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2017/8

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Taking road safety seriously!

Charsfield junior school have just elected their Junior Road Safety Officer team for the next year. Pictured right are Maisie, Ed, Sonny and Isabella who will be promoting road safety throughout the school by making fellow pupils aware, for example, of the need to be seen in the dark and to act sensibly while on the roads. Working with their local PSCSOs, they will again be using a real, live, radar speed gun in the village, so speeders beware!

Charsfield is one of about 80 schools in Suffolk who work with Suffolk Roadsafes - part of Suffolk Highways - to promote road safety to everyone - not just children. Roadsafes would like more schools to take part - the range of activities is set out in their website www.suffolkroadsafes.net. If any school is interested, the organiser: ann.battershill@suffolk.gov.uk, would love to hear from you. More school news on page 12



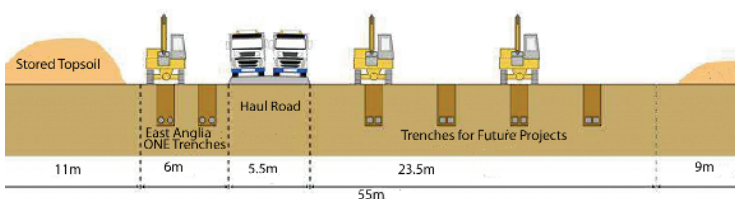
Above: the Junior Road Safety team at Charsfield; below: Jenny Taylor receiving help from Grundisburgh Beavers with her Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal.

Traffic

If you've wondered why there have been so many heavy lorries roaring at speed through Grundisburgh and Culpho lately, the answer is that the windfarm construction teams are removing topsoil along the route and laying down the haul-road which will be used to move materials and equipment. This work requires a large quantity of aggregate which explains the increase in the HGVs delivering materials to the Playford depot.

If residents would like to raise speeding as an issue, they should contact John Lapsley (johnlapsley@hotmail.com) with the name of the lorry company (usually displayed on the side), date, time, direction, and general location. He will then take it up with the project. He says that, inevitably, some drivers will be non-compliant with their project directives and it is better to identify individual culprits rather than make a blanket complaint.

One immediate benefit from the project has been the amount of archaeological material discovered - see page 4 for more details.



The diagram left represents a generic cross-section of the route with the trenches and the haul-road.



The mystery of the ducks

Seemingly overnight, all the ducks have disappeared from the Green in Grundisburgh. Until a few weeks ago, there were about 35 ducks disporting themselves on the grass and the stream but now not one is to be seen. No-one appears to know where they went. Or whether they went voluntarily.....

500 up!

This year, Jenny Taylor has again organised the filling and collection of shoeboxes filled with small gifts for children in war zones and deprived areas of the world: with the help of Grundisburgh School, Beavers (pictured below) and Williams Stores, she collected 116 boxes. Jenny reckons she has collected about 500 boxes over the past five years.

Samaritan's Purse is a US-based non-denominational Christian organisation providing aid to people around the world. Its President and CEO is Franklin Graham, the eldest son of the American evangelist, Billy Graham.

More 'Local Heroes' are featured on page 8.



Jenny Taylor with helpers. photo: Pat Ross

News Diary

NOVEMBER

Saturday 25

Advent Coffee Morning

Tuddenham VH 10am Contact 784545

Saturday 25

Sale of Surprises Bric-a-brac, Books etc iao Send a Cow and Gr New Village Hall GrPR 2pm Contact 738267

Sunday 26

Hasketon Charity Fair

HasketonVH 2pm Contact 01394 386297

DECEMBER

Friday 1

Ashbocking Coffee Morning

1 Nelson Close 10.30am Contact 890836

Friday 1

Upbeat Christmas Concert

St Mary's Church Grundisburgh 7.30pm For tickets contact 735853 or 07834 984591

Saturday 2

St Mary's Grundisburgh Coffee Morning GrPR 10.30am Contact 735775

Saturday 2

Upbeat Christmas Concert Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785853

Monday 4

Christmas Gardening Quiz With Matthew Tanton Brown Otley & District Gardening Club Otley VH 7.30pm Contact 890563

Tuesday 5

Baby Cafe GrPR 9am Contact 735183

Thursday 7

Kesgrave Singers Grundisburgh WI BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Tuesday 12

Christmas Sing Song Tuddenham WI Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785368

Tuesday 12

Silk - from China to the Border of Suffolk and Essex Grundisburgh Local History Society GrPR 7.45pm Contact 738195

Thursday 21

Craft Group GrPR 9.30 am Contact 735517

Sunday 31

New Year Eve Barn Dance

Clopton VH 7.30pm Contact 737417

JANUARY

Tuesday 2

Baby Cafe GrPR 9.00am Contact 735183

Thursday 4

Social Evening Grundisburgh WI BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Tuesday 9

Creative Writing Talk by Caroline Belcher Tuddenham WI Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785368

Tuesday 16

The Stowmarket Navigation - the Fall and Rise of the River Gipping Grundisburgh Local History Society Talk by Lewis Tyler GrPR 7.45pm Contact 738195

Friday 26

GADS Winter Panto 'The Three Musketeers' GrVH 7.30pm Tickets from Olde Forge Stores or GADS

Saturday 27

GADS Winter Panto 'The Three Musketeers' GrVH 2pm and 7.30pm Tickets from Olde Forge Stores or GADS

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1

A Trip to India Talk by Colin Grimwood Grundisburgh WI BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 2

GADS Winter Panto 'The Three Musketeers' GrVH 7.30pm Tickets from Olde Forge Stores or GADS

Saturday 3

GADS Winter Panto 'The Three Musketeers' GrVH 2pm and 7.30pm Tickets from Olde Forge Stores or GADS

Saturday 3

St Mary's Grundisburgh Coffee Morning GrPR 10.30am Contact 735775

Tuesday 6

Baby Cafe GrPR 9.00am Contact 735183

Tuesday 13

Quiet Lanes Talk by Neil Winship Tuddenham WI Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785368

Friday 23

FOGS Curry and Quiz

Night Grundisburgh School 7pm PBE Tickets from School Office

MARCH

Thursday 1

Nostalgic Slides of Grundisburgh Rosie and Claire from William's Shop Grundisburgh WI BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Saturday 3

St Mary's Grundisburgh Coffee Morning GrPR 10.30am Contact 735775

Saturday 3

Eve Appeal Easter Tea Party Coffee Morning Burgh School Room 10am Contact 735554

Saturday 3

TADPOLES "One More Night Variety Show" Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785682/785400

Monday 5

Easy Gardening - Low Maintenance Gardens Otley & District Gardening Club Otley VH 7.30pm Contact 890563

Tuesday 6

Baby Cafe GrPR 9am Contact 735183

Tuesday 13

Diary of a Norfolk Parson Talk by Sheila Harrison Tuddenham WI TuddenhamVH 7.30pm Contact 785368

Tuesday 20

Country Houses in East Anglia Grundisburgh Local History Society Talk by Ben Cowell GrPR 7.45pm Contact 738195

APRIL

Thursday 5

Quick Suppers Demonstrator Jane Sago Grundisburgh WI BCR 7.30pm Contact 735838

Saturday 7

St Mary's Grundisburgh Coffee Morning GrPR 10.30am Contact 735775

Monday 9

Propagation - Cuttings and Seeds Otley & District Gardening Club OtleyVH 7.30pm Contact 890563

Friday 27

FOGS Ceilidh Grundisburgh School 7pm PBE Tickets from School Office

MAY

Monday 14

'Over the Garden Wall' - Gardening Stories Otley & District Gardening Club OtleyVH 7.30pm Contact 890563

JUNE

Monday 4

Plant Sale Evening Otley & District Gardening Club OtleyVH 7.30pm Contact 890563

Saturday/Sunday 9/10

Hidden Gardens of Grundisburgh, Burgh & Culpho Programmes on GrVG 2pm - 6pm Contact 735228

JULY

Saturday 14

Village Show Gr Horticultural Society Gr PF 12.30 - 5pm Contact 738997

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 **7 February** for the next issue to Ingrid McIvor, 21 Thomas Wall's Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6XB, or diary@grunews.com. Please indicate if tickets must be bought in advance.

The diary was introduced to promote planned events and to help organisers avoid clashes of future events
Details can be sent up to a year ahead for inclusion for the website diary.

Upbeat! concerts

Upbeat! will be performing two annual Christmas concerts: **St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh**, on Friday 1 December - the choir from Grundisburgh School will be singing, too. And in **Tuddenham Village Hall** on Saturday 2 December - special guest saxophonist Jonathan Farnhill, from the Horn Factory. Money raised will go to The Lighthouse Appeal and the Grundisburgh Lunch Club for elderly residents.

For tickets (still £8 pp - which includes festive refreshments), please contact Anna Greenwood on 01473 735853 or 07834 984591

And what about the WI?

We meet for a social evening, a cuppa and a chat on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in **Tuddenham Village Hall**, see Diary (p2) for our next four speakers. Give us a try - just come along. For more information call our president, Pauline Proctor, on 785368.

Calling all TADPOLES

Following the success of last year's 'One Night Only' variety show, we will be performing again in 'One More Night' in **Tuddenham Village Hall** on Saturday 3 March. If you're interested in being involved, performing or back stage, please contact Trevor Beckett on 785400 or me on 785682

Jean Ellinor

Grundisburgh

Symphony Orchestra

Come to our very short and varied concert in aid of the new **Grundisburgh** village hall. It will involve all our all-age and all-ability musicians and, most importantly, cake! Sunday 4 March at 3pm at **Burgh House Barn IP13 6PU**. For tickets (£4 adults - £2 for children and concessions), ring Sarah on 738944. After Christmas tickets will also be on sale in, **Olde Forge Stores**.

Anyone wishing to join the orchestra, please contact us.

Sarah Cavanagh & John Richards

Sacré bleu!

GADS' winter panto is 'The Three Musketeers' by Hilary Mackeldon. The famous story by Alexandre Dumas is given the GADS panto treatment - prepare for some crazy comedy and even crazier French accents!

Performances: **Grundisburgh Village Hall** on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 January; Friday 2 and Saturday 3 February - see Diary (p2) for show times. Tickets £8.50 (including refreshments) available mid-January from **Olde Forge Stores** or GADS members.

Phil Bailey

Village party

Enjoy the annual village party at **Grundisburgh Village Hall** at 7.30pm on 9 December in aid of the Zanzibar School Project. Elliott's Remedy are playing - tickets £7.50 each - contact Ollie on 07766 464336.

New Years Eve Dance

At **Clopton Village Hall** dancing to The Hosepipe Band from 8pm 'til late. Doors open 7.30pm. Bring a plate of food to share and your own drink. Tickets £13 (adults) and £5 (under 13s) from Graham 07943895907 or me on 01473 737417. Book early as we often sell out before Christmas. Profits shared between **Clopton Village Hall** improvement fund and the 24th Ipswich Scout Group.

Diana Dawson

Pub news

Charsfield's Three Horseshoes has a busy programme this festive season. Its Christmas menu is already being served. Events include carols by candlelight from 7pm on Christmas Eve and a fancy dress party and buffet on New Year's Eve (tickets need to be booked in advance). Landlord Jerry Bird will be opening up the bar for

drinks on Christmas Day from 11.30 to 3pm, and noon to 3pm on Boxing Day.

Jazz will feature in the evening on Christmas Eve at the **Turks Head**, Hasketon; the following day, the pub will be open 12 to 3 just for drinks. New Year's Eve party (ticket only) including a curry buffet and dancing to the **Alibi Club**.

At the **Dog**, British Game Week runs until 26 November. The Christmas menu is offered from 1 December until Christmas Eve. There is a special dinner (£35 pp) on New Year's Eve; Burns' Night supper is Friday 26 January.

The next concert...

From the Friends of **Great Bealings Church** is given by the Gippeswyk Singers) on Sunday 3 December at 7.30.

Guest singers are the Nightingale Wind Quintet. Tickets £10 (cheques to Gippeswyk Singers) from Sarah Galley, 4 William Close, Eyke, Woodbridge IP12 2SA.

Come and enjoy! Carol services

Ashbocking 17 Dec. 4pm; **Boulge** 15 Dec 7pm; **Burgh** 23 Dec 6pm; **Clopton** 24 Dec 6pm; **Grundisburgh** 17 Dec 7pm; **Hasketon** 17 Dec 5.30pm; **Otley** 16 Dec 6pm; **Swilland** 17 Dec 11am; **Tuddenham** 17 Dec 6.30pm; **Grundisburgh Baptist Chapel** family carol service 17 Dec 10.45; candlelit carols 24 Dec 6pm.

Crib services

Grundisburgh 24 Dec 4.30pm; **Hasketon** 24 Dec 3pm. **Tuddenham** 24 Dec 3.30pm children's service.

Holy communion

Grundisburgh Dec 24 Midnight Mass 11.30pm; **Swilland and Hasketon** 25 Dec 9.30am; **Boulge** 11am; **Burgh and Otley** Family Communion 25 Dec 11am; **Tuddenham** 24 Dec 11.30pm; 25 Dec 9.30am (family service with shortened communion).



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UNEARTHING 4000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Preparations for the cable route for the East Anglia One windfarm have led to one of Europe's largest archaeological digs, uncovering a rich tapestry of information about Suffolk's history. Up to 400 archaeologists have been involved in the work since February, as well as 20 members of the Ipswich and District Metal Detector Club.

The dig has provided new insight into past settlements and land use in the region. So far, evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and the medieval periods has been found: not surprising as this region was a major crossroads for the movement of goods from Europe and beyond.

As well as evidence of residential dwellings and places of work, a wide range of pottery fragments has been discovered alongside tools, coins and other artefacts. Although perfectly intact artefacts are rare in such digs, many significant items have been recovered, including fragments of green-glazed face jugs, popular in medieval homes in 13th century England. It is likely these jugs were manufactured in Grimston, near King's Lynn, which was a centre for the production of medieval pottery.

John Lapsley

Wardell Armstrong, archaeological surveyors, arranged a number of open days where we could meet the



team, find out what work has been undertaken and view some of the artefacts: one was at Tuddenham Village Hall on 25 October. This proved very popular, with a steady stream of visitors during the event.

Jean Ellinor

More subterranean secrets

Churchill established the top WWII wartime objective as "victory at all costs". This encompassed the provision of structures for every wartime move - no matter how small - including the siting and building of pillboxes and bunkers in our locality. This part of England was deemed a potential battlefield site against an invading German force - as was anywhere east or south of the defensive 'Ironside Line' which aimed to contain an invader, thereby protecting the heart of the country.

Visitors to the Tuddenham Open Day (photo: Jean Ellinor) and a piece of a 'face jug' revealed by the dig.

Thanks largely to our winning the Battle of Britain in the air, land battlefields did not eventuate. Even so, it is clear where the most vulnerable points and routes lay: along the major river valleys such as the Orwell and Stour that would naturally help guide an invasion force inland.

Pillboxes were constructed at Bawdsey, Martlesham, Martlesham Heath and Westerfield Junction and would have covered an advance with arcs of fire into valley paths to stop an enemy.

Developing structures

Earlier installations, specifically crude bunkers, were

probably part of the same defensive framework surrounding airfields: many of these bunkers were not as substantial as later pillboxes and have disappeared over time.

According to Colin Durrant of the Suffolk Aviation Heritage Group, the early bunkers were crude: a hole in the ground with metal sheets for walls and timber sleepers for a roof.

Although I am not sure of the exact location, there was a 1940 bunker, in the vicinity of Dr Watsons Lane, being part of the all-round defence of, and to the north west of, Martlesham Heath airfield

and, possibly later, a link between the Martlesham military area and the Westerfield pillbox along the Fynn axis and covering the East Suffolk and Felixstowe railway lines. This bunker was known as the Rushmere/Playford bunker and was manned by Ipswich no. 1 unit: the names of the patrol based there were Sgt L.E.Hudson, Cpl L.H.Proctor and Ptes., E.E.Fenn, E.K.Ransby, L.J.Read, and H.T.Simms.

According to Mr Durrant, later bunkers were more substantial, consisting of metal sheets, bricks and trap doors. Not many of the original bunkers remain but there are a few of the later ones about in Suffolk, so, if you know their location or of people who served at that time and who



The Pillbox at Westerfield junction facing the Felixstowe and East Suffolk lines and the Fynn Valley.

are still alive, please let The News know. Or simply spare a thought for what was going through the minds of the people that built and manned these defensive works, experiencing the straining intensity, effort and exhaustion of the total war effort. We are in their debt.

For more information, visit www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

Stephen Cooper;
Stephen.cooper23@me.com

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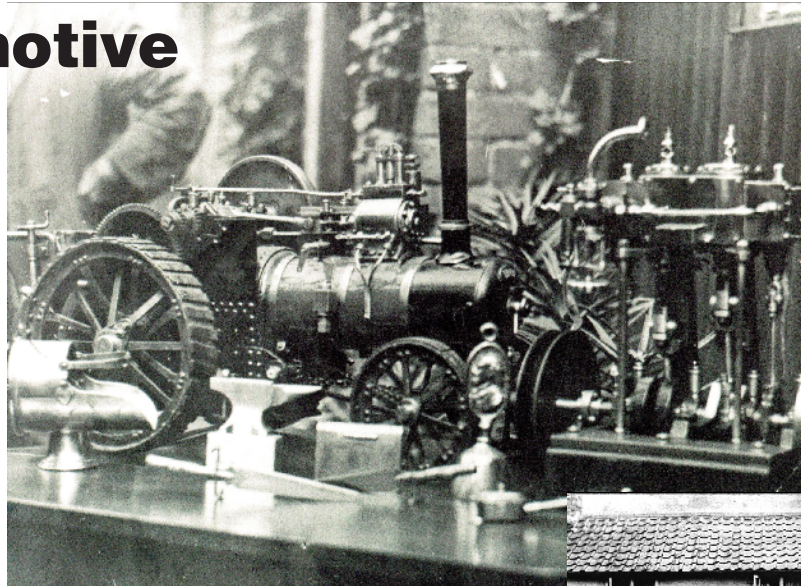
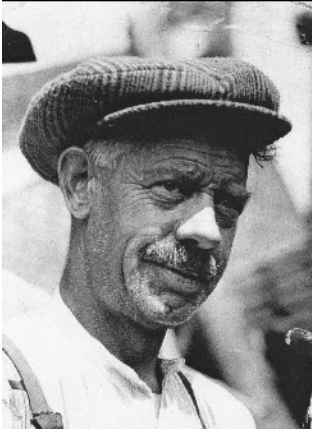
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Lost locomotive



left: William Bennett and the 'lost locomotive' which featured in the press in the 1930s. Below: you can just see one of William's model windmills on the far right of the picture of Laurel Cottage, Grundisburgh.

Back in the 1920 and 30s, Grundisburgh was home to a talented and ingenious engineer, whose inventions were not just a feature in Rose Hill but which also won him first prize in an exhibition attended by The Duke of York. Son of the Bennett family (whose roots in Grundisburgh date back to the 1700s), William spent 15 years building a working model of a steam road locomotive, making all the components himself (aside from having to purchase a pressure gauge for 7 shillings and 6 pence). Now his family are trying to trace this engine in the hope that this demonstration of his talent has been preserved.

Attraction

William Bennett's great niece, Jane Meston, describes Uncle Will as a "self-taught simple man", who used the materials available to him to make his inventions. On returning from serving in the First World War, William used shell cases to create brass ornaments and also made models of local

windmills (Grundisburgh, Burgh and Woodbridge Tide Mill), which were a feature in his front garden at Laurel Cottage, nicknamed Windmill Cottage as a result because these models attracted visitors from afar.

Precision

His major labour of love, though, was the working steam engine, crafted in a small workshop in the rear garden of Laurel Cottage. It would be fired up and would be run around the garden. All made to scale, the engine had a winding drum, guide rollers, gears and link-type motion. Even the equipment, such as oil can and wheel jack were made true to scale. It was no wonder that this exquisite craftsmanship led to William winning first prize.

Appeal

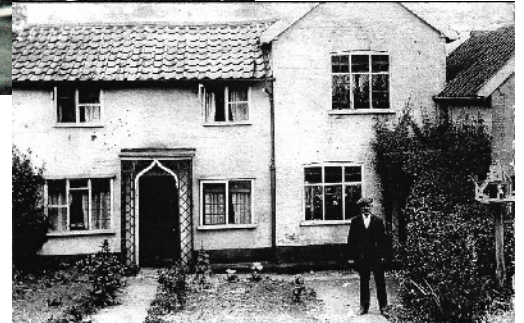
Jane and her mother, Doris, whose maiden name was Lambert, are hoping that the engine is still out there

somewhere and believe that it was passed on to their distant cousins. William's own cousins were from the families of Bennett, Kidby, Batley and Gosling, all originally from the Grundisburgh area but may well have moved elsewhere.

If anyone has any knowledge of the engine (do you

remember seeing it in the 1930s? or have heard about it?) or if you know members of these families and think you can help in anyway, please contact Jane on 01825 872316.

words: Tanya Fosdick



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TRIBUTES

Harry 'Ike' Warren 1924 - 2017

Born and raised in Grundisburgh, Ike was the middle of three boys, Ivor older and Pat younger; the family home was at Gull Corner Cottages. He went to Grundisburgh school, leaving at 14. Family life was hard: no electricity and only pond water for drinking and washing. Holidays were spent playing with friends on



Manton Meadows and on the common. In National Service, he trained as an aircraft mechanic in the RAF

and Fleet Air Arm but didn't see active duty as the atom bomb was dropped on Japan just as he was preparing to leave for action there.

He met Barbara in 1947 and they married at Pettistree Church in 1951. Their first home was at Dallinghoo Corner, Charsfield where their children were born: Wendy in 1953 and Richard in 1956.

He had various jobs including Council roadman, taking Roadmans Cottage in Stoney Road, Grundisburgh and living happily there for 53 years. He was often seen sanding the icy roads in winter and working with Barbara and the family fruit picking at Youngmans farm and sugar beet hoeing. He enjoyed pheasant brushing at Lord Cranworths and playing darts at the Dog and the Half Moon. In later years he spent many hours on his bike, swimming and line dancing.

They left their home in 2014 to move closer to family in Stowmarket: he ended his days in a nursing home but always spoke about his beloved Grundisburgh. Ike loved being surrounded by his family which grew to five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He died one

day before his and Barbara's 66th wedding anniversary.

Julie Warren

Jo Kelm 1950 - 2017

In September we said goodbye to Jo Kelm when she lost her brave fight against cancer. Jo and husband John moved to Tuddenham St Martin in 1983 and lived in the village since then. Jo was never one to be in the spotlight - always keen to join in but happy to let others take centre stage; however she was very much part of the village.

She was a parish councillor for over ten years and she and John always supported village activities. She was a founder member of the village book club, the swimming group and the Ladies Supper Club.

She loved Notcutts Gardening Club of which she and John were members and she particularly liked cultivating exotic plants. Jo was modest: few knew how talented she was at sugar craft until they saw her fantastic decoration of George Felgate's 90th birthday cake.



Jo loved her spaniel Ruby, going each week to Woofers dog training club and

winning several prizes for agility and obedience. Jo and John's great passions were travel and cricket. She was a member of Essex Cricket Club and one of the few women who understood the game's rules and knew all the players and their form! They saw the England team play in South Africa, Caribbean, Sri Lanka and Australia

Jo had a quick sense of humour and ready smile. She had such a positive attitude and love of life: even when battling cancer she was never grumpy and many people were unaware just how ill she was. She lived and loved her life

right to the end. The two most common descriptions of Jo by people who knew her were "always smiling" and "a lovely lady". She will be very much missed.

Jean Ellinor

Nigel John Batchelor 1947- 2017

Nigel was born at Burgh where we lived until moving to our present address in July 1950. He attended Grundisburgh school and having passed the then scholarship exam attended Woodbridge Grammar School until 1963. On leaving school, he joined the GPO BT where he worked for 43 years, retiring in 2007. His main hobby was light engineering which he carried out on his Myford lathe. He also enjoyed attending steam rallies around East Anglia where he made many friends and met old acquaintances.

He was always my great son and colleague and a great help when his mother died. He was always ready to help anyone when requested if he possibly could.

I miss him about the house and his passing was very peaceful, for which I am truly thankful and which helped me to come to terms after the first shock.

John Batchelor

Joyce Rayfield 1930 - 2017

Joyce was born to Stanley and Maggie Pipe of Pound Cottages, Grundisburgh. After leaving school, she went to work at Corders store and later at Reavells in Ipswich where a friendship of over 70 years began with two very special people whom Joyce worked with - Betty Podd and Jill Tymm. Joyce married Jack in 1954, living first in Orchard End, Grundisburgh, then in Meeting Lane.

Joyce's priorities were her family - putting everyone before herself and instilled these values into her daughters, Jane and Suzanne. In 1983 Joyce and Jack's first granddaughter, Laura, was born and two years later Katie arrived. The girls played a big

part in Joyce's life - she always took an interest in their hobbies and later on their work, always encouraging them to enjoy what they do and being proud of them in what they achieved.

Joyce enjoyed village life and was involved in numerous organisations: she collected for the Poppy Appeal and Lifeboat, was on the carnival committee and later helped run the cake stall for the village show. She was a keen knitter, making squares which formed blankets to be sent off to third world countries.



In 2014 she was diagnosed with vascular dementia but, with the help of her family, friends, good neighbours and a wonderful team of carers, Joyce was able to continue living at home. In 2016, the family had an agonising decision to make because Joyce needed more specialised nursing care than the family could provide and the last chapter of her life was spent at Sidegate Lane Nursing Home, where she received loving care and support.

A few months ago Laura and Katie plus friends, decided to take on the National Three Peaks challenge: their chosen charity -Dementia UK. They achieved this on the August Bank Holiday weekend, not knowing they would be doing it in memory of their Gran.

from material supplied by the family

As we went to press, we learnt of the sad loss of Ray Jackaman: we hope to carry a tribute to this well-known Grundisburgh resident in the next issue.

Many tributes we print are edited down from fuller versions: these longer texts will normally appear in our on-line version and hard copies may be seen in Williams Stores, Grundisburgh.

Editor

Project Paulownia

An interesting project is under way in Dallingham. Derek Spall is owner and founder of DJ Spall Recycling Ltd in the village and he plays an active role in the community such as chairing the management committee for the village hall and the Recreation Ground Trustees. He also cuts hedges in the village for free! He has farmed the land called Glebe Land using vintage farm machinery for the last four years and all the money from the grain harvested was given to the recreation ground funds.

This year's original planting was mustard but Derek has invested in an unusual alternative crop: Paulownia trees.

Connections

Derek has known Robert Wigg for most of his life. Robert founded Claydon-based SERC Biofuels Ltd in 2015 and, with his team, has expertise in growing these particular trees which originate from East Asia.

Paulownias have some special characteristics: the wood is very light, fine-grained, and warp-resistant. It is the fastest-growing hardwood and it is deciduous, growing some 12 to 15m (39 - 49 ft) tall, with

air-dried in as little as 30 days. Increasing demand for construction timber globally requires a sustainable approach to forestry which the Paulownia provides through 'regenerative harvesting'.

Paulownia can be cropped for sawn timber in as little as five years. Once the trees are harvested, they regenerate from their existing root systems, earning them the name of the 'Phoenix tree'.

Robert says that a successful site will allow five cuts over 30 years - after which the roots will be ground down and leave the soil in a better state than it was originally. An established plantation will stabilize the soil to its own benefit with falling leaves in Autumn: a fully-grown tree will drop 30 kg of leaves per annum.

Paulownia can also be used for biofuel: a single hectare can save 20 hectares of mixed forestry over a 20 year period as the crop can be harvested many times over



Top: A young tree with its protection planted out at Dallingham; above: a Paulownia plantation after six years' good growth..

large, heart-shaped leaves 15 to 40 cm across. Flowers are produced in early spring. The wood is widely used for traditional carpentry, boat building and surfboards. In the modern era, its light weight, strength and sustainability means that it is used for building frames and ever more complex pre-fabricated and modular buildings. It can be

during the life-cycle of the plantation.

450 plants have been growing on the Dallingham site and another 450 at a site Derek owns at Barham using stock from a laboratory, cultivated from a single 'mother' tree and grown 'in vitro'.

The plants have been developing since July and are

spaced at 4.5m apart for timber (as opposed to biofuel which would be closer). The aspect is slightly north facing; the soil is loamy and slightly alkaline.

The site is fitted with irrigation/ nutrient pipes and it is already apparent that every young plant responds to its own microclimate depending on soil, gradient, aspect and shelter. The trees have been protected with mesh to deter

munthjac and other wildlife and have been treated with a bed of mulch to protect against frost.

No doubt Derek, Robert and the team will keep a close eye on their charges (currently nearly 1m tall) during the cold and darkness of this coming winter. And doubtless other potential investors will also be watching this project with considerable interest!

Stephen Cooper

Bredfield's gleaming new kitchen



Left: a corner of the new kitchen; below: Vernon with his canapes



Bredfield Village Hall has recently done a lot of fundraising and managed to secure grants from SCDC, SCC and Bredfield Townlands Charity to have the hall's kitchen completely refurbished. The originally kitchen was fitted in 1983 and desperately needed a revamp. It is now a shining palace of stainless steel. The village hall is a very well used resource for weddings, funerals, parties as well as yoga, art and French classes, country and morris dancing, the Cotton Club and youth club.

Vernon Blackmore (of The Table and The Anchor in Woodbridge) helped design the kitchen and came along on Saturday 7 October to open it for us: he tested out the new facilities by cooking delicious canapes and was extremely impressed.

Anne Henderson

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LOCAL HEROES

Macmillan events - parties with a purpose

A family in Grundisburgh has raised more than £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support by holding an afternoon tea event.

Hosted by Jane Cowie, aged 70, and her three children, the event saw neighbours and close friends come together to raise vital funds for the charity as a thank you for the help, support and treatment Jane has received at Ipswich Hospital following her recent diagnosis for bone marrow cancer.

More than 30 guests enjoyed homemade sandwiches and cakes at her home on Sunday, 24 September, and £620 was raised.

Jane said: "I am so lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful friends and family who have come together to support me. I didn't realise the important work that Macmillan do until my diagnosis. It's the little things that they have done that has made a huge difference for

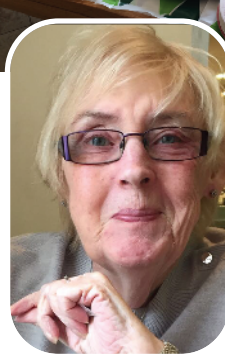
me. Something we sometimes take for granted is getting out and about and Macmillan arranged a wheelchair and blue badge for me within days of my diagnosis, which has made life so much easier and less stressful. "Thank you so much to everyone who came and to all who donated so generously, including those who couldn't make it on the day. I hope this money will help other families affected by cancer."

Cat Cowie

On Saturday 23 September, Rineke and Harry Brightwell of Fynn Valley Farm hosted Tuddenham WI's annual Macmillan coffee morning. In addition to tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes there was a raffle, bric-a-brac stall and a cake and produce stall.

The morning was very well supported and raised £258 for this worthy cause.

Jean Ellinor



Top right: Rineke Brightwell about to serve at the Tuddenham WI morning; above right: Jackie Lugo manning the cake and produce stall at Tuddenham; below: the general hubbub at Little Thatch; left: Jane Cowie; top left: part of the spread at Jane's event.

photos: Jean Ellinor, Peter Kendall and the Cowie family



A very successful coffee morning was held on Friday 29 September at 'Little Thatch', the Culpho home of Kerry and David Dring. This was the first time Kerry had

put on a Macmillan coffeee event: from this and cake sales afterwards at The Dog, an amazing £366 was raised.

Richard Watkinson

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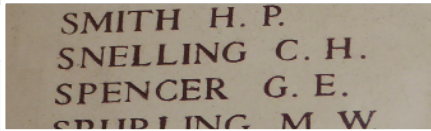
Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers with life-saving skills who attend medical emergencies where they live or work on behalf of the ambulance service. Because they are local, they can often reach a patient before the arrival of an ambulance or response car. There is no group in the Grundisburgh area and we need one! Eilir Rogers is leading the drive to set one up and hosted an open meeting at The Dog to explain what it's all about. The main speaker was Jonathan Needle (sic!), Community Collaboration Manager who also showed some of the equipment used by CFRs. If you would like to know more, please email Eilir at eilir@hotmail.com

L-R: Jonathan, Eilir and Kathryn Crossland, CFR coordinator for Ufford at the meeting.



IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In July I was privileged to go to Belgium for the centenary commemoration of the 3rd Battle of Ypres (known as Passchendaele). My grandfather, Charles Herbert Snelling, was killed in battle on 15 August 1917



From top: the Menin Gate; the author's grandfather's name carved on the Gate; meeting Prince William; members of the British and Belgian royal families and the UK Prime Minister at the service.

photos by members of the author's family

and as he has no known grave, his name is among the 54,391 names carved on the Menin Gate in Yper (Ypres).

I had entered a ballot for descendants and, together with my son (as my carer), his partner and my brother and his wife, we were among 4,000 to win a place, but more especially was among 200 descendants selected to attend the Last Post ceremony on 30 July at the Menin Gate - this has been held every evening since 1928.

Tragedy

My grandfather was 41 and left behind a wife and seven children: my father was 10 years old. I had grown up aware of this great tragedy in his life and even more so when his brother was killed in WWII when I was 12 years old. I knew my grandmother

as a lady who bore her losses with great dignity.

Over the years various letters and memorabilia came to light and a picture was built up of Charles Herbert Snelling of the London Rifle Brigade.

One of his last letters to my grandmother said.. "when this little picnic is finished... we should all benefit by this affair and live up to the eye-opener it should have given to the whole world". As the 100th anniversary of his death approached I was determined to mark it.

You may have watched it on TV but being present as the Last Post was sounded, I felt humbled at this opportunity to pay homage to my grandfather and indeed all those killed in WWI.

The ceremony was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the King and Queen of Belgium and at a reception I had the honour of meeting and speaking with Prince William.

The following day, we were among 4,000 at Tyne Cot where there are some 12,000 graves and a further 34,000 names carved on the walls. We were able to honour my son's partner's great uncle also killed at Passchendaele. Here, too, were readings, speeches and prayers in the presence of the Prince of Wales.

The two-day event was organised by the Ministry of Culture and for me at 86 and riding a mobility scooter, my every need was catered for. As I reflect, I keep coming back to names and numbers - many only boys in their teens - and each has a back story.

Passchendaele lasted 103 days and 500,000 were killed or wounded. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Sheila Snelling, Grundisburgh

Rural church consultancy role

The Revd Canon Sally Gaze will be taking up the role of Dean for Rural Mission Consultancy in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich in November. Sally has been in rural ministry for ten years and was the Team Rector of a multi-parish benefice in Norfolk. The job will be on a fixed term two-year contract with the objective of, amongst



Sally and her husband Chris.

other things, helping parishes explore how to develop congregations and social action in communities. Sally says: "I have received a wonderful warm welcome in Suffolk both from the Diocese

and in the village of Playford, where we have made our new home. I am really excited about what God is doing in the countryside and I am seeking to support people in reaching out in small rural communities".

Vanessa Barker

Chapel news

We had a beautiful day for our open-air service this year with some rousing singing and excellent speakers. It was good to have some visitors stop by to listen.

Our Men's Breakfast also went well with us up to full catering capacity. The men were well-fed and heard a message about freedom in a relationship with Christ from



The chapel service on The Green, Grundisburgh.

Mark Newcombe, who used to work for VW, but is now a full-time pastor.

Our prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of each month is going to be dedicated to prayer for the needs of our village and especially for the Lord to bring people to know his saving grace here.

We invite any Christians living in Grundisburgh to join us at 7.30pm at 12 Alice Driver Road Grundisburgh (IP13 6XH). For more details, please contact me on 07979 120549 or 01473 738856

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Born to play

Ollie Billsberry grew up with a passion for music. Listening to the likes of Queen and surrounded by music at home with Dad, Lennie, playing guitar and accordion - music is in Ollie's genes.

Down under

At 17, on the spur of the moment, Ollie headed to Australia for a year of travelling: not long into the trip, he was entered into a talent contest by some new

backpacking friends. Thinking they were setting him up for failure, he sang a couple of songs, won the competition and was through to the final, which he also won, pocketing a much needed A\$800! Ollie went straight to a charity shop the next day, bought himself a guitar and starting to teach himself to play.

One year later he returned to Suffolk with a repertoire of 15 introductions to songs (apparently, fellow musicians often only had time to teach him the beginnings of tracks before, as backpackers, they



2017 BillFest well under way.

photo: ?Alexander Baxter

Return to Africa

When I responded to an appeal by Paul Heiney in The Times in 1988 for a charity that was helping very poor African families work their own way out of poverty, little did I think that it would lead to four wonderful trips to Africa for me.

I later became an 'ambassador' for 'Send a Cow', to raise funds and awareness about its very practical approach and I have been able to see the results of its work at first hand in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and, this October, in Rwanda. These self-funded 'study tours' have enabled me to return Africa (where I worked in the sixties) and see things and meet people that tourists never do. Rwanda is a really beautiful country and I came across so many impressive hard working people.

Doubling

The practical approach is obviously much approved of as Send a Cow has been awarded 'matched funding' for the third time. Up to the end of December, each donation received will be doubled by the UK government. This includes purchases from the Christmas virtual gifts catalogue. Copies of this can be collected from Grange Farm Shop, Hasketon, and Williams Stores, Grundisburgh, as well as seen on www.sendacowgifts.org

Send a Cow will also be benefitting from a 'surprise sale' being organized in Grundisburgh Parish Rooms on Saturday 25 November between 2 and 4.30pm. There will be a wide range of items – books, bric a brac, pictures, cards, china and glassware, memorabilia, Christmas baubles and lots more. Entry is free.

Nicola Hobbs, nicola@nicolahobbs.com, 01473 738267



Admiring a lush vegetable crop.

photo: ? Egede Kayitera

had to move on - so he was never taught them in their entirety! But Ollie's natural talent and passion for music had made him a performer.

His first band also came about from a chance encounter: playing a few songs at the pub in Campsea Ashe, Ollie was



approached by a random guy to form a band. This led to the formation of a four-piece acoustic band called 'Four Play', who played covers all around Suffolk. Soon the band included a drummer and keyboard player, becoming a function band called 'Zillionaires'.

Performing at weddings and celebrations and developing a good following, the band played together for many years until Ollie became a father. (Incidentally, both his boys love music: seven-year-old Vincent adores singing and currently takes guitar lessons at Grundisburgh school).

Ollie's musical journey took a new direction about two years ago when he started to record with Phil Graves from the Dove Studio in Ipswich as the

band, 'White Foot Lane'. Writing and producing original material for the album 'Almost Home', Ollie says that he is lucky to have music in his life and that he finds it a form of therapy. He says "it is a way to be open and honest with yourself without trying to be" and that he has been truly inspired by working with Phil. If you would like to hear 'White Foot Lane', visit <https://soundcloud.com/phil-dovestudio-biz/sets>

Still playing live two or three times a year, Ollie moved into the village and into the local band, 'Elliott's Remedy', whose next gig is their Christmas Party at Grundisburgh Village Hall on 9 December (p3 for details).

Billfest

Ollie wants to thank residents of Grundisburgh and beyond for the success of this year's BillFest. Around 800 people attended a day of music, comedy, games for the kids and food and drink. This raised £7,251.83 for Cancer Campaign Suffolk. Ollie was "gobsmacked" by the number of people who gave their time to help plan the event which would not have been as successful as it was without the local business support including that from The Dog.

He also would like to thank those local residents who chose not to attend but didn't complain about the noise - your tolerance was appreciated! Given its success, Ollie hopes to run BillFest every couple of years.

Tanya Fosdick

PERSONAL PASSIONS

THERE'S A STING IN THIS TALE.....

When Sam Williams of Playford walked into the beekeepers marquee at the Suffolk Show in 2014 he knew he had found his passion. After reading a few books and attending a beekeeping course, he felt in a position to invest in a national hive, together with a protective suit and some

swarms so does not have to pay for a colony. This year has been a quiet year for swarms, probably because they were better managed or recaptured quickly. Sam collected a swarm by placing a box under a tree branch and gave it a sharp tug so the bees fell into the box. He saw the queen, which meant they would cluster around her and reform in the box after a few hours.

At dusk he picked up the box and put them in a spare hive which became another colony. It is possible to buy an overwintered colony if pre-booked in advance, costing around £200.

Photos. Left: Sam placing a queen excluder on to the hive; right: inspecting a frame for healthy bees..

Bee stings are inevitable and Sam's head has on occasions been the target and recently one managed to sting his nose bringing a tear to his eye! Gloves can be worn but Sam finds they do not help keep the hive calm when inspecting. If even a few bees are killed during inspection, this can anger the hive and cause the bees to attack the intruder.

Health check

Sam inspects his hive to check if the bees are healthy and to make sure they have space to expand so they do not swarm. On average he spends 30 minutes a week at the hive. Removing and extracting the honey to be bottled takes a few days, and record keeping provides useful learning especially if something goes wrong. When asked what the



The weather is the most difficult aspect: if it rains, the hive cannot be opened. If it is too hot, wearing the equipment is exhausting; if it's too cold opening the hive can cause the bees to freeze. Between October and March the bees hibernate, so opening the hive is kept to a minimum. This year Sam harvested his honey after the oil seed rape had stopped flowering: he removed over 8kg of honey which he sold privately.

The Suffolk Beekeepers Association promotes, teaches and inspires beekeeping: if anyone is interested, Sam recommends doing a taster session. Membership is available from £27 (subject to change) and provides insurance. A beginners' course is being held at Dallinghoo on five Mondays from 26 February 2018 between 7.30 and 9.30pm and includes practical work. Early booking is advised: more information: www.suffolkeekeepers.co.uk

Jenness Proctor



specially designed hive tools. A smoker is used to help keep the bees calm during inspections although if used too much this can anger the bees. The initial outlay is about £500 but Sam found good quality second-hand equipment. Sam collects

most enjoyable aspects were Sam said he liked contributing to the conservation of plants and insects which affects the food chain in his area. Seeing bees and insects on the brambles and tree blossom tells him the hedgerow fruit will be abundant. He also likes tracking the bees 'waggle dance' to find out where they are foraging.

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Autumn Showcase at Grundisburgh



Art and dance as part of Grundisburgh School's Autumn Showcase.

Our Year 6 children had spent the previous six weeks working alongside our dance tutor Sam Moss and our artist in residence Charlotte Stewart - they fused dance with art to produce a wonderful dance performance for parents in the school hall based on the Hindu festival of Light (Diwali). The school choir also performed. Afterwards, parents stayed for refreshments and to see our whole school Autumn Showcase Exhibition in the school atrium.

John Lynch

New preschool centre to open

YMCA Trinity Group are opening a new five-days-a-week preschool on 18 January. It will be based in the building formerly occupied by the Grundisburgh playgroup: the building has been redecorated and completely re-equipped for its new role.

At the 'Stay & Play' Day on 24 October, parents and

children were invited to try out the new facility which can take up to 24 children. The manager will be Nicola Scott,



Above: Modupe, Lucy and YMCA project head Vicky Cairney; below: Alfie and Oliver Burch giving the centre a test run at the 'Stay & Play'.

assisted by Lucy and Modupe.

This will be the third such centre run by YMCA Trinity Group - there are two in

Lowestoft with one due to open in Ipswich in the Spring. Contact Vicky Cairney on 01473 252456 for more information.

Richard Watkinson

Nature study

At Moat Barn we celebrated harvest, looking at the changes that were happening in the natural environment. Our nearby fields were all harvested so the children were able to see the processes of the farming machinery at first hand. The children were also sent home with a recyclable bag and asked to fill it with natural items to be used for autumn displays. Forest schools also concentrated on autumn and the children focused on helping to build hedgehog houses, discussing which animals hibernate. They were also busy making bird feeders ensuring we can help the wild birds stay well fed during the winter months.

For our third year running we held a harvest donation with items being given to Deben View, a residential home in Woodbridge. The residents are always very thankful for the food items they receive but are more overjoyed by seeing and spending time with the children. The children also love the visit and enjoyed performing a variety of songs.

Artistry

At Halloween our allotment proved a huge success, with the children picking and carving their own pumpkins. The nursery was decorated with balloons and bunting and the children were encouraged

to come in fancy dress. This was quickly followed by fireworks where the children created a variety of firework pictures using various different techniques. We have starting practising our nativity



At Deben View in Woodbridge

play and the rooms are beginning to think about their Christmas card and gift designs: there is sure to be lots of glitter used in the coming weeks!

Amanda Pheasant

New councillors at Charsfield

We've elected our school council and the children (pictured below) will be working with Mrs Reeve this year. They are: Class 3: Will, Findlay, Isaac, Ella and Abigail. Class 2: Zac, Maria and Tilly. Class 1: Thomas, Phoebe, Eva-Rose and Eddie.

The school council advises staff on non-curricular matters, such as fund-raising events and new equipment for the school and is elected by classmates, with candidates preparing their own 'mini-manifesto'.

The current PTA desperately needs new volunteers to assist at events. If you would like to help in any way (big or small), please contact Mr Page or me.

Wendy Butcher



'The newly-elected school council at Charsfield.

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Horticultural society set for new growth

At this year's AGM our treasurer, Michael Cambridge, presented a very encouraging financial report. Last year's small deficit has become a healthy surplus, putting the society on a sound financial footing, enabling us to contribute to our nominated charities from last year.

Michael then stepped down as Treasurer, receiving a small gift and our grateful thanks. Bryan Laxton has agreed to be our treasurer, myself and Sharon to remain as chairman and secretary respectively. Peter Kendall stays on as vice chairman. We welcomed some new faces to the committee and received offers of help for 2018 so the future looks brighter!

New ideas

During our open discussions a number of great ideas and suggestions were made with regard to next year's fundraising.

One idea which met with a lot of enthusiasm was to create 'a membership' of the society, enabling us to become affiliated to the RHS, which in turn would lead to garden visits, guest speakers and demonstrations. It would help to raise our profile as a society. There would be a small annual 'membership fee' in the region of £5. Members would be kept up to date with and invited, at cost, to two or three visits per year, plus three to four meetings with speakers or other interesting items.

A number of people have already signed up: if you are

interested, please email secretary@grundisburgh.show. We are planning a visit to Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge for the snowdrops and winter gardens sometime in February.

The show is on 14 July and the class details will be available shortly.

In the meantime, we wish you "Merry Christmas and Good Growing for The New Year".

*Martin Cripps, Chairman,
Grundisburgh, Burgh and
Culpho Horticultural Society*

Gardeners applaud local project

Otley & District Gardening Club's 2017-18 season is now well underway. In November we had a very lively talk on local 20th century artist, gardener and iris-breeder Sir Cedric Morris, from Sarah Cook and husband Jim Marshall.

Sarah is a Chelsea Gold Medal winner and former Head Gardener of National Trust Sissinghurst Gardens in Kent and she holds the important National Collection of Cedric Morris bearded irises, while Jim specialises in fragrant Malmaison carnations.

Morris (1889-1982) was a bon-viveur character who kept a bohemian Suffolk household at Benton End near Hadleigh. He was one of the founders of the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing (notable alumni include Lucien Freud and Maggi Hambling). A



Benton Nigel iris bred by Cedric Morris.
photo courtesy Alison Sargeant

passionate gardener, he bred his own strain of bearded irises over many years, for their "elegance, pride and delicacy".

Farm hub

We were also delighted to ask Karen Bleay of Suffolk charity 'The Befriending Scheme' (TBS) to tell us about a new local project called 'Friends Farm Hub' which is being set up in partnership with Otley College.

Karen is TBS project manager and this extremely worthwhile initiative is aimed at helping adults and young people with learning difficulties to enjoy gardening and caring for small farm animals, thereby enhancing their confidence, social and practical skills and knowledge.

Appeal

Starting a project like this needs plenty of initial and ongoing support and Karen is currently seeking help from local people, groups and organisations who might be willing to lend their time, skills, and/or donations of all sorts of surplus equipment, materials, tools, hardware, plants, bushes/trees, animal hutches...the list goes on.....

So far, the Hub has been given the use of a one-acre plot with some groundworks, portakabin and polytunnel from Otley College and Karen would love to hear from interested people or organisations who could also offer support or just want to learn how to help make the Hub become a working reality, and make a difference to people's lives. Call Karen on 07818 262113 for more information, or email karen.bleay@thebefriendingscheme.org.uk

*Alan Trevelyan, Chairman
Otley & District Gardening Club*

Here to help



Richard Garnham from Grundisburgh has just been appointed chair of the Suffolk group of the Farm Community Network which is a group of volunteers who aim to help farmers and their families if they experience problems - ranging from health issues to farm management.

Richard has been in farm management himself for more than 40 years and well understands the issues that can arise. Anyone needing help or advice from the Network should call their helpline - 03000 111 999.

*words: Richard Watkinson;
photo: Chris Garnham*



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Local Enterprise

BRINGING LIFE TO GARDENS

Just off the A12 in east London, lies Mabley Green, a piece of once-derelict land (often described as 'boring') that has been transformed into a much appreciated and valued community resource. Thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers, some generous sponsors and lottery funding, what was 14ha of flat, open and under-used grassland in Hackney has

become a leading exemplar of how to make life richer and healthier for city dwellers. Centre-piece of the regeneration is an 'edible garden' - where nearly everything that's been planted

and/or fruit beds with low maintenance and sustainability as the prime objectives. And they needn't be small back yards either: one project she has been working on is a 5ha spread near Saxmundham where low maintenance and relaxation were prime

requirements. Helen said "I like to make gardens as fun and interactive as possible. Back gardens can be really private with a labyrinth of sensory 'rooms'. Front gardens are a chance to inspire the public and make them smile."

When not working on garden renovation, Helen can be found volunteering at the Hands on Heritage site in Tunstall Forest. This project aims to help youngsters appreciate and understand our past through archaeology-based projects, including such activities as making shelters, coracle building (and paddling) and cooking their own meals using replicas of

ancient ovens. Following a hugely popular whittling stall at the recent 'Fun Palaces' day in Saxmundham, Helen is planning to do whittling events such as children's birthday parties, weddings or even business events.

Find out more about Helen's approach to gardening at www.greastgardener.co.uk or email helen@greastgardener.co.uk mobile 07812 110039

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can be eaten, either as vegetables or fruit from trees and bushes.

Working on this project is where Burgh resident Helen Wilson developed her passion for sustainable gardening projects and now she has brought her expertise here. Styling herself as Great East Gardener, Helen aims to bring neglected private gardens back to life by working with their owners to design and create useful, productive vegetable



Top left: planting a 'family' apple tree with the help of children in Hackney; above:: a spoon whittled from a rosemary bush; teaching a youngster how to whittle safely. Below: before and after garden transformation.



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Commandos, pirates and tree surgery

In 2007, after grueling Royal Marines Commando training in Devon, I received the coveted green beret. I was just 17 years old and had the world at my feet: however, I didn't have a clue as to what to expect from life and where I was heading.

Like many at this age, I went with the wind and found myself based in Scotland with 45 Commando Royal Marines, taking part in a huge range of operations over the next few whirlwind years: scaling the tallest mountains in Scotland; cold weather training in Norway at -50 deg.C; passing



I was contacted by a close friend and subsequently became a private contractor providing security for ships in the dangerous pirate-infested seas around Somalia.

The Tom Hanks' film 'Captain Phillips' explains well why many of these ships now employ armed security guards. I only ever saw it as another exciting job while, morally, doing the right thing.



Above: Sam bringing down an overgrown tree; left: on active anti-pirate patrol off Somalia; below: getting ready for shore-side action!

photos: contributed

the hardest sniper course in the world; fighting in Afghanistan; catching and arresting pirates in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin; stopping drug lords moving cocaine around the Caribbean; rescuing Europeans stranded in Libya - plus much more that I struggle to remember!

I left the Royal Marines at the beginning of 2012 but as one door closes, another opens...



As I had been capturing pirates while in the Royal Marines I knew exactly what cruel and unforgiving people the pirates are. I have protected over 30 ships that passed through the 'High Risk Area', the name given to the dangerous seas by mariners. Having seen many pirates and had many nervous moments, I was fortunate to have escaped being attacked, mainly because I and my team spotted them early and put measures in place to prevent a dangerous situation occurring.

Now ashore, I launched a tree surgery company in Otley in May 2015. I've named it 'SPC Trees and Landscapes' after my initials. The business now has up to seven young local chaps working and conducts a wide range of jobs: all aspects of tree surgery, hedge care, landscaping and fencing, mainly in the Woodbridge and Ipswich areas. 2017 has been the most successful year to

date with plenty of glowing reviews I think because we offer competitive rates and focus on customer satisfaction and building relationships with clients to ensure the job is done to a professional standard.

For more info contact me on 01473 487888 or visit www.spctreeservices.co.uk

Sam Clark

p.s. from issue 244:

James Broom has returned from Canada where he was working in the Alonquine Forest in Ontario. He has graduated from the University of Cumbria with a first class honours degree and has now started work in the forestry industry in south Norfolk.

Sandra Broom

The Old Drapery is up and running

The Old Drapery coffee shop in the Williams Store, Grundisburgh, has had a very busy start. Feedback comments from customers include:

"They not only sell coffee but provide a community where anyone can meet up for a chat and some company in a relaxing environment. The cake is good, too." *John Goode*

"A marvellous way to feel part of the community - to belong. I love it." *Maggi Thompson*

The Williams' philosophy has always been to meet customer needs. An example of this is the delicious macaroons which are gluten free. In addition, there is a range of interesting and tasty traditional cakes to enjoy.

Rosie said: "We would all like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported The Old Drapery at Williams' Store. It has exceeded our expectations and it's lovely to see so many people meeting up for a coffee and chat - what could be better!"

Opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 1pm; Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4.15pm.

Jenness Proctor

Right: Claire and Rosie at the ready! Below: patrons on the very first day of opening.

photos: Elliott Venn & Peter Kendall

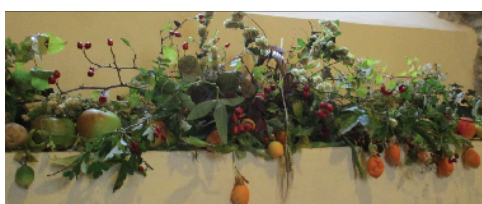


St. Botolph's, Culpho, gives thanks.....

This year, the three-day Harvest Festival Weekend celebrations started with a traditional harvest supper: 26 members of the church and resident community enjoyed a few hours of excellent food and company and a catch-up on church and village matters. I would like to express my thanks to those who donated raffle prizes which made £80, plus a £10 gift aided donation towards the upkeep of the church. We are always grateful for all the support so willingly given.



Above; organist Jamie Hutchings; below: just a corner of the seasonal decorations in the church.



On the Saturday evening we listened to Jamie (John) Hutchings, the celebrated organist and composer, regaling those fortunate to be present with delightful traditional organ music and some lesser known pieces. He explained the origin of the compositions, was extremely amusing and really put the organ through its paces: we never knew the keys could

move so fast! The numbers attending exceeded our expectations: we raised over £400. We are most grateful to Jamie, to Chris Pearce for her organisation and to all who attended. That and the canapes and wine all made for a very memorable evening!

At the final event of the weekend, the Harvest Festival service in a full church, Celia thanked everyone who had made the weekend so successful, throughout which the church remained open for visitors to appreciate the wonderful display of produce, food,

foliage and flowers beautifully arranged by Christabel Garnham. Every corner was adorned with produce, both home-grown and from the hedgerows: displays welcomed visitors immediately they stepped into the porch. At the supper, Christabel offered her sincere thanks to all who brought a selection of their own harvested crops, emphasizing that 'sorting through the

various contributions' made it even more special when she came to assemble the displays. Without doubt the weekend was an enormous success and although Culpho is a very small parish, the harvest supper, recital and church service provided something for everyone.

Margaret Gornall

WI News

It was lovely to have our friends from neighbouring W.I.s join us for our Harvest Supper. As usual, we enjoyed a tasty meal before settling down to our entertainment: that was when the fun started! Bryan Clarke has had a lifelong interest in Punch and Judy, ever since he bought a couple of puppets with his Christmas money at the age of twelve and his father made him a booth. He has entertained many generations of children on Lowestoft beach ever since.



Showtime

After a dip into the history of Punch and Judy along with his own life story, he set about giving us a Punch and Judy show, complete with puppet booth and a full complement of puppets (which he makes himself) - oh yes he did!!

Our October speaker was Reg Snook: a well known character in Grundisburgh with his studio in the village. He is

such a gifted artist and brought photos of many of his wonderful paintings with him. He spoke to us of his interesting life: his war time childhood in Ipswich, a time



before health and safety when children were free to roam the countryside all day, collecting newts and generally mucking about. He has had a life time passion for wild life and spent much of his time as a youngster endlessly drawing and writing about this subject.

Age 11 saw him going to Northgate school, where his art master recognised his talent and gave him much encouragement.

Then of course there is Mabel, the tawny owl who lives in Christchurch Park in Ipswich. Reg has painted her and written a book about her. What a fascinating evening!

We have been greatly encouraged this year by our growing membership....but there is still room for you to join us -it's good way to make friends if you are new to the village. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the school room at Grundisburgh Chapel at 7.30.

Carol Barker, Grundisburgh
Burgh & Cupho WI,

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The Bealings hub project- a view

The Café-Hub Project is a major topic of discussion in Great and Little Bealings. Details are well known locally but consensus has yet to be reached as to the way forward.

The Bealings/Playford/Culpho benefice has four churches with a priest appointed to work half-time and expected to work in all four parishes - an almost impossible task. Buildings insured for millions are used by a handful of people for only two or three hours a month. Churches are repositories of records, treasures and memories and represent the roots of our village histories. For such buildings to be sold off would be an affront to their history. With resources spread so thinly, it surely makes sense for individual churches to concentrate on what they are best placed to do, if they are to survive. Little Bealings church is set amidst residential and other properties and is therefore well placed to be a social centre.

Our communities already join together in activities, for example, joint ownership of the village hall, the annual plant sale, BYAT, the WI etc. The Hub committee includes members from each village: Playford and Culpho are less closely attached at present but, like the two Bealings, have no shop or café facility so people tend to meet up elsewhere - including, naturally, The Dog and Grange Farm Shop! But a church space can offer something different - an alternative set of social services. If the pub were ever to re-open the Hub would have had to position itself so as not to be in competition!

Viability

From reports received it seems that maintaining both the Angela Cobbold Hall and All

Saints Church is not viable. Projected costs of the Hub are significant but use of the church by the wider community may attract grant-funding support but only if the project is seen to have been wholeheartedly approved and endorsed. Conversion plans are a matter for local debate and it is for the PCC and residents of Little Bealings to try to strike a balance between maintaining the sacred spaces and establishing the areas for more secular activities. If they can do that, we'll all benefit.

Norman Porter



Update

The project has now reached the stage of completing the funding search and more than twelve grant funding bodies have been identified for whom our applications are eligible; these are soon to be approached.

The business plan will be completed in the next few weeks and will include financial forecasts for 1, 3 and 5 years ahead, with the activities already canvassed in the original questionnaire, plus several new ones. It will be available to be read by all who live in our parish, in hard copy at Williams Stores and on the new village hall website to be launched in December. This will be part of a detailed consultation exercise during the next two months to ensure everyone can be involved and express their opinion.

Plans for the new building have been approved by the village hall management committee and estimates are now being prepared for the landscaping of the site. It is

intended to plant mature trees of native species, grown in UK nurseries, along the boundaries of the site, together with a wild flower margin. The grassed area at the south side of the hall will allow outside use in the summer, including a marquee.

This community project belongs to all of us and the village hall management committee, supported by the steering group, intend to make it a real success.

*Peter Kendall
Chair, Steering Group*

SCOUTING NEWS

We have been very busy as usual - taking part in the Remembrance Day parade, attending camps, the pumpkin festival and our fantastic fireworks display where we made £1,700 towards a new HQ - thanks to everyone who supported us.

Beavers had a World Animal Day, took part in Diwali Night, a 'Super Heroes' night, when they came dressed up as their favourite hero. Jenny Taylor came and helped with the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal (photo on page 1).

Night life

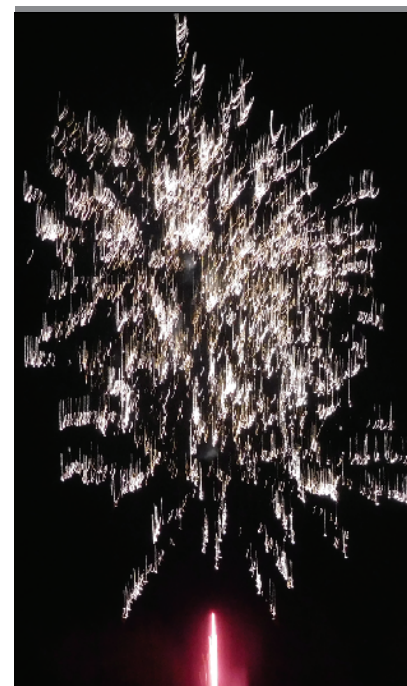
Cubs have been making knots, and will be hiking along the Fynn Valley Walk. Some older Cubs went on Link Camp with younger Scouts and will be taking part in Astronomy nights - and looking forward to a Christmas party.

Scouts took part in creative wood branding, woggle making and were very busy selling Glow-sticks and sweets at the firework display are looking forward to a Christmas party sleepover.

Last but not least, we warmly welcome Dave Brown as an Assistant Leader: he is giving much needed help to the group and other leaders.

Scoutmail

Our Christmas card scheme runs from 25 November to 12 December when cards of any size can be sent for 25p to certain areas. Collection boxes will only be in Grundisburgh



One of the spectacular fireworks at the display.

this year at Williams Stores and the doctors' surgery - but they can also be dropped off at 3 Post Mill Crescent, Grundisburgh IP13 6UX.

*Pat Ross, Group Secretary
01473 735352*

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GRUNDISBURGH LEGENDS REACH 90 & 50 YEARS

Club president Bert Grundrill has been with us for 45 years, giving great service to the mighty Grundisburgh Football Club. He moved here from Norfolk in 1972, living in a bungalow overlooking the playing field. Watching, he was hooked and became club secretary in 1973/74 before handing over to John Broad in 1976. Bert became press officer and used to love having banter on the Green 'Un Notes with the then Westerfield manager Alan Burrows. In 1984/85 Bert produced our first match day programme, which still goes today. Then came the start of all those many trophy winning seasons for three decades.

Winning streak

Bert's most memorable moment at the club has been the eight visits to Portman Road in the Suffolk Senior Cup Final. He is saddened that now hardly any villagers play for the club on a regular basis. His all-time favourite player was Micky Scott - a striker in our Division 1 days who scored 26 goals in 1975/76.

Bert celebrated his 90th birthday on 12 September.

Only 50!

Vice Chairman Neil King is a rare breed nowadays, giving wonderful service even though his playing days are over. He joined the club from Brantham



and Stutton in 1997/98 aged 29. In that season, alongside current managers Micky Squirrell and Stevie Moore, the club made history becoming the first and only side to complete the Treble. 21 years later he is still with us because, as he said, we are such a friendly club which has given him so much happiness with people who want to be winners. It also helps that winning trophies were a regular occurrence! Neil won the Senior Division five times, Suffolk Senior Cup the SIL KO Cup three times.

Best player at the club was a nightmare to choose with so many good players but, at a push, it would have to be all four of Martin Cotton, Julian Beaumont, Dave Grimwood and Peter Hatcher. Best game had to be the same as Bert's - the Senior Cup Final in 2008 at Portman Road v Hadleigh, aged 40 and playing wing back! Neil celebrated his 50th birthday on 11 September.

This season we've welcomed Stevie Moore back on to the management team with James Leech to help manage with

existing managers Micky Squirrell and Alex Day. As at the end of October, we played ten games in the SIL Senior Division, winning three, drawing one and losing six. We are in 12th place out of 16 teams. We bowed out of the Suffolk Senior Cup at the first time of asking, losing 5-4 on penalties at home to Westerfield United after a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes.

Micky Squirrell

Racing ahead!

James Clarke from Grundisburgh has had a great season of motor racing in 2017. In the Clubmans Sports Prototype series, he won the championship, taking 10 firsts on the way. He's also raced the Lotus Cortina in historic events and, despite some mechanical problems, he won overall at the prestigious Gold Cup meeting at Oulton Park. James has also taken up an opportunity offered by the MSA (Motor Sports Association) to further his education at Loughborough College as an elite athlete. The MSA Academy equips the UK's most promising young drivers with the knowledge, skills and attitude needed to maximise their performance in a challenging three year course and gives expert tuition and advice from a number of motor racing specialists.

As for 2018, we are working on opportunities to move into GT racing but plans are still at an early stage! James is fortunate to have a major sponsor him but any additional support is always welcome! Follow James' progress at: www.jamesclarkerracing.uk

Nichola Clarke

Left: Suffolk Senior Cup Winners 1988. Back row: John Cook (first aid), Mark Clarke, Paul Garrod, Jerry Grey, Ian Ward, Jim McKenna, Steve Kaznica, Stevie Smith, Jimmy Fitzgerald (manager), Spike Turner (trainer). Front row: Gary Thrower, Steve Fair, Andy Brown, Peter Clark, Julian Woodward, Andy Sayer, Micky Squirrell, Wayne Leggett (assistant manager).



Above: Bert Grundrill and Neil King after Grundisburgh's first win of the season - 3-1 at home against Westerfield Utd.

Next home fixtures (2pm) are:
2 December v Capel Plough;
9 December v Wenham Utd;
23 December v Haughley Utd;
13 January v Crane Sports.

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Sale of Surprises, Grundisburgh Parish Room 2 to 4.30pm Saturday 25 November in aid of charities. Lots of useful and decorative items. Free entry. 738267.

Need any help with **washing, ironing, shopping, housework, pet feeding?**

GRUNDISBURGH NEWS DATES FOR 2018

Spring: published 2 March; copy wanted 7 February; ads wanted 25 January;

Summer: published 25 May; copy and ads wanted 2 May;

Autumn: published 31 August; copy and ads wanted 8 August;

Winter: published 30 November; copy and ads wanted 7 November.

Reasonable rates charged. Call Gill Grimwood 01473 738856 / 07748096202

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More help needed to get the News out

We would welcome more volunteers to research and write stories for us, and take good quality photos. In particular the editors need one or two people to chase up late information, check facts etc in the lead up to going to press. Anyone interested should contact Nicola (738267) or Richard (735540).

About The News

www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

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 email. If emailed, the topic of the article should be shown in the subject box. Photos can be sent as JPGs (but not embedded in Word documents) or as prints.

Editor of this issue: Richard Watkinson (735540, editor@grunews.com);

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Vice chair of management team: Terry Frost (735275)

Next issue No 247 Spring 2018

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1/16 page (w.44mm x h.66mm or w.92mm x h.33mm) £20
1/8 page (w.92mm x h.66mm) £50
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Booking a run of four entitles advertisers to a 10% discount, provided payment is made within 30 days of invoice date.

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

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Autumn album - just some of the events around the area captured by our readers



Clockwise from left:
Tour of Britain Stage 6 racing through Tuddenham - Mark Cavendish MBE third from right (Jean Ellinor); Grundisburgh - with keen young supporters encouraging the cyclists on (Mark Rankin; Viola Read; Peter Kendall); Pumpkin Festival (Peter Kendall); Ellie Mills (age 3) winning St Mary's Church fete pirate competition



(Katherine Mills); Moon and Mushroom Murder Mystery winners Lodge Investigations Ltd - Dan, Julie, Alyia and Paul (Jean Ellinor); GADS representative receiving the winner's shield at the annual Grundisburgh village quiz and Remembrance Sunday parade at Grundisburgh with trumpeter Oliver Cavanagh. (Peter Kendall).



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