

Spring 2012

FREE

The Grundisburgh and District News

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A NEW VILLAGE HALL AT LAST?

Changes in planning law and policy appear to have cleared the way for renewed consideration of a new village hall in Grundisburgh on the field opposite the existing one.

This comes after years of delay caused by the long drawn out Local Development Framework (LDF) process which may not be completed for another two to three years. The main problem with the LDF is the change in housing policy by the Conservative government from the old Labour approach and the issues surrounding the Adastral Park proposals.

As long ago as 1984, the need for a new village hall was one of the main recommendations of a Parish appraisal. This was reinforced by the findings of the 2006 Parish Plan representing the views of 1,363 villagers. A scheme was drawn up in 2007 to build a new hall on the field across the road funded, in part, by an enabling development where the landowner gives land and a contribution to the building of a new hall in exchange for permission to build a number of houses on adjacent land.

This proposal was debated and approved in principle at a village meeting in April 2007 but attempts to carry the proposal forward were frustrated by the LDF process. With the advent of the new Localism Bill and in the spirit of returning initiative over certain planning matters to local people, there is now new hope that the proposal can be taken forward.

In light of this development, the Village Hall Management Committee has re-formed its steering group to further investigate this opportunity liaising with both Suffolk Coastal and the landowner. This group will, if matters progress as hoped, bring the proposals before a village meeting to assess anew local opinion. Further developments will be reported as they happen.

Iain Langdon, new village hall steering group



Grundisburgh residents celebrating new safety from traffic thanks to community action. Story on page 8



Clopton village hall will be the venue of the next companion dog show in May. More on page 4

CONCERN OVER NEW HOUSES

Proposals for three 4-bedroom houses to be built on the disused Broadmere garage site in Grundisburgh were debated by concerned residents and councillors at an extraordinary meeting of Grundisburgh parish council on 17 February.

Fears over access, including right of way to the playing field, the ability of drains and sewerage to cope with increased demand, loss of privacy and a concern that the houses would look out of place in an area currently surrounded by bungalows were strongly aired by residents.

The parish council's planning committee is now considering the comments made at the meeting and by other individuals. It will then put its recommendation to the full parish council so that a formal response to the planning application can be made to Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Comments on the application, reference C12/0196, can be made to Suffolk Coastal by 6 March, with their decision expected around 27 March.

News Diary

FEBRUARY

Monday 27

Vegetable Growing talk Otley Gardening Club OVH 7.30pm Contact 738244

MARCH

Thursday 1

With Pudge at Dunkirk talk Gr WI Gr Pav 7.30pm Contact 735838

Coffee morning New Mums & Mums-to-be Gr Dog 10am-12noon. Contact 735267.

Thursday 8

Tiddlywinks toddler group St Marys Ch Gr 2.30pm Contact 735604

Friday 9

Pearly Kings & Queens talk Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 01394 388970

Monday 12

Gr & Culpho Parish Council Mtg GrPR 7.30pm Contact 735541

Thursday 15

Help! I'm Stressed! talk Bealings WI BVH 2.30pm Contact 623985

Grundisburgh Playgroup AGM Playgroup Building 7.30pm Contact 738818

Tuesday 20

Roman Roads in East Anglia talk Gr Local History Soc GrPR 7.45pm Contact 738108

Wednesday 21

Lent -talk MU GPR 2.30pm Contact 735604

Thursday 22

Tiddlywinks toddler group St Marys Ch Gr 2.30pm Contact 735604

Monday 26

Let's Go Gardening talk Otley Gardening Club OVH 7.30pm Contact 738244

Friday 30

AGM Gr & District News GPR 7.30pm Contact 735275

APRIL

Thursday 5

Ipswich Waterfront talk GrWI GPav 7.30pm Contact 735838

Safer Neighbourhood meeting Witnesham VH

6.30pm. Contact 613500 (ask for Kesgrave SNT office)

Friday 13

Molly's Quiz Night Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 01394 388970

Tuesday 17

History of the Port of Felixstowe talk Gr Local History Soc GPR 7.45pm Contact 738108

Saturday 21

Annual Bealings Plant Sale Bealings VH 10-12noon Contact 624141

Tuesday 24

Gr & Culpho Annual Parish Meeting GVH 7.30pm Contact 735541

Thursday 26

Tiddlywinks toddler group St Marys Ch Gr 2.30pm Contact 735604

Saturday 28

Garden Open Larks' Hill Tuddenham 1-5pm Contact 785248

Monday 30

AGM & Suffolk Squit talk Otley Gardening Club OVH 7.30pm Contact 738244

MAY

Monday 7

Plant & Book Sale Hasketon VH 2.30pm Contact 01394 383106

Thursday 10

Tiddlywinks toddler group St Marys Ch Gr 2.30pm Contact 735604

Friday 11

The Suffolk Punch Trust talk Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 01394 388970

Monday 14

Gr & Culpho Parish Council Mtg GrPR 7.30pm Contact 735541

Tuesday 15

Suffolk Dialect - is it the true English? talk Gr Local History Soc GPR 7.45pm Contact 738108

Wednesday 16

Be Clear on Cancer an early diagnosis talk MU GrPR 2.30pm Contact 735604

Thursday 24

Tiddlywinks toddler group St Marys Ch Gr 2.30pm Contact 735604

JUNE

Saturday 2

Bredfield Church Fete The Old Rectory 2.15pm Contact 01394 383156

Saturday 9

Garden Open Larks' Hill Tuddenham 1-5pm Contact 785248

Saturday 9/Sunday 10

Hidden Gardens Gr Hort Soc 1-6pm Contact 738267

Sunday 24

Hasketon Jazz BBQ Shrubbery Farm 12.30pm Contact 01394 383106

JULY

Saturday 14

Village Show Gr Hort Soc 12.30pm Gr PF Contact 738267

Summer Disco show marquee 7.45pm GrPF PBE Contact 735469

Sunday 15

Real Craft Fair GrPF 10am-4pm Contact 735524

Saturday 21

Scouts Duck Race GVG 4.30pm Contact 735352

Garden Open Larks' Hill Tuddenham 1-5pm Contact 785248

AUGUST

Friday 10

Evening Garden Party Gr Hall Gr Hort Soc PBE Contact 735517

Saturday 25

Hasketon Village Fete & Teapots, Jugs & Mugs Exhibition Contact 01394 388970

Sunday 26/Monday 27

Teapots, Jugs & Mugs Exhibition Hasketon Ch Contact 01394 388970

OCTOBER

Saturday 13

Pumpkin Festival Gr Green Contact 738799

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 20/Sunday 25

Crib Fest St Marys Gr Contact 735185

Key for abbreviations:
PBE - pre-booking essential
P/VH - Parish/Village hall
PF - Playing field
PR - Parish rooms
VG - Village green
Pav - pavilion
Gr - Grundisburgh

All codes are 01473 unless given otherwise.

Brief details of village events should be sent by 2 May for next issue direct to Heather Langdon, The Holme, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, heather.langdon@btinternet.com. Please always give a contact phone and indicate if tickets must be bought in advance.

Longer items to editor@grunews.com.

The News' diary of events within our villages is published both to promote events and help organisers avoid clashes. So let us have the details early. Events which occur at a regular time each month are only included three months ahead.

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What's On

Turn a new leaf

Hasketon Spring Plant & Book Sale on Holiday Monday 7 May in the Victory Hall will be the usual annual event with masses of books at very low prices compared with the town's charity shops. We usually appeal for books but we do have many in stock so we would appreciate only good clean classics or really appealing fiction and non-fiction!

Plants from your gardens and young plants/seedlings for growing-on would be especially appreciated since we seem to have lost several experienced and generous gardeners. Books and plants may be left at Shrubbery Farm near to the event (books in time for sorting, at least a week in advance). Thank you!

Gordon Smith 01394 383106

GARDEN STAR

Otley and District Gardening Club's meeting on 26 March, in Otley Village Hall at 7.30pm, will feature Helen Yemm, who describes herself as a 'muddy wellies gardener blessed with the gift of the gab'. She writes for the Daily Telegraph (Thorny Problems) and has presented BBC TV's 'Gardening from Scratch' and 'Gardening Week', as well as writing books, including 'Gardening In Your Nightie!'

Helen will have lots of gardening anecdotes and likes informal Questions and Answers. She lives near Tunbridge Wells, so is coming a long way to see us. Do come: it is bound to be a very interesting evening. Admission £2. Refreshments provided.

Jenny Vince 01473 738244

Larks ascending

We will be opening our garden at Larks' Hill, Tuddenham, for the fourth year running as part of the National Gardens Scheme, on Saturdays 28 April, 9 June and 21 July, all from 1 to 5 pm. We take private bookings

as well. Over the three years we have made just under £3500 for charity and would like to thank everyone who came and helped us raise such a worthwhile sum.

John Lambert 01473 785248

New mums and mums-to-be....

Join us at The Grundisburgh Dog on Thursday 1 March between 10am and 12noon for tea, coffee, homemade cakes and a good chat! £3 per person. If you'd like to come along, please contact Eilir on 01473 735267 or email eilir@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook - 'Grundisburgh New Mums and Mums To Be'.

SUMMER JAZZ

Date: Sunday 24 June 12.30pm-4.00pm. Place: Shrubbery Farm Hasketon. What: the 16th Jazz/Barbecue.

Real traditional jazz with the Sussex Jazz Kings - a very popular group at events countrywide. A generous three piece barbecue and puddings to which many local helpers contribute. Pay bar (no brought-in drinks please since it's a charity event). Vegetarian or special diets are available if ordered at time of ticket purchase. Help with food or erection of gazebos etc is always much appreciated.

Gordon Smith, 01394 383106 or 388970

Cribfest 2012

The third nativity crib festival at St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, will be a unique opportunity to see nativity cribs from the local community and around the world in a dazzling array of styles, modern and traditional.

We hope that you can also be involved by loaning any extra special or different crib sets you may have. We will also have for sale our own 'Grundisburgh made' cribs crafted from recycled wood found in and around the village.



New works by local artists and craftspeople will also be on display.

The festival will be open every day from 20 - 25 November. Groups can book in for a guided tour, led by the Rev'd Canon Clare Sanders, who has collected cribs for many years. The tour should take about 30 - 40 minutes, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions, take photos and then enjoy the homemade refreshments. No admission charge but the suggested donation for the tour is £5 per head, which, if possible, should be Gift Aided in aid of St Mary's.

For information please contact The Rev'd Canon Clare Sanders, 01473 735183, revclaresanders@tiscali.co.uk.

Specials events - 2012

Suffolk's Special Constabulary team is holding two events to encourage more volunteers in The News area to join it. Specials work alongside regular paid police officers to help keep our communities safe.

To join you should be 18+ and have the ability to think on your feet, work as part of a team and keep cool in difficult situations, e.g. patrolling, dealing with incidents and helping catch those responsible for committing crime. There is no need for formal qualifications and full training is given.

The events are at Martlesham Police HQ on Monday 5 March and at The Technology Centre, Station Road, Framlingham IP13 9EZ on Thursday 3 May. Both start at 7.30 pm. To learn more, visit www.suffolk.police.uk or call Mick Mann on 01473 613638 or email him on mick.mann@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

PLANTS FOR SALE

The popular annual Bealings Plant Sale takes place on Saturday 21 April at Bealings Village Hall, between 10am and 12noon. In addition to the wide range of plants, there will be produce and cake stalls, refreshments and a raffle. Parking is available and proceeds will be in aid of Great and Little Bealings Churches



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PUB POINTS

The Admiral's Head, Bealings

A year on from our refurbishment and the pizzas are still selling like...well hot pizzas!!! A spring refresh on our menu too for all to enjoy. Join us for Mothers Day on Sunday 18 March for our delicious set menu. 2 or 3 courses choices will be available. Our theme nights are coming back, too. We will be showcasing the many different regions of Italy, highlighting the diverse ingredients and flavours of the country. For more information call us on 01473 625912 or see our website www.theadmiralshead.com

Jazmine D'Angelo

The White Hart, Otley

1st Saturday of each month - live music; 2nd Saturday of each month - quiz night. Thursdays are fun nights with poker, bingo, history nights and book club.

The next Big Music Night is on Friday 2 March with the duo 'Words and Music': these guys cover lots of 60s and 70s styles. This 'retro' evening will feature 60s' food favourites e.g. scampi and chips in the basket!

We are very proud to have received a 5* food hygiene award and our food trade is growing all the time since we introduced our gluten-free menu. We hold regular feast nights, including chinese, indian, fish and american themes.

We also run a mini-bus for groups that live in small villages without a local of their own.

Natalie and I and our daughters, Hannah and Lauren, would love you to come and have a nice evening around a lovely open fire with a great village atmosphere.

If you would like to receive regular updates, please call us on 01473 890312 or visit Otleywhitehart@yahoo.co.uk

Gary Gilling

The Turks Head, Hasketon

Jim and Donna are retiring from the licensed trade at the end of February and their places are being taken by Lisa and Shaun. Lisa comes from the Newbourne Fox and has been a winner on TV's 'Come dine with me'. She is an enthusiast for home cooked meals and has plenty of new ideas - which will be gradually introduced in the future.

See also page 14

Peter Clements

The Grundisburgh Dog

6 - 11 March is British Pie week, which means 'pie & pint' offers in the bar and 'pie specials' in the restaurant. Irish food on St Patrick's day (17 March) and on the following day, Mothers' day (18 March), we will be offering special two or three course meals at £18 and £22.50 at both lunchtime and evening.

We will be open all weekend over Easter (6 - 9 April), including Easter Monday. We will be celebrating the Jubilee with a beer and cider festival throughout the period (2 - 5 June), including a hog roast on the Monday.

Charles & Eilir Rogers

See pages 12 and 13 for news from The Three Horseshoes, Charsfield and The Castle Inn, Bredfield.

Dog day

Clopton village hall on Sunday 27 May will be the venue of the popular companion dog show in aid of Newfoundland Welfare. This will be the 13th annual show I have organised and they are wonderful days out.

Dogs of all types - not just Newfoundlands - are welcome (except puppies under six months and bitches in season). Entries from 10am, with

judging starting at 11am. There will be lots of prizes, including 11 x 15kg sacks of dog food, many of which are made possible by the generosity of dog food manufacturers. The event will be held outside but, even if it rains on the day, we can still go ahead in the village hall!

There will be home-made refreshments and a super raffle. All profits will go to the welfare section Newfoundland Club of Great Britain, who rescue and rehome Newfoundland dogs. If you would like full details of the event, please call on 01473 738366 or 077 9070 5011 or email me at: angelamartin366@btinternet.com

Angela Martin

BIKE NUMBERS RACK UP

The 42 bicycles collected from Grundisburgh and Bredfield last autumn have now been shipped out to Cape Town to the Bicycle Empowerment Network Zuid Africa (more information via <http://www.benbikes.org.za/>).

This was organised by Kevin Ablitt of the Bicycle Doctor in Ipswich, who is happy to make individual collections if more unwanted bikes come to light. "Statistics show that there are more bikes languishing in sheds than actually being used" he says. Kevin can be contacted on 01473 259853, sales@bicycledoctor.gbr.fm.

Many thanks to all the people who brought their bikes - around 80 in all - along for the local two collections in 2011. The total number of bikes sent to Africa through the scheme is now over 39,000

Anne Ackerley and Nicola Hobbs

Would you like to make the most of your Garden?

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Bordy Green, Charsfield



Forget-me-not: the family firm

Forget-Me-Not coaches are a familiar sight in and around our area and, no doubt, many of our readers have made trips on them, or even been taken to school in one. Now based in Otley, the company was founded in Clopton in the early 1920s by Albert Soames and his sons, Albert and Ken. The present owners of this family firm are Albert's grandson Anthony Soames, and Anthony's son Andrew and daughter, Mandy.

Albert Soames was a well-known figure in Clopton, Grundisburgh and the local area. He drove a hawker's van selling and delivering food, baskets, pots, pans and paraffin. After the First World War there was a period when the country recovered from the losses and privation caused by the war and factories returned to peace-time production of cars and coaches, rather than munitions. Then came the 'roaring twenties' when all kinds of opportunities opened up – among



them better roads for travelling widely and exploring the country. That is when the A. Soames & Sons coach company began. Over the years, the coaches have changed, of course. Some of the present coaches are air-conditioned and much faster than the original models. In the 'twenties' coach travel was in its infancy and any kind of trip was an adventure. By the late 1940s, A. Soames & Sons had moved from Clopton to the present site in Chapel Road, Otley where the duck-egg blue coaches are a familiar sight as they are cleaned and polished ready for their next outing.

Today Soames is thriving. Their main business comes from private hire and tours, supplemented by contracts with Suffolk County Council, Woodbridge School and Ipswich High School for Girls, (the 'school runs'). They contract with travel companies such as Alpha Travel in Lancashire and Travelstyle in Chesterfield and are just as happy doing day trips as they are visits to the Continent. There are 17 coaches, ranging in size from 28 seats to 57 for the largest coach available. Twenty people (including the owners) work for the business.

Speaking as a very satisfied passenger, I hope Soames will continue to drive serenely towards its centenary and beyond!

Wendy Witt

Photos: top left - founder, Albert Soames; top right - Albert's son Albert and brother-in-law Frank; left - a Soames coach in Ipswich Town's first division champions parade 1962; bottom - present owners Anthony ('Tony'), Mandy and Andrew, photographed by Wendy Witt.

A REAL MULTI-TASKER!

From computer support to wood carving; from handyman to slimming consultant; Grundisburgh resident Alan Billings is showing no signs of slowing down as he reaches his 60th birthday. Alan is known to many people locally through his 14 years on his parish council, along with over a decade as an IT technician in the area's schools.

Last year, he decided to make a number of changes. The first was not entirely his own choice –he was made redundant. However, Alan saw this not as a problem, but as an opportunity. He and his wife Sandra had been losing weight



with Slimming World since November 2009, and so Alan decided it was time to share their success with others by becoming a Slimming World consultant. He now

runs a group every Monday night in Wickham Market, and is one of only three male consultants in East Anglia. Alongside his Slimming World success, Alan is also working as a self-employed computer technician, available to help individuals, businesses and schools with their IT needs.

And, not content with two lines of work, Alan is using his knowledge of woodwork and carpentry to offer his services as a handyman and woodcarver. Alan can be contacted on 01473 735604, or email abillings@talk21.com.

This article was written for our local enterprise pages by Fiona Billings, Alan's daughter, who cut her journalistic teeth with The News some year ago

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A BURGH CHILDHOOD REMEMBERED

Betty Falla (née Last) was born in No 3 Burgh Corner in 1917. No 3 was Burgh Post Office and was run by her grandfather. Her mother, Hilda Last, widowed at the end of the war in 1918, delivered the post.

This sprightly 94 year old lady now lives in Holm Court, Kesgrave and she remembers a great deal of her childhood. She went to Grundisburgh Primary School and remembers her teacher, Mrs Felgate, with affection. The children always went home for dinner in those days. From Grundisburgh she went to a convent school near St John's in Woodbridge.

Her neighbours at the Post Office were at No 2, Grace and Louis Last (relations) and No 1 Mrs Battle, Ernie and Mrs Cook lived opposite in the Ancient House and Miss Roe lived at The Croft.

The road from Burgh Corner to Pipe's Corner was called 'the Wash'.



Betty remembers General Bodham at Findale and Dimmocks General Store opposite the Half Moon. Williams shop was in those days Savages, which combined post office and grocer. The Rev Shallard and his two daughters were at the Rectory. Betty for some years sang in the Burgh Church Choir. She remembers Cecil Oakes at Burgh Cottage and a Major Thompson at Burgh Mill and his housekeeper Mrs Knox.

At the age of 18, one of the Shallard daughters persuaded Betty to take up nursing and tried to get her to join her in Great Ormond Street, however, she was too young and fetched up at Paddington Green Children's Hospital where she stayed for 18 months. She then moved to Ipswich Fever Hospital, Foxhall Road and lived with her mother in Kesgrave. This move was all about her boyfriend, who lived in Ipswich.

In 1938, she became a dental nurse in Ipswich and worked for Mr Cox. When war broke out in 1939 her boyfriend was called up to serve in the Royal Air Force. In early 1940 her boyfriend's leave was cancelled prior to a posting abroad, so she found her way to Gloucestershire where he was stationed and two weeks later got married in the local church. It was a brief honeymoon. Her husband was taken prisoner at Tobruk in 1944.

Her son Christopher was born in 1946 and daughter Louisa in 1952. She has four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. One of Betty's closest friends was Millie Harris (née Pipe) whose picture is on page 11 of the Grundisburgh news no. 220.

Picture Wendy Witt, words Adam Gurdon



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Grundisburgh Gleanings

FROM RAGS COME RICHES Four Days of Fun

During autumn and winter the Grundisburgh Scout group has been very busy with archery, badge work, presentations and visits.

The Christmas card postal scheme run by various Ipswich scout groups did very well with over 95,000 cards collected and delivered across the area. Grundisburgh was one of the nine groups involved and our total cards collected was 630. This year we will be collecting as before but also delivering in 'Grundisburgh Village'. Many thanks to all our premises who had collection boxes for us and to everyone who used the scheme supporting our group last Christmas.

After its first year, our textile bin on the Playing Field car park is still being well used and has generated £1000 for Group Funds.

Recently the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed tobogganing at the Ipswich ski slope. The Cubs visited The Buddhist Centre in Ipswich (see photo on back page) and learnt about Buddhism for their Promise Challenge. They also had to meditate which kept them quiet for three minutes! In January, 66 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders went to watch the GADS panto which we very much enjoyed (oh, yes we did!).

Scouts have had to give presentations for their Global Challenge Badge. Each individual had to research global issues such as deforestation, war, fossil fuels, animal rights and then carry out their presentation in front of Leaders and members. Five Scouts and four Explorers are currently training to enter the national archery finals in May being held in Hertfordshire. They will compete in three types of archery, ranging from 20 yard target, shooting at targets in the woods and at a flag 60 yards away. The Beavers and Explorers have started learning First Aid for their Emergency badges!

Soon the camping season will be here and the Scouts will be taking part in the outdoor challenge camp without tents having to use their own 'shelters' in the woods. Cubs will be going to the district night hike at Leiston, and Explorers and older scouts will be going to Thorington near Colchester for Phoenix camp with a visit to Roller World. Finally, preparations are currently under way for the cycle camp at the beginning of May where our cycle route will be from Duxford Imperial War Museum back to Grundisburgh over three days.

More information and photos from our events can be found on the websites: www.grundisburghscouts.org.uk and www.fynnvalleyexplorers.org.uk

Contact: Stuart Ross, Group Scout Leader 01473 735352

That's what's in store in Grundisburgh over the jubilee weekend. Plans are being finalised by the Parish Council but the programme is likely to include a Fun Run organised by the youth club, a performance by GADS + a barbeque on The Green, a parish walk and fireworks organised by the Scouts. There will be a flower festival in the church over the weekend and a new village map by local artist Cyndi Speer will be unveiled at Olde Forge Stores, followed by refreshments at The Dog.

A fully detailed programme (including a copy of the new map) will be delivered to every house in the village before the jubilee. If you could spare even an hour or two over this special holiday to help with stewarding or other essential tasks, it would be much appreciated. Please contact me on 738219

Sally Grahn

WI: ever more diversity in year ahead

This year Grundisburgh Burgh & Culphi WI speakers will be covering a wide range of topics: Dunkirk, Ipswich Waterfront, Bees, Flowers of Tileagd and Hollesley Bay are just a few of the subjects we are anticipating.

Recently, farmer, Richard Wright told us of his struggle to survive the aftermath of both Swine Flu and Foot and Mouth and his desperation at trying to support his family with next to no income. He decided to have a go at making oil lamps and we watched as he created a beautiful object, carefully suspending dried flowers and leaves in a bottle of oil. He now sells world wide and has a thriving business: truly inspirational.

Penny Chipperfield showed us how to create 3D stars from paper made from her own vegetables which she uses to make attractive bowls and other decorative items. Tiny star beads can be used to produce lovely necklaces. It was a 'hands on' meeting, everyone having a go at star making with varying degrees of success.

We continue to meet in the Pavilion, Grundisburgh at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors are very welcome. See diary page for details.

Carol Barker - 735838

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Grundisburgh Gleanings

GENEROUS GESTURE PAVES WAY FOR SAFER ACCESS

Residents living off Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh, and walkers have been celebrating the building of a short stretch of pathway which makes crossing the road in front of the old Half Moon pub much less hazardous.

Since Lynda and Hugh Bridges moved into Vine Cottages 34 years ago, the volume and speed of traffic on Woodbridge Road has massively increased. Which meant that to reach the rest of the village on foot they and their neighbours had an increasingly dangerous journey.

This led Lynda to campaign for more pavement to be installed so that they could cross where oncoming traffic could at least be seen. What seemed a hopeless proposition suddenly became a possibility when Catherine and Bryan Laxton, the new owners of Finndale House, generously offered to give a strip of land from their garden. But, even with no costs needed for land purchase, the county council still would not fund the work due to budget constraints.

Peter Bellfield, the local county councillor, had long been concerned that this corner was a real danger spot and agreed to use some of his 'locality' budget for the project, and persuaded the county council to meet the remaining costs; Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council had also put in some funds - so work was able to start in late January. It took longer than expected as some of the workmen involved also double up on road gritting duties when necessary, so re-instatement of fencing and planting of new hedging had to be delayed.

As well as delighting local residents, walkers are also very relieved at not having to run the gauntlet across a blind bend. Sally Grahn, who organises many of the parish council Sunday walks, said that the work has made it far safer to reach some of the most popular footpaths.

Another person who is particularly pleased is rector Clare Sanders. "It always worried me that parishioners wanting to visit me at the rectory had to cross such a busy road with no safe place to do so" she said.

Words Nicola Hobbs, photo (on front page) Peter Kendall

The Grundisburgh and Culpho Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Grundisburgh Village Hall on Tuesday 24 April, starting at 7.30pm. The full programme will be available on Grundisburgh What's on? (grundisburgh@googlemail.com).

ACTIVE GARDENERS

A busy programme of events is planned by Grundisburgh & Culpho Horticultural Society for 2012.

First up is the Hidden Gardens weekend on 9 and 10 June. People with gardens of all shapes, sizes and styles who are willing to open to visitors are being sought; ideally we will have clusters close to each other to make it easier for visitors and will have new comers as well as many of our seasoned openers. I have opened our garden at Ford House for many years and find it a most enjoyable experience – and usually find I learn lots of useful tips from the visitors.

The Village Show is on 14 July, and details of the classes are available from Grundisburgh Post Office and on the society's website: www.gbchs.co.uk. A wide range of entertainments is being planned for the playing field outside the marquee and any local organisations wanting to run stalls to raise money for themselves should contact Julia Bentley (735524).

The popular dance in the marquee takes place that evening, as usual run by Brenda and Richard Garrett.

The evening garden party on 10 August will be held at Grundisburgh Hall, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Cranworth. The pumpkin festival, organised last year for the first time, is booked for Saturday 13 October.

The good causes chosen to benefit from our events this year are the Grundisburgh Scouts' fund for a much needed new hut and Woolverstone Wish appeal to improve facilities for cancer patients at Ipswich Hospital. More information will be included in the next News and on our website

Nicola Hobbs, secretary@gbchs.co.uk 01473 738267

Tribute to Greg Howes



Greg Howes, landlord of The Dog from 1997 to 2000, died early in 2011 aged 52. We heard the news only recently from his former wife Jane, who ran the pub with Greg until their separation in 1999. He had been living in Kent near his daughter and was running a newsagency.

Originally from Essex, Greg trained as a chef and worked in many parts of the country as a publican. As a keen supporter of Ipswich Town he had particularly enjoyed being at the Trafalgar, then on Spring Road, Ipswich.

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Grundisburgh Gleanings



The cast of Hansel and Gretel in their grand finale

PANTO GETS THUMBS UP

In these dark days of austerity and mass unemployment what better way to cheer yourself up and start the weekend than with a local pantomime? I took myself along to see the 2012 GADS performance of Hansel and Gretel in Grundisburgh, and very soon became immersed in the "goings on" in the village of Pumpernickel.

GADS had decided to return to a more traditional pantomime this year and for those of us who know the fairytale well, little was missed out while heaps of saucy jokes and the obligatory slap-stick was added.

As to the stars, many surpassed themselves. Atrocita the witch played by Debbie Osborne was s-c-a-reey!! She certainly looked the part and her performance was word perfect. Such a shame she had to end up in the oven. Another "rotter" was Sir Rupert Rottweiler played by Joel Tatham. He certainly got under the skin of all the children in the audience, initiating much booing and hissing. (Oh yes he did!)

The comedy element was supplied by Dame Do-Good played by Ian Frost. Yet another year in makeup and ladies clothes? Her love interest is Dickie Dimwit played by Kate Adams. Ad libbing seems to be her strength and only added to the fun. Dickie was ably assisted by two more clowns Potz and Panz. Where did you get those shorts? I want a pair.

Every panto needs a romance running through it and this years lovers were Karl played by Nikki Brown and the lovely Lucy Locket played by Tessa Bailey. Their singing was excellent ably assisted by the professional band and chorus.

A huge congratulations to Hansel and Gretel without whom the show would not have gone on, literally. Will Frohn, playing Hansel had a big part but had learnt his lines very well, as had Gretel, played by Molly Lake (pictured above). It was obvious they were enjoying themselves enormously - that's what entertaining is all about.

Photos Brian Robinson, Words Roving Reviewer



CHOPSTICKS AND TCHAIKOVSKY

After a busy festive period, the children from Grundisburgh Playgroup have jumped into the Spring term exploring the letters J, W, H, I and F. We have been singing about Jack and Jill and jumping like Jack-in-the Boxes. There has been lots of learning through play at the playgroup 'hospital', caring for Miss Polly and her dollies. We joined in the celebrations for Chinese New Year by painting dragons, making masks and having lots of messy fun with noodles and chop sticks during snack time (below).

This term we are welcoming a musical parent into playgroup: Lynsey Turner, a keen singer and violinist will demonstrate the violin and teach musical activities as an enrichment activity. We know the area is full of interesting people: maybe you have an interesting pet, job, skill or even something tucked away in your garden? If you have a spare hour or two and would like to come and spend time with the children, we'd love to hear from you.

The children are continuing to enjoy P.E. in the primary school hall. We believe this helps the children's transition into a school environment whilst further developing their physical wellbeing and independent dressing.

This year we will say goodbye to our chairman, Lois Sampson. She will be missed tremendously and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

March brings our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We are always looking for new committee members, so if you are a parent, grandparent or a local person with some spare time to help the future generation of our community, please contact me. Or, come to our AGM on 15 March at 7.30 at the playgroup to meet the team. Our website: www.grundisburghplaygroup.org.uk also has information about who we are and what we do.

Helen Jerrold 738818



A GROWING BUSINESS

Three years ago the idea of running a vegetable growing gardening school finally came to fruition. With slightly wobbly knees, I opened up my Victorian walled kitchen garden at Bredfield House, to teach courses to novice vegetable, herb and fruit growers. Short courses and a selection of day courses offer the opportunity to learn the theory of all-year round vegetable growing. They also explore fast-growing crops and those with multiple harvests, the successful propagation of seeds, design and being inspired towards self-sufficiency.

Small classes of ten are taught in the gardening school and outdoors in the kitchen garden. A retail area sells gardening related gifts and accessories and has become a popular destination for unique presents and recommended books and equipment. My good coffee, home-made bakes and delicious seasonal lunch from the kitchen garden is greatly enjoyed, with recipes and cook books always recommended.

Three years on it never seems to stop.

The courses are heavily booked for this year resulting in the need for waiting lists and extra courses to support the demand. Kitchen garden design work is flowing with many kitchen garden projects up and running.

A care farm at Wickham Market, a school vegetable garden in Wiltshire and a coastal kitchen garden that faces the elements, near Southwold are all ongoing projects. Fortieth and fiftieth anniversaries and retirement present designs and course gift tokens have proved particularly popular. New courses evolve each year alongside those that are repeated annually. This year sees some visiting teachers presenting days on garden design, willow making and gourmet preserving.

I am amazed at the popularity of the school. What gives me enormous pleasure is to visit a garden following a course and realize what has been learnt and applied with great success in managing a harvest-all-year vegetable garden. The weekly blog on my web site started this year as a guide to what to do when, while my monthly articles in the EADT Suffolk magazine are designed to bring new ideas for vegetable growers.

Moving to Bredfield House with its walled kitchen garden has been the catalyst to an entire new business and career direction for me - and it quite literally just keeps growing and growing!

*Belinda Gray, The Grower Gardening School, near Bredfield
www.the-grower.co.uk 01394 384712*



Coffee break for the budding vegetable growers.



Megan Stebbings starting the preparation for this year's crops, with her friend Livia Garrod (right) who often helps on the plot.

Sharing the spade work: new 'gardenshare' scheme

With a waiting list for allotments in Grundisburgh, some frustrated vegetable growers have come up with another solution: finding someone who has more garden than they can cope with and offering to look after an area of it, in return sharing some of the crops.

The Stebbings family live close to John Ager in the Post Mill area of Grundisburgh and have been working an unused patch of ground in his garden for the past two years. Most of the work is done by Daniel and Megan Stebbings, supported by their father Phil. Last summer good crops of potatoes, peas, beetroot, tomatoes and carrots were produced from the small plot.

Gardenshare schemes have been set up in a number of areas of the UK. If there is a call for one covering Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho I should be happy to act as 'broker', putting would-be gardeners in touch with people who would welcome having part of their garden used by someone else. Please contact me on 01473 738267 or gbchs.co.uk.

Words Nicola Hobbs, photo Peter Kendall

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A kept resolution!

I decided to fulfil one of my New Year's resolutions, and try my hand at running an informal ladies' singing group, singing both unison and two-part harmony. The group is aimed at those who have either sung in choirs before, or have never been part of a choir, and the whole idea is to come along each week and have a good sing!

So far we have had only a few rehearsals but, already, some of the harmonies are beginning to sound warm and rich, despite some of the ladies claiming they have only ever sung in the shower! The songs are light-hearted, well known tunes and it doesn't matter whether the ladies can read music or not, I try to guide them as we go along. People can feel daunted or intimidated but I can assure anyone who might be interested in joining us that we are not trying to be a high flying choral society!

Any ladies will be warmly welcomed. We meet in Grundisburgh Parish Rooms on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We ask for a small fee of £2 per week to help cover costs such as hall hire and refreshments. For more details, please call me on 01473 735812.

Carol Jopling



Grundisburgh ladies enjoying their Thursday evening out, with Carol Jopling at the keyboard.

YOUNG MUSICIANS AT OTLEY

Gary, landlord of the White Hart, Otley, is bringing top local bands to the countryside as well as encouraging new bands: he says "We want the White Hart to be known as a venue for new and established bands".

One example of the type of band Gary is supporting is Yak Attack. The band, five friends in year 11 at Farlingaye High School, features Nick on vocals, Jacob guitar, Ollie guitar, Charlie drums and Tom on bass. They have been playing together for just over a year

and their first gig was last April. Since then they've played at parties, fetes, school assemblies and Farlingaye's Super Rock evening, as well as the White Hart. They play indie, retro and pop covers - well known songs, songs that have been loved since the 50s and songs that are currently in the charts. After their first gig at the White Hart they were invited back by popular demand and Gary says they will be performing there again in the future.

Tony Barrett



Above: Local band Yak Attack.

More musical notes on page 15

Winter walking

At least 35 people, including several children and dogs, turned out for the 2011 Grundisburgh Christmas walk to Hasketon. Despite earlier wet weather, the mud levels were tolerable and the mulled wine and food went down exceedingly well! Many thanks to the parish council for the refreshments and to Hilary and Trevor Hill for their hospitality.

Grundisburgh's 'second Sunday' walks continue - February's walk was to Swilland in beautiful snow and sunshine as you can see (left)! Walks last about two hours and start from the village green at 2pm on the second Sunday of each month (except December). Children and well-behaved dogs are welcome! The next walks are scheduled for 11 March, 8 April (Easter Sunday) and 13 May.

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FROTH's work coming to a head

Since it closed in May 2011, the Friends of The Three Horseshoes (FROTH) - an informal group of local enthusiasts - have been working to get Charsfield's only pub open again. FROTH held three events in less than three weeks over Christmas, including, on Christmas Day, Charsfield's first ever 'pop-up pub' in The Street (above). It attracted more than 200 people from all over the area, as well as regional publicity. FROTH later helped Charsfield see in the New Year with a packed party in the village hall. A truly festive season.

On 12 January, The Charsfield Three Horseshoes Community Pub Limited, came into existence. It's a 'Community Benefit Society', like a company but for democratically-run local enterprises. So the campaign to re-open the Three Horseshoes has now 'got formal'. The board of directors of the new society comprises eight local residents who are currently working on the society's 'prospectus' setting out formal plans to raise money to buy and re-open the pub.

The prospectus will be launched at a meeting at 7.30pm on Saturday 17 March in the village hall in Charsfield. The real ale bar will be open from 6pm. Fresh fish and chips will be available. This is a very important



Christmas revellers at the pop-up pub

meeting for everyone in the area - a chance to help put the social heart back into Charsfield by becoming a member of The Charsfield Three Horseshoes Community Pub Limited. All welcome!

Copies of the prospectus will be delivered to around 7,000 local homes and businesses following the meeting or available to download from www.froth.org.uk. More details of what is happening are on www.froth.org.uk. Or email froth@charsfield.org.uk to get on the list for regular updates.

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Bredfield Barometer

I'VE GOT A LITTLE LIST.....

St Andrew's Church stands to benefit from two events in Bredfield Village Hall in the next few weeks. The first is a Jumbo Jumble Sale on Saturday 10 March from 2-4pm. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be served. Any donations of unwanted Christmas presents, good clothes, jewellery, bric-a-brac, toys, books, DVDs, CDs, electrical items or any item in good condition would be welcome. Or just come along and support us on the day. Please contact Susie France on 07770 762481.

On Friday 20 April, there will be a talk, 'The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan', with performances by Phil and Mavis Holmes of the Ipswich Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Light refreshments from 7.15. The talk is from 7.45-8.45pm.

Adults £5.00. Under 18s £2.50. Tickets available from the Village Shop or Thorney Grove (Tel: 01394 384371)

CAMEO and Carols for Children

Come and Meet Each Other (CAMEO): it was lovely to see those who could make it, despite the cold wind and lure of the shops before the weather deteriorated at our meeting before Christmas. A wonderful £9.50 was donated towards The Children's

Society, to help children living in difficult circumstances.

CAMEO's next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 March. Spring dates will soon follow!

An evening of carol singing was held in the Castle and the pub was packed with around sixty folk joining the throng. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we intend to repeat the event next year. We managed to get through all twenty-three carols on the sheet - some of them twice! Again, a big thank you to Sarah and Andy for hosting this and to those who provided refreshments. I am pleased to say a grand total of £115.77 was raised for The Children's Society.

Ann & Steve Stammers

Jubilee jubilation Saturday 2 June

This year our fete will be Jubilee themed! Come along and see what is new! With over 40 stalls and games, the Bredfield Church Fete is a traditional affair, held in the gardens of the Old Rectory and promises fun for all the family.

Attractions include the Auction, Book Stall, Bredfield Boutique, Homemade Cakes, China Smash, Face Painting, Horse Racing, Ice Creams and Candy Floss, Nearly New, Pony and Tractor Rides, Plants, Putting, Tombola, Toys and White Elephant and others. There will be teas, homemade cakes and

savouries served., free entrance and free parking.

Let the barrel organ serenade you and lead you on into an afternoon of excitement, laughter, competitiveness and bargains. Come and join us and bring your friends and family - no one goes home empty handed.

Time - 2.15pm. Grand Draw will take place at 4.30pm

Location - The Old Rectory, Bredfield, Suffolk, IP13 6AX

Admission and Parking - Free

Andrew Miller 01394 383156

Play area fund still growing

A very enjoyable coffee morning in aid of the Bredfield play area fund raising was held in December. Santa put in an appearance and many friends both old and new were able to come and enjoy a festive coffee and piece of cake.

We were extremely fortunate to have Janet Seidel and her friends play some jazzed up festive numbers. And we also had a number of local businesses donate generous raffle prizes - including a turkey from Stephenson & Sons of Hasketon, a meal at the Bredfield Castle, pampering at Ufford Park, wine from Seckford Wines, produce from Bredfield Village Shop and a valet at Bubbles of Bredfield. Our thanks go to all our many supporters and we were able

to raise £500 towards new equipment for the play area. We hope to announce future events soon.

The Castle held a quiz evening to raise funds for the play area on 28 December and raised an amazing £290 which has been added to the play area fund. Thank you to Sarah and Andy for all their hard work.

Paul Cannard and Roswyn Bradshaw

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Hasketon Highlights

Year of the dragon

In their bid to improve the playground equipment on Hasketon Green, the committee of mothers is trying hard to raise funds. In January they held a Chinese evening with food supplied by a local restaurant. Children and parents enjoyed a delicious help-yourself supper, with 'seconds' for the hungry. After the meal they had a quiz about the Chinese New Year. The children answered questions by dashing to the corners of the hall marked a, b, c or d, while the parents were allowed to use pencil and paper at their table. The evening raised £70.

Party time 1

Hasketon have a party on the second Friday of each month, except for August and December. They have arranged the programme for the next four months and welcome visitors. They have a ploughman's supper at 7.15pm and the speaker or event starts at about 8pm ... all for just £5 per person! In March, Gerry Baxter will tell us about 'The origin and traditions of The Pearly Kings and Queens of London'. April's meeting will test your general knowledge when we have 'Molly's Quiz Night' for teams of four. In May, Chris Miller will talk about 'The Suffolk Punch Trust' and the Hollesley Bay Colony Stud. Colin Hopper, known as 'Colini' will describe 'The History of Magic' at our June Meeting. To reserve tickets contact me on 01394 388970.

Party time 2

Hasketon will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a street party on The Green on Tuesday 5 June. We will start the afternoon at 2pm with children's sports including the ever-popular egg & spoon race, sack races, etc and of course finish with a tug-of-war! Tables will be filled with food for a giant party in royal style ... everyone in the village will be invited to join in the fun. In the evening, the celebrations will continue at The Turks Head. More details will follow nearer the time but do put Tuesday 5 June in your diary.

Party time 3

We are very fortunate to have a monthly lunch party in The Victory Hall, when Miriam Buchanan and her helpers provide a super lunch, often with delicious Gressingham Duck for the main course! About forty people regularly come for this happy occasion when we catch up with village gossip and enjoy each other's company. Other regular events in the hall include carpet bowls, the youth club, keep fit, whist, Evergreens, W.I., but we would be pleased to welcome other regular bookings or one-off parties, especially during the morning or afternoon. Contact Claire on 01390 380644.

WI calling

Hasketon W.I. is a thriving band of ladies who enjoy their monthly meetings with speakers on many different subjects. Gina Jones, the new president would welcome new members. Recent speakers were Ken Stone talking about his 'Royal Year' with excellent photographs illustrating royal occasions, and Russell Cole describing 'An Auctioneer's life'.

...and finally...have you unearthed any interesting teapots, jugs or mugs yet? Do let me know now if you think you will be able to let me borrow some exhibits for our show in the church during our Village Fete Weekend on 25 August.

Richard Smith 01394 388970

p.s. Gordon Smith is organising the now famous Jazz Barbecue event for Sunday 24 June at Shrubbery Farm and would welcome more offers of help: 01394 383106

DISCORD - odd name for a choir!

Well, yes, but Michael Dann, whose enterprise this is, insists that he avoids the word 'choir' since it conjours up an image of a formal group which you can only join if you're a singer! He says it's not about the quality of the singing but 'singing for well being'. It has been shown that singing, particularly in a group, releases endorphins and gives everybody a lift. Despite what Michael said, the quality of singing I heard on my visit to the group at Moat Farm, Otley, seemed pretty good to me.

I found in fact that he was quite definite about the sound he wanted and with lightness of touch and lots of humour he persevered until he got the result he was listening for.

Michael says he has been involved in music, including musical theatre, for more years than he cares to remember. Until recently, he enjoyed working as a specialist music teacher in primary schools but funding for such 'extras' has dried up and he now devotes his time and talent to establishing singing groups which provide his total income.

Presently he has five choirs: two in Diss, one in Thetford, one in Attleborough and now one in Otley. The Otley group, set up in November 2011 has thirty-five members, mainly women but also

a fair number of men. Michael would be happy for the group to grow but obviously the available physical space dictates the size to some extent. Each of Michael's groups has its own characteristics but they share the same 'raison d'etre, which is enjoyment. It's about ME TIME' Michael insists, and judging from the gales of laughter punctuating the singing there is no doubt about the enjoyment factor. 'Better than therapy' someone said, and another 'if you go in feeling down you come out on a high!'

Michael's passion is obviously spreading: all the Discord choirs will be performing together (170 voices) in Diss High School on Friday 23 March and he has just taken up the post of Choir Master of Wattisham Military Wives Choir.

The Otley singing group meets each Tuesday afternoon for the cost of £3.50 per member, which includes tea and biscuits, much friendly chat, and two pieces of choral sheet music. Anyone wishing to join will need to register with Michael on 07966183057. E-Mail DISCORD @Michael Dann.co.uk

Pictures Wendy Witt, words Madge Nicholas



Rosy future for Suffolk Singers

Another choir which uses Otley for its rehearsals is 'Suffolk Singers', under the directorship of Claire Weston. Founded in 1991 by Andrew Pierssene, Suffolk Singers is a cappella choir of about 34 members, performing a wide variety of traditional music, both sacred and secular, together with madrigals, spirituals and compositions spanning the centuries.

The choir performs four or five concerts a year: regular venues have included Woodbridge, Orford, Framlingham and Sutton. The choir also performs an annual lunchtime concert of music for Easter in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral. In recent years, Suffolk Singers have been part of an annual carol concert at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, arranged by the Suffolk Magazine. The choir considers it important to encourage and support young musicians and many of its concerts are shared with talented young performers.

Over the years, the choir has organised charitable concerts, and is always happy to sing at fund-raising events, weddings and other social occasions.

Its website www.suffolksingers.org.uk has more information about the choir's activities (you can actually hear recordings it has made) and about booking the choir for an event or even choir membership.

Suffolk Singers meet on Thursday evenings at Otley Village Hall from 8pm to 10pm, and welcomes more people from our area. Our next local event is 'An Easter Offering' at St. Michael's Church, Framlingham on Saturday 31 March at 7.30pm. The concert will include works by Purcell, Bach, Mendelssohn, Stainer and Rutter amongst others. Tickets are £8, with under 14s free, and obtainable from 01728 621082 and 01728 723580.

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Take precautions against intruders!

Someone broke into a shed at the side of a home in Witnesham in January: occupants of the property were woken by their dogs barking and looked out to see a man standing at the open door to the shed. When he realised he had been spotted, he turned and ran. He then climbed over a fence and voices were heard before a vehicle started up and sped off.

Recently in Grundisburgh, a garage in Meeting Lane was burgled by forcing open a padlock on an up-and-over door. If some audible security alarm had been installed, the offender(s) may have been deterred from continuing with the crime. Kesgrave Safer Neighbourhood Team stocks a variety of security devices which can be purchased through me. Any requests for purchases should be made on 07774 853241. Payment will be required at time of ordering. From experience, I recommend the Keypad PIR Garage/House/Caravan alarm and I will deliver, install and set up the device free of charge for Grundisburgh residents or any person living within a three mile radius of the village.

My Top Tips for shed and garage security:

- 1 fit good locks to all doors. Padlocks should be of hardened steel, at least 6cms/2.5ins wide, have at least five pins and be a closed shackle type, which reduces the risk of them being forced open;
- 2 fit additional locks to up-and-over doors;
- 3 fittings should be bolted through the door and reinforced at the back with a steel plate or washers. Hasps should have concealed screws;
- 4 a battery-operated alarm can help alert you if anyone tries to gain entry;
- 5 fit mesh or bars on the inside of any windows;
- 6 secure any property stored inside and remember to security mark it.

Tom Coomber, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Grundisburgh

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Open letter to all who use Park Road, Grundisburgh

Many people other than drivers use Park Road. Please will those drivers who insist on driving at speed down a very narrow, curved, unlit lane without pavements- **SLOW DOWN!**

Children, pets and the elderly all live here: dog walkers, joggers, rambles, horse riders and mothers with pushchairs all use the lane.

In the last six months I have lost two beloved pets to road traffic accidents: I will not describe the fatal injuries sustained but my vet has stated that to do such damage a vehicle must have been travelling at least at 50 mph. The present speed limit is 30 mph.

I myself have had to leap into the hedge on more than one occasion when one speeding moron meets another travelling at speed in opposite directions - not an easy feat for an overweight 50 year old! I have also been shouted at by one harridan for bending her wing mirror as she hit my shoulder bag as she flew past

So please note: **SPEED KILLS!** At some point you may even kill yourself - and who would you leave behind grieving for you?

Many thanks to all the socially aware drivers who do drive with due care and attention and are responsible road users.

Paul T Brown, Park Road

Otley Offerings

PEAK HOUR PLEA AT VILLAGE HALL

December saw a very successful Christmas dinner dance which raised around £2000 towards a new kitchen for the village hall. Well done to hosts Penny and Jane and thanks to all who helped out, donated prizes and supported the event.

Such is the popularity of what goes on at the hall we are experiencing some congestion at peak times in the car park. This is causing some safety concerns, particularly with regard to children running amongst the cars. We urge all drivers and parents to be extra vigilant whilst in the car park; the last thing we want is a small child to be knocked over. If you can, why not leave your car at home and walk: it's much better for you and cheaper, too, if you live in the village.

Can you help?

The Community Council is down in numbers and we need a couple more people to help out with the running of the village hall. A bit of doing and some organising is all that is required. If you can spare a couple of hours a month and would like to help keep the hall going then please get in touch with me, your help will be appreciated.

19 April at 7.45pm is our public AGM, come along and see how we run the hall.

Chris Taylor, Otley Community Council,
01473 785228.



Quincentennial Quest

Do you have any memories of Otley Hall? The Hall will be celebrating a major milestone this year. It is 500 years since the great hall and parlour were built. The Otley Local History Group has been asked to contribute towards the celebrations by researching some of the more recent history of Otley Hall. If you have any memories, stories or pictures, then the Otley Local History Group would like to hear from you. Any memories of events or people associated with Otley Hall are of interest to us.

We have already been told something about what life was like when the Foster family owned Otley Hall and made regular visits from their London home in the 1960s. We are sure that there is a lot

more still to learn about this period. We have also heard stories of clandestine goings-on during World War II, and would like to hear more about those, too.

Do you remember the pageant at Otley Hall in 1934? Were you, your parents or your grandparents there? There were also regular fetes at the hall – did any of your family

take part in the sports or the fancy-dress competitions? Do you have any memories or photographs of people or events there? Please get in touch with the group through historian2007@gmail.com or come to our next meeting at the White Hart on Thursday 17 May at 7.30pm.

Sally Whiffing, Group Coordinator
(01473 892030)

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CHI KUNG IN TUDDENHAM

Tuddenham Village Hall is the venue for new classes in the health and fitness technique Chi Kung. This gentle form of exercise, originating in China, is essentially meditative and can have a powerful effect on mind and body, yet it is a simple, clear, focused, practical way of getting fit. It helps relieve neck tension and back problems because it encourages good posture and gently increases flexibility in joints. For further details and to enrol, contact Sally Askew on 01728 621488 or e-mail: sally_askew@hotmail.com

Richard pitches in to new role

The Grundisburgh Playing Field Management Committee has recently been re-formed under the chairmanship of Richard Garnham. We plan to carry an illustrated article on the new committee and its plans and ideas for the future in the next issue of The News.



Fancy a challenge to help St. Elizabeth's?

There is a wide range of activities scheduled for 2012 for you. Sign up for our popular ladies only Midnight Walk (as above), which takes place on Saturday 19 May. Online registration open at www.midnightwalkipswich.co.uk

Adventurous people can take part in the Great Xscape on Saturday 14 April. The mission: for teams of 3 or 4 to be blindfolded, driven to a secret location and challenged to find their way back with no money, mobiles or maps.

New this year is the Dragon Boat Festival in Oulton Broad on Sunday 27 May where crews of 15 are invited to enter this fun and challenging event. And for adrenaline junkies there are skydives, a climb to Kilimanjaro or a trek along the Great Wall of China to choose from. To see all our 2012 events, visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk, or call 01473 723600 and we will send you a 2012 events leaflet.

Sam Catling

Grundisburgh F C 100 Club results

Nov: £50 Paul Warren, £35 Mark Van One, £25 Ashley Munson
Dec: £50 Sandra Walker, £35 Jason Messinger, £25 Wendy Stannard
Jan: £50 Paul Garwood, £35 Ethel Quinton, £25 Marion Warmisham.

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Small ads

Property wanted: local family with child at Grundisburgh School wishes to buy a 3 or 4 bed home in Grundisburgh or surrounding villages. 07928 420803, suzanne.clench@gmail.com.

Plants for donations: the Send a Cow plant stall at Ford House will be opening again on fine weekends from March onwards. Will include primrose bowls for Mothering Sunday and a wide range of perennial plants. Drop in when the sign is out in the road or ring 738267 to arrange to come at other times.

For sale: desk in maple wood, w100cm, d47cm, h70cm. 3 drawers on right hand side 44cm wide. Can email photo. £35. 735352

For Sale: reclaimed soft red bricks 60p each 735540

For sale: Ipswich Town FC programmes. Home and away 70s/80s. £3 per programme.

Also some match tickets, records and annuals - price negotiable. 07974 603052

Very well rotted manure available from Shrubbery Farm, Hasketon. Self-service, bags provided. Donations to Send a Cow. Queries 01394 383106

Wanted: a Danish person to translate a message found in a bottle. 735540

For sale: storage unit in maple wood w79cm, d44cm, h181cm with 3 shelves and 3 drawers. Can email photo. £40. 735352

Wanted: a Swede (not the orange vegetable) for conversation practice 738425

It's free to advertise here. Details should be sent to the editor at Ford House, editor@grunews.com by 2 May. Codes all 01473 unless shown otherwise.

BETTER BROADBAND FOR SUFFOLK

Suffolk County Council wants to hear from you about your experience of or need for broadband in the county. Views will be submitted to central government within the next few weeks so an early response from the public would be helpful in getting Suffolk's voice heard effectively. You can comment online by going to www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband

LEND A HAND IF YOU CAN

The charity 'Crossroads Care' is Britain's leading provider of support for carers and the people with long-term illness for whom they care. We work with individuals and their families, helping carers 'to make a life of their own outside caring'.

We care for people in all the villages in the area covered by the The News. Your help at our local 'fund raising' events for this so worthwhile cause would be very welcome - either helping to run stalls, baking cakes for tea during the Grundisburgh Hidden Gardens weekend, making jam, marmalade and chutneys for sale. Or sparing an hour or two to sell flags to the public outside supermarkets. Maybe you can suggest and lend a hand with another event? Please contact me if you can help in any way.

But if you need help to care for someone of any age or disability at home, contact the local office on 01473 730455, which is open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.

Katherine Smith (Fund Raising Co-ordinator) 01394 388970.

Thank you.....

The News is very grateful to Burgh's Wood Trust for a grant of £200, as well as to Grundisburgh and Culpho, Otley and Tuddenham Parish Councils for contributions to our running costs. We are largely paid for by the advertising in the paper but the additional funds are very helpful in enabling us to update equipment and other items.

About The News

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community paper produced by volunteers. Around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 16 other villages (as listed on front page). Four issues are published annually. Ideas, comments and contributions are welcomed.

Information can be supplied on paper or emailed. If emailed please give an indication of topic in the subject box. Photos can be sent as JPEGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints. All items will be in the internet version unless otherwise requested:

www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

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Local organisations advertising fund raising events are charged at half the normal rate.

Adverts for next issue to be sent by email val.crouch@btinternet.com

Earlier booking of space is advised.

Invitation - come and have your say about The News at our Annual General Meeting, on Friday 30 March at 7.30pm in the Grundisburgh parish rooms. Refreshments will be provided

THE UNSTOPPABLE IRON MAN!



Ben Beech has served Grundisburgh as one of the village postmen for almost five years, inevitably dressed in shorts as he “tends not to feel the cold” on his round when he’s running. And it stops the snow soaking up long trouser legs! If that, coupled with a 5am start, doesn’t sound enticing enough, Ben then cycles back home to Ipswich – the best part when he says he can “pump his adrenaline up and arrive home to a nice warm shower”.

Before becoming a postman, Ben had explored many jobs including working at ‘Liquid’ Night Club – a miserable job, he says, due to the bizarre hours. His favourite job? As party supervisor at ‘Play 2

Day’. Eventually, he looked for a delivery job, decided to join the Royal Mail and was deployed in Grundisburgh.

“Everyone was very accepting” Ben says, and he also thinks he has changed a lot of first impressions. “I love it. The people really do make the job,” he says, and enjoys the responsibility, without having his boss always looking over his shoulder.

Since the extension of his round, Ben has delivered to the whole village, except Park, Lower and Chapel Roads and shares it with James Doyle. During his time as our postman, Ben has delivered so far: insects to a house with a bearded dragon, a car bonnet, live eggs and a

roll of carpet. He is not encouraging people to post such objects!

When Ben is not out and about and on the go, he loves to relax with a film – anything from kids’ movies to foreign horror. However, he doesn’t often lie around for long – Ben’s achievements include swimming at Alton Water and playing last year at Grundisburgh’s Midsummer Music as a drummer in his band ‘The Sporadics’. As a keen cyclist, Ben also plans to cycle along Hadrian’s Wall soon, taking a photo at each end of the sunrise and sunset. Good Luck Ben!

Words and picture by Katie Davis

The News will be featuring more post office people in future issues.



Long service to Grundisburgh

On 30 November 2011 Maureen Hyde was presented with the 30 Years Service Award by the Royal Mail. Maureen would like to thank all of the customers for the support that they have given her during the last 30 years, as without it the Post Office would not have survived.



Grundisburgh Cubs visiting the Buddhist Centre in Ipswich to learn more about other faiths for one of their badges. More scouting news is included on page 7.

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