

BRETtenham MAGAZINE

JULY 2023
No 426



Welcome...

We hope everyone is enjoying this warm spell. The magazine is being put together the day after the Summer Fair, thank you to everyone who helped make it such a lovely day, more on page 26. If you are a keen walker you may often wonder why there are odd sprayed areas in fields or wide cut spaces alongside the hedgerows. Well, all is revealed in Tom's article this month, a very interesting read. Well done Declan Edwards on your school project—see page 13. As always we are very grateful for your contributions, news, photos, jokes and anything else of relevance, so please keep them coming to: brettenhammagazine@outlook.com.

The Editorial Team



Bigger Ernie June Winners

- 1st -Bill Treacher
- 2nd - Polly Dog Truin
- 3rd - Gareth Wilson

Dates For Your Diary

- Tuesday 4th July—Village coffee morning 10.30—12.00
- Friday 7th July—Mobile Library (see info opposite)
- Friday 7th July—Village Inn 7.30pm
- Sunday 9th July—Village Cricket Match
- Thursday 13th July—Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
- Sunday 16th July—Sunday Village Inn 12.30pm
- Tuesday 1st August—Village coffee Morning 10.30-12.00
- Friday 4th August—Village Inn 7.30pm
- Friday 4th August— Mobile library
- Sat 19th August—Gardening club celebration and picnic 10.30-1pm

Thanks to Michelle Harvey for the photo on the front cover

Village Noticeboard

Village Hall

To book contact Julie or Ozzie on
07810434470 or email
bvahallbookings@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
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 
chairbva@gmail.com

Mobile Library

Stops at the village Hall
12.45-13.05
Church 15.20-15.35
First Friday of the month

**August
Mag
Deadline:**
15th July

*Brettenham magazine is published and edited by the Brettenham Magazine
Editing Team (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*

Brettenham Parish Council

Hopefully you will have noticed that the new signpost for the village green has now been installed. It is quite a picture, particularly with the summer bedding now in place and some sunshine at last. A great many thanks to those involved in getting this completed on a tight turnaround for the gardening club to get the planting done and to the gardening club for their patience and flexibility. We are currently waiting for new signage on Old School Corner and Buxhall Road, both have been ordered and I remain optimistic we may see them before too long.

The next council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th July.

Any queries through the Parish Clerk
at brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke Chair: Alyson Wilson

FOBS Friends of Bildeston Surgery

Coffee Morning

Saturday 29th July 2023

10.30am - 1.00pm

Whatfield Village Hall

Stalls – Tombola, raffle and cakes

Refreshments, Coffee/Tea and Bacon Rolls

Any contributions for the stalls would be gratefully received.

Items can be dropped off at Bildeston Health Centre
or Thislesdome The Street, Whatfield.

If you would prefer to drop off items to me, I am happy to take them.

Please drop them off at The Forge, 26 The Street any time from

Monday 24th July onwards.

David Golding

Recipe

With summer finally here lets make ourselves some summer treats.

For the children

Blend your favorite fruits' and mix with natural yogurt. Put into a lollypop mold and freeze overnight. No colourings or additives. Delicious and healthy.

Another alternative is to freeze pure Fruit juice in a lollypop mold. Yum!!



For the adults

As an alternative to ice in your summer drink. Slice lemon, cucumber, Red or green grapes or raspberries. Freeze overnight. Use instead of ice. Gin and tonic is nice with lemon and cucumber.

Prosecco is nice with grapes. Be adventurous. Share some of your own ideas with us all.



Michelle Harvey

New Brettenham Signpost

You will have noticed that the old fingerpost on the village green has been replaced (see front cover). I think you will agree the new one looks wonderful, and thanks to the Gardening Club, new planting has made it look even better. The three old fingers were auctioned at the village fair and raised approx £400 for our church. You may now see them gracing gardens around the village!



Village Cricket Match Sunday 9th July

At Brettenham Park

If regular cricket isn't your thing, but an afternoon in the sun is, then this summer sees the return of the village vs club match. The game will take a friendly format, and no experience is required. So, if you would like to volunteer for the village team, please do drop me a line at harvey.daniell@outlook.com. I'd love to hear from you.

Harvey Daniell

Do you need help with household costs, mental health or family activities?

Help is available from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC). If you go online to the SALC website and look at their current newsletter there are links anyone can use to get help.

Look for **INFOLINK** which has links to services for families, such as childcare, local groups, activities and help for children with special needs. For adults there are tips on how to stay healthy and mental health advice.

There is also **Cost of Living Support** with advice on where to find food banks, recipes for meals for £1 and a link to Warm Homes Suffolk. There are tips to reduce energy bills and contacts for schemes for low price tariffs for water (up to 50% off) and phone and broadband and oil clubs. One example is that you can have old heaters replaced with new electric storage heaters free of charge. There are one off grants for those in need.

If you do not have a computer to see the SALC advice there is free access to a computer at Libraries in Lavenham, Hadleigh and Stowmarket and the staff will help you to use the computer. You can buy things online, get the best electricity deals and look on the NHS website for health advice. Parish councillors can also help you.

If you need help to access any of these sources of advice contact the Chair of the Parish Council Alyson Wilson or Lindsey Collings (SALC contact).

BVA – A Visitor's View

We know that we love living in Brettenham – but do we realise how much our village is appreciated by others who don't? I note how many Brettenham residents bring visiting family and friends to Village Inn and other events. Some are now regular visitors and old friends to lots of us.

At the last coffee morning, we welcomed a family from the other side of the world – Australia, no less. And one kind lady entered the spirit of village events by rolling up her sleeves and doing the washing up!

My own family regard Brettenham as a countryside "retreat", and it is true that we are spoilt for choice with beautiful walks from 20 minutes to 2 hours on our doorstep – especially if they are lucky enough to "borrow" a doggy resident to accompany them – a joy for my grandchildren who aren't able to have their own dogs, thank you Jack and Gus.

If your visitors like walking and are up in time on Sunday, they could join the Brettenham Flyers for a cobweb-blowing walk or run. Some of my family join in whenever they are down, others mysteriously never have the correct shoes/clothing with them.

Our field and play area are clearly popular with visiting families. My own grandchildren love to have meetings under what has become "the cousin tree". Their exploits and achievements on the field and equipment have become part of our family history, not to mention the odd calamity when parents and Grandma try to keep up! Really – don't mention it!

The field was the venue of the Summer Fair when we had visitors from Italy one year—photos of the English "at play" were sent off and hugely enjoyed, especially the pictures of the Garden on a Plate and the Cake Competition, less so the photos of us later in OBH swimming pool which earned the horrified comment, "it's only 23 degrees— you will all catch a chill!!!!". The OBH pool is a great afternoon's entertainment and is right on the doorstep.

Although life can be difficult at times, we know that it's a good thing to count our blessings. It is a blessing to live in Brettenham: the natural beauty, the social life on hand from good-hearted people prepared to give of themselves, friendship and support that emanate from such an engaged community – a community that welcomes new-comers, nurtures old timers and enjoys meeting the "passing throughs". Thank you Brettenham.

Val Mcguill

Village Inn Friday 2nd July 7.30pm

Food provided by Meat and Greet and can be pre-ordered

This is a steak and chips gourmet grill concept where people can order their preferred type of steak, say how they like it cooked, and have it sliced. Pre order 07368 266382



Burgers
Steak Burger £5
Extra Patty £2
Cheese £1
Bacon £1

Steaks
All steaks served with rosemary salt skin-on chips & a chimichurri sauce

Extras
Loaded Fries £7
Halloumi Fries & Sweet Chilli Sauce £4.50
Tray of skin on fries £3

Rump
6oz £10 8oz £12

Sirloin
6oz £11 8oz £13

Ribeye
6oz £12 8oz £14



Pre orders welcome
07368266382

St Mary's Church Brettenham

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



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

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:

You can contact our lay readers Stephen Collins on 01449 737541 or on spgc544@gmail.com or Ruth Crocket on 07811333560 or ruth.crocket@gmail.com. Our Benefice PA, Charlotte Faircloth, may be able to help with some issues and her information is: charlottefaircloth13@gmail.com and 07397 240 713. To talk to someone about a local church matter, please contact the church warden: Annie Tavener 01449 736412 annie_tav@hotmail.com.

New Rector

I am delighted to say that in September we will have a new rector. Sharon Grenham-Thompson has been appointed rector of our benefice of Rattlesden, Brettenham, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux and she will be installed in Hitcham church by the Bishop at 7.30pm on 11th September and we very much look forward to welcoming her, her husband Richard and son Gabriel. They will be living in the rectory in Rattlesden. Sharon is currently a parish vicar in Bedfordshire and is an author and radio broadcaster; she has also been a solicitor and a prison visitor, so she comes to us with a broad range of experience.

As I write the fete is nearly upon us. The warmer weather has at last arrived and I hope next month I will be able to report on a wonderful day with record crowds and a record income! We are really grateful to everyone who has offered help and donated items for the stalls.

We decided at the recent PCC AGM to hold a big fundraising book sale in the autumn – watch this space for further details.

Annie Tavener 01449 736412

July Programme of Services in the Benefice

These times may change, so please check before attending

CHURCH SERVICES: The service rota for July and August will look very different from usual, so please keep an eye on the noticeboard for times and types of service. Apologies, it is very difficult for the benefice organisers to arrange for the four parishes to have the services they want every week while there is a shortage of clergy.

2 nd July	The Fourth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9:45am	Breakfast Church
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11:00am	Holy Communion
9 th July	The Fifth Sunday after Trinity		
	Brettenham	9:00am	BCP Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	9:45am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00am	Holy Communion
	Hitcham	11:00am	Morning Prayer
16 th July	The Sixth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9:45am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11:00am	Holy Communion
23 rd July	The Seventh Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9:45am	Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	11:00am	Quiet Service
	Brettenham	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	6pm	BCP Evensong
30 th July	The Eighth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	10:30am	Benefice Eucharist

Friends of Brettenham Church (FOBC)

As we are all aware, the church roof is in need of substantial repairs to the tune of at least £200,000 and the 'Raise the roof' project has already started. In order to raise this very large sum of money and ensure the money is used for the roof repairs, first steps have been taken to establish Friends of Brettenham Church (FOBC). We are looking into setting it up as a charity which we hope could benefit from gift aid. Would you like to become a Friend and help get FOBC off the ground? **For further information please call either Annie Tavener on 01449 736412 or Chris Clarke on 07483841531.**

Food banks are under enormous pressure at the moment, and demand is still high. Unfortunately the cost of living crisis has hit everyone, and donations across the country have been hit badly. If you can help support our local food bank, please look at the information below.

Food Bank Update

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 at Spinney Cottage, Brettenham.

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 Tel: 01449 257136



Pilates Tuesdays 6pm in the village hall

Pilates tones and strengthens the whole body improving posture and wellbeing. This is a friendly group with an experienced teacher. It is suitable for all levels of fitness (unless pregnant or injured).

The class takes place every Tuesday 6pm—7pm, however, please note there will not be classes on the following dates: 27th June and 4th July.

Classes currently cost £6 a class, pay-as-you-go. From 11th July they will be £7 a class.

For more information, contact Leonie on 07866897651

14:59



Tweet



Rattlesden School
@RattlesdenPS

Look at Declan's amazing model of Brettenham, with so much detail, for our Local Study topic! It is on display in our entrance area.



14:58 · 12/06/2023 from Earth · View

Thanks to young superstar, Declan Edwards, Brettenham was 'trending' on Twitter recently.

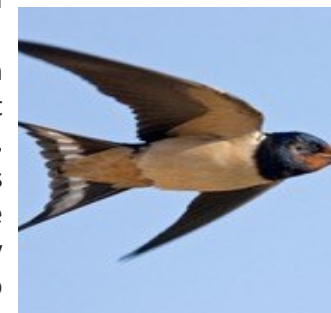
Well done Declan on a fantastic model of our beautiful village.

It's definitely a gold star from the editorial team for you Declan.

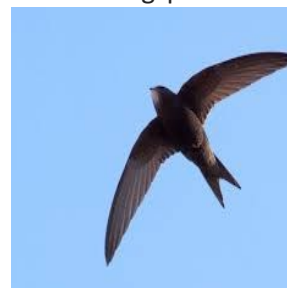
Nature Notes

It was only in the last week of May that I had my first sightings of swallows, swifts and house martins in and around Brettenham. It was also about this time that I heard a cuckoo calling. I had heard one in Arger Fen earlier in the month but this one was calling from the other side of Dux Street. Their arrival was probably delayed by the north easterly wind which blew for a good three weeks or so from mid-May.

Swallows are widespread across Europe in the summer and research has shown that British swallows winter in South Africa, travelling up the west coast of Africa, across the Sahara, over Morocco, Eastern Spain, the Pyrenees and the west coast of France. They fly at a low altitude during daylight hours so they are able to find food as they travel.



However, as with many migratory birds, flying over large areas like the Sahara can be a huge challenge to them, often resulting in starvation. They have a wingspan of 33cms or so and a weight of about 20 grams thus



allowing them to be very agile in flight, diving and banking to catch their prey. However, they are outperformed by the swift, which has a larger wingspan.

Whereas swallows are often seen on telegraph wires, swifts spend a higher percentage of their time on the wing, sleeping, eating and even mating while in flight.

They have a top speed of 65mph compared with the swallow's 25mph. They too travel up from Africa in search of their regular nest spot in roof spaces in houses and churches. They pair for life but as buildings are renovated their nest sites are disappearing and they have been added to the



red list of endangered species. They can often be seen around Brettenham church and I'm sure you will have heard them flying above Lavenham on a warm summer's afternoon. When we moved into Brettenham twenty or so

years ago House Martins were a common sight here, especially around Quality Row where they used to nest in the eaves of the houses. Their numbers too have declined in recent years and they are also on the red list. They often nest in small groups of four or five mud-built nests which often have to be repaired before they take up residence.

David Golding

Old Buckenham Hall Summer Swimming



Old Buckenham Hall is to open their lovely heated open-air swimming pool to the locality again this summer. They have appointed a lifeguard and swimming will be available in July and August. This year the school will ask for booking and payment in advance and swimmers will be limited in number, so please contact the school for more information on dates, times and prices.

The contact email to use to register your interest and ask for more information : lifeguard@obh.co.uk

Lynne Golding

Thank you Annie Tavener for this photo of a nest found on the ground having presumably been blown there. it is made of moss, hay, soft white feathers and dog hair and beautifully lined with sheep's wool. It looks very cosy.



Farming Focus

Summer is finally here! After a fairly wet and cold spring which held the crops back a bit at the end of May, we're now enjoying a spell of sun and warm temperatures as I write this in mid-June. Despite having had so much rain throughout the spring, the longest spell of easterly wind that I can remember has dried the soil out very quickly and we are now in a position where some crops could really do with a bit of rain again! I know, farmers are always complaining about the weather...

At the moment, I'm in the middle of applying the final fungicide spray to the wheat, which is done as the ear comes on flower and protects the ear and uppermost leaves from disease through to harvest. Apart from a fungicide spray to do on the spring beans, that's it for spraying now until the autumn. It's always nice to put the sprayer away for a bit as it's a busy time of year getting everything ready for harvest, which normally starts for us with the winter barley on around the 20th July, followed by the wheat towards the end of July.

Once harvest is underway, the fieldwork is fairly relentless through until the autumn drilling is complete in October, so it's good to make sure all machinery is serviced and ready to go, avoiding any downtime during the busy period. This includes the grain store and dryer and their associated machinery. At the moment I'm still trying to get the grain store empty of the remaining few loads of wheat from last harvest. It has all been sold but I am just waiting for lorries to come and collect it so that I can get the stores clean ready for the new crop. Once cleaned, the grain stores are then sprayed to ensure that there are no bugs or mites which can cause severe damage to stored crops. It's estimated that between a quarter and a third of the world grain crop is lost in storage, much of this due to insect damage. We have a contract with Command Pest Control in Preston who spray the stores for us before harvest and also take care of rodent control throughout the year.

The other job which needs doing before harvest is hand pulling any remaining weeds if we want to prevent their seeds from maturing and causing problems in future years. This is mostly done for wild oats and blackgrass. Blackgrass can produce up to 1000 seeds per plant, so preventing the seed heads from maturing is vital to keep it under control. Wild oats are pretty easy to remove by hand but it's not always possible

with blackgrass, which can quickly become a very widespread problem, meaning it is often better to sacrifice a bit of crop and spray it off rather than risk the seeds being dropped to cause a more serious problem in future years. You may have noticed a few orange patches in fields as you drive around the countryside where people have killed small patches of crop to control blackgrass infestations. We also mow around the edge of the fields at this time of year to prevent grass seed heads from falling over into the crop and allowing them to gradually creep into the field headland. This is all part of what the industry calls Integrated Pest Management, which is the adoption of a series of careful management and non-chemical pest control methods with the aim being to reduce the over reliance on chemical solutions to crop pests.

Although the crops generally look good, things aren't looking very rosy financially for the coming harvest. Global demand for wheat has dropped and prices have fallen considerably since last harvest, now sitting at around £170/t compared to a high of around £350/t last year, meaning gross margins for the coming harvest are looking rather unexciting! Input prices do now seem to be falling, however, so hopefully this period of extreme volatility might be coming to an end – trying to draw up meaningful budgets has been somewhat challenging over the past couple of years! Let's hope all this quickly results in a fall in food prices.

Tom Tavener



Blackgrass



Wild Oat



Combine servicing

Bloaters X: the full, unredacted truth of this year's annual trip to ██████████ to enjoy its many offerings; ██████████ ██████████ and other foreign pleasures

The annual Bloaters X trip to ██████████ and its many pleasures: its tea ██████████ shops, and ██████████ activities, completed successfully over the weekend.

A seasoned group of ██████████ Bloaters, led as ever by Chief Bloater ██████████ supported by ██████████ other seasoned Bloaters, and one novitiate, met as usual on ██████████ village green at ██████████ a.m. on ██████████ morning. Greeted by our highly trained drivers, ██████████ and ██████████ the group was effortlessly whisked to pick up ██████████ the group's usual straggler, from ██████████ This involved an impressively and flawlessly executed ██████████ turn in mid-highway, followed by safe delivery to ██████████ station. Catching the ██████████ train, a faultless journey enabled us to enjoy a leisurely '██████████' cooked breakfast. Then a seamless tube journey to ██████████ arriving in plenty of time to catch the allocated ██████████ trains (usual risk-mitigation group split-journey protocol was obviously followed), resulting in safe journeys to ██████████ our hotel ██████████ and the first refresher visit to the ██████████ bar, and other treasured hostelries: ██████████ bar, ██████████ bar, Blue ██████████ Fond memories rekindled!

And thus the weekend continued: combinations of culinary, cultural, ██████████ and other experiences. Atomium science, Expo ██████████ brutalist concrete constructions, pre- and post-war architecture, historic medieval churches offering cool and subtle, sunlit interiors contrasting with external 30c+ throbbing heat and traffic. Views from the ferris wheel, the highest point in ██████████ panoramic views. Sporting prowess was embraced - an enjoyable evening at ██████████ Bar,, celebrating Mancunian treble success, perhaps echoing ██████████ tripples? (was City's performance on the night really 'golden, balanced, with a spicy strong and pleasantly firm bitterness?')

The ██████████ beer museum, a small, discreet, cool, and calming spot to learn the historic and current practices in how ██████████ produces another

of its famed beverages - Bloaters trips are not all about tea!

And one member enjoyed his first Bloater trip: with usual initiation ceremonies completed, and appropriate subsequent medical evidence obtained that all personal functions performed normally, we welcome [REDACTED] as a full Bloater!

So, in conclusion, Bloaters X was another successful and notably enjoyable trip, memorable for all the right reasons: experiences to remember include [REDACTED] bar, [REDACTED] church, [REDACTED] beer, [REDACTED] et [REDACTED] bar, [REDACTED] and of course [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] pleasures.

Here's to Bloaters XI!

Editorial comment: following a detailed review of current security protocols, we were advised by the appropriate authorities that unless the above redactions were implemented this article breached current publication restrictions and would be unprintable. We trust this will not spoil your enjoyment of the article.

By [REDACTED]



Ladies of Brettenham. We should all be ashamed of ourselves. WHY are we letting the men have all the fun?????

Please get in touch for a ladies alternative. Michelle 07535814939

Gardening Club

Potato in a bucket competition— Our yearly contribution to the summer fayre is the legendary potato in a bucket competition. This is talked about from the minute the potatoes are chitted in Feb until the day of the summer fayre.

Something as talked about and as competitive as this surly needed to be recognised by awarding a trophy.

So, first a little bit of history about the club. Dave Powels inspired and motivated Carrie Dye to set up the club in 2013. Colin Warner organised the first potato in a bucket competition in 2016. Sadly Dave passed away last year and after speaking to his family we have purchased a trophy in his honour. This will be passed onto the winning adult each year.

This years Winners.

Adult—Fred Rufus. Child—Jacob Gordon aged 3

A big thank you and well done to everyone that took part and a special thankyou to Jo and Tim Schofield for doing a superb job of weighing the potatoes again this year.



Also a big thank you to Jane and Gordon McDonald for Manning the Garden stall and raising in the region of £120 at the summer Fayre.

July—Scarecrow building Month. Our bale of hay will be ready for anyone that would like to make a scarecrow. Please contact Michelle brettenhamgardeningclub@gmail.com

Aug 19th - Gardening celebration and picnic. Scarecrow trail and competition, sunflower competition and produce show. More info next month.

Michelle Harvey

2022/23 Brettenham 'Torpedo Carrow Road'

Super 6 Premiership



My word, that's a mouthful! Nonetheless, this year's Super 6 Champion is Mark Baker, amassing a whopping score of 484 points and registering our second highest ever total. Not bad for someone who confesses to know very little about football, illustrating that this is a competition for everyone.

Our league had swollen to 24 members for the season but we'd like to expand it even more, making it a competition for all within our community.

Mark is pictured receiving the prestigious Super 6 Premiership Shield from Martin Schofield, the previous winner and holder. Well Done Mark!

If you'd like to know more about how to get involved or taking part in the 23/24 season, which should start around Aug 23, then drop me a line chairbva@gmail.com and I'd be happy to explain the competition in more detail. Open to all Brettenham residents.

Ozzie



Books for sale in the church

Hardbacks and paperbacks all 50p.

Childrens' books 25p

Vanessa Whymark has kindly volunteered to organise the books in the church. She goes in regularly to sort through and arrange them on the shelves. If you have books to donate, please leave them behind the curtain at the back of the church. If you have any queries about the books, please contact Vanessa on 07817852328. We are very grateful for your donations and purchases.

Brettenham Village Hall

I thought it may be a good opportunity to offer you an update on the village hall, in particular the booking process and some further info and guidelines. I have been the booking clerk for our village hall for little over a year and the hall is slowly starting to get a few more bookings since the end of the pandemic. This is great news!

I have had a couple bookings for the use of the car park for local walking events, which we make a small charge for while offering them the use of some of our hall facilities. This brings a little more revenue which, I'm sure you'd agree, helps to combat some of those rising energy costs. It's worth pointing out at this stage that now, thanks to Mark Baker, we have a meter fitted within the hall to monitor and assess our costs throughout the year, in turn, helping us to adjust our hall charges.

When hiring the car park, we only allow vehicles to park at the front of the hall (on the hard standing) given that this is the area owned by the BVA. The parking that runs alongside the playing field is given to us as a goodwill gesture by the landowner and is utilised when extra parking is required for hall and playing field events. Please be mindful that the hall parking should not be used by local residents unless prior agreement or arrangements have been made with the hall booking clerk due to the fact the hall may be in use. I wouldn't want your car to get blocked in!

The hall now has upgraded wifi and earlier this year a TV and soundbar were also installed. The kitchen is very well equipped with a dishwasher, fridges, hot box, plate warmers and an extremely high-end oven.

I sometimes have requests for hiring items out of the village hall, tables, chairs, crockery, etc, which I make a small charge for, unless this is required for a village event where no charge is applied. All I ask is that you please make contact with me to arrange this, we now have an inventory of the village hall items. Sadly, over the last few months we have had some items removed from the village hall without permission, namely 2 tables and the food warmer, which have never been returned. If you do know of their whereabouts then please let me know so they can be returned to the rightful place.

The hall has certainly had a few more community events over the last 12 months and I know that the once-a-month coffee morning and planting sessions run by the Gardening Club have gone down extremely well. I hope that events like these will continue to be supported.

Recently we were approached by Eileen Gooderham regarding the use of the hall. This was for a charity Military Whist Drive. We were happy to offer the hall at no charge. The event raised £200.00 for St Nicholas hospice. The whist drives used to be a once a week event, and had been running for 50 years in Brettenham. Eileen Gooderham had been involved in supporting, then later running them. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this club became a casualty of that time, along with many that were run in other villages. After the event I spoke with Eileen and she said what a great time they all had, meeting up after several years, she had nearly 40 people attend from surrounding villages. It was great to see them back. The BVA were delighted they could support the event by not making a charge and I know this was truly appreciated by all those that attended.

If you would like to organise an event for the community then we don't charge for this, but please come along to a BVA meeting so your idea can be shared. Equally, if you are a Brettenham resident and you were organising a charity event we would always be happy to support this. If you have booked the hall then please always contact myself or Ozzie (caretaker) to collect a key. The hall has a licensed bar with an extensive selection of beers, wines, spirits and of course soft drinks. For all events requiring the bar, please speak with Peter Truin whose email is petertruin@aol.com Should you have any questions regarding the hire of the hall then please contact me Julie - bvahallbookings@gmail.com.

Hall charges have not increased this year.

Many thanks

Julie Ozfici

Village Hall hire rates from 1st May 2023

	Residents	Non-residents	Commercial
All events	£8.50	£12.50	£15
Community organisations – Parish Council, PCC, Gardening Club	No charge		

A Rural Education Part 11

A New System

In 1974 the education system changed to a three tier system. The reasons for these changes appear rather unclear although it is suggested that capacity may have been a cause as in 1972 the school leaving age had been raised to 16 from 15 years and also the introduction of the comprehensive system whereby schools did not select pupils based on either financial considerations or academic achievements.

Thurston Upper School opened in September 1973. It occupied a large site, where it still stands and was a single storey building. It has been extended considerably over the last few decades. I was in the first group of pupils to start there in September 1973.

The Early Days—Beyton and Ixworth Secondary Modern schools pupils ended their final school years at Thurston. Some of the teachers had transferred from each of the schools and there were also new teachers who had not taught at either. The Headmaster was Mr R W J Napier MBE MA. He appeared to be nearing retirement. In 1954 he had been appointed Head of Silver Jubilee Modern Boys school in Bury St Edmunds. Records indicate that during his Headship there were significant developments including introducing CSE and GCE examinations but also examinations in commercial subjects such as typing and shorthand. Practical subjects were included too with new buildings added to house a woodwork shop, metalwork shop and a print room. During 1964-6 a new gym, science labs and craft rooms were added. In 1972 when co-education and the comprehensive system came in this school became known as King Edward VI.

Thurston school had a large assembly hall tiered theatre style. There were no more assemblies for the whole school but pupils from each year would assemble once a week. Pupils from different years were also mixed in tutor groups so that there was a mixture of ages. The form tutor therefore had some pastoral responsibility but may not have taught the specific pupils in the tutor group. Each group would have been allocated to a 'house' of which there were four. These were named after the district councils such as Cosford, Thedwastre, Thingoe and Melford.

I recently found some of my old reports from Thurston and it is interesting that the Group Tutor and the Head of House and the Headmaster or

Deputy would write (pre computers) comments in the report. Reading through them, there is a sense that they had taken time to read the report and make meaningful entries. For both pupils and teachers the move to Thurston Upper School would have caused significant disruption and bringing together two schools would have proved challenging.

In December of 1974 the Bury Free Press carried a report of examination results and Mrs Rushden, Head of Cosford House, commented that the school had opened in appalling conditions with many parts unfinished and often two classes being taught in the same room. There was also a lack of books and paper. In the same report Mr Siderfin, Head of Thingoe House, explained the purpose of the house system was to ensure each pupil was well behaved happy and hard working. He added that academic results are not everything and that education is a preparation for all aspects of life.

Some seven months after the school opened the Head sent out a newsletter to parents; he noted the lack of paper and reduction in allowances to the school made it impossible to send these as often as he wanted. I guess not much has changed there! In this newsletter he advised that there was a conference where the teachers from Ixworth and Beyton schools would meet. He outlined information about the Sixth Form, the Commercial Studies department which was working with the local TSB bank to enable pupils to have an account at the school bank and use cheques to pay for school trips and such things as technical studies material. He alluded to the model office which was being run by pupils to gain experience of that environment; much of the work was linked to the school bank but also they did some work for the Parent Teacher Association.

There was a small telephone switchboard providing practice for pupils in putting through calls to the school...under supervision. The range of activities and clubs was then listed in detail including sports activities, musical activities, the folk music club, morris dancing, folk dancing, dramatic activity, Christian Society, field club, Railway Society and Stamp Club. Many of these clubs and activities took place at lunchtime but some were after school events. There were at least fifty different activities offered.

Stuart Earle

Next time Stuart remembers some of the teachers at Thurston...

Summer Fayre 2023

A wonderful summer church fayre was held on the 17th June. Perfect weather with only a slight drizzle at one point and a great array of stalls and refreshments. The plant stall heaved with a wonderful range of things for the garden. Bagatelle, marbles, darts, golf and bowling were just a selection of the games on offer. The bric-a-brac and book stall were very busy and all comers enjoyed the classic cars.



Thanks to the chefs and kitchen helpers, all were well fed, and a very happy day was had by all who attended.

Many thanks to Annie and her troop of helpers for organising such a lovely village event!

More information from Annie in next months magazine.

Classic Car Show

A big thankyou to all those who went to great effort in preparing their cars and exhibiting them for us all to view at the Summer Fayre this year. On display were:

Ferrari 488, Ferrari Lusso, Nissan GTR (road/drag racer), Group A, Martini liveried Lancia Delta rally car, Rolls Royce, E Type Jaguar, MGB GT, MGA, Fire Engine (not sure of the make and model but Martin Scofield found the horns quite entertaining) and not forgetting the star attraction... an Austin Mini Metro.



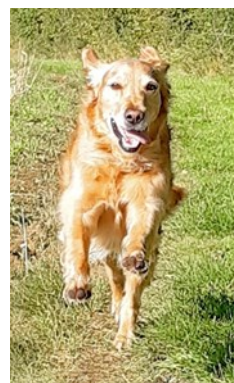
Thank you

Rambling with Gus

Distance approx. 3 ¼ miles, approx. 1 ¼ hours

Starting point: This is a circular walk that starts and finishes at Cockfield Church.

Yet again it has been a joy to find a lovely network of footpaths so close to home. Although I have driven through, Cockfield on countless occasions in the 38 years I have lived in Brettenham, I have never walked any of the footpaths.



To make up for this oversight, Gus and I have done a couple of walks in recent months around the village. On both walks, we found the paths to be well marked and maintained. Sadly, there is no pub or café in the village so you will need to take your own refreshments with you. Then again, it is only a 10 minute drive home for a cuppa or glass of vino. If you get to know the paths at Cockfield, you will find you can do any combination of walks you want from a 20 minute stroll to a 2 hour hike. I chose this walk



because it takes you to the outskirts of Bulls Wood which is a Suffolk Wildlife Nature Reserve. If you have time you may like to extend the walk by taking a wander around the reserve (dogs on leads). The wood is small, the circular path will take approx. 15 minutes, but it is well worth it to see the wildflowers and birds. Check the information

board at the entrance to see what you should look out for. In June you may be lucky enough to see early-purple orchids and to spot a tree-creeper.

If you have time, the church is also worth a look.

On the online OS maps you will find this walk listed as, Rambling with Gus around Cockfield.

Carrie Dye



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.

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[This Photo](#)

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For more info contact:

Val 07711 562520 or Michelle 07535 814939

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