- Commercial and Company Law
- Commercial/Business Disputes
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Estates, Trusts and Wills
- Family
- Litigation/Dispute Resolution
- Residential Property
- Matrimonial

Bates Wells & Braithwaite Limited
27 Friars Street Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AD T: 01787 880440 F: 01787 880488
www.bwblegal.com solicitors@bwblegal.com

STANSTEAD HALL B & B Hitcham IP7 7NY



Moated Farmhouse surrounded by open countryside, quiet location away from the road. 2 Large Double rooms with adjoining showers

Full Traditional English Breakfast with local produce
ALSO Adults only CARAVAN CLUB GL SITE on Farm.

Reservations: 01449 740270 or stanstead@btinternet.com
www.Stansteadcamping.co.uk

Hitcham Village Hall

There are many regular activities at Hitcham Village Hall that are open to everyone, including:

Yoga, line dancing, art, gardening, crocheting, floral workshop, pub night, bingo and much more..

All activities are very reasonably priced. For more information look at the Hitcham Village Hall page on Facebook or email hitcham@aol.com or call 07774744723

W.A. Deacon

FUNERAL SERVICES

24 HOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE

Call: 01787 248282 & 01787 248147

3 Norman Way, High Street, Lavenham,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9PY

*Golden Charter pre-paid
funeral plans*



ESTABLISHED 1952

INDEPENDENT FAMILY COMPANY



Dan Brown

www.saveelectrical.co.uk

07731 67 27 57 dan@saveelectrical.co.uk

Over 18 years of experience to provide you with a friendly, professional and competitive service. Based in Brettenham.

All Aspects of Electrical Work Undertaken, including: Installation, Repair and Maintenance, Test and Inspect, Home Theatres, Smart Technology, Security

NIC Approved Installer, 18th Edition, Part P Qualified and Insured

TOMLINSON GROUND CARE

Horticultural & Garden Machinery Suppliers

Sales Service Parts Repairs Toys

Large selection of ride on mowers

Walk behind petrol & battery mowers

Strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers, chainsaws etc.

Garden tools, paddock & turf machinery

Service & repair of all makes

Set in over 20 acres – Try before you buy

Established in Buxhall since 1991 – We hope to see you soon

Brettenham Road, Buxhall, Stowmarket IP14 3DL

01449 736060 www.tomlinongroundcare.co.uk



JOHN DEERE



Rattlesden and District Community Shop and Post Office

We are **your** local community shop, run entirely by volunteers.

We aim to stock local produce and we have recently introduced cooked and frozen meat from Thurston Butchers.

We stock daily and Sunday papers and are open on Sunday morning for papers and all other goods. Orders can be taken for papers and magazines.

We take credit and debit cards and have introduced a loyalty card for customers. £5 purchase gets a stamp and a book of 10 stamps entitles you to £2 off your next purchases.

Post Office services include cash/foreign currency, home shopping returns, dry cleaning, shoe repairs and flower deliveries.

Open daily 9am to 5pm: Saturdays 9am to 1pm and Sundays 9am to 11am.

01449 736199

The Post Office opens 9am to 1pm (12.30 Sat) 01449 736197

CAPSTICK CARPET CLEANING

Fast drying · Stain removal · No job too small
Based in Lavenham

Call to book an appointment for a
free no obligation quote.
07791 582806 / 01787 249795



KUTZ 4 MUTZ

Complete Professional Dog Grooming Service

Stress free 1 to 1 appointments, individual requirements catered for.

Bathing, drying, clipping, scissoring, hand stripping, nails, anal gland relief, ear cleaning.

CALL JAN 07716 034521



1 Manor Cottage, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary CO10 9LU

Keith Purvis

Electrical

All domestic electrical work undertaken. Electrical vehicle charger installation

Mobile **07788 633276**

Home **01787 249795**

Email



Advertise Here

If you are interested in advertising in the magazine, please contact

Michelle Harvey at
brettenhammagazine@gmail.com

Prices per edition are:

1/4 page £4

1/2 page £7

Full page £13



07902 141140 01449 737307

hello@michellebrownsewing.co.uk

www.michellebrownsewing.co.uk

From small repairs to clothing, made to measure blinds or full upholstery of your special chair.

Please visit website for services and price guide

Andrew Bingham
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE

LOCAL INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

24 Hour Personal Service

01449 771666

**The Nutshell, Milton Road
IP14 1EZ**

**Golden Charter
Funeral Plans**

South, Stowmarket,

www.andrewbingham.co.uk



**For a quick
response to all
your pest problems
call...**

COMMAND

- ★ Commercial, agricultural and domestic
- ★ Rodents, insects and bird proofing
- ★ Fly screens and insectocutors
- ★ Timber treatment / damp proofing
- ★ Very competitive rates



Established 1986
Member of the BPCA

Telephone 01787 248049

Fax 01787 247113

E Mail: info@commandpestcontrol.co.uk

Web: www.commandpestcontrol.co.uk

**Command Pest Control Ltd,
Command House, College Farm, Church Lane,
Preston St Mary, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9NQ**

'We cover East Anglia and beyond'



Charity Fun Quiz Night

in aid of Brettenham Church's

'Raise the Roof' campaign

**Saturday 27th January 2024,
7.30pm**

at Brettenham Village Hall

**Hosted by Pete Knight &
Martin Schofield**



Teams of up to 6 people*, Tickets £5 per person

Bar Nibbles Raffle

**To register a team contact Pete
07752 222 866 or peterkt@live.co.uk**

***If you would like to take part but can't raise a team,
please make use of Pete's match-making service**