

BRETtenham MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023
No 428



Welcome...

to an absolute bumper edition. Brewing features this month (page 23) - thank you Tim and see page 7 to meet our new Rector, a warm welcome to Reverend Sharon Grenham-Thompson. Thanks to new resident, Alice Walton, for the photo on the front cover and the beautiful sunset pic (below). We are also grateful to Kate Treacher for sharing a poem, written by Bill back in 1992, Suffolk Bliss (page 30).

Did you know that you can find previous copies of the Magazine on the village website at www.brettenham.onesuffolk.net/our-village/parish-magazine. 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

August Winners: 1st - Lucy Baker

2nd - Peter Truin

3rd - Louis Gooderham

Summer Winners:

1st Gordon McDonald

2nd Fiona Camp

3rd Cathy Schofield

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 1st September—Village Inn 7.30pm

Tuesday 5th September —Village coffee Morning 10.30-12.00

Sunday 17th September - Apple Day with Sunday Village Inn

Thursday 21st September—Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

Friday 22nd September—Mobile Library (see info opposite)

Monday 2nd October—BVA meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd October —Village coffee Morning 10.30-12.00

Friday 6th October— Village Inn 7.30pm

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
Friday every 4 weeks
Next visit- 22.09.23

October Mag Deadline:

15th October

*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 Gardening Club presents Apple Day at the Village Inn Sunday 17th September 2023 12.00 noon – 4pm



Bring along your apples and pears and take home the juice!
Fruit pressing for Brettenham residents is free.

Making your own juice: To make your own juice, book your slot, bring
along your apples, and we will do the rest. The slot time will allow for
20KG of apples to be pressed but do not worry if you do not have that
many apples, in previous years we have mixed apples and the juice
produced has always been sweet and flavoursome.

Please remember to save your plastic bottles, clean them and bring them
on the day to fill with your juice. An information sheet will be sent to you
when you book.

To book your slot, contact Lyn Rufus by 11th September:
lyn.rufus@outlook.com.

The bar will be open for refreshments from 12 noon and traditional apple
picking food of Cornish pasties, sausage rolls, (vegetarian options will be
provided) apples and apple cake will be available on the playing field.

Would you like to help with the event? We will need volunteers to put up
the marquee, bake pasties and cakes, serve the food, and help with the
juicing on the day.

If interested, please contact Michelle Harvey 07535 814939
brettenhamgardeningclub@gmail.com

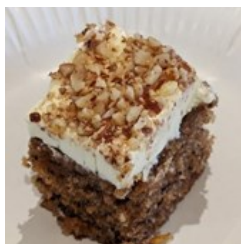


Carrie's Carrot Cake



This cake was popular at the August Village Coffee Morning, so we thought we would share it in the Magazine. As you can see from the photo, Bev was one of the satisfied customers.

This recipe makes enough for a traybake of about 20 slices so you may want to halve the quantities, but it does keep well in the fridge.



For the cake

10oz/275g self-raising flour
12oz/350g caster sugar
2 tsp baking powder
3oz/75g chopped nuts,
I used a mix of pecan, walnuts and almonds
4tsp ground cinnamon
3tsp ground ginger
10fl oz/300ml sunflower oil
10oz/275g carrots, grated
4 eggs, beaten
2 tsp vanilla essence

For the topping

14oz/400g full fat soft
cheese, I used Philadelphia
4 tsp clear Suffolk honey
4 tsp grated orange rind
More of the chopped nuts to
decorate

Pre-heat oven to 180°C/Gas 4

Grease and line 12 x 9in/30 x 23cm cake tin.

Measure all dry ingredients into a large bowl. Add the oil, grated carrots, eggs and vanilla essence. Mix really well. Pour into prepared cake tin.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 50 – 60 minutes until well risen, golden brown and firm to the touch. I always do a skewer test, if the skewer comes out clean, it's cooked. Allow to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to finish cooling.

For the topping, mix all the ingredients together then spread evenly over the cooled cake and sprinkle with the extra chopped nuts.

Carrie Dye

Brettenham Parish Council

Have your say...

Neighbourhood Plan – as this is being reviewed it is apparent there are still a number of areas that require further work so if you are interested in helping push this to completion please contact me asap. The Neighbourhood Plan is thought to have a significant role in how we want our village to look in the future so it is in all our interests to ensure it can be progressed as quickly as possible.

Replacement signposts - If you are travelling out towards Stowmarket from the village you may have noticed the new signposts for Old School Corner and Buxhall Road have now been installed, a much smarter introduction to the village. Thanks to Robert Lindsay for part funding these.

Vacancy Arisen - After many years volunteering as the Internal Auditor for the Parish Council, Mr Roger Bier has stepped away from the role. We are very grateful for his work and the help he has given us. We are looking for a volunteer to replace him in the role so if you are interested and have the experience that fits the role please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss.

Email: brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Tour of Britain 2023 – I am sure cycling fans will be well aware of Stage 5 of this event starting and finishing in Felixstowe on Thu 7 Sep this year. It will be passing through Babergh and Mid Suffolk, full details can be found on <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk>

Next Meeting is Thursday 21st September

Alyson Wilson 07798 633044

Any queries through the Parish Clerk

at brettenhamparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Clerk/RFO: Della Clarke Chair: Alyson Wilson

Hello, from Reverend Sharon Grenham-Thompson

You know that hymn which begins 'God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform'? Well, I think that sums up the past few weeks for me. I'm Sharon Grenham-Thompson, the new Rector, and I'm really looking forward to meeting you all. And I say 'mysterious ways' because my coming here has unfolded quite quickly, and rather unexpectedly, but in a way that, to me, is unmistakably a divine hand being revealed. A conversation here, an email there, an inkling and a visit – and suddenly I found myself being grilled by the parish representatives! In fact, they were lovely, (as was the all the food), and I've been blown away by the warmth and welcome I've received already, even though I haven't started yet.



I start officially on 11th September, so look out for details of my induction service. Although I'll be living in the Rattlesden Rectory, I will be spending plenty of time in each of the four parishes that make up the Benefice, and I hope to see many of you out and about (and in church!). I'm moving to this beautiful part of the country with my husband Richard, who is originally a Suffolk boy (born in Ipswich and lived in various places in the county). I'm a West Country girl by heritage, my family originating in Gloucestershire. I was ordained 25 years ago, and I've been living and working in Milton Keynes and Bedford for the past two decades. I've been in parish ministry, but I've also been a prison chaplain too (so not a lot shocks me!). I've also been lucky enough to make radio broadcasting part of my ministry – you may have heard me on various religion and ethics offerings on BBC Radio 2 and Radio 4.

Our family is blended – Richard has 2 adult sons, David and Luke (the latter lives in Australia), and I have 2 adult children, Ellie and Charlie. At home we have Gabriel, who is just about to go off to university in September. We also miss my son Leo, who died in 2021 aged 17. There's a mad spaniel called Bruce, an elderly cat Tilly, a budgie named Robin and a cockatiel called John. That's a lot of names for you to remember – I can only say it's

me getting in early, because it will take me a while to learn all your names too! So until we meet, I wish you every blessing, and hope that these summer months bring you some rest and refreshment, as well as the right balance of sunshine and rain.

Sharon

Autumn is Coming

Thank you for all the lovely photo taken around Brettenham sent in by residents old and new.



Ellie Brinkley

Fete accompli

SIR – Before moving to Ireland (Letters, August 3), my wife and I visited Lismore in Co Waterford.

On the village hall was a notice advertising the village fete. It read: "If it rains in the afternoon, the fete will be held in the morning."

Richard Williams
Valentia Island, Co Kerry

Viv sent us a newspaper clipping she found entitled 'Fete accompli'.

A Lucky Escape!

On August 5th, what started as a regular dog walk for Fred and Ralph the dog, albeit in torrential rain, took on a startling turn of events! A crash of thunder and flash of lightening surprised them as they came onto Bury Road from Dux Street. With a almighty crack a tree fell, completely blocking the road and resting on telegraph poles.

UK power networks were called immediately and they asked for photos, then arranged police to attend to stop pedestrians and cars when they realised how serious the situation was. As Fred said, 'They were very pro-active and managed the situation swiftly. The teams worked through the night and straightened the telegraph poles.' The next morning both houses woke up to a powercut, but power networks were out within the hour to right the situation. Thankfully no-one was hurt due to quick thinking and a quick response, but it must have been quite a shock for all concerned.



Fred Rufus



Village Inn

Friday 1st September 7.30pm

Church volunteers will be providing the food for the September Village Inn and again for the December Village Inn. Do please support these evenings as they are an important source of revenue towards our regular church expenses. Thank you, Annie

Mains

Chicken and sweetcorn au gratin with
baked potato and peas (GF) £10.00
Venison casserole with baked potato
and peas £10.00
Sri Lankan sweet potato and
green bean curry with rice (V) £9.00

Puddings

Blackberry and apple crumble with custard £3.50
Plum pudding and ice cream £3.50
'Criterion' salted caramel or vanilla tub £3.00

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





Our two lovely new road signs - Carrie Dye



A beautiful sky - Viv Bourne

Village Hall Hire Rates

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

BVA Update

Village Hall Damage By way of an update I thought I'd inform all our readers where we are regarding the village hall damage and repairs following the recent accident involving a tractor unit and 40' trailer. It's the usual combination of driver miscalculation and hall, with the hall coming off considerably worse.

First and certainly foremost, to reassure all, we immediately instigated a structural survey to be completed on the hall and the resultant report, which I'm able to share with you on request, has deemed that the hall is fit for purpose albeit without the use of the emergency exit at the far end (the original porch entrance). We've also received authorisation from the Suffolk Fire Safety Team to cover the emergency exit sign above this end door and render this point of access and egress 'out-of-order' until effective repairs have been completed. Insurance companies are on the case as I write and all liabilities will be covered at no expense to the BVA.

Given that this type of impact appears to be a frequent occurrence and now with the substantial damage incurred during this latest collision, it should come as no surprise that this presents us with an opportunity to re-evaluate the functional purpose and the form of the next rebuild. The damaged portion of the village hall and historical access point for OBH (now private lane) is under scrutiny insofar that the current living Trustees of the hall and members of the BVA Exec Team are in agreement that the end of the hall should serve more 'functionally' rather than the historical and current cosmetic 'form'. The pillar at the end of the hall serves no purpose other than offering a vernacular outlook, which is simply a sympathetic nod to the previous school entrance. Aspirationally, we're looking to extend the current footprint of the hall end, in terms of length of the exit room, to incorporate a cleaners cupboard and storage area. The appearance to the front elevation and current arched doorway will remain the same as it is today. I'm sure some of you may have views on this issue so I urge you to bring them along to the next BVA meeting where we can gather your thoughts and discuss them within the correct forum.

Needless to say there will not be a quick resolve to the current state of the hall, particularly while we're in the process of waiting for quotes to either re-install the pillar and repair the damaged wall, or, reconfigure the current footprint without the pillar. I'll keep you all updated as we

progress. Please be assured that Babergh County Council along with our Parish Council will be consulted throughout the process.

BVA Meeting While on the subject, the next BVA meeting is scheduled to be held in the village hall on **Monday 2nd Oct at 7.30pm**. Please come along and share your vision, thoughts and ideas on all matters regarding our future events, requests for enhancements to your hall and matters which would improve your BVA as we move forward. I'll send out the minutes from the previous meeting ahead and in due course.

Friday Village Inn As we continue to look ahead, we have all our Friday Village Inns covered with either concession vans or food providers for the remainder of this year, so please come along and support those who are taking the time to provide the BVA with a much valued and appreciated service. Sept & Oct will see a return of the Church and BVA members respectively cooking in the kitchen. With the annual Apple Day provided by the Gardening Club coinciding with our Sunday Village Inn (17th September) I hope to see you all for the last vestiges of summer before we start to focus on this year's tailenders.

Don't forget, and it's never too early to mention - **The big New Years Eve bash with live music from Funk Shed!!** More info in the coming months.

Ozzie, BVA Chair

Village Inn
Friday 1st September
The bar is open from 7.30pm.

**Come along for a relaxed chat with
friends, neighbours and family.**

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

Before our new rector is installed, 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.

Meet our new Rector

We are looking forward to the arrival of our new rector, Rev. Sharon Grenham-Thompson, along with her husband Richard and son Gabriel; Sharon will be installed as our rector on 11th September at Hitcham church at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this service and we do hope there will be lots of support from Brettenham. I have been asked to point out that parking for the service will be in Hitcham's new overflow church carpark which is off Fen Lane and opposite the entrance to Church Lane. It will be sign posted. There is a short walk up Church Lane to the church. There is limited parking for the less able up at the church. The Fen Lane carpark surface is grass covered by a mesh so those wearing high heels must alight at the gate; it is also still a bit uneven. Please do not park on Church Green (under the oak tree) as that space will all be reserved, but it can be used as a drop off point. There is also parking up by the church for wheelchair users only.

Annie Tavener 01449 736412

September Programme of Services in the Benefice

Please keep an eye on the noticeboard for times and types of service.

Times may change, so please check before attending

3rd September	The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Breakfast Church
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
10th September	The Fourteenth 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
17th September	The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9.45am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11.00am	Holy Communion
24th September	The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity		
	Rattlesden	9:45am	Holy Communion
	Rattlesden	11:00am	Quiet Service
	Brettenham	11am	Morning Prayer
	Hitcham	11:00am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Morieux	6pm	BCP Evensong

Brettenham Church—Raise the roof

We feel sure that villagers agree that our lovely parish church needs saving, and to do this we will need to fundraise consistently through the next year to raise as much as we can towards the overall cost of renewing the roof—currently predicted to be over £200,000. Of course we will be applying for as many grants as possible, but most will expect us to have raised the first 25% ourselves, so we need to raise £50,000 over the next few months. Please look out for fundraising activities planned and support them as far as possible. If you have great ideas for fundraising or want to make a donation **please call either Annie Tavener on 01449 736412 or Chris Clarke on 07483841531.**



**Remember, Remember,
the 9th of September!**

**Suffolk Historic Churches
Ride & Stride
50 Years & Counting!**

**Can you help reach the goal
of raising a record £250,000?**

We need riders and sponsors.
50% of the money the cyclist raises
goes to the Trust for paying out
in grants to historic churches and
the other 50% goes to the
church of the cyclists choosing.
You can walk rather than cycle
and can even be sponsored for
sitting in the church signing people in.

Details and Sponsor forms are available from shct.org.uk or
from the Local Organisers who usually leave some in the porches.

This will take place on Saturday 9th September, from 9am-5pm, and is an opportunity for everyone to cycle – or walk – round the countryside, visiting our wonderful Suffolk churches and raise money for the charity and for the church of your choice (50% to each) at the same time. Sponsorship forms are available from me.

Annie Tavener 01449 736412



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.

Classes cost £7 a class, pay-as-you-go.

For more information, contact Leonie on 07866897651

The cost of living is affecting everyone, not least those who need help the most. Please remember that donations of food or a financial contribution would help your community a great deal, so please donate what you can. Please see details 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

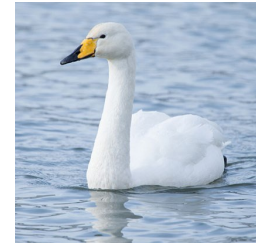
Anne-Marie Hodgkiss 07818 286770

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

Nature Notes

As Autumn begins the fields are beginning to empty but the hedgerows are full of berries and fruits, including rosehips, blackberries, crab apples and damsons. The migration of birds is well underway as birds leave and arrive on our shores. Food supplies are hoarded by squirrels and rodents as they prepare for the cold winter months. Wasps are still widespread, spiders appear in larger numbers and dragonflies are gradually declining in number. This is also the month when fungi are widespread in our woods and hedgerows. Whooper swans begin arriving in Welney in their hundreds on a daily basis later in the Autumn and are an amazing site if you fancy a drive out to the Wildfowl and Wetland trust site in the village.



We will probably begin to notice an increase in the numbers of blackbirds that appear in our gardens as the temperature in other parts of Europe starts to fall. Fieldfares and redwings are common sights in and around Brettenham as they make their way to our shores from Scandinavia. If you fancy a trip to the Suffolk coast, I'm thinking of Minsmere and the Dunwich area, look up for waders such as knot, dunlin and black tailed godwit who spend their time on the mudflats there.

David Golding



Knot



Black-tailed Godwit



Dunlin

Lavenham Literary Festival Dinner 2023

Friday 17th November, The Swan Hotel, Lavenham

Author and journalist Carla Carlisle is the guest speaker for this very popular event. She will be talking about her book *Another Country*, a collection of her recent articles in Country Life magazine. For nearly thirty years she has written regularly about the wider world from her home in Suffolk and runs The Leaping Hare restaurant at Wyken.

Tickets, which include dinner and an aperitif, will cost £80 and will be available from Noon on Monday 11th September.

To book tickets, please email functions@theswanatlavenham.co.uk and include your telephone number where possible.

Please note that tickets are restricted to 2 per booking and that emails sent before 12 o'clock will not be accepted. It will be possible to telephone or to call in at the Swan after 12 to ask Reception for help, although we strongly recommend the email option if possible.

The Swan will respond to your emails in strict order of receipt with an indication of whether your application has been successful. For further details go to www.lavenhamliteraryfestival.co.uk.

FOBS Friends of Bildeston Surgery

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the coffee morning tombola and raffle that was held in Whatfield at the end of July. It was very well supported by people from the local area and altogether we raised £389.

David Golding



Farming Focus

After a fairly late start due to the wet weather, the main part of harvest is now well and truly underway. As I write this on 14th August, we have done about half of the total area of combinable crops and the weather looks slightly more settled over the next ten days so hopefully the wheat will be finished towards the end of the month.

I share a combine with Peter, which has worked very well over the years. It means we can operate a much larger and higher specification machine than we could justify on our own individual farms, allowing us to get over the ground more quickly and efficiently and with less soil compaction. It also makes a busy time of year much more of a sociable team effort. We usually alternate who has the combine each day, although if a particular crop needs harvesting urgently, to preserve the quality of milling wheat before rain is expected for example, then we would prioritise that. This also means once we have spent a day combining, we have the following day to handle the grain and put it through the grain store or load lorries for Camgrain etc. The combine can put out 40+ tonnes per hour, so there can be quite a big pile of wheat after a good day combining.

For the combine to operate reliably, it has to be serviced every day. We blow it down after every day to remove the build-up of dust and chaff which would otherwise be a fire risk. The radiator has to be blown out and bearings regularly greased as well as generally checking over all belts and pulleys to try to identify any potential problems before they cause an expensive breakdown resulting in downtime during the day. We had a small problem last week when the dust extractor which helps to keep the radiator clean got blocked and some chaff started smouldering in the engine bay. Fortunately I could smell it through the air con in the cab and was able to put it out with a drum of water which we always carry on board but it was a bit worrying for a while!

The spring barley was ready before the wheat this year and was harvested during the last week of July, whereas it normally comes somewhere in the middle of the wheat harvest. This makes harvest logistics so much simpler as we can get the barley put away in the grain store and clean everything down to just concentrate on the wheat. Barley dust is horribly itchy, so it's great to have it out of the way and thoroughly clean the combine rather than having to deal with it every morning during the daily servicing! Yields

were generally good and it all made the top distilling grade, so we should get a healthy malting premium.

From what we have harvested of the wheat so far, yields seem to be good but the quality has been knocked a bit due to the bad weather. The specific weight (a measurement of the density of the grain) is fairly low although not yet at the point where it causes loads to be rejected. Protein levels in the wheat which I have sent to Camgrain so far have been disappointingly low, meaning wheat which would normally be used for milling or cereal production has been graded as animal feed, which we get paid less for. This is probably because, due to the very high price of fertiliser last year, I cut back the amount of nitrogen applied by about 20%. On top of this, the very dry weather in late May and through June would have meant very little nitrogen was taken up into the ear of the wheat as it developed. It sounds as though it is a widespread problem as premiums for milling wheat are particularly high this year.

Now that there are a few harvested fields, thoughts are starting to turn to autumn cultivation work, which is when things really get busy. We usually aim to start drilling next year's crop in the first week of October, so there is a lot to do between now and then!

Tom Tavener



Loading wheat Tom Tavener



Ella Brinkley



“What’s the matter Lager-boy, scared you might taste something?”

The pie in the sky idea, is to brew beer made from Brettenham sourced water, grain and hops, by forming a community cooperative that can grow the raw ingredients to produce ale/s that can be enjoyed in the village.

Before we moved from West Yorkshire down to Suffolk, I mainly drank lager (I thought that Real Ale tasted like stale old farts!) brewed by the big 6 breweries who owned 50% of the public houses and produced 85% of the beer imbibed in England. You could walk into any pub in the UK, and the same choice of beer was found on tap. The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) set up in 1971 by like-minded, mainly middle aged, bearded ale drinkers pushed back against the big 6 and gradually, beers from small-batch breweries were once again back on tap at British pubs, producing a range of vastly different beers for those who preferred ale brewed with care, attention and flavour, unlike the homogenous bland offerings brewed by the big 6.

I went to my first Bury St Edmunds Beer Festival in 2006, at the Corn Exchange, where my love for Real Ale began. The multitude of beers and the different flavours that could be produced with just four ingredients, water, grain, hops and yeast really got me excited, and with Bury pubs like the The Old Cannon Brewery and the Beerhouse brewing their own interesting beers and regularly changing their small brewery guest ales, a large selection of beverages were available to try. We have a lot to thank CAMRA for, and the range of what are now called Craft Ales is huge, with bountiful offerings readily available. The UK's nano, micro and small breweries are delivering some of the most interesting, aroma rich and flavourful beers ever produced and imports from wider Europe, America and down-under are bringing new flavour palates and aromas that have influenced the types of beer being produced by our British brewers today.

Brettenham Brewery I started homebrewing in 2017, using beer kits and basic equipment purchased from Dale who owns Harts Homebrew in Stowmarket, using a tin of dehydrated liquid gloopy malt, mixed with water in a fermenting bucket to produce wort, then sprinkling a packet of yeast on top to make the beer. My first kit brew was a disaster, I was too excited and wanted to watch the chemistry in action, lifting the lid of the fermenting bucket every day – a cardinal sin in brewing - as oxygen and beer do not mix, and I ended up making malt vinegar. This taught me a valuable lesson, but with Dale's help and advice my second beer kit brew was pretty good.

Fermenting Bucket with Yeast Formation (Krausen)

I caught the brewing bug and after a few more beer kits, was lucky enough to be gifted an all-in-one brewing system by my dad. This is a scaled down version of the systems that can be found in all breweries, where the raw ingredients of grain, water and hops are turned into wort using a four-step process. With this equipment I can produce around 23 Litres in a single six-hour brewday. Once cooled to 20° C and placed in the fermenting bucket, a packet of yeast is added on top of the wort, the yeast consumes most of the sugar in the grain and



converts it into alcohol and a by-product carbon dioxide (which is released via an airlock so that your beer does not explode!). After waiting another two weeks the beer is ready to bottle. By adding a small amount of sugar to the beer in the bottle, the yeast is reactivated, and carbon dioxide is once again produced and then captured within the capped bottle, giving the ale a light fizziness that helps form the white fluffy head that sits

atop the pint. Four weeks from brew day, the beer can be enjoyed, although some styles do require extra maturation.



My current all-in-one setup I now brew 9 beers, of varying style and have just written my 10th recipe, which will be the first gyle (batch) of the yet-to-be named Bretttenham brew, and this brings me back to the beginning of the article, postulating my pie in the sky idea for producing an ale with ingredients grown in our beautiful village. After conversing with some like-minded Bretttenham-folk, plans are afoot to achieve just this.

Watch this space as we try to make this endeavour a reality!

Tim Schofield

Scenes from behind the bar



"Good to see the new younger bar volunteers are keeping Mick on his toes. Or rather knees. If anyone is interested, this particular tippie is known as a Fireball Bomb - in the shot glass is Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey Liqueur, with Redbull in the bigger glass. And yes, you drink them both together!"

Pete Knight

Sudbury and District Citizens Advice

Advice column

My children are starting new schools in September, one is in primary school and the other secondary. Between uniforms, PE kit and knowing they'll need to catch the bus each day the costs are adding up. I'm already pretty stretched, so I'm not sure how to cover these extra outgoings. Is there any help I can get?

A new school year can put pressure on lots of people's budgets, so you're not alone in your worries. But there is help available. A good place to start is the Citizens Advice website where you'll find lots of information on the support you might be entitled to for school-related costs.

The help you can get to cover school lunches will vary depending on how old your children are and if you claim benefits. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You can apply for free school meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support. The full list is available on the Citizens Advice website, www.citizensadvice.org.uk

You mentioned concerns about travel costs. If your child can't walk to school because of special educational needs or disabilities, they should get free school transport. You may be able to get help with transport costs from your Local Education Authority if your children can't walk because it's dangerous or too far. Your Local Education Authority is part of your local council that deals with education in your area, you can find yours on GOV.UK. Contact it directly to find out exactly what support it offers.

If you're on a low income, your Local Education Authority may also be able to help you with activity and school uniform costs. You're likely to be considered to be on a low income if you get means-tested benefits like Universal Credit or Housing Benefit. In some places there are also local charitable schemes that can help. A good place to find out about these is the school itself or Parent Teacher Association (PTA) both will usually know if these kinds of schemes exist.

A lot of people are feeling the squeeze at the moment, but it's important to remember that help is available with starting school costs and you're not alone. For more information visit the Citizens Advice website **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** telephone: **01787 321400** (leave a message)

A Rural Education Part 13

Stuart has been sharing his memories with us each month for over a year. This month we learn more about the teachers and Stuart does a bit of name dropping!

Most teachers had responsibility for a multi year tutor group. I was in the tutor group of Mr Thorpe a Science Teacher. I was not taught by him but he had overall pastoral care of those in the group. My first job after leaving school was as a barman and his wife also worked in the same pub, Troston Bull. It was initially quite strange meeting in that environment. Although I did not take Chemistry, Rick Keeling the teacher of that subject, was a great character. He often led assemblies and sang and played his guitar. Although he appeared a gentle character he would not tolerate any misbehaviour and would quickly admonish students. As well as teaching he was a semi professional folk singer and was well known on the folk circuit around the Southampton area prior to moving to Woolpit. He had written and performed many songs some of which can still be accessed via YouTube. Sadly he died very suddenly in 1989. He was by then Head of the Science Department. A Memorial fund was set up by one of his colleagues to offer financial support to pupils to enable them to progress with challenges, projects and enlightenment. The teacher who set up the fund was Ian Toulson. He taught Maths.

As part of the fund raising efforts for the memorial fund he started sponsored cycle rides and has travelled tens of thousands of miles in Europe, America and Australia. He has kept a record of his adventures and there are a series of books which outline these (iansbikerides.org.uk). Some years ago he appeared on Countdown and in his words came second. I met him once in Clare and chatted with him. His hall mark is the knee length red socks he always wears when cycling.

Famous and Infamous Pupils Football is not a sport in which I have other than a passing interest however, I was at school with Gary Stevens who later achieved fame in the world of football. He played for Brighton and Hove Albion, Tottenham Hotspur Portsmouth and played in the 1986



Gary Stevens 1986

World Cup for England. He had to retire from playing at aged 30 due to injury and since then has managed various clubs in Azerbaijani, Ireland and Thailand and has worked on a number of TV channels including Talk Sport, Sky and Fox. He was friendly and something of a joker in the tutor group but a likeable character. His sister Sue was also in the tutor group and she too was a likeable individual. In another tutor group there was a brother and sister Guy and Troy Cooper. Troy was studying the same subjects as me. Guy brother was a few years younger. Their father Edmund Cooper was a science fiction writer and poet and produced over twenty novels and short stories. Many of his books are still available.

Stuart Earle

Thank you very much Stuart for your contribution to the magazine with your memories which will have resonated with so many residents. Ed

Feel like some exercise?

Do you like music?

Do you like dancing?

How about street dance with a difference?



Practice sessions:

from 17th September, 7.30 – 9 pm, Haughley Village Hall, near Stowmarket



**We're a friendly group,
come and join us!
No experience needed and no obligation**

Our dances originated in the textile mills of Lancashire and Cheshire.

For more information: ring Sue 01449 766747 or Gill 01449 673518, or look at our Facebook page

Gardening Club - Scarecrows

What a very busy time it been for the gardening club this month. Thank you to everyone that took the time to make a scarecrow and display it. I have got to say that we have some very imaginative and talented people amongst us.

The Scarecrows were judged by residents and visitors to Brettenham. We've had some lovely positive comments and its certainly brightened up some of the wet and windy summer days.

1st prize—Heather and Aaryn's accident waiting to happen

2nd Prize—Wendy's Rabbit at Humphrey's orchard and his friend stealing the carrots

3rd Prize—Georgia and Thomas—Twins helping in the garden.

All were amazing— Well done Brettenham





Saturday August 19th was the Gardening Club celebration and show. We had a small but very enthusiastic turnout. Please get in touch if you would like to join us next year.

The Cynthia cup was awarded to David Golding for his endless support and time he gives to the club each year.



The cup was presented by our youngest attendee.

**Sunflower competition-
1st Place—
Wilf's sunflower at 226cm**

Well done Wilf!!!!

Michelle Harvey



Write on....



Going through Bill's papers I've come across a poem (sort of) he scribbled in the garden one day during his summer break of EastEnders. I always rather liked it, and wondered if you would be interested in it for the magazine. It was at the height of the early wild popularity of EASTENDERS and Bill absolutely relished his lazy summer days in his secret Brettenham garden.

Kate Treacher



How many butterflies can you spot on Viv's buddleia?

We enjoyed the scarecrow hunt.
The Butcher family

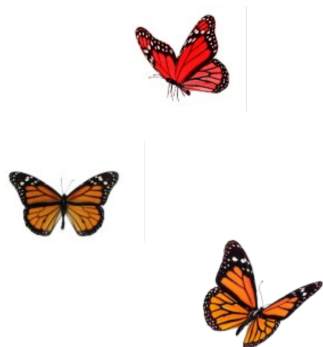


Suffolk Bliss

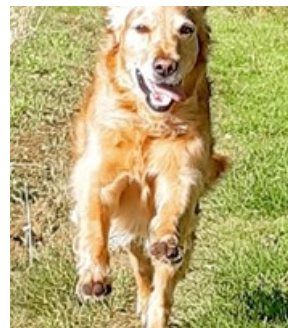
Oh, for the peaceful weekend
away from the mythical East End
to sit quietly still in the garden
listening to the sounds of the chattering leaves
of birds, of children, of busy bees.
I sit in the sun silently watching
that busy busy bee who will not quit,
that furry bottom disappearing
into a petunia's nodding trumpet.
Peace is chattered with shrill piping voices,
the dog lazily rises to see what's amiss
but all is suddenly quiet. Bliss.
The dog stops dead in track,
sniffs the air, then goes back
to his original position
flopping down with resigned expression
- those children really are a lesson.
The Peacock butterfly
or is it Red Admiral?
on buddleia flower, gently swaying,
the wings lift, like hands praying.
The distant drone of aircraft,
the insects rising on upward draught
all this I need to refill my cup.
My lush Suffolk garden, it's beauty, it's colour,
it's peace - so rare
in "EastEnders" mythical Albert Square.

Bill Treacher

Summer 1992, Brettenham, Suffolk



Rambling with Gus



Shelland Green: Distance 3 miles. Time approx. 1 hour

This is an easy walk on level ground. It is mainly on field headlands and farm tracks, but there are a couple of short sections on quiet roads and cross field paths. The route is a figure of 8 marked purple on the map.

Start at Shelland Church. It is a tiny rural church which is well worth having a look inside. It still has box pews.

I suggest you do this walk in an anti-clockwise direction as it will be easier to find the paths. From the church, turn right onto the road. In a few yards, where the road bends sharply left, take the footpath straight in front of you. This takes you on tranquil farm track to Harleston Green. Cross the green to the path coming in at the left-hand corner.

On field paths (and across the Shelland to Harleston road), make your way to Haughley Bushes where you will find a partially moated farmhouse. If you wish to shorten the walk, you can take the path on your left. This skirts Shelland Wood and brings you out onto the road close to Shelland Church. Alternatively, you can do the loop that takes you to Moorbridge Farm, clockwise or anti-clockwise, as you wish. Most of this section is on farm tracks so easy to follow. It takes you close to the A14 so you do get some traffic noise, but the area has a lot of trees and woodland making for a peaceful landscape.

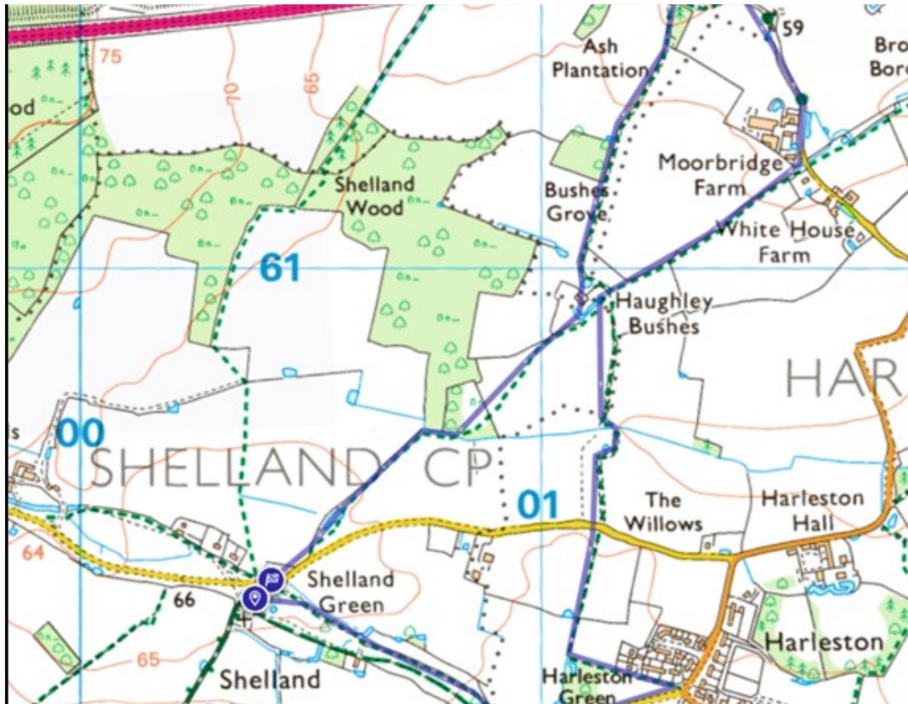
I am afraid there are no pubs or cafes on route, but there is the Shepherd and Dog which is open daily a few miles away at Onehouse or I can thoroughly recommend the Lakehouse Café, also at Onehouse, which is open Wednesday -Saturday 9am – 3pm and Sunday 9am – 2pm. NB it is always worth checking the opening times online before visiting.

Carrie Dye

You can find this walk at [explore.osmaps.com](https://www.explore.osmaps.com).
It is listed as Rambling With Gus at Shelland.



The track to Shelland Green and wildflowers on Shelland Green



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 exclusively 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

Brettenham Coffee Morning Dates

(Tuesdays) 10.30–12pm

5th September

3rd October

7th November

5th December



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
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 solicitors@bwblegal.com

W.A. Deacon

FUNERAL SERVICES

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

07731 67 27 57 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

Large selection of ride on mowers

Walk behind petrol & battery mowers

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

01449 736060 www.tomlinongroundcare.co.uk



JOHN DEERE



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

CAPSTICK CARPET CLEANING

Fast drying · Stain removal · No job too small
Based in Lavenham

Call to book an appointment for a
free no obligation quote.
07791 582806 / 01787 249795



KUTZ 4 MUTZ

Complete Professional Dog Grooming Service

Stress free 1 to 1 appointments, individual requirements catered for.

Bathing, drying, clipping, scissoring, hand stripping, nails, anal gland relief, ear cleaning.

CALL JAN 07716 034521



1 Manor Cottage, Lavenham Road, Preston St Mary CO10 9LU

Keith Purvis

Electrical

All domestic electrical work undertaken. Electrical vehicle charger installation

Mobile **07788 633276**

Home **01787 249795**

Email



Advertise Here

If you are interested in advertising in the magazine, please contact

Michelle Harvey at
brettenhammagazine@gmail.com

Prices per edition are:

1/4 page £4

1/2 page £7

Full page £13



07902 141140 01449 737307

hello@michellebrownsewing.co.uk

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
IP14 1EZ**

**Golden Charter
Funeral Plans**

South, Stowmarket,

www.andrewbingham.co.uk



**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

Web: 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'

Brettenham Coffee Morning

Come along for a Tea, Coffee and biscuits and more importantly a chat and a laugh with fellow villagers, on Tuesday 5th September at 10.30 till 12.00. Hope to see you there! Val and Michelle



[This Photo](#)

For more info contact:

Val 07711 562520 or
Michelle 07535 814939

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

Friday 22nd September

