

# WETHERINGSETT -CUM- BROCKFORD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

 HM Government



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**STAY HOME**  
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**SAVE LIVES**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

## Inside -

VAS results

Census 21

Parish Meeting report

School news

Nature Lover

Spotter Stan

'It's a Dog's Life'

'Flooding'

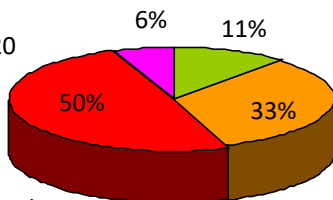
And much more...

# Village VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) Statistics

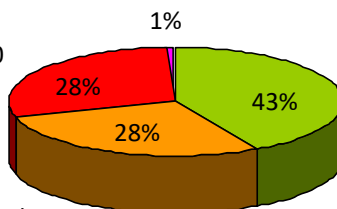
As you will be aware the VAS has been moved around the village to record vehicle speeds.

## Provided here are three 'Speeding Summary' Examples

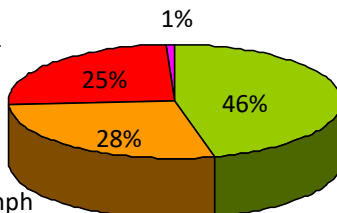
Brockford Street North  
5th April - 15th June 2020  
50% 35-49 mph  
33% 31-34 mph  
11% 15-30 mph  
6% 50+ mph  
Top speed recorded 115mph  
Total 241,810 vehicles



Hockey Hill—South  
27th June - 5th July 2020  
43% 15-30 mph  
28% 31-34 mph  
28% 35-49 mph  
1% 50+ mph  
Top speed recorded 82mph  
Total 8,357 vehicles



Wetherup Street West  
5th Dec. '20 - 3rd Jan '21  
46% 15-30 mph  
28% 31-34 mph  
25% 35-49 mph  
1% 50+ mph  
Top speed recorded 81mph  
Total 12,184 vehicles



## We currently have data for the following:-

Brockford – North  
05-Apr-20 to 15-Jun-20

Wetherup Street – West  
15-Jun-20 to 24-Jun-20

Park Green – South  
01-Feb-20 to 05-Apr-20

Hockey Hill – South  
02-Jan-20 to 31-Jan-20

Hockey Hill – South  
27-Jun-20 to 11-Jul-20

Park Green – South  
12-Jul-20 to 24-Jul-20

Hockey Hill – South  
15-Aug-2 to 27-Aug-20

Wetherup Street – West  
04-Sep-20 to 14-Sep-20

Park Green – South  
20-Sep-20 to 10-Oct-20

Brockford – North  
12-Oct-20 to 27-Nov-20

Wetherup Street – West  
05-Dec-20 to 03-Jan-21

(North, West etc refers to the direction the VAS was pointed)

The **full results** can be found on the website –

[wetheringsettcumbrockford.onesuffolk.net](http://wetheringsettcumbrockford.onesuffolk.net).



Welcome to the  
February 2021 issue  
of your News-



February does not bring the best of weather, but this month does have two special days in it, Shrove Tuesday on 16th—Pancake day, and on 14th, Valentines day. And the very first signs of Spring are already here, the tiny bright yellow aconites, hugging the ground and braving the wintry weather. Soon to be followed by the snowdrops and early daffodils.

Inside this issue - lots of lock-down reading ... and look out for the two competitions! Also check out our advert on p.8 for someone to join our team, this could be you!

You will see (opposite) some of the results from the VAS that is regularly moved around the village. The highest speed recorded through Brockford's 30mph limit is a shocking 115mph! One feels a speed camera would soon pay for itself.

I have put this years Refuse Collection Schedule (no longer sent to each home) inside the back cover, as I thought it may be useful to tear out and keep.

This awful virus is nowhere near under control yet, so stay safe everyone, give thanks for our wonderful NHS and key workers and lets hope we can look forward to a better summer. *Cally (Editor)*

## *Newsletter Distribution*

### *Do you think you can help?*

*Thank  
you*

*Many thanks to Steve and Nina who have delivered the newsletter around the school and church area for several years. They are leaving the village and we wish them well in their new home in Eye.*



*This means we are looking for a volunteer to take on this round. If you think you could help please contact Sue or Eddie Payne On 01449 767794.*

## USEFUL CONTACTS

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS ~ Sue Stannard	01449 767752
CHURCH WARDENS ~ Ken Goudy	01449 673648
~ Michael Churchill	01449 768869
Wetheringsett VC Primary School	01449 766215
Headteacher ~ Mrs Hookway	Chair of Governors ~ Jo Pitt
PARISH TREE WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
TOWNLANDS TRUST ~	
PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
RSPCA Suffolk East & Ipswich branch ~ Ian Hendry	01449 767747
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE Reporting, Information or Enquiries	101
MENDLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE	01449 767722

**Editor contact: Cally Buch 01449 766417**

**wetheringsettnews@gmail.com**

***Deadline for copy 15th of every month.***

**Typed announcements by email only .pdf or word .doc preferably please.**

**HALF PAGE ADVERTS SHOULD BE IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT**

Any contributions from the village community are welcomed.

The newsletter is for the community and serves to inform and give news and the occasional interesting fact or two. Editor reserves the right to amend pieces due to space restrictions. If pieces for inclusion are not formatted, Editor reserves the right to amend as best fits the edition. Views expressed within are not necessarily those of the editor and contributions are made from various sources.

**Parish website;**

**<http://wetheringsettcumbrockford.onesuffolk.net/home/>**

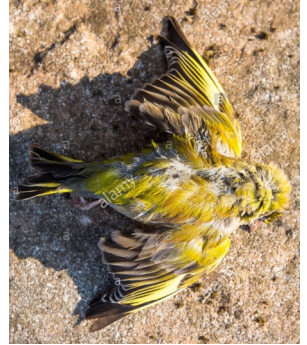
# Wetheringsett Wildlife

## Covid? It's not just us!!

I was recently sent this communication which I pass on with the author's permission. The disease documented below has been prevalent for the last few years and is one of a number of diseases affecting both our flora and fauna. However, this one can be tackled as detailed below.

Hello there,

I would like to bring to your attention an illness that was noticed by residents of Wetherup Street in September/October last year among the greenfinch population. During June and July we had a fairly large number of greenfinches visiting our garden and using the bird feeders along with the other birds as usual. However in September I noticed one greenfinch with fluffed up plumage around the neck and with saliva collected around it's beak perching on the feeder tray. As it rested on the tray it allowed me to approach, very unusually, within a couple of feet before it flew off into a nearby hedge. A few days later I found a greenfinch dead in the feeder tray. This was the first of several dead greenfinches displaying the same symptoms that I found in and around the garden. Other residents of Wetherup Street have also noted dead greenfinches as well as a resident of Page's Green during September and October. Since then I have only seen one greenfinch this winter and I suspect that the population has been reduced, if not decimated by this illness.



I have checked the British Trust for Ornithology website and the symptoms indicate that the disease is trichomonosis, which is a parasite affecting the back of the throat and the gullet of the bird. It also affects chaffinches and although I have not seen any dead chaffinches we have only seen two in the garden this winter which is an unusually small number. Trichomonosis also affects pigeons, doves and birds of prey. The disease is not a threat to humans or pets.

Transmission of the disease is thought to be through contaminated water and feed. Cleaning and disinfecting of feeders and of bird baths is recommended in order to stop the spread of the disease. The BTO also recommend to stop putting bird feed out in order to stop birds congregating in large numbers in one place. I did stop feeding the birds for three weeks during the autumn. when I did start feeding again there were no greenfinches.

Please see the BTO website for fuller information.

spotterstan@gmail.com

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# GREEN MAN

## Forestry & Tree Care

Horse Logging

Tree & Hedge Maintenance

Health Report & Advice

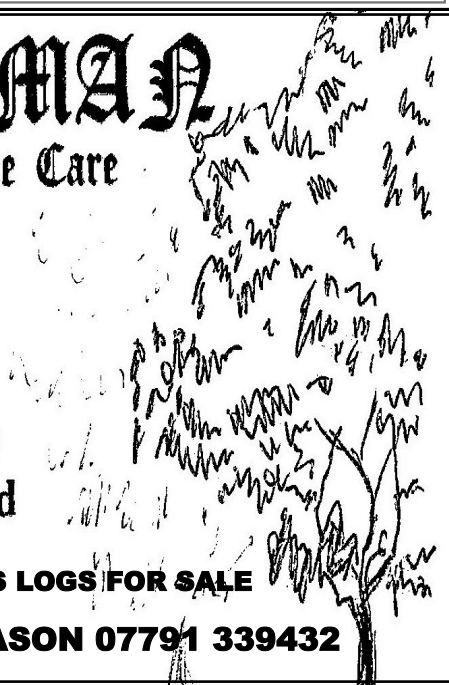
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# *Snippets from the Village History:*

*(The village shop in Brockford)*

## *Shopkeeping* written by Edna Thurston

*In 1846 John Thurston owned a piece of nursery land in Stowupland. This was needed to make way for the railway to Norwich and for Stowmarket Station. John Thurston moved to Brockford where he hired the house and shop opposite the Griffin Inn. He also rented two acres of the field behind the house, and made a nursery garden there.*

*His wife Emma was responsible for the shop and bakehouse. She became renowned in the locality for her rusks and sponge cakes.. The latter were beaten by hand for several minutes. The baking was done in a brick oven heated by faggots. (bundles of hedge trimmings, usually hawthorn). After the blaze had died down, food was cooked on the floor of the oven which was covered with red hot embers. Bread and pastry would be put in first. Later, when the oven was cooler, cakes etc. All were put in and removed with a peck — a flat iron plate on a long stick.*

*There was a charity in Wetheringsett. This was from the will of the Rev. John Sheppard, who was baptised here in 1650 and buried in the north aisle of the church in 1707. He left 50s a year from an estate in in Kelsale to be paid to the parson of Wetheringsett to buy 2d loaves weekly six poor people nominated by the parson and to be distributed by the clerk after morning service. Each Saturday some twopenny loaves were baked at Brockford and taken to the church and given to six poor widows. The late Maurice Thurston recalled taking the loaves in a handcart to the church when he was a lad - long after his great grandmother has passed on.*

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## WETHERINGSETT-CUM-BROCKFORD NEWSLETTER

**Would you like to join our small team?**

Clare, who has managed the finances of the newsletter over the last ten years is stepping down and we need someone to replace her.

This is a voluntary role. If you would enjoy managing our very modest accounts, which entails on-line banking to make monthly payments to the printer and invoicing our advertisers and overseeing their online payments - then we would love to welcome you.

For further details please email  
[wetheringsettnews@gmail.com](mailto:wetheringsettnews@gmail.com)

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### Swim to keep fit, at The Cedars Pool

Looking forward to seeing all registered swimmers in 2021.

AJA

Contact: [tonyalston@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyalston@hotmail.com)



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# census 2021

## Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Wetheringsett and Brockford will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk).

**Michael Brame,**

**60 Pretyman Avenue, Bacton, IP 14 4NY**

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7J	<b><i>Wetheringsett</i></b>	<b><i>Wetherup St</i></b>	<b>1430 – 1445</b>
7K	<b><i>Wetheringsett</i></b>	<b><i>Park Green</i></b>	<b>1450 – 1505</b>

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**Wetheringsett Manor**

# ACORN

Better days, Better lives

Wetheringsett Manor School is now opened to pupils.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, we

regret that we have been unable to show residents and others around the school after the refurbishment but hope that this is something that will be able to go ahead in the future.

### Staffing at Wetheringsett Manor School:

We have a part time cleaning position available

If you would like more information please contact us on

**01449 703935**

or David Bishop on 07423 707438.

### School News:

The pupils at Wetheringsett Manor School are enjoying the surroundings and village immensely, and are making good progress in their learning.

These reindeers were made by the pupils during their Forest Schools activities.



**PENS FOR KIDS** is an organisation that collects pens and pencils (and other stationary items) and distributes them to schools in underdeveloped countries (mainly in Africa)

A collection is to be made in the village. Details in next months newsletter. Meanwhile please gather up any odd pens and pencils you have scattered around the house that you would like to donate

Check out - <http://www.pensforkids.co.uk/>

## Footpaths and Bridleways

In these very difficult times we are very fortunate here, both in Wetheringsett and Brockford Street, to have a network of footpaths which we can all enjoy.

At the moment although some are muddy and challenging it is enjoyable nonetheless.



However can I please remind people of the distinction between a footpath and a bridle way. A footpath is only for those on foot (or wheelchair if possible).

A bridleway is for bikes and horses. Please do not ride bikes and horses on footpaths.

To take a horse along a muddy footpath and then across a footbridge designed for human weight, across the River Dove, is both selfish and stupid.

Hopefully not to be repeated.

Elizabeth Cain  
Brockford Street



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## It's a Dog's Life !

A belated Happy New Year to you all, especially my doggy friends.

We had a very quiet Christmas...just Mum, Dad and me. Even so, it was very nice and I got a great new toy to add to my collection...a squeaky crocodile. I made sure that they got plenty of

exercise throwing it around the house for me to chase. However, no amount of appealing looks, pathetic whimpers or a paw placed on a lap could persuade them to share their treats. I really liked the look of mince pies but apparently, they are "not good for dogs". The odd cocktail sausage did find its way to me though....

So anyway, it's New Year so we are all adopting a new regime. No treats (for them anyway) and healthy eating and exercising when allowed.

The weather has meant some great walks. I like nothing better than a really muddy field to explore, Mum says I need a coat...but I'm a dog, I already have one! I'm happy to get nice and dirty then have a good rub down and a roll on the sofa on my return ....heaven!

Dad's still working from home of course which is ok with me ...double the amount of attention! Apparently, It's not helpful when I bring a toy to him in the middle of a zoom meeting or bark at a passer-by, but I think he occasionally enjoys me insisting on sitting on his lap when he's trying to type - I have inadvertently sent a few emails but I don't think it was anything important....

Well, it's time for a snooze by the fire so I'll say cheerio for now. Look forward to seeing you out and about on doggie walks very soon!

Woofles of Wetheringsett

page of 16





## Saving Suffolk's Swifts

SoSSwift in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) would like your help in building and maintaining the declining Swift population in Suffolk.

To encourage this they are providing nesting boxes, (preferably to groups of people), as well as donating packages of nesting boxes to local groups for installation on community buildings (libraries, schools, churches etc).

Historically, swifts nested in crevices in cliffs and trees, but since Roman times they have also taken advantage of the built environment, finding nest sites under the eaves and tiles of houses and church towers. In Suffolk, as elsewhere in the UK, swifts have taken to nesting communally in towns and villages. However, modern building techniques do not favour swifts., and renovation and conversion of older buildings results in loss of existing nest sites. The Swift population is rapidly declining and is now an endangered species.



### What can you do?

Ahead of the birds' May arrival, put up swift nest boxes and log their location.

Play swift calls to advertise the site as the birds arrive in May and continue to log sightings of the distinctive, entertaining 'screaming parties' of birds. Contact SOS Swifts to find out if there is a local group, or start one in your area. Local groups have had remarkable successes with installing nest boxes. If you have contacts within a public building that might be interested in supporting swifts, please put them in touch with SWT. Contact SWT for help on starting or joining a local swift group.

To find out more about Swifts and for more information on how you can get involved —eg starting or joining a local Swift group, building your own nest box etc, contact:-

Eddie: [swifts@suffolkbirdgroup.org](mailto:swifts@suffolkbirdgroup.org)

Tracey: [tracey.housley@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:tracey.housley@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

[info@SuffolkWildlifeTrust.org](mailto:info@SuffolkWildlifeTrust.org)

Also— There will be a swifts webinar, led by SOSSwift's Simon Hooton, 7-8.30pm on Tuesday 2 March 2021 book a place here

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2021-03-02-wildlife-live-webinar-secret-life-swifts>

# South Hartismere Benefice

February Newsletter 2021



## Signs of hope

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in mid-January as we continue to be in the grip of Covid-19, and Matt Hancock has just said that the UK is at the worst point of the pandemic.

It has been a long and difficult time for us all, but it has brought into focus the role of our keyworkers, and the huge demand that has been placed on them. In addition to the hard work of NHS staff and Care workers, tributes have also been paid to school staff, governors and parents who have had to do home schooling, often in very difficult circumstances.

One aspect of my role that I particularly enjoy is being a Foundation Governor, and spending time in each of our 4 schools on a regular basis; but during 2020 this contact was very limited, and Year 6 left without me being able to say good-bye, while Reception started school without me being able to say hello.

I have been able to record a weekly Collective Worship for the children to access at school or at home, and I've attended some Zoom Christmas services. Governors meetings have also been via Zoom, and it has been good to stay connected in this way.

I am really looking forward to being back in school again, and I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Emma Morris from Wetheringsett C of E Primary School, who will work with me as a Schools and Families Worker. Emma will help me to strengthen the links between school, church and home by developing Open the Book story-telling, special theme days linked to Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, and to use churches as learning spaces as part of the inspired Classrooms project.

She also helps with CONNECT, a weekly family - friendly worship with crafts, activities, outdoor church and a café that happens at Thorndon Church IP13 7JR every Sunday at 4.00pm (currently online).

This appointment has been made possible by funding from Suffolk Lightwave Community, which is part of the Church of England's strategic development fund for rural communities, and Emma is a great addition to our growing Ministry Team.

Things may seem a little bleak just now, but there are signs of hope ahead. In the meantime, take care, God bless, and stay safe.

Blessings, *Julia*

## News from the Parishes

In loving Memory: Moira Coulson, Thorndon; Mary Cobb, with close links to Mellis



# South Hartismere Benefice Recovery Worship Rota *(subject to change)*

## February 2021

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 1

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
On-line	4.00pm	CONNECT@home

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 2

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
*The Sunday next before Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
On-line	4.00pm	CONNECT@home

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
*Ash Wednesday*



Ash Wednesday Service On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 3

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
*The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Mellis	10.30am	Holy Communion
On-line	4.00pm	CONNECT@home

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 4

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Stoke Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion
On-line	4.00pm	CONNECT@home

### Contact:



**Reverend Canon Julia Lall - Rector**  
[rev.julialall@gmail.com](mailto:rev.julialall@gmail.com) 01379 678064

**Reverend Lauren Moore – Curate**  
[rev.laurenmoore@gmail.com](mailto:rev.laurenmoore@gmail.com) 07798705876

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>



January 2021

## A message to the children

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas – I bet you got some super gifts and enjoyed time with your families. I am really sorry and disappointed that I have to write to you at home, rather than welcoming you all back to school again, but we need to do everything we can do to keep our families and our community safe. Most of you are back to home learning again! I know that you and your parents will try your best and be brilliant at it, because you have done it before.

Mrs Sheeran

### Entrance Update

I am pleased to say that the building work is going well with our new entrance. We have also had a new gate fitted in the playground.



## **Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council Report on the virtual meeting held Monday 4th January 2021**

**Home But Not Alone Relunched** – Following tighter coronavirus restrictions and the current lockdown Suffolk County Council has relaunched its phonline service for anyone suffering worry or stress, unable to access shopping or prescriptions during this difficult time. For any parishioner in need please do use the freephone service 0800 876 6926 where you will be put in touch with a local volunteer or service tailored to individual needs. The phonline is manned 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

**Parish Council Vacancy** – following a brief presentation on her interests in the village, Mrs. Rachel Leech was co-opted to fill the Parish Council vacancy. The Chairman welcomed Rachel to the council and thanked the other applicants for their interest. The Council is now back to a full complement of 11 councillors.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – the parish council is very pleased to report that three new members have been recruited to the working group. This will mean that the Group can now progress to the next stage of obtaining funding to progress the plan. Council members thanked the new members to the group and looked forward to working with them as the plan progresses.

**Defibrillator** – Village Hall – Cllrs Mike Pease and Dave Brown have taken over the fortnightly monitoring and checking of the defibrillator equipment which is now fully up and running. The Chairman recorded thanks to them both for taking on this task. If there are any residents also interested in helping to monitor the equipment to ensure it remains in good order please do contact Cllrs Mike Pease or Dave Brown.

**Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS)** – the VAS equipment continues to be moved to different locations in the village on the regular basis. Worrying speeds of at least 115mph have been recorded in Brockford Street and 67mph in Wetherup Street. A report on the recorded speeds has been produced and this will be forwarded to Suffolk Constabulary for action.

**Parish Council Meetings** – these continue to be held virtually via video link and now with the current lockdown parish councillors will continue to meet via this method at least until Easter. It has been very helpful that some councillors are tech minded and able to ensure that meetings via this method run smoothly.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 1 February 2021 at 7pm – video link details will be available on the Agenda and Website**

# Creative Silk Painting

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No experience necessary & beginners are very welcome.

Booking is essential These are small workshops allow for individual tuition, Based in Pages Green.

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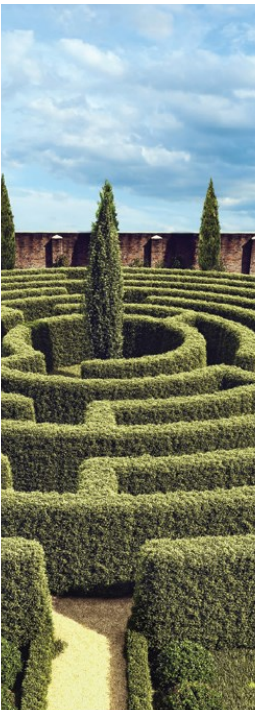
*Be Inspired, Get Creative, Have Fun*

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W: [www.amandadossett.co.uk](http://www.amandadossett.co.uk)



## NEWS FROM THE MIDDY

### EASTER STEAM UP 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

The 2021 Easter Steam Up will take place on Easter Sunday 4th April. This will be the Middy's first open day, so we hope that members, friends and supporters will beat a pathway to Brockford Station for their first Middy ride of the year.

*Details of booking arrangements will be published as soon as possible, but the pre-booking system is still likely to be required.*

We are also pleased to announce that our friends from the Historic Lighting Association will be staging their displays of lamps (delayed from new year's day) as a fascinating added attraction. The midddy acts as a superb setting for vintage oil lamps dating from the mid-Victorian era. As seen in grand houses and practical work places, many are works of art in their own right.



## Middy in the War Years

Sunday & Monday 30th, 31st May 2021

The Middy's celebration of its part in WW2 serving the USAF air bases on the route of the line has been one of the major events of the Middy calendar



for many years. We had a great show planned for the 75th anniversary of VE Day in 2020 and, subject to coronavirus conditions prevailing this time around, we hope to be able to present much of what was scheduled before.

This year the emphasis will be on the homecoming celebrations with music of the period,

but plenty of military kit and, weather permitting a flypast from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. (T.B.C.)

Contact can be made through the website or by phone (see above) or email **Stephen at [mslr.middybar@gmail.com](mailto:mslr.middybar@gmail.com)**

# *Flooding*

On 23 September 2019 and 2020 it started raining. Last year we thought we had a wet winter, but it does not compare with what we have suffered this winter, with rainfall running at twice the average. Although we have had plenty of minor flooding, the A140 in Brockford has flooded only twice since 1945, once being on the August Bank Holiday of 1963 - so it is not always in the winter that it happens. Even the centre of Wetheringsett floods infrequently; just after the War it flooded over the footbridge. That was when the stream forded the road, as you can see in the photos in the Village History. Since the stream was piped, now under the road, it has not flooded very often.

Flooding is caused by water getting to a point where it cannot get away fast enough; Church Street floods because the stream constricts as it passes through the houses in Church Close. The meadow beyond has not flooded. Flooding is also caused by water getting to the 'flood plain' quicker than it might. All we do exacerbates this. The fields are drained so the water quickly soaks through to the drains and thence the ditches. Housing areas are worse in that respect: water runs off concrete very quickly so that water that falls near Hockey Hill quickly arrives at Church Street. Attenuation is actually helped, but in a minor way, by gateway drainpipes being too small and oft blocked; it slows the flow.

If one follows the stream upwards from the Mill Cottage, there are a number of weirs before the Hall Wood. These were probably used to retain water in the summer months and possibly acts as fish ponds 150years ago. Further upstream, by the Hall Wood, there is a proper weir which may have been used to control the flow of water, possibly in summer and winter. It was suggested that it would be nice to see this functioning again. It would, but ...

As it continues to rain, remember that last May was the driest on record.

AJA





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## FELINE THE LOVE?... Join our Valentines Day Pet Photo Competition



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Open to all pets be they furry or feathered, young or old. Simply send  
us your photos for the classes below and donate £2 per entry per class.

**Best friends forever** - the love between animals and their humans

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**Senior moments** - older but still got that lovin' feeling

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Closing date for entries: midnight on 14 February 2021.



Prizes for  
each category  
winner

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[www.ipswich-rspca.org.uk](http://www.ipswich-rspca.org.uk)

Closing date is February 14th!

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# *A Celebration of Nature*

Many of us tend to notice trees in Spring, Summer or more spectacularly, in Autumn as they put on their fiery red and gold display of colourful leaves. Winter, however, reveals the beautiful skeletons of trees, dark against winter skies. They edge the fields with their silhouettes, their tracery of branches and the sturdy trunks, rooted in a timeless landscape.

Humans come and go, but trees were here long before us and will be here long after. For example, The National Trust care for several trees of note, including Newton's Apple Tree which prompted Isaac Newton's law on gravity. There are 1,000 year old oaks and a yew near Runnymede which may have witnessed the events around the sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215 and King Henry VIII's wooing of Anne Boleyn in 1530s.

Next time you are in the countryside, stop and look at the trees around you and wonder what history they too have witnessed. A simple avenue of modest trees can be traced back to Medieval times where many feet have passed.



## *A Celebration of Nature continued -*

When snow falls in Winter, a magical white landscape transforms the familiar dark trees into white 'ghosts'. A spectacular sight recently here in Wetheringsett, was the strange ice phenomenon that decorated parts of Suffolk before Christmas. The ice formations on the trees were, apparently, 'rime' - the effect of freezing fog making contact with cold objects. As the sun warmed the air, ice clattered from the trees noisily, and the countryside was full of the sound, leaving shards in piles on the ground.

Winter may seem bleak, but if you look upon the trees, even in your own back garden, you will see how they support life all year round and soon those tight leaf buds will

## *Winter Branches*

*When winter-time grows weary,  
I lift my eyes on high  
And see the black trees standing,  
Stripped clear against the sky;  
They stand there very silent,  
with the cold flushed sky behind,  
The little twigs flare beautiful  
and restful and kind;  
Clear-cut and certain they rise  
with summer past,  
For all that trees can ever learn*



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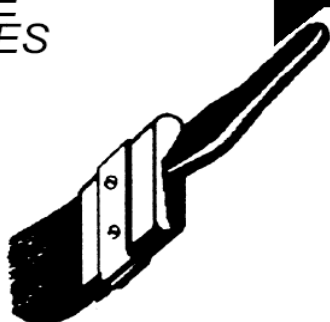
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# Wetheringsett Village Hall

Help us prepare for the opening:- (date TBC !)

## Competition New Village Hall Sign

There have been a few entries from the community and school, but the delay in reopening means there is an opportunity to extend the closing date to March 2021. Have you eaten school dinners in the village hall, dressed up for a panto, or attended a village fete? Could you **design a sign!**

If you want more details please contact Councillor Mike Pease.

All entries will be displayed in the village at a later date. The Parish Council are offering a £25.00 prize to the winner and will then commission a new sign.

## Village Hall Memories and Photo

Do you have any old photos of the Village Hall, articles on past events or memories of being there? We would like to use these items in a display when we open the Village Hall. Any items used can be copied if necessary, and any handwritten artefacts typed.

If you can help, please contact Sue Payne on behalf of the Village Hall Committee (01449 767704)



### Did you Know ...?



*The popular theory about the origins of St Valentines Day ...*

*Roman Emperor Claudius II in 270 AD thought single men made better soldiers and so forbade his men to marry. Bishop Valentine went against him and arranged secret wedding ceremonies. For this Valentine was executed ... on February 14<sup>th</sup>. While in jail he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter signing it, "From your Valentine". He was later honoured by the church and over the centuries he became the patron saint of lovers.*



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## Appealing to dog owners .....

Due to the recent and current government guidelines and restrictions relating to Covid-19, the Rector, Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council have taken the decision to keep All Saints Church locked for the foreseeable future to help to keep people safe and to assist the NHS.



Because of this, may I please ask all dog walkers who use the footpath through the churchyard to kindly take their bagged dog poo home or dispose of it in the nearest dog waste bin on Hockey Hill rather than leaving in the churchyard or the wheelie bin. Unfortunately in the past bagged dog poo has been left in the churchyard and wheelie bin, both of which have had to be cleaned up by the churchwarden. As no one will be visiting for the foreseeable future to clean up, it is hoped that the offender(s) will dispose of their dog poo responsibly.

Thank you  
Ken Goudy - Churchwarden





## Friends of Debenham Library

For the latest details see

[www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus)

Sadly all Suffolk libraries are closed again until further notice, except for online services. The mobile and home library services have been suspended. Unfortunately, you will not be able to place reservations, but you can still return titles to library book drops and use our e-Library services.

**All loans are extended until 1 March 2021 and overdue charges are also suspended.**

For free audiobooks, e-books, films and other services, use your library card at [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk)

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# WETHERINGSETT PARISH COUNCILLORS

## Parish Councillors

Cllr Charles Harvey CHAIRMAN	Charles@the-harveys.org	
Cllr Elizabeth Cain VICE CHAIRMAN	eccain@btinternet.com	
Cllr Mrs Ann Arnold	broadoaksuffolk@googlemail.com	01449 767781
Cllr Tony Alston	tonyalston@hotmail.com	01449 766231
Cllr Barry Lacey	sally.lacey@btconnect.com	01728 860273
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Aldred	aldred.sons@gmail.com	01728 860482
Cllr Mike Pease	mikepease@btinternet.com	
Cllr Mrs Hilary Green	greenhils2911@gmail.com	
Cllr Mrs Sue Gibbs	suegibbsj10@hotmail.co.uk	01449 766735
Cllr Claire Estcourt	clairehestcourt@gmail.com	
Cllr David Brown	dsbwsettpc@gmail.com	01449 766151
Parish Clerk: Mrs Lynne Cockerton	lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com	01728 862001
<u>County &amp; District Councillor</u> :	Andrew.Stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01449 780339
Cllr Andrew Stringer		
Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team	Stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101 (non emergency calls only)

# Mid Suffolk District Council

December 2020							January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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April 2021							May 2021							June 2021							July 2021						
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August 2021							September 2021							October 2021							November 2021						
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30	31																										

- Refuse (general rubbish) collection week
- Recycling collection week
- Collections following a bank holiday will be a day later than usual for the rest of the week
- Please refer to the Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2020/21

**Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day**

## Waste Services

Web: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services)  
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