

**BRETtenham  
MAGAZINE**

**JANUARY 2023  
No 420**



***Welcome to  
2023***

***We wish you all a Peaceful and  
prosperous New Year.  
The editorial team,  
Beth, Carrie and Michelle***

**Welcome...**

...to this edition of the **Brettenham magazine**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition. The editorial team are very grateful for your contributions whether news, photos, jokes or anything else of relevance, so please keep them coming to:

[brettenhammagazine@outlook.com](mailto:brettenhammagazine@outlook.com).

**Food Bank Update**

At the time of writing I am continuing to receive really generous food contributions, with thoughtful and festive items in addition to the basic items always being requested. I have no doubt that there will be many people thankful for your kindness over the Christmas period. Thank you for your continued support.

Financial aid continues to be accepted by cheques payable to Bildeston Community Support or via BACS to Bildeston Community Support, Account No 49886479, Sort Code 52-30-31

Food donations can be left in the church porch or the woodstore on my drive.

Individuals/families do not need to be referred by the authorities. Locally, for either help with giving or receiving donations, please contact in confidence:

Alyson Wilson, Spinney Cottage 07798 633044

Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770

If you would rather contact the Foodbank directly you can do this through Facebook messenger from the Bildeston Foodbank Facebook page, email or call:

[Bildestoncsg@gmail.com](mailto:Bildestoncsg@gmail.com) Tel:01449 257136

**Bigger Ernie Winners**

**December**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Colin Warner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gus Dye
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annie Tavener

**Christmas**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fiona Camp
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ellie Golding
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lindsey Collings

## 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)



### 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  
[chairbva@gmail.com](mailto:chairbva@gmail.com)



### Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chips

Is no longer coming to  
Brettenham. See page  
19 for more information

### February Mag Deadline:

15th January

*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—Have Your Say

If you have passed or parked next to the Village Hall in the last few weeks, you may have noticed that we have had the fencing replaced alongside the Village Hall field. The old fencing had fallen into a very poor state so the new, sturdier fencing is a great improvement, thanks to Tim from LE Fencing for providing this quickly and leaving no mess, considering at that time the weather had been wet and the field was very soggy!

The Council also commissioned some tree work on the corner of Chapel Hill and Bury Road, where the original Coronation Oak stands. A number of trees were felled - those that created a hazard to the road and overhead wires, were diseased or otherwise in poor state. There was also some pollarding done to create some space and light to allow the Oak to hopefully improve its growth and flourish a little over time. All work was carried out after careful assessment by arborist Glenn Drury and the Council will further look at what other steps may be taken to enhance the area and add to the character of the village. A number of ideas have been raised and will be carefully considered.

Thanks to Andrew Gooderham for showing me where the ditches have been cleared and drains laid and maintained to reduce the flooding risk in the village as much as possible. With Andrew's continued maintenance work and the clearing of pipes by Highways Department around the village we hope this will have improved the situation and will monitor it over the wetter seasons.

Your views on any issues relating to the Parish are welcomed, please speak to a member of the Parish Council or contact the Parish Clerk by email [brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com).

A reminder that the next Parish Council meeting will be

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Wishing all our residents a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

**Alyson Wilson, Chair**  
**07798 633044**

## Bigger Ernie

For the benefit of any "newbies", Bigger Ernie is our village lottery - the cost is a meagre £12 per year per ticket, and you can purchase as many tickets as you like. There are monthly draws with first, second and third prizes - the amounts are still to be determined but the prizes in 2022 were £30, £15 and £10, plus occasional bonus draws, normally in June and December.

50% of the funds raised are allocated to prizes and 50% contributes to BVA funds. This 50% 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.

There are now 3 different ways to renew or purchase your ticket/s, I will start with the easiest option:

**Electronic payment** – make it payable to 'Brettenham Village Association', bank account number 10197165 and sort code 20-82-75. Once you have made the payment, please email [biggerernie@outlook.com](mailto:biggerernie@outlook.com) stating the bank transfer date, amount and ticket holder names.

**1. Cheque** – if you have a normal Bigger Ernie collector then pass your cheque to them along with the ticket holder names or 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'

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

On behalf of the BVA, thanks in advance for your continued support. And remember you have to be in it to win it!

**Rattlesden Gliding Club Update:** As reported in last month's magazine, Christopher Garibaldi has volunteered to represent Brettenham village residents on the Rattlesden Gliding Club Liaison Committee. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday 7th February 2023. If you have any queries or problems about gliding club operations please contact him before then by email: [christopher.garibaldi@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.garibaldi@gmail.com).

## Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

### Let's tighten those belts!

'New Year – New Me', if I've heard it once I've heard it over a hundred times, or words to that effect. The New Year invariably delivers an appetite for some to sacrifice themselves to a healthy burst of activity or diet, which is more often than not greeted with the comments – 'it'll never last'. And to be fair, it usually doesn't. In a bid not to allow ourselves the indignity of having to jump off the bed to fit into our favourite denim trousers, I'm going to focus on some activities that are on offer in our village, which may be of interest to those considering shedding some of those Xmas indulgences. I appreciate that it's not for everyone!

Firstly, some of you may already be aware of the weekly Pilates sessions, which Leonie Saunders facilitates in the village hall, usually every Tuesday evening. However, I suspect many will not know the back story of Pilates and its founder Joseph Pilates.

So over to you Leonie.....

I first discovered Pilates in the early 1980's when I was a professional dancer; in fact, it was only dancers who knew about the technique. I experienced for myself the benefits of regular Pilates classes along with my dance training. So, who was Joseph Pilates? He was German and started life as a boxer, gymnast and bodybuilder. During WW1 he was interred at Knockaloe on the Isle of Man as he was accused of being a spy. During that time he devised his exercise system which he called 'Contrology'. After the war he moved to New York with his wife Clara and opened a studio, working with dancers such as George Balanchine and Martha Graham as well as non-dancers.

Since I started teaching in 1986 I have seen the technique grow in popularity not surprisingly as it is suitable for everyone and an effective exercise regime if taught correctly. So, what are the benefits of Pilates?

- 1) Pilates is complete coordination of body, mind and spirit.
- 2) Strengthens the core muscles that support the spine.
- 3) Relieves tension in shoulders, back and legs.
- 4) Promotes 'mindfulness' and body awareness.
- 5) Mobilises the joints and improves flexibility.
- 6) Improves breath awareness.

As Joe once said “A man is as young as his spinal column “

**Leonie Saunders**

For details of Leonie’s Pilates Class, see page 2

..... and now back to Ozzie:



We also have a regular running/walking club (The Brettenham Flyers), which you may have heard of or even seen running (in the loosest possible sense) around the village every Sunday morning at 0900. We cover the same circular route, which is approx. 5.7K and the pace is determined by each participant, individually (i.e you run at your own pace). The course is normally completed between 26 and 34 minutes and it’s free to join, so the more that come along the more sociable it will become. Again, another opportunity to consider a fresh challenge even if you just fancy a Sunday morning lift. You can even bring your pets!

There is also an aspiration to start a fitness club on the village playing field in early Spring, running throughout the Summer. We’re looking to create a weekly 30-minute circuit training session, which will include a mix of aerobic or intensity trg, utilising minimal equipment. The target audience will be extremely varied encompassing young and old. Like the running, all standards will be welcome. Again, free to join. More on this initiative in the coming months, dates and timings will be confirmed in due course.

So, if any of you are running low on self-esteem and yet brimming with Xmas’s excess, take a few moments to consider these activities and come along to some of the sessions subscribed. If you’d like more info on some of these activities then please contact myself [chairbva@gmail.com](mailto:chairbva@gmail.com).

Unlike Jo Pilates, I’m not one for clichés, to coin a phrase.

**Ozzie, BVA Chair**

**New Year’s Eve Party**  
**At the Village Hall**  
**31st December**  
**7.30pm—12.30am**

**Dates For Your Diary**

New Year’s Eve 31st December—New Year’s Eve Celebration

Friday 6th January—Village Inn 7.30pm with the Bloaters in the kitchen  
(menu page 24)

Monday 9th January—BVA meeting in the Village Hall 7.30pm

Sunday 22nd January—Village Inn 12.30pm

Thursday 26th January—Village Hall 7.30pm Parish Council meeting

Saturday 28th January—Village Hall 7.30pm Charity Fun Quiz Night,  
see back cover for more information

Friday 3rd February—Village Inn 7.30pm with Wagu Burgers

Sunday 19th February—Village Inn 12.30pm

Monday 20th February—Brettenham Gardening Club AGM in the  
Village Hall 7.30pm, more info page 12

Wine tasting evening at the Village Hall – Feb (Date tbc)

**\*\*Reserve the date – Sat 29 Apr\*\* An evening to help ‘Raise the Roof!’ It will involve an evening of food, drink and novelty dance moves. More details on this special ‘one-off’ event will follow in next month’s Mag!**

## St Mary's Church Brettenham

### January Programme of Services in the Benefice



This maybe subject to change so please check before going.

The services at Rattlesden are no longer streamed however the Church of England service is on at 9am and can be viewed on their website -

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

There is also the Cathedral communion service which starts at 10.30am and can be found on their facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral/live/>

1st Jan	2nd Sunday of Christmas		Cont'd over page
	Rattlesden	9:45 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	4:00 pm	Carol Service
	Brettenham	11:15 am	Holy Communion
	Hitcham	11:00 am	Morning Prayer
8th Jan	Epiphany		
	Rattlesden	9:45 am	Holy Communion
	Hitcham	11:00 am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00 am	Family Communion
	Brettenham	8:30 am	BCP Holy Communion
15th Jan	Epiphany 2		
	Rattlesden	9:45 am	Plough Sunday Service
	Hitcham	11:00 am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00 am	Morning Prayer

22nd Jan	Epiphany 3		
	Rattlesden	9:45 am	Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	11:00 am	Quiet Service
	Hitcham	11:00 am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	6:00 pm	Evensong
	Brettenham	8:30 am	BCP Holy Communion
29th Jan	Candlemas		
	Brettenham	10:30 am	Benefice Communion

#### Benefice contacts

While we do not have our own rector, if you need to talk to someone about a pastoral matter, we have these contacts:

The Rev Canon Sharon Potter, the Rural Dean, on 01284 828599 or 07825 086063 Email: [revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com) (Sharon's rest day is on Fridays).

Alternatively, you can contact our lay readers Stephen Collins on 01449 737541 or on [spgc544@gmail.com](mailto:spgc544@gmail.com) or Ruth Crocket on 07811333560 or [ruth.crocket@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.crocket@gmail.com)

Our Benefice PA, Charlotte Faircloth, may be able to help with some issues and her information is: [charlottefaircloth13@gmail.com](mailto:charlottefaircloth13@gmail.com) and 07397 240 713. If you need to talk to someone about a local church matter, please contact the church warden: Annie Tavener 01449 736412 [annie\\_tav@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_tav@hotmail.com).



Thanks to Viv for this photo of her frosty garden.

## Update On Work In The Church



We have now had the timbers on the underside of the church roof examined closely by a structural surveyor using a cherry picker; fortunately one was available that was small enough to go through the porch doors. We await the results of his inspection with a certain amount of dread. At the same time we had our five-yearly (quinquennial) inspection done by the architect and we hope he doesn't highlight any major works needed apart from the roof.

By the time you read this we will have had a meeting of all the benefice PCCs with the Bishop

to get us a step nearer to advertising and (hopefully) interviewing prospective candidates for the job of Rector.

It is planned that the service on Sunday 29th January will be a benefice service in Brettenham church, so we will hope to have lots of people, a choir, and refreshments afterwards. You are very welcome to join us.

Happy New Year.

**Annie Tavener,  
Churchwarden**



## Brettenham Gardening Club



Happy New Year everyone

I hope everyone managed to stay warm during a very cold December and let's hope our poor gardens have not suffered too much in the big freeze particularly after such a mild autumn with lots of plants flowering much longer than the norm. I certainly wish I had managed to mulch a lot more flowerbeds before the really cold weather hit. Now however is that exciting time when the seed catalogues arrive and the planning for spring can begin.

**A date for your diary:** our AGM will be held in the Village Hall on 20th February 2023. Don't forget we are still looking for someone to take the lead in the club. It could be a lot of fun and there is a lot of help and support out there so do give it some thought and contact either Jane for any further information.

Jane Moulding: 01449736178 / [grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com](mailto:grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com)

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

Thank you Carrie for telling us about making your very creative festive wreaths:

## Making My Christmas Wreath



Over time, I think many of us establish annual rituals which become markers for the start of our Christmas season. It may be a date such as Advent Sunday; or something we do like making the Christmas pudding or buying the bumper edition of the Radio Times; or it might be an event such as attending a Christmas concert. For me, it is when I make my Christmas wreath.

For several years now, I have attended the Christmas wreath making workshops run by Victoria Savidge at her home, Pepper Tree Farm, Hitcham. As a trained florist and with Swedish roots, Victoria brings a great deal of knowledge and expertise to the sessions and entertains us with stories of Christmas in Sweden. It is no wonder that her workshops are much in demand and many participants, like me, have been coming for years. You have to book early (usually September) as places are strictly limited so the sessions are quickly full.

Victoria has a room set aside in her home for the event and as you enter the room, you are greeted by the fresh forest smell of moss and pine, and the sight of a sparkling array of decorations piled in baskets ready for use. There are traditional baubles, birds, pinecones of all kinds, carved hearts and reindeer, dried fruit, holly, ivy, berries, and ribbons of all sizes, colour and style.

No experience is required for the participants as Victoria gives clear instructions and demonstrates the process step by step. She helps when needed with individual advice and a tweak here and there which invariably has the magic effect of transforming a creation that seemed a bit lack lustre into something to be proud of.

Half-way through the session, there is a break for refreshments with delicious cakes made and served by Victoria's mother, Gwinnie. It's a great chance to chat and relax, not something one has much time for in the rush towards Christmas, so I always make the most of it! When I head home after a wonderfully enjoyable time, the first thing I do is put the wreath on my door.

**Carrie Dye**



## Nature Notes

I am writing this in the middle of the cold snap we experienced in the second week of December. I've really noticed a big increase in the number and variety of birds visiting our feeders.

As well as the usual suspects, we've had Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and Greenfinches visiting. The latter species, once relatively common, is now increasingly rare due to *Trichomonosis gallinae*, a parasite of birds, especially finches.

I left some of my apples on the ground and they have been enjoyed by small flocks of Fieldfares and Blackbirds. This time of year the UK often has a large influx of these birds that have flown in from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. It is estimated that around 600,000 Fieldfares visit our shores each winter. By the end of March/beginning of April they have returned home to breed.

A couple of other migrants we may well see in and around Brettenham in the next month or two include Waxwings and Bramblings. Waxwings are the size of Starlings and have an impressive crest, a black bib under their beak and a black eye mask. They are keen on Rowan and Hawthorn berries. Bramblings are smaller in size, think of a Chaffinch, and are more commonly seen in flocks in woodlands. The males have a grey blue head and an orange breast. If you enjoy feeding the birds in your garden and we have a particularly cold winter, don't forget to put out some water for them.

**David Golding**



Brambling



Fieldfare



Waxwing



Thank you to Michelle  
Harvey, Viv Bourne  
and Carrie Dye for  
these photos taken  
during our recent chilly  
spell



## A Tribute To Bill Treacher 1930—2022

Bill Treacher, Brettenham's very own EastEnder, died on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 in his beloved Suffolk.

Born in Dagenham in 1930, Bill spent his early years in the East End of London, before moving to Waltham Cross with his parents, five brothers and two sisters. They were a big, bustling family with not a lot of money to spare.

From an early age Bill knew he would be an actor, despite having no connections to the theatre. He left school aged fourteen and became a van boy for British Rail before doing his National Service in the RAF where he started performing in shows. Upon leaving the RAF, Bill signed up as a steward with the P&O shipping line, so he could save enough money to put himself through drama school. He was on the Far East cruise route, and on one of his trips back home, he auditioned and gained a place at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London. After graduating, he landed a job at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff, and then worked in repertory theatres all around the country. He made his West End debut in 1963 at the Vaudeville Theatre, and in 1967, he joined the Brian Rix Theatre of Comedy, appearing in many farces in the West End and on television, before doing a two-year run in LET SLEEPING WIVES LIE at London's Garrick Theatre, where he met his future wife Kate, when she played opposite him.



Bill and Kate married in December, 1971 and in 1976, after their son, Jamie, was born, they moved from London to the rural delights of Brettenham, which Bill always called a "hidden gem of a village". Their daughter, Sophie, was born when Bill was starring as Inspector Slack in MURDER AT THE VICARAGE in the West End with Muriel Pavlow.

Bill was a scene-stealing Cowardly Lion in THE WIZARD OF OZ at the Ashcroft Theatre in 1982, and shortly afterwards, the Treacher household gained a new puppy. They named him Toto, after the dog in the show, and Bill could often be seen walking Toto around the village in subsequent years.

In 1984, Bill's life changed forever when he was cast in the pivotal role of Arthur Fowler in the BBC's big new series EASTENDERS. Bill brilliantly played the comedy and tragedy of Arthur's life, and his portrayal of Arthur's mental breakdown is still remembered and applauded today.

Working on the hit show was very time-consuming, so Bill lived near Elstree Studios during the week, rushing home to Brettenham each weekend to be with his family, who he missed so much; he always insisted in his contract on a long summer break to be with them. He was now a national television star, and his precious privacy was brushed aside as he was recognized wherever he went. After ten years, his health began to suffer under the constant pressure and he gave in his notice, but filmed for a further year because they didn't want him to leave. His final scenes were filmed in 1996. After a break, he was tempted back to the theatre in the new comedy NOT A GAME FOR BOYS and appeared in a few movies, including GEORGE AND THE DRAGON with Patrick Swayze. He also returned to radio drama, relishing the anonymity it offered, as well as appearing in THE BILL and CASUALTY.

Bill's mobility had started becoming problematic, and in 2013, he was diagnosed with Ataxia, a little-known neurological condition which affects balance and walking, and which eventually left him in a wheelchair. For the final three years of his life he was unable to walk and was virtually housebound, which was heartbreaking as he'd always had such energy, and had loved being part of village life in Brettenham. He always retained his big, cheeky smile, and his warm, twinkly personality, which endeared him to everyone.

Bill was a very special human being and was much loved, still getting fan mail from all over the world. He was my true soul-mate.

**Kate Treacher**



## Recipe-Risotto

Risotto is a good all rounder for any time of the year. What I love about this dish is its versatility. I often add lots of fresh wild mushrooms or any left over veg to the basic recipe. Anything goes and this recipe can be adapted for individual tastes. Its simple and easy to make.

- 1 large Onion
- 4 Cloves Garlic
- 3 tablespoons Olive oil/ large knob unsalted Butter
- 500g Risotto Rice
- 1 Cup Frozen Peas
- 1 large Carrot
- 6 Mushrooms – more if required
- 250ml Dry White Wine or stock
- Plus, any leftover veg or Chicken/Meat chopped small



Peel and finely chop the onions, carrots and garlic. In a very large frying pan heat the oil and butter over a low heat. Gently fry the onions, garlic and carrots until softened.

Add the rice and turn up the heat. Keep stirring, after about a minute it will look slightly translucent. Add the wine and continue to stir until the rice has absorbed the wine. When the wine has cooked into the rice add a cup full of water. Keep stirring and adding more water as required.

After 5 mins start adding the frozen peas, mushrooms, chicken or any other leftovers.

Simmer on a low heat for another 20 mins or until cooked. You MUST keep stirring and adding small amount of water to ensure the rice doesn't stick to the pan. Turn off the heat and leave to stand for a few minutes before serving.

**Michelle Harvey**



## Suffolk Mermaid Fish & Chip Van

Please note the Fish & Chip van will no longer be visiting Brettenham due to insufficient custom but you can still catch it at other local villages as shown in the photo on the left.

## Pilates starts again at Brettenham Village Hall on Tuesday 10th January at 6pm

Beginners welcome. £6 per class.  
Any queries, please email  
[leoniegeorgina@gmail.com](mailto:leoniegeorgina@gmail.com). Please  
bring a mat and towel.

## 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—08:50

Runners / Cyclists—09:00

All ages, abilities & animals welcome

For more info contact Ozzie:

[chairbva@gmail.com](mailto:chairbva@gmail.com)

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



## A Rural Education Part 5

Having left Rattlesden primary school, this month Stuart starts the next leg of his rural education at Beyton Secondary Modern. Having been built in 1953, the school was quite new when Stuart started, unlike some of the teachers...

I began attending there in September 1969. Approaching on the school bus (more of that later) the most prominent feature was the poplar trees lining the playing field, these are still there and are a good deal higher.

The Headmaster was Mr J B Clayton. On entering the main entrance there was a corridor on the right where the Headmaster, his Deputy Mrs Hazel and the School Secretary Mrs Jordan had their offices. Each morning all pupils attended an assembly, probably around five hundred or so children. On entering the main Hall each male student was looked over by the Senior Master Mr Harry Williams, he would be checking that the person had complied with the uniform policy, that the tie was done up, the shirt fully buttoned and the shoes were clean and hair tidy. In order to complete his checks he would walk along each line much like a military inspection, he would quietly tell the child what to sort out and if there were any major discrepancies he would require said child to stand inside the main entrance during break and lunchtimes.

The boys and girls were on different sides of the hall and one of the female staff, probably Mrs Stokes, would inspect the girls. Once

everybody was lined up Mr Williams would then follow Mr Clayton and Mrs Hazel onto the stage where the assembly took place. Mr Clayton always wore his academic gown. The assembly consisted of singing a hymn, some prayers and announcements. On occasions different teachers would lead



the assembly and talk about various topics, usually on Fridays the school brass band would be playing.

During the assembly Mr Harry Williams kept a watchful eye on the boys and if he noted any misbehaviour he picked out that person as they left the hall and required them to attend the punishment by standing in the entrance hall. I believe Mr Williams had been in the Navy and certainly was a strict disciplinarian. He had a crew cut, highly polished shoes and was always attired in a suit.

Mr Williams taught geography, however, his persona in the classroom was quite different. My main recollection is that during most geography lessons he would show a film related to the subject being taught using a projector which often took some time to set up. On occasions the film had not arrived at the classroom so a pupil would be sent to the office to collect it. As the lesson was a double (over an hour duration) the film reel often had to be changed which also took up time. My other recollection of those classes is that he would often hand out photocopied maps and information so that copying from the blackboard was not required. Mr Williams was quite relaxed in the classroom and quite approachable, somewhat different to his routine in the mornings.

The Headmaster, Mr Clayton, seemed to be nearing retirement age and on several occasions became unwell during the assembly and had to leave the stage. I believe that he had been in the services too. The main subject that I recall him teaching was music. He seemed to really enjoy the lessons and took great delight in getting us to sing very patriotic songs such as "Heart of Oak" and "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor". He played the piano with great enthusiasm and at times was probably the only person singing. Although he seemed relaxed, he could

assert his authority and it was not a pleasant experience to be sent to his office for misbehaving! Corporal punishment in English schools was only banned in 1986, I was quite surprised that it was so recent.

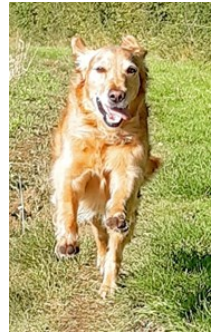
**Stuart Earle**



## Rambling With Gus At Aldeburgh

**Walk 1: Aldeburgh to Thorpeness, approx. 2 1/2 miles/50 mins one way.**

**Walk 2: A circular walk string beside the River Alde and returning via the town , approx. 3 1/2 miles 1 hour 15 minutes**



Why is it that every New Year I get the urge to leap into the car along with Martin and Gus (of course!), and head for the coast to walk along a deserted beach with waves pounding the shore? In Suffolk, it seems a particularly appropriate activity for the 1st January, as the coast lies to the east where the sun rises so it feels as though I am symbolically stepping forward into the New Year. However, in reality, I usually find lots of other people are also walking on my "deserted" beach, so perhaps this phenomenon is not unique to me.

If you are one of those people who like a New Year's Day walk by the sea, I am going to suggest Aldeburgh. It is 37 miles from Brettenham, approximately 1 hour by car. Aldeburgh definitely will not be deserted but it is beautiful, there are plenty of places for refreshments and you have a couple of good choices for your walk.

There is plenty of parking, some of it free, in the beach carpark to the south of the town. From here you can walk northwards, to Thorpeness along the sea front (Walk 1). The path is hard surfaced so easy no matter the conditions. About half-way along you will pass the Oyster Shell sculpture which was created by Maggi Hambling and is dedicated to Benjamin Britten. On our last trip to Thorpeness, we had a delicious lunch at the dog friendly Dolphin Inn but there are several other good venues, however, wherever you choose, booking is advisable as it is a popular destination.

If you are wanting a walk that will take you away from the crowds, I suggest the circular walk that starts at the car park and takes you around the edge of the River Alde (Walk 2). Start by taking the path along the edge of the river, this is raised up so not too muddy. The path follows the river for approximately 2 miles and then turns right away from the river and heads back across the Aldeburgh Marshes into the town. Please note, you may well need wellies, for this bit as the marshes can be very muddy. The path then skirts the edge of the town to return to the carpark.

Boy at the Window by Richard Wilbur

Seeing the snowman standing all alone  
In dusk and cold is more than he can bear.  
The small boy weeps to hear the wind prepare  
A night of gnashings and enormous moan.  
His tearful sight can hardly reach to where  
The pale-faced figure with bitumen eyes  
Returns him such a god-forsaken stare  
As outcast Adam gave to Paradise.



The man of snow is, nonetheless, content,  
Having no wish to go inside and die.  
Still, he is moved to see the youngster cry.  
Though frozen water is his element,  
He melts enough to drop from one soft eye  
A trickle of the purest rain, a tear  
For the child at the bright pane surrounded by  
Such warmth, such light, such love, and so much fear.

The Village Inn Menu

Friday 6th January 2023—7.30pm

Main Course Sausages and Mash with Onion Gravy and Peas £10

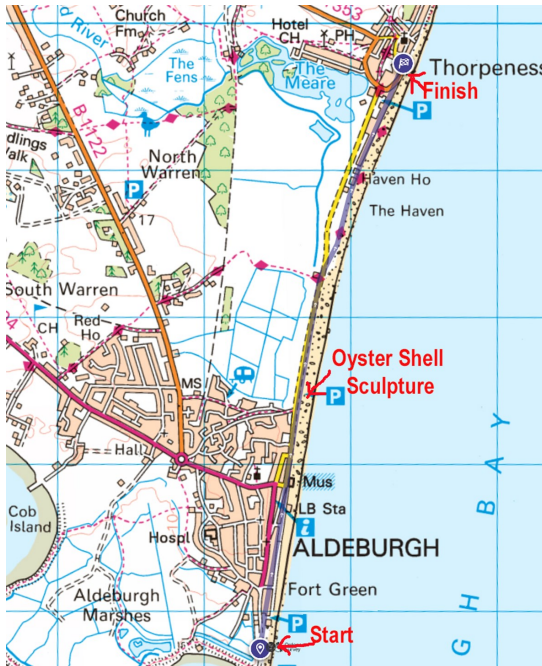
Paprika Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Vegetables £10

Vegetarian Sausages and Mash with Onion Gravy and Peas £9

Dessert Apple Crumble with Custard or Cream £3.50

Selection of Cheese and Biscuits £4.50

All dishes may contain cereals containing gluten, celery, eggs, fish, milk, mustard, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, lupin, sulphur dioxide and sulphites, tree nuts, crustaceans, molluscs. Dishes have not been prepared in allergen free conditions, and therefore we cannot guarantee that other allergens not listed are not also present.



Right map: Walk 1.  
Route marked in purple.  
If you have the OS online maps it is listed as  
Rambling with Gus from  
Aldeburgh to  
Thorpeness.

Map below: Walk 2.  
Route marked in yellow.  
If you have the OS online maps it is listed as  
Rambling with Gus along  
the River Alde



## Refuse And Recycling Collections

From Monday 26th December to Saturday 14th January, Babergh District Council is operating an amended schedule for refuse and recycling collections:

**Recycling:** Fri 30th December will be collected instead on Tues 3rd January (4 days late)

**Refuse:** Fri 6th January will be collected instead on Mon 9th January (3 days late)

**Recycling:** Fri 13 Jan will be collected instead on Sat 14th Jan (1 day late)

**Garden Waste/Brown bin:** For the weeks commencing 26th December and 2nd January there will be no Brown Bin collections. From the week commencing 9th January Brown Bin collections will return to normal.

**Recycling real Christmas trees:** During January, you can leave your real Christmas tree, with all decorations removed, beside your brown bin on collection day. Please note: **Large trees** (trees that are over 7ft tall, or have a trunk thicker than 7cm), can not be collected alongside brown bins but can be taken instead to a collection point. For more information on this visit: [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/collection-days/christmas-collections/](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services/collection-days/christmas-collections/)



### Hitcham Post Office and Stores

The Causeway Hitcham IP7 7NE

Tel 01449 740224

*Back in business – try us and see!*

Groceries, vegetables, frozen food, homeware and sundries

Wines, beer and cigarettes

*Hot freshly baked pies and sausage rolls.*

Home baked cakes and special puddings (frozen or to order)

*Local meat and bread (Palmer's Bakery):*

*In shop or order in advance*

*(Place orders before midday for next day delivery)*

*Dingley Dell ham*

*Coal, wood and calor gas*

Special deals on wines and spirits; crates of beer

– enquire in the shop for details

**POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES:**

*Monday – Saturday 7.30am – 7.00pm.*

*Monday- Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm (Wed 9.00am - 5.00pm)*

*Saturday 9.00am-12.30pm*

*Community corner*

*Why not Stop for a Hot Drink?*



## Keith Purvis Electrical

All domestic electrical work undertaken.

Electrical vehicle charger installation

Mobile **07788 633276**

Home **01787 249795**

Email [kpelec@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kpelec@hotmail.co.uk)



## Hitcham Village Hall

There are many regular activities at Hitcham Village Hall that are open to everyone, including:

Yoga, line dancing, art, gardening, crocheting, floral workshop, pub night, bingo and much more..

All activities are very reasonably priced. For more information look at the Hitcham Village Hall page on Facebook or email [hitcham@aol.com](mailto:hitcham@aol.com) or call 07774744723



**07902 141140 01449 737307**

[hello@michellebrownsewing.co.uk](mailto:hello@michellebrownsewing.co.uk)

[www.michellebrownsewing.co.uk](http://www.michellebrownsewing.co.uk)

From small repairs to clothing, made to measure blinds or full upholstery of your special chair.

Please visit website for services and price guide

**Andrew Bingham**  
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE

**LOCAL INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE**

24 Hour Personal Service

**01449 771666**

The Nutshell, Milton Road South, Stowmarket, IP14 1EZ

[www.andrewbingham.co.uk](http://www.andrewbingham.co.uk)



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans



**For a quick  
response to all  
your pest problems  
call...**

**COMMAND**

- ★ Commercial, agricultural and domestic
- ★ Rodents, insects and bird proofing
- ★ Fly screens and insectocutors
- ★ Timber treatment / damp proofing
- ★ Very competitive rates



Established 1986  
Member of the BPCA

**Telephone 01787 248049**

**Fax 01787 247113**

**E Mail: [info@commandpestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@commandpestcontrol.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.commandpestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.commandpestcontrol.co.uk)**

**Command Pest Control Ltd,  
Command House, College Farm, Church Lane,  
Preston St Mary, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9NQ**

**'We cover East Anglia and beyond'**



Megan is a Beauty Therapist with over 18 years  
experience.

I work from my log cabin in Hitcham.

In a peaceful, rural location and benefits from  
off-road parking!

Treatments are by appointment only. Therefore you are  
guaranteed complete privacy and your treatment time is ex-  
clusively for you.

A variety of treatments include:

Dermologica facials/Spray tanning/Waxing/Eye treatments/  
Jessica manicures & pedicures/Jessica Gel Nails/Foot health  
maintenance (nail trimming & hard skin removal)

LVL Eyelash perming/Reflexology

Please phone for any enquiries or for a full price list.

Megan Pryke VTCT, BABTAC

07876 717 008



**L E FENCING**  
For all types of fencing requirements including; closeboard, decorative iron work, post and rail, stock fencing, etc. Free quotations provided, fast and efficient local service.

Call Tim on 07851 254137 or email [timsimonds@btinternet.com](mailto:timsimonds@btinternet.com)



### STANSTEAD HALL B & B

Hitcham IP7 7NY

Moated Farmhouse surrounded by open countryside, quiet location away from the road. 2 Large Double rooms with adjoining showers

Full Traditional English Breakfast with local produce

ALSO Adults only CARAVAN CLUB CL Site on Farm

Reservations: 01449 740270 or [Stanstead@btinternet.com](mailto:Stanstead@btinternet.com)

[www.Stansteadcamping.co.uk](http://www.Stansteadcamping.co.uk)

## BatesWells & Braithwaite

### Solicitors advising on:

- Accident Claims/Personal Injury
- Agriculture and Rural Business
- Children
- Commercial and Company Law
- Commercial/Business Disputes
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Estates, Trusts and Wills
- Family
- Litigation/Dispute Resolution
- Residential Property
- Matrimonial

Bates Wells & Braithwaite Limited  
27 Friars Street Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AD T: 01787 880440 F: 01787 880488  
[www.bwblegal.com](http://www.bwblegal.com) [solicitors@bwblegal.com](mailto:solicitors@bwblegal.com)



**24 HOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE**

Call: 01787 248282 & 01787 248147

3 Norman Way, High Street, Lavenham,  
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9PY

*Golden Charter pre-paid  
funeral plans*



ESTABLISHED 1952

INDEPENDENT FAMILY COMPANY



**Dan Brown**

[www.saveelectrical.co.uk](http://www.saveelectrical.co.uk)

07731 67 27 57 [dan@saveelectrical.co.uk](mailto:dan@saveelectrical.co.uk)

Over 18 years of experience to provide you with a friendly, professional and competitive service. Based in Brettenham.

All Aspects of Electrical Work Undertaken, including: Installation, Repair and Maintenance, Test and Inspect, Home Theatres, Smart Technology, Security

**NIC Approved Installer, 18th Edition, Part P Qualified and Insured**

## TOMLINSON GROUND CARE

**Horticultural & Garden Machinery Suppliers**

**Sales Service Parts Repairs Toys**

John Deere ride on mowers from £1799 Inc vat

Walk behind petrol & battery mowers from £249 Inc vat

Strimmers, hedge cutters, blowers, chainsaws etc.

Garden tools, paddock & turf machinery

Service & repair of all makes

**Set in over 20 acres – Try before you buy**

**Established in Buxhall since 1991 – We hope to see you soon**

Brettenham Road, Buxhall, Stowmarket IP14 3DL



## **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

The Post Office opens 9am to 1pm (12.30 Sat) 01449 736197



## **Punchards Farm**

High Town Green, Rattlesden

Grass fed

**Aberdeen Angus Beef**

**Rosé Veal**

We supply a range of steaks, joints, mince etc. vacuum packed, labelled and ready for collection. All our animals are bred and reared here on our farm and visitors are always very welcome to come and see them ....anytime.

01449 736395

[jerseys@punchardsfarm.co.uk](mailto:jerseys@punchardsfarm.co.uk)

[www.punchardsfarm.co.uk](http://www.punchardsfarm.co.uk)

## **Brettenham Village Association**

**proudly presents**

# **Charity Fun Quiz Night**

**in aid of 'Success After Stroke'**

[successafterstroke.org.uk](http://successafterstroke.org.uk) [This Photo](#)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7.30pm**

**at Brettenham Village Hall**

**Your Quiz "Masters" for the evening:**

**Pete Knight & Martin Schofield**

**Teams of up to 6 people, Tickets £5 per person**

**Bar!**

**Nibbles!**

**Prize Raffle!**

**To register a team contact Pete**

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