

Summer
2016

FREE

The Grundisburgh and District News

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As reported in the last issue, Milan, the chef at The Dog was a finalist in the 2016 Parliamentary Pub Chef of the Year competition. In the event, he was the outright winner from more than 100 chefs nominated by their local MPs - in this case Dan Poulter. Here Milan proudly holds his trophy at the House of Commons prize-giving ceremony.

More pub news on pages 4, 5 and 14.

The works that weren't!

In March Grundisburgh was invaded by an army of surveyors in hi-vis clothing checking on the bridge over the stream. As you can see, the water was so deep that a fully-equipped Safety Boat was standing by! Later a sign appeared to say bridge works would commence on 5 May but mysteriously these have been rescheduled. Instead the whole crossroads junction is being resurfaced in the week commencing 13 June.

Richard Watkinson

Right: the safety boat and intrepid surveyors at work.

photos: Peter Kendall

Village hall sale vote

It was standing room only in Grundisburgh village hall on Saturday 21 May when the village hall management committee asked villagers to approve a resolution to sell the existing hall. This would be a precursor to the construction of a new village hall on the Top Field site where work has already started on the housing development. There were strong feelings on both sides of the argument, with some feeling that there was insufficient information on which to base a decision. After much discussion which centred mainly on the

financial implications of the project, the Chairman of the New Village Hall Steering Group undertook to hold a further public meeting to give more details as and when the situation clarified.

When the vote was taken, 131 people raised their hands in favour of the resolution; 23 were against and 14 abstained.

Interestingly, that is almost the same ratio (85% in favour) as in the 'Open House' consultation held in 2013.

More about the new hall project on page 9.

*words: Richard Watkinson,
photo: Peter Kendall*



This was the winning entry in this year's Charsfest Scarecrow competition. Charsfield residents Michael and Cat Allen constructed 'Rendie', the escaped alien from Rendlesham, out of various old car parts. Its eyes light up green at night! For a living, Michael is a restorer of classic cars at Wetheringsett.

A full report on Charsfest will be carried in the next issue of The News.

photo: Trevor Boyd



Above: Paul Whittingham counting votes in just one corner of the village hall after the lively meeting.



NEWS DIARY

JUNE

Thursday 2

Garden Party BBQ GrWI
Baptist Chapel 7.30pm
Contact 735838

Friday 3

Ashbocking Coffee Morning
4 Ashley Grange 10.30am
Contact 890836

Saturday 4

Millennium Meadow Work Party 10am - 12.30pm contact
735515

Saturday 4

Visit to Long Shop Museum, Leiston Gr Local Hist Soc
2.30pm Contact 738195

Saturday 4

Bredfield Church Fete The
Old Rectory 2.15pm Contact
01394 385222 or 07770
406222

Friday 10

A Soldier's Experiences of the War in Afghanistan Talk
by Iain Murison Hasketon 2nd
Friday Hasketon VH 7.15pm
PBE Contact 735579

Sunday 12

Charity Golf Day iao
Charsfield Recreation Ground
Seckford Golf Club Contact
737701

Tuesday 14

Public Meeting to discuss WiFi Broadband
Grundisburgh VH 7.30pm

Wednesday 15

Public Meeting to discuss WiFi Broadband Otley VH
7.30pm

Wednesday 15

The Holy Land Revisited
Talk by Rev Jane Hall
Carlford Benefice Group Gr
PR 2.30pm Contact 738188

Thursday 16 to Saturday - 18

"Stage Struck" Summer play
by GADS GrVH 7.30pm
Tickets from The Olde Forge
Contact 738648

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19

Hidden Gardens of Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho and Flower Festival in St Mary's Church Grundisburgh 2 - 6pm
Contact 738267

Sunday 19 June

Midsummer Fete Clopton
VH 1pm - 5pm Contact
737454

Saturday 25

Car Boot & Plant Sale GFC
PF 8am - 12 noon Contact
735377

Saturday 25

Duck Race 1st Gr Scouts
GrVG 4pm Contact 735352

Saturday 25

Quiz night Ashbocking
Church 6pm Contact 890836

Sunday 26

Traditional Jazz and Barbecue Shrubbery Farm
Hasketon 12.30pm - 4pm
Tickets £15 PBE Contact
01394 383106

JULY

Friday 1

Ashbocking Coffee Morning
Wellsacks, The Green
10.30am Contact 890836

Sunday 3

Visit to Letheringham Lodge
Gr Local Hist Soc 2.30pm
Contact 738195

Thursday 7

Outing GrWI Contact 735838

Friday 8

From Boat to Barn Talk by
Jacki Smith and Elizabeth
Murphy Hasketon VH 7.15pm
PBE Contact 735579

Sunday 10

Grundisburgh Symphony Orchestra Family Concert
GrVH 3pm Contact 738944

Saturday 16

Grundisburgh Village Show
GPF 12.30pm - 5pm Contact
738267

Wednesday 20

Visit to Pakenham Water Mill Gr Local Hist Soc 2pm
Contact 738195

Saturday 30 to Sunday 31

Grundisburgh Art Group Exhibition St Mary's Church
Grundisburgh 10am - 4pm
Contact 452250

Saturday 30

Garden Party with Music
The Croft Burgh 2pm Contact
735273

Saturday 30

Car Boot & Plant Sale GFC
PF 8am - 12 noon Contact
735377

AUGUST

Thursday 4

My Life as a Musician playing the Cello Talk by
Hattie Bennett GrWI BCR
7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 5

Garden Party Grundisburgh,
Burgh & Culpho Hort Soc
Post Mill Gardens 6.30pm
Contact 735469

Friday 5

Ashbocking Coffee Morning
Old House Cottage, The Green
10.30am Contact 890836

Saturday 6

St Mary's Grundisburgh Coffee Morning Held at 21
Thomas Wall's Close 10.30am
Contact 738866

Saturday 20

Classic Car and Motorbike Rally Bredfield Bowls Club
1pm - 5pm Contact 07939
243306

Monday 29

Fun Day & Car Boot Sale
GrPF 1pm - 5pm Car Boots
from 12 noon Contact 735377

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 1

Harvest Supper/Gus Tilson Talk GrWI BCR 7.30pm
Contact 735838

Friday 2

Ashbocking Coffee Morning
Chez Onze, The Green
10.30am Contact 890836

Saturday 3

St Mary's Grundisburgh Church Fete GrVG 2.00pm
Contact 735775

Monday 5

Cambridge College Gardens
Otley & District Gardening
Club Otley VH 7.30pm
Contact 890563

Friday 9

North East India Talk by Bill
Baston Hasketon VH 7.15pm
PBE Contact 735579

Saturday 17

Produce show Manor Farm,
Ashbocking - see What's On
for contact details.

Tuesday 20

Building a Country House in Suffolk Talk by Alan Mackley
Gr Local Hist Soc PR 7.30pm
Contact 738195

Friday 23

Autumn Quiz Charsfield VH
7pm Contact 737701

Saturday 24

Summer outing to Beth Chatto's Garden Elmstead,
Essex Contact 890563

OCTOBER

Thursday 6

Forty Years at the Forge
Talk by Mary Moore GrWI
BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 7

Ashbocking Coffee Morning
Harvest House, The Green
10.30am Contact 890836

Sunday 9

The Big Breakfast Charsfield
VH 9am - 12noon Contact
737701

Friday 14

Henstead Exotic Garden
Talk by Andrew Brogan
Hasketon 2nd Friday Hasketon
VH 7.15pm PBE Contact
735579

Saturday 15

Pumpkin Festival 1st
Grundisburgh Guides GrVG
12 - 3pm Contact 735044

Saturday 15

Rock n Roll Evening with Ed
Gasket and the Rockers
Charsfield VH 7.30pm
Contact 737701

Key to abbreviations:

PBE - pre-booking essential
P/VH - Parish/Village Hall
PR - Parish Room
PF - Playing Field
VG - Village Green
Pav - Pavilion
BCR - Baptist Chapel Room
BSR - Burgh School Room
Gr - Grundisburgh

All codes are 01473 unless given otherwise.

Brief details of events with date, name of event, venue, time and contact phone number should be sent by 3 August for the next issue to Ingrid McIvor, 21 Thomas Wall's Close Grundisburgh IP13 6XB, ingrid.mcivor@btinternet.com Please indicate if tickets must be bought in advance.

The diary aims to promote planned events and to help organisers avoid clashes of future events. So please send details early.

Anybody for Shakespeare?

I hope to invite a group of like-minded people to join me in reading and hopefully appreciating the works of the 'Immortal Bard'. This is aimed at a friendly not fiercely intellectual level appreciating Shakespeare for interest and for the love of his work.

I am thinking of a two hour session: Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30 twice a month, reading as a group supported by tea and biscuits, starting in September. If this is one for you, please contact me on 01473 735953

Anne Ledgley

Calling musicians of all abilities.

The Grundisburgh Symphony Orchestra (above) has started rehearsing for its short family concert on 10 July at 3pm in the Grundisburgh village hall: tickets are just £1; under-5s go free!

Rehearsals are being held in Grundisburgh school each Thursday 6pm to 6.45 pm. Just turn up. You need not attend rehearsals every week if you have other commitments. If you are a confident musician, just come and play on the day.

Any questions or offers of help with this (please) to me on 01473 738944 or via damongo@btinternet.com.

Sarah Cavanagh

Travellers' tales

The next meeting of the Carlford Benefice Group will be in the Grundisburgh Parish Rooms on Wednesday 15 June at 2.30pm when Rev Jane Hall will be speaking on 'The Holy Land revisited, or how to survive a 'relaxed pilgrimage''. Share the experiences of the Coastland Pilgrims when they travelled in the footsteps of Jesus last

autumn - from dancing on the Sea of Galilee via a Bethlehem orphanage and an Arab souk to a Dead Sea dip. Jane, Rev Catherine Beaumont and some of the survivors will tell you more.

Why men fight

And ultimately why they kill each other will be considered in a talk by an ex-soldier at the Friday 10 June event in Hasketon. (See Diary for details). On the second Friday of most months there is a ploughman's supper followed by speaker in the Victory Hall. So far this year we've enjoyed hearing about topics as diverse as climate change, travels with a cello, Sutton Hoo and riding around the Cathar Castles. Everyone is welcome, wherever you live, and it's only £5.

Hilary Hill 01473 735336.



TAP DANCE YOURSELF FIT!

A new course for beginners is already up and running at Otley village hall but you can still join at any time. The sessions are from 10.30 to 11.15am every Wednesday (no class 15 June). These are friendly and informal and no previous experience is needed.

Details at: woodbridgetapdance.weebly.com or contact me on 07778 746315 or 01394 384557

Jill Streatfield

FUN DAY!

Bredfield Church Fete will be held on Saturday 4 June from 2.15 pm at The Old Rectory, Bredfield IP13 6AX Admission and parking free.

The fete is a traditional garden event. The wonderful grounds of The Old Rectory will be open and there will be some exciting new games but you will have to come along to see what they are!

We have over 40 stalls and games. Teas, homemade cakes and savouries will also be served. Bredfield's own local celebrity, Anne Henderson, will be opening the fete. More details from Andrew Miller on 07770 406222.

Roswyn Bradshaw

Quiz and Show

June 25th is Family Quiz Night at Ashbocking church from 6 until 10pm. This will be a fun event to help raise funds for a toilet and kitchenette as we need more up to date facilities. There will be a bar, raffle and a chance to win a Landrover Bear. Tickets include a two course meal of a BBQ and Pud and are £10, £5 for children under 16. Under 2s go free. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is £25. To register your team and book your tickets email johngordonpollard@gmail.com or ring 01473 890836.

Another key diary date is the second Ashbocking produce show on 17 September at Manor farm. This is a fun afternoon with judging of the produce, BBQ, games, teas and refreshments, raffle and much more...

Details and entry forms from Liz Stegman; please contact her by email: liz.stegman@btinternet.com

Linda Pollard

Quack!

The scouts will be holding their Duck Race on Saturday 25 June on Grundisburgh village green: the off is 4pm. Games, sideshows, stalls, BBQ and ice-creams from 3pm. And, we hope, a bouncy castle. Race tickets can be purchased from 3 Post Mill Crescent, Grundisburgh and Williams Store in Grundisburgh.

Pat Ross



Cake judge Kelly hard at work at the first Ashbocking show!

It's on again!

After a year's break, the Otley Village Show Committee are organising the show again for Saturday 10 September in the village hall.

We work very hard to organise the show and our greatest reward is to see as many entries as possible. So please don't think you are not good enough: you could be surprised! Almost all classes are open to people from outside the village as well as those living in Otley. The brochures will be available from 31 May onwards.

Helen Quilliam

Digital diary

We have only a limited space to carry diary items in the print version of The News so we have started a new service on our website. This carries details of many more events, including those being held further ahead.

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THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY - WHAT'S ON

This summary has been compiled from information received from the respective villages in our area.

Burgh

The villagers of Burgh are invited to Mill House on Sunday 12 June to celebrate the Queen's Birthday with a BBQ. With the promise of plenty of good food and drink, the event will be held from 1 to 5pm.

Charsfield

Residents of Charsfield will be able to exclaim 'Happy Birthday Your Majesty' on Saturday 11 June at The Three Horseshoes. The event will begin at 3pm where afternoon tea will be served in the Party tent. The celebrations will continue throughout the day and will culminate in an evening BBQ where guests will be entertained with live music with 'King Kalou' from 7pm onwards.

Clopton

Whilst Clopton isn't holding any specific birthday celebrations, the Midsummer Fete on Sunday 19 June will allow both locals and those from further afield to come together for a packed day of food, drink and music. Starting at 12pm until 5pm, this traditional fete at Clopton village hall and field will include a stage with music and entertainment. With a beer tent, hot food and teas, visitors will be suitably refreshed whilst various stalls, games and a bouncy castle will keep everyone entertained.

The Bealings

Direct invitations will be sent to those living in the villages of Great and Little Bealings, inviting them, together with families and friends, to get together for a Garden Party on the afternoon of 12 June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. It promises to be a lively occasion, with town crier, visit from "The Queen", live jazz, bar, barbeque, bake-off, games, activities for children and birthday cake. Red, white and blue attire is recommended. The afternoon will be rounded off with a patriotic sing-song.

Debach

The Debach Big Day out this year will be on Saturday 11 June when we will be holding a Treasure Hunt around the village.

The event will begin between 2pm and 2.30pm and Tea will be available on the village green. Prize giving will be at 5pm.

Clues will be available on the day at £5 per copy on the village green. The number of people in each team is up to the competitors.

A first prize voucher worth £150 has been donated by Maritime transport and there will be a consolation prize for the winners of the wooden spoon.

Any surplus funds made on the day will be split between

Debach Village Funds and Macmillan Cancer Care.

Grundisburgh and Culpho

A weekend of celebration will take place on 10, 11 and 12 June. A flower festival, entitled 'Our Queen: A Lifetime of Service' will be held in St Mary's church over the three days, starting on Friday 10 June. The flower festival will be open from 10am to 6pm, except on Sunday where it will be open from 1.30pm to 9pm. Light refreshments will be available for visitors on Friday.

Saturday 11 June will see a street party in the school grounds from 2.30pm. This will involve The Lunch Club, The Lyttelton Club and children of primary school age and below. There will be games and races for the children followed by tea and entertainment from the school choir, featuring upbeat songs and music from the nine decades of the Queen's life.

A special songs of praise service will be held at 11am in St Mary's on Sunday 12 June. All are welcome to share their musical talents in a very informal way. Bring an instrument if you wish or you can come along and sing. The church is also open for the flower festival, between 6 and 9pm. The weekend will draw to a close on the village green with a musical firework display at 9.15pm on Sunday.

Hasketon

Hasketon will be holding a traditional birthday party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The event will start at 2pm on Sunday 12 June at Victory Hall, with organised sports for children of all ages. It will be followed by a traditional birthday tea for everyone in the village.

Otley

On the Queen's actual birthday the bells of Otley church rang out for over an hour to mark the occasion.



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THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY - WHAT'S ON

Further celebrations will take place on Sunday 12 June. In preparation of this event, Penny Sunnaway and Martin Wright are organising competitions, including creating a posy for the Queen; decorating a cake fit for a queen; making a model palace or veggie pet for HM; and a portrait of the Queen. For further details of the competitions and how to enter ring 890257 or call at Otley village stores. The competition entries will be judged and on view in the village hall on 12 June.

Building on the success of the village's Diamond Jubilee celebration, a strong team are planning a giant village party on Sunday 12 June. The day will begin at noon with an open air service at the playing field to celebrate the Queen's life. This will be followed by 'A Big Lunch' when residents can relax together with their own picnics, drink, rugs, chairs and gazebos. There will be a display of Otley photos over the last 90 years and Sally Whiffing will be delighted to borrow any pictures people are willing to lend for this. There will also be a treasure hunt and a "How old is the Queen?" competition. During the afternoon there will be a lot of traditional games and races for all ages including an egg and spoon and sack races. To register your team (of eight) for the tug-of-war, email dpeek193@gmail.com At 4pm there will be a street

party style afternoon tea outside the village hall.

All Otley residents will receive an invitation and, to help with catering, the response slip needs to be returned to Otley shop. If you'd like to help or have any questions please contact the Revd Jane Hall (785251 or email allthealls@tiscali.co.uk)

Playford

Playford will see two days of celebrations, starting with 'The Playford Summer Barbecue' at Playford Hall (from 5pm to 9pm). Organised by the Playford Village Hall Management Committee, entry is free with burgers, sausages and drinks available, but please bring a pud if you can!

Swilland and Winesham

Celebrations will be taking place on the Saturday of the big weekend in Winesham. From 4.30pm on 11 June, the place to be is The Barley Mow, where a big celebration will be taking place. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bring their own picnic to enjoy whilst experiencing the afternoon entertainment. Stay throughout the afternoon as the pub will be starting a BBQ at 7pm. From 8pm until late there will be a singer performing at the pub to carry the celebrations on late into the evening.

Tuddenham St Martin

The village of Tuddenham St Martin will be combining its annual fete with the Queen's 90th birthday celebration at Poplar Farm on Saturday 11 June from 2pm. The fete will be themed red, white and blue, with attractions such as children's games, a children's tombola, face painting and a chance to make your own crown or sword and being

photographed. There will also be tractor trailer rides. As well as all the usual stalls, draws, ice cream and entertainment by the Ipswich wind band, there will be a birthday tea. The fete is in aid of the church and will be held in the lovely gardens of Bill and Monica Pipe. Admission is 50p, with children admitted for free. The residents of Tuddenham hope that you come and enjoy the afternoon.

Tanya Fosdick



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So join us to discuss how we can improve broadband in our villages

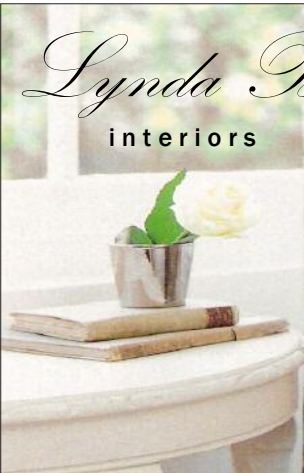
14th June 2016

at the Grundisburgh Village Hall
at 7.30pm

OR

15th June 2016

At the Otley Village Hall
At 7.30pm

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Healthy measures

Beth Taylor is organising first aid training for a number of people in Clopton, Debach and Charsfield. The first session is with St Johns and Charsfield are providing the hall free of charge. As we can only do 14 people at one sitting, we will be organising further sessions because the demand is so high. Cost of each session is £360 (about the same as a flag pole - see page 13) and I will be able to fund just two sessions from my community budget fund. Not only is this exercise extremely useful, it brings all the communities together.

I made a contribution of £1,000 to Bredfield to help with the cost of their defibrillator. I understand that Grundisburgh also wants to go down this path with a defibrillator on the parish rooms front wall.

Tony Fryatt

Broadband 1

We have been doing a lot to bring improved broadband to Clopton, Debach and Bredfield. Again it has been driven by Beth Taylor, with the assistance of Peter Raffell of Clopton. We now have a provider with equipment on a mast at the airfield site offering service to Clopton and Debach. Bredfield will need a repeater. I was able to make a contribution to the enabling fund run by SCDC.

Tony Fryatt

Broadband 2

The Church always welcomes the opportunity

to work in and with the community and an opportunity has arisen where the parishes of Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Clopton, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swilland, collectively 'The Carlford Benefice', have taken the first step to improve the speed of broadband in our area.

We have interviewed three suppliers of wifi (wireless) broadband and have invited County Broadband to use our church towers as relay stations for their service. But, as a commercial undertaking, they will come into our area only if there is a sufficient take up by homes and businesses.

Invitation

So to take the second step we all need to play our part, whether we live within or outside the Carlford Benefice, by coming along to one of the public meetings at Grundisburgh or Otley (see ad on page 5). County Broadband will talk to us about what they can provide and what it will cost. We will be able to ask them ANY questions we may have about any aspect of the arrangement.

Please come and decide for yourself whether County Broadband can provide the broadband service you need and at the right price for you.

Should County Broadband proceed, Carlford Benefice will receive £600 per year for every tower that is used as a relay station. The money received, as part of this community project, will be divided equally between all eight of the churches.

Carlford Benefice Broadband Group

TRIBUTE

PETER BELLFIELD

Aug 1938 - April 2016

During his service with both Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, Peter Bellfield represented most of the News' villages and rarely missed a parish council meeting. Often this meant attending several meetings in one evening. He was held in high esteem by both the communities he supported and his fellow councillors for his hard work on behalf of his villages, and for pursuing their interests and concerns. Most of us have benefited in some way from the use of his 'locality budget' he used to support many good causes.



He was first elected to the district council in 1999, representing what became Otley ward after re-organisation. He played a full and active part in all the council's activities. For many years he was Cabinet Support Member for finance and he was elected to Chairman of Suffolk Coastal Council for 2013, before standing down as a district councillor the following year.

Peter became a county councillor in 2003 for what became Carlford Division covering 26 villages, which he served diligently. In addition to this he was a very thorough

Chairman of the SCC Pension Fund Committee for many years and served as a member of the Audit Committee. As well as finance, Peter's primary activities were with highways issues because of his particular concern about lorries and speeding traffic on rural roads. He continued to work on behalf of his area up to the time of his death, despite increasing ill health.

I was strongly influenced by Peter to seek election as a councillor myself. For several years he had guided and helped me as secretary to the Save Our Rural Roads campaign (SRR). One day he suggested, in his quiet and persuasive way, I might actually achieve more by becoming a councillor. So, I have him to thank for five years of challenging work with Suffolk Coastal. Throughout that time, Peter was my mentor and friend. He was an example of the very best in local government.

Peter Bellfield lived in Clopton for nearly 40 years. Sadly his wife Juliet, a prime mover in raising funds for cancer care with Macmillan, died last October.

Tony Fryatt

A thank you from John Cubitt: I am very grateful for the amazing kindness and support shown to me since the loss of Joyce. Thank you for the cards and letters- too many for me to acknowledge individually: they have been of great comfort to me. We had six wonderful years together.

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ASHBOCKING ANGLES

News round-up

We have just had a glorious Easter service at Ashbocking Church, led by the Rev Catherine Beaumont. The church looked beautiful with so many spring flowers arranged by Linda Ellis and Ashbocking parishioners.



The Andrews-Pearce family contributed a wonderful arrangement in a basket depicting the Easter story. It had the three crosses and a path to the tomb, cleverly made from a birds nest lain on its side, with a round stone nearby. The children had obviously enjoyed helping with its design and construction.

The church is also looking forward to Bishop Mike's visit to Ashbocking for our service on 12 June: we hope that there will be a large congregation of people to welcome him. This is a very special event and follows the Installation of Bishop Mike as the new Bishop of Dunwich. We were fortunate enough to be chosen to participate in this ceremony held at St Edmundsbury



Cathedral in February, when Catherine Beaumont, Liz Stegman, Linda Pollard, Adine Schrankel and Stephanie Pearce- Andrews were invited to give readings, prayers and a short interview to reflect

Growing in Number in the church. It was a very moving experience and an extremely joyous occasion.

The Parish Council has spent some time tidying the village. Firstly a group of volunteers spent the afternoon litter picking along the length of The Green.



Captured moments at the cathedral service.



Before and after the clean-up!

It was surprising just how much rubbish was collected, mainly beer and drinks cans but also plastic bags, bottles and the odd shoe!

It was a very cold day but the bonus of this job was meeting up for a cup of tea and a piece of cake and a chat at the Crockery Barn afterwards, and meeting Swilland litter pickers who had also been out in their village. It would be a great help if people would think about the environment and take their rubbish home.

On another occasion volunteers went out cleaning the roads signs around the village which had become very difficult to decipher due to moss and road dirt.



We are lucky that these willing people could get the rather messy and hazardous job done so efficiently. Hopefully with the prospect of summer around the corner the signs should stay cleaner.

words: Lynda Pollard
photos: John Pollard



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THE VILLAGE SHOW

Copies of the new-look Grundisburgh Village Show schedule should be available at the same time as The News is printed - and full details are already posted on the horticultural society's new website. Find us at www.grundisburgh.show. The show is taking place on Saturday 16 July.

Sorry, we're not delivering schedules door-to-door this year, but copies can be picked up in many outlets around the area. Full details of classes, how to enter and entry forms are also available on line. Or schedules can be sent to you by ringing 01473 738420. All the adult classes carry a first prize of £5, and the children's prize money has also been increased, thanks to generous sponsorship. So we hope for lots of entries!

Help wanted

We have recruited a lot of willing volunteers already, but a few more are still needed on show day, in particular to:

- * Supervise car booters' arrival and collect their money;
- * Sell tickets for the 'win £50' game;
- * Join Tom Coomber's car parking team
- * Be available as first aiders – just in case. All our volunteers at the show are kept well supplied with refreshments. Anyone willing to help should contact show secretary Pat Dougan on 738420.

Julia Bentley is organizing stalls and a programme of entertainment for show day afternoon on the playing field outside the marquee from 12.30pm. This includes live music, a 'trash or treasure' auction, a blacksmith demonstrating his ironworking skills, members of the Suffolk Vehicle Enthusiasts Club as well as Land Rover and

motorbike enthusiasts, a fancy mask competition, family races and a tug of war. There will be lots of stalls (anyone who has not yet booked can ring Julia on 735524).

The Football Club will be running the bar in the pavilion and its barbecue outside. The Playgroup is in charge of the tea tent. And there will be a mouth-watering variety of other food stalls around the field.

There's no need to book for the car boot in advance. It's £5 per vehicle, and setting up is from 11am.

Tickets are selling fast for the evening dance after the show, thanks to the attraction of 'The Outlines' and a hog roast. Richard Garrett is in charge (735469). The society's evening garden party takes place at the Round House, Post Mill Gardens, on Friday 5 August. Tickets will be available from Forge Stores nearer the time.



The first event of the horticultural society's year is Hidden Gardens when some 15 Grundisburgh gardens will be welcoming visitors on 18/19 June. Entry as usual will be by programme. These will be sold on The Green at the time for £4 (£3.50 if bought in advance from village shops, available the week before). Teas will be served in the parish rooms, and cakes and plants sold on The Green. Children are encouraged to enter a special quiz –to spot animals, birds and other creatures in the gardens. The event is sponsored by Katie's Garden and will be supporting our two nominated charities for this year: Grundisburgh Scouts and The Country Trust.

Nicola Hobbs, for Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society, 01473 738267, email c/o hairman@grundisburgh.show

Plant sale growth spurt

This year's plant sale at Bealings finished up with a net income of just over £2,300 – a spurt upwards from last year and a credit to all concerned, for which many thanks. We had the attraction of a very special raffle prize, generously gifted by Colin Hopkins –a flight in the skies over Great Bealings. It was won by one of our stalwart helpers, Bob Tate. Very fitting.

The sale's formula needs constant refreshing and so the idea of the children's Garden Hub was born. Margaret Roseboom ran with the idea – with wonderful results. Her team of talented helpers ensured that our younger visitors had plenty to keep them occupied – and able to learn about growing and living things in the process with the support of Bealings School. If this experiment succeeds, the future can be bright indeed. It also makes the occasion more of a family day out. The village hall lunch brought together some 20 helpers and really summed up the spirit of teamwork that makes for success. It also ensures the hall is completely restored to its original state before 2pm.

Next year: the provisional date for the sale is Saturday 22 April. Hasketon have their sale a week later usually and we don't want to tangle with them!

Norman Porter



The children's hub in the hall

Doctors' notes

In recent months two GPs have left our practice and while we have been able to access experienced quality locums in the past, we cannot guarantee this in the future. However, we have been extremely fortunate to recently recruit an experienced full-time GP Partner, Dr Philip Stewart but this only partly replaces the previous number of GP sessions and we have had to review our provision of surgeries at each site. We do not wish to have to cancel surgeries at short notice or put our current staff under undue pressure but to maintain a daily service at all three sites, it has been necessary to make some changes to the opening times at Otley and Grundisburgh (Debenham - no change). We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause but hope you understand our reasoning. From Tuesday 31 May 2016, the revised opening times are:

Grundisburgh: Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings, Thursday afternoons, Friday mornings.

Otley: Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday mornings, Friday afternoons.

Full details will be displayed at the surgeries and on our website. We will be monitoring our service provision in the future in order to ensure we continue to provide the highest possible level of care to our patients. Thank you in anticipation.

Dr David Egan, Senior Partner, Debenham Group Practice

Right: Grundisburgh residents Elliot Harrison and Paul Stoddart of Kingdom Forge. They will be demonstrating their skills and products at the Grundisburgh Village Show.



GRUNDISBURGH VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Those who attended the Parish AGM in the village hall on 26 April will have heard Peter Kendall, Chairman of the New Village Hall Steering Group give an update on this issue. Peter sees his role as linking the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), the Steering Group and the architect. This is a brief summary of what he said.

Last year, the village questionnaire sought views on possible uses of the new hall and the results of this survey have influenced the hall's design.

Originally, the idea was that the hall should comprise two rectangles and look like a Suffolk barn but, superimposing this on to the available plot in Top Field meant that we would lose quite a lot of open space, precluding its use for weddings, parties or marquees, for example. So back to the drawing board.....

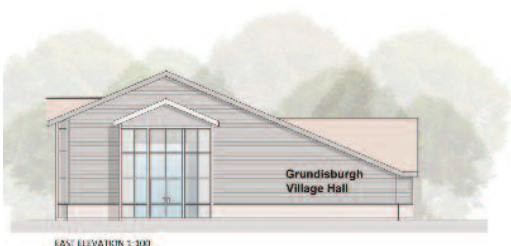
The present design enables the hall to take up less space and allows for reasonable parking room. Internally, several factors have influenced the layout. GADS is a major user of the hall and it's proposed that there should be a stage similar in size to the one in the present hall, plus storage for flats, scenery and props. There would be separate 'green rooms' to comply with safeguarding regulations - with internal access to toilets without going through the auditorium (or outside!).

The foyer acts as an essential bridge between arriving and an event and we are proposing a generous space so that people entering the hall can easily find the toilets, get tickets, meet friends etc. The main hall will be able to accommodate parties, weddings, indoor bowls, dancing, table tennis as well as the customary dramatic

performances! And it's intended to make provision for good stage lighting, sound and projection systems for films. After feedback from the VHMC AGM in February, we increased the size of the kitchen which should now be big enough to provide for outside caterers.

More details will be available on the new village hall website as soon as it goes live.

Richard Watkinson



Architects' drawing of proposed new hall as seen from Ipswich Road.

Speed checkers

Playford and Rushmere St Andrews parish councils have agreed to join forces to combat the issues of speeding through their villages. James Wright from Rushmere St Andrews Parish Council is co-ordinating the joint community speed watch venture which will be funded by SCDC's Locality Budget.

Thirteen observation points in Rushmere and two in Playford have been approved and both parishes are now asking for volunteers (who must be 18 years of age or older) to man the radar gun. After a suitability check, a short session of training will be given and it is envisaged that joint working will mean that there will be a combined team of volunteers who may be requested to work in either parish.

This is a way of trying to reduce the speed at which vehicles are driven through the village, by educating the public into safer driving practices so if anyone can spare a little time to devote to this project, then please do contact James Wright on 07494 447391.

Marian Rosling



Fine fare at the Filipino evening held recently at Grundisburgh chapel.

Bruce (our Gospel Minister) and I are always available.

Colin Grimwood Tel 738856, mobile 07979 120549, email colin.grimwood12@hotmail.co.uk

Bruce Francis Tel 277182, email bruceinphyp@yahoo.com

Chapel news

We had a very successful Easter Egg Hunt with about 100 children and their families. God provided perfect weather in between some quite rough days. £116 was raised for EACH. Thank you to all who contributed.



A young golfer at the Easter Egg Hunt!

Our annual Open-air is planned for Sunday 10 July at 3pm on the village green. If you are not familiar with it, we have some singing interspersed with 5 minute talks to get us to think. All are welcome to join us or just listen in from a distance for a little while.

You can find out more about the Christian faith or download sermons from our website at www.grundisburghchapel.org.uk

If you would like to talk to anyone about problems or questions you may have,

Garden party at Burgh

Adam and Gillian Gurdon's garden party in Burgh on Saturday 30 July will mark the end of an era. It will be perhaps one of their last fundraising efforts for Burgh Church which over the years have brought in some £50,000. The couple have served a combined total of 76 years on the Burgh PCC (Adam 46, Gillian 30) and feel the time has come to relinquish their roles. They are very grateful for all the support they have received over the years - and are hoping for a splendid turn out for their final PCC-themed party.

You can be assured of a warm welcome. Last summer I enjoyed exotic reptiles, balloon tying and tea with dainty cakes. This year I am told the treats will include a chance to meet the Easton Alpacas and a variety of live music. The party runs from 2 to 5pm at The Croft at Burgh Corner, with parking in Finndale field off the B1079 (disabled spaces at the Croft)

Tickets will be available at the gate. The £5 per person (5 and under free) will include a lavish tea - but this year donations will be requested for the Bucks Fizz. I'm looking forward to it!

Peter Kendall

THE JOY OF SINGING



Singing is good for both body and soul according to Chris Pearce of Culpho. She has been Chairman of Ipswich Choral Society for the last three years: she lives and breathes music and singing and loves every minute of it.

With the help of an excellent

committee, the 90-strong (and rising!) choir has been going from strength to strength. The Society was founded in 1824 and is the second oldest in England: only Halifax Choral Society is older - founded in 1817). On 19 March next year Ipswich Choral Society will be joining Halifax for their bicentenary: the two choirs will perform Elijah in Halifax and at Snape on 29 April.

Chris also sings with The Suffolk Singers led by Claire Weston, former principal soprano at English National Opera. They are a great group of singers, famous also for their cakes and vocal workshops open to the public.

Choral singing has offered Chris experiences that she would never have had without the two choirs: she has sung among the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus in Turkey; at the Istanbul International Music Festival; in Italy and Austria; an Eisteddfod; Ely Cathedral and as backing choir for G4 on their recent comeback tour at the Regent in Ipswich.

Chris' love of music started in church at the age of around 5, when she sang a solo at her local Baptist Church. Her parents found a teacher to whom she went for a couple of years and loved it. She went on to train as a nurse, and, with colleagues, often created their own entertainment: amateur dramatics, singing and playing

the guitar. Once married, she moved around with her husband's job and in the 1980s in Liverpool took up piano lessons again with a lady in her 80s who had just started tap dancing! Once in Suffolk, she took up music lessons again, which gave Chris the confidence to join Ipswich Choral Society in the mid 1990s as a soprano. She continues her singing lessons under Claire Weston and has achieved ABRSM Grade 8, to help make her an even better choral singer!

Going back to music after her



Above: members of the Ipswich Choral Society.
Below: the 'Shingle Street' trio.

husband died helped to give Chris a new impetus in life: she also belongs to the folk trio 'Shingle Street' performing at folk clubs, for fundraisers for Culpho church and other charities such as Emmaus and the British Heart Foundation. Chris would wholeheartedly encourage everyone to sing for the sheer joy of it.



New members are welcome at Ipswich Choral Society and further information at www.ipswichchoralsociety.org

Elizabeth Stephenson

GOOD TURNS

Trevor Hill from Hasketon Hill of Hasketon saw an apple which had been turned from wood so he thought he would try his hand at making one with wood from his garden. He bought a secondhand wood turning



lathe, plus a range of chisels and soon found it a relaxing and fulfilling activity. He also gets great pleasure when he gives a family member



something he has made for them. Often he uses wood from a tree which they know and the provenance of the wood brings back many memories for them.

Trevor has made a variety of things such as bowls, pendant

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FROM TREVOR

necklaces, pens, spinning tops, pencil pots, goblets, apples, pears and even a Christmas cracker. Nearly all of the wood comes from his garden which is mostly ash, sycamore, oak and yew.

Mementoes

Trevor is often given wood by people he knows and this is usually from ornamental garden trees: he never buys any wood. Recently he had some yew given from St Mary's churchyard Grundisburgh and made items which were then sold to raise funds for the church. Some were given as gifts to people who have left the

village as a reminder of the church.

For the last few years, Trevor has displayed and sold his work at the Grundisburgh church fete held at the beginning of September. In 2012 and 2014 he sold pendants and crib sets at the Grundisburgh CribFest, again for church funds.

When asked what he found was the most difficult aspect of wood turning - he said that because of other interests there is seldom enough time to turn regularly. Also, like most things, practice makes perfect.

The advice

Trevor would give to someone thinking of trying this craft included joining a wood turning club where you can go to demonstrations by professional turners and pick up loads of tips. Trevor belongs to the Mid Suffolk

Woodturners who have meetings at Dallinghoo on the first Thursday of every month. They encourage new members and have a mentor/training scheme to help new people get started: visit their website www.suffolkmidcoastalwoodturners.co.uk. See also Grundisburgh and District News issue 232 for a report on the club.

Jenness Proctor

SARAH HAS SKILLS, WILL TRAVEL

Oboe-playing Sarah Cavanagh from Burgh has another string to her bow: not only is she one of the prime movers in the Grundisburgh Symphony Orchestra (see page 3), as a volunteer she leads a partnership of health professionals between Ipswich Hospital and Central Hospital in Beira, Mozambique (a former Portuguese colony in South-East Africa and a member of the Commonwealth).

Having lived in West Africa with her husband, Malcolm, she has an attachment to the continent and in 2014 the opportunity arose to become involved in helping to raise the health standards of Mozambique. Sarah is a pharmacist at Ipswich hospital and passes her knowledge and skills and experience to her counterparts in Beira.

Safety

Transfer of best practice is fundamental to the Partnership and Sarah has been involved personally in introducing Ipswich standard systems, such as safer prescription charts and emergency drug boxes into wards in Beira, as well as training on medication safety for junior doctors and drug calculations for nurses. The World Health Organisation chose Ipswich to head this particular partnership because of its successful infection control procedures.

There is government funding behind the Partnership which pays for travel to Mozambique



Sarah - on right of picture - with visiting Mozambique colleagues. Next to her is Dr. John Day who started the Beira link.

and other expenses but it's her own time that Sarah gives that makes the difference. She believes that this kind of practical help direct to where it's needed is of greater value than just pumping cash into a country.

Rewards

So, what does Sarah get out of it? Knowing that she can make a difference to other peoples' lives by simply passing on what she knows as part of her day-to-day work here in Suffolk. It also improves her wider skill-base, including leadership. And meeting other health-care professionals to swap experiences and to learn from them, too. Sarah flies out again to Beira on 4 June.

In April, Ipswich hospital hosted a visit of clinicians from Beira: apart from the serious stuff of lectures and workshops, she introduced the visitors to Suffolk village life, including a visit to the Grundisburgh Dog. And their reaction? They loved the age of our buildings and were

particularly impressed with St Mary's church.

Connections

This is not our only link with Mozambique: in 2000, Dr. John Day, then a resident of Little Bealings, was instrumental in setting up a new medical school in Beira (see The News, issue 203). The school is still going strong and some of its graduates now come to Ipswich for further training and development.

Richard Watkinson



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GRUNDISBURGH GLEANINGS



Scout News

All Sections have again been very busy this term. Beavers had a hike in Rendlesham Forest and alien modelling in the Hut with some excellent models being made from everyday items.

In early March, cubs went on a night hike around local villages and slept over in the hut; the following morning they took part in 'Clean for the Queen' around the playing

field, in the rain. They also took part in an Easter egg hunt and archery – again in the rain! Cubs are working on the Naturalist and Communication badges this term having a '100 Years of Cubs' camp at the end of May in Glemham Hall. Over the early May bank holiday some scouts, leaders and parents took part in our cycle camp from Southend to Kesgrave - 110 miles along the coast staying at different locations each night.

Our Archery Team triumphed at the National Finals in Hertfordshire on 7/8 May: 14 gold medals, 9 silver, 9 bronze 9 Cups (National Champions), 2 Shields (National Champions) and 1st/2nd/3rd in the team categories.

Pat Ross, Group Secretary 01473 735352

WI News

Pip Wright certainly gave the ladies of Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho WI a good chuckle when, with great humour, he told of his travels

exploring East Anglia using his bus pass. Perhaps some of us need to be a bit more adventurous when using ours!

In April, Hilary Hill came to share with us some of the adventures she and her husband Trevor had experienced when they embarked on their South

flowers and shrubs. Susie, born into a musical family, toured the world as a competent cello player before she and her husband came to live in Grundisburgh where her great love of plants began. Mrs Williams gave her a break by offering to sell plants from her shop - which she still does to this day.



Branch President Barbara King planting the Centenary rose.

African Safari. On one occasion they had to drive for many miles in the soaring temperatures, unable to open the windows due to roadside signs warning them of 'Risk of High Jacking'. When they finally thought they were safe, they were confronted with 'Risk of Baboon attack' signs!

Susie, from Katie's Garden (named after her daughter who wrote for The News before she went to university), arrived at our May meeting with a van load of plants and proceeded to impart her extensive knowledge about

In recognition of all Pat Polley's work for the WI, we decided to buy her a special rose which had been developed to mark the WI Centenary last year. Sadly, Pat died before we were able to present it to her, so it was planted in her memory beside the door to St Mary's church. Pat was a leading member of the church choir for many years.

Details of WI meetings are included in the News' Diary on page 2.

Carol Barker 735838.

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SCHOOL REPORTS

Grundisburgh's days out.

Children from Grundisburgh Primary school have been very busy this term. Classes 1 and 3 have been out of school on some fantastic trips: Class 1 have been learning about castles and went to Framlingham Castle for the day. They had a super time exploring the museum, going on the wall walk and, best of all, getting muddy as they walked around the castle!

Class 3 have been reading 'The Owl who was afraid of the dark' by Jill

Tomlinson and have completed lots of work in conjunction with this book. The children were lucky enough to visit Stonham Barnes Owl Sanctuary recently where they watched flight displays and went on a trail around the sanctuary. The children have loved these trips and are looking forward to their next ones.



Gemma Oakley

OTLEY SETS THE STANDARD!



The Union flag flies proudly outside Otley County Primary school following the donation from Cllr Tony Fryatt's Enabling Communities Budget for the purchase of a flag pole and three flags and standards and to Diggerworks who installed the pole during the February half term. Being in the front of the school means the flags can be seen by passers-by and used for the benefit of the community as well as enhancing the children's enjoyment of year round ceremonial celebrations.

Earlier this year the children took part in the 'fly the flag' tributes as part of Commonwealth Day celebrations (this flag being donated by Otley parish council) and we also raised the flag of England on St George's Day. The Union flag and Otley Primary School standard are available to use throughout the remainder of the year and we will certainly be flying the flags in June for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations!

Vanessa Osborne

New governor needed!

Grundisburgh school has grown in numbers over the past few years and has built a very good reputation across Suffolk. Would you like to become part of the school community and be involved in the future development of the school?

We need someone who is enthusiastic, interested in education and who could contribute to the development of the school; has sufficient time to be able to attend meetings (two termly meetings starting at 4pm and at least one termly committee meeting starting at a similar time) and to visit the school when required. They must be willing to attend relevant training – some

of which may take place during the school day or in the evenings. They must also be willing to have a DBS check.

If you are interested or would like to know more about the role, please contact John Lynch, the headteacher, on 01473 735281 or email john.lynch@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk. The deadline is Monday 13 June.

Clive Willetts Chairman of Governors

Charsfield's May activities



Left, two pupils exploring just part of the newly expanded Early Years area at **Charsfield primary school**. Thanks go to Mr. Smith for making all the wonderful contraptions for this area, making it an exciting place to learn. Above: Class 3 of the school on their sci-fi themed day in May, a reward for sustained good behaviour!

photos from Charsfield school's May Newsletter

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PUB NEWS and EVENTS

Kiwis land on Moon!

Joseph and Maia will be performing live at the **Moon and Mushroom** as part of their spring UK tour on Thursday 2 June at 9pm. Originating from New Zealand, where they were until recently signed to the country's top record label, they spend much of the year touring extensively in Europe and the U.K. They released an album in 2015 titled 'Sorrento', mixing pop, folk and bluegrass with beautifully crafted songs and harmonies.

This is a truly fantastic opportunity to see such an incredibly talented act in an intimate and local venue. Do come along: admission free.

Nikki Gavin

Boules and bottles

The Hasketon **Turks Head** petanque team is unbeaten so far this season. Well done Sarah Butters and team! The pistes are also proving very popular with our guests (and

visiting teams testing out the surface!). Boules are behind the bar for anyone to use.

On 7 June Saul will be hosting our inaugural 'Silver Luncheon' in the snug at 12 noon. It's a social lunch for the over sixties on two long sharing tables. Come on your own or as a group to enjoy good company and Maui's lovely food: £15 for one course or £18 for two - including a glass of wine or a pint of beer. Please call to book a place. We are hoping it will be a regular event.

'10 Mile Supper' - on Thursday 16 June: all ingredients from within 10 miles of the pub, and includes delicious vegetarian dishes. Every Thursday the 'Busy Hands and Warm Hearts' knitting group meets from 10 to 11.30am.

Wednesdays 8 June and 20 July will be supper and quiz nights at 7pm.

Jemima Withey

Pop to the Pop-up!

The **White Hart** is putting on a Pop-Up Pub at the Otley Village Fete on 2 July so you can come for lunch before the fete starts at 2pm.

Pizzas galore in Grundisburgh

During the school holidays, **The Dog** will be open on

Mondays between 12 and 8pm, with a light lunch

menu from 12-2. And free children's entertainment from 3-4pm every Friday.

Our wood-fired pizza oven is now open every week-end for the summer season: Fridays 4-9pm; Saturdays 12-6pm; Sundays 4-9pm. The restaurant is now open all day on Sundays.

Special events: Friday 27 May



to Monday 30 May: beer and cider festival with a BBQ on Sunday afternoon. On the Monday the restaurant will be closed but the bar is open all day, with pizzas from 12-9pm.

For the Queen's birthday, we are holding a mini beer and cider festival with live music on the Saturday from 3pm and BBQ and pizzas on the Sunday from 4pm.

On the Hidden Gardens weekend (18/19 June) we are serving pizzas on both days from 12-9pm. On Fathers' Day (19 June) we are offering a special restaurant

menu. And a pizza + Peroni offer for £10.

Quiz nights on 5 June and 3 July - booking essential.

Eilir Rogers.

Celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday are also being held at Charsfield Three Horseshoes and Winesham Barley Mow - see special What's On on pages 4 and 5

GADS Presents

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By John and Yvonne Eddleston

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Covering the waterfront

Always game for something new, Mike Bamford moved from Lancashire, where he had a hairdressing business, to Woodbridge because his late brother-in-law had bought Whisstock's Tide Mill yacht basin in Woodbridge from the Receiver and asked if Mike was interested in being involved in running it as a marina. He was and, indeed helped get the business up and running, and lived there on site in a caravan for nine months.

Enterprising

But Mike had identified a market in marine canvas work and set up a workshop in a large Portakabin to make bespoke boat sail covers, sprayhoods and bunk cushions. Back in Lancashire,



Above: Mike working on a yacht's sprayhood to protect the crew in the boat's cockpit. Right: his distinctive 'label' and, below: a spray-hood and sail cover on a boat at Levington.



his mother had been a keen needlewoman and made sure her children could operate a treadle sewing machine. This stood Mike in good stead for his new enterprise. He has worked at various locations in the Suffolk area but has always been his own man and now runs his own business in

Charsfield.

All boats are different and each job requires its own set of measurements to meet the owner's requirements: this means Mike has to visit each vessel (whether ashore or afloat), take accurate measurements and construct templates in non-stretch plastic film. These templates determine the precise structure of the sprayhoods (or whatever the item happens to be) and they are then replicated to produce the final article - using UV-resistant and waterproof material in the desired colour - in the Charsfield workshop. Mike is ably assisted by the excellent Jacky Baggett who has been in his employ almost continuously for 28 years!

Mike says his most challenging job was to supply and fit a complete set of canvas awnings for a large ex-Fishery Protection vessel converted to a yacht and which used to lie at Woodbridge and Martlesham. Supporting steelwork had to be designed and manufactured for new awnings as well as



modifying the existing ones. Not to mention re-foaming the leather-

covered bunk cushions below decks: all in all about two months' solid work!

Mike also turns his hand to less rugged work and if you visit Charsfield and Letheringham churches you can see some of Mike's

smaller items - kneelers in the pews. Mike has been the churchwarden at St. Peter's, Charsfield for the last 14 years and with his wife Kathryn will be celebrating their golden wedding this October.

words and photos: Richard Watkinson



COMPLETELY CRACKERS!

What does a landscape designer do when it's raining? Why, make crackers (party, not crispy) of course! What else?

For the past 17 years, Julia Saunders of Playford has been in the garden design field but some years ago began helping out at a friend's cracker



business in Woodbridge. She gradually got more involved in cracker making and when her colleague retired, she offered Julia the business - called, naturally enough, 'Completely Crackers'. Julia thought the name to be perfect so she took it over and trades under that title today.

Although she makes crackers for stock, she delights in producing one-off designs for individual customers and special occasions: some of the crackers are so attractive that it seems almost sacrilege to pull them! Julia makes all her products herself by hand. Attention to detail is essential: the value-added in a cracker is determined by its decoration, contents and the relevance of the whole design to the occasion at which it is being used. Customers can specify what they want the crackers for and what should go inside them: weddings, henparties,

Easter, halloween, proms and New Year events are just some opportunities for cracker-pulling.

Some customers supply their own paper and gifts - others rely on Julia. Inclusions can range from simple toys to jewellery or expensive confectionery. She even produces a range of crackers for christenings with little knitted hats inside! Her eye for colour has been enhanced by her design degree, as these examples (pictured) show.

It takes about an hour to make a box of six crackers but to achieve that, all the



ingredients have to be to hand and ready to use - including the essential explosive snaps. As for jokes - yes, she includes them, too! She finds and prints them herself so they are unlikely to be as corny as you might find elsewhere!

Up to now, Julia has relied on craft and wedding fairs and local publicity to market her products but she is in no doubt the internet is the way in future and is planning to go online this year. I hope she can keep up with the demand for these beautiful products!

words and photos: Richard Watkinson

DIAMOND GEEZERS!

It all began twenty years ago when Molly and Gordon Smith celebrated their Ruby Wedding with a group of like minded jazz enthusiast friends at The Tuddenham Fountain. Reluctant to bring the event to a close Molly spoke to the jazz band and then the whole party - band and all -



translocated to Shrubbery Farm for an impromptu barbecue. The overwhelming cry at the end of the evening was 'Do it again, do it again!' - and so they have, with outstanding success. Gordon thinks they have raised over forty thousand pounds for church funds. It's been hard work but they've not done it alone, a faithful band of helpers have worked together to erect marquees - (John Dyer kindly gave his) - organise gazebos and string bunting, (Richard Smith was badly missed!) and produce fantastic food. Molly loves to organise and part of her enjoyment has been in being able to identify specific people for specific jobs knowing that she can safely leave them to it - everyone knows who is responsible for what, whether cooking and serving hot food on the day or contributing salads and amazing puddings. Food is purchased from local farms or businesses - strawberries from Oak Tree Farm, chickens from Gressinghams and sausages and burgers from well

established local firms such as Creaseys. Beer for the bar is brought in from Earl Soham Brewery.

Obviously what happens on the day is the result of much forward planning and the observance of many rules and regulations. Gordon takes delight in booking the bands - often through his contacts at Colchester Jazz Club - a six-piece band costs a considerable amount, they cover great distances - as do their fans!

Small wonder that Molly and Gordon are bowing out after twenty years, this year will be their final effort - Molly is looking forward to sitting back and being on the receiving end in the future and Gordon looks forward to having his favourite band in his own garden. Although determined not to

be involved in the organisation, they are very happy to offer the use of the field, the car park and the upgraded 'loos' to any other people who might take on the tasks but so far, no-one has volunteered. They say they are not confident the event will survive - perhaps it needs a new generation to take it on? We must wait and see, but the Jazz Barbecue on 26 June this year will also be a chance for those who have enjoyed themselves at Shrubbery Farm over the years to give Molly and Gordon all our good wishes on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

Diamond Geezers indeed!

Madge Nicholas

GADS' Preview

This year, GADS' well-known actor, Ian Frost, is trying his hand at directing the Summer play 'Stage Struck' by John and Yvonne Eddleston. It's a light-hearted comedy revolving around two small businesses with similar names, operating next door to each other - a scenario ripe for confusion.

The Topspot Theatrical Agency has fallen on hard times. Business is bad and the only glimmer of hope seems to be a call from a television company seeking regulars for a new police drama series. Things also seem to be looking up when Jenny gets a call from Robbie Williams seeking new management.

Next door, the Hotshot Detective Agency is doing rather well, due mainly to 'nefarious practices'! How? Come and see for yourself as the plot unfolds with hilarious incidents on the way.

The play will be performed on

Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 June at 7.30pm in Grundisburgh village hall. Tickets (including a light ploughman's supper) will be available from The Olde Forge Stores in due course. You can sit at tables around the hall to enjoy the show. Please bring your own drinks, as GADS will not be running a licensed bar this year.

GADS is always on the lookout for new talent so if you are interested in helping in any way, please contact GADS' secretary, Nikki Brown, on 01473 738229.

Marian Rosling

NOT QUITE THE LAST WORD

Ron Last's article in issue 238 queried the naming of the wartime airfield as Debach rather than Clopton where it was actually located. Local local architect Richard Pirkis who grew up at Keens Farm, Debach, has an explanation. So does Daphne Foulger....

The track leading to Low Farm - through Keens Farm - had been partially piped and filled in on both sides of the track to enable aircraft to use the 1km long flat field running East to Dallinghoo during WW1 (several small fields had been made into one in around 1900 by a rector of Dallinghoo keen to modernise farming!)

I was told about the use of the field by Mr Coaker who had farmed there during WW2. He recalled Air Ministry surveyors arriving to tell him to vacate within a month as Keens Farm was to be demolished for the new Debach airfield. Trees were cut down and the surveyors began detailed work only to realise too much earth would have to be moved to make the East-West runway long enough. So the surveyors moved further West - and thus the whole of Debach Airfield was moved to Clopton. But the name didn't change.

As to Thistleton Hall, a fellow local farmer told me that, although the hall had seen a bit of rough treatment for about two years, it was still habitable after 1945. He claimed that the local War Agriculture Executive Committee had it pulled down purely because it had become a house of ill repute! Pieces of the oak panelling are to still be seen in a post-war house in Debach."

Richard Pirkis

Ron Last wonders why the airfield was named Debach. I thought this was due to there only being one 'Debach' in the country whereas there are several variations of places named Burgh and Clopton, which could have led to confusion.

As to Thistleton Hall. I know one ornate fire surround from there was donated to Christchurch Mansion many years before WW2. My parents took my sister Hazel and me to see it on display around a fire place in one of the rooms there.

I also remember the Wellington bomber crash landing in a field near Oak Cottages, Burgh and was not badly damaged. Vickers Armstrong sent four of their engineers to dismantle it to go back on road transport.. Two of the engineers lodged with my parents at The Forge, Burgh; the other two with Mrs. Dunnett at Folly Cottage, Grundisburgh (which was known then as Bonnies Sweet Shop). My recollection is that the job was completed, the engineers had left and many days later the 'plane went up in flames. This was before Debach airfield was built.

Daphne Foulger (nee Baxter)

May recalled

Following the installation in Grundisburgh church of the scroll honouring women who served in WW2, we are grateful to David Stone for information about one of them - his aunt May Stone.

May was born in Earl Soham in 1920. Her father, a farm-hand had to 'follow the work' and eventually moved to Otley early in WW2. In 1941, May joined the ATS and went to the St Vincent Training Centre in Warrington. David thinks she thought it a great adventure without really appreciating the serious nature of what was going on.



May, left, at an Over-60s stall.

May became a Lance Corporal and trained as a cook (Classes 1 and 2) stationed at Rowarth Castle. Among other items - Pass Book, ID card, etc. David has her workbooks - recording in detail in neat long-hand the cleaning and care schedules for every piece of kitchen equipment and different work stations.

David also has her recipe books for such dishes as 'Brown Stew for 100 men' - plus, interestingly, details of portion amounts which differ according to gender: for example, meat for the brown stew was calculated as 6oz per man, 4oz per ATS!

In 1946 May was demobbed, came back to Grundisburgh and married Sid Scrutton, a bricklayer from Otley, in 1947. May and Sid had no children and she took various general domestic type jobs. They loved her garden and she loved to cook, much to the delight and benefit of her wider family David says 'Christmas was brilliant'!

When Sid, died May became very involved with the 'over-sixties' - she was a founder member and had a leading role in the Otley Friendship Club.

She made Wedding Cakes and catered for local weddings and other celebrations. She died in 1992. 'MAY STONE' - a name on a scroll in a country church. But

much more - a life that made a difference to many people.

Madge Nicholas

Can you help?

I am looking for the family of Emma Sparks. She lived in Oak Cottage on the Otley to Helmingham road and died in 1994. She is buried in Otley churchyard.

I have been researching an aircraft crash which narrowly missed the cottage when Emma was inside. If anyone has any photos of Emma, I would love to hear from you.

*Andrea Keyland
akeyland@gmail.com*

Ringin' for good causes

Otley Handbell Ringers recently presented a cheque for £150 to Verity Smith for the Guide Dogs. Verity takes on potential guide dogs as puppies and gives them experience of the



Verity Smith and Elvie with the Ringers.

situations they will meet when working, such as busy town centres, shops, buses, trains and restaurants. When they are about fourteen months old, they leave her and go for full guide dog training. She will then take on another puppy.

The ringers support a different charity each year and have included Macmillan, EACH, St Elizabeth's Hospice and the R.N.L.I. The team entertain in residential homes, sheltered housing, Over 60s clubs, church groups and special interest groups in East Suffolk and are always much in demand.

Helen Jay

Gardening Club events

On Early May Bank Holiday Monday some 30 members and friends joined the club's spring local garden evening visit to Larks' Hill, Tuddenham St Martin. Despite managing to pick the only day in a fortnight when there was any rain, which turned out to be a very heavy downpour, our enthusiastic exploring of the eight acre garden was not too dampened. This was because we were able to take shelter in the recently-constructed tea-room and enjoy a good old natter over a cup of tea and some excellent cakes!

After our summer break the club reconvenes at 7.30 on Monday 5 September at Otley village hall, when Rodney Tibbs will tell us about Cambridge College Fellows' Gardens. We meet once a month on the 1st Monday and aim to have speakers on a varied selection of gardening topics. This year we have also organised a late summer coach outing on 24 September to the Beth Chatto gardens near Colchester. There are still one or two spaces available on the coach.

For further details on our club or any of the above items, please contact me on 01473 890563 or atrevelyan62@gmail.com, or Isabel Lincoln on 01473 890826

Alan Trevelyan

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SPORTS



SUCCESS AND SADNESS

We have enjoyed a particularly eventful season in our Indoor Bowls competition at Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

There have been a lot of surprising results and, in the end, the trophy was shared between two teams who declined the chance of a play-off! The presentation of the Stan Kirsopp Trophy to the winning captains (John Broad

and Hugh Bridges) was made by Stan's widow, Joyce.

She is on the left of the picture and the successful team members, from left to right, are: Jean Broad, John Broad, Gill Girling, Steve Newton, Hugh Bridges and Roy Girling. Sadly, Joyce died just two weeks after this picture was taken. She was determined to make the presentation despite her illness and we will all miss her very much.

We do not run a "closed shop" and give a warm welcome to

anyone who would like to join us in for the season starting next October.

If you are interested please contact me on 01473 738538.

Roger Anderson

They think it's all over...

Well it is now. The season has finally come to a close and there has been a lot of hard work on the field and also off the field. The First team finished just below half way and reached the Senior Cup quarter final and the Reserves came second from bottom and reached the Semi Final of the Reserve League Cup, so not a disastrous season but not as successful as we expect at Grundisburgh although this was a re-building season after the previous tough year. We now look to next season to improve on this and aim for a cup or two.

Steve Moore, Mickey Squirrel and Karl Baldwin remain as First Team managers; we are currently looking for a Reserve Team manager or managers: if anyone is interested or knows of anyone, please contact us.

As always, the Pavilion bar will remain open on Saturdays

from 5pm, so anyone is welcome for a pint. We are, as always, looking for help on match days so if you are interested please do contact the club. And finally please check out the Events Diary for details of monthly Car Boots we are holding and our Fun Day on 29 August..

Beverley Wilson 01473 735377

Anyone for Tennis?

Grundisburgh Tennis Club is offering juniors and adults the chance to be coached by a professional coach for just £5 for an hour.

There will be opportunities for complete beginners and those who already play but would like some tips on how to improve their game. Junior and adult rackets will be available or you can bring your own. The sessions will take place on 18 June.

Juniors (7-9 years): 2-3pm;
Juniors (10-13 years): 3-4pm;
14+ teens and Adults: 4-5pm.

Further opportunities for coaching will be available during the summer if numbers allow. If you are interested, please contact Jacqui on: 01473 830291 or email: Jabalmer@hotmail.com

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I am organising a collection of children's clothes for the charity Operation Orphan who distribute clothes, hats, scarfs,

gloves and blankets to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe and to refugee children from the Middle East.

If you have any winter things that you would like to donate (new, used or knitted, from newborn up to ladies size 12, mens size M), please drop them in to me, Victoria Cox, 63 Gurdon Rd., Grundisburgh IP13 6XA. By 29 June, please.

To insert an item into 'Small Ads', please supply on paper or email your words to editor@grunews.com Please include a contact phone number. No charge for private advertisements.

Change of Chair

After nine years' service, Terry Frost has stood down from chairing The News' management team. The new chair is Beth Taylor of Debach. Terry is still on board as vice chair.

Help keep The News going....

The News is almost entirely paid for by income from advertising. We are looking for a volunteer to take over from Val Crouch who is retiring as our advertising person. To find out what's involved please contact Val on 01473 738845, val.crouch@btinternet.com

Someone is also needed by The News to look after circulation and to coordinate the work of our teams of distributors. Anyone who could spare a small amount of time to take this on should contact Nicola Hobbs, 01473 738267 or editor@grunews.com

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Grundisburgh & District News is a free community publication produced by volunteers. Around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 17 other villages (as listed on front page). Four issues are published annually. Contributions, comments and ideas are welcomed: Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, editor@grunews.com. All issues are included on our website by publication date.

Information can be supplied on paper or emailed in. If emailed, please indicate topic in the subject box. Photos can be sent as JPEGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints.

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Vice chair of management team: Terry Frost (735275)

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Eye on the sky - a mill's tale

Prominent and visible for many miles around, with its eye-catching aluminium cap, Burgh mill attracts a lot of attention. This is a history of the site and the building.

In 1810 the mill was a post mill belonging to Francis Buttrum. The present tower mill was built in 1845

by renowned local builder, John Whitmore. The mill stayed in the ownership of the Buttrum family all its working life, which ended in 1922. It was saved from demolition at a time when many others were disappearing by being fitted with a new roof with weather vane and lightning conductor in 1925.

Look-out

During WW 2 the mill was used as a look out post by the Observer Corps, at which point in time the granary was used as part of the piggery and chickens were kept in the tower! The building deteriorated badly over the years but non-the-less was Grade 2 listed in 1988. Edward and Penny Creasy, quite by happenstance found Burgh Mill and Mill House and bought them in 2000, taking on a major project of restoration. Luckily, due to its acknowledgement as a prominent historic building it was eligible for grants from DEFRA and the County Council - just as well, there was much to do! Repairs to the tower and granary commenced in 2002.

Doors and windows were reinstated to the original pattern and an aluminium clad ogee roof plus a viewing gallery was built and fitted by Chris Hullcoop of Felixstowe. Some floors in the tower still need attention.

War service

In 1940 the Grundisburgh Observer Corps which had been established in 1928, moved to Burgh Mill. The Observer Corps was developed during the 1920s and 30s by its founder and organiser Major General E B Ashmore, to give early warning of air attacks. A network of hundreds of posts was established in places where there was an unobstructed view of the horizon and a highly sophisticated and coded telephone system enabled reports to be fed immediately to observer centres. Radar existed but could track aircraft only to the coast and it was the

efficiency and determination of the Observer Corps, 'the eyes and ears of the R.A.F' which enabled enemy aircraft to be intercepted inland. Bob Arbid, a U.S.A.F. engineer stationed at Debach visited Burgh Mill and recalls his visit in his book 'Here we are together' published in 1946. He described the topmost

room, staffed by observers, a table with photos, aircraft recognition charts and drawings all piled on top - but very little furniture. From the parapet he looked out over 'Suffolk fields and Suffolk woods', waxing quite lyrical.

The Observer Corps was renamed The Royal Observer Corps in 1940 in recognition of its valuable role in repelling German air attacks. Later in the war, the ROC. assisted with air-sea rescues and helped returning bombers locate their bases: it also tracked V1 flying bombs. A new role was taken on at the height of the cold war when it was feared we might suffer a nuclear attack and many underground and surface monitoring posts were created. As the threat diminished, these posts were closed in 1968 and the ROC finally stood down in the 1990s.

Corps members were all volunteers and enrolled as Special Constables from various walks of life. The Observer post at Burgh Mill was manned continuously throughout the war by fourteen observers whose names were recorded in cement on a reused gear wheel in 1941 - S. Wurr; W. Gladding; H. Cotton; A. Cotton; G. Mitchell; E.W. Gentry; O. V. Mills; J. F. Taylor; H. Ruffles; R. Smith; S. Pryter; A. Leech; W. Bloss - and their leader, F. S. Morse.

Mr Wurr was the headmaster of Grundisburgh primary school; H. Cotton had a cycle shop and Mr Gentry the garage, both in Grundisburgh. W. Bloss worked at a slaughter house in Melton. I'm not aware that the occupations of the other volunteers are recorded anywhere - perhaps News readers know more?

words: Madge Nicholas;

photo: Peter Kendall



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