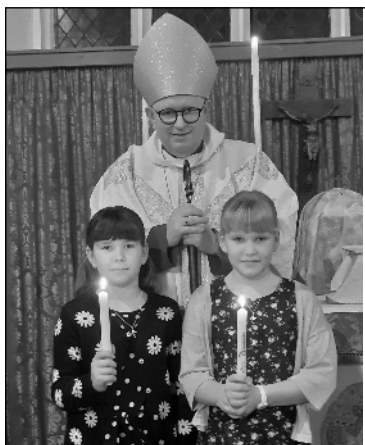


PARISH NEWS

BORLEY : FOXEARTH : LISTON : PENTLOW

February 2020



CELEBRATING CONFIRMATIONS

A wonderful Confirmation service took place on 15th January at St Andres's, Belchamp St Paul, officiated by Bishop Roger of Colchester.

Bishop Roger is pictured left with Abigail and Carolyn Hunter from Alphamstone



From left to right: Revd Paul Grover, Felix Griffith (Bulmer), Carolyn & Abigail Hunter (Alphamstone), Bishop Roger, Kim Humphryes (Great & Little Henny), Helen Krelle and Laura Shepherd both from Belchamp Walter, Revd Mgt and Revd Gill

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USEFUL INFORMATION:

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**PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES/PHOTOGRAPHS TO
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All contributions will be acknowledged

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Community items are free

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Ruminations from the Rectory.....

Dear Friends

Firstly a very happy and healthy New Year. I wonder, will this new decade be like the Roaring Twenties of last century! New Year is a time for looking forward and making resolutions. How about remembering the little churches in this large benefice. Please cherish them, they are such special places which remind us there is more to life than the daily grind. They are places where we find meaning in our lives and where we can wrestle with the questions that lurk in the back of our minds. We can find a welcoming community and be touched by the love of God. In churches we sense the mystery of the divine.

In the garden, we see signs of the little green shoots of snowdrops beginning to push up through the soil, one of the annual round of miracles: that strong urge to reach through to fresh air and sunshine.

We are delighted that Fiona Slot, Churchwarden at Ovington has been appointed our new Team Administrator. Fiona brings a wealth of experience having been an Administrator at the Leys School and previously Bursar in other schools.

As I write, we are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Roger on Wednesday 15th January, when he comes to St Andrew's at Belchamp St Paul to confirm six candidates all from our Benefice - Kim Humphreys from Henny, Abigail and Carolyn Hunter from Alphamstone, Felix Griffith from Bulmer, Laura Shepherd and Helen Krelle from Belchamp Walter. We are delighted that they wish to take this very special step in the journey of faith.

Some of our churches have a Lady Chapel. This is a side chapel with another altar. I have heard people refer to it as the Ladies Chapel. However, it was not a place where the female members of the congregation sat, separately from the men! It is really the Chapel of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a magnificent one at Ely Cathedral which was terribly hacked about and desecrated during puritan times. Fairly recently, an astonishing Sculpture of the Virgin Mary has been installed. She is blond, buxom and dressed in blue: a very feisty character resembling a ship's figurehead in some ways. You will either love or loath her. The chapel itself is very large, a beautiful light, airy space and well worth a visit if you find yourself in Ely.

May you find in this new Year deep joy, deep peace and the love of God in your living

God bless

Revd Margaret your Team Rector

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Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends

Thank you for all of your kind wishes, cards and gifts over the Christmas season. We gave to the Foodbank this year, in place of sending cards to you all, so thank you.

New year, new beginnings is what you are expecting as you read this, I guess. Talk of new year resolutions, of oughts and goals, positive thinking and dreaming as we set ourselves up for a year to succeed or fail! We make plans for the year but, if we are not careful, we have wished it away! Yet time already seems to go so fast, or am I just getting old? As a child, I would be wishing away my childhood, waiting for the next celebration or festival and wanting to be a grown up. My dad would warn me of wishing time away as he said "the older you get, the quicker time goes". How true that is.

So, I am not going to talk about plans and resolutions but instead I am going to say, treasure this moment and each moment. Look at today rather than to tomorrow, stay with the present instead of next week and instead of looking to next year, pause, look around you and notice the here and now.

Why not stop for a moment now and listen...what do you hear? The background noise of the TV or radio? Turn it off for a minute and listen, what do you hear? Take some time to look around you, what do you see? Look beyond the dust and the jobs that need doing, look out of the window perhaps, what do you see? Using our senses is a great way to bring us back into the moment when our minds have busily taken us ahead of time. Noticing what we eat and drink, the smells around us brings us into the present moment.

Each moment, of course, will pass all too soon so, whether it is a time of laughter or tears, happy or sad, pain or health, energising or tiring, notice it before it is gone.

I offer you a challenge or invitation to live this year moment by moment, in the here and now and to make memories, lots of wonderful memories for you to look back upon when we start the year all over again!

God bless

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Rev Gill Morgan

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FOXEARTH & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

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and talk by Mark Mathieson



at 7.30 pm on
Tuesday 11th February
at Foxearth Village Hall



If you would like more information or help with transport contact
Clare Mathieson 01787 311337/Lynda Rumble 01787 281434
Email: foxhistsoc@gmail.com

FOXEARTH VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday, 18th February 2020

10.00 am -----12.00 noon

Please join us for tea/coffee

and a piece of cake ...

and sausage rolls !!!!

All Welcome!!!!!!



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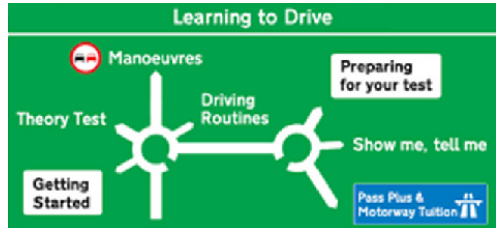
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25th February



Twinstead Village Hall : 12noon till 2pm

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Lent begins
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Ash Wednesday
26th February



Services of Ashing and Eucharist at
Twinstead at 10am and Henny at 7:30pm

For the schools: 10am at Belchamp St Paul School
& at 2pm in Bulmer Church for Bulmer school

All welcome to these quiet reflective services

FOXEARH BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP



The Foxearth Bible Study Group meets every other Monday at 7pm. We are currently looking at a series of studies on 'The Fruits of the Spirit' – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

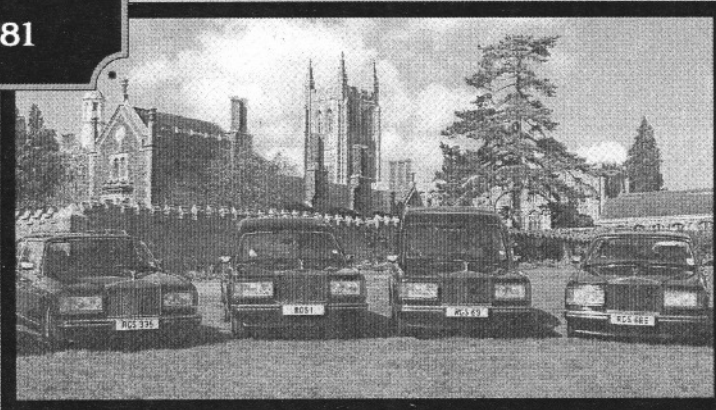
On the alternate Mondays, our village prayer group meets at 7.30am (yes, that is quite early!) and prays for the village, our clergy and those in our community who are in need.

If you are wanting to learn more about either of these groups ,or if you have something that you would like the group to pray for, please contact:

fiona.c.gault@gmail.com (375474)

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FOXEARTH & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society closed its 2019 season on 10th December with a dinner for 26 members at The George in Cavendish. Traditional fare with crackers, paper hats and fellowship made for a jolly evening. A set of historical anagrams and some quiz questions provided a bit of a challenge which was won by the Parish News' very own gardening guru, Isobel Clark, who, appropriately, was presented with a pot plant.

President Ashley Cooper thanked Clare and Lynda for their expert running of the Society, which had seen an increase in membership and a good variety of topics for meetings. He had been particularly thrilled with the "sold-out" attendance for the November meeting featuring Lord Andrew Phillips. Ashley advised members that his Christmas card would include a tribute to Fred Pawsey who died in November 2016 and who entertained many with his fighter pilot experiences, his reflections as a Head Teacher and his interest in local dialects. He complimented Andrew Clark on his inspirational management of the web site which continued to attract more hits.

Clare Mathieson expressed her and Lynda Rumble's appreciation for Ashley's active support and gave an outline of some of the content of next year's programme. Breaking with past practice there would be a meeting in January; on 14th the President of Sudbury British Legion, Len Manning, will share with us his 95th birthday and memories of time spent in WW2 as a Lancaster bomber rear gunner. Other evenings will be concerned with Victorian maps overlaid with satellite images, more about Sudbury silk, Sudbury ephemera archives. a member's experience of 10yrs in the Middle East, N. Essex law and order in the 19th and 20th centuries and a talk about and showing of the 1936 film "The Night Mail" There will be a President's evening in November when Ashley will recall some Foxearth memories. In June there will be a guided visit to the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne station and in July a chance to go to Coggeshall Abbey. A varied and thoroughly enticing programme! New members will be welcomed at any meeting or may contact Clare (01787 311337) or Lynda (01787 281434) for details.

Ken Nice

FOXEARH CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas season got off to a bright start in Foxearth on 7th December, with the illumination of a large tree outside the Village Hall . It seemed that most of the community had assembled in the Hall to enjoy mulled wine and seasonal eats, when in burst Santa to offer greetings and to share with us some of the correspondence he invariably gets. There were requests for a rainbow unicorn that magically produces ice cream, a plea to ignore a younger brother who thinks "you're trash", advice that this year - instead of cookies - you will get vegetables and skimmed milk because you are too fat, and an impassioned plea for a tennis court to receive the all-weather treatment! Santa thoughtfully parked his reindeer just out of sight where they seem to have been well-behaved, leaving not even a trace from which gardeners might have benefitted!

After this intervention came the ceremonial switch-on, with the singing of a couple of carols. We are most grateful to those who kindly gave the tree, made the arrangements and provided those delicious refreshments.

Ken Nice

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A Quilter's Journey

The great barn at Foxearth Hall was the venue for an exhibition of patchwork and quilting on Saturday 23rd November. The barn was festively decorated with Christmas lights and many examples of the quilters' craft. Colourful bed covers adorned the walls and hanging frames and smaller articles such as cushions, covers, mats etc were displayed on stalls that also bore a selection of other hand-crafted items. A steady stream of visitors throughout the 6-hour opening took advantage of the chance to view and buy, and to take part in the charity raffle of a quilt.



The exhibition was instigated and organised by local quilter, Mrs Linda Mercer, whose beautiful artistry comprised most of the work on show. Supporting Linda was husband David and family in welcoming and guiding roles and also a number of her ex-pupils from her London tutorials including one who had travelled from Cornwall to be with her. As ever Foxearth Hall's Pam Pluck produced a delicious selection of refreshments including hot beverages, sausage rolls, cakes, soup and ploughman's lunches.

This was a memorable exhibition of talent involving an immense



amount of hard work for Linda and her family. The end result was a magnificent sum of £512 raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance service, who pass on their sincerest thanks.

Ken Nice

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CHRISTMAS AT PENTLOW

Christmas activities started off with the Village Hall Social on Friday 13th December. The room was transformed and looked very festive with a variety of decorations and a brightly adorned tree, thanks due to the committee for their hard work. The event seemed more popular than it has been in recent years.

Katherine had arranged a complicated quiz to "keep our little grey cells active" and the busy bar, manned by Kathie and Colin, soon put us in the "Christmas Spirit". May and Carole once again cheerfully overlooked the raffle table which was well laden with a good selection of very acceptable prizes and the Stuart family produced a box /bean bag competition and number of sweets in a jar to be guessed. Tasty finger eats of various flavours were available to keep hunger at bay.

We are glad to report that approximately £260.00 was able to be added to Village Hall funds as a result of these festivities. Grateful thanks to those who helped in any way, donated anything and, of course, came and spent their money.

We all left in more of a Christmas Spirit, to take us through to December 25th.

Susan Fenner

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11th March

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Pentlow Telephone Box

2.50 - 3.20 pm

Foxearth Old School

Carols by Candlelight at Pentlow

This popular annual service was held on Friday 15th December at 6pm. The Church looked enchanting with the candles lit and glowing against the background of the white walls.

Ken was at the organ with Reverend Gill taking the service, members of the congregation read the traditional pieces and produced a good volume of sound as well known carols were sung.

Reverend Gill, circulated amongst those present making herself known and meeting visitors as well as villagers, while Rachel's welcome mulled wine went down well, along with the accompaniment of homemade mince pies. We were fortunate it was still a dry, pleasant evening as we made our ways home.

Susan Fenner

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 . . . Moody, Award winning English actor (1924 - 2015) notable as Fagin in Oliver (3)
- 3 Title of a knight (3)
- 5 Last move in game on board - pal! (4)
- 7 Ballroom dance of Brazilian culture (5)
- 8 Lament about the state of mind! (6)
- 10 Loud result of board game! (4)
- 11 Sir Tom Prolific playwright, wrote "Shakespeare in Love" (8)
- 13 Strategy (6)
- 14 Sheep's coat (6)
- 17 Rot revue; change introductory music (8)
- 19 Notice blemish in post! (4)
- 21 Slightly drunk (6)
- 22 Blinks one eye in meaningful fashion (5)
- 23 Refuse (4)
- 24 Card game resembling whist (3)
- 25 Sorrowful, unhappy (3)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Nut oil rose to reveal New Year determination! (10)
- 2 Constantly moving to find fresh pasture or home (7)
- 3 Break for noisy card game!(4)
- 4 Faraway control - from meteor! (6)
- 5 Game implying control by one player (8)
- 6 Jewelled head band worn by ladies (5)
- 9 Trees David arranged to promote business! (10)
- 12 27th January 1756 was Mozart's (8)
- 15 Increases in size (7)
- 16 Stick of coloured wax or chalk for drawing (6)
- 18 Banish from one's own country (5)
- 20 Wasp around exchange! (4)

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- PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE -

PRIZE CROSSWORD No 243 We begin 2020 with a general knowledge competition in which you may find a few references to indoor games; well, it is winter. As ever there are some cryptic (!) clues. Entries to **The Editors** by 14th February please. *Ken Nice*

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Entry of.....
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NOVEMBER WINNER PRIZE CROSSWORD
Dense Garnham of Pentlow
 Congratulations, a worthy wine winner!

Prize Crossword No 242 Solution
 Across: 1 O come all ye, 9 Edit, 10 Cinderella, 11 Thrice, 1 Phantom, 15 Gorging, 16 Token, 17 Nave, 18 Inch, 19 Cross, 21 Omnibus, 22 Echelon, 24 Iguana, 27 Tomfoolery 28 Eden, 10 Regretting.
 Down: 2 Crib, 3 Modern, 4 Apricot, 5 Lily, 6 Elation, 7 Additional, 8 Strengthen, 10 Pantomimes, 13 Adventurer, 14 Moors, 15 Geese, 19 Curator, 20 Scrooge, 23 Eyelet, 25 Smog, 26 Erin.

Liston Lights Up Christmas

Writing this now still gives me an all-over-type glow!

The 2019 Christmas Carols at Liston church on Monday, 23rd December was an occasion of coming together and joy. Ian and Quentin had done themselves, and the Liston choir, proud. The singing was pitch perfect and the enthusiasm palpable. Each word and phrase enunciated so that even the hardest of hearing could know what was being sung - even though the carols were familiar. The readers also added much to the occasion, drawing in the congregation to the story of Christmas.

The dog sitting in the pew behind was very well behaved, as were the children who, despite having to stand, joined in the celebration with the concentration usually demonstrated at the altar of an x-box.

This was also also the occasion of a world Premier. Performed, for the first time in public, a new carol by Nick Wilson, *Go To The Child*. Ian handed over the conducting reins to Nick, a role that he appeared to relish. As he brought the choir to performance state, his eyes lit up like organ stops and his hands gently teased the tempo and timing from the choir. Changes of pace and tempo were handled effortlessly. When he brought the choir to its final note his face was abeam with a mixture of relief, excitement and satisfaction. If there was applause, it was contained in the minds of the appreciative congregation.

Each year seems to bring more people to this little church. Judging by the number of extra chairs (which exhausted supply) and the number of people standing, 2019 was no exception.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith



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This month is when it all starts for me, the beginning of the gardening year when a lot of pruning can be done, especially of roses: see article overleaf. But, there are lots of jobs to be done in preparation for the coming spring.

- Prune winter flowering jasmine as soon as the flowers fade; remove dead or diseased wood, tie in long shoots to the support, and shorten all other new growth by about half or more. Some take it to within 2 inches of the main stem to keep it under control, as it can increase mightily in a year.
- Sow hardy annuals in the greenhouse in modular trays, to get a head start and early flowers.
- Lift and divide clumps of snowdrops and aconites as soon as they finish flowering, and before the leaves disappear.
- Weed winter container displays regularly, replenish plants and check the soil moisture; move under cover if the compost is sodden.
- Overgrown deciduous hedges can still be renovated: beech (*Fagus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus*) can be reduced by half in a single cut.
- Towards the end of the month take down summer-flowering clematis to a low pair of healthy buds, about 6 to 12 inches above the soil.
- Continue to plant fruit trees and bushes, once the soil is not frozen.
- Start sowing tomatoes in a heated propagator towards the end of the month. Broad beans, sprouts and shallots can also be sown under cover.
- Now is the time to reshape citrus plants: remove overcrowded and badly placed branches and shorten leggy growth by up to two thirds. If there is a tall leading shoot, shorten this too to achieve a bushier plant.
- Cover prepared vegetable beds with clear or black plastic sheets to warm the soil, and leave in place until planting time.
- Pots of crocus and primroses will give delight to early wandering bumble bees.

There is lots to do in terms of jobs, but be careful of the cold and wind, and don't overdo it. It is very nice that these days we hoe lightly rather than double-dig as we did in the past. It is easier on the back!

Cavendish Horticultural Society:

AGM followed by an informal quiz - 7.30pm on Monday 3 February

CAVENDISH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This is the month to prune the roses and the thing to remember is, that no rose ever died from pruning; they are tough, which is not surprising, growing as they do in clay and in an uncertain climate. Some gardeners take a chainsaw to them. But remember, hard pruning tea roses and floribundas does result in more and better flowers. Use nice sharp secateurs for smaller stems and loppers or a pruning saw on larger growth and never cut more than 5 mm above a bud and slant the cut so that rain slides off; aim for an open-centred shape to the bush, so cut to an outward-facing bud; remove dead, diseased or crossing branches to achieve free air-flow (branches that cross and rub will allow disease to enter); once the rose is established, cut out a proportion of the oldest, poorly-flowering wood. Prune all newly planted bush roses (not climbers or ramblers) down to about 6 to 12 inches above the soil to encourage vigorous new growth. Trace any suckers back to the roots from which they grow, and pull them away. In climbing or rambling roses, remember that tying long shoots downwards, rather than cutting them away, will activate all the flower buds along their length. I suggest doing this job now because since the plant is dormant all the growth hormones are in the root and ready to burst into new growth, and spring is not far away, so that cut stems don't have to bear too much cold.

To turn to something quite different, I came across a wonderful story in one of my gardening journals which you might enjoy. This comes from the letters of Prince Puckler-Muskau in the early nineteenth century. The prince had just spent a long hot day at Ascot, and rode off with an army friend to visit a fashionable lady who lived at Windsor. They arrived at her house, with no-one there. He was enchanted by the house and its setting, and especially by the garden. Prince Puckler's letters to his wife in Germany, a wonderfully vivid and entertaining account of England in the 1820s, were published by Dumbarton Oaks Research Library in 2016, under the title *Letters of a Dead Man*. He was determined to transform his own inherited mansion and large park in Germany into an English landscape garden, but, sadly, ran out of money. So his very adaptable wife agreed to an amicable divorce if he could find a rich English bride to finance the project. The letters are his account of the, alas, finally fruitless search, as he explores England from palace to pub enjoying every minute of it. I would like to know a bit more about his extraordinary wife – or perhaps she just felt abandoned.

Isobel Clark

A Lancaster bomber, ablaze and rapidly losing height; a rear gunner with clothes and parachute alight. This was the situation which faced 19 year-old Len Manning in March 1944, as his aircraft was attacked as it returned from a bombing raid on Italian marshalling yards. As he rotated his turret and tumbled out, the tail plane hit Len's head but he landed safely in a field and his injuries were confined to the serious burns he sustained before bailing out. Told with a



nonchalance, no doubt induced by the 76 year time span, this would have been an absolutely terrifying experience for anyone let alone one so young. Len Manning - President of the Sudbury branch of the British Legion - captivated an audience of about 40 members and guests of the Foxearth and District Local History Society on Tuesday 14th January with his account of this episode in his war service.

Len recounted how he had always wanted to join the Royal Air Force and he formed an Air Training Corps in 1942 with 19 friends before joining up and being trained as a gunner. Familiarization with Wellington, Stirling and finally Lancaster planes was followed by posting to an operational squadron and participation in sorties over enemy territory. On the night he was shot down over France - and after disposing of his still burning parachute - Len used his compass to walk south for some miles before collapsing in the doorway of a French farmhouse. Fortunately the residents were members of the Resistance and they arranged his treatment from a French doctor and for him to be hidden in a small village. Several times he had to be moved to avoid German military and there was a memorable occasion when he was in a cafe into which several German troops walked; the quick-witted Madame threw him a tea towel and said "get back to your work" thus saving the day! After 3 months the Americans arrived and Len was taken to Paris to the Hotel Meurice which only a week before had been the headquarters of the Gestapo in the city. At this stage Len had no knowledge of what fate had befallen his flight colleagues.

Back in civvy street Len took employment in the plastics trade rising to become Works Manager of a factory in Wood Green but he retained his interest and involvement in the Royal Air Force through membership of various associations. As well as his important role with the British Legion, he is currently President of No.1 Leicester ATC. Some years after the war a researcher was able to identify the name of the Luftwaffe pilot that shot Len's



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...continued Foxearth & District Historical Society

plane down and the two men met. Len described his adversary as a quite a nice chap who, after all, was only doing his duty!

This was a wonderful evening's entertainment from a sprightly nonogenarian who happily agreed to share his 95th birthday with us. So in addition to warm thanks from an appreciative audience he received the usual choral rendition and Clare produced a large cake which we were all able to share.

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th February 7.20pm in Foxearth Village Hall when Mark Mathieson will give a computer demonstration and talk on Overlaying Victorian OS maps with the latest satellite images.

Ken Nice



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FOXEARH MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE



RAVENS RETURN

We heralded the New Year with our first work party on 3rd January. As we mowed a section of meadow I was musing on the lack of birdlife. It is all too quiet, I thought. I then became aware of a fuss occurring on the Suffolk side of the Stour over the Glemsford Pits woodland. Two large black birds appeared, making their way purposefully eastwards over the meadows. I naturally dismissed them as Crows but at the same time wondering – there was something un-crow like about them. I always reckon that although powerful the crow appears to be trying out its wings for the first time. Deliberate yet unconvincing as they flap about going where the wind takes them.

The two black birds called to each other with a short, weighty and grating call that was also most un-crow like. I knew immediately the identification of our visitors yet, instead, looked at Clive, one of our volunteers, who looked back at me uttering the word which had failed to escape my own lips, “Ravens”.

Corvus Corax has long been one of my favourite birds. Encounters with them from Devon or Welsh coasts, the Staffordshire and Derbyshire peaks, Lakeland mountains are all firmly embedded in my memories. I will never forget watching a raven careering at breakneck speed down the slopes from Skiddaw, audaciously turning on its back in flight, then deftly righting itself again. They have an “I can do this” flamboyance about them as they show off absolute mastery of flight. On the Malvern Hills I laughed as our friends, the afore-mentioned crows, attempted to mob their cousin who beats them for size and aerial ability. A few rapid climbs and plunging dives soon sorted out the ‘pecking order’ on that occasion.

That dense ‘cronking’ call and their outrageous aerobatics are long associated with craggy places far from the sedate landscapes of lowland England, yet the raven would once have been familiar in both. Driven out by gamekeepers in the 19th century, could it be that the raven will follow the resurgent buzzard and become a common sight once again in East Anglia? If the recent spread of Red Kite is anything to go by I would say yes.

After our sighting at Foxearth Meadows, I contacted a couple of birding colleagues. I learnt about the pair that bred in Suffolk for the first time in 2018 after a break of 138 years. On texting Rod Bleach, our bird surveyor at the meadows, to ask if he had any information he immediately text me back with the following: “How strange. I’m at section 1 (of our transect) and a raven has just flown over”. I spotted two ravens again on 14th January so we are well

... continued Foxearth

beyond 'rare' now I would say. To reinforce this, the Essex Birdwatching Society's website has records this year already from Good Easter, Wivenhoe, Terling, Halstead and Kelvedon Hatch.

Whilst it is exciting that long absent species can return to former haunts I can't help but think that I would swap these big, brash iconic birds for a revival in the fortunes of our much-loved farmland and woodland birds. Where are the flocks of house sparrows, chaffinches, linnets, corn buntings and greenfinches? Where are lesser spotted woodpeckers and turtle-doves? Where is the sheer abundance of birdlife that still lurks in my childhood memories?

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



FREE THE TREES

A ROCHA UK with DEDHAM VALE & STOUR VALLEY PROJECT

On Wednesday, 11th December a team of enthusiastic volunteers finished the year with a foray onto the dismantled railway track to the north of the meadows in partnership with Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley folk to 'free the trees' of previous plantings from plastic spiral guards and hideous fragmenting black plastic mulching. The site was soon cleared, filling 4 builder's bags (see photograph) worth of plastic.



Appreciative thanks to everyone who helped.



PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS CAN BE FOUND AT: Fox Lodge, Brook Hall Lane, Borley CO10 7AE

Something to Live For by Richard Roper: Richard Roper is a new writer who, I think, has a real hit on his hands. You can feel his excitement from the biography on the dust cover, and the TV rights having already been snapped up by a production company. Read on.

Inspired by an article he had read about council workers who deal with situations when someone dies alone, Roper has crafted a book which is funny, moving and uplifting.

We are introduced to Andrew, a nervous, shy, loner of a man who is employed by the Death Administration Department of Public Health. He acts like a detective, sifting through the evidence left behind in a person's property to establish next of kin and find assets to cover the cost of the funeral. Although not obliged to do so, he often attends the funerals, often being the only person present when no relatives or friends have been found.

Interwoven into these great narrative tracts are a couple of plot lines involving Andrew's family, his sister Sally and her husband, and his immediate home life. A further plot line is the recruitment of a new council officer who shadows Andrew in his work, which gives rise to a wonderful opportunity to further describe the work of the council.

Cameron, the boss, is a bit touchy-feely and believes that the team (all 5 of them) should 'bond' and comes up with the idea of each team member hosting a dinner party at their respective homes. This is hilarious, but begins to unravel Andrew's life in ways that he dreads and the consequences of these dinners will affect his life forever!

This novel is exceptionally well written. It is a bit 'edge of the seat' in places which, for a novel of this genre, is unusual and a really good device.

If you enjoyed reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Fine*, or watching *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or *Notting Hill*, you will love this book. I can see the value in TV rights but I think this story would be a terrific film ... I wonder who the actors would be? Answers on a postcard to the Editors!

Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty Sometime ago I read and reviewed Liane Moriarty's brilliant novel, *Big Little Lies*. I thought I was in for another gripping thriller but, alas, I was to be disappointed. Don't get me wrong, this is still a good read but only if you like slow-burning who-done-its!

Set in Sydney, Australia, during an extended period of rain, the central characters are two female school friends, now adults; one a cellist with a young family of two young girls and the other, a professional with a

A Good Read continued ...

high flying career. They have been invited, along with their families unexpectedly, to a barbecue at the neighbour and the story is told as a flash back to ‘the day of the barbecue’.

The sub-plot is about the relationship between the two women, their partners, their parents and the next door neighbours. It is not until the reader gets to three quarters of the way through the book that the actual incident at the barbecue is revealed.

Reading the acknowledgements of the author, it appears she has spent much time on the research of ‘hoarding’. There is an element of this in her sub-plot which, in my opinion, she could have made more of. Eventually one realises that this character is responsible for raising her child in a dysfunctional family. When ‘the incident’ is revealed, it has the reader on edge, and even more so when a minor character reveals a reason for his ‘bad neighbourliness’.

There is no denying that Liane Moriarty is a talented writer. Some of the prose in this book are stunning, but it does not rise to the standard of ‘Big Little Lies’. Having said that, although I found the storyline a little shallow, it was a good read. What do you think?

Not such a good read is **“’Twas the Night Before Christmas”** by Adam Kay. Having read and reviewed Kay’s first book *“Where Does It Hurt”* I thought his next book would be as insightful and humorous. How wrong can one be?

This is nothing more than a few diary entry anecdotes by this former Junior doctor, riddled with strong and unnecessary swearing! If Kay had omitted the profanity maybe this would have been an interesting overview of his Christmas days on the wards.

ERROR! My thanks to Richard Evans who spotted that, in the December issue of Parish News, I had wrongly titled the novel by Elly Griffiths as ‘The Secret Diaries’ rather than ‘The Stranger Diaries’. My apologies.

BORLEY VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

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SCAMS AND MORE SCAMS - THE USUAL ISSUE

Every day there seems to be a media story about some ‘new’ fraud scam. In the majority of cases, the scam is a failure of the individual or corporation to preserve the privacy of their own information.

I recently read a warning given to the solicitors governing body about the “Friday Afternoon Fraud”. It warned that Friday afternoon is an optimum time for would be fraudsters to plunder solicitors’ email and walk away with a client’s proceeds of sale or large deposit for a purchase, or the funds held for a distribution of an Estate.

Not enough is being put in place to deter fraudsters from manipulating emails purporting to come from either the solicitor or its client. Most solicitors in a transaction will have very strict guidelines in place to prevent such identity theft. They will clearly set out their practice for receiving and distributing funds - no bank account information being sent via email, making clear that no email will be sent purporting to change bank accounts etc.

It would appear that Friday afternoons are a particularly vulnerable time for these frauds. Clients want to move in to their new property over a weekend, transactions invariably occur on a Friday and this all adds to possible inattention as the solicitors office is very busy and fraud may not be immediately noticed.

In the last week the TV media has raised the issue of ‘SIM-jacking’ a fanciful name for a fraudster hi-jacking the SIM card of a mobile phone. Slightly different from an outright theft of a mobile phone, but with the same or, perhaps, greater consequences. The fraudster assumes the identity of the owner.

In SIM-jacking, the fraudster will gather information on the mobile phone owner by delving into information held on social media accounts. It is not difficult to imagine that on a Facebook account, for example, someone may be discussing the merits of a new phone account - bingo! The fraudster can then use that information to call the phone provider pretending to be the account holder but diverting the phone to a different phone on which the fraudster can then make searches for any any bank accounts or other personal information.

The watchword, as always, is keep your information safe, do not disclose personal information and have the highest form of security on social media accounts.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

WITHER OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

There may have been mutterings in the villages at the use of our church buildings (apart from worship) but they have not reached your Editors. In our last issue we hi-lighted the concern of keeping our churches functioning and bringing the church buildings into greater community use and we asked for your suggestions.

The general consensus appears to favour greater use of our church buildings so hopefully we shall see more exhibitions, fairs and concerts held in them during the coming year. Please let us know what your church is up to so we can publicise the event.

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

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GREEN BITS

I am not a scientist. So much of what I write here may not be scientifically accurate. I have been a promoter of conservation and things green for sometime. Our household is run on recycling lines. Rarely does anything get thrown out without first resolving whether the item(s) can be recycled by way of composting or other practical uses.

We have been toying with the idea of investing in an electric car but, as yet, have not taken the plunge being concerned about range-anxiety. It surely has to be the way forward but, at the moment, it is cost prohibitive, “will our contribution make any difference to the warming climate?” and are there sufficient charging points for the journeys we want/need to make?

Lithium, required for the batteries for the electric vehicles and batteries for most of our devices these days, is a finite product. What happens when that resource runs out or becomes scarce?

One of the world’s largest oil companies recently declared that it would be ‘oil free’ in 5 years and become instead, the world’s largest energy company. Either it is going to invest in the extraction of Lithium or it will develop alternatives. Some may say the oil companies have had the ability to produce alternatives for many years!

In Chile, the second largest Lithium extraction company has been fined an enormous sum for violating strict extraction criteria (similar to over fishing). The regulating agency, being well aware of the limited supply of the product, is attempting to preserve what it has and limit mass extraction. This, presumably, means the cost of extraction and the cost of the product will soar, which, in turn, will increase the cost of batteries and the cost of an electric vehicle to the consumer.

So, will the future be hydrogen powered vehicles? The Norwegians have spent the past ten years or more in pilot schemes which were reasonably

Green Bits continued ...

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... continued Green Bits

successful. Other Scandinavian countries also took on the challenge of hydrogen powered vehicles and ‘filling’ stations across Scandinavia .

Great incentives were on offer to encourage users to change vehicles to electric battery or hydrogen electric battery vehicles: VAT exemption on vehicle purchase, no import duty, government contribution to purchase price, free parking, no congestion charges, use of bus lanes without penalty and zero road tax. In Bergen, 30% of all vehicles are either electric-battery or hydrogen-battery powered. The aim has been to achieve zero emissions from vehicles.

This, as far as hydrogen is concerned, may have been set back somewhat by an explosion at a hydrogen filling station in June 2019. As a result, many hydrogen filling stations had to be temporarily closed which meant that hydrogen car owners had no means of filling up their cars. But surely there have been fires and explosions at traditional petrol stations in the past? Hydrogen is volatile but so is petrol....research continues.

At the time of writing, hydrogen powered battery cars have a range in excess of 350 miles - you just have to hope that the next hydrogen filling station is over the next hill!

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

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FILM REVIEW BY ISOBEL CLARK

Official Secrets

Director: Gavin Hood

USA/UK; 2019; 1 hr 52 mins; 15

Keira Knightly, Matthew Goode, Matt Smith, Ralph Fiennes

General Release

This film, Mark Kermode's Film of the Week on 20 October, is based on the true story of Katherine Gun, who worked at GCHQ and who had signed the Official Secrets Act. However, when she received a memo in the course of duties from NSA concerning the fact that the USA wanted help from the UK to gather usable information on UN Security Council members to force a vote in favour of the invasion of Iraq in 2003, she was unable to stand by and see the public lied to, so she made the decision to leak the memo to the Press.

After much soul-searching, *The Observer* took the story up. We see a clip of the real Katherine at the end, but in the film Keira Knightly plays her, not as a noble martyr, but as a very ordinary woman, not used to breaking the rules and appalled at the consequences of her own action. It is a very good performance indeed, anchoring the film well. The *Guardian* reviewer describes the film, *The film reminds us of how seriously the state took its pursuit of Gun, who had nothing to gain and all to lose by raising the alarm and revealing the teeth behind the smarm.* The film is indeed about lies, but in the face of what we are told today, bare-faced, by Trump and Johnson, Blair and Bush look almost quaint. It is a timely, ambitious take on a complex subject which does nothing to restore trust in our leaders. But, it certainly refreshed the anger felt at the time, when we went to war anyway, and tens of thousands died in spite of all efforts to stop it.

The cast does it justice; we feel Katherine's anguish as she realises the effect her action has on the people around her: her friends who get mixed up in a dangerous situation, her husband, a Kurdish Muslim who almost gets deported, the journalists who are frightened that without a clear source the story will destroy them; how do they know the memo is genuine? What repercussions will come down from above on the group of lawyers who support her, and defend her in Court? A number of people support her action, but they have no power: that lies with the state, and the film shows us how vengeful those in power can be when they are thwarted. Yes, the invasion happened and Blair has to live with the knowledge that it had no legal basis. This is a well-made investigative thriller. We do it so well, so try to watch it if you can.

Isobel Clark

VILLAGE KITCHEN

PHEASANT PIE

INGREDIENTS

500g pheasant breasts (skinless)
200g un-smoked bacon lardons (diced small)
200g chestnuts (cooked and vacuum-packed)
1 celery stick (cleaned and sliced fine)
2 garlic cloves (crushed and minced)
3 tbsp double cream
1 sprig of thyme (pull off just the leaves)
Salt and Pepper
1 egg yolk with 1 tbsp milk (beaten to glaze)

Serves 4 in a 1.1 Litre pie dish

Preheated oven to 220°C

1 tbsp sunflower oil
1 bay leaf
130ml red wine
1 onion (chopped fine)
250ml chicken stock
3tbsp plain flour & extra to dust
2 tbsp finely chopped parsley
400g ready made puff pastry

METHOD:

1. Dice the pheasant into bite sized pieces, roll them in seasoned flour.
2. In a large, non-stick frying pan, fry bacon lardons for 5 minutes, or until they begin to turn golden. Add oil, chopped onion, minced garlic, and sliced celery and fry for 7 minutes on a low heat, until they soften and the onion becomes lightly browned. Stir often. Add pheasant pieces and bay leaf to the pan and fry for 2 minutes, turning the pheasant in the pan to brown and seal (the pieces do not need to be cooked through, they will be cooked in the oven). Season well with salt and pepper.
3. Add chopped chestnuts (crumble them in) and red wine to pan. Turn up heat and simmer on a rapid boil for 2 minutes. Turn heat down for a further 2 minutes and gradually stir in chicken stock, scraping the bottom of the pan to lift the sediment. Leave pan on a simmer for 10 minutes to reduce and thicken the gravy.
4. Take pan off heat and stir in cream, chopped parsley and thyme leaves. Leave to cool for 5 minutes. Spoon the pie filling mixture into the 1.1 litre pie dish, and leave to further cool for 30 minutes. It should be cool before adding on pie crust.
5. Roll out puff pastry, on a well-floured surface, into a rectangle, a good third larger than the pie dish, about 7mm thick. Down one side cut out some long pastry strips, about 2cm wider than rim of the dish. Brush rim of pie dish with beaten egg and fix the strips length-ways in place, half-in half out, all along the rim of the pie dish, overlapping a little where necessary. Then brush these strips with a little more egg yolk. The strips help seal the pie lid to the dish, without the need to have the dish fully lined in a pastry base.
6. Place pastry lid over the pie filling. Press the edges firmly to seal with pastry strips on the rim. Trim any excess with a sharp knife and use back of a fork to go all along the edges crimping to fully seal the Pheasant Pie. Make a steam hole in the pasty lid and brush all over with beaten egg yolk to glaze.
7. Bake for 25 minutes in an oven at 220C – or until the pastry is well risen and golden brown, and the filling is piping hot.

PREDICTIVE TEXT AND AUTOCORRECT

We have all become used to sending emails and text messages but, how often do we take meticulous care in making sure that words are spelled correctly or that words that we meant to type have ‘actually’ been typed? It surely used to be the mantra that one should check what one has written before the letter/email/text is sent. I used to have a boss who was nicknamed ‘blue pencil’ because it seemed that whenever he was double-checking a letter or document, he would find a typo! But, nowadays we are all governed by the speed of response to any communication. Spell-checker facilities on our computers and tablets will automatically check - and change - the spelling of a word without a second thought. But is that word correctly spelled? Is it the word we initially wanted? And do we bother to check it?

The practice of predictive and autocorrect text drives me round the bend! I have lost count of the number of times that I have typed a communication and found (usually after it has been sent because I have not checked it!) that the word which has been ‘predictively or automatically amended’ is not the RIGHT word or phrase. This means that I either have to send a second communication or hope that the recipient will understand what I MEANT to write.

Some time ago I saw a wonderful tweet - “The man who invented autocorrect should burn in hello”.

Grateful thanks to our proof reader who check the Parish News articles!

Kelvin Hastings-Smith

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A GLANCE IN FEBRUARY		
Fri 7/1/ 21/28	10am-12.30pm	Foxearth Meadow Work Parties
Mon 3	7.30pm	Cavendish Horticultural Society AGM & Informal Quiz
Tues 4	7.30pm	Monthly Service of Healing Prayer at W St P
Tues 11	7.30pm	FDHS – Overlaying Victorian OS maps with satellite images
Mon 17	10am-12noon	Crafty Wo(men)
Tues 18	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning at Foxearth Village Hall
Wed 19		Mobile Library 2.10-2.40m Pentlow/2.50-3.20pm Foxearth
Wed 19	10am-12noon	First Hedingham Guides Coffee Morning
Tues 25	12noon-2pm	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day at Twinstead Village Hall
Wed 26	Ash Wednesday Services of Ashing and Eucharist at 10am Twinstead and 7.30pm at Henny	
Wed 26	Schools Ash Wednesday Services of Ashing and Eucharist at 10 am at Belchamp St Paul School & 2pm in Bulmer Church for Bulmer School	

FEBRUARY		WEST PARISHES				NORTH PARISHES			
Sunday	B Otten	B St Paul	B Walter	Ovington	Bulmer	Foxearth	Liston	Borley	Pentlow
2 nd February Candlemas	8.45am Communion	See Ovington		9.45am Communion	10.30am Family Service	10.30am Start the Month! Churchwardens in Village Hall	6pm Eucharist		11.15am Communion
<i>White</i>	PG			GM			MHK		GM
Tuesday 4 th February	7.30pm Team Healing Service at Wickham St Paul – MHK								
Wednesday 5 th February		10am Midweek Mass MHK							
9 th February	10am	10am	9.45am		11.15am	10.30am		11.15am	11.15am
3 rd Before Lent <i>Green</i>	Songs of Praise RB	Communion PG	Communion GM		Communion GM	Family Service in Village Hall MG, FG, GK		Family Service MG	Communion PG
16 th February 2 nd before Lent <i>Green</i>	10am Belchamp's Combined Service at Belchamp Otten MHK								
23 rd February Next before Lent <i>Green</i>	8.45am Communion (BCP) GM	10am Communion GM			11.15am Communion PG	10am Communion in Village Hall (BCP) GM	10.30am Combined Service at Foxearth in Church MHK		
25 th February Ash Wednesday <i>Purple</i>		10am Ash Wednesday Eucharist at School SW			2pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist MHK; PG				

More information from Revd Margaret H King 01787 269385 Revd.margaret@northhincfordparishes.org.uk

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The North

Hinckford

Team

Monthly Services of Healing Prayer at 7:30pm

Tuesday, 4th February at Wickham St Paul

All welcome to these quiet reflective services Contact Revd Margaret 269385 or Revd Gill 584993