

WETHERINGSETT
-CUM-
BROCKFORD
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish website;

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

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PCC SECRETARY ~ Emma Morris	01449 766117
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TOWNLANDS TRUST ~ Lynne Cockerton	01728 862001
PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
RSPCA Suffolk Central ~ Ian Hendry	01449 767747
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE ~ Reporting, Info or Enquiries	101
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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 November issue of your Newsletter



Clocks have 'gone-back' and we have winter nights to look forward to.

With that in mind - and the coming of Christmas - does anyone have a ghost story for the December issue of the newsletter? It would be good if this years ghost story was provided 'locally'! Please send in any story / re-telling of an event. (email on p2)

Armistice Day on Nov 11th when we celebrate the ending of the hostilities of WW1, followed by Remembrance Sunday when we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms.



Enjoy your November—only 8 weekends left before Christmas!

Cally (Editor)

Dates for the Diary

November

Wednesday 5th	Guy Fawkes Night (or Bonfire Night)
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Sunday
Tuesday 11th	Armistice Day
Wednesday 12th	Mendlesham Airfield Association Meeting (see p.9)

December

Wednesday 10th	Wreath making workshop (see p.5)
Sunday 14th	Community Carols in the church

November 5th looms - and I make a plea again to remember our 4-legged friends who are terrified by the noise of fireworks (not only the bangs). Please limit your celebrations to one night only, and keep well away from where horses are kept.

Thank you



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

Deadline for copy 15th of every month



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**Come and join us in the Village Hall
for Christmas Wreath Making
Wednesday 10th December
2pm to 4pm**

£8 To include an oasis



**Light refreshments will be provided
We will also have a selection of ribbon and
decorations as well as foliage available but
please bring your own if you prefer plus any
decorations you may want to add to your
creation**

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Christmas Tree Festival

This year at All Saint's Church Wetheringsett
we will be celebrating the Tree.

Please join us by making your version of a
"Christmas Tree".

It could be made from anything-
a twig, baubles, Lego, books,
plastic bottles or wrapping paper.

It could be **LARGE** it could be small, an individual
contribution or a group effort.

Let your imagination and creativity get to work!

If you would like to take part,
please contact me emma.morris@wvcpschool.com
Bring your tree along to Wetheringsett Church anytime
from the 26th-30th of November.

You will then be able to visit the church
every day in December from 9am-4pm
to look at the trees and choose your favourite.

At the same time look at the plans for our changes to updating
the church with a toilet, running water and kitchen servery.

S.C. CLIFFORD

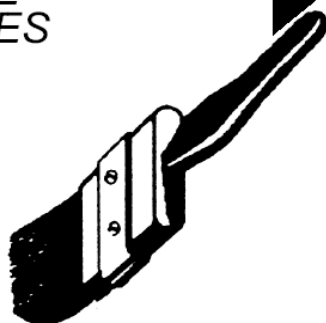
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A big thank you to everyone who contributed to



the Macmillan coffee morning.

We raised £234 on the day and we had a generous contribution from the Parish Council.



In total we are donating
£324.



Mendlesham Airfield Association: Meeting. 12 Nov 2025

The Association is run by a very small team and has successfully put together an exhibition of memorabilia relating to the 34th US Bomber Group stationed here during WWII, at the MSL Railway.

This is open when the MSLR is open during the summer Sundays, and requires manning on those days. The team is looking to increase the number of helpers for this and communications with the past, here and in the USA.

If you are over 80 and still of good memory, or just interested in our history and our activities, please come to our meeting at the MSL Railway at 2pm on Wednesday 12 Nov 2025. AJA.

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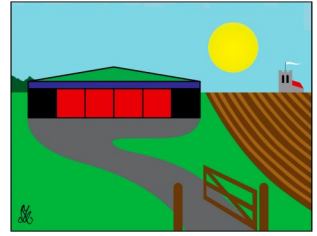
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

TONY ALSTON

01449 766231

dialstonltd@outlook.com

Debenham Shed



You may have sat on this bench by the lake (currently more of a big puddle!) which is dedicated to Jim Long at the CTC, erected by his Suffolk cycling friends. He lived in Ipswich but frequently visited Debenham on his rides. A substantial donation is enabling Debenham Shed to renovate the bench, which will involve removing it, replacing some of the wood, refinishing and making it more secure when replaced.



Meanwhile concreting for our rear workshop lean-to is complete and steelwork will be erected this month.

Our final workshop of the year is on **Saturday 8 November** (10am-2pm) which will concentrate on Christmas crafts and cards. If you would like to attend please contact 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

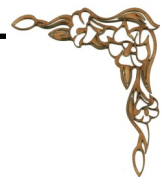
www.debenhamshed.org.uk (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk . Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed. Registered Charity 1212367

*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.***

Quote of the month

*Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety
-nine percent perspiration*

Thomas Edison



**We're by your side
every step of the way**



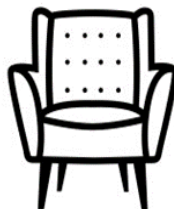
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Celebrating the "Hallows" of Hallowe'en?

The sights, sounds and splendour of the Latin Mass for the Saints

Saturday 1st November, 6pm
St Mary's, Thornham Parva

Now we are in meteorological autumn, nights draw in, shop shelves fill with witches, skeletons and cobwebs, and the Hallowe'en season begins to stir. But long before pumpkins and trick-or-treating, this was the time of year when the Church turned its thoughts to the great company of the saints in heaven - the "hallows".

The English word "hallow" is still in regular use as a verb, but the occasion referred to as "hallow e'en" uses it as a noun - the eve of the feast of the "hallows", or Saints. The word derives from the Old English *Halig* - similar to the modern German *Heilige* (*Holy*). It is entirely coincidental that the saints depicted on the famous altarpiece at Thornham Parva are each also sporting a *Halo* - that's Greek (certainly to me!).

All Saints' Day, kept on 1st November, is one of the oldest and grandest festivals of the Christian year. It is a day to give thanks for those men and women who, through their faith and example, have shone as beacons of holiness. In the medieval imagination, the saints were not distant figures, but powerful companions and intercessors—friends in heaven who could bring our prayers before God.

The Middle Ages celebrated this feast with great solemnity and splendour: choral music rising to the rafters, clouds of incense, rich vestments and ritual, all within the glowing setting of parish churches lit by candlelight.

Following the success of last year's Mass for All Souls, Canon Paul Andrews will return to Thornham Parva on 1 November, along with the Schola Thornhamensis, to celebrate Mass for All Saints' Day, with authentic music, vestments and liturgy, in the perfect setting of our thatched medieval church and its world-renowned medieval retablo.

We invite all who wish to come and share in this unique experience—to step back in time, to savour the beauty of worship as our ancestors knew it, and to join the timeless celebration of the saints in glory.





South Hartismere Benefice

NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 1st November	Thornham Parva	6.00pm	All Saints Mass
Sunday 2nd November <i>The 4th Sunday before Advent</i>	Thorndon Gislingham Thorndon	10.00am 10.30am 3.00pm	Together @ 10 Holy Communion Memorial Service
Sunday 9th November <i>The 3rd Sunday before Advent</i> Remembrance Sunday	Wetheringsett	10.30am	Worship for All <i>followed by Act of Remembrance in church and at the village war memorial</i>
	Gislingham Mellis Thorndon Yaxley Thornham Magna	10.50am 10.50am 10.50am 10.50am 10.50am	Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance Act of Remembrance <i>followed by Holy Communion</i>
	Stoke Ash	3.00pm	Worship for All
Tuesday 11th November	Stoke Ash	10.45am	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 16th November <i>The 2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	Mellis Thorndon Gislingham	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Worship for All
Sunday 23rd November <i>The Sunday next before Advent</i> <i>Christ the King</i>	Wetheringsett Yaxley Thornham Parva	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 30th November <i>The 1st Sunday of Advent</i>	Yaxley	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion <i>Benefice Advent Rings blessed & first candle lit</i>

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Contact:



facebook

Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Rector
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 07762 116 335

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

South Hartismere Benefice

November 2025 Newsletter



As we move into November the leaves and fruits have fallen from the trees, the ground is barren, the days are darker, wetter and colder. The hot dry summer is a long distant memory. For many it is a month of reflection and remembrance, starting with All Souls Day on the 2nd of November. A time when many of us go to our churches and light a candle in remembrance of those loved ones, who have passed. We also see poppies appearing at monuments, memorials, lampposts, churches and on our collars.

Everyone recognises that small red flower as a symbol for us to remember and reflect on the sacrifice of the armed forces and civilians who have died in conflicts and acts of terrorism. At the same time, it also represents the hope for a peaceful future.

The poppy being used as a symbol of remembrance started over a 100 years ago, when in 1915, a Canadian doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote the war poem, In Flanders Fields. Following the terrible devastation he witnessed on the battlefields in Ypres, Belgium. The poem describes the delicate red flowers that bloomed where more than a million soldiers died between 1914 and 1918.

Inspired by this poem Anna Guérin, a French teacher turned war effort fundraiser and humanitarian, began selling poppies on certain days from September 1919. Initially, her Poppy Days benefitted the widows and orphans of the war in devastated regions of France. She was christened "The Poppy Lady from France". Her idea was for all World War I Allied countries to use artificial poppies. Made by French widows and orphans, as an emblem for remembering those who gave their lives during the World War I. At the same time, creating a method of raising funds to support the families of those who had died and those who had survived. She asked the American, Canadian and British legions to use the poppy as a Remembrance emblem. In 1921, the Royal British Legion ordered a million poppies from Anna Guérin in France and commissioned a further 8 million to be manufactured in Britain. They were made from silk and were sold on 11th November that year in the first ever Poppy Appeal.

In 1926 in Scotland, Lady Haig opened Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, employing former veterans to make the flowers out of tissue. The Remembrance Poppy has been used as a symbol and for fundraising for all conflicts since. In 2023, the legion started making fully recyclable paper poppies.

As we buy and wear our poppies this November our thoughts will be with those affected by war. At the primary school on the 11th November, we hold our poppies in our hands, look at them and say this prayer:

*Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers:
give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war,
remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends,
and all the good things they did for their home and their country.*

*Then look at the red petals: red reminds us of danger and harm.
Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day,
to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.*

*Place your whole hand over the poppy:
poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently.
God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad.
Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.*

*Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy:
ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world.*

Emma Morris, Lay Elder

The Debenham Project is joining forces with DanceEast to provide **free** Care to Dance sessions (with refreshments!)

Taking place between 10am and 12noon in Worlingworth Community Centre, Shop Street, IP13 7HX on the following dates: -

14 and 28 November, 12 December



credit and text @danceeast

Dance East's 'Care to Dance' programme has been designed to deliver dementia specific activity for family carers, carers and those living with Dementia.

Creative dance is used to engage all participants to increase and improve the participants mobility, co-ordination and balance. Sessions are also designed to improve the participants mental wellbeing through

the shared enjoyment of dance, sparking creativity, joy and imagination.

"The participant often doesn't know what day of the week it is, but when it's dance day her face lights up." – participant's relation

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You are invited to join us at a

Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving

** A time to remember and give thanks for
those we have loved, who have died **



3.00pm Sunday 2nd November
in Thorndon Church
*Please stay for tea and cake
following the service*

Having your Flu Jab at Mendlesham?

We will be there with our
fund-raising board..

Saturday 18th October



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Those who came to our talk on marine biology by Andrew Donnelly in August, about 30 in total, learnt some diving signs including many varieties of fish, and were entertained with splendid photographs. Gerry Donlan entertained nearly 50 of us in September with his stories, then gave out the Reading Quest certificates to children. We hope to provide more events next year.

Our Advent Window will return in December: look out for the donkey!

Greetings Cards are for sale in the library at £2.50 each, in aid of Debenham Library. Stock up while they last! Cash only please.

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, CDs and audiobooks, downloadable films/music/audiobooks/ebooks, free reservations. The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

School Corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School).

Opening hours:

Tuesday: 0930 am –1300 pm Wednesday: 1500 –1930 pm

Saturday: 0900 am –1300 pm Sunday: 1200 –1600 pm

Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Facebook: DebenhamLibraryAndFriends

Tel: 01728 587102

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/libraries/debenham/



Wetheringsett Manor

Wetheringsett Manor School News

We are currently raising money for Cancer Research, and crafting items for the upcoming Christmas Market.

Pupils have started work experience placements within the community and are looking around colleges.

We are looking forward to our Halloween day before the October half term.

We enjoyed doing the Autumn trail around the village which was set up by Wetheringsett Primary

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 1 September 2025

Flood remedial works – following the floods of October 2023 flood resilience work continues – the Brockford Street works were due to commence middle of September and clearance of ditches in Wetherup Street is being progressed.

Vehicle Speed Equipment – data from the vehicle speed devices on Brockford St was reported to the meeting. This showed some concerning excessive speeds. The data has been sent to Suffolk Police for comment.

Parish Council Website – the new website is up and running and sets out in a much clearer format the activities of the parish council. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Dodgson for his work on this.

Recycling Bins – Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have installed new recycling bins for electrical items in a number of locations throughout the District including Eye at the Buckshorn Lane car park. Residents can now more easily recycle small items, eg coffee machines, kettles, mobile phones, tablets – anything with a plug, battery or cable that is smaller than a 4 slice toaster.

Waste Collection – as part of the Simpler Recycling laws, district councils will be required to collect and deal with food waste from all Suffolk households with effect from 2026. This will involve a separate food waste bin to be collected weekly and processed in the county to generate green fuel. This will be turned into soil fertiliser resulting in Suffolk's food waste being put to good use. Final details on the changes as yet to be issued to residents in the county.

Rural Businesses – over £246k has been granted to support rural businesses in Mid Suffolk through the Rural Business Growth Fund. This money can go towards projects that contribute to areas such as Net Zero, farm diversification and the tourism sector. For details please see:

<https://heartofsuffolk.co.uk/invest/business-support/grants-and-funding/rural-england-prosperity-fund-2/>

A range of other grants are available to community groups and organisations. For more information please see:

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 October 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall. ALL WELCOME

Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 6 October 2025

Parish Council Vacancy – Mr Stuart Wyse was co-opted to fill the current parish council vacancy. Councillors welcomed Stuart to the council and will look forward to working with him in the future.

Solar Powered Speed Sign – thanks were recorded to the Manor School, they having purchased a solar operated speed sign for the village. This will be the fourth sign and it is hoped the signs will be a reminder to motorists to adhere to the village speed limits. The location for the sign has yet to be agreed with Suffolk Highways.

Wetheringsett War Memorial – parishioners will have noticed the huge improvement to the war memorial and its surroundings. Overgrown weeds have been removed and the area tidied and cleaned. This was carried out by a volunteer parishioner. Thanks were recorded to David at the meeting for this work, it is very much appreciated.

Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Village Hall – a contribution of £100 towards the cost of the coffee morning was agreed.

Brockford Street Flood Repairs – although Suffolk CC had carried out clearance of ditches to alleviate flooding on Brockford Street during heavy rain it was reported at the meeting that this had still not removed the problem, the work had revealed the run-off pipe running under the road was blocked. Suffolk CC will now need to prepare a plan to return to the site to unblock the pipe. County Cllr Stringer is aware.

Norwich to Tilbury Grid upgrade – notification has been received from the National Grid that the application for proposed pylons from Norwich to Tilbury has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Examination will begin in the coming months when independent panels of experts will scrutinise the application, including examination of representations made by the public and stakeholders.

Anyone interested in taking part in the examination can make verbal or written representations. To take part you will need to register by filling out a form on the Norwich to Tilbury page on the Planning Inspectorate's website at [their website](#) **Registration closes at 23:59 on 27/11/25**

Play Area – granting funding of up to £7500 has been awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund, this will be for the replacement swings at the Play Area. In addition a grant of up to £800 has been awarded by MSDC for a replacement bench. Many thanks were recorded to Cllr Stephen Alderton for obtaining the grants.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3 November 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall
All welcome



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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)

Curtains Up

presents

An evening of
Festive Fun and Frivolity

Wetheringsett Village Hall

Friday 5th December 7.15pm (Doors open 6.45pm)

Saturday 6th December 7.15pm (Doors Open 6.45pm)
(Saturday night SOLD OUT!)

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Bons mots ...?

- * A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- * The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
- * Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- * I am in shape. Round is a shape.
- * Never be afraid to try something new. Remember amateurs built the Ark, professionals built the Titanic.
- * I just got lost in thought — it was unfamiliar territory.
- * He who laughs last, thinks slowest.



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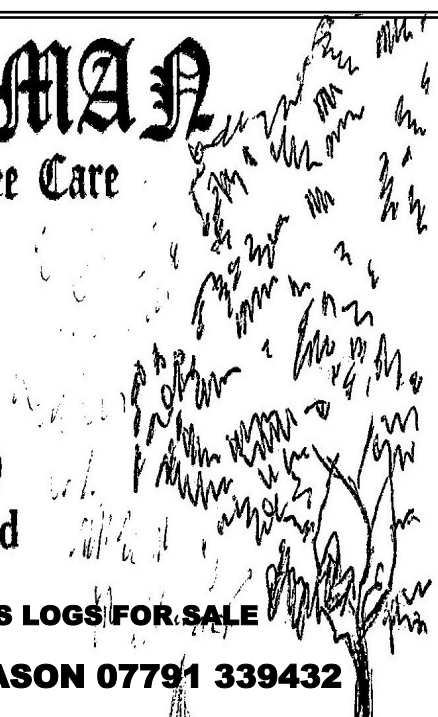
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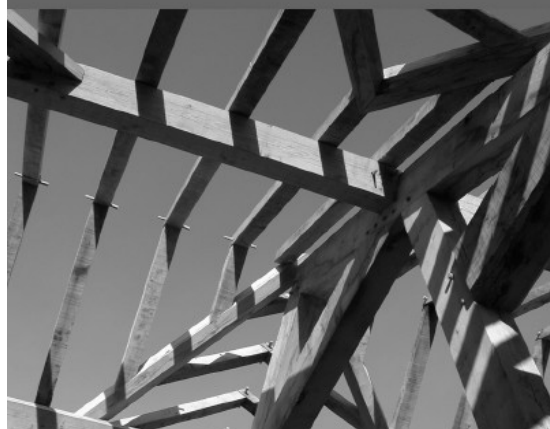
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Autumn 2025

This term's value: **Thankfulness**

It has been a busy start to the Autumn term as usual and both old and new pupils have all settled in well.

Grammarsaurus

This term we have started a new and exciting way of teaching writing called Grammarsaurus. This first half term we have been concentrating on the 'back to basics' of writing. The children have taken this teaching on board fantastically and we have already seen a superb improvement in children's knowledge of sentence structure and word classes. This will form a great base on which to build upon as we introduce fiction, non-fiction and

poetry Grammarsaurus writing units over the rest of the year.

Dental Charity Visit:

Sarah from Dentaids- The dental charity- taught the children all about how to keep their teeth healthy. This included advice on brushing techniques and how to ensure a healthy diet. All the children sat beautifully and learnt a huge amount. Each child was able

to bring home a free toothbrush, toothpaste and an informative leaflet from school to support their brushing at home.

Art Tokens

We are collecting the art tokens that are being published in the EADT, any tokens are gratefully received at the school reception.



Harvest Festival Service



The children were joined at the church by their families, with all the class celebrating Harvest in different ways. **Lime class** performed and signed Harvest songs and Sycamore Class celebrated rainbows.

Chestnut Class tested their parents and guardians, in an interactive way, about farming around the world. There were lots of food donations from the children for the Waveney Foodbank with over 20kg of food being donated.



The Friends of the school also held a cake stall in aid of the food bank at the end of the service. They raised an amazing £51 which will be used to support the Food bank with making food parcels.



James Campbell Author Visit

The whole school had an inspiring visit from the author James Campbell. Both the children and staff all said he was hilarious and enjoyed listening to him reading engaging sections from a range of his books. James explained all about how

to become a writer and the writing process that he has to go through when publishing a book. The children were allowed to ask James questions as well as choose pages of his book for him to read aloud. A huge thank you to our Friends group for paying for James to come into school and give us all a giggle before the weekend.

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Scientists got bored after watching the Earth turn for 24 hours.

So they called it a day.

I paid £300 to rent a limo, but that didn't
include the driver.

All that money and nothing to chauffeur it.



Storm Damage: No such thing as an Act of God

We have had a number of storms that have caused damage - to trees in particular.

If nature takes its course, all trees will die and fall over (whichever first?). Many of these trees will do damage when they fall, so what should be done?

There are 10 magnificent oaks lining Hockey Hill. These are heavy on the east side, and the gales come from the SW, so they will fall on the road - not too serious, I suppose. They will fall on the phone or electricity wires - more of a nuisance, for some, I suppose. They might damage a garden or a house. Getting more serious, but does the occupant enjoy the tree at the moment. And one has to ask: which was there first?

There is also the rare chance of a tree falling on a vehicle. Insured? If these 10 oaks were yours, what would you do? Cut them down or do nothing?

Please advise me, or I assume you would do nothing.

Tony Alston.



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A word from Rosedale Bereavement Support.....

I don't know about you, but to me, the world we now live in feels unrecognisable to the one I grew up in. Life seems to be changing at such a pace, I can hardly keep up! The rapid rise of social media has led to everyone being able to share their own story, making sure their voice is heard and their point is made. Interrupting and shouting others down seems to have



become acceptable behaviour on TV and radio interviews and life in general.

As someone working in the field of counselling for many years, I have noticed a subtle change of late. It now seems that in general, whilst everyone wants to be heard, there aren't many people who are prepared to listen.

A big part of my counselling training was learning how to really listen, making sure that the speaker feels truly heard and understood.

Listening is such a valuable gift to give someone, all it costs us is our time.

When someone is bereaved, they often want to talk about their loved one. They miss them and are in their thoughts constantly. They don't want them to be forgotten and talking about them can be one way of keeping their memory alive. Many bereaved people report that often people avoid mentioning their loved one in conversation. Perhaps they want to avoid causing further upset or don't know what to say to make things better? The truth is the bereaved person is already upset and almost nothing anyone says can make things better!

Grief can also make some people feel very uncomfortable- perhaps it reminds them of their own past bereavements? Or they prefer to avoid talking about messy emotions, preferring to keep the 'stiff upper lip'?

Of course, some people prefer to grieve privately. We all have our own way of dealing with grief, there is no right or wrong way.

However, making time to listen to someone talk about their loved one and their bereavement can provide an outlet for grief, making them feel less lonely and isolated. It also demonstrates respect and helps to build stronger and more supportive relationships.

Perhaps we all need to slow down a bit, respect each other more and create some

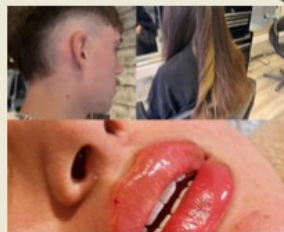
This article was written by Sarah Howard, Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Group Facilitator

Rosedale's bereavement support groups provide a safe, trusted place to talk about bereavement and be listened to. Call 01379 640 810 to reserve your free place on the next group.



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