

# BRETtenham MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022  
No. 411



...to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. Make sure you check the 'Dates for your Diary' on page 5, April has a couple of key meetings, the Brettenham Village Association AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). If you're not sure what the APM is, check out the information on page 12, we hope to see you there. There are also events advertised within the Gardening Club update on page 14 and information on The Suffolk Walking Festival on page 15. The Church team are in the kitchen on the Friday Village Inn (1st April) so check out their delicious menu advertised on page 9. Of course there are the normal regular articles, updates and news so please enjoy the read.

Please keep sending your news, jokes and photos to...[brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com).



## Bigger Ernie Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ann Roffe £30
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gwinnie Rudder £15
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiona Camp £10

Thanks to Michelle Harvey for the lovely Robin above and this wintry scene from Beth Clarke



## Village Noticeboard

### Village Hall

To book contact Julie or Ozzie on  
07810434470 or email  
[bvahallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bvahallbookings@gmail.com)  
To request a licenced bar  
contact Peter Truin 07799  
640326 or [petertruin@aol.com](mailto:petertruin@aol.com)

### Village Website

[www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net)  
If you would like to see  
something new on the website  
please contact Beth Clarke  
[clarkeeac3@gmail.com](mailto:clarkeeac3@gmail.com)

facebook 

### Where to get Village News?

Check out the latest village news on the  
**BVA Facebook** page  
[Facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BrettenhamVillage/posts)  
If you would like anything added to  
the page contact Greg Potter at  
[greg.potter66@me.com](mailto:greg.potter66@me.com)

If you would like to receive regular village  
**email updates** please contact  
[peterkt@live.co.uk](mailto:peterkt@live.co.uk)



### Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

Every Thursday, from  
6.40pm to 7.10pm  
outside the church



### May Mag Deadline:

15th April

*Brettenham magazine is published and edited by the Brettenham Magazine  
Editing Team ([brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com)) on behalf of  
Brettenham Parish Council. The views expressed by the contributors to the  
magazine are not necessarily those of Brettenham Parish Council. As well as  
the printed copy, the magazine is available online, in full, via the village  
website: [www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net)*

## Brettenham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm in the village hall on 14th April  
2022 and will be followed by a Parish Council meeting. All residents are  
welcome.

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke

Email: [brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com)

Chair: Chris Clarke

## Friends of Bildeston

Here are the main points of the meeting held at the Surgery on 2nd March.

- FOBS agreed to fund the purchase of another ECG machine for the surgery at a cost of approx. £1,500. The surgery has found that as a result of COVID, patients have not always followed up on issues around their general health and now, as things begin to open up again, more underlying issues are beginning to materialise. The surgery is currently carrying out about 60 ECGs each month and a backlog is beginning to develop. Also hospitals are increasingly asking for patients to have had an ECG before certain referrals can be made.
- The staff at the surgery are keen to restart the Patient Participation Group (PPG). The group has not met for a couple of years and in that time people have moved away etc. The group meet once every 3 months and discuss how the surgery is working, their attitudes towards the surgery and how patients' needs and requirements can be met. It is good practice for surgeries to have a PPG especially during CQC inspections. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please telephone the surgery.
- We also discussed fundraising activities and it was agreed that we would have a table at the Whatfield Table Top sale. Hopefully this event would have happened by the time you read this.

The next meeting will be held on 12th May.

**David Golding**

## Dates For Your Diary

Friday 1st April - Village Inn 7pm (page 9 for menu)

Thursday 14th April - Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm (page 12)  
followed by Parish Council meeting

Sunday 17th April - Village Inn 12.30pm

Monday 25th April - BVA AGM & ordinary meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 12th May - Annual Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd June - Brettenham Jubilee Celebrations 5pm (page 13)

Sunday 5th June - BYO Picnic Lunch at village hall 12.30pm (page 13)

Saturday 25th June - Safari Supper (page 13)

Saturday 9th July - Summer Fair at the village hall

Thursday 14th July - Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

## 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](mailto:oilyturk67@hotmail.com)

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



## Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Hi all,

Isn't great to know that Spring is finally here! I know it happens every year, but it always comes as a lovely surprise. To me anyway! It's particularly pleasing for Em and I that dog walks in the morning before work, and in the evening after work, can now be conducted in daylight 😊 And you just see more people out and about, whether they be out for a stroll or in their gardens. Of course, as we enter Spring proper this also means that the village events will be ramping up as the weather improves, so make sure you get the dates listed on page 5 in your diary.

As you can see on page 9, the Brettenham Church volunteers have crafted a great menu for the next Village Inn on Friday 1st April. Please do come along if you can and support the effort to raise much-needed funds for the church...whilst of course enjoying some great food at a very reasonable price. The organisers did very well to resist having a fool on the dessert menu, given the date 😊

Unfortunately, the March Friday Village Inn was a bit of a quiet one – not only was there significantly less people in the hall itself, but also the number of pizzas ordered was considerably down on previous occasions. If we are to continue to attract the food vendors, or indeed volunteers from the village to cook, then it goes without saying that this can only happen if the Friday Village Inns are well supported. The Sunday Village Inns, however, continue to attract a loyal band of followers, and my thanks to Martin and Gary for continuing to host these each month. Just to recap, they always fall two weekends after the Friday Village Inn.

The BVA AGM + an Ordinary Meeting will be taking place on Monday 25th April. It would be great if you are able to attend the meeting, not only to hear the reports from the officers, but also to contribute ideas and support for future activities and the operation of the BVA and village hall. As you know, I'll be standing down at the AGM and I'm already looking forward to getting my mojo back for helping organise or support events, whether they be ones that are already planned, or just ideas gestating in my head!

Talking of events, we've had a good initial response to the request in last month's magazine for people to register for the Safari Supper on Saturday 25th June, but we still need more people to take part, so please do let Em know if you'd like to get involved (see page 13 for details). It's always a



really fun evening, so please sign-up if you're keen.

Finally, I'm delighted that Chris Clarke has taken up my suggestion that he should complete the 'Getting to Know You' questionnaire now that he is standing down as Chairman of the Parish Council. However, we have pretty much exhausted our supply of willing volunteers, so if you would be willing to offer your services, please do let the magazine editors know by emailing them at [brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com) and they will be happy to supply you with the questionnaire template.

Hope to see you at the Village Inn on 1st April. Right, I'm off to walk Foxy and Lyra...

Pete [peterkt@live.co.uk](mailto:peterkt@live.co.uk) 07752 222 866

## **Brettenham Village Association (BVA)**

Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting

Monday 25th April at 7.30pm

**Brettenham Village Hall**

All Brettenham residents welcome to attend



## **St Mary's Church Brettenham**

Rev'd Canon Tiffer Robinson

Tel: 737197 or 07789 772024

Email: [tifferrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:tifferrobinson@gmail.com)

Church Warden Annie Tavener Tel: 736412

Email: [annie\\_tav@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_tav@hotmail.com)



Spring Forward, Fall Back. That's the nice easy (American!) way to remember how to rearrange our clocks for British Summer Time. I hope you are enjoying that extra hour of evening light, even if we did all lose an hour at the end of March. Summer beginning in the middle of Lent doesn't seem quite right, and there is a level of hubris in the idea that we can just declare it summer, and it will be so! My father was a diplomat and used to say that the hour change affected him far more than dealing with jetlag and time differences around the world, and I infuriate my family by refusing to adjust to the new time for several days. It doesn't help that half the clocks in my life change automatically, and the other half need a degree in computer science to alter.

The 330 million residents of the United States will no longer have this problem, as it looks likely that from 2023 it will be summer all year round, as they make Daylight Saving time (as they call it) permanent. This does mean that they will never get back the hour they lose, and here it would mean darkness until past 9am some winter days. No more fiddling with clocks though, and more daylight each evening. I can see the attraction.

Easter this year is late - almost as late as it can be, so instead of a dawn service the faithful will gather at Brettenham at 8.30pm on the Saturday evening before as it gets dark, to declare that, in the words of the Easter Exsultet hymn: "this is the night that Jesus vanquished hell, broke the chains of death, and rose triumphant from the grave". Time will indeed spring forward for us, as we are taken up into the worship of the angels in heaven, and capture a glimpse of the new creation that Christ has won for us. Whatever we are going through, whether bereavement, poverty, sickness or depression, the Easter story can break through, and give us hope that things will one day be as they should be. In Ukraine, Orthodox Christians will be celebrating Easter a week later on the 24th April, I presume in a more restricted and subdued fashion to their normal festivities, if there is not a ceasefire in place by then. Those brave people will have to hang on longer

for their Easter this year than the rest of us, but it is coming.

The Exsultet hymn goes on to say: "This is the night, that gave us back what we had lost". We might not get our hour of sleep back soon, but because of Christ's victory over death, one day Eternity itself will be ours again.

Reverend Canon Christopher "Tiffer" Robinson

## Books On Sale Again In The Church



Now that the work at the back of the church has been completed, the bookshelves have been reinstated. There is a good selection of books including fact and fiction. Paperbacks 50p, hardbacks £1. The money raised from the books is much needed to help maintain the church. Do come in and browse.

### Friday 1st April

#### Village Inn Menu

Chicken chasseur with  
dauphinoise potatoes & mixed vegetables £9

Venison sausage casserole with  
baked potatoes & peas £9

Vegetarian lasagne (GF) with salad £8

#### Puddings

Chocolate pot £3

Apple cake pudding £3

*both served with or without cream*

## April Programme of Services in the Benefice

### 3 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Rattlesden	9.45am	Holy Communion (streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Hitcham	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11.15am	Family Communion
Rattlesden Pavilion	6.00pm	Praise

### 10 Palm Sunday

Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Rattlesden	9.45am	Morning Prayer (streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Family Communion
Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion

### 14 Maundy Thursday

Hitcham	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Watch (streamed)
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### 15 Good Friday

Rattlesden	2.00pm	Good Friday Service (streamed)
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### 16 Holy Saturday

Brettenham	8.30pm	Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter
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### 17 Easter Sunday

Rattlesden	9.45am	Easter Communion (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10.30am	Easter Communion
Brettenham	10.30am	Easter Service
Hitcham	11.00am	Easter Communion

### 24 The Second Sunday of Easter

Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Rattlesden	9.45am for 10.15am	Breakfast Church with Baptism (streamed)
Rattlesden	11.00am	Quiet service
Hitcham	11.00am	Fur and Feathers (Pet Service)
Thorpe Morieux	6.00pm	BCP Evensong

## Recipe Page

### Hot Cross Bun Recipe from Michelle Harvey

#### Ingredients

250ml Milk  
55g butter  
14g dried yeast  
450g bread flour  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp Mixed Spice  
1 tsp Cinnamon  
1 tsp Nutmeg  
55g Sugar  
1 large egg  
100g Mixed dried fruit (Sultanas, cranberries raisins)  
1 just and peel from a satsuma  
Honey to glaze



#### Method

In a small bowl warm the milk and butter until luke warm. Add the yeast and mix.

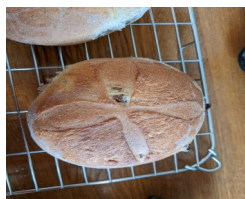
In a separate bowl mix the flour, salt, spice and sugar. Whisk the egg and add to the flour mixture with the milk butter and yeast. Mix well.

Knead for 10 mins.

Add the dried fruit and knead for a further 2 mins.

Divide into 12 balls and put onto baking trays. Warm the honey and brush over the top of the buns. Cut a cross in the top. Leave to rise until they double in size.

Place in an oven 190 C/ 375F/ Gas mark 5 for 15 – 20 mins until golden brown. Allow to cool on a wire rack.



Cut, butter and enjoy!!!!!!!

## Annual Parish Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting but what is it?

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the parish council. All parish and town councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and 1st June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6.00pm. Brettenham's parish meeting is on **Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm.**

What is the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting?

The purpose of the meeting is for the parish council and other local organisations to explain what they have been doing over the last year. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

It is a meeting for all electors of the parish and not a meeting of the parish council. Anyone may attend but only registered electors of the parish may speak and vote during the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

The chair of the parish council chairs the meeting.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Any registered elector may ask questions, which will usually be answered by the chair, clerk or a designated councillor. An elector may also make suggestions and comments on anything pertinent to the people of the parish. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Will councillors be there?

All councillors representing the parish will be invited to attend. Councillors can also raise questions and make comments if they wish. However, the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to find out what is going on in their parish and to have their say.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, the parish clerk takes minutes.

How long will the meeting last?

It really depends on those present, the number of questions and the discussion that is raised.





## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Thursday 2nd June – Village Inn



### including BBQ and Beacon Lighting

Yes, with the changes to the public holiday arrangements this year, we will be holding the Village Inn on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (rather than the usual Friday) to tie-in with the overall national Jubilee celebrations and in particular the lighting of the Jubilee beacons.

The bar will be open from 5.00pm, and there will be a BBQ operating from the same time.

The village beacon (which is being purchased by the Parish Council) will be lit at 9.15pm, which is the official time for beacons to be lit across the country.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - BYO Picnic Lunch

To round-off the long bank holiday weekend, come along with family and friends and a picnic lunch to the playing field as Brettenham hosts its own version of the national 'Big Jubilee Lunch' taking place that day.

The bar will be open from 12.30pm, so come along any time from then.

### Safari Supper – 25th June 2022

Thanks to everyone who has already been in touch to say they would like to take part in this event. Numbers are key so it would be good to know sooner rather than later who would be interested. If you are on the fence, need a buddy to host with, or would like a bit more information, then please get in touch.

Em 07738 127204

[emilysmwoods@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emilysmwoods@hotmail.co.uk)



## Brettenham Gardening Club



Just a couple of things to mention this month:

Hopefully most people who want to take part in the Potato in a Bucket Competition have managed to collect their seed potatoes at the Village Inn. If you haven't managed to and would like to take part let us know and we will drop one off to you.

Please could you let Jane or Jane have your subscription for this year (£5) if you haven't so far and many thanks to those who have paid already.

The Village Green beds are looking promising with lots of tulips poking their heads above the surface. The Club are already looking forward to the summer planting which will be happening in May. This year we have tried to go with a platinum theme to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

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

Jane McDonald 01449736957 [felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:felicityjmcDonald@hotmail.co.uk) or

Jane Moulding 01449736178

[grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com](mailto:grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com)

The programme of events for this year:

**A Garden Visit** for members to Holm House Drinkstone on Monday 13th June at 3pm

**A Plant Stall and competition** at the Summer Fair on Saturday 9th July

**A Village Open Garden visit** for members on Saturday 13th August

**Apple Day** on Sunday 18th September



## The Suffolk Walking Festival returns

Tickets are on sale now for The Suffolk Walking Festival as it returns in 2022 for its 14<sup>th</sup> instalment.

The festival, which launches on 14 May 2022 at Clare Country Park, boasts over 70 guided walks that will take you across wild countryside, outstanding landscapes, rolling hills, forests, and coastal beauty spots. With lots of weekend, evening and family walks. The programme has accessible, short, medium, long-distance walks, and more challenging walks – so there is something for everyone.

This year's programme will discover a dragon in the iconic Stour Valley, explore Hawkedon's horizons through idyllic green villages, celebrate 75 years at RSPB, tell stories of smugglers and shipping routes at Dunwich Heath, and spend time watching Sweep the sheepdog in action managing Orford Ness Nature Reserve's very own herd of rare breed sheep.

You can tune into bats on a twilight safari through ancient woodland at Priestley Wood, brush up your whittling skills and make damper bread over an open fire in the woods at Thornham Walks, and get crafty at Brandon Country Park finding willow, sticks, leaves and rushes in the woods to make and keep your own creations.

**Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Ipswich, operational highways and flooding, said:**

"It is a fantastic achievement to see The Suffolk Walking Festival reach its fourteenth year, holding its title as one of the longest running festivals of its kind in the UK. It is unfortunate that the festival in 2020 had to be cancelled, and in 2021 it took place virtually; so it is very exciting to see the festival return in full.

"The festival grows in popularity each year with its vast variety of walks and events. It shows off some of Suffolk's most beautiful scenery which makes up part of the 3,500 miles of public rights of way across the county.

"These events remain a great way to keep active and meet others. I would encourage everyone to get out there and explore."

Visit [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk) for more details of the programme, to sign up to regular newsletters, and to buy tickets.



## Getting to Know...Chris Clarke

Full Name:	Christopher Edwin Clarke
Birthplace:	Coln St. Dennis, Gloucestershire
How long have you lived in Brettenham?	16 years
Current/Last Job:	Chief Operating Officer, Bayer ES; or is it chairman of Brettenham PC?
Do you have any pets?	No
What is your biggest fear?	Forgetting what it was like to be in my 20s, 30s, 40s and not being able to relate to younger people.
What makes you laugh the most?	British comedies. Eg. Rumpole, Fawlty Towers
What would you change about yourself if you could?	Really at my age!
What is the favourite place you have visited?	No favourite place. I lived abroad and travelled all around the world for 27 years. I would recommend visiting Japan, Brazil and across the USA, France, Germany.
What really makes you angry?	No-platforming and revisionism.
What is your favourite book/film/play/show?	My favourite authors are the likes of A.Trollope, Balzac, Hugo, H. James, Tolstoy. Music of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin, R. Strauss etc.



What has been the proudest moment of your life?	Winning a baking competition in 1957 with a Victoria sponge
What did you want to be when you were growing up?	A farmer
If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?	Visit Chateau Haut-Brion, taste their vintages going back to 1989 plus lunch.
What is your favourite game/sport?	Cricket
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	British pork sausages. When I lived abroad this was considered a delicacy.
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?	Yes, Nobby
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why?	Pat, of course. She would see the glass half full.
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery?	Buy a 1000 acre farm in East Anglia and try to run it.
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why?	1940 to listen to the speeches and radio broadcasts of Winston Churchill (later Sir).
What's your best claim to fame?	Chairing the Board of BASIS
What skill would you like to master?	Play the piano

## Nature Notes

We are now entering the season when our bird numbers are greatly increased by visitors from abroad.



**Blackcaps** fly from the Mediterranean and nest in hedges and brambles. The male has a black cap and the female a chestnut cap.



The **Whitethroat** flies from Africa each year and on arrival the male builds several nests. The female then chooses which one she likes the best.



**Nightingales** have declined about 91% in 40 years. East Anglia is one of the few remaining areas where they might be heard. They nest in thick bushes and deep undergrowth so are very hard to spot. They are one of the few birds that sing at night.



**Spotted Flycatchers** overwinter in Africa and Brettenham has, over the years, had a few nesting pairs keeping us company. They catch their prey on the wing eating damselflies, crane flies and the like.

**Turtle Doves** are another species that have declined greatly in numbers over the years. They arrive from Sub-Saharan Africa and, if you are lucky, can be spotted in woodland edges, hedgerows and open land.



**Willow Warblers** are often confused with Chiffchaffs. The best way to identify them is to look at their legs. Willow warblers have pale legs and Chiffchaffs have black legs. They make the long journey from South Africa and can often be seen and heard in woodland.

**Chiffchaffs** nest close to the ground and so are vulnerable to predation from stoats, weasels and domestic cats. They are often early arrivals to our shores after travelling from Southern Europe and North Africa. Like most of our summer visitors they eat predominantly insects.



Good luck at spotting these summer visitors. They add another dimension to our summers in Suffolk.

**David Golding**

**Write on...** 

## Today by Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw  
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the  
canary's cage,  
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths  
and the garden bursting with  
peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight  
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight  
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants  
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and  
white,  
well, today is just that kind of day.



Please send your suggestions for the page **Write On** to:  
[brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com). It can be poetry, prose, a book or film review or something you have written that you would like to share.



## Rambling with Gus

**Bildeston loop: approx. 3 miles, approx. 1 hour 15 minutes, starts at Bildeston Market Place.**

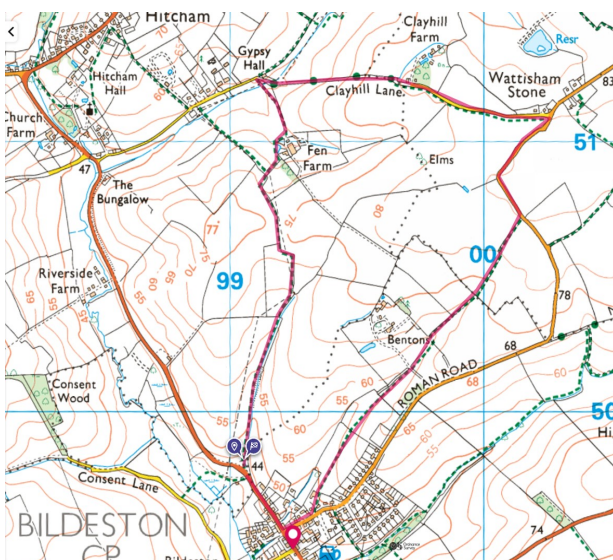
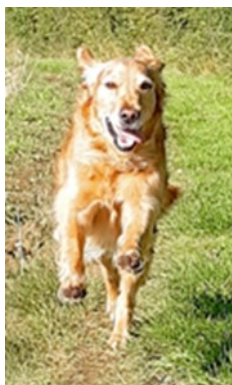
Once again, this walk shows that you do not have to go far to find good walks locally. Most of the walk is on grassy paths along the field headlands with a couple of short stretches on quiet roads.

From the market place, head along the road back towards Brettenham. Just as you are exiting Bildeston, on the right-hand side of the road, by the village sign, there is a footpath that takes you on a gentle incline along a grassy path along the side of the field.

After approx. a mile where a path joins from the left, keep right and head towards Fenn Farm. From Fenn Farm follow the farm track towards Gypsy Hall. Before you reach Gypsy Hall, by a small cottage, take the path to the right along Clayhill Lane. Clayhill Lane starts as a track but becomes a road, which eventually joins the Wattisham to Bildeston road at a T junction by the Wattisham Stone. The Wattisham Stone is an odd shaped sandstone boulder located on the lefthand verge of the road. According to locals, the stone turns round when it hears the chimes from the clock tower in Bildeston market place.

At the T junction, turn right and walk a short distance until you find a footpath sign on your right. Take this path, which will lead you back into the village of Bildeston. The walk is listed on the OS online maps as Gus's Bildeston Ramble.

**Carrie Dye**



## Motoring Memories, Part X

**Stuart's motoring memories are drawn from his childhood in the 1960s and 70s growing up in Brettenham where his Father ran a village shop and filling station.**

### Classic Car Shows and Rallies

Old cars look and sound more interesting, but they also smell more interesting, those real petrol fumes and of course, the interiors, many of which had leather seats.

For many years I have enjoyed going to the Classic Car shows. The Ipswich to Felixstowe Run is one of my favourites. Up to 500 vehicles leave Christchurch Park Ipswich and make their way to park up at the prom at Felixstowe. These include cars, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, military vehicles, bicycles and even lawnmowers as well as prams. It is delightful to watch them as they make their way to the coast.

Helmingham Hall is another of my favourites; again, well in excess of 500 vehicles and many clubs having their own displays. Twice, during the day, a number of cars will be driven and a commentary provided about the vehicle including an interview with the driver. Seeing and hearing the vehicles is great.

Some years ago, Lavenham used to host a car show in conjunction with the Carnival, this was called the Rare Breeds show. There would be up to 100 or so cars to look around. I well recall being there when a thunder storm hit, it was a case of quickly taking shelter in the tea tent...not a bad place to go. It took place last year and there are already plans in place for this year. It is now called Lavenham Classics and takes place at August Bank Holiday.

Locally Great Waldingfield has had a rally organised by Monks Eleigh Bygones Club. This is an enjoyable event with perhaps more emphasis on such things as farm vehicles and stationary engines. However, it did not take place in 2020.

One rally which has a superb setting took place at Melford Hall. The vehicles in the foreground and the hall in the background made a great vista. This was a show with the focus on farm machinery and organised by the Farm Machinery Preservation Society. Often there were displays with perhaps a traction engine and threshing tackle. There were many interesting exhibits with quite a few of the machines being rather unusual but it has not taken place since 2017.



Some years ago, I enjoyed attending a small show in Ufford near Woodbridge, this was mainly a village show with some classic cars but was a very pleasant friendly show; often different vehicles could be seen which could not be seen elsewhere.

Another small village show is at Bardwell, Cars on the Green. This is quite a busy show with exhibits packed in around the green. On the day I visited the church was open and it was possible to access the tower to enjoy the views of the countryside.

One of largest shows in Suffolk now is Cars by The Lake. This has been going since 2009 and has raised £330,000 for the St Nicholas Hospice. There are usually in excess of 500 vehicles and lots of stalls selling a variety of items including some very tasty pies and macaroons. A couple of years ago I was intrigued to see a Daf 33 and a Daf 44 exhibited. I had not seen either of these cars for some 40 years so it was a quite a surprise.

Last year the show did not take place and it is unclear if there are plans for this year.

The only show I managed to get to last year was at Glenham Hall. There were plenty of vehicles and it was possible to chat to owners as it was not too busy. A former resident of Brettenham, Michael Hipperson, was there promoting his third book. His family formerly lived at The Old Rectory and he and his brother used to drive through the village in some amazing sports cars, well before the existing 30mph speed limit. At least the cars were usually loud enough to make people aware that they were around. Michael has written three books now and has raised over £20,000 for the children's hospice in Essex.



**Daff 33**

The South Suffolk show based at Ingham generally has classic cars starting a trip from the show ground and returning later in the day to drive around the ring. There are often several rare vehicles there. One which caught my attention was the Lancia Aprilla built between 1937-49. In my view a great looking car.

Peterborough has the British

Leyland show. It is interesting to see how well kept some of the cars are and that despite being over 50 years old they are still in showroom condition; in fact, probably better as the owners will have restored them to a higher than original standard. One particular car, an Austin A40 owned by a friend of mine, was in immaculate condition. Not a spec of dirt anywhere, the engine was so clean it looked as though it had never been started.

Truck fest is a large show again taking place in Peterborough. Looking at the lorries arriving and leaving is quite a spectacle; many of them have customised liveries and are moving works of art.

I enjoy the older commercial lorries and buses and the town of Whittlesey has an annual bus festival. Up to thirty buses assemble in the town, some up to fifty years old. A really enjoyable aspect is that the buses travel between various towns where there are other events such as a display of classic cars. Part of the attraction is travelling on these old buses and being literally transported back to an earlier time. It brings back memories of travelling to school on the various buses.

**Stuart Earle**



**Lancia Aprilla 1937**

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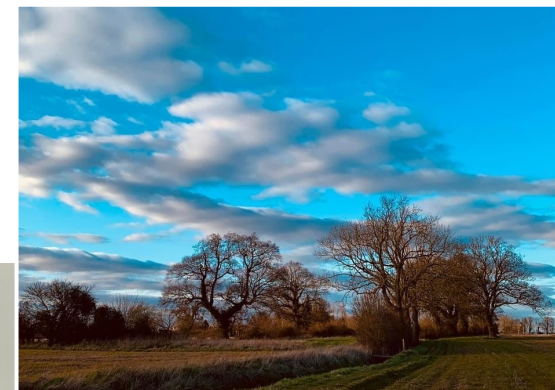
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