



MARCH 2021

**Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford**  
**NEWSLETTER**

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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.

***Invoice / advert queries please contact Clare Rogers 01728 861382***

***Distribution is organised by Eddie and Sue Payne 01449 767794***

**Parish website;**

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



## Welcome to the March 2021 issue of your Newsletter

With the glorious weather we have been able to enjoy at the end of February—it really feels as if Spring has arrived. My favourite quote - describing these early Spring days is from Charles Dickens, '*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade*'.

Something that I can't be the only one looking forward to - even if it means an hour less in bed, is the start of British Summer Time. The clocks 'spring' forward an hour on 28th March. Please take a look at the two competitions on p. 31. Last chance to use your skills to design a sign for the refurbished village hall, and notice of a short story competition, with more details next month. We are still looking for someone to manage the advertising for the newsletter—see below. If you have a little time to spare and would like to be involved in running the newsletter, please get in touch.

We have made incredible progress with our vaccination programme and just need to stay the course now .. So, keep safe everyone and enjoy this coming month.



Cally (Editor)

### 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)



**February 2021**



Hello,  
We will be pleased to hopefully welcome everyone back to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. It has been very quiet without all the children here.

We are looking forward to developing the outside area with the children once they are back. We have plans to develop a sensory and reading area in the playground. We have had a donation of



tyres from Palfrey's garage which, we are very thankful for. They will be used to make a range of recycled flower beds as part of our ECO friendly schools initiative.

**Entrance Finished**

I am pleased to say that our new entrance to the school is finished!

Mrs Sheeran  
Head of School

# GREEN MAN

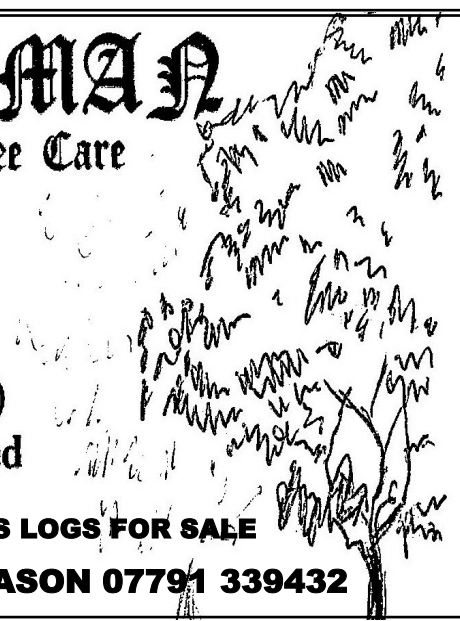
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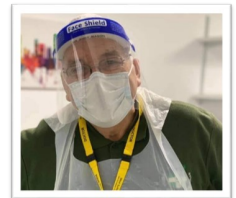




**Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARs)** is a voluntary emergency medical charity, operating in Suffolk and its border areas. Our volunteer clinicians offer specialist assistance at serious or life threatening medical incidents. Since we started in 1972 we have helped treat thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARs volunteers are specialists in prehospital care and include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. They carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline ambulances and can undertake advanced procedures at the scene of an incident, which are not normally possible outside the hospital environment.

Our charity receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary fundraising to maintain its activity. The clinicians give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation' of time equates to many hundreds-of-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARs clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of life-saving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is immeasurable.

The last year has been a really challenging time but the amazing SARs volunteer clinicians gave over 6,000 hours of advanced prehospital medical care throughout Suffolk in 2020. They were called out to over 100 locations across the county including callouts in your local area - all of this during a pandemic. And 2021 looks set to be another busy year, with SARs responders being mobilised to 72 incidents in January alone!



SARs is also helping combat the pandemic with charity volunteer and retired responder, Dr Andy Mason currently vaccinating staff at the West Suffolk Hospital. Andy is very keen to continue his work after the initial programme at the West Suffolk Hospital has been completed. "I would really love to continue to be part of the vaccination programme in the local community. I am convinced that this is the way forward to ensure that the country can escape from the grip of this pandemic. The vaccination programme will save lives and protect our precious NHS and I am honoured to be able to be part of that."



There are many ways you can also get involved and help support SARs this



[suffolkaccidentrescueservice](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkaccidentrescueservice)



[@sarshq](https://www.facebook.com/sarshq)



# *Snippets from the Village History:*

*(The village shop in Brockford)*

## *Shopkeeping* written by Edna Thurston

At the time of the 1851 Census the entry for John Thurston and his family included three children, his mother-in-law, a niece and a maid—Maria from Thwaite, ten years old. Quite a household.

Unfortunately John died accidentally. Another little girl was born posthumously. With a manager for the nursery Emma carried on the shopkeeping and the baking. She must have worked hard, as eventually she was able to purchase the shop, house and nursery.

Her son William and his wife moved into the family home after the death of Emma. William took a keen interest in the church and parish affairs, being a churchwarden. He always attended church wearing a top hat and walking there.

John Thurston took over from his father and his son Maurice became responsible for the shop. No longer was there baking done and the 'bake office' became part of the shop.

In 1930 Maurice married and lived at the shop until his death in 1968. He saw great changes in 'shopkeeping' over the years. So many commodities bought in bulk had to be weighed up—sacks of flour, 2cwt bags of sugar, whole cheeses (which had to be 'skinned'), 56lbs of lard and butter to be weighed. Dried fruit too, came in boxes to name just a few. How different to our packets today!

Rationing in the 1939-45 War meant extra work. Everyone had to be registered with a supplier for basic commodities—meat, sugar, fats and bacon. As few people had cars and public transport was not plentiful, in the main, families were registered near their homes.

Soon flour became less available and rationing was necessary for this too. In each ration book were Bread Units (Bus) and these were given up when flour, bread, biscuits, cakes were purchased. All of these coupons had to be counted and sent in to the Food Office at Eye.

*Cont. over*

## *Snippets from the Village History: cont.*

Apart from actual rationing when other items came in, the shop-keeper had to be fair in apportioning these to his customers. It was some time after hostilities ceased before rationing was over and things returned to normal.

As well as the nursery business, flower and vegetable seeds were packeted and sold, and there were six agents for these neighbouring villages.

In 1968, after the death of Maurice, the shop was closed. The nursery was sold in 1970, and was carried on by Mr and Mrs Stewards, but it has since been sold as building land.

Post Script: - When we came to the village in 1977, Mrs Edna Thurston still lived in what used to be the bakery and shop .. now Dove Cottage. She loved her garden and had a prestigious knowledge of flowering plants.

She later moved to Bacton—but I can't recall the date. (Editor)

### *Mrs Thurston's Spring Medicine*

*½ oz salts*

*½ pkt senna leaves*

*A few carraway seeds*

*A few peppermints*

*Piece of ginger*

*½ pint boiling water*

*Dose: ½ wine glass before breakfast every morning*

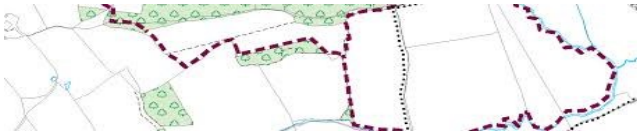
*Taken from Mrs Emma Thurston's 'Recipe Book' 1855 onwards*

*Next month -*

*another delve into 'A Village History. Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford'  
(une bonne surprise!)*

## Taking Exercise

The Cedars pool continues to be available to those wishing to take aquatic exercise. A few continued through the cold spell but there was not a man in sight!



The Public Footpaths have been used extensively and have suffered from the unremitting wet weather and sometimes horses; so we have to ask riders, both horse and bike, to keep off the paths, like we have to remind the walkers to keep their dogs on the lead.

Horse Riders: under Brockford Rides we have a 6 mile periphery track and we are keen to establish a 'best time', and to keep horses off the road where possible. Bike riders as well as Walkers have been much in evidence, on the roads, but less during icy times.

And when the weather improves... we need tennis players and cricketers judging by the international sports on view!

However, at the Cedars we have a good croquet lawn and we are looking for pairs with a keen eye and a mean streak to compete in the Brockford Croquet Championships when the days lengthen.



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

## *The things they say - Memories of childhood*

Note left by one of our sons when we, ('the adults'), were entertaining and they were tucked up in bed!

*Do you have any memories of your children's childhood that you would be happy to share?*

Send to: -

[wetheringsettnews@gmail.com](mailto:wetheringsettnews@gmail.com)

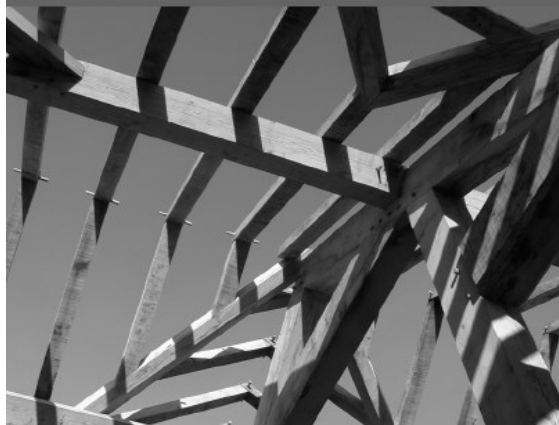
Dad bring us pud  
please.

We will  
be awake



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# Wetheringsett Wildlife

## A Word from the Wise!

Some years ago, we rented a remote cottage for a week's holiday. There was just one other cottage next door, occupied by an elderly widow. It was June and hot so we were sleeping with the windows open. During a number of nights, I awoke to a very loud snoring which I decided to investigate despite the protestations of my better half. Armed with a torch I slipped out to find three baby barn owls on the chimney next door. As one of the parents approached with food, they all began to emit this snoring noise!



We are lucky that our Parish conforms to exactly the type of country our native owls like to roam. Pastures and woods with a variety of food from rats and mice to worms and beetles.

I have seen three types in Wetheringsett: Tawny Owls calling from Woods and copses, Barn Owls quartering across the old airfield and along roadside ditches and the comical Little owls bobbing in the road near the Middy or in Town Lane.

You will often hear a Tawny calling and being answered. These clear, frosty nights make their ritual 'Whit Wu' spine tingling. Last autumn we had a fire in the pit on our patio and one flew into our walnut tree to watch us. He lit up in gold and brown while his eyes seemed to dance with the flames as he watched.

I have also had a tawny owl fall down the chimney and emerge from our wood burner. Apparently, they fall asleep whilst perching and then fall in!

One time the dog and I were surprised as a Barn Owl took off from the fence post right next to us - so quiet had he kept on our approach. As he flew off on silent white wings, he gave us a look of "because I can". However, I haven't seen a barn owl here now for some time. Partly I think this is due to loss of habitat – all around old barns are being converted to posh new homes and new barns are not as cosy as well as more difficult to enter. However, they do nest in other locations. They also need a ready supply of small mammals that dwell in unkempt grassland.

Cont. over

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If you are lucky to see the curious faced Little Owl be careful if they are in the road...they can look like hedgehogs but leave taking off until rather late. I once saw a pair bobbing up and down in a large Oak tree on Hall Lane. If you are lucky you might see one during daylight hours as they are not strictly nocturnal.

These owls are relatively recent introductions to our country having been introduced from Europe just over a century ago.

Although we do get visits by Long -eared owls (the Ears are actually just feathers and look rather cat like) I have not seen one yet as they prefer pinewoods and heaths so Rendlesham could be the place rather than round these parts.

In common with other birds of prey owls produce pellets. These are regurgitated remains of their prey that cannot be digested. If you are lucky enough to find a favourite tree you may well find a supply of pellets beneath. Dissection of these pellets give a good indication of diet and an intriguing hour can be spent investigating!

Spotter Stan and Secret Stan

spotterstan@gmail.com



Little Owl

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**Next visits: Thursday 11th March**

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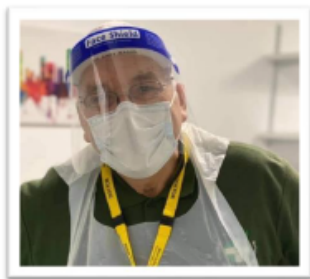
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There are many ways you can also get involved and help support SARS this year. Please take a look on the SARS website [www.sars999.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.sars999.org.uk/get-involved/)



Or why not sign up to the SARS 999 Lottery. For as little as £1 a week you could win up to £25,000 while helping save local lives. To sign up please visit [www.sars999.org.uk/lottery/](http://www.sars999.org.uk/lottery/)

We are always keen to hear from you so please get in touch via email [admin@sars999.org.uk](mailto:admin@sars999.org.uk) or phone 01359 244186. Thank you!

Join us on social media - follow us, like, share or retweet. Help raise awareness of our cause by promoting us to your social networks.....

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suffolkaccidentrescueservice



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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.**

**If you require further information call: - 01449 703935**



***Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?***

***Walking in Suffolk [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk) is the website for you!***

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Suffolk (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

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

email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

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## It's a Dog's Life !

Well, the snow was a bit of a surprise!

I must say when I first saw the garden I wasn't overly keen...I may have a thick coat but I don't wear wellies so my paws were a bit chilly. However I did

enjoy doing zoomies around the big snowdrift that appeared and walks were really fun....everything looked very different and it was great leaping about and digging snow holes.

When we got home mum and dad would dry me off before I got the chance to use the carpet, sofa or any other available soft furnishings to do so.....oh well.

The cold weather also meant the wood burner was on...lovely. There's nothing nicer than relaxing in front of a open fire. I'm very careful to toast both sides by lying full length on the rug but occasionally I do get moved as they are convinced I'm overheating. I do wish they wouldn't interfere with my relaxation!

However it looks like Spring is just around the corner so, ...more tails ( get it?) next month!

Woolfles of Wetheringsett



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

HM Government

NHS

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY HOME**  
**PROTECT THE NHS**  
**SAVE LIVES**





## South Hartismere Benefice

March Newsletter 2021

### Approaching Lent

This month marks a year since the start of the first National lockdown as a result of Covid-19. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 we held our last service in church, as the government advised all churches to close their doors as part of a number of restrictions -an unprecedented event in our lifetime.

We are now in the season of Lent, the time when we recall the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism, being tested by Satan. It is usually a time for reflecting on our lives, taking stock, and saying sorry for things we have done wrong or have failed to do. Many of us give up something we like, or give to charity, while others read a daily Bible reflection or join a small group.

This year, as in 2020, our Lent services and activities will be very different, and we will be continuing to meet in church and online. If you would like details of our Wednesday evening and Sunday morning services, Dipping into Lent sessions, or CONNECT@home please contact:

Revd Julia Lall	<a href="mailto:rev.julialall@gmail.com">rev.julialall@gmail.com</a>	01379 678064
Revd Lauren Moore	<a href="mailto:rev.laurenmoore@gmail.com">rev.laurenmoore@gmail.com</a>	07798705876
Christine Moore	<a href="mailto:cm783226@gmail.com">cm783226@gmail.com</a>	01379 783226

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>

We may feel that life is hard enough just now, and it is more difficult than usual to engage in the sombre season of Lent; so perhaps this is the time to remind ourselves that the thread that runs throughout the story of Christmas, Lent and Easter is a story of love: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only son.....' *John 3.16*.

It is a story that invites us to live lives of love, and this year more than ever, love is needed. We have already lived through a traumatic time of denial - friendship, family, hugs with those we love, theatre, concerts, holidays, hobbies and all the things we enjoy. This Lent, we need to turn to love, for God, for our neighbour, for our environment - and for ourselves. It has been tough, and although there is light at the end of the tunnel, there are still restrictions in place.

My prayer for you this Lent is to choose kindness rather than abstinence. Choose acts of love that make others feel good, - donate to a charity of your choice, help others, ring your friends and family more often. Choose things to make your heart sing -walk by the sea, plant flowers and vegetables and give some away, look at the stars more often, listen to the birds, look out for signs of Spring.

This Lent choose love and life.

**Blessings, Julia**

**News from the Parishes:**

In Loving Memory: Valerie Hartwell, Thorndon



## South Hartismere Benefice Recovery Worship Rota

*For services held in church and online  
(subject to change due to government guidance)*

### March 2021

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

#### Week 1

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm  
Telephone Church 11.00am

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March

#### Week 2

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Stoke Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm  
Telephone Church 11.00am

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

#### Week 3

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
*The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Wetheringsett	10.30am	Holy Communion
Mellis	10.30am	Worship for All
Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm  
Telephone Church 11.00am

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

#### Week 4

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
*Palm Sunday*

On-line	9.00am	Worship for All
Thornham Magna	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thorndon	4.00pm	CONNECT

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm  
Telephone Church 11.00am

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

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/>



# South Hartismere Benefice

*Recovery Worship Rota for services held online*

## March 2021

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 1

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line

9.00am

Worship for All

On-line

4.00pm

CONNECT@home

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 2

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday*

On-line

9.00am

Worship for All

On-line

4.00pm

CONNECT@home

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 3

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

On-line

9.00am

Worship for All

On-line

4.00pm

CONNECT@home

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Telephone Church 11.00am

### Week 4

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

*Palm Sunday*

On-line

9.00am

Worship for All

On-line / Outdoor Worship

4.00pm

CONNECT@home

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Mid-week Worship On-line 7.00pm

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

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**Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council**  
**Report on the virtual meeting held**  
**Monday 1st February 2021**

**Parish Precept** – Cllr Pease had produced a financial statement setting out the parish council's proposed expenditure over the next financial year 2021-22. The parish council had contributed to some of the extensive maintenance work on the village hall during 2020, it was anticipated this would be considerably reduced during 2021 as the maintenance work was coming to an end, the village hall was much improved and the committee were working towards the re-opening of the hall when covid restrictions were gradually lifted. The Village Fete budget had been increased to £500 in the hope that a village event could be held later in the year on the village hall field to enable the community to come together after the lifting of covid restrictions. A new budget to maintain village highway signs had been set up as this responsibility now appeared to be falling upon parish councils. The above had resulted in the council agreeing to no increase in the parish precept for the coming year, it remaining at £8850. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Pease for his work on producing the figures.

**Sound System** – thanks were recorded to District Cllr Andrew Stringer for his grant award of £2893.00 for the purchase of a village hall sound system.

**Town Lane Haulage Depot** – Following concerns raised over the height of containers stacked on the site it was reported by the District Councillor that MSDC Planning had been in contact with the owner and a course of action discussed. A further report would hopefully be available at the next meeting.

**Parish Magazine** – – the editor of the magazine, Cally Buch, attended the meeting to discuss the magazines ownership and decision-making. The magazine is managed by a small number of volunteers and a gallant band of volunteer distributors and although running smoothly responsibility for decision-making had no formal platform. It was agreed the magazine belonged to the village and running it on similar lines to a charity with trustees would provide a more formal basis. There was a proposal from Cally that it should continue to run independently by volunteers, under the oversight of the Parish Council, presenting an annual report at the annual parish meeting and that a simple constitution be drawn up to describe the operational procedure. Members offered their support for the proposal put forward, the Magazine was a valuable village resource and thanks were recorded to all the volunteers involved in its production

Cont. over

## **Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council report cont.**

**Swift Boxes** – It was reported a number of residents in Hockey Hill would be installing swift boxes on their properties, an initiative being promoted by the Swift Trust.

**Dates of next virtual meetings:**

**Monday 1 March, Tuesday 6 April and Tuesday 4 May 2021, at 7.30pm**

# **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://www.census.gov.uk).**

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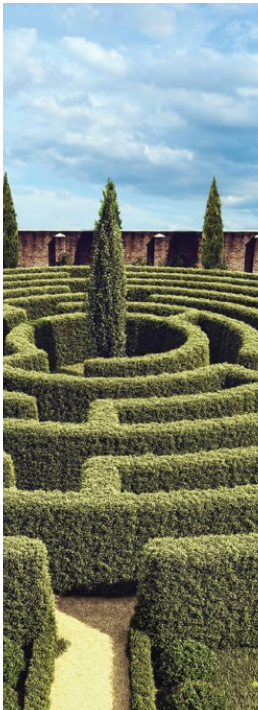
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**Amanda Dossett**

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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

**CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, we are very sorry to have to announce that our Easter Steam Up has had to be cancelled again, due to latest Covid constraints.

However our event 'Middy in the War Years' is still planned to go ahead: -

### 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)**  
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**Sunday 28th March**

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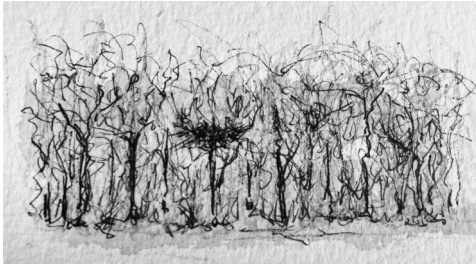
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# *A Celebration of Nature*

## *Hedgerows*



Many of us know that there is less hedgerow than there used to be, particularly that which is useful to wildlife. Some has been grubbed up to enlarge fields for large agricultural vehicles to operate in, others neglected or replaced by barbed wire, or post and rail. In gardens we might choose something we think looks 'smart', but it is

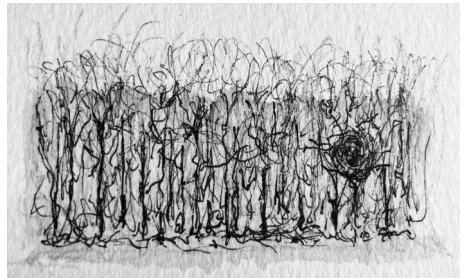
unlikely to host much 'biodiversity', which is worth thinking about if you want to help nature.

It is estimated Britain has lost half of its hedgerows since WW2. Now, however, it is evident that more lines of young hedge are being reintroduced round Suffolk, which is a hopeful sign.

They are highly valued as shelter and a food source for wildlife, allowing species of bat to navigate using them to 'commute' within a landscape. They feed on the insects that live within as well as using them as somewhere to roost. The best hedges for wildlife are thick and broadest at the bottom with a range of woody species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, spindle and wayfaring tree. Rambling plants such as bramble and wild rose are common, together with climbing honeysuckle and wild clematis (Old Man's Beard)

Hedges provide song posts, shelter and nesting opportunities for both woodland and farmland birds such as yellowhammer, whitethroat, blue tit and great tit, while nectar, berries, nuts and leaves provide food for an assortment of invertebrates, mammals and birds. On Hockey Hill we have a flock of house sparrows that call the hedge home (on the field side) That alone is proof that hedging is vital to birds (especially so as the house sparrow numbers are in decline).

More than 20 of the butterfly species found in lowland Britain breed in hedgerow. Variety in native shrubs is the key to providing food sources for these insects. In addition to providing excellent wildlife habitat, hedges can help reduce soil erosion and water runoff on arable land. In these times of rain-soaked land the value of a good hedgerow cannot be underestimated.



## *A Celebration of Nature continued -*

## *Hedgerows*

Many of the most ancient examples date from Saxon times, but most were planted between 1650 and 1850 when the controversial Enclosure Acts permitted landowners to create parcels of common land for their livestock. Hundreds of thousands of miles of hedge were created and this is the basis of the patchwork of fields we see today.

The age of a hedge can be estimated by counting the number of species of woody plants, trees and shrubs, in a 30m stretch of hedgerow. Each species counted equals 100 years. Get out around Wetheringsett and the surrounding area and get counting!!

While out, be aware of the fairies and witches that are said to emerge from the hedgerow! Immortalised in the words of the well-known song by Led Zeppelin -Stairway to Heaven

“ If there’s a bustle in your hedgerow, don’t be alarmed now,  
It’s just a spring clean for the May Queen “

This may refer to the coming of spring and in particular the blossom of the hawthorn tree which is also called the Queen of May (or evidently it may have even more sinister origins.)

Superstition aside, we can look forward to the deciduous hedgerows bursting to life soon and with this comes the blossoms, the scent of Spring and a different and more benign bustle in the hedgerow as the birds build their nests!

*Wetheringsett Nature Lover*



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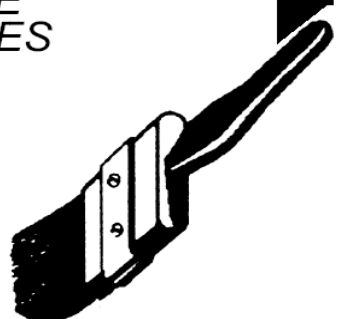
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# Wetheringsett Village Hall

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 Photos

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)

*They say 'everyone has one book inside them .....*

*Well, - if not a book, perhaps a short story?*

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION

*We are still in lock-down so why not try your hand at story writing?  
500 words maximum - entries to be printed in the newsletter.*

*There will be further details in next month's issue of the  
newsletter*

*Until then, pick up your pen and tap into those creative juices*

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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)

Libraries are now open again for “Select and Collect” service and reservations so that people can request and pick up items from their library.

Please note that the library will close at 6pm on Wednesdays until further notice, during the winter

There will be no rush to bring items back as loan periods will again be extended and charges suspended. Browsing inside libraries and the use of computers will remain unavailable for the time being. The mobile library services and home library service will also remain suspended for now.

As always our plans are dependent on any changes in infection rates or government guidance.

At Debenham the garden outside the library has been receiving attention, and we have planted primulas in the letters SRH cut in the grass beside the drive. We hope they will still be there when you visit, despite the snow and cold!

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

There are also podcasts and videos available on the YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkLibraries](https://www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkLibraries)

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Facebook: @DebenhamLibraryFriends  
[debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk)

## Dates for the Diary

### March

Monday 1st

Wed 17th

Sunday 14th

Sunday 21st

Sunday 28th

St David's Day

St Patrick's day

Mothering Sunday

Census Day

British Summer Time starts

# Neighbourhood Plan update

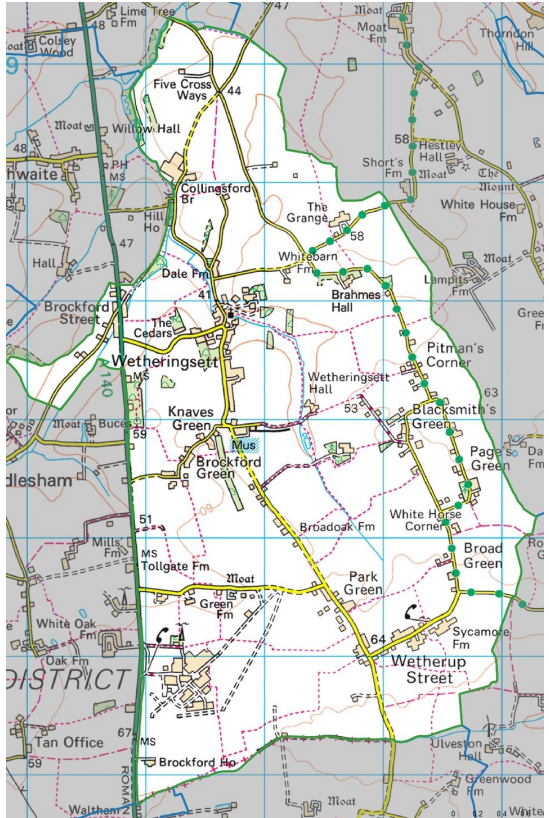
Following our plea for new members for this steering group, I am pleased to say that a number of people from the village have stepped up and volunteered to take this project forward.

We now have a new Chairman, Robert Townshend and other enthusiastic folks to work on the various aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. The designated area of the plan has been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council and we have been granted the first piece of funding to engage the services of a consultant to guide us through the process. There will be another application for further funding in the new financial year.

Through this process we have also identified that there is a need for more information on the village website for both residents and visitors so we can all make the most of our lovely parish. Therefore over the next few months new and relevant information will be added as we make progress on the plan.

I look forward to bringing you further updates as they happen.

Hilary Green



*Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford is featured in the Domesday book 5 times.*

In one particular entry, Wetheringsett is in the Hartismere hundred of Suffolk. The entry stated 48 households and mentioned resources including, 4 acres of meadow, 1 church and woodland. As well as this, the entry consisted of 10 villages, 9 smallholders, 2 slaves and 4 freemen.

# 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 Rachel Leech	rachelleech67@btinternet.com	
Cllr Claire Estcourt	clairehestcourt@gmail.com	
Cllr David Brown	dsbwsettpc@gmail.com	01449 766151
<u>Parish Clerk</u> : Mrs Lynne Cockerton	lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com	01728 862001
<u>County &amp; District Councillor</u> :	Andrew.Stringer@midsex.gov.uk	01449 780339
Cllr Andrew Stringer		
Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team	Stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101 (non emergency calls only)



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