Welcome...

....to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. As always, the magazine is packed with village news as well as features that will entertain and inform. This month, we start a new and thought-provoking series by David Golding about the challenges gardeners are facing in the coming years. In fact, I think they are issues that will affect us all so of interest to everyone. We learn more about the many cars and driving antics of Stuart Earle, plus updates about forthcoming village events. Enjoy the read, and please keep your photos, jokes, material, reviews and ideas coming into brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.

St Mary’s Stall

Just to say that the stall is doing really well and a huge thank you to all those who have donated things. It’s lovely that it keeps changing all the time.

Does anyone have a display stand for cards that is unwanted? We hope to start having cards etc in the church and that would mean we can have some things out of the wet!

Thank you to one and all, Viv
736901 or vivbourne@gmail.com

Cover photos:
Poppies and Lupins from Wendy
Wild rose from Carrie
Bee Orchid from Jane Moulding who found the orchid growing in an area of grass she had recently left uncut in her garden

August Mag Deadline:
15th July
Brettenham Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on 20th May, in person in the village hall (following social distancing).

At the meeting, Paul Bendall stepped down as Councillor and we would very much like to thank him for all his hard work and time. Nick Tavener has filled the vacancy created by Paul leaving and we therefore welcome Nick, and look forward to working with him. The other councillors remained in their positions.

The following planning applications have been received since our last report:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DC/21/02295</td>
<td>Sijui Park Farm,</td>
<td>Notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce lateral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brettenham,</td>
<td>branches on 1no Oak by 2m. Light trimming around cables.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ipswich</td>
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<td>DC/21/03295</td>
<td>Poplar Farm,</td>
<td>Change of use of land to equestrian and construction of menege with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buxhall Road,</td>
<td>post and rail fencing</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Brettenham</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to everyone who has completed the questionnaire in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan – the working group very much appreciates your input.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on 8th July, in the village hall.

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke
Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com
Chairman: C Clarke, Arundell House, The Street, Brettenham. IP7 7QP Tel: 01449 736607
Summer Fair - Saturday 17th July
12.30pm-3.00pm at the Village Hall

It’s on! – hopefully! We are going ahead with our annual church Summer Fair, in conjunction with the Garden Club (see elsewhere). There will be a lunchtime BBQ, licensed bar, bric-a-brac and games, as well as the Grand Draw – 1st prize £100, 2nd prize Meal for Two at The Brewers, Rattlesden. Everything will be done to make the afternoon safe and enjoyable for everyone. The hall itself will be for bar staff only and for access to the loos – for which masks must be worn. There will be hand sanitisers at the entrance to the hall and at every game and stall, and access to the fete will be by the small gate at the back of the hall by the parking area. Our big marquee will be erected and awnings and umbrellas will be in place – if wet or hot do feel free to bring your own.

Contributions for the bric-a-brac stall will be much appreciated and we will need extra helpers this year to ensure everyone’s safety, so if you are able to help out do please let me know.

So unless the weather is dreadful, in which case we will have to cancel, we hope to see you there. And entry is FREE!

Annie Tavener 736412

Pilates Update

Due to the extension of restrictions the return of Pilates to the village hall has, regrettably, been postponed to Saturday July 31st.

Barring any further changes to government guidance, please come and join us at 11am at the village hall from Saturday 31st July. Any enquiries call Leonie 01449737315.

Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Hi all,

As I write this, the BVA Officers are busy prepping for the ‘Outside Village Inn’ on Saturday 26th June. I have no idea why I didn’t use that title in the first place – infinitely better and more succinct than the various other names it has had! Anyway, we were determined that the Village Inn would go ahead (apart from the obvious British weather caveat), as we know how much people have missed village events. We all felt that we could host it safely and in accordance with the Covid regulations, and we have had some great advice, support and help from numerous people to enable us to adapt our normal arrangements. Here’s hoping it goes well. Or rather went well!

Next up we have the Summer Fair on Saturday 17th July (for more information see p5 and p32). Annoyingly, this falls just within the extended Covid restrictions period by just a few days, but moving the date would have been too problematic. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Brettenham Gardening Club (BGC) are confident that they can stage the event in a safe yet meaningful way, and the BVA will support them fully in their endeavours. Please do support the Summer Fair if you can – if will of course be somewhat different to previous years, but I’m sure it will be a really good afternoon anyway. There will also be an informal Sunday Village Inn the following day (Sunday 18th July), with drinks being served from 12.30pm. Again, this will be an outside-only event pending the lifting of restrictions.

My thanks to those residents who attended the BVA meeting in June. It was a good and lively meeting, with lots of constructive views aired and ideas generated. I am delighted to report that we were able to appoint a Bigger Ernie Co-ordinator for 2022 to replace Ray Latimer – Emily Woods (who I know quite well!), has kindly agreed to take on the role, with some support from Peter Truin, so my thanks to them both. Paul Bendall has decided to step down from his role as one of the village hall caretaking team after several years of dedicated service. So we now have a vacancy on the Caretaking Team – if you would be interested in joining the team please do let me know. All other BVA officers remain as they were. There is however one other change – Larry O’Hara has kindly agreed to become one of the Village Hall Trustees in place of Paul Brinkley. So our cohort of Trustees remains at the requisite four.
At the BVA meeting, our Treasurer, Mark Baker, reported that the BVA has received an additional Covid-related grant from Babergh District Council. This is really good news as not only are we still waiting to hear how much of a shortfall there will be with our insurance claim for the village hall repairs following the major leak in December, but also there have been a number of other repairs etc that have needed urgent attention. This includes our ancient beer cooler (the machine that keeps the real ale casks at the optimum temperature), and the demise of the beer cooler has caused much distress, especially to the Bar Manager. Almost as much as a drop in the sugar beet price causes him. 😞 However, we are also open to suggestions for use of the grant we received (some ideas have already been put forward), so if you have any ideas please do let me know, ideally in time for the next BVA meeting...

...which as you can see below is to be held on Monday 9th August – this time in person in the village hall rather than via Zoom. 😊

Hope to see you there.

Pete peterkt@live.co.uk 07752 222 866

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**Church Contacts**

Rev’d Tiffer Robinson Tel: 737197 or 07789 772024
Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com
Church Warden Annie Tavener Tel: 736412
Email: annie_tav@hotmail.com

**St Mary’s Church Brettenham**

**July Programme of Services in the Benefice**

**July**

**4 The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
- Rattlesden 10:00 Holy Communion (Streamed)
- Thorpe Morieux 10:00 Morning Prayer
- Hitcham 11:00 Family Communion
- Brettenham 11:15 Family Communion
- Rattlesden Pavilion 18:00 Praise (outside)

**11 The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
- Brettenham 08:30 BCP Holy Communion
- Rattlesden 10:00 Morning Prayer (Streamed)
- Thorpe Morieux 10:00 Family Communion
- Hitcham 11:00 Holy Communion

**18 The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
- Brettenham 08:30 BCP Holy Communion
- Rattlesden 10:00 Holy Communion (Streamed)
- Hitcham 11:00 Family Service
- Thorpe Morieux 18:00 BCP Evensong

**25 The Eight Sunday after Trinity**
- Rattlesden 10:00 Benefice Service (Streamed)
Village events are happening again! One of the things I love about being a rural vicar is the usual round of village fetes, harvest suppers, Christmas carol singing and parish walks. Being involved in four communities can mean that sometimes there’s quite a lot to attend, but at the moment I’m trying to get to whatever is going on. Some events did resume last summer but the complexity of the guidance stopped most such events, and people were still shielding and being careful, but with most of our communities now being doubly vaccinated, and the guidance being a little easier to manage this year, we are able to do things safely, and my feeling is that most are happy that they are happening again.

It’s amazing how many people I am meeting at such events who have moved into the villages during the last 18 months. For some of these this is the first chance they have had to meet their neighbours. Obviously, some people are still being more cautious, but I suspect, predictably, that many are just out of the habit, and I hope in time they will re-enter the heady world of beetle drives and potluck suppers! Even pre covid, there were plenty of people who live here who didn’t really “get involved”, and there are many reasons for that. I suspect for some they just feel it isn’t their kind of scene.

When I was on placement at a church outside Cambridge, I remember the vicar I was shadowing saying that he had been at a church harvest supper: a jacket potato and some ham in a run-down village hall, for which people had paid £5 or something (it was a while ago!). He realised he was sitting between the Master of a Cambridge college, and a world-renowned scientist who had worked on the human genome project. They weren’t really there for the fine dining or because the adverts had been well presented on glossy paper. They were there, as everyone was, because they cared about being part of a community, an active, caring, slightly gossipy, safe community. Other than postcode, a village has little else in common, and yet we know that being involved in such events has huge benefits to people’s mental, emotional, and even physical health.

God created us as social beings, even those of us who are anti-social! We were made to be in community with one another, and to live in harmony with our environment. One of the three biblical fall stories is that of Cain and Abel, where jealousy and enmity develop between brothers, and murder and exile ensue. Community is hard! But it is also essential. The bible also says we were made to be in relationship with God, as well as with one another, and one of the things I’ve noticed when people become Christians is their relationships with those around them often improves. Loving one’s neighbour becomes more literally true, as our neighbours are often the ones we have to work hardest at loving (not mine, who are all great!).

So, as we re-emerge out of lockdown let us not forget the greatest commandment, and the second which is like it “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself”. 

Rev’d Tiffer Robinson

For more information about online church services, the weekly Wednesday coffee mornings and monthly quiz nights, contact Tiffer: Tel: 01449 737197 Mob: 07789 772024 Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com

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Dates For Your Diary

- Thursday 8th July - Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
- Saturday 17th July - Summer Fair
- Sunday 18th July - Village Inn
- Saturday 31st July - Pilates is back! Every Saturday 11am
- Friday 6th August - Village Inn
- Sunday 22nd August - Village Inn
- Thursday 9th September - Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
- Sunday 26th September - Apple Day
- Thursday 11th November - Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
- Saturday 27th November - Quiz
- Friday 24th December - Christmas Drinks
- Friday 31st December - New Years’ Eve Party

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Fridge Freezer For Sale

Kenwood - KIFF5017 upright integrated 50/50 fridge freezer, with instructions. £75 (cost £299 when bought new in 2019). Purchaser would need to arrange collection. If interested please contact Viv: 01449 736901 or vivbourne@gmail.com
Super 6 Shield

Well done to Peter Truin once more in successfully defending his crown as the 'Torpedo Carrow Road' Super 6 Champion.

This year's contest saw 17 people battle it out within the league to claim the Super 6 Shield, but sadly there can be only one winner.

1st Place - Peter Truin
2nd Place - Paul Bendall
3rd Place - Greg Potter

If you would like to join in with next season’s Super 6 event and become the proud recipient of the coveted Super 6 Shield please contact myself, (Ozzie - oilyturk67@hotmail.com), and I'll send you a direct link to the league.

Brettenham Gardening Club

Gardening Club Competitions and Stall at the Summer Fair Saturday 17th July

The great news is that the Summer Fair is going ahead!

It is also very reassuring that the organisers are putting in place all that is needed to make the event as covid secure as possible.

Our Potato in a Bucket Competition will be judged at the fair so please bring your buckets of potatoes on the day labelled with your name and address and phone number.

Please also bring your entries for The Gardening Competition to the marquee on the morning of the fair where it will be booked in and displayed ready for judging. Please see details of the competition on the page opposite. If you do plan to submit an entry please let Jane or Jane (contact details below) know in advance so that we make sure we have enough space to display all your wonderful entries. Don't be shy, do enter even if you have never done anything like this before. It is very low key and just a bit of fun so anything goes!

Again please bring any contributions for our Plant and Produce Stall - plants, jams, chutneys and any surplus fruit and vegetables you can spare will be gratefully received.

We will be on site from 11am to receive your entries and contributions so we look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like any information about the Brettenham Gardening Club please contact:

Jane McDonald 01449736957 felicityjmcdonald@hotmail.co.uk or
Jane Moulding 01449736178 grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com

Rattlesden Community Council is holding a Car Boot and Table Sale on Saturday July 24th from 10am until 2pm in the Pavilion and adjacent field.

Tables are £5 and Cars £10.

Booking is in advance at Rattlesden Post Office from June 4th.

For further information contact Ann Widdick at annwiddick@btinternet.com or 01449 736786.

You are also welcome to bring a picnic lunch and chairs.
Brettenham Great Gardening Competition

Open to all residents of Brettenham both young and old

Please submit an entry on the morning of the Summer Fair that you think best represents your garden

This could be:
A vase of flowers that you have grown
A selection of vegetables or fruit arranged on a plate or tray
A miniature garden on a plate or tray
A 3D model
Strange looking vegetables
A painting
A drawing
A collage
A Photograph or a collection of photographs
or
Anything else that you feel represents your garden
(Please mount any pictures or photographs on card so they can be displayed)

The competition will be judged at the Summer Fair by our president Mr Stuart Kershaw and first prize will be a Garden Voucher and THE CYNTHIA CUP donated by Stuart in memory of his wife who was a very loyal supporter and founder member of the club
Other prizes will be awarded for second and third places and for children under 13

The Challenges Facing Gardeners Now and In The Future (Part 1)

This is the first part of a new series by David Golding, looking at the challenges facing gardeners regarding climate change, pesticides, etc over the coming years. In fact, these environmental issues affect us all, gardeners or not. We must all look at what we can do globally, nationally, locally and as individuals to help protect the planet. Like David, I hope that this series will start to get us thinking.

Carrie

We are told by scientists that climate change is the most dangerous threat to our planet. In the UK, we can expect higher temperatures, more rainfall and greater extremes of weather. The records bare this out. The top 5 highest temperatures ever recorded in the UK have occurred in the last 30 years. In the last twelve years all these UK rainfall records have been broken; highest 24hr total, highest national average, highest 48hr total, highest 72 hr total, highest 96 hr total and the highest monthly total. In April 2021 a frost was recorded somewhere in the UK every day of the month and it was one of the sunniest Aprils ever recorded.

As gardeners, how can we build resilience to combat these extremes in weather? Maybe we need to change our gardening habits a bit. Milder winters can encourage pests and diseases to stay active for longer. So encouraging wildlife/birds into our gardens could help combat this. Leaving our veg patch bare in the winter aids soil erosion and the leaching of nutrients from the soil. Maybe there should be less emphasis on keeping our gardens completely perfect. We are fighting nature by trying to control it. After all, weeds are only plants in the wrong place. We could decide to mow parts of our gardens only a few times each year and include a mown pathway through these areas. Long periods of dry weather are becoming increasingly common and at these times watering can become increasingly onerous. Thinking about the plants we grow, and improving our soil structure would help this. Over the next few months I will consider some possible strategies that could help us gardeners during these changing times.

David Golding
Nature Notes

Muntjac
We’ve been visited by a Muntjac Deer in our garden several times in recent weeks. It’s been drinking from the pond and browsing around the garden. It politely leaves the garden through the gate, crosses the road and calmly walks along the pavement towards the village hall.

Muntjacs can be found in a wide variety of habitats. It is regarded as an invasive, non-native species, having been introduced to Woburn Park at the start of the 20th Century from China. There are thought to be around 40,000 in the UK with the vast majority in England, predominantly in the South-East.

Unlike some of our other deer species, they do not have a rut, but breed all year round, with the female giving birth to one fawn at a time. They can then mate again within a few days. Unlike some of our other deer species, it tends to be solitary. It is protected in the UK under the Deer Act 1991, although in some quarters it is regarded as a real pest, damaging trees and coppiced woodland and where they are high in numbers, eating cereal crops. It is also known as the “barking deer”. The bark is repeated and is loud for the animals size.

Tree Creeper pays a visit
This tree creeper crashed into Lindsey’s window and knocked itself out. She picked it up to see if it was alright and it sat on her hand looking around for a few minutes. It then took off and landed on Lindsey’s arm, thinking it was a tree, before flying off unharmed.

David Golding

Write On...

While I filled my time during the first lockdown last year cleaning my greenhouse, painting my dresser, polishing the silver and catching-up with numerous mundane tasks, some people were engaged in much more highbrow projects such as learning a new life skill, language or instrument. But surely few can top the poet, Jacqueline Saphra’s achievement of writing a sonnet a day, over a hundred days.

Sonnets follow a strict form, they are poems that are one verse of fourteen lines. This sonnet, written on 23rd March 2020, is the first she wrote and reminds us of how far we have come since then despite the ongoing challenges of managing this pandemic.

The sonnets have now been published by Nine Arches Press. Called, “One Hundred Lockdown Sonnets”, you can find it in bookshops and all the usual online outlets.

Sonnet I 23rd March 2020

(PM “Stay at home. This is a national emergency” - The Guardian)
I’m standing at the starting line. Am I allowed to share my shadows if I disinfect?
How do I dodge the shedders in the crowd, the howls of strangers? Watch me attempt the daily joy of blossoms, pink of hope before they fall, ditch the questions, wait, inhale the spring, ascend the hopeful slope to summer; then wander home to isolate.
O small, unwholesome sofa, keep me safe, don’t make me scroll again for risk and grief.
Instead I’ll do the work, try to be brave, return to what I love; pen-scratch of faith. I’ll let the sonnet school me like a child learning the language, open and purified.
Getting to Know...Tim Schofield

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Timothy Peter Schofield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long have you lived in Brettenham?</td>
<td>5 years in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current/Last Job</td>
<td>Business manager and retired archaeologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have any pets?</td>
<td>2 cats, 5 chickens (1 of which is a free-loading slacker) and an immortal fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your biggest fear?</td>
<td>Losing my family and being on my own</td>
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<tr>
<td>What makes you laugh the most?</td>
<td>Terry Pratchett and Ricky Gervais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would you change about yourself if you could?</td>
<td>Getting rid of epilepsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the favourite place you have visited?</td>
<td>Levi in Lapland, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What really makes you angry?</td>
<td>Injustice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| What is your favourite book/film/play/show? | Book: The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin  
Film: Pulp Fiction  
Show: The Repair Shop or Afterlife |
| What has been the proudest moment of your life? | Marrying my wife and having my children |
| What did you want to be when you were growing up? | Archaeologist or Pilot |

If you would like to recommend a book or film or have a favourite poem to share, we would be delighted to hear from you.
Please send your suggestions to: brettenhammagazine@outlook.com

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be? A guitar god playing Monsters of Rock
What is your favourite game/sport? Cricket
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? Curry
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it? The wife calls me Scofe (but that’s what her friends call her too)
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why? My wife – she is my best mate
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery? Pay off the mortgage, extend the house and buy an electric 4x4
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why? I’d like to have attended Readwals Burial at Sutton Hoo.
What’s your best claim to fame? I was in the first series of World War II Treasure Hunters with Suggs of Madness fame
What skill would you like to master? Brewing ales – currently growing my own hops!

Rambling with Gus

Stoke-by-Nayland Circular Walk

A few people have told me about the beautiful walks and countryside around the Stour Valley. So, one day in June, I headed off to explore.

Parts of the Stour Valley around Flatford and Dedham Vale have been made famous by the paintings of John Constable, but I chose the less well known but equally beautiful area around Stoke-by-Nayland.

It was a particularly hot day, so I had to leave Gus behind, but fortunately I had Val and Katrina to keep me company. We had a lovely morning walking this route and Val and Katrina can also recommend The Crown where we started and finished the walk.
Before you start, a bit of advice: this walk is a little more challenging than the previous ones I have done, at times it is not well marked so a map could be useful and it can be rather overgrown along the river where there were nettles so long trousers might be a good idea.

Start at The Crown pub (CO6 4SE) in the centre of the village on the B1068. Turn right out of the car park and walk to the crossroads where you turn right into a quiet country/residential road. After 1 km, at Scotland Place, take footpath on right.

This is where it can be overgrown as the path winds alongside the River Box. Keep the river on your left at all times. At Ford Valley Farm, do not cross the bridge but continue straight ahead following the Stoke-by-Nayland Circular path sign.

The path runs alongside fields for approx. 1.5km until reaching the road at Thorington Street. Turn right onto the road. Walk down to the T junction with B1068. Turn right and cross over the road – it is a busy road so do take care. Walk 100m then take footpath on left by “The Cottage” (the sign is well hidden in the hedge).

Pass the reservoir on your left and walk a little further until you come to a small road at Wick Farm where you turn right. Walk approx. 300m along the road then take FP on left by “The Grove”.

This path takes you through the Tendring Hall Park and eventually comes to the B1087. Cross this busy road and take the grass path which runs parallel to the road back into the village. At a fork in the road keep right and continue until you reach the crossroads, turn right and head back to The Crown for delicious refreshments.

Motoring Memories, Part IV

Stuart’s motoring memories are based on his childhood in the 1960s and 70s growing up in Brettenham where his Father ran a village shop and filling station.

Driving Lessons and the Driving Test

Looking back, I believe that my Driving Instructor actually trained me well. At the time I thought that he was too picky and overly concerned with me doing everything correctly. Other driving instructors would wave their hand to us in greeting but he only ever raised a finger in response. He had been a Police Instructor and driving examiner and I am now aware that his teaching was based on the police system so was a bit different from other instructors.

He had a Honda Civic which was the first of the Civics which are now in their tenth generation. I think he may have been a step ahead predicting COVID as prior to my lesson he would always be cleaning and sterilising the car. I did note however, that he only did this if my lesson was after an Asian gentleman, so I suspect there were other motives.

I had undertaken 12 lessons and arranged a test appointment, but he would not allow me to use his car unless I had twenty lessons, so our ways parted. I did not want to use my Dad’s car with column gear change so a friend in Felsham offered me his car for the test and I had been getting used to driving it. On the day of the test, he arrived early saying his indicators had packed up. Fortunately, I was able to borrow a car. Peter Truin’s father, Ted, kindly lent me his Mini Traveller.(JGV 231F). He said there was half a bale of straw in the back and it was not too clean but was happy to let me borrow it. I had from home to Bury St Edmunds to get familiar with it and was delighted when I passed the test. This meant that I could then drive on my own and I was eager to purchase my first car which was to be the first of more than forty cars I have owned over the past 45 years.

Carrie

Daihatsu Applause
Cars
Since passing my driving test I have owned over 45 cars. Some of these were mainstream cars, others perhaps a little unusual. I have often had several cars of the same make and model but with an upgrade or a different engine or driven by diesel rather than petrol. I have had Austin, Alfa, Audi, Austin, BMW, Citroen, Daihatsu, Datsun, Fiat, Hillman, Lada, Mazda, Morris, Nissan, Opel, Peugeot, Renault, Skoda, Triumph, Vauxhall and VW.

My first car was an Austin 1300 (TBJ 222F). This was similar to a Mini having the same hydrolastic suspension and a cross mounted engine and front wheel drive. It was designed by Sir Alec Issigoniss who designed the Mini and Morris Minor. One of his quotes: “a camel is a horse designed by a committee”. Another of his quotes: “An expert is somebody who tells you why you cannot do something”. My car was semi-automatic enabling gears to be selected or just putting the gear lever in drive for fully automatic. Nowadays many cars are semi-automatic with each manufacturer calling them a different name ie DSG, Tiptronic, STronic, Durashift, Powershift, DCT, ECG etc. Back in 1968, I think the system was quite advanced and it is only in recent years that this system has become more popular.

Next month we hear about some of the best and the worst of Stuart’s cars.

Citroen BX GTi

Vauxhall Carlton
If you are considering Bildeston Primary as a school for your child, we would welcome a visit. Please phone the office number.

We would love to meet you.
Bildeston Primary School
Newberry Road, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7ES
Telephone: 01449 740269
Website: www.bildeston.suffolk.sch.uk

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**Sudbury Citizens Advice Column**

I’ve been saving up to have my kitchen redone, but I’m a bit worried about it. Last time I had any work done on the house, it took more than double the time I thought it would and ended up costing me a fortune. I’m looking for a different builder this time, but how will I know I can trust them?

Many of us will take advantage of the warmer weather to improve our homes, and it’s important to make sure the job goes well. Here are some steps you should take when choosing a trader:

- **Find a Trading Standards ‘approved trader’** - use the internet to search for one in your area or the Government’s approved trader scheme TrustMark.
- **Get references or recommendations** - ask people you know or ask the person you hire for examples of work they’ve carried out in the past. Try to avoid contractors who won’t give references - it’s a sign they could be dishonest.
- **Find out if they are a current member of a trade body** - trade bodies have codes of practice and can help resolve problems if things go wrong, so check your trader is a member. Ask who they’re registered with and then check the trade body’s website.
- **Only use certified traders for gas and electrics** - it’s dangerous to use someone who doesn’t know what they’re doing. Check the Gas Safe Register for a list of traders and use a registered electrician who can certify their own work. When you’re having a kitchen fitted, it’s worth checking whether the person you’ve hired will be doing the electrical or gas work themselves. If not, check who they will be using and whether they’re registered.

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**Get a written quote** - this is different to an estimate. A quote is legally binding and the builder can’t change it without a good reason - for example, if you ask for extra work to be done. Try to compare quotes from a number of contractors to make sure you’re getting a fair price.

**Get a written contract** - this should cover exactly what you’re paying for and everything you’ve agreed on, like timings, payments, who will pay for materials and subcontractors.

**Think carefully about payment** - opt to pay in stages rather than upfront. Where possible, try to pay by card as this can afford you extra safeguards if something goes wrong.

**Keep copies of receipts** - also keep your written contract as evidence, as well as photos of any problems if they arise.

If you have a problem with a contractor, and you’re not sure what to do or where to go, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline 0808 223 1133.

If you need advice or information contact Sudbury & District Citizens Advice. We are providing advice by telephone and email, Monday – Thursday, 10am – 1pm. Please phone 01787 321400 and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. You can also telephone our advice line on Freephone 0808 278 7968 or 0800 144 88 48.

Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website www.sudburycab.org.uk

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This unusual looking Eyed Hawk-Moth was found by Lynda Roberts’ sister Debbie in her garden in Lavenham.
The Brettenham Flyers

If you’re considering a new challenge, or just fancy joining us on a morning jog / walk around the village for a little exercise (approx. 5.7K), come and join the Brettenham Flyers for a Sunday morning lift.

Every Sunday at the Village Hall
Walkers / Dogs – 0850
Runners / Cyclists – 0900
All ages, abilities & animals welcome.

For more info contact Ozzie: oilyturk67@hotmail.com

......Jog on, jog on....

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**Rattlesden and District Community Shop and Post Office**

We are your local community shop, run entirely by volunteers. We aim to stock local produce and we have recently introduced cooked and frozen meat from Thurston Butchers. We stock daily and Sunday papers and are open on Sunday morning for papers and all other goods. Orders can be taken for papers and magazines. We take credit and debit cards and have introduced a loyalty card for customers. £5 purchase gets a stamp and a book of 10 stamps entitles you to £2 off your next purchases.

Post Office services include cash/foreign currency, home shopping returns, dry cleaning, shoe repairs and flower deliveries.

Open daily 9am to 5pm: Saturdays 9am to 1pm and Sundays 9am to 11am. 01449 736199

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Contact: Tony 07908 464003 or Richard 07767616188

Email: info@rattlesdenmotcentre.com

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Summer Fair
Brettenham Village Hall
Saturday 17th July
12.30-3.00pm

BBQ lunches, licensed bar, cake stall, bric-a-brac. Games: bagatelle, ladder, golf, bowling, whisky draw, etc.

Grand draw:
1st prize - £100
2nd prize – meal for 2 at The Brewers, Rattlesden

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All proceeds to church funds