

PARISH NEWS

BORLEY : FOXEARTH : LISTON : PENTLOW

December 2019 / January 2020

There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the year;
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
It's hope reborn again,
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill to men!

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**

Our grateful thanks to everyone who helps make the Parish News a success. Contributors, photographers, advertisers, distributors and, of course, you the reader, are invaluable.

We could not do it without you all.

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Ruminations from the Rectory.....

Dear Friends

I am writing this on All Souls Day (2nd Nov). Last night, the All Saints Service to conclude the South Stour Churches Festival took place. The Festival Choir sang Faure's Requiem so beautifully. We were welcomed to church by celebratory bell ringing and, as at most Festival events, we were treated to very tasty refreshments. The Mayor of Sudbury chose to come again, having attended the opening, and took part in a wind ensemble playing his French Horn in a world premier at Belchamp St Paul.

At this time of anxiety for our country, in its uncertainty about Brexit, I think the Festival really lifted our spirits in October: something to really feel good about. In some ways, we were showcasing ourselves to ourselves. People told me that usually at a festival you choose to go to one or two things but, as all the events were free, people were able to go to lots. Joan from Bulmer only missed 3 events and I only missed 6! Visitors came from Colchester, Bury St Edmunds and many of our neighbouring towns. I was pleased to see more links developing across the benefice and people visiting each others churches. It helped to bind us together and alleviate the feeling that each little church is on its own. Many coming in from Sudbury told me they never venture down this side of the river and were pleasantly surprised. My hope is that the festival will leave a legacy of goodwill towards the church, a sense of ownership of the local churches. I think it was a way for the church to show its welcoming face as a place for the community to use for concerts, exhibitions, workshops. A sign of God's gracious welcome to us all. Our Churches are very special, sacred spaces; they belong to the whole community, not just those who attend worship. They have been at the heart of our communities in many cases for over a thousand years and are places where memories are made and big life events are celebrated. Our ancestors have passed on this wonderful, Christian heritage so we all need to cherish these iconic buildings for future generations.

When you get your magazine, we will be in the season of Advent: a time of expectancy and waiting, as we count down the days through December to Christmas. In the middle of all these preparations, there will be an Election on 12th December that is something to pray about. Thankfully, we have the gift of freedom to vote in this country. We need to pray for MPs, that they should not have to live with the pressure, fear and threats as they go about the incredibly important business of serving us all.

Try not to rush headlong into Christmas ending up exhausted. Try to savour each God given moment as we get ready to welcome the Saviour of the World. We would love to see you in church and there is a feast of services, with something for everyone. If the time does not suit at your own church, why not go to another one?

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a very good New Year

God bless from Revd Margaret and Graham

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Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends

The end of another year draws close but, of course, before that is Christmas! Some will be so excited, others dreading the ordeal and some nonchalant. For some it will be about gathering together with family and friends, and for others it will bring a sense of loneliness. It can be a time of many emotions and so kindness to one another can be a gift.

A lovely Christmas craft group on social media shares homemade Christmas ideas, which is one of the things I love about technology; the ability to share across the world. However, I found myself caught up in a debate about Christmas! It was a friendly, sharing, happy group until someone mentioned the real Christmas story and the bible! Usually, I am happy to scroll through comments and arguments, but there was this simple phrase ‘God isn’t real’! In the middle of a Christmas craft page is an interesting place to make such a statement.

Well I couldn’t help myself but to say, ‘why are you celebrating ‘Christ’mas if God isn’t real?’ And there it was, a can of worms opened with my comment and many others! Christmas, I think has moved away from the true meaning of the word – Christ and Mass. We should respect the diversity of beliefs and reasons to celebrate but, unless we change the name of the festival, it does remain a celebration of Christ, whether we actively celebrate it or not.

One of the ways I celebrate Christmas is with cards, not always the done thing anymore in a world of technology, but I love to send and receive cards. A simple nativity picture gently reminds people of the origin of ‘Christmas’ rather than the winter solstice. The words inside send kindness and joy, together with knowing that they have been remembered this Christmas and thought about in a special way.

I also choose to celebrate this festival with presents, crackers, stockings, carols, good food, good wine, good friends and family. I will celebrate Christmas in church and at home, out in the villages and in the pub I am sure!

However you choose to celebrate your Christmas, do it with integrity, with love and to share kindness and joy to those around you. What better way to go into 2020 than full of joy, love, kindness and, of course, hope.

From the Vicarage we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

Gill

Rev Gill Morgan

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ADVENT QUIET DAY “SENSING GOD”

Thursday 5th December 9:30am – 3pm at
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In the run up to Christmas, why not take time out to remind ourselves of the real meaning of Christmas, to slow down, take a step out of busyness.....

A precious day to be refreshed in a peaceful village. Our theme is Sensing God using all our senses. We will go out for lunch to either the Swan which is a minute's walk away where you can have sandwiches or a bar meal, or Corn Kist at Bridge Farm Barns.

Please reserve your place (so we know how many to prepare for) by giving or sending £5 (lunch extra) to Revd Margaret, Rev'd Gill or Revd Paul
Make cheques payable to North Hinckford Team Council

FOXEARH CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS

Saturday, 7th December 2019
4.30pm for lights on at 5.30pm

There will be mulled wine, mince pies,
Pam's famous sausage rolls
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Come and join in the carols and festive fun.

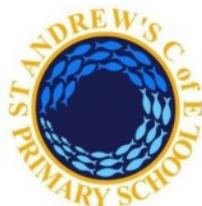
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If you can plan, prepare and present food to a high standard and have good organisational and interpersonal skills we would be delighted to hear from you. Visits are warmly welcomed.

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Foxearth Church Christingle Service

Sunday 8th December 3:00pm





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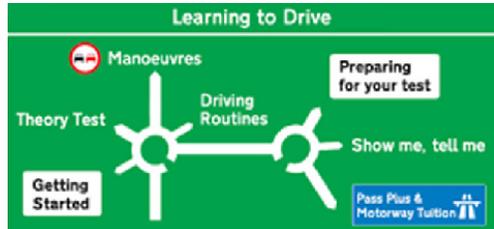
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PENTLOW ILLUMINATIONS

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING UP CEREMONY

Sunday 8th December at 6pm

See you at the
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Seasonal refreshments will be served
*Donations towards refreshments would be
appreciated on the night*

ALL WELCOME – PLEASE JOIN US



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**Wednesday
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Regular working
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Foxearth Meadows on
Fridays 10am - 12.30pm
Dec 7, 14, &
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25

More information available from
Mark Prina 07548 209652 or
Andy Jowett 07584 751093

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Sunday 15th December

at 3pm





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Thurs to Sat 9am to 8pm
- Sun 10am to 4pm

Winter is properly with us, and the message to all gardeners is to keep warm, though there are still jobs to be done.

- Prune Japanese acers once they are fully dormant – prune out crossing side branches and to tidy the plant.
- Brush snow off evergreens and hedges as it is heavy and can cause damage and die-back.
- Check climbers are securely tied in, to prevent wind damage.
- Tidy the winter bedding containers, and deadhead regularly.
- Look out for glasshouse pests such as whitefly, mealy bug and scaly insects, as these can remain active and do damage during the winter.
- Prune grapevines while they are dormant, as any cuts while the sap is rising causes the plant to 'bleed', which can potentially weaken the plant.
- Harvest winter vegetables: leeks, parsnips, sprouts & winter cabbages.
- Erect a rain shelter over wall-trained peaches and nectarines against peach leaf-curl disease. Leave it on till May.
- Buy seed potatoes at the end of this month; they store well in a cool frost-free place and can be ready for chitting from January.
- Fleece figs to protect branch tips and embryo fruit from frost, which can cause significant crop loss. Wall-trained plants can be packed with straw or bracken.
- Leave berries on shrubs, for birds.
- Put out scraps, fruit that has gone over, and hang bird-feeders to support garden birds through the winter. In my case, the pigeons!

Protection is the name of the game in December and January, and sitting in front of a nice warm fire, with seed catalogues.

Isobel Clark

Cavendish Horticultural Society: Monday, 2nd December at 7.30pm
A Cottager's Christmas - A talk by Andrew Sankey

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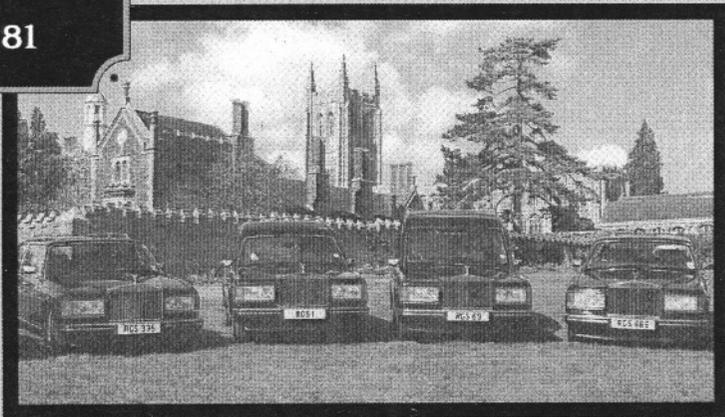
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FOXEARH MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE: ONE STEP AT A TIME

When the upper Trent Valley, in Staffordshire, was under threat from opencast coal mining late last century, I wrote to Richard Mellor, the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, bemoaning “Surely, our wildlife has to live in the wider countryside, not just nature reserves!”. Sometime later I found myself serving on the Trust’s Council with my naïve free thinking dismissed by one of the august, yet ‘dyed in the wool’ old naturalists there, “we have to have nature reserves and that’s that!” I will concede that we do need nature reserves but, in 1997, writing an assignment for my biology degree I was questioning what that actually means. “As part of any management plan we need to be looking to increase the size of the reserve” I asserted boldly. I noticed that the time was coming for this approach to be adopted. The concept of ‘landscape-scale nature conservation’ began to take hold. I felt affirmed even further, on reading Professor John Lawton in his government commissioned *Making Space for Nature* (2010) review of England’s wildlife sites. He summarised what needed to be done in four words: *more, bigger, better* and *joined*. Hopefully, this will be enshrined in future legislation derived from the government’s *25 Year Environment Plan* (2018).

I carried Professor Lawton’s mantra with me in 2015 as I took on the role of managing Foxearth Meadows - eleven and a half acres of floodplain on the River Stour. I was excited to find that A Rocha UK’s little reserve was adjacent to the 82 acre Glemsford Pits *Site of Special Scientific Interest* (SSSI), a veritable re-wilding project well before that term became fashionable. As I became aware of the mix of ponds, woodland, grassland, old quarry and railway track therein, the possibilities of extending the area of land dedicated to wildlife was obvious. We have now begun to survey and write management plans for a redundant meadow to the west of our land, and wetland and woodland to the north. I am grateful to the respective landowners with whom we are negotiating – more on this in future articles as the story unfolds.

There is actually a huge area of inter-connected land, benignly managed, if managed at all, stretching along the Stour westwards towards Cavendish, and eastwards towards Long Melford. Long may there be ‘space for nature’ here with the added hope that better connectivity into the arable landscape be achieved as well. Wildlife and farming do not have to be in opposition in this beautiful and characterful landscape. I say all of this as an outsider who now has a love for the Stour Valley that will endure.

Big ideas are one thing but they cannot be quickly achieved. One has to plan, build relationships, be an advocate, be patient and steadily progress can be made. One tiny step that is planned, is for the removal of plastic tree guards and black plastic mulch from a previous 300m hedge and tree planting scheme along the abandoned railway track close to Glemsford No.1 Pit. Plastic in the environment is a hot topic and A Rocha

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... continued Foxearth Meadows

UK and Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project are collaborating to hold a volunteer 'Free the Trees' day on Wednesday 11th December 2019 from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Thanks are especially due to John Weddup, London Angling Association Fisheries Officer, for granting the permission for us to do this work.

Car parking will be available at Foxearth Meadows car-park where transport round to the old railway track will be available. Alternatively, take a stroll along the river through the meadows. Further details are available from myself or Andy Jowitt (contact details below). Please come along and make a contribution to improving this landscape and helping the wildlife.

Mark Prina



Foxearth Meadows Information: Mark Prina, Reserve Manager, A Rocha UK,
Foxearth Meadows Mobile: 07548 209652 Home: 01223 832530

Email: mark.prina@arocha.org

Working hours: Mon/WedThurs/Fri 09:00 to 17:30



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Fox Lodge, Brook Hall Lane, Borley CO10 7AE

Foxearth Village Hall, School Street, Foxearth CO10 7JE

VILLAGE KITCHEN BY SALLY HAM

STICKY SPICED RED CABBAGE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium-size red cabbage, quartered, cored and shredded
- 1 finger-size piece fresh root ginger, finely chopped
- 2 onions, sliced
- 2 eating apples cored and deseeded and cut into chunks
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 2 star anise
- 10 cloves
- 100 g golden caster sugar
- 150 ml red wine vinegar

METHOD

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan, add cabbage, ginger, onions, allspice, cloves and star anise and then cook for 5 mins until just starting to wilt.
2. Scatter over the sugar and pour in the vinegar. Cover pan, gently cook for 10 mins, then remove lid and turn up the heat to medium. Simmer the liquid in the cabbage for about 20 mins, stirring occasionally, then stir continuously for the last few mins until all the liquid has evaporated and becomes sticky on the bottom of the pan. Tip cabbage into a large bowl and serve.

This cabbage will keep well in fridge or freezer. My family love this dish and it is always excellent as a time saver during the busy festivities.

**CRAFTY
WO(MEN)
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Monday, 16th December & 20th January

10am - 12noon

Spencer's Farm Shop Cafe, Wickham St Paul's

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More Information: 01787 269385

revd.margaret@northhinckfordparishes.org.uk

Rev Margaret shared her passion for Icons in a workshop, held in Liston Church, for 6 participants. In this taster session, surrounded by Icons displayed around the church, she explained the process and then everyone tried their hand painting their chosen image. Here is what Rev Margaret said about her experiences:

I have loved and used Icons in my spiritual life for decades. Having led a weekend retreat about the Orthodox spirituality, I longed to learn how icons are made. Six years ago I went on a course at Launde Abbey and have managed to go on one every year since. Most of the icons on display here were created during the 5 day course. The icon drawing is transferred onto the gessoed panel. Red Armenian bole (a kind of clay) is then put on in many layers where gold leaf will be applied. After polishing the bole, you dare not breathe while you transfer the thin gold leaf sheets using a squirrel hair gilder's tip onto the bole. After an hour you can burnish the gold with an agate dog tooth burnisher. This is called water gilding and is a medieval technique which is quite nerve wracking! The colours are powder pigments tempered with egg yolk and alcohol :

and are known as egg tempera paint. Towards the end of the process gold highlights are added using another form of gold leaf (transfer) called chrysography.

There is a theology behind the colours and the use of gold. Like icons on our computer screen which open us up to another world, so these icons are windows into divine things, they help bring us closer to the divine, they take us beyond into the spiritual kingdom where the light of Christ transforms and redeems everything. Haloes spill over onto the edge. God's love cannot be contained in a box!



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WEAVING THE RAINBOW IN PENTLOW

An Evening of Poetry and Music

Weaving the Rainbow, the first of two events held at Pentlow for the "South Stour Churches Festival", was an evening of poetry and music, organised by Canon Peter Sandberg, which took place on 10th October.

Readers included four Pentlow residents, plus Rev Margaret, Lynne Nesbit and Colin Whyles from further afield, who entertained us with poems and music they, themselves, had written.

The opening poem, by Rachel Swan, warmly welcomed visitors and described our "Festival", its appealing location, and local treasures on view at our 15 very varied Churches. Most of the poems related to weather and nature, however Canon Peter's topical poem, "Tracking a switch through the Global Economy", followed the journey of a replacement strimmer switch around the world before - - - arriving, at last, to trim his Essex garden - - -. Lynne and Colin entertained us with musical interludes, Colin accompanying Lynn's lovely voice on keyboard. He also sang, with great feeling, to his own guitar accompaniment, "Whoever invented gardening?" During the coffee interval Celia and Lynda served refreshments.

About 25 people enjoyed a very pleasant evening and kindly donated £148. We are very grateful to those who attended and added to our Church funds.

Susan Fenner

South Stour Churches Festival in Foxearth



The festival event in Foxearth, held on the 29th October, was a celebration of art and craft in the village, and all together 18 people from the village displayed a wide variety of handcrafted items.

The display featured art, crochet, cross stitch, needlepoint, fabric craft including patchwork and quilting, poetry, woodwork and nature photography.

During the day there was a steady stream of visitors with many from Foxearth, along with others from neighbouring villages in the benefice.

The comments on the day were very positive from those who had exhibited, and also from the visitors.

There were a few items for sale on the day and greetings cards with a photograph of a fox were one of the top sellers.



Linda Mercer

Prize Crossword No 241 (November) Solution

Across 1 Lemon, 4 Aide, 7 Acer, 8 Nightcap, 9 Moonshine, 10 Jar, 12 Hectic, 14 Shandy, 16 IPA, 18 Fabricate, 21 Guinness, 22 Rank, 23 Rose, 24 Whine.

Down 1 Lactose, 2 Marinade, 3 Ninth, 4 Acts, 5 Drama, 6 Agents, 11 Barcardi, 13 Claret, 15 Detente, 17 Pluto, 19 Resow, 20 Once

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 ". faithful" Carol (1,4,3,2)
9 Tide turns - so prepare for publication! (4)
10 Dine somehow in adapted cellar and she then will go to the ball! (10)
11 Three times (6)
12 "The..... of the Opera" Musical by Andrew Lloyd-Webber (7)
15 Eating greedily (7)
16 Symbolic gesture, voucher (5)
17 The central part of a church interior (4)
18 One twelfth of a foot (4)
19 Annoyed, irate (5)
21 Numb, so I change to large passenger vehicle! (7)
22 Clone he made to achieve higher rank! (7)
24 Large, spiny- backed lizard (6)
27 Silly behaviour exhibited when Roy met fool by arrangement! (10)
28 Adam and Eve's garden (4)
29 Expressing sorrow, repentance (10)

CLUES DOWN

- 2 "Away in a manger, no for a bed" Carol (4)
3 Up to date, recent (6)
4 Fruit grown in a Capri cottage garden! (7)
5 Flowering plant of genus Lilium (4)
6 State of great happiness, joy (7)
7 Something added (10)
8 Make stronger (10)
12 Note - a Pimms could lead to this seasonal entertainment! (10)
13 A seeker of excitement - as Dave Turner becomes!(10)
14 North York National Park (5)
15 "Six a-laying" Twelve days of Christmas - carol (5)
19 Custodian of museum, collection (7)
20 Ebenezer, Dickens' miserly money lender (7)
23 Small round hole in material for threading laces (6)
25 Fog - intensified by smoke (4)
26 Poetic name for Ireland (4)

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE:

4th & 25th December
15th January

2.10 - 2.40 pm
Pentlow Telephone Box
2.50 - 3.20 pm
Foxearth Old School

PRIZE CROSSWORD No 242 A slightly larger grid to reflect the extra weeks you have got to send in your entry. There is a seasonal flavour to some clues and, of course, the inevitable sprinkling of cryptics (!) A *Merry Christmas* and a *New Year* full of solutions to all cruciverbalists. Entries to the Editors by 14th January 2020 please.

Ken Nice

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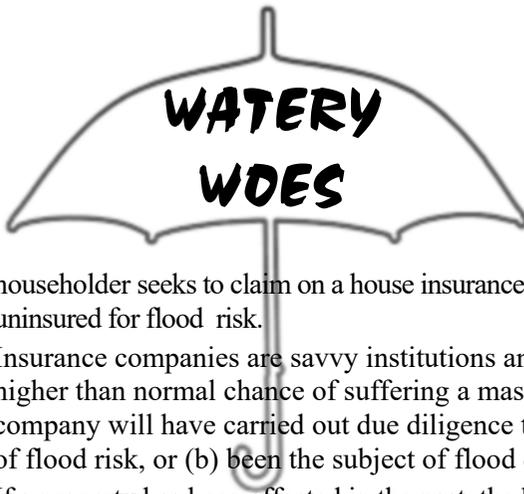
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NOVEMBER WINNER PRIZE CROSSWORD

Neville Ling of Cavendish

Congratulations, a worthy wine winner!



The heavy rains that have brought floods to the Midlands and the North of the UK are heartbreaking. Living through these flood conditions, facing repairs and life dislocations are terrible experiences.

These traumas are not helped when a

householder seeks to claim on a house insurance policy only to find that the he/she is uninsured for flood risk.

Insurance companies are savvy institutions and will not take on a risk if there is a higher than normal chance of suffering a massive (or any) claim. The insurance company will have carried out due diligence to discover if a property is (a) in an area of flood risk, or (b) been the subject of flood damage in the past.

If a property has been affected in the past, the householder can expect (a) to be refused insurance cover, (b) to pay a higher premium, or (c) have a very high excess (the amount the householder has to contribute to any claim). It is so important to understand what is covered by building insurance policies. The policy wording sent to a policyholder on renewal or on entering into the insurance, can be lengthy (and sometimes) with small print. If the policy wording is not reviewed and understood, grave disappointment and anger may follow if a subsequent claim is disallowed because the risk was uninsurable etc.

Even if a geographical area has not been subject to flooding for many years, insurers may still take the position that a property is within a flood risk area and thus subject to either higher premiums or a refusal of risk.

There is a possibility that a policy holder may be entitled to be a part of the Flood Re scheme which was set up some years ago. This scheme aims to help insurers place high risks for reinsurance thus enabling a property to be insured for flood risk. The scheme is partially funded by the insurers themselves by contribution into the scheme and from premiums specifically for flood.

There are conditions for acceptance in the scheme, which on first blush do not seem particularly onerous, but are strict nonetheless. The property must have been built before 2009, must be owner occupied, must not be in a block of flats of more than 3, used for residential purposes and be insured with a contract of insurance. The scheme is not available to buy to let landlords (unless residing on the property) or commercial entities. If a policy does not qualify, then the policyholder must look elsewhere for flood cover which will be hard to find and expensive.

One just has to consider where in our region there has been flooding in the last 50-100 years and it is probable that insurers would seize on this to charge a higher premium or refuse insurance.

Go to flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk to see if your property is in a flood risk area. Enter in your house name/number and postcode, and a map of the area, with the property identified will provide an overview of the flooding history.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

FOXEARTH & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

It is rare these days to have an event in Foxearth Village Hall at which the audience exceeds the number of seats available but such was the case on Saturday 16th November when the Foxearth and District Local History Society put on a "special" which attracted around 70 members and guests.

In an interview format, Society President, Ashley Cooper, took the Michael Parkinson role and Baron Andrew Phillips of Sudbury occupied the hot seat - or bar stool (a little precariously). Ashley had clearly researched his subject very carefully and the result was a finely structured, and wonderfully entertaining conversation. The pair took us through Lord Phillips' earliest memories as a small boy during the latter days of World War Two, to his presence in the House of Lords, where he was able to influence many political decisions, his broadcasting periods and numerous charitable ventures.

Public service and a deeply held sense of social responsibility were cornerstones of Andrew's family, with his solicitor father undertaking a large proportion of pro bono cases and never turning his back on someone in need of advice. The mischievous side of young Andrew's character was shown in several anecdotes including him crawling



under the wire to gather parachutes of Sudbury silk (used to suspend metal strips which interfered with enemy radar) The lads had great fun with the chutes and lead soldiers. For some unexplained reason the girls seemed to be quite pleased with this silk bonus! Torn trousers resulting from sliding in the sand pits were an every day hazard. At the end of the war the Belle Vue area children decided to form a marching band and, although he could not play

an instrument, despite having a maternal grandfather who wrote songs for Harry Lauder, Andrew led from the front with a biscuit tin and two sticks. To commemorate this event Ashley had commissioned local artist Ben Perkins to depict the scene and a slide of his wonderful painting was shown and hugely admired. All of these episodes were recounted by Andrew with humour and with the occasional expert lapse into the vernacular. After a spell at boarding school, Andrew experienced farm work for a while, recalling the late harvest of 1958 and bringing a Suffolk Punch out of retirement. Lessons in management and how to communicate daily orders were absorbed at this time.

Before going to Cambridge to read law and economics, Andrew worked in his father's law firm of Bates, Wells and Braithwaite where there seemed never to be a dull moment! An unusual method of summoning a secretary with a pistol shot - which did have trivial but bloody consequences - and locking a difficult member of staff in the walk-in safe were just a couple of examples lightening the daily routine.



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...continued Foxearth & District Historical Society

As a young graduate, Andrew campaigned, and won, against the local authority that wanted to pull down the Sudbury Corn Exchange (now the public library) and replace it with a supermarket - and this zest for supporting worthy causes has continued to great effect.

Establishing a law firm in London - with the same name but unconnected to his father's - Andrew built this up to be one of the largest in the City. His keen interest in - indeed passion for - righting, what he considered to be wrong, developed to include obtaining charitable status for the Fairtrade Foundation, advising the Church of England on ethical investment matters and a whole host of others. He felt that his greatest achievement as a member of the House of Lords, where he was a regular speaker on social responsibility, was leading some of his colleagues into effectively defeating the Government on the identity card Bill which would have required the disclosure of a mass of personal information.

A foray into television occurred in 1976 when Andrew appeared for 6 years in the Jimmy Young show as the "legal eagle" law advisor to viewers and, when this show ended, he covered current affairs for London Weekend for 30 episodes. Now - at the age of 80 - Andrew can proudly look back on a lifetime of achievement in which he has demonstrated his belief that man is intrinsically wondrous and only a nudge of encouragement is needed to bring out the best in him.

As the long applause by a very appreciative audience at the end indicated, this was a fabulous evening's entertainment which included many related slides of Sudbury. Clare thanked Ashley and Andrew for putting on a memorable performance and Mally and Phil for running the bar. Ashley complimented Clare and Lynda for their running of the Society and thanked Churchwarden, Mally Graham, for his most appropriate display of individual crosses at the Village sign for Remembrance Sunday.

I was hoping that I would have plenty to discuss on all the work we had done getting in the cereal crops and beans - how wrong could I have been.

After such a prolonged dry spell during harvest, and well into the autumn, we delayed drilling, simply because the seed was never going to get established and grow without the moisture it needed and, the longer it sits in the ground in those conditions, its viability diminishes. We were also hoping for some opportunities to get some stable and clean seedbeds before drilling.

This has caused us some headaches; no sooner had we managed to get about 10 hectares of wheat in the ground, when we had a considerable amount of rain over 2 or 3 days, which held us up for almost a fortnight.

We managed to drill over 80 hectares of winter barley, although conditions were not ideal, but it has gone in, along with another 30 hectares of wheat. So, that is where we are at this moment in time. Because of the on and off rain we have not managed to get back on the land since, which will mean, if and when we do get to go, we will have to up the seed rates from the 180/200 kegs per hectare up to anywhere near 250/280 kgs. As the soil temperatures drop, and the later it gets, by upping the rates we hope to get reasonable germination.

Although things have been a bit tricky here, I can say with hand on heart, we are in a much better position than some of my fellow farmers in other parts of the country who's land, buildings and homes are under several feet of water. What they must be going through at the moment is difficult for me to comprehend; farming can be stressful at any time, but in those circumstances it must be incredibly difficult.

The majority of farms are snatching at opportunities when conditions allow to either harvest sugar beet, drill wheat or spray. It has been, as they say, one of those difficult seasons where the arable is concerned but, hopefully, we will get there.

On top of all that, we are getting our fair share of visits from the hare coursing community and that's how I'd put it politely for the sake of those who read this.

Several local farms have been broken into with machinery and tools stolen which makes it even harder to swallow what has been going on; as if the weather conditions weren't enough to contend with !!!



*Lambs inside our barn at
Street Farm*

On the sheep front we have brought the lambs inside to feed haylage and feed blocks as they don't seem to be doing that well outside. We hope to finish some to sell to our box customers, with the rest, hopefully, being worth a bit after Christmas.

The ewes are now out on some legume fallow land on the hill that runs down to Street Farm as the meadows where they were are getting wetter, so we felt we needed to move them onto drier ground.

... continued Down on the Farm

We moved out the two rams as they had been running with the ewes since the beginning of October and, by the look of the raddle marking, they have worked hard.



Fingers crossed these won't stay in the shed much longer!!

We should lamb our Dorsets in mid December, closely followed by the Blue Texels, with the rest of the flock lambing in March and April.

How far we get with the drilling, lord only knows. It is a matter of having patience and crossing our fingers.

I understand this edition of the Parish News is for December and January so, on behalf of myself and my family, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Simon



Little Acorns Playgroup

Thursdays 9.30- 11am (Term Time only)
at Belchamp St Paul Primary School.

Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Childminders, Toddlers, Babies and Bumps all invited. Drinks and Snacks provided for adults and children. £1.50 per child

Any toy donations very welcome.

The health visitor attends the group once a month for baby weighing and to answer questions.

Please contact Verity on 07980993975 or verity.bridge@outlook.com or join the facebook group "Belchamp Little Acorns" for further information.

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OVER THE RAINBOW AT PENTLOW

Arts & Crafts

The second event at Pentlow, under the auspices of the South Stour Churches Festival, was an arts and crafts display on the weekend 19/20th October.

Rachel Swan, with her love, knowledge and flair of "crafty things" had the Church quite transformed with various handcrafts made by Pentlow residents. Everyone had been delving into cupboards and lofts to find items created by parents, children or other Pentlow residents past and present.



The theme of the exhibition was "Over the Rainbow", so each window displayed items and a sampler card relating in sequence around the Church to the colours of the rainbow. "A Pot of Gold" was centrally placed in front of the altar containing a collection of small handmade items.

Over several weeks some of us, under the kindly instruction of Rachel, have been meeting over a cup of tea and a piece cake, to make cushion

covers. Quilted, embroidered, patchwork, knitted, cross stitch etc, and also to refresh our skills by making hand crafted items we used to make in past times, to put on show.

A number of wonderful patchwork quilts were artistically draped and hung in strategic places, including in front of the east window.

A vast array of pictures were displayed on tables which were placed on top of the pews and lined the walls of the Church. There was embroidery, cross stitch, tapestry, collage, dried flowers, pencil sketches and striking large floral paintings by our own young resident artist, Lara. Dave mounted a selection of his unusual and very high quality photographs on boards displayed in the Chapel.

Assorted items, we had made or found, were to be seen on tables, including overed baskets, pincushions, a footstool, tea cosy, samplers, tray cloths, beadwork, a metal ashtray and Nordic Christmas trolls. Our cushions cheered up the choir stalls quite considerably.

Visitors to the Church were very impressed at the standard of the display, kindly donating £160 plus to our Church funds, for which we are very grateful. Thank you.

Some items had been lent to us from other folk locally, but most of the items were from Pentlow residents at some time, and a large selection had been made by Rachel over her years in "Craft and Handwork". We are very grateful to her for all her input and enthusiasm for the event.

Susan Fenner



FOXEARTH VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Morning



On Tuesday, 22nd October, a host of villagers attended a coffee morning at Foxearth Village Hall. They were treated to an array of superb cakes and, the Famous Foxearth Sausage Rolls, made by Pam and John, who looked after everyone wonderfully well.

The sum of £35.11 was raised for the benefit of the Village Hall Charitable Trust and a fine time was had by all.



Tim Brewer

Peter Highmore notes that the **FOXEARTH QUIZ NIGHT** held on 14th September raised over £300 for the benefit of the Village Hall.

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WHITHER OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

In a report to the Borley Parish Meeting on 12th November, the plight of our village church and the churches in neighbouring villages was highlighted in stark terms.

It is public knowledge that the congregations in our churches have declined to alarming levels. Locally they can drop to under double figures on a regular basis. This decline has been addressed in some major cities and towns by innovative schemes.

Norwich Cathedral installed a Helter-Skelter as part of its 'Seeing it Differently' project, which attracted 10,000 visitors to the cathedral. Rochester Cathedral installed a temporary nine hole crazy golf course, Peterborough Cathedral held a 'Gin and Prosecco' festival (albeit in the Cloister gardens) and the 'Museum of the Moon' exhibition was held in the newly renovated Hull Minster (formerly Holy Trinity Church). In our villages the recent 'South Stour Churches Festival' encouraged residents, and others, through the doors of our churches to view artwork, crafts, lectures and concerts and showed off the potential of the church space available.

The aim of these activities is to attract people into the church buildings and to make the church more accessible. In Hull, for example, the two year renovation project has created a large space which, it is hoped, will be used as a venue for concerts, conferences, events and other community activities. The large and unwieldy Victorian pews that were in the Minster, have made way for a more functional space.

Such schemes and projects not only give people the opportunity to visit the building and glimpse what the clergy are involving themselves in, it also gives an opportunity to encourage greater participation in church matters. Funds, as an aside, are raised through these events, which go towards fabric repairs and restoration, and to assist in the payment of the everyday running costs of the church.

However, as in general commerce, individual churches are under pressure to survive financially. I am not privy to how the system works, but reports would suggest that each parish church is obliged to contribute to the general pot of the Diocese. These contributions are assessed, and set centrally which each parish is obliged to make.

Thereby hangs the conundrum. If the income generated from services, residents/parishioners is insufficient, the contribution still has to be paid. There is a mechanism for relief from the Diocese but, the problem of under funding does not go away. Ultimately, if a parish or church does not pay its share, the church may

Whither our Village Churches continued

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A K SERVICES

continued Whither our Village Churches...

fall into decline and potentially become redundant. If your village church was a business and could not pay its way or pay its debts as they become due, the business would be wound up.

Our village churches are the centre of our communities, they have been in our villages for hundreds of years. They have been supported by our predecessors. Surely we, the present communities want to preserve the churches? Surely our churches expect the support of our villages?

So what is the future of our village churches? Decay and ruin? Converted into a pub or residential use? Although congregations have declined, there is no reason why communities cannot support their church, be it financially or using the church as a community "asset" or by attending services.

The South Stour Churches Festival event certainly opened the doors of the church buildings to the general public and showed that they can be used for a variety of activities. It just needs innovative thought to create interesting and popular activities as a springboard to fund raising or, at the very least a financial contribution to maintain the fabric of the churches. It may not be the installation of a helter-skelter or the creation of a crazy golf course, but there are very many other activities that can take place in a church space. Feel free to let me know what you think they are.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

After the first few pages of **The Second Sleep by Robert Harris**, I was a little confused as I had assumed this excellent novel was a medieval tale of historical proportions. The cover of the book depicts a castle like tower and a man on horseback, all in silhouette. By the time I reached page 14, the penny had dropped!

The story is set in 1465, but do not be deceived! A young vicar, Christopher Fairfax, has been sent to a remote Exmoor village by the Bishop of Winchester to conduct the funeral of the incumbent parson of that village. He is determined to stay only long enough to conduct the funeral and then return to Winchester to give his report to the Bishop.

Fairfax is somewhat confused by what he finds in the house, the village and the parson's bookshelves, and a series of events make him question his faith, and the place of the church in society.

The world which is depicted, by the creative Robert Harris, will keep the attention of the reader for many hours before reaching a denouement that is both intriguing and clever, and will make the reader think of the world as it is today and what it may be like over centuries to come.

Another worthy award winner and thoroughly recommendable novel.

The Secret Diaries by Elly Griffiths is something different from the UK's popular female mystery fiction writer. We all know her work in the Ruth Galloway Mystery series, and the Stephens and Mephisto Mystery series, all of which have won Ms Griffiths many literary awards.

In this stand alone novel, the protagonist, Clare Cassidy, is an English teacher at a High School in West Sussex. She hopes to publish a biography of famous Victorian Gothic writer R M Holland, who lived at the school (before it was a school) and wrote a spine-chiller called 'The Stranger'. Holland's wife died there and her ghost is reputed to walk the corridors! Clare believes that the circumstances of her death are not what they seem, and is fortunate to come across some new material that would help her with her book.

Things get a bit more involved when a colleague is found dead in her own home. Foul play is definitely suspected - enter DC Harbinder Kaur, a second generation Anglo-Asian. DC Kaur is a marvellously rounded character - witty, insightful and good at her job but, like all fictional police officers, she takes risks.

The story is told from the perspective of the three main characters, often about the same scene and interspersed with the narrative from 'The Stranger'.

I really liked this book; it was witty, well constructed and entertaining. It is publicised as a Victorian Gothic Mystery; this is but a small part of the novel, which combines police procedure, with an edge of the seat thriller.

My faithful reader, Clare, will really enjoy, as have I, this latest from **John Grisham - The Guardians**. Not only does it contain some really good chapters on court trials, but also gives a very good insight into compiling



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,,, *continued A Good Read*

evidence for trial, in this case, to free a wrongly convicted prisoner, who has been incarcerated for 23 years.

In his 'author's note' Grisham explains that his inspiration for this novel was (1) character, a real life Minister who has spent 40 years attempting to challenge wrongful convictions in the US courts, and (2) plot, the real story of a Texan who spent 30 years in prison for a murder, of which he was innocent. With these two strands, Grisham's novel takes the reader on another roller-coaster ride through the US Justice system.

There are at least two parallel stories running through this novel. One commences with Grisham's protagonist sitting with a prisoner eating his last meal before being executed. The other, the murder of a lawyer in his office 22 years previously.

Our protagonist, Rev Cullen Post, a former public defender who was burned out by his job, resulting in a nervous breakdown, finds God and trains as a Minister. He returns to the law eventually, and joins with 3 others to form Guardian Ministries - an organisation committed to seeking the exoneration of wrongfully convicted prisoners. A difficult task in the United States, given that most concern death row cases and, of course, there is a race against time.

The evidence placed before the court 23 years ago was (we are told) fabricated. Quincy Miller a black man from a small Florida town is found guilty but is spared the death sentence and is sentenced to life in prison.

Post has had 8 successful exonerations since starting the Ministry and he is hoping he can find the evidence to make it 9. However, there is more than fabricated evidence to worry about, there were powerful and ruthless people behind the murder of the lawyer and the last thing they want is to have a corrupt enterprise brought to light.

I found Grisham's novel easy to read, exciting, informative and very well written. This book is not in any way formulaic and is really good and a worthwhile read. Highly recommended!

GREEN BITS

Hardly a day goes by, without some reference in the media to environmental matters. Parish News is no exception. But, sometimes the environmental concerns are portrayed piecemeal. There are so many concerns that it is easy to lose sight of the main or principal issues.

I read an article recently about 'Ethical Flying in the age of flygskam'. The headline did not help me to understand what the article was about, so I read on. Flygskam is the Swedish word for flight-shaming. Basically, air passengers and the aviation industry are being shamed into making the industry more carbon efficient and environmentally friendly. The French government for example is imposing a new tax on both short and long haul flights of between £1.30 and £45 (equivalent). Hardly likely to deter passengers but who knows?

Aviation environmentalists (are there any?) have come up with three 'easy' steps to reduce the aviation carbon footprint for travellers. The first is to book flights on newer, more fuel efficient planes, to save up to 50% of fuel emissions. All very well, but most air travellers will choose their flights based on inflight entertainment, type of seat or whether wi-fi is standard onboard. There is no guarantee that the actual aircraft will be a new zippy 'green machine' or a gas guzzling elderly queen of the sky. The airline, of course, has the final say on which aircraft will be used for a particular destination.

BA reveal that its Airbus 350-1000 burns half as much fuel as its old 747-400. On flights of under 2 hours experts suggest that turbo prop aircraft are the most efficient.

The second step is to be 'consumer mindful on the aircraft'. Pack lightly; bring a reusable water bottle with you and fill it at the terminal to drink onboard; take anything recyclable off the aircraft with you when leaving it; consider taking food from home rather than consuming onboard meals; if pre-booked meals are an option, do so; take a jumper instead of reaching for the plastic wrapped airline blanket and take headphones, eye masks, toothpaste, tooth brushes in carry-on luggage. The less weight the plane has to carry, the less fuel it will need and thus a carbon saving is made

Finally, if you are concerned about the airlines lack of environmental awareness, let them know. The more they hear what their passengers think, the more likely they are to change or adapt their policies. Alternatively - don't travel by air!

With new Eco friendly ships being built, fuel costs are being reduced by at least 20% which also cuts carbon emissions. There is also a proposal to reduce speed limits for ships which could save a further 50% all round. Some ships are being built to run as hybrids with a mix of conventional fuels and electricity/solar power or alternative 'green' fuels.

FILM REVIEW BY ISOBEL CLARK

DOWNTON ABBEY

Directed by Michael Engler, written by Julian Fellowes

UK/USA; 122 minutes, PG

Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith, Imelda Staunton & a raft of superb actors.

I was not at all sure that I wanted to see this and, indeed, it was a celebration of class in a bygone age where every little treachery was sweetly done, except of course Grandma Violet, who was too old to care, but even so was still polite. Her target was beautifully played by Imelda Staunton, new to the Abbey. It was all reminiscent of a light comedy from Hollywood: beautiful, superficial and a bit thin.

But it is sumptuous, with a wonderful cast, and it showed off every dollar of the \$13 to \$20 million that it cost to make. It is set just after the series ends, in 1927, and the King and Queen have announced a visit. All very exciting, until it transpires that the royal household is coming too, chef and butler included.

Revolution and mayhem break out below stairs: the resident household staff is not having it, Carson is brought out of retirement and becomes a reluctant guerilla in the war that ensues, but they finally win the right to serve.

Looking around among the reviews, the Rotten Tomatoes website did a survey that showed that 84% of critics liked it, but 94% of the audiences. That was certainly true on the night that I went: the house was packed and the film was cheered. Is this what people want to go back to, I ask myself? It is like a soufflé in its bland uniformity, but it works; it is good hearted, clever, and it knows when to end.

... *Continued Green Bits*

Travelling by train is another option although, certainly in the UK, very expensive. It will cost 2 people between £336 and £698 (depending on type of return ticket) to travel by train to Edinburgh, whereas the cost of air travel with EasyJet from Stanstead airport is around £260!

But there is still the car. Electric that is. The only problem with an electric car is 'range-phobia' - the fear of the battery running out with nowhere to plug in for a rapid charge. It is a bit chicken-and-egg but it does seem that there are more charging points being added to our roads system on a weekly basis. Some good news is that Braintree District Council have approved plans for a Rapid Charge filling station. This is believed to be a first and other District and County Councils are considering doing the same. This would be a fantastic improvement to recharging fears and significantly improve the range of electric car journeys.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith



A CHRISTMAS STORY



by Kelvin Hastings-Smith

Houdini was a chicken, a very adventurous chicken. She lived in Borley with her cousins, Brownie, Cupcake and Blondie. Although she had stopped laying eggs sometime ago, her owners did not send her to the great chicken coop in the sky, they nurtured her and cared for her as if she was one of the family.

Houdini was named after the famous escapologist of the early 1900's. An entertainer who toured the world and who had a particular knack of escaping from the most ensnaring situations - tied with rope, submerged in water, placed in a seemingly escape-proof box. His most famous trick was to escape from a straitjacket.

Although Houdini never escaped from a straitjacket, she did have a tendency to escape from her run, her coop and her garden. Many a time she had been seen scratching in the farmer's field of recently sown sugar beet, or devouring the early shoots of succulent oilseed rape. Large areas of barren soil gave evidence to her activities.

For all her escaping, however, she always came running home in time for tea and bed. In this she was very grown up, but probably she just wanted the best bed in the henhouse and was determined to stake her claim. The other chickens complained in usual fashion but soon settled down for the night, knowing that their owners would be along at some time to close the door of the coop to keep away any predators.

Christmas was coming and the chickens had started to decorate their little home. Each day they toiled in the garden, bringing back sprigs of bushes and various greenery, particularly those with red berries. Houdini even brought back small balls of fat which had been put out for the birds by their favourite next door neighbours. She prided herself on being able to squeeze the little suet balls from the plastic containers that were hung from several of the trees in their garden. Having brought them back to the henhouse, she carefully hid them under her nest, or at least the nest that she made her own every night.

Blondie is a chicken lawyer, as well as being Houdini's cousin. She is much in demand as she struts her stuff across fields and gardens close to the henhouse. On many occasions she has had to defend her cousins against claims of trespass, particularly from the big house where the famous TV celebrity lives. Being a good mediator and negotiator as well, Blondie can usually come to an amicable resolution to these types of problems - additional digging duties, modelling or extra eggs are just some of the settlements that she has succeeded in getting for her cousins and she prides herself that she has never had to defend a death row case. In fact, she has even been contacted by the Brexit negotiating team being told that they were all bird brains and one more wouldn't harm the chances of a good deal!

The area around the henhouse is often called a sanctuary where other species tend to take refuge from explosive guns, unruly foxes or rampaging raptors. Just days before Christmas, Mr Pheasant came for a visit. Houdini invited him into the henhouse where a pellet and fine wine feast was laid out. Mr P (as he was commonly known) had endured days of running and scurrying from fields and hedgerows, where men with guns and others waving wooden sticks and flags were sure to be after him.

As he took his first mouthful of pellet stew, he started to tell Houdini that for some reason he was considered to be a 'fine catch' and the men with guns were determined to 'bag' him. Mr P began to tremble and then started to cry, big fat tears oozed from his tiny eyes and dripped onto his fine feathery coat, turning the vibrant feathers a much darker shade. "I need somewhere to hide" said Mr P, through deep sobs. "They want to kill me". He could hardly catch his breath but managed to take a huge slug of wine to 'steady the nerves'.

"Nonsense" said Houdini, "why would anyone want to kill such a beautiful pheasant as you?" "Because I am big and I would make a sumptuous roast" he wailed as he threw himself onto the wall of the henhouse. He was inconsolable. Houdini tried everything to lighten Mr P's spirits - doing impersonations, running up and down the henhouse and squawking like a rooster (although all she could manage was a cough and a sore throat), but nothing could console him.

BORLEY VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

With an up to date kitchen & plenty of parking, Borley Village Hall makes a perfect intimate venue for all sorts of events.

The Hall is heated & fully equipped. Gazebos, tables, chairs, cutlery, glasses, plates can be hired individually.

**Contact Trish 01787 881717
or Julie 01787 313579
mandtturner@gmail.com /
kandj@jkhastings.me.uk**

Suddenly, a shadow loomed over the henhouse and the sound of a dog snuffling around, and then... "Sit" boomed a familiar voice. "Gotcha!". All at once two hands reached into the henhouse, one grabbing Mr P and the other Houdini. "I'm taking you two into custody, you'll do nicely for Christmas dinner."

With that, the two birds were thrown into a large, dark canvass bag. The two birds had no idea what had just happened. Houdini thought that as it was so dark it was probably time to go to sleep - and she did. Mr P, on the other hand, was not going to give up without a struggle and tried to lift the flap of the bag to escape. He tried in vain to get Houdini to give him a leg up, but she was fast asleep.

... continued *A Christmas Story*

Cupcake had seen the kidnap as she meandered through the adjoining gardens on her way to bed. Brownie wasn't far behind but she didn't witness the kidnap as she was busy pulling a worm out of the ground. Cupcake ran as fast as she could, flapped her wings and made squawking noise, but nothing she could do could detract from Houdini and Mr P being hauled away to a shed across the fields, where they were imprisoned.

Blondie received her brief later the next day. Her duty was to her clients, Houdini and Mr P, and their safe release. She immediately strutted across the field to the shed for a meeting with her opponent, the owner of the gun, the dog and the canvass bag.

Being polite but assertive Blondie said "Now come on my friend, what use is a pheasant and an old chicken to you?" Houdini was in earshot and took grave exception to being called old, wise yes, but never old. "I'm going to pluck the pheasant and stuff it with the old bird and roast them for Christmas dinner." Blondie almost collapsed at this news. Having never been involved in a death row case she now had two in one!

After much debate, which failed to release either bird, it was agreed that the matter should be decided by a panel of respected villagers. A judge was appointed and a jury sworn in. Within the hour, the owner of the gun, the dog and the canvass bag addressed the assembled throng with an impassioned plea to let him keep the pheasant - after all it was a game bird and if he could not keep it and have it end its days in the comfort of his own home; it would almost certainly be shot if it was released, and probably by him. 'I am a good shot anyway. And as for the chicken - there's not much meat on her but she will add flavour and make a good stock.'

Blondie was about to pass out. She could not bear to think of her older (wiser) cousin ending her days as stock, and Mr P was a beauty and graced the lawns and gardens of many folk around.

Cupcake and Brownie spread their wings and held onto Blondie as she got to her feet, coughed, adjusted her wig, tugged her wings in and began. "I have known Houdini all my life, she has never harmed a soul. Well, er, apart from digging up gardens and farmers fields, and chasing small birds and the odd theft of succulent green salad leaves from veggie plots. But that is no reason to condemn my dear little cousin to death. And a death in such horrible terms. Let me ask this, she went on, "didn't this man trespass on the henhouse? If trespass is proved beyond reasonable doubt, Houdini and Mr P (as the lawful guest of Houdini) should be freed!"

There was a rumble across the court room - the Village Hall, where the trial was taking place. Blondie was surprised to hear such support for her position and this filled her with confidence. She fluffed her feathers, took a deep breath and

... continued A Christmas Story

continued. "Further m'lud, Mr P is no ordinary pheasant. He is regularly seen in our gardens, his brilliance of colour brightens the dull days of winter and, although his cackle can sometimes become annoying, it is a welcoming sound."

In response, the owner of the gun, the dog and the canvass bag, now represented by eminent barrister Mr Fox, told the assembled court and spectators that everyone knows that pheasants are bred for game. If it wasn't for the diligence of pheasant breeders, the pheasants would not exist. "In short m'lud, pheasants are good for nothing but sport and sumptuous game pies."

After further rumblings through the court room, the Judge, who also looked rather like a fox, cleared his throat and addressed the court. Blondie rose to her feet to receive the court's verdict. "The court has listened carefully to the advocates for the parties and their submissions are compelling. However, we agree with Mr Fox that pheasants have no purpose, other than to provide sport and succulent game pie. We cannot interfere with the respected law of the countryside. In normal course, we would order Mr P to be taken hence to a place whence he will be plucked and roasted BUT it is Christmas and we believe that each of us should be able to enjoy Christmas and none more so than Mr P."

Blondie could not quite believe what was happening. Her little heart was pounding against her ribcage like a jack-hammer.

"Therefore we order the release of Mr P and hand the owner of the gun, the dog and the canvass bag a recipe for Christmas style Nut Roast". The man was stunned - "At least we can roast Houdini." "No" boomed the Judge, "Houdini was unlawfully detained by you. You trespassed upon her henhouse. Houdini is free to leave."

The room erupted in noise, feathers and squawking. Blondie was surrounded by happy villagers who slapped her on her back. She fell over under the weight and force of the back slapping, but nothing could hide her pride at getting both her clients released.

On Christmas Day, Mr P had been invited to the henhouse where Blondie, Cupcake and Brownie tucked into the biggest and best hot porridge oats, worms and chard bake. They were all very happy. In the house of the man with the gun, the dog and the canvass bag, there were long faces and curled lips as he and his guests summoned up the courage to carve the nut roast.



Merry
Christmas



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE		
DECEMBER		
Fri 7 & 14	10am-12.30pm	Foxearth Meadow Work Parties
Mon 2	7.30pm	A Cottager's Christmas: A Talk by Andrew Sankey Cavendish Hort Society
Tues 3	7.30pm	Monthly Service of Healing Prayer at Great Henny
Wed 4		Mobile Library 2.10-2.40m Pentlow/2.50-3.20pm Foxearth
Thur 5	9.30am-3pm	Advent Quiet Day at Home Retreat House, Monks Eleigh
Sat 7	3pm	Trinity Singers Carol Concert, Long Melford URC
Sat 7	4.30pm	Foxearth Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Sun 8	3pm	Christingle Service at Foxearth Church
Sun 8	6pm	Pentlow Illuminations
Wed 11	9.30am-4.30pm	Free the Trees – Details page 11
Fri 13	7.30pm	Pentlow Christmas Social
Sun 15	3pm	Foxearth Carol Service
Sun 15	6pm	Pentlow Carol Service
Mon 16	10am-12noon	Crafty Wo(men)
Mon 23	6pm	Liston Carols by Candlelight
Tues 24	3pm	Crib Service at Pentlow
Tues 24	11.30pm	Pentlow Midnight Mass
Wed 25		HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Wed 25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service at Borley
JANUARY		
Tues 1		HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Fri 4/11/18/25	10am-12.30 om	Foxearth Meadow Work Parties
Tues 7	7.30pm	Monthly Service of Healing Prayer at Pentlow
Wed 15		Mobile Library 2.10-2.40m Pentlow/2.50-3.20pm Foxearth
Mon 20	10am-12noon	Crafty Wo(men)

DECEMBER	WEST PARISHES			NORTH PARISHES					
	B Otten	B St Paul	B Walter	Ovington	Bulmer	Foxearth	Liston	Borley	Pentlow
Sunday									
1 st Dec	8.45am Communion PG	See Ovington		9.45am Communion GM	10.30am Family Service	10.30am Start the Month! Churchwardens	6pm Advent Sung Eucharist MHK		11.15am Communion GM
1 st Advent Purple									
Tuesday									
3 rd Dec									
Wednesday									
4 th Dec	10am Midweek Mass MHK								
8 th Dec	10am Songs of Praise RB	10am Matins JM	9.45am Communion GM		11.15am Communion PG	3pm Christingle GM		11.15am Family Service MG	11.15am Communion PG
2 nd Advent Purple									
15 th Dec	3pm Carol Service GM	6pm Nine Lessons & Carols PG	3pm Six Lessons & Carols Beichamp Walter Singers MHK		11.15am Holy Communion PG	3pm Carol Service Churchwardens		10am Communion PG	6pm Carols by Candlelight GM
3 rd Advent Purple									
Purple									
Monday									
16 th Dec									
22nd Dec									
4 th Advent Purple									
Monday									
23 rd Dec									
Tues 24 th Dec									
Christmas Eve									
White									
Wed 25 th Dec									
Christmas Day	9am Christmas Holy Communion PG		10pm Midnight Mass PG	3pm Carols by Candlelight GM	10.30am Christmas Eucharist PG			10.30am Christmas Holy Communion GM	3pm – GK Crib Service 11.30pm- PG Midnight Mass
White									
29 th Dec									
Christmas 1									
White									
Team Healing Service at Henny – MHK									
10.30 am Combined Service at Pentlow MHK									
10.30am South Parishes Eucharist at Middleton MHK									

JANUARY	WEST PARISHES			NORTH PARISHES					
	B Otten	B St Paul	B Walter	Ovington	Bulmer	Foxearth	Liston	Borley	Pentlow
Sunday	8.45am Communion	See Ovington		9.45am Communion	10.30am Family Service	10.30am Start the Month! Churchwardsens IN VILLAGE HALL	6pm Compline		11.15am Communion
White	PG			GM		IN VILLAGE HALL	QP		GM
Tuesday	7:30pm								
7th Jan	Team Healing Service at Pentlow – GM								
Wednesday		10am Midweek Mass MHK							
8th Jan									
12th Jan	10am Songs of Praise RB	10am Communion	9.45am Communion		11.15am Communion	10am Family Service MG; FG; GK IN VILLAGE HALL		11.15am Family Service	11.15am Communion
Baptism									
of Christ									
White	PG	PG	GM		GM	IN VILLAGE HALL		MG	PG
19th Jan			10am			10am		10am	
2nd Epiphany	Belchamps combined service at Belchamp St Paul								
White									
19th Jan		11.15am Communion							
2nd Epiphany		PG							
White									
26th Jan	8.45am Communion (BCP) GM	10am Communion GM							
3rd Epiphany									
White									
<p>10.30 am Combined Service at Borley MHK</p>									
<p>More information from Revd Margaret H King 01787 269385 Revd.margaret@northhincfordparishes.org.uk Visit our websites: www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/08/315B www.northhincfordparishes.org.uk www.explorestourvalley.co.uk www.facebook.com/northhincfordparishes</p>									

THE NORTH HINCKFORD TEAM

Monthly Services of Healing Prayer at 7:30pm

Tuesday, 3rd December at Great Henny : Tuesday, 7th January at Pentlow
All welcome to these quiet reflective services Contact Revd Margaret 269385 or Revd Gill 584993



Christmas Events

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNINGS & BAZAARS

Twinstead, 10.00 -12:30, Sat 30th Dec

Alphamstone, 11.00 am, Sat 7th Dec

Lamarsh Lion Christmas Mkt, 11.00 am, Sat 7th Dec

Middleton, 2.00-4.00 pm, Sat 7th Dec



CAROL SERVICES

Alphamstone, 7:30 pm, Tue 10th Dec

Foxearth, 3:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

Henny, 4:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

Pentlow, 6:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

Middleton. 6:00 pm, Sun 22nd Dec

Ovington, 3:00 pm, Tue 24th Dec

B Walter, 3:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

B Otten, 3:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

B St Paul, 6:00 pm, Sun 15th Dec

Bulmer, 7:30 pm, Mon 16th Dec

Liston, 6:00 pm, Mon 23rd Dec

Wickham, 6:00 pm, Tue 24th Dec

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

B St Paul, 5:45 pm, Tue 17th Dec

Wickham, 7:00 pm, Thu 19th Dec

Middleton, 7:00 pm, Thu 19th Dec

Alphamstone, 6:30 pm, Sun 24th Dec



CRIB & SCHOOL SERVICES

Bulmer School Service, Bulmer, 10.00 am, Tue 17th Dec

School Carol Service, B St Paul, 2:00 pm, Wed 18th Dec

Crib Service, Bulmer, 5:30 pm, Mon 23th Dec

Crib Service, Pentlow, 3:00 pm, Tue 24th Dec



PUB CAROL SINGING

Henny Swan, 7:30 pm, Tue 17th Dec

Half Moon, 7:00 pm, Thu 19th Dec

Lamarsh Lion date to be announced

CHRISTINGLES

Foxearth 3:00 pm, Sun 8th Dec

Twinstead, 4:00 pm, Sun 22nd Dec

MIDNIGHT MASS

B Walter, 10:00 pm.

Alphamstone, 11:30 pm

B St Paul, 11:30 pm

Pentlow, 11:30 pm



CHRISTMAS DAY

Belchamp Otten , 9:00 am

Twinstead 9:00 am

Borley, 10:30 am

Bulmer, 10:30 am

Lamarsh, 10:30 am