

Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford NEWSLETTER

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The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however, we reserve the right to refuse inclusion; to edit or amend as we think appropriate.

The newsletter is produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that any errors may be corrected in future editions.



Welcome to the March 2024 issue of your Newsletter

Let's hope we can say goodbye to rain and floods and the misery it has caused for so many. Check out DEFRA's Property Flood Resilience Grant to see if this applies to you—details on p.7. Also there is Fuel Support information, plus some funding available. Check if you are eligible at MSDC (see p.9).

Our article on 'Hoppy', the one-legged blackbird concludes on p.11 and on p.21 details for the annual Village Litter Pick can be found.

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 the last day of March this year. Before that, the official first day of Spring is on 19th of this month. Hurrah!

Hurrah!
Enjoy your March Cally (Editor)



Sunday 31st March

Don't forget to put the clocks forward 1 hour



Start of British Summer Time

Dates for the Diary

March

Friday 1st St David's Day Sunday17th St Patrick's day Sunday10th Mothering Sunday

Tuesday 19th Vernal Equinox and the First day of Spring

Sunday 31st British Summer Time starts

April

Sunday 7th Village Litter Pick

Contributions from the village community for inclusion in the newsletter are welcomed

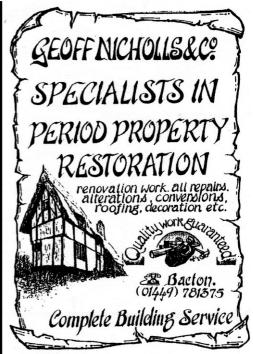
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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council Report of meeting held 5 February 2024

<u>Parish Council Vacancies</u> – the Council was very pleased to welcome two new co-opted councillors, Mr Stephen Alderton and Mr Darrell Howard. The Council now has a full complement of councillors.

<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – the Working Group Chairman, Mr Robert Townshend, attended the meeting and gave a report on progress of the revised Plan which was now in a position to be re-submitted to MSDC subject to Parish Council approval. Councillors approved the revised plan and recorded its many thanks to the working group for its work on the plan.

<u>Litter Pick</u> – Just a reminder for the community litter pick on Sunday 7 April 2024, meet at the Village Hall 9.45am – 10am – volunteers to help would be most welcome. Equipment will be provided but please bring your own gloves.

<u>Annual Precept</u> – the annual funding precept requested from MSDC has been agreed at £12,980 for the next financial year 2024-25, this is a slight increase on last year of 0.44%. The Council has now completed two instalments of the loan to fund the village hall flooring, leaving further annual instalments due over the next 7 years.

<u>Kill Your Speed Signs</u> – an application has been made to the County Councillor for funding for the signs put forward by Cllr Mrs June Weir. Quotes for the signs have been obtained and it is understood County Cllr Stringer has agreed to fund them from his highway locality budget.

<u>Flood October 2023</u> – a number of parishioners attended the meeting for an update on action as a result of the flood on 20 October last. It was reported the Environment Agency had agreed to clear parts of the River Dove in the Griffin Lane area due to debris following the flood. Areas in Wetherup Street and Church Street are still being investigated and will possibly fall to landowners as their responsibility, this is being assessed by Suffolk CC and hoped a report on responsibility and future flood prevention action will be received from Suffolk CC shortly. In the meantime the Parish Council is progressing it's Emergency Plan and looking to set up a working group specifically to cover flood issues.

<u>Village Hall Solar Panels</u> – Cllr Lingard was pleased to report funding of £5000 had been confirmed from the National Lottery Community Fund. This took the funding now confirmed to a total of £13,500 and enabled the scheme to progress. Cllr Lingard was in the process of obtaining two updated quotations for the work.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4 March 2024, 7pm at the Village Hall. ALL WELCOME

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DEFRA's Property Flood Resilience Grant

Those whose homes or businesses were flooded by Storm Babet and have not yet applied for the initial £500 flood recovery grant payment should do so as soon as possible as this is the first step in applying for the further £5,000 for flood protection from the government's Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant. The application process for the latter will begin in early 2024 and after initial eligibility checks by SCC, property owners will be responsible for sourcing an independent surveyor and PFR contractor. Payment of up to £5,000 including VAT will be paid retrospectively to the property owner once the Council receives proof of the completed installation and invoicing for the approved measures.

Further information about the grant eligibility, conditions and the forthcoming application process can be found here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/property-flood-resilience-grant

For more information about the flood investigations which are due to take place in the wake of Storm Babet, please see https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet

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Emergency Plan for Wetheringsett cum Brockford

The Parish Council are updating the Emergency Plan. We would like to ask if there are any parishioners who would be willing to assist in emergencies.

Maybe you have a 4x4 vehicle or two-way radio handsets to help if power was lost or machinery to assist if a road is blocked by a fallen tree for example.

Knowing who has equipment in emergencies can play a vital part to ensure we stay safe and allow us to help each other during the first few hours of an emergency, before handing over to the emergency services.

Please contact Cllr Kaylee van Zyl
(<u>mrandmrskvanzyl@gmail.com</u>) if you have equipment you feel
could be vital in assisting during an emergency.
Thank you for your help.

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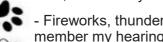


It's a Dog's Life

Hello everyone, here we are again I've been quite busy of late, lots of wet and windy walks, new toys to play with etc. etc.

I was relaxing with mum recently and she was watching a programme where people could get rid of things

they didn't like into a special room (mum sent marshmallows, but that's another story) and it got me thinking; what would I send into this room, never to see again? Well, I'd certainly send -



- Fireworks, thunder and alarms. Why? They're scary and remember my hearing is very sensitive so I'm going to bark furiously - not a popular choice in the middle of the night apparently.

 Baths. All that effort to make me smell nice just so I can roll in something smelly after I've dried myself on the furniture.

- People with bony laps. So uncomfortable when I need somewhere to sit!

- Chocolate biscuits. Only because I'm not allowed them!

So, what would you be happy to never see again? See you soon!

Woofles of Wetheringsett













A Cosy Homes initiative has launched with a £2 million fund and householders are encouraged to apply. Eligible households can apply for free energy efficiency measures in their own homes, including if privately rented. Full details to be available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk.

Are you looking for something fun to do with your dog? Come and try

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Continued from last month ... (A wounded, one-legged, blackbird had landed on a garden bench)



Annie carefully placed both dishes as close to the bird as she dared, then gently backed away, closing the door as she re-entered the kitchen. We stood watching, utterly fascinated by the drama that was unfolding before us.

It took only twenty minutes for the blackbird to make up its mind that there was no immediate danger. Bravely, he tried, and finally succeeded, to stand on his one remaining leg, and hop towards the life saving dishes. It was heartening to see him consume the food greedily, trying to build up some strength as quickly as possible. Sadly, we both felt our efforts were still a hiding to nothing.

After half an hour or so observing, we decided that what would be would be. Later, as I looked out once again on the back yard, I was surprised to see that 'Hoppy', as we'd called him, was still sitting on the bench, looking, if anything, a bit better. Next morning, looking out, I was disappointed to see no trace of him. But there was no sign of blood or shed feathers, so I hoped that he might have survived. I searched hopefully for a while, but could find no trace of our visitor. Just then, a tiny black head poked out from within the dense ivy cover. He'd stayed! Why was I so happy over one stricken blackbird? After all, they're common as muck round here. Stupid reaction, but I couldn't deny it.

We fed him regularly over the next seven or eight days, during which, Hoppy stayed put in his sanctuary. Amazingly, he grew much stronger over that short period, and he got used to us as well, though he still didn't want us getting too close for comfort.



Finally, the day came when he started singing! The first time we'd heard his voice.

Standing proudly on one leg, perfectly balanced, on the back of the bench, plumage bright and shiny and the wing, apparently, healed and sitting where it should, his song was of happiness and exuberance. Irresistible! I grabbed my camera and opened the back door to get a better viewpoint.

Hoppy carried on singing regardless, posing specially so that I could get a decent shot. Annie and I just stood there, like idiots, grinning and enjoying his happiness.

Hoppy flew away a few minutes later and, of course, we never saw him again. But I have a wonderful close up photograph of a one-legged blackbird to treasure. We'll never forget him.

An account by Colin Wheeler



The Anne Robson Trust Helpline

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us
'No one deserves to die alone'

The Anne Robson Trust has launched a telephone helpline to provide support to people who are structuraling with the imminent death of someone they care about.

Our telephone helpline is manned by specially trained volunteers to support people across the UK.

The Anne Robson Trust Telephone Helpline 0808 801 0688
Lines are open: Monday to Friday 12-6pm

Calls are completely free from all UK landlines and mobiles

To find out more please visit our website www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

Do you have anything 'to say'? Any thoughts you would like to share with the rest of us— or just something you would like to 'get off your chest'

Please send your thoughts about any of the articles in the newsletter - or any other matter, to wetheringsettnews@gmail.com

(Please refer to Disclaimer on page 2)

Friends of Debenham Library

Saturday 16th March: Quiz Night @Debenham Library

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Booking essential: phone 01728 861940 or 07507 802360. Teams of up to 6 people, £5per person. Raffle, Cake/Desert,Tea, Coffee, available in the interval. Come and support us and have some fun! Bring your own drinks and snacks.





Suffolk Libraries Day, Saturday 23rd March

Sponsor Maureen, our manager, to read her height in books by Suffolk Libraries Day! Maureen is attempting to read 5' 2" (1.57m) of books by 23rd March, Can she do it?

Did you know....?

Warm spaces – Anyone is welcome to visit the library just to keep warm and find someone to talk to. You don't have to take part in an activity or be borrowing something, it's ok just to come in to get out of the cold and be around people.

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, CDs and audiobooks, downloadable films/music/audiobooks/ebooks, free reservations. The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

Opening hours:

Tuesday: 0930 am –1300 pm Wednesday: 1500 –1930 pm Saturday: 0900 am –1300 pm Sunday: 1200 –1600 pm

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> Amanda Wearing. Telephone: 01449 711674; Email: atwearing@vahoo.co.uk

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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Church & Town Estate Charity Trustee Vacancies

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Church & Town Estate Charity was originally set up some 150 years ago for the benefit of the Church, Education and the Deserving & Necessitous of the village. The Charity has now modernised and considers and makes annual grants and donations for the benefit of children, young people, the elderly, those in need, the school, the church and community organisations in the village.

The Charity is run by a Board of Trustees and there are currently three Trustee vacancies. The Trustees are keen to fill the vacancies and would welcome applications from any parishioner, 18 years and over, who believes they would have an interest in helping to run the Charity.

Trustee Meetings are held in the village, four times per year (February, May, August and November).

If you think you may be interested in becoming a Trustee to help with this worthy cause please do email the Clerk at wetheringsettcttrust@gmail.com or telephone 01728 862001 for further information.

Registered Charity No. 209940



Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum

01449 766899 www.mslr.org.uk Brockford Station, Wetheringsett, IP14 5PW



Easter Steam Up Sunday 31st March and Monday 1st April Opening Times: 10.30 - 16.30 each day

The Easter Weekend emphasis will be on entertainment for families with children. The Middy facilities will all be open including steam train rides on genuine Victorian 4-wheel coaches, MSLR museum, visits to the Restoration Shed, souvenir shop, café and the Middy real ale bar.

Plus Easter Bunny hunts for younger visitors.

For prices and more information visit www.mslr.org.uk



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When we had a dry week at the end of January, I thought that would be the last rain for 3 months (1976 etc), but we had a cold snap... and got the sugar beet out of the ground, the field ploughed and drilled, and back came the rains, heavy ones but Church St did not flood again. I realise that 'once every 40 years' actually starts tomorrow, and with climate change, it may be tomorrow. We have to be thankful, at the moment, we are in the driest part of the country. I took the train to Edinburgh recently and the Trent at Newark had unseen banks, and every flat field through Yorkshire had large puddles, and the tramlines looked like canals.

Why are there so many puddles on the roads as well as elsewhere? The cause is silt; the very fine particles smaller than grains of sand which are easily moved by water till they settle and block any drain so that the water cannot then pass on its way. The riparian owners of the ditches, and the Council where pipes go under the road, have a busy time ahead.

The Council also have a never-ending task with repairing potholes which appear and re-appear too often. However, they cannot repair holes they do not know about, but one can let them know on-line about them. They will not come tomorrow, but when there are enough holes and enough notifications, they might come the day after.

AJA.

The Cedars Pool—No water in the pool!



We are having maintenance done on the pool this month, and hope to be back in action before Easter, even if not heated to 80*F!



Doggy Park

The dog park is being used increasingly; in spite of the wet conditions, it is a bit swampy, but training still goes ahead.

Our Units are getting fully occupied: the taxi man should be an asset to the community - I can't advertise but he will get you there swiftly.

tonyalston@hotmail.com for details.

South Hartismere Benefice

March 2024 Newsletter



I don't know about you, but for me March is one of my favourite months of the year. January seems to last forever and February flies past. When we get to March we are in the first month of Spring after a long, wet and windy winter. The saying "In like a lion, out like a lamb" will hopefully be true for us this year, as we long for calmer weather. March represents a time of transition, growth, lighter days, the shoots of new life in the garden, along with celebrations, reflection and hope.

As we start March we are already in Lent, a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's Death and Resurrection at Easter. Lasting for forty days – from Ash Wednesday, on the 14th of February this year, to the evening

of Holy Thursday. Have you given something up for Lent this year? Something that you normally enjoy eating? Or have you instead given up your time (one of the most precious things we have) to help other people or volunteer? Or 40 kind gestures, one for each day of Lent, or a bible reading or quiet reflection each day?

On the 10th of March, Mothering Sunday, we celebrate and give thanks to mothers, grandmothers, aunts, carers or guardians who do so much for us. They look after, nurse us, listen to us, care for us, love us and forgive us. They never ask for, or expect thanks, so this is a day we can show them how much we love and appreciate them. Originally Mothering Sunday began with a religious purpose. Held on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday, it was a day to honour and give thanks to the Virgin Mary. This was when people visited their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral in a family's area. The spread of Christianity throughout Europe in the 16th century increased the celebrations. The gatherings at the 'mother' church, reunited families and gave children, many of who worked as domestic servants, or as apprentices away from home (from as early as ten years old), a day off to join their family and see their mother.

As the month draws to a close, we celebrate Easter. For some it is a time filled with children excitedly taking part in Easter egg hunts, chicks and lambs being born, spring bulbs filling the garden with flowers and seeing gnarled dead looking trees bursting into life filled with blossom and young leaves. This renewal of life in nature can echo Christ's resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

As Christ said:

"I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die".

John 11:25-26.

Emma Morris - Lightwave Schools and Families' Minister

From the Parishes:

In loving memory: Joyce Mayes (Thornham Magna)



South Hartismere Benefice

MARCH 2024

Friday 1st March	Mellis	10.30am	World Day of Prayer
Saturday 2 nd March	Wetheringsett	10.30am -	CONNECT
		12noon	(Mothering Sunday crafts)
Sunday 3rd March	Gislingham	10.30am	Worship for All
The 3 rd Sunday of Lent	Thorndon	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th March	Thorndon	10.00am	Together at 10
The 4th Sunday of Lent	(Refres	hments & make a	Posy to take away only)
Mothering Sunday	Mellis	10.30am	Worship for All
	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th March	Thornham Parva	10.30am	Worship for All
The 5th Sunday of Lent	Gislingham	10.30am	Holy Communion
THE CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF	Thorndon	10.30am	Worship for All
Sunday 24th March	Thornham Magna	10.30am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All
	Yaxley	10.30am	Worship for All
Monday 25th March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Tuesday 26th March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Weds. 27th March	Thornham Parva	7.00pm	Sung Compline
Thursday 28 th March Maundy Thursday	Gislingham Deanery Service	7.00pm	Holy Communion
Friday 29th March	Stoke Ash	2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Good Friday	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 30 th March Easter Eve	Thorndon	10.30am – 12noon	CONNECT (Easter Hunt)
	Thornham Magna Deanery Service	7.00pm	Easter Eve Holy Communion
Sunday 31st March Easter Day	Thorndon	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am (NB: Not 28th)

Contact:



Reverend Canon Susan Loxton

Rural Dean of the Hartismere & Hoxne Deanery
revloxton@gmail.com 01379 388493

Reverend Debbie Nicholls - Curate rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 01379 678753

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



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every Wednesday between 10:30 &12:00

Scrumptious home-made spread, teas and coffees

Why not drop in and join our cheerful social gathering
All ages welcome and friendly dogs too

We do not charge, but donations as you see fit are welcome

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Great Insults

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

"He had no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

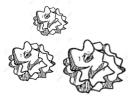
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SPRING VILLAGE LITTER PICK









Please join us on Sunday morning 7th April for the Village litter pick

Pickers and bags will be provided as usual
Please bring your own gloves if needed
Accompanied children and dogs very welcome
We hope to see everyone at the Village











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Damp and mould is building up in our house as the weather gets colder. Our living room is the worst and there's a strong smell, so we've stopped having friends round. We're also concerned about our health. We've reported it to our landlord, but they haven't done anything. With six months left on the tenancy agreement, we're running out of options. What should we do?

You've done the right thing by bringing this to your landlord. To work out if they are responsible, you'll need to find the cause of the damp and mould. This can take time unless there's a clear cause, like bad insulation or a leaking roof.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. The main types are rising, penetrating, construction, and condensation damp. It can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. Information on our website can help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Go to citizensadvice.org.uk and search damp for more information.

You should check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp. Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of those you live with. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if the window frames are rotting.

Condensation is a key cause of damp we're all familiar with. You should try and reduce extra moisture in your home, this will make it easier to show that your landlord is responsible for the damp. Extra moisture can come from portable gas or paraffin heaters, drying wet clothes or using a tumble dryer with no outside vent. You may reach the point where you just want to get out of your tenancy agreement early, but remember this can be tricky and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

For example, you could get support from Safe Suffolk Renters, a Suffolk wide project to help improve relationships between landlords and private tenants. Contact them via their website safesuffolkrenters.org. As a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.



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Debenham Shed

We have been working on a new village sign for Mickfield, which is shown in the photo incomplete (the



plough scene is being painted separately by a Mickfield resident) but

being offered up to the new wooden post.

A project recently completed for a customer in Brundish was the renovation of a Victorian rocking horse. A new saddle was made by a Debenham resident; it also has a new tail, hair and paint, and should keep her grandchildren entertained for years!

Meanwhile our new woodworking area is nearing completion with insulation and heaters, and dust extraction and additional wiring and lighting soon to be installed. There is a lot going on! You can join us online.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm, Fridays 10am-5pm and normally the second Saturday morning of each month.

Chairman: Rob Davies 07952 556152 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at

<u>www.debenhamshed.org.uk</u> (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email <u>info@debenhamshed.org.uk</u>.

Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.

What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and sourcing materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. **Debenham shed is open to all adults.**

Quote for March ..

The Ides of March are no different than of October just seven months older and perhaps, a little bit colder.





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WETHERINGSETT PARISH COUNCILLORS

ď	Parish Councillors	
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Clir Mrs Rachel Leech VICE CHAIR	rachelleech67@btinternet.com	
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Cllr Mrs June Weir	juneweir1@hotmail.com	
Parish Clerk: Mrs Lynne Cockerton	lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com	01728 862001
County & District Councillor : Cllr Andrew Stringer	Andrew.Stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01449 780339
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