

**BRETENHAM
MAGAZINE**

**MAY 2023
No 424**



Welcome...

to the May edition of the Magazine. With not one but two Bank Holidays and a Coronation to celebrate, we have a lot to look forward to this month! In fact, there is so much happening we have had to add some pages to this edition to fit it all in.

As well as our regular features we have two entertaining reports from the Bloaters (p.8) and the Cricket Club (p.24) and a timely update about our footpaths and the Countryside Code for walkers and their dogs (p.16/17). We also want to give a plug to the mobile library van that comes to the village on the first Friday of every month (p.3). With so much happening, do check out the Dates For Your Diary below.

As always, 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.

Bigger Ernie March Winners

1st Emily Woods
2nd James Pearce
3rd Julie Allard

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 4th May—Village Hall open for voting in local elections
Friday 5th May—Mobile Library (see opposite for info)
Friday 5th May—Village Inn 7.30pm (see page 9)
Sunday 7th May - Coronation Celebration (see back page)
Tuesday 9th May—Village Coffee Morning 10.30—12 (see page 7)
Sunday 21st May Village Inn 12.30pm
Friday 2nd June—Mobile Library (see info opposite)
Friday 2nd June—Village Inn 7.30pm
Saturday 17th June— Summer Fair (more details to follow)
Sunday 9th July—Village Cricket Match (see page 7)

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

**June
Mag
Deadline:**

15th May

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—Have your say

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

DC/23/00 263	Church Farm, Buxhall Road, Brettenham, IP7 7PE	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 - Commencement of development in respect of planning approval B/14/01297 without compliance with planning conditions 11, 14 and 15.
DC/22/06 309	Anglian Water Services Bury to Colchester Pipeline	Full application for BSE to Colchester 69k Pipeline Scheme and associated above ground infrastructure...
DC/23/01 111	Former Breakers Yard And Premises, Old School Corner, Brettenham, Suffolk	Amendments to planning permission already granted
DC/23/01 399	Church Farm, Buxhall Road, Brettenham, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7PE	Variation of conditions

Annual Parish Meeting - For those who were unable to attend the minutes and Chair's report will be available as usual on the village website.

Neighbourhood Plan - Photographs still needed

We are still looking for photographs to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. These can include a view, a building, an event, seasons, sunsets. Anything to show the village seen through your eyes. Photographs should be emailed to BrettenhamNP@outlook.com. Please include your full name when sending

Elections - A reminder that the local elections will be held on Thu 4 May and the village hall is your local polling station. Remember your ID! Please refer back to the April magazine to see what is valid .

Coronation celebrations

A last reminder for the Coronation Cream Tea, taking place on Sunday 7 May – if you haven't booked your place there may still be some spaces left. Please contact Jane Moulding to book 01449 736178/07552 812668 or email grahame.moulding@btopenworld.com

The next council meeting will be at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11th May

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke Chair: Alyson Wilson
Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

■ Thank you so much to everyone who ate at the April Village Inn. With food sales and some very generous donations we raised £556 for our Riding for the Disabled group; this wonderful sum will enable us to give rides to our small group of children for a whole term and they and the volunteers very much appreciate it. Very many thanks.

■ **Annie Tavener**



Brettenham Village Association (BVA)

A time to celebrate

Unless you've been living in a cave for the last few months I'm sure you'll be aware that May will bring along a coronation for our new king. In order to celebrate this prestigious occasion, I'm equally sure that you'll be aware of our very own planned 'Coronation Big Lunch', in which neighbours within our community are invited to come along to the village hall to share food and fun together. Please come along to support and enjoy this one-off event which promises to be, yet again, another memorable social occasion for all. (See back cover for more information)

Speaking of support, I'm compelled to mention and thank all those who took time to attend the last BVA meeting held on Monday 3rd April. I believe we had a 22 strong contingent from the village, sharing ideas and helping to take them forward in the interest of our wider community. We will have some exciting new and unique opportunities coming up so please keep abreast of the next few editions of this mag and look at some of those periodic emails I send out before redirecting them to the virtual waste basket. If you're not already on my email distribution list then pop me a line to chairbva@gmail.com and I'll be sure to keep you connected to all future planned BVA events.

Brettenham Classic Car show

With kind permission from the Summer Fair organising team, we plan to hold a Brettenham Classic Car show on the same day, 17th June. This is just a preliminary warning to get those classics running and polished in time for the Summer Fair. No entry fees, no limit to the number of classics you can bring along, simply dust them off and trot them out onto the village hall playing field, which will have a designated classic car arena. There might even be a prize for the 'Best in show'.

Save the date!

Harvey Daniell is in full planning mode for the Brettenham Cricket Club V Brettenham Villagers World XI - cricket match, which is scheduled for Sunday 9th July (see page 24 for more Cricket Club info). Again, it promises to be a fun-packed extravaganza for all whether you're taking part or merely spectating on the day. (I suspect that the Brettenham Village team might be significantly larger than the suggested 11) An Over

for everyone! More details to follow.

Village Inn

The next series of Friday Village Inns (FVI) plan to test your pallets to the max. Following what will undoubtedly be a tremendous Bloaters 'Pie fest' we'll have a new look Real Thai Food popup for the June Village Inn. Equally exciting is the launch of our first taste of the highly acclaimed - Meat & Greet BBQ|Gourmet Grill for the July FVI. I for one, can't wait!

Bring on the Summer!

Ozzie

Brettenham Coffee Morning

If you fancy 'elevenes' tea, coffee and biscuits for 50p and more importantly a chat and a laugh with fellow villagers, come along to the next one on 9th May at 10.30 till 12.00

Children welcome but no dogs until the weather improves and we can be outside.

Hope to see you there!

For more info contact

Val 07711562520 or
Michelle 07535814939



Bloaters' Report

Pie Night

As I am sure you are all aware, the pie was invented seven hundred years ago, and it would be very remiss of us to let this remarkable anniversary go by unmarked. Unfortunately we have just missed the actual septcentenary, but better late than never. Therefore, on May 5th at the Village Inn the Bloaters proudly present ... Pie Night. Since the Bloater Chefs' great triumph at the Inn in January, they have been working tirelessly, day and night, to perfect their recipes for a range of popular pies in time for May. You can now look forward to Beef and Ale, Chicken and Mushroom, Fish Pie as well as a vegie option (the full menu opposite). Of course, our chefs have not forgotten the accompaniments, and much of their work over the last three months has been to find the perfect selection of vegetables to compliment their pies. I have been lucky enough to sample some of their earlier efforts which were extremely good, so I can hardly wait until May 5th to taste the final version. I feel sure this will be a popular evening, especially as it's the Coronation weekend, so you may need to arrive in good time to avoid disappointment.

Belgium

On the second Friday in June, as usual, we will be leaving for our annual research trip to Belgium. This year the subject for our research is, "How eating pies affects the beer drinking habits of the residents of Brussels". I am afraid I have to report that the meeting when this was decided became very heated indeed. As some of you may know, we do drink a lot of beer when not in Belgium, so the attraction of our research trips, in addition to the satisfaction of knowing the results of our research are so highly valued by the scientific community, is having a weekend without drinking. A little detoxing is always a good thing. Now, of course, in view of the research topic, some of the guys thought it might be necessary to drink some beer with the locals, which they weren't too happy about. Fortunately, after some very well reasoned arguments put forward by the Chief Executive Bloater, pointing out that there are times when one has to think of others and not just oneself, we all agreed that sacrificing some of the benefits of our usual detox, so others can benefit from our research, would be very well worth it.

Vacancy

I am very pleased to be able to say we have a new recruit this year. He isn't a Bloater yet of course, that only happens once he has stood on Belgian soil, passed successfully the welcome and initiation ceremony and received the much coveted Official Bloater Handbook. We still have a vacancy for this year's trip, so if any gentleman living in Brettenham would like to join us, please contact me and I will forward your application to the Chief Executive Bloater (whose name I can't reveal of course) for due consideration. Come on guys, you know you want to.

Peter Truin, Official Bloater Archivist

07799 640326 petertruin@aol.com

Friday 5th May Village Inn: Bloaters' Pie Fest
The Bloaters proudly present our May Village Inn Menu, celebrating the 700 year anniversary of the Pie, we hope you will share a slice of history !

Main Course

Fabulous Fish Pie (Regular and Gluten Free available)

with carrots and peas £10

Chicken and Mushroom or Steak and Ale Pie

with new potatoes, carrots and peas £10

Cheese, Broccoli and sweetcorn Pie

With new potatoes, carrots and peas £9

Dessert

Treacle Sponge with custard or cream £3.50

Apple Crumble with custard or cream £3.50

All dishes may contain allergens, please ask kitchen staff

St Mary's Church Brettenham

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



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/>

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.

May Programme of Services in the Benefice

These times may change, so please check before attending

7th May	The 5th Sunday of Easter		
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Coronation Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11.00am	Informal coronation service
	Brettenham	11.15am	Family Communion
14th May	The 6th Sunday of Easter		
	Brettenham	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Holy Communion
	Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion

18th May	Ascension Day		
	Rattlesden	7:30 PM	Ascension Day Eucharist
21st May	The 7th Sunday of Easter		
	Rattlesden	9:45 AM	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	10:00 AM	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
28th May	The day of Pentecost		
	Brettenham	8:30am	BCP Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	9:45 AM	Breakfast Church
	Rattlesden	11:00 AM	Quiet Service
	Hitcham	11:00 AM	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Morieux	6:00 PM	BCP Evensong

Following the disappointment of having no applications for the post of Rector of our benefice we had a zoom meeting with Bishop Mike to discuss the way forward. Apparently there are a lot of vacancies in the St Edmundsbury & Ipswich diocese at the moment but they are gradually being filled. Our vacancy was readvertised during March, with closing date at the end of April, and we hope there will be more success this time round. During the interregnum our services are being taken by visiting clergy, to whom we are very grateful, but it does mean that sometimes there has to be a change to our regular rota of services, so please check on the notice board for the latest update.

Chris and I had a meeting with the architect to try and get a clearer idea of the work and costs involved with our church roof. It will be a slow process to get specifications, quotes and grants but in the meantime we are lucky that the roof is still watertight! We have decided that to get our fundraising under way we should set up a **Friends of Brettenham Church** charity - see separate article.

Our next fixture in our church calendar will be the Summer Fair on 17th June (see poster). If you are able to help on the day do please let me know - the more help we have the more games and stalls we can run and the more money we can make!

Annie Tavener: Churchwarden

Friends of Brettenham Church

As mentioned in the March 2023 Brettenham magazine, the church roof is in need of substantial repairs to the extent that the nave roof tiles must be completely removed, the south wall propped up, several of the beams repaired and the tiles replaced or renewed. The diocesan surveyor and a structural engineer have provided their expert opinion that the PCC must raise at least £200,000.

In order to raise this very large sum of money and ensure the money is used for the roof repairs it has been proposed to establish «Friends of Brettenham Church » (FOBC) similar to that for Hitcham church. FOBC would be established as a charity and thus donations would benefit from gift aid (i.e. the charity would receive an additional 25% for each donation from HMRC).

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 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



Summer Fair

Saturday 17th June

Village Hall 12.00-3pm

BBQ lunches, licensed bar, cake and plant stalls,
bric-a-brac.

Games including bowling, golf, bagatelle, ladder,
whisky draw, etc.

Judging of the Potato In A Bucket Competition
and

Classic Car Show

Grand Draw: 1st prize £100; 2nd prize £50

Everyone welcome, FREE ENTRY

All proceeds to church funds



Nature Notes

As the weather warms up through May and into the summer months our garden spiders will become more visible to us. These spiders range in colour from dark brown to a more pale yellowy-brown. They catch flying insects in orb shaped webs and lay in wait for flying insects to get stuck in the sticky silk of the web.

May is when the young spiders hatch from the cocoon in which the female laid the eggs the previous summer. The female protects the cocoon throughout the summer until she dies in the late Autumn. As a result the tiny spiderlings are left to survive on their own the following year.

The spider silk is made of protein molecules aligned tightly together. This silk has, pound for pound, a stronger tensile strength than many types of steel. A typical spiders web can be made of different kinds of silk, each one with a different quality such as strength, stickiness and flexibility. Female Garden Spiders are larger than their male counterparts. 10-18mm compared to 4-8mm.

Spiders in general have a bit of a bad press. However, a healthy spider population will help reduce pest insects and should be welcome in any garden. Spiders obviously make no distinction between pests and helpful insects like hoverflies and bees, but they help maintain a natural balance in our gardens.

Rare Bird Spotted in Brettenham

Tom Tavener took this photo of a Black Redstart that he had spotted in his garden and farmyard over several days in April.



The RSPB estimate that there may only be around 58 pairs of Black Redstarts breeding in the UK. As a result this rare bird is on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern.

They are members of the Flycatcher family who began colonising the UK after the Second World War when heavy bombing in London and other urban areas provided a wide range of

nesting sites. They are about the size of a Robin and eat a wide variety of insects.

In winter they are rare visitors to our East Coast from Scotland down to Norfolk and along the South and South west coast of England and the coast of Wales. Suffolk, along with Cambridgeshire and Surrey are some of the counties where they occasionally reside in the summer. Let's hope they breed successfully and we have some good news to report later in the year.

David Golding

Another Rare Bird Seen In The Village



Dave Saunders sent these photos and explanation:

"I wanted to share a few pics of a rare pair of birds I had in the garden on Saturday. They were bramblings. When I looked them up they only visit in winter, and should now be in Scandinavia. They could be late leavers, but if they are a breeding pair, this is very rare and only a few pairs are known to reside and breed here. Note the female looks very much like a female chaffinch, but was bigger and had slight colouration around the chest. Beautiful." **Dave Saunders**

Brettenham Footpaths

This is a timely reminder with spring well underway and summer fast approaching that residents and visitors walking along the marked footpaths should abide by the official laid down guidelines and rules and in doing so consider local residents, wildlife and members of the farming community.

In recent weeks the chairperson of the Parish Council and myself have had a number of complaints regarding walkers straying from the official footpaths and walking around the field edge and past their garden boundaries. On being approached some of the walkers were abusive towards the residents which caused some distress and concern. It is appreciated that at certain times of the year during ploughing and reseedling the cross field footpaths are not accessible and therefore the only route is around the field edge. However once the footpaths have been re-instated walkers should use the footpaths and not continue to go around the field edge.

On another issue concerns have been raised that some residents who walk their dogs within the village are not keeping them on leads when approaching designated wildlife areas. Keeping dogs on leads during the nesting season and when young hares are in the fields is important as disturbed nests will often mean the young being abandoned and the hares being killed. We are fortunate in Brettenham to have some of the most beautiful, rural and carefully maintained footpaths in the county and it is therefore no wonder they are regularly walked by local residents and visitors who come from afar to our village to walk and view all the wildlife. All of the footpaths have been cleared of vegetation and made walkable and the footpaths that cross farmland have all been made accessible by the local farmers who have additionally displayed "Private no Entry" signs around the village to avoid confusion. Trees have been cut back and many of the footbridges repaired along the walks that go out of the parish boundary making the many circular walks accessible throughout the year.

The Brettenham Walks leaflet publication, Discover Suffolk, produced by Suffolk County Council and Brettenham Parish Council gives details of three circular walks around the village. All residents should have received a copy with their monthly magazine. Additional leaflets can be obtained in the leaflet magazine holder attached to the footpath post outside the village hall.

Much work is carried out by local farmers and the Suffolk County Council

throughout the year and it is important that these paths remain in excellent condition and residents and visitors alike respect them and use them for the purpose for which they are designed. Footpaths that go around field boundaries should be a minimum of 1.5 meters wide and paths that go across fields should be 1 meter in width. Residents are requested to keep to the footpaths and not stray from the waymarked routes. Those with dogs are to ensure they remain on leads near to residential property and not wander into the fields and crops as the pesticides and chemical sprays used may be harmful if digested by dogs or get onto their fur.

The footpaths should be a safe environment in which to walk. Should you stray away from the established route and become injured it may be difficult for you to be found either by a relative or someone else walking in the vicinity or in an extreme case the emergency services. Therefore for health and safety reasons please keep to the designated footpaths and not go onto private land.

The Grass cutting programme subject to financial constraints is soon to start with the County Council intending on carrying out two six week cutting programmes throughout the year. The first one commencing 1 May-14 June and the second one 1 August-14 September. Those residents who have drives or access points which cross or go alongside the entrances to the footpaths are requested to ensure that they are kept free during the grass cutting period in order that the cutters can gain access.

Finally to ensure all residents of Brettenham are catered for, walkers are requested to abide by the Countryside code below:

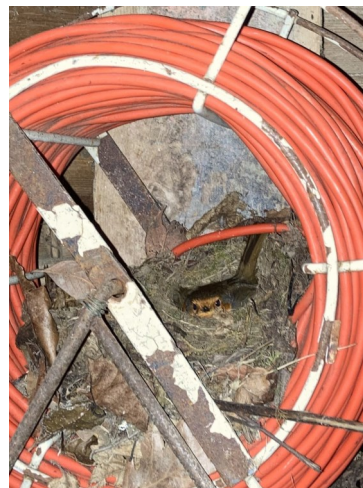
- . Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- . Leave gates and property as you would find them and follow paths.
- . Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home (including dog waste).
- . Keep dogs under effective control.
- . Plan ahead and be prepared.
- . Follow advice and local signs.

Cont'd over page

Cont'd from previous page...

Should there be any concern regarding any of the issues or you notice any footpaths/bridges that need repairing please contact the Brettenham Footpath Liaison Officer on martin.annis291@btinternet.com.

Thank You For These Lovely Photos



Left photo,
"How cosy am
I?" from Viv
Bourne



Right photo
from Harvey



Enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt in
the village



Tulips are from bulbs used on
the village green, given away
at Apple Day, old stainless
steel mop bucket bought from
church stall.

"Recycle Reuse Reduce"

Tina Potter

Recipe—Nettle Soup

Nettles are very rich in nutrients, vitamins and minerals, especially iron.

They have been used as a natural remedy in many cultures for thousands of years to help detoxify the body, regulate hormones, act as an anti-inflammatory, help with circulation and allergies.

4 large Potatoes

1 small onion

4 Cloves Garlic

Large pinch of Salt and pepper

Half a carrier bag of Nettle tops

Water



Wash potatoes and cut into small pieces, Place in a large pan and cover with water, add the salt, pepper, onion and the peeled garlic cloves. Bring to the boil and simmer until the potatoes are soft. Add one cup of boiling hot water to the pan, add the washed nettle tops and simmer for one minute. Turn off the heat and leave to stand for 15 mins.

Blend with a hand blender.

Serve warm with fresh sour dough bread.

Michelle Harvey



Farming Focus

I'm sure it hasn't escaped anyone's notice that March was wet! From my point of view, after a run of dry springs, it has been a welcome change to have plenty of moisture in the ground to get the spring drilled crops up and away and the winter cereals generally look good. I'm not sure I would be so upbeat if we hadn't had the excellent drilling conditions in February as there have been few opportunities to get on the land since then, which has been challenging for those with sugar beet still to drill. The only fertiliser left to apply is the third and final application to the winter wheat, which will be done towards the end of April. Other than that, the most important task over the next couple of months is spraying.

Spraying and the use of chemicals is probably the most emotive subject when you talk to anyone about arable farming. There seems to be a general perception that farmers needlessly spray chemicals all over the countryside for fun with no regard for the wider impact on the environment. I wouldn't imagine any farmer enjoys buying chemicals – they're extremely expensive and we always look for opportunities to cut their use through cultural control methods and careful management. Some crop pests, however, present such a large financial risk that they cannot be ignored, particularly now that inputs are so expensive. Spraying can only be done when the wind is light, meaning lots of early starts and late evenings and timings are crucial so it can be very frustrating when it is disrupted by weather.

I'll talk more about the products we use and why we use them next month but the main products we apply are herbicides, fungicides and plant growth regulators (PGRs). We have more or less stopped using insecticides except for in a couple of specific cases. Certain micronutrients such as manganese are also added through the sprayer to make up for deficiencies in the soil.

There are a lot of myths about pesticides, partly as a result of misunderstanding and partly through deliberate misinformation. The news and social media is full of inflammatory language, where you often hear phrases like the "pesticide drenched fields". The reality is that the majority of what you see coming out of the sprayer is water. Typically, we will be spraying at a water rate of 150-200 litres per hectare (l/ha) in the autumn and between 100-150 l/ha from the spring onwards. The chemical is mixed



in a hopper on the side of the sprayer from which it is then sucked into the tank and mixed with the water. Typical rates for chemical use are between 100 millilitres to 1.5 litres per hectare. Products can be mixed together to do a few different jobs in one pass of the sprayer, so at this time of year, there might typically be three different chemicals in the spray tank. The highest application rate of chemical I use throughout the whole year would be when spraying herbicide on the bean fields before the crop emerges, where we use 4 l/ha of chemical in 200 l/ha of water, so usually the chemical makes up less than 2% of what you see coming out of the sprayer.

Anybody applying chemicals on farms has to be correctly certified and then undergo annual training. The sprayer itself must also be tested annually to ensure that it functions correctly and that the chemical is applied accurately and only goes where it is intended. There are also numerous rules about how close certain products can be applied to water courses and cut off points in the plant growth stages after which they can't be applied, as well as general best practice guidance to minimise harm to anything other than the intended target. It's in all farmer's best interests to follow these rules as it is bad practice and misuse that results in chemicals getting into the water courses etc which results in products being banned. As with fertiliser, when used correctly and responsibly, pesticides make it possible to supply the large quantities of safe and cheap food that we need to satisfy our current diets.

Tom Tavener

Brettenham Gardening Club

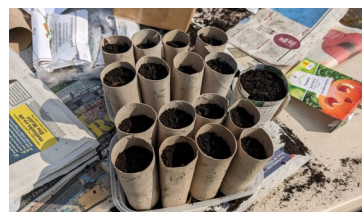
Seed Planting

With the cost of food prices rising, especially fruit and vegetables, it might be a good idea to start growing your own. It's actually easier than you think.

The gardening club decided to give everyone a chance to 'have a go' at seed planting. We held a Saturday morning seed planting workshop at the village hall. This was very well attended by 29 people from the village and surrounding areas. We had donations of seeds and potting compost. A big thank you to those that donated!!



David Golding showed us how to make plastic free pots out of newspaper and how to reuse our toilet roll middles by planting seeds in them. Once the seeds have grown and the frosts have passed these can then be planted into your garden or planters.



As a little bit of competitive fun we have planted sunflower seeds to see who can get the tallest sunflower, pumpkin seeds to see who can grow the biggest pumpkin, peas, sweet peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, runner beans, courgettes and many more. Good luck everyone with your growing!!!!

Michelle Harvey

Our thanks to David Golding for these photos of the Seed Planting event at the Village Hall in April.



The photo on the right shows some of the baby geraniums that are being grown-on by Gardening Club members for the summer display on the Village Green



Cricket Club Report

There's no sense in cricket. Standing in a field for hours, in blazing sun just long enough to get burned, or in cold just long enough to catch a shiver, watching with increasing exasperation as the batters accumulate a score you think you might beat, before the theatrical denouement in which you don't, isn't many people's idea of fun.

And yet, I don't think I'm the only one whose excitement at the coming summer is mostly tied to the sound of leather on willow. Perhaps it's also the fare; cream teas, a break for some orange squash, post-game drinks in the beer garden. I'm not sure any other sport is quite as damaging to the waistline.

It seems churlish to note that Brettenham won only one game last season. Out of 18. I like to think each of our defeats was a moral victory. But I'm not sure what the moral was.

Relegation can be galvanising, however. I heard a rumour one of our team bought a new bat. At last month's AGM, someone suggested we organise a training session. I feel sure we are on the mend.

In the absence of a big-money backer, we are always on the lookout for local talent. Main qualifications are functional eyesight and ability to take defeat on the chin, though the former is not compulsory.

We have players ranging in ability and age, from as young as 14, to as old as Richard Carter, who played his first game for the club in the early 60s. Do drop me a line at harvey.daniell@outlook.com if you're interested in finding out more (about the club, not about Richard Carter).

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, which will be played on Sunday 9th July at our ground on Brettenham Park.

The game will take a friendly format, and no experience is required, so if you'd like to volunteer for the village team, then please do drop me a line at the same address - I'd love to hear from you.

Harvey Daniell

Brettenham Cricket Club 2023 fixtures		
	Home team	Away team
Sunday games		
7 th May	Melton St Audrys	Brettenham
21 st May	Bardwell	Brettenham
4 th June	Brettenham	Walsham Le Willows
11 th June	Battisford	Brettenham
25 th June	Old Newton	Brettenham
2 nd July	Brettenham	Battisford
9 th July	Brettenham club	Brettenham village
16 th July	Walsham Le Willows	Brettenham
23 rd July	Brettenham	Waldringfield
30 th July	Newmarket	Brettenham
6 th August	Brettenham	Old Newton
13 th August	Brettenham	Bardwell
20 th August	Waldringfield	Brettenham
3 rd September	Brettenham	Melton St Audrys
10 th September	Brettenham	Newmarket
Wednesday games		
7 th June	Stowupland	Brettenham
14 th June	Brettenham	Mid-Suffolk
21 st June	Old Newton	Brettenham
28 th June	Stowmarket	Brettenham
5 th July	Brettenham	Bardwell
12 th July	Semi-finals	
19 th July	Finals	

A Rural Education Part 9

This month Stuart introduces us to more of his teachers at Beyton School in the 1970s. They were quite an eccentric and eclectic mix...

Mrs Stokes taught English and was based in Room C. Her classes were managed in a strict fashion and woe betide any pupil stepping out of line. Mrs Stokes tolerated no deviation from the given task and seemed to have little patience. Unfortunately, her classes do not bring back good memories. My recollection is that she would be on duty at the morning assembly to check the female pupils were properly presented and she would share her views of their presentation if she was not satisfied.

Mr and Mrs Cockle, who lived at Felsham, were married and both teachers at Beyton. They both taught art and the art rooms were located on the third floor affording excellent views of the school grounds and surrounding area. The art rooms were well equipped and had large desks and also there were facilities for pottery including a kiln.

The art classes were enjoyable and both Mr and Mrs Cockle were enthusiastic. Towards the end of the summer term when the exams were taking place the rooms would gradually become an exhibition of the artwork that each pupil had to produce in preparation for the exam, I think it was a minimum of five separate pieces. I think that nowadays I would have found it rather easier given some of the examples of modern art which have gained great acclaim. I could have probably found some bricks to arrange artistically. Amazingly I did manage to pass the exam (CSE, Certificate Secondary Education) although I have no recollection of what I managed to produce.

I can remember admiring the work others had produced as we were invited to view work from those pupils who were already preparing for the exam. I believe that Mr and Mrs Cockle were quite involved with the church at Felsham and that Mrs Cockle may have been involved in running the lunch club for older people.

Mrs Clarke taught English, and her classroom was the library which was situated at the end of the Headmaster's corridor. The lessons were conducted by Mrs Clarke in a very professional manner. She was my class tutor so Registration and the final part of the day waiting for the bus home was spent in the library. A routine of near silence was maintained, and pupils were encouraged to read quietly. There was little humour in the lessons, and Mrs Clarke managed the class in a quiet and controlled

manner somehow ensuring that pupils were aware that she was not going to tolerate any nonsense. Given the location of the Library I suppose Mrs Clarke felt a greater responsibility to maintain order as she would be closer to scrutiny from the Headmaster.

Mr Pike taught Science. I have little recollection of his classes but I do recall that he drove a Riley Elf. This was essentially similar to a Mini but with a larger boot and a more luxurious interior. After he retired a new teacher was appointed Mr Bob Lock. He taught science and was keen on football and took some of the after-school games clubs. He was a popular teacher and his obituary online from 2012 has many positive comments.

In addition to Mr Sifflett Religious Knowledge was also taught by Revd Cosmo Norman Kendal. He was the Vicar of Buxhall and in those days Brettenham was also one of his parishes. He taught regularly at Beyton School but possibly not full time. I seem to recollect that in the past he had been a School Headmaster. He was the Rector of Buxhall from 1949 until 1995 so he was incumbent until the age of 82 years.

Mr John Drinkwater taught Maths at Beyton and I recall that he regularly used to cycle from his home in Poy Street Rattlesden to Beyton. Prior to teaching he had been in the RAF and after a period teaching he then became a Probation Officer. His wife, also a teacher at Rattlesden and Stowmarket, celebrated her 100th birthday in 2020. Her husband had died at aged 73.

Stuart Earle



A Brettenham sunset. Photo by Viv Bourne



Big Help Out

Have you sometimes thought about doing a bit of volunteering, but have never really been sure about where to start?

Well, as part of celebrations for the coronation, The King has invited members of the public to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Starting on Monday 8th May there will be opportunities for everyone to join in. No matter what you are good at, there's always something to suit helping hands of all shapes and sizes; from checking in on someone who'd like a bit of company, to volunteering for a charity.

There is a website available to search (and to post) opportunities for volunteering: thebighelpout.org.uk

There are also lots of opportunities available in the village itself. Perhaps you're new to Brettenham. Or perhaps you'd just like to help out a bit.

At the moment, we are in need of a new website editor for the village pages, and there are also vacancies on the parish council. The Brettenham Village Association are also always on the lookout for things like an extra pair of hands behind the bar.

Civil society – the realm of voluntary associations – has been in measurable decline in the UK for some time, which makes the vibrant set of associations in places like Brettenham all the more precious.

So if you can spare an hour...fantastic, or the day...amazing. If it becomes a regular thing, so much the better. If we all do our bit, it really helps a lot.

Please do get in touch at Harvey.daniell@outlook.com if you'd like to find out more. I'd be happy to point you in the right direction.

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 or call 07774744723



Remember The Mobile Library

It stops at the village Hall 12.45-13.05 and at the Church 15.20-15.35 the first Friday of the month

For Sale: I have been given a large piece of glass to use as a splash back behind a bath or cooker or somewhere that needs protecting. It is 110 inches x 75 inches . Cost £145 new. Please make me an offer for the stall in aid of our church!. If interested contact: Viv at vivbourne@gmail.com

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

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[This Photo](#)

SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2-5PM

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Due to very popular demand, we have filled all the sit down spaces for the Coronation Afternoon Tea. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take anymore bookings for the Tea. However, if you wish to join in the celebrations, the bar will be open and if the weather is kind to us there will be plenty of room for people to join in and have a drink outside at the Village Hall as the bar will be open all afternoon. If the weather is a little cool we will have the fire pit alight to keep warm. We look forward to seeing you all.

MONDAY 8TH MAY

THE BIG HELP OUT

As part of celebrations for the coronation, The King has invited members of the public to take part in [The Big Help Out](#), which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. For more information on how you can get involved see page 28.