

**BRETENHAM
MAGAZINE**

**DECEMBER 2021
No. 407**



****Please note that some images have
had to be deleted from this edition in
order to upload it to the website****

Welcome...

....to this edition of the Brettenham magazine. Christmas is a busy time so it is important to give yourself some time to relax, and what better way than sitting down with a cuppa and having a read of this festive edition of the Magazine.

We wish you a very happy Christmas!
brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.



Dates For Your Diary

Friday 3rd December Village Inn 7.00pm
Sunday 19th December Village Inn 12.30pm
Friday 24th December—Christmas Drinks 2.30pm
Friday 31st December—New Year's Eve Party 8pm
Monday 17th January—BVA meeting 7.30pm
Monday 7th February—Brettenham Gardening Club AGM
Friday 18th March—Church Fund Raiser

Bigger Ernie Monthly Winners

1st Tom Cornell
2nd Jane McDonald
3rd Linda Goodchild
**See page 6 for updates on BE
2022**

January Mag Deadline:

15th December

Village Noticeboard

Village Hall

For village hall bookings contact
Katrina Kearns 737987 or
katrinakearns2@gmail.com
To request a licenced bar
contact Peter Truin 07799
640326 or petertruin@aol.com

Village Website

www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net
If you would like to see
something new on the website
please contact Beth Clarke
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

If you would like to receive regular village
email updates please contact
peterkt@live.co.uk



Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

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



Brettenham magazine is published and edited by Emily Woods (07738 127204), brettenhammagazine@outlook.com and Carrie Dye 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

Brettenham Parish Council

The report from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th November will appear in next month's edition of the magazine.

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke

Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Chairman: Chris Clarke

Bin Collections over the Festive Season and Christmas Tree Recycling

Recycling/blue bin: no collection Fri 31st Dec, will be collected instead on Wed 5th Jan. And no collection on Fri 14th Jan, will be collected instead on Tues 17th Jan.

Refuse/black bin: no collection Fri 7th Jan, will be collected instead on Tues 11th Jan. And no collection on Fri 21st Jan, will be collected instead on Sat 22nd Jan.

Garden waste/brown bin: no collections during weeks commencing 27th Dec and 3rd Jan.

From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Recycling Christmas Trees

During January, you can leave your real Christmas tree, with all decorations removed, beside your brown bin on collection day. Trees must be under 7ft tall, or have a trunk less than 7cm. Larger trees can be taken to a Suffolk Recycling Centre or collection point. To find out more about this visit:

www.babergh.gov.uk/waste-services

Bildeston Food Bank Update

Many thanks, donations are starting to increase and hopefully through December we can provide some extra cheer for those still up against it at the moment. There was so much generosity from the village last year, our continued support will be much appreciated. Specific items that have been requested are bags of sugar, staple foods and sweet treats.

It is hoped to provide hampers for families during the festive period so if you would like to make a donation towards these or in general, details are:

BACS to Bildeston Community Support

Account - 49886479 Sort Code - 52-30-31

Cheques made payable to Bildeston Community Support

Please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence if you would appreciate some support through the scheme.

Alyson Wilson - 07798 633044

Many thanks, Alyson Wilson 07798 633044

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....



Bigger Ernie Update

Hi everyone,

It will soon be time to renew Bigger Ernie subscriptions for 2022 (and it's never too early!), or indeed join for the first time.

For the benefit of any "newbies", Bigger Ernie is Brettenham's village lottery - the cost is a meagre £12 per year per ticket, and you can purchase as many subscriptions as you like. There are monthly draws with first, second and third prizes - the amounts are still to be determined from 2022, but the prizes in 2021 were £30, £15 and £10. There are also two bonus draws, normally in June and December, the prizes for 2021 were a whopping £100, £60 and £40! The more subscriptions we get the bigger the prize pot!

50% of the funds raised are allocated to prizes and 50% contribute to BVA funds. The latter forms a vital part of helping to maintain the village hall and contribute towards BVA activities and events. The draws are made at the monthly Friday Village Inn, with results being published in the monthly magazine.

I am taking over the co-ordinator role from Ray Latimer, who did a great job of bringing the whole process into the 21st Century, so thanks Ray for all your work! There are 3 different ways to renew or join, I will start with the easiest – option 1:

Bank transfer – make it payable to 'Brettenham Village Association', Sort Code 52-30-31, Account No. 49882120. Once you have made the payment, please email biggerernie@outlook.com stating the bank transfer date, number of tickets purchased, ticket holder names and total amount.

Cheque – if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass your cheque to them along with the ticket holder names; alternatively place your cheque along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street. Cheques should be made payable to 'Brettenham Village Association'.

Cash – as above if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass them the cash along with the ticket holder names; alternatively place the cash along with this information into an envelope and post it through the letterbox of 29B The Street.

If you have any queries, or you need to know who your collector is, please contact me via biggerernie@outlook.com

On behalf of the BVA, thanks in advance for your continued support.

Emily Woods, Bigger Ernie Co-ordinator

Friday Village Inn

Friday 3rd December, from 7.00pm

Brettenham Village Hall

With food provided by The Mobile Pizza Co.

7.00-9.00pm (no pre-booking required)



WOOD FIRED PIZZA
HIGH STREET FAVOURITES
07982 427 483

Our high street favourite pizza's come with a rich tomato or smokey bbq base, topped with grated mozzarella.

MARGHERITA Cheese and tomato... A true classic	HAM AND PINEAPPLE Quality ham and chunks of pineapples
VEGETARIAN Pepper, mushrooms, sweetcorn, olives & onions	BBQ CHICKEN Chicken, pepper and red onion
PEPPERONI Authentic Italian pepperoni	MEAT FEAST Chicken, pepperoni and ham (spice it up if you wish!)

OUR NEXT POP UP IS
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER PLEASE MSG US WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS.....

1 PIZZA TYPE	QUANTITY	3 LOCATION / TOWN
2 PIZZA SIZE		4 PREFERRED COLLECTION TIME

* Extra toppings / changes to set menu + £1.00

SMALL £5 **MEDIUM £8** **LARGE £12**
7 INCH 9 INCH 12 INCH

ASK FOR WEEKLY SPECIALS!!



WOOD FIRED PIZZA
OUR FAVOURITES
07982 427 483

STARTERS AND SIDES

Our favourite pizza's are all made with our 24hr fermented sourdough, with san marzano passata & the creamiest fior di latte mozzarella

NEOPOLITAN Naples style pizza, the way it's meant to be!	Any 3 Dips £1.50 (Various flavours) Garlic Bread £5 (add cheese £1) Six Doughballs with Garlic and Cheese £6 Rocket with a Balsamic Glaze £4
CALABRIAN Nduja, sun-dried tomatoes & rocket	GENOE POLLO Chicken, courgette, toasted pine nuts & pesto sauce
CARNE BLUE Local rib, blue cheese & balsamic onion marmalade	VEGAN FLATBREAD Hummus base, roasted aubergine, courgette & sweets peppers
	FOLDED FUNGI Traditional calzone with local ham & garlic mushrooms

* Vegan & gluten free if required

OUR NEXT POP UP IS
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER PLEASE MSG US WITH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS.....

1 PIZZA TYPE	QUANTITY	3 LOCATION / TOWN
2 PIZZA SIZE		4 PREFERRED COLLECTION TIME

SMALL £7 **MEDIUM £9** **LARGE £15**
7 INCH 9 INCH 12 INCH

<https://themobilepizzaco.co.uk/>

Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

Hi everyone,

Hope you're all keeping well and looking forward to the festive period. As ever, the BVA will be doing its bit to try to help things go with a swing...

First up we have the Friday Village Inn on 3rd December, and I'm delighted that once again we have secured the services of the Mobile Pizza Co. They were a big hit in October, and they were delighted to be asked back for a return visit to Brettenham, so please give this your support if you can. You can find serving times and the menu on p7. For the November Friday Village Inn, the food came courtesy of Wagyu Gourmet Burgers & Street Food; they were kept very busy and I've had some terrific feedback about their food. Wagyu will be making a return visit in February 2022.

Talking of which, it looks like we will have a mixed economy in terms of food for Friday Village Inns next year, with some external vendors along with the welcome return of some of our regular cooks: first up we have the Bloaters in January, the Church have kindly agreed to cover two slots (April and December), plus Riding for the Disabled Association in October. Hopefully one or two more residents might be up for taking one of the spare slots (please let me know if you're interested), but we will endeavour to fill any gaps with outside vendors if we can.

We have our regular Sunday Village Inn on 19th December (see opposite). I sometimes feel that the Sunday Village Inn is a bit of a 'Cinderella' event compared to its more showy Friday sibling, and it doesn't get quite the attention or attendance it deserves. But I know those people who attend regularly really enjoy its low-key, informal nature. However, Martin and Gary would I'm sure be very happy to see more people come along and enjoy a lunchtime drink on the 19th.

Em and I will once again be happy to serve you afternoon drinks at the Christmas Eve Village Inn (see back cover for more info). This has become a bit of a Brettenham annual institution (although it didn't happen last year for obvious reasons), and always has a great atmosphere as people look forward the Big Day. Let's face it, EVERYONE will have got EVERYTHING sorted by 24th December, won't they?! Once again we will be open until 6pm, which allows enough time for anyone who then wishes to attend the Carol Service at 6.30pm to make their way to the church.

And to round the year off, the village hall will again be opening its doors

on New Year's Eve (see back cover for more info). This year's celebrations will be a relatively low-key affair, but hopefully the opportunity to enjoy a drink or two and see in the New Year in the company of friends and neighbours will be something that still appeals. Hopefully next year we might be able to stage more of a full-on party!

Finally, I'd like to make a plug for the Bigger Ernie, which you can read more about on p6. I really do hope lots of you will either renew your subscription for 2022, or join for the first time. I'm already looking forward to seeing who will be the recipients of the bumper Christmas Bonus Draw which will be made at the Village Inn on 3rd December.

I really hope that I get to see lots of you at one or more of the above events during December. After what has been another strange year, I hope you have a very happy Christmas, and I sincerely hope 2022 proves to be a safe and enjoyable year for everyone in Brettenham.

Pete peterkt@live.co.uk 07752 222 866

Brettenham Village Association Meeting

Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Brettenham Village Hall

All village residents welcome to attend

Friday Village Inn

Friday 3rd December, from 7.30pm Brettenham Village Hall

With food provided by the Mobile Pizza Co.

See information on page 7

Sunday Village Inn

Sunday 21st November, from 12 noon Brettenham Village Hall

Drinks only

St Mary's Church Brettenham

Rev'd Tiffer Robinson Tel: 737197 or 07789 772024

Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com

Church Warden Annie Tavener Tel: 736412

Email: annie_tav@hotmail.com



December Programme of Services in the Benefice

5th December: Second Sunday of Advent

Rattlesden	09.45	Feast of Fools Eucharist (Streamed)
Hitcham	11:00	Morning Prayer
Brettenham	11:15	Family Communion
Thorpe Morieux	18:00	Advent Carols by Candlelight
Rattlesden Pavilion	18:00	Praise and Donuts

12th December: Third Sunday of Advent

Brettenham	08:30	Holy Communion BCP
Rattlesden	09:45	Morning Prayer (Streamed)
Thorpe Morieux	10:00	Family Communion
Hitcham	11:00	Holy communion

19th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Brettenham	08:30	Holy Communion BCP
Thorpe Morieux	11:00	Carol Service
Hitcham	15:00	Carol Service
Rattlesden	18:00	Carol Service (Streamed)

24th December: Christmas Eve

Hitcham	15:00	Crib Service
Rattlesden	16:30	Crib Service (Streamed)

Brettenham	18:30	Carol Service
Hitcham	23:00	Midnight Mass

25th December: Christmas Day

Rattlesden	09:45	Christmas Communion (Streamed)
Brettenham	10.30	Christmas Communion
Hitcham	10:45	Christmas Communion
Thorpe Morieux	11:00	Christmas Service

26th December: The First Sunday of Christmas

Hitcham	11:00	Morning Prayer (Not Streamed)
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Christmas is coming, and (famous last words) it looks like it will be a relatively normal Christmas after all. Some shortages in the shops, some things selling out a bit sooner than usual, but other than that, pretty much what we'd normally expect. As some may remember I'm a bit of a humbug usually, but this year I'm making an exception, and looking forward to it!

One of the annual moans made by vicars and non-vicars alike is how "consumerist" Christmas has become. It's all about spending money, overeating and drinking, and buying stuff you don't need. Of course, we tend to be on to our third mince pie of the sitting whilst we say this, having put back a few mulled wines. We all hear the stories from grandma about being lucky to get an orange in your stocking from Santa back in the good old days, but even grandma has got an iPad now.

There's certainly an irony that Cop26 finishes the day I am writing this, a conference for the world's greatest economies to work out how to avoid the increasing warming of the climate due to our greed and consumption. We live in a rural area where most homes are heated by oil and homes often have multiple cars, my own included, where just to live our lives and

heat our homes comes with a significant carbon cost, before we start totting up all the Christmas things we buy and throw out every year. There are loud voices telling us to drive less, fly less, breed less, buy less and eat less. Sometimes these voices can be so shrill, hypocritical and judgemental that they have quite the opposite effect. We should of course seek to reduce our consumption, seek moderation where possible, and make ethical choices for the sake of the environment, but this is only ever going to scratch the surface of the problem. What is needed is wholesale systematic reform, which doesn't rely on getting everyone to make sacrifices and limit their freedoms long term, because if we waited for that, we'd be waiting a long time. We've tried it for much of the last 18 months, and it was bad enough even knowing it was only temporary. Of course, people are going to continue to see their family and friends, buy food they enjoy, visit far off places, and exchange gifts at Christmas. We need to find ways to do all of these things without destroying our planet or our economy, and believe it or not we've made great strides already, and net zero by 2050 is looking increasingly likely.

Christians should be concerned about the environment because we believe God put humankind on the earth to steward it and enjoy it. We've managed to royally mess that up even before we discovered oil, but it's nonetheless our role. But we also believe that this world is not our permanent home, and we are looking forward to our home yet to come. One day God will remake this earth, a world without death or decay, without war or envy or pain. We will eat and drink freely of its bounty, and no one will have less than they need, as all will have an abundance. The new creation is often depicted in the bible as a great wedding feast, a celebration like no other. May all your Christmases be the same this year!

Christmas Services

Last year our Christmas services were very different, as we were still under restrictions around numbers, congregational singing and mask wearing, and of course cases rose in our area leading to many services being cancelled. It was nonetheless lovely to see so many of you there, and I am hugely grateful to the choirs who sang for us, and those who nonetheless decorated our churches and enabled the services to go ahead so we could celebrate the birth of our saviour.

This year there are no mandatory restrictions, and masks are optional, and we can all sing and sit where we like again which is wonderful. Thankfully

the recent spike in cases in our area seems to have calmed down, but we hope we won't have to change things as we come to the end of December. If anyone is keen to come but would prefer to remain distanced from others, please get in touch with me or the churchwardens of the church in advance and we will try to accommodate you.

We look forward to welcoming you to church this Christmas!

Carols in the Pub

Carols in the pub is back! 21st December at 7.30 in the Five Bells pub, Rattlesden. See you there!

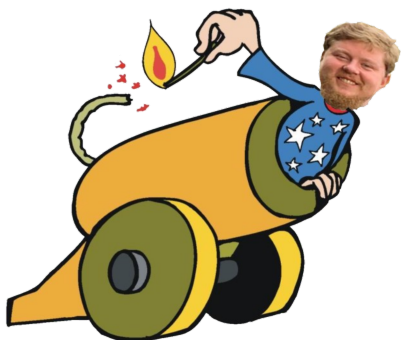
Rev'd Tiffer Robinson

For more information about online church services or coming back into church for services, contact Tiffer. There are also weekly Wednesday online coffee mornings and monthly quiz nights:

Tel: 01449 737197

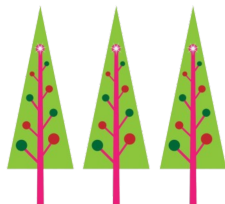
Mob: 07789 772024 Email: tifferrobinson@gmail.com

Congratulations Reverend Canon Tiffer!



Congratulations to Tiffer who was made an honorary Canon at St Edmunds Cathedral on 21st November. This is, as the name suggests, an honour that is well deserved.

The additional title does not bring any changes to Tiffer's role but he is now Reverend Canon Tiffer instead Reverend Tiffer.



The Challenges Facing Gardeners Now and In The Future Part 6

"Pesticides" is the umbrella term for hundreds of different active substances designed to kill plants (herbicides), insects (insecticides) and mould and fungus (fungicides).

All these pesticides are sprayed over many of the foodstuffs grown by farmers and we may use some of them in our gardens too. Multiple applications of different pesticides can be made in a growing season. Winter wheat in some countries for example, may have around fifteen chemicals applied to it during its growing season.

Each year the UK Government tests a range of produce and other food stuffs for pesticide residues. This sounds good but it only provides a tiny snapshot in time and not all foodstuffs are tested each year. The Pesticide Action Network UK has taken data published by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in 2018 and 2019 and drawn up a dirty dozen of foodstuffs found to contain multiple residues of pesticides. Here are some examples showing the % of samples with multiple residues. Grapefruit 99%, Strawberries 89%, Pre-packed salad 81%, Pears 66%, Spinach 57%, Apples 52% and Blackberries and Blueberries 51%.

On the other hand, as the world population increases, currently around 7.9 billion and estimated to increase to 8.8 billion in the next fourteen years, there is clearly a need to produce more and more food. Despite the fact that it is generally accepted there is enough food produced to feed everyone on the planet. That however, is a political and logistical issue for another day. Currently it is argued and agreed that pesticides do have an important role to play in the world production of food. For example, Chlormequat reduces the height of wheat, making it more robust and easier to harvest and pesticides are used in huge quantities to try and control the locust swarms in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula each year. The situation in Africa has worsened this year because COVID has restricted the movement of pesticides, equipment and personnel resulting in a complete failure of many of the crops in these vast areas.

Next month I will talk about what we can do to reduce the use of pesticides in our gardens.

David Golding



December Events at Bradfield Woods

Mondays – Wild Tots for families with Children 18 months- 5 years 10am - 11.30am

£5.50

Sunday 5 December - Wild Weekends: Family Forest fun 10am-12noon

For families with children age 3+

£4.50 child, £2.50 adult

Sunday 12 December - Bowl carving course 10am-3pm

Learn to make a simple bowl using an axe, gouge and knife. With Nick Gosman

£95

Tuesday 21 December - Stickman's Christmas adventure 10.30am-12.30pm

Trail, activities & toasting marshmallows

For families with children aged 2+

£4.50 child, £2.50 adult

Tuesday 21 December - Solstice lantern walk 4pm-5.30pm

Make a lantern and follow the lantern lit trail around the woods.

Finish with hot chocolate by the fire.

£4.50 child, £2.50 adult

Wednesday 22 December - Wild in the woods holiday club 9am-3.30pm

Winter fun & campfire lunch for 6-11 year olds

£20

Do you love being outside? Have you thought about training in environmental education or Forest School? Do you know we now run Open College Network West Midlands accredited Forest School training courses at levels 1, 2 and 3, click the image below for course dates and details or just ask me a question, always happy to chat about our courses.


We can all help create a Wilder Suffolk, join us at: suffolkwildlifetrust.org/join.

You can follow Suffolk Wildlife Trust on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Joanne Atkins, Wild Learning Officer

Bradfield Woods, Combs Wood, Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale

01449 737996 / 07467335472



Ann Harvey 1941— 2021

We were very sad to hear that Ann Harvey passed away on passed away on Saturday September 25th 2021, aged 80 years. Her funeral took place at ST Mary's Church Buxhall on 21st October.

For many years Brettenham was Ann's home. Ann and her late husband, Ken, were the last publicans at the Crownings from 1969—1977 when it became no longer viable as a pub and had to close. She then moved to Church Road where she brought up her daughter, Janet, and after the death of her husband became a companion to the late Eddie. Due to her increasingly bad health, she left Brettenham in 2017 to live with her daughter in Ipswich. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. We send our condolences to her friends and family.

Friends of Bildeston Health Centre (FOBS)

We held our first meeting in well over 18 months at the beginning of November. Little to report at the moment, but the erection of the canopy and the redevelopment of the dispensary has drained our funds somewhat. Consequently, we will be looking into some possible fundraising activities for 2021 at our next meeting, which is scheduled for March. If you have any suggestions or indeed any general points you would me to raise next year please let me know.

David Golding



Photo by Hugh Rivington

Christmas Cards for sale in the church

There is a lovely selection of individual Christmas cards for sale in the church: £1 each or 6 for £5.

There are also blank and birthday cards at the same price.



Church Bin

Please would the person who (despite the sign on it) continues to put beer bottles and cans in the church black bin stop doing so and put them in a bottle bank and their own blue recycling bin. Thank you.

Annie Tavener Church Warden

Brettenham Gardening Club



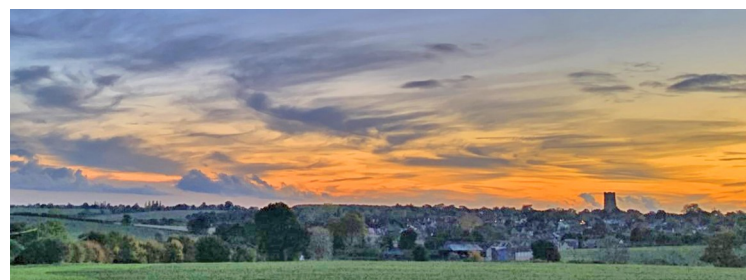
I am happy to report that the planting for the spring display on the Village Green is now complete and we are hoping for another successful season. Many many thanks to all who turned up to help. We finished in record time! Many thanks also to everyone who helped nurture the plants. As ever all the plants looked very robust and healthy.

A date for your diary: our AGM will be held in the Village Hall on 7th February 2022.

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



Sunset over Lavenham:
photo by
Pete Knight

The Barrow Walkers setting off from the Village Hall



A walk around Brettenham by Bob Jones

As organiser of a walking group based in Barrow, Suffolk, I arrange weekly walks around West Suffolk, straying occasionally into Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk. Recently, our walk was planned to start and finish at **Brettenham**.

On the appointed day 22 people turned up for the walk, along with four dogs. The weather was fine and warm, despite a forecast to the contrary!

We had been given permission to park our cars at the Village Hall (we all used the overflow car park); in return we were able to donate £20 to the Village Hall's funds. This photo opposite was taken at the start of the walk.

Our mainly off-road route took us across to Dux Lane and Ryece Hall before turning back via St Mary's Church. We then headed south through lovely remote countryside, eventually reaching Bury Road where we turned right and walked along the road for a couple of hundred metres. A footpath then took us back to Brettenham via the grounds of Old Buckenham Hall School and Park Farm.

Here is the map of our route:



The Barrow Walkers have a current membership of more than 50 people. Most live in the villages around Barrow, but some are based further away. See the club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/barrowwalks

Getting to Know...Jo Buckingham

Full Name:	Joanna Christine Buckingham (some of you may know me as Hart!)
Birthplace:	Bury St Edmunds
How long have you lived in Brettenham?	8 years this month
Current/Last Job:	Environmental Health Officer
Do you have any pets?	Not at the moment, sadly.
What is your biggest fear?	Apart from all the usual stuff, it would be having to deal with a bird on the loose in the house. I wish them well, but I struggle with the flapping.
What makes you laugh the most?	Our 3 year old twins are pretty good comedy value. Otherwise, the podcast 'Parenting Hell' (recently renamed from 'Lockdown Parenting Hell') – it's hilarious.
What would you change about yourself if you could?	Better organisation and I'm not very good at properly relaxing, rather than tense procrastination.
What is the favourite place you have visited?	Cavtat in Croatia is my happy place, closely followed by Cape Cod, Massachusetts
What really makes you angry?	Arrogance and littering
What is your favourite book/film/play/show?	Just William, choosing just one film is too hard, in terms of shows I love a good crime/Police drama.
What has been the proudest moment of your life?	Getting to Georgia and Thomas' first birthday without attracting any kind of 'intervention' gave me a real sense of achievement.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?	A vet, a writer or a backing dancer on 'Top of the Pops' (irrespective of aptitude!)
If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?	Spend time with all my friends and family over lots of food, walk around New York again, then probably go to the cinema.
What is your favourite game/sport?	Running – with the Flyers of course!
If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	Ooh, this is hard – I love my food. Probably the pure comfort of a pasta dish and then something with custard.
Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?	Jo (!)
Who would you want to be stranded with on a deserted island and why?	James is pretty good at DIY with makeshift tools so he'd probably be able to rig something up. On the other hand, if 'Wilson' was good enough for Tom Hanks...
What would you do if you had a significant win in the lottery?	Get a crack team to do everything that needs doing in the house quickly, whilst we stay in a luxury lodge nearby.
If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to and why?	1969 – I'd love to have witnessed the moon landings.
What's your best claim to fame?	I was runner up in a blogging/cooking competition called 'Disasterchef' in 2013 – the judge in the final was Liz from Atomic Kitten/Masterchef – she told me she had voted for me.
What skill would you like to master?	General 'adulthood' in a more convincing fashion.

Motoring Memories, Part VI

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. In this month's episode, Stuart is stopped by the police and ponders on the all important question of what he is looking for in a car ...

Occasionally Mr Pine, who was a local author, would ask me to drive him using his car. This was a Daf 33. The advertising motto was forward to go forward and back to go back. This car had a small engine and was slow and uncomfortable. Daf also produced a larger model too called Daf 44 and these were even rarer. The company was eventually taken over by Volvo.



Daff 33

During a visit home, on this particular day, my father was going to Ipswich and invited me to drive his car a Rover 2000TC. I was keen to drive it as I had not driven one before. On the way to Ipswich, we were stopped by the police. The road tax had expired so the car was illegal. As I was driving, I was responsible. My Father was keen to enter into a "debate" with the police and to explain that I did not know the tax was out of date which may have not been helpful, so I humbly admitted the offence and we were allowed to move on. My Father had to pay the outstanding road tax which was from when the previous tax had expired. He was still convinced that a debate with the police would have been helpful, but I am quite sure it would have made the situation worse.

What am I Looking for?

I was wondering what really makes a good car. A couple of cars which I have owned which seem to tick this box were an Opel Ascona and a Vauxhall Cavalier. The Opel was the German version of the Cavalier, about 15 years separated the time between each. The Opel was a 1600cc petrol four door saloon. One of recollections is of driving to Dinorwig in the Snowdonia region of North Wales. At the time of going there the hydro power station



Opel Ascona

performance was adequate with sufficient power to call on if needed. The boot was a good size. Fuel economy was also very reasonable for a car of that size. Some years later I had a 1989 Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 litre petrol. This had the same qualities as the Opel and was extremely comfortable with good fuel economy of 40miles per gallon range which at that time was good. I have to include a Vauxhall Chevette in my discussion here. This car was the only one which I sold for the same amount I had bought it, £200. I had used it for 3 months and took it back to the garage who happily purchased it back.

I have enjoyed a number of other Vauxhall's, I had a Cavalier 2.0 litre SRi. This was the performance version of the Cavalier with 130bhp. The suspension was quite firm and it lacked the comfort and economy of the first Cavalier. I then went for the larger Vauxhall Carlton. This was a large comfortable car with self-levelling suspension and with rear wheel drive. The handling was confidence inspiring and this was an enjoyable car to drive. I would have liked to experience the Lotus Carlton, a top speed of 177mph and at the time was certainly one of the fastest saloon cars around. One of the car dealers in Norfolk (Sandles) used one for his personal transport and it was displayed at his car lot, but then he also travelled regularly to car auctions in his helicopter.

I suspect that a Lotus Carlton would now be very valuable at around £60,000 and collectible.

Stuart Earle

was being constructed. The journey took around 6 hours with occasional stops. On arrival I felt as comfortable as when I started out. The seats were supportive and comfortable. All of the instruments were easily seen at all times, the gear lever and brake were within easy reach and operated with minimal effort, the pedals were well positioned and light to use. The



Vauxhall Cavalier

Write on....

This is a poem by Roderick Hunt for any adults who maybe feeling slightly jaded this Christmas.

Every year Grandma gets a tin of talcum powder,
She always says, "Ah, my favourite!"
Even before she opens the wrapping.
Grandpa always says, "Well, I know what's in here.
It's two pairs of socks. Just what I wanted!"

This year, Auntie Vi got an umbrella
In an umbrella-shaped parcel.
I mean, it looks just like an umbrella.
And before Auntie Vi pulled the paper off,
She said to mum, "It will match that new coat of mine."

As for Mum and Dad, they just sat there and said,
"We've given each other a joint present this year.
It's a digital clock radio for our bedroom."
Do you know, they didn't even bother to wrap it up and
put it under the tree!

At the end, when everything had been given out,
Mum said, "We mustn't forget the gift-vouchers from
Debbie and Jim.

We sent them a cheque for the same amount.
We always do."

I call that a bit unimaginative, don't you?
Maybe when you come to think of it
Grown-ups need a Father Christmas far more than
children do.

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

Carrie Dye



Photos from Remembrance Sunday



Activities at Hitcham Village Hall

These community events are open to all whether a resident of Hitcham or not. In fact, they would welcome the support of people from other villages to help create a thriving social hub after the isolation that many have experienced over the last 18 months due to the pandemic.

Every Monday except 27 December HITCHAM BOWLS CLUB. 19.30. Call Bill Gray on 07526 069 631

Every Tuesday except 21-28 December EXERCISE FOR ALL. 14.00 - 14.45. Call Gill on 01449 741 169 or 07977 746 244.

Tuesday 14th December BINGO. 19.00 for 19.30pm. November top cash pay-out was £140. Bingo books and flyers £1 each plus raffle for great prizes. A fun night with unlimited free cuppas and biccys or a cash bar! For more information call Nicola on 07907449194

Every Thursday except 9, 23, 30 December HATHA YOGA. 19.45 - 20.45. info@32yoga.co.uk or call 07598 425 976.

Second Thursday of every month THE RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN. 14.00-16.00. For more info www.ruralcoffeecaravan.or.uk or call 01379 855 338

Every Friday except 31 December PUB NIGHT 19.30 – 22.30 18+ For more info Nicola 07907449194

Friday 17th December THE ORIGINAL PUB NIGHT WITH FOOD & XMAS JUMPER NIGHT - 19.30-22.30 18+ Chicken or Vegetable Casserole £6.50 & desert £3 pre-booked and paid by 15th Dec at Hitcham P.O. or Nicola 07907449194 for more information

Friday 31st December NEW YEARS EVE - GLITZ & GLAM 20.00 till late 15+ accompanied by an adult. Great music, buffet platters, Tickets £10 p.p. Pre-booked and paid by 30th Dec at Hitcham P.O. or Nicola 07907449194 for more information

Third Saturday of every month 18th December COFFEE MORNING. 10.00 - 11.30am. Complimentary tea, coffee, squash and biscuits. Raffle & cake stall.

Third Saturday of every month 18th December CHOOSE REFILLS. 10.00 - 12.00. www.chooserefills.co.uk 01449 612 289.



East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) are looking for volunteers

Could you spend a couple of hours a week or even an hour a month helping a family with a child who accesses our hospices in their own home?

Caring for a seriously ill child or young person can put a lot of extra demand on a family. The aim of the Help at Home service is to put a caring individual into a family's home to provide everyday practical support such as cooking, sibling support, cleaning and gardening. We provide you with the necessary support and training, all you need to do is provide some of your precious time. If you would like any more information or to apply then please contact Hugh at hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk or call 07714737139. Thank You.



Free "Do Not Knock" Door Sticker

Able Community Care, a Norfolk company providing 24/7 care throughout the UK, has printed a door sticker which we are offering free to older people.

Statistics show that older people are being continually tricked by fraudulent tradesmen turning up on their doorstep.

With a door sticker, such as the above, in view, it is a criminal offence for uninvited people to try to get a person to answer the door.

If you would like to receive several of the above door stickers free of charge or know of someone who would like one, please reply to this email giving us a postal address*

www.ablecommunitycare.com

Able Community Care is a nationwide provider of Live-in Care Services for older people. This year we are celebrating 41 years of providing care support throughout the UK. (Information brochures are available).

Dogs Trust – A dog is for life®



Hello from Dogs Trust!

Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:

The first, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a **free** service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companions future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of rehoming centres and we never put down a healthy dog.

Secondly, I wanted to make you aware that we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by email:

emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk

or phone 01953 497912.

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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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New Year's Eve (AKA Friday 31st December)

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