



MARCH 2025

Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford NEWSLETTER

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish website;

<http://wetheringsettcumbrockford.onesuffolk.net/home/>

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The newsletter is produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that any errors may be corrected in future editions.

Welcome to the March 2025 issue of your Newsletter



Only about 23% of Easters fall in March, so, not unusually we won't be celebrating Easter this month. In fact this year it's fairly late ...Easter Monday is on 21st April. But we do have the first day of Spring, on 20th, and the start of British Summer time, on 30th, to look forward to. All of which must mean we are leaving winter behind us! Look out for the lovely show of daffodils - as seen in the photo shown on the cover of the newsletter - going up Cedars Hill.

Note the change of email addresses for parish councillors. They have all been issued with standard email address (see page 35)

Enjoy your month, and *don't forgetClocks 'Spring Forward' on 29th/30th March*

Cally (Editor)

Newsflash

Village Summer solstice celebration planned for Sunday 22nd June—watch out for further details !



The first day of spring, March 20th,
the vernal equinox,
has 12 hours of daylight
and 12 hours of darkness.

Dates for the Diary

March

Saturday 8th	Craft workshop at Debenham Shed
Monday 17th	St Patrick's day
Sunday 30th	Clocks forward 1 hr - British Summer time starts
Sunday 30th	Mothering Sunday

April

Saturday 26th	Village Litter Pick
Sunday 20th	Easter Sunday

Contributions from the village community for inclusion in the newsletter
are welcomed

Deadline for copy 15th of every month

Newsletter Spring Term 1 Collective Worship Theme: Courage

Wow, this term has been jam packed with activity! Here are some of the wonderful activities the children have been doing here at Wetheringsett...



Maths Day 2025:

On Monday 27th January all children took part in Maths activities based around 'Maths in the Workplace'. They explored how maths is used and applied in real life and how different members of the community use maths in their work lives.



National Story Telling week

National Storytelling week today. The theme for this year was 'Reimagine Your World,' which involved the concept that the most extraordinary story can come from the most ordinary place. To start off the morning, the children were lucky enough to spend time online with an award winning author- Tola Okogwu. During this online session, the children were taken through Tola's writing process and were able to work with her to refine ideas for a story about a superhero.



Muslim Visitor in KS2

Chestnut and Sycamore class had a visit from Mr Mo, a practising Muslim. He talked about the importance of prayer and how the Qur'an is treated. Mr Mo Spoke about Salat which is where Muslims pray 5 times a day. He showed us how Muslims prepare for prayer by ceremonial washing (Wudu). He talked about needing to face the Ka'bah to pray.

Gruffalo Reading Challenge Reward

The children had a reward for completing the Gruffalo reading challenge, to read enough books equivalent to the height of the Gruffalo. All the children had a special story time with hot chocolate and a biscuit at the end of the school day



Computing: -

Microbits and Adastral Park Visit

KS2 have been learning how to code Microbits. Chestnut Class had a fabulously inspiring day today at Adastral Park. They started the morning by seeing a self-drive bus negotiate itself around the car park and then explored this concept by programming their own Edison robots

to stop at bus stops and pick up passengers. After that, the class were able to take their microbit skills to the next level by programming them to detect that soil was



too dry, so the farmer needed to water their plants. Or finding that the atmosphere was too dark, so the farmer needed to give their plants more light. After lunch, the children enjoyed listening to why a technology career is suitable for both genders during an inclusivity workshop .



Are you looking for something fun to do with your dog? Come and try

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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 3 February 2025

Community Litter Pick – this will take place on Saturday 26 April 2025, meet at Wetheringsett Village Hall at 9.45am. Volunteer help from parishioners would be much appreciated. Children to be accompanied by adults. Equipment will be provided, litter picks, high viz vests and waste bags – **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES.**

Wetherup Street Speeding – Suffolk Police have confirmed that, despite some staff absences, speed checks in the Wetherup Street/Park Green area will continue monthly. Please let us know if there has been a noticeable change or if you think these are not being carried out on a monthly basis.

Brockford Street & Hockey Hill speed signs - The proposed permanent speed sign for the southern end of Brockford Street has been approved by Suffolk CC Highways as has Hockey Hill. Installation will await the outcome of discussions with the Manor School – they have kindly offered to fund the cost of the signs.

Suffolk Devolution – County Councillor Stringer gave a presentation on the proposed devolution which would see one council for Suffolk and an elected Mayor. The fast-track plan for Suffolk had been approved by the Government which will probably see the postponement of the May County Council elections. The devolution would not impact parish councils but could mean additional tasks being handed down to be dealt with by parish councils.

There will be much publicity about this during the next few months, keep in touch via the Suffolk CC website.

Grass cutting – the Parish Council is looking to appoint a new grasscutter for the Cemetery at Church Street/Cedars Hill junction and the Play Area at the rear of the Village Hall involving 4 – 5 cuts of the cemetery over the grass cutting season April – October with more regular cuts at the Play Area plus some strimming. We would be pleased to hear from any resident with their own grass cutting/strimming equipment and able to work on a self-employed basis with their own public liability insurance. Please contact a councillor or the clerk for more information.

Community Funding – Details of MSDC's community funding grant is available at: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk – click 'Access community funding' button.

Or email the grants team at: BMSDCgrants@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

The **Pride In Your Place grant** offers up to £5,000 for capital projects to groups to enhance their local area and environment, explore local identity and heritage, and engage in activities such as community clean ups.

Date of next meetings: Monday 3 March 2025 and Monday 7 April 2025, 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett. ALL WELCOME

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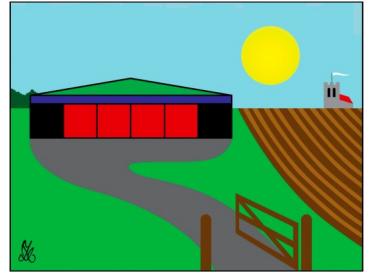
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Debenham Shed

A recent community project we have undertaken is to make some staging for The Bank at Eye (www.thebankeye.org), to work with other staging which they are purchasing.



Our

first Craft Workshop this year will be on **Saturday 8th March** from 10am-2pm: wood turning and bird nest boxes. Future workshops will include weaving, radios and decoupage. If you are interested in attending please email crafts@debenhamshed.org.uk or one of the telephone numbers below.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm, Fridays 10am-5pm and normally the second Saturday

morning of each month. Membership by the year, half-year or PAYG.

Chairman: Rob Davies 07952 556152 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at www.debenhamshed.org.uk (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk . Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.

What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Debenham shed is open to all adults.

*As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field.
But hay, it's in my jeans*

MY MIND IS LIKE MY INTERNET BROWSER.

19 tabs open,
3 of them are frozen
and I have no idea
where the music is coming from



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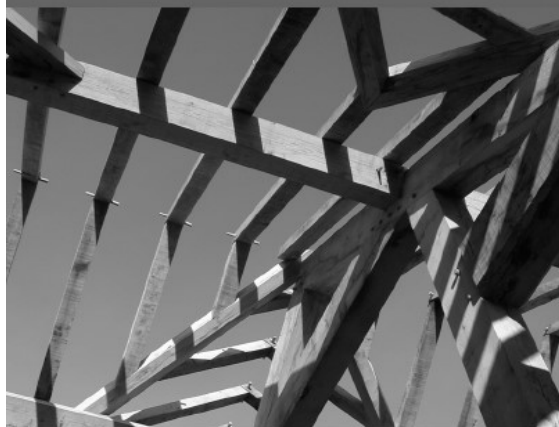
 

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Event: Easter Gala Steam Up
Venue: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
Dates: 20th & 21st April
Opening Times: 10.30 - 16.30 each day
3-loco Gala Steam Up for Easter weekend

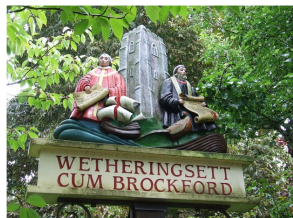
The first big weekend of the 2025 season at The Middy, Suffolk's only standard gauge preserved railway, will be celebrated with no less than 3 locos in steam and working the trains during both Sunday 20th and Monday 21st April.

Do we read enough?!



I suspect we all watch too much television although the quality seems to deteriorate each year. However, I watched the series not long ago about the SAS, called Rogue Heroes, about the SAS in Africa, then Italy during WWII. Following that, my wife thrust the book by Michael MacIntyre into my hand, as she has done before. Again, the book was better than the film and I realised that we should read more.

I travel to London quite a lot and note that a few people read books on the tube, on the way to work. However, most people are absorbed on their phones, in one way or another.



I hope that spring is just a round the corner and that we might enjoy a small measure of national, if not global, warming, and get outside, away from the television ; walk our footpaths; cycle to the next village pub, drive to the coast.

However, do read the Village History, read how we used to collect our own taxes, how many people lived in each house. Read about our two vicars who feature on our village sign.

Then when you have lived here for over ten years, you will think of it as your village, and we will too!!

An Old Villager. 11

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Thanks! References available

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Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday began as an explicitly religious event of the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. It became a tradition that, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This meant that families were reunited, as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on this day to return home. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. Over time this became known as Mothering Sunday. The term has been usurped and is now known, more popularly, as Mother's Day.

Mother's Day

The American Mother's Day does not have religious connotations and was formally established as a public holiday (held every year on the 2nd Sunday of May), by President Wilson in 1914 after a campaign was launched by an American woman from West Virginia named Anna Jarvis, whose own mother died in May.

Jarvis later held protests at the commercialisation of the day.

However, in the UK, Mothering Sunday is always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April. This year it is on 30th March



Sunday 30th March

Don't forget to put the clocks forward
1 hour



Start of
British Summer Time



S.C. CLIFFORD

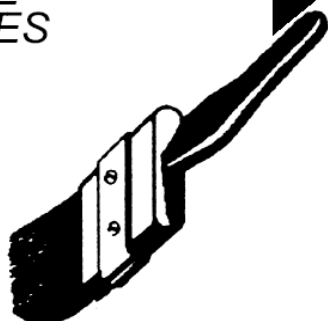
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www.fantasticfiction.com is a very useful website. For

non-fiction, try looking at www.amazon.co.uk to find it, then look in the library catalogue at <https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk>. If it isn't there you can make a suggestion online.

Blood pressure monitors can also be reserved and borrowed free just like a book (search for Blood pressure monitor).

Pupils at Sir Robert Hitcham school in Debenham are now visiting the library regularly, thanks to volunteers from the Friends and to Maureen, our manager. The children's bookshelves soon looked empty, so Sophie, the Children's Librarian, is going to give us some books

Please note that the mobile library no longer stops at Debenham.

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www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

Quote of the month

Worrying is like paying a debt you don't owe

Mark Twain



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South Hartismere Electoral Rolls

This year all the parish churches in the South Hartismere Benefice (*Gislingham, Mellis, Stoke Ash & Thwaite, Thorndon with Rishangles, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Wetheringsett cum Brockford and Yaxley*) will need to draw up new Electoral Rolls. Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment not later than: 1st of May 2025

The new Roll will take effect on 14th May 2025.

Any lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the roll, if –

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the church, from the Electoral Roll Officer. In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, you must return the Application Form for enrolment by the 1st of May.

Why should I request that my name is added to the Electoral Roll?

Being on the Church Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the Church, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. It also enables you to participate and vote in the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (APCM).

St Patrick's day Do you know what a Shamrock is ... a young sprig, used as a symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity. The name shamrock comes from Irish seamróg, which is the diminutive of the Irish word for plant and means simply "little plant" or "young plant".

South Hartismere Benefice

March 2025 Newsletter



"Then Jesus said to him, 'Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now." But they all alike began to make excuses. ...".

In summer 2023 I received a letter asking me if I would be available on 27th October as I was to be one of the guests to meet the king Charles III to thank me for my support for the opening of Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich (not that I thought I deserved any recognition). When the time came, I sent a very feeble apology which read.... "I am sorry I cannot come, for my house has flooded and I have no shoes". It sounds a rather pathetic excuse, doesn't it? Last April 2024 I received an invite to a garden party at Windsor as a thank you for my contribution to scouting (this was more of a surprise as my scouting exploits deserve no recognition, it's just what scouts do!). Yet again I had to give my apologies ... it read "I am sorry, I will be at work and will be travelling that day and therefore I will not be able to attend." Another weak excuse. I have only one more opportunity to decline after which I will not be re-invited. Now I know that His Majesty the King will not have been phased by my nonattendance, as the name of Tim Rowe will not even be known to him and, therefore, he will have felt no disappointment. The disappointment and regret are all mine, but I hold out for one more invite and one more chance to accept the invite.

In the quote from the parable above, Jesus is comparing the kingdom of Heaven to that of a man who holds a great feast where the invite is issued but the excuses follow. I guess we are all guilty of sometimes looking for excuses why we allow other things to get in the way of our Christian life, it is almost as if obstacles and temptations are deliberately placed in our way to make it harder than perhaps it should be to lead a 'godly' life. Although being a Christian is not just about going to church, I will admit that some Sunday mornings in the winter when I get up and face the prospect of a cold and drafty church, one where you see your breath as you utter forth an attempt to belt out the hymns with great gusto, the temptation to stay by the open fire, a hot coffee and the Sunday Times is never far away.

But unlike my invite to the next Windsor Garden party, the invite from Jesus is a reoccurring and life-long invitation, even if we think we are undeserving and unworthy and even if we accept the invite and then wander off in some other direction. You see Jesus knows us all and God says through Jeremiah "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," and cares for us and will wait patiently until we accept the invitation to welcome Him into our lives. His invitation is not a once in a lifetime opportunity, it is the invitation for the opportunity of a life ever after.

Tim Rowe
Lay Elder / Church Warden

From the Parishes:
In Loving Memory of:
Brent Lucraft (Thornham Magna)



South Hartismere Benefice

MARCH 2025

Sunday 2nd March <i>The Sunday next before Lent</i>	Thorndon Gislingham	10.00am 10.30am	Together @ 10 Holy Communion
Wednesday 5th March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Yaxley	7.00pm	Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
Friday 7th March	Gislingham	10.30am	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 9th March <i>The 1st Sunday of Lent</i>	Stoke Ash Thornham Parva	10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 16th March <i>The 2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	Mellis Thorndon Gislingham Thorndon	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Worship for All CONNECT
Sunday 23rd March <i>The 3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	Wetheringsett Yaxley Thornham Magna	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 30th March <i>The 4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Stoke Ash	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Contact:



Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Rector
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 01379 309953

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>

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Do you have anything 'to say'? Any thoughts you would like to share with the rest of us— or just something you would like to 'get off your chest'

Please send your thoughts about any of the articles in the newsletter - or any other matter, to wetheringsettnews@gmail.com

(Please refer to Disclaimer on page 2)

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Look out for others



In an emergency, some people are more vulnerable than others for example, the elderly, very young or disabled are more likely to suffer from the effects of extreme heat and cold.

You should always ensure that you and your family are safe first. However, remembering to help your friends and neighbours if you can is also important. Checking on someone's wellbeing and providing extra support such as having a chat, providing items like blankets or collecting supplies for them can make a big difference.

Consider swapping numbers with neighbours and making a plan to check in on them if an emergency happens.



March sayings

When March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb

A dry March and a wet May

Fill barns and bays with corn and hay

As it rains in March so it rains in June

March wind and April showers

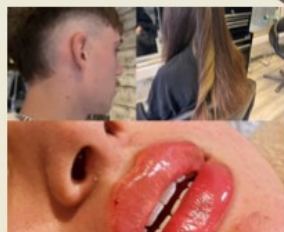
Bring forth May flowers





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A word from Rosedale.....

For some, the beginning of a new year can be a good time to make changes in life. A new year brings the possibility of a fresh start. Many people commit to new fitness or dietary goals or reassess career direction. In January, estate agents report a surge of properties coming onto the market as people decide to make changes to their living arrangements.

On a smaller scale, I like to take stock of my bookshelves, kitchen cupboards and wardrobe. There is something therapeutic about re-organising our personal space and clearing out things that are surplus to requirements. It feels good to donate clothes and books to charity shops, knowing that someone else can benefit from things we no longer need, whilst also making money for worthy causes. This form of recycling is also good for the planet.

For those who are bereaved, a new year is often **not** a cause for celebration but a reminder that the future must be faced without their loved one. For some, this fear can be quite overwhelming.

At our bereavement groups, we like to remind participants that they do still have a future (even though it might look very different to what they had planned.) None of us know the future or what good times may lie ahead.

We also remind our participants that they are still individuals of worth (even without their loved one) and they are still important - friends, family, colleagues etc, still need them.

No matter our circumstances, we all have something to offer. We each have a unique set of skills, characteristics and abilities that are needed in the world.

Most importantly, we all need to be reminded that we are not alone. Everyone is part of some kind of community, whether that be a family, a friendship group, neighbourhood, church, workplace or hobby club. At the most basic level, we are all part of the human race and have a part to play in making the world a better place.

I'll finish with a little story..... Whilst looking at some of the comments beneath an Instagram post about mental health, a doctor had commented that he was losing hope and didn't feel his life had a point anymore. I encouraged him to keep going and that I believed he had a unique combination of skills and abilities that no one else had. I reminded him that the world needed what he had to give. He replied with 'Thank you, I really needed to hear this today.'

We don't know what difficult situations someone else might be facing but we can all do a little something that might make a big difference - a smile, a helping hand, a kind word, or an act of generosity.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Au-

If you would like some support with your bereavement, call Rosedale on 01379 640810 to reserve your free place on our next course.

This article written by Sarah Howard, Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Group Facilitator



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