

February/
March
2008

FREE

The Grundisburgh and District News

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Debach Enterprises: further meeting called to keep up pressure

At the eleventh hour the planning Application for expansion of Debach Enterprises' operations was withdrawn by the company. It had been due to be considered by Suffolk Coastal District Council's Development Control committee on 28 January.

The recommendation to the meeting by the Head of Planning Services was due to be announced on 19 January. It would have recommended rejection on planning grounds. On 17 January Debach Enterprises withdrew their application. The SCDC press release states that Debach Enterprises consider they have no alternative as the application was to be recommended for refusal on transport grounds. Councillor Jowers added "We will now concentrate on the outstanding enforcement issues at the site".

The recommendation for enforcement action is due to come to the for the Development Control meeting scheduled for 5 March. Save Our Rural Roads (SORR) hopes that they will seize this opportunity, but it cannot be taken for granted. We need one more demonstration of

public support and have organised a second public meeting on Thursday 14 February at Bredfield Village Hall at 7pm. The objective is to bring our communities up to date on and to confirm our continued concern.

Continued on page 6



Panto time is here again!

Above: Tuddenham's Tadpoles are performing 'Sleeping Beauty' in February (see page 3 for details).

Left: 'King Arthur' is the offering from Grundisburgh's GADS. More photos from their performances are included on the back page.

New Year, New Booking System

Charsfield Village Hall has gone high tech for 2008. Its new website, launched at the beginning of this year, has an real-time calendar, so anyone looking for a venue can log on to www.charsfieldvillagehall.org.uk to check and see if a date is available. Booking forms can also be downloaded and the site has all the details about the hall itself. Prices start from £5 per hour with discounts for regular use. For those who prefer the personal touch, bookings can still be done through Sheila at the Bridge Garage, Charsfield (01473 737481).

Steve Moor, chair of the village hall committee, who organised the site says "The main reason is to extend the reach of the hall into new areas by increasing its visibility and making it easy to book. It's not cost us much to do. The ultimate plan is to have a facility that will allow booking and payment to take place with minimal effort from the hard pressed volunteer committee".

An invitation to The Grundisburgh & District
News annual general meeting ..

Friday 4 April 8pm
Grundisburgh Parish Rooms

Please come and have a drink - and give us your ideas.



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News Diary

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2

'Wizard of Oz' Junior TOPS
Otley VH 2.15 and 7.15pm.
Contact 890491

Thursday 7

'Christchurch Mansion'
Gr, Burgh & Culpho WI GPR
7.30pm Contact 735838

'Marie Curie Nurses'

Clopton Ladies Group VH
8pm. Contact 737417

Friday 8

Spaghetti Night BVH iao
John Belstead Playingfield
Contact 614855

'Miscellany of Local History'

Hasketon VH 7.15pm Contact
01394 388970

Saturday 9

'Humble Boy' Mustard Th.
Co. Bealings VH 7.30 Contact
890964

Thursday 14

**Public meeting re Debach
Enterprises** Bredfield VH
7pm Contact 737218

Friday 15

EA Archive Film Evening
Suffolk life in the past BVH
iao Bredfield VH 7.30pm
Contact 01394 386977

Tuesday 19

'Mid Suffolk Lighr Railway'
Gr. Local History Society
GPR 7.45pm Contact 738321

Wednesday 20

'Judging at Produce Shows'
Mother's Union GPR 2.15pm
Contact 735604

Thursday 21

**'Brief History of Suffolk
Landscapes'** Bealings WI
BVH 7.30pm Contact 623985

Saturday 23

Barn Dance Otley VH
7.30pm Contact 890970

MARCH

Saturday 1

Quiz Clopton VH. Contact
737417/737602

Coffee Morning iao St Mary's
Church, Grundisburgh, GPR
10.30am Contact 736481

Thursday 6

Antique Roadshow Gr. Burgh
& Culpho WI GPR 7.30pm
Contact 735838

Sunday 9

Confirmation Service Otley
Church. Contact 738943

Monday 10

**Gr. & Culpho Parish
Council meeting** GPR
7.30pm Contact 735541

Wednesday 12

'The Cuckoo Teapot' Eastern
Angles Bredfield VH iao BVH
7.30pm Contact 01394 386977

Quiet Day Otley Hall 10-4pm.
Contact 890264

Thursday 13

Concert Wdbge School Choir
Otley Church 7.30pm Contact
890477

'The Plastic Ketchup Bottle'
Bealings WI BVH 7.30pm
Contact 623985

'What the Dickens' CADS

Charsfield VH 7.30pm
Contact 737206

Friday 14

'Charlie Haylock' comedian
Hasketon VH 7.15pm. Contact
01394 388970

'What the Dickens' CADS

Charsfield VH 7.30pm
Contact 737206

Saturday 15

'What the Dickens' CADS
Charsfield VH 7.30pm
Contact 737206

Tuesday 18

**'Getting Started in Local
History'** GLHS, GPR 7.45pm
Contact 738321

Scrabble tournament Gr.PR
2-5pm. Contact 735604

Friday 28

**Quiz Night, Raffle & Auction
of Promises** iao Bredfield VH
7.30pm Contact 01394 386977

APRIL

Thursday 3

'Potions & Possibilities' Gr.
Burgh & Culpho WI GPR
7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 8

Molly's Quiz Hasketon VH
01394 388970

Saturday 6

Coffee Morning iao St Mary's
Church, Grundisburgh, GPR
10.30am Contact 736481

Wednesday 9

Quiet Day Otley Hall 10-4pm.
Contact 890264

Thursday 10-Saturday 12

'Off The Hook' Otley Players
OVH Contact 890715

Tuesday 15

**'Burgh in its Iron Age
Context'** Gr. Local History
Society GPR 7.45pm Contact
738321

Saturday 19

Bowls Club Open Day
Bredfield 10.30am-4pm

Saturday 26

Car Boot Sale iao Gr Football
Club GPF 8am-1pm Contact
735681

Quiet Day Otley Hall 10-4pm.
Contact 890264

Annual Plant Sale Bealings
VH 10am -12noon Contact
735565/610219

Sunday 27

Morning walk around Otley
& brunch Contact 890970

MAY

Thursday 1

Resolutions/members evening
Gr. Burgh & Culpho WI GPR
7.30pm Contact 735838

Monday 5

Plant & Book Sale Hasketon
VH 2.30pm Contact 01394
383106

May Day Fair Gr. village
green Contact 738907

Friday 9

Cool Britannia Show
Hasketon VH Contact 01394
388970

Creation evening: 'What do
the fossils say?' Gr Chapel
7.30pm. Contact 738836/56

Monday 12

Grundisburgh & Culpho PC
meeting GPR 7.30 Contact
735541

Saturday 17

Food and film evening Otley
VH Contact 890970/890283

Saturday 31

Car Boot Sale iao Gr Football
Club GPF 8am-1pm Contact
735681

JUNE

Saturday 14/Sunday 15

Hidden Gardens iao Gr
Burgh & Culpho Horticultural
|Society 2-6pm Contact
735932

Saturday 28

Car Boot Sale iao Gr Football
Club GPF 8am-1pm Contact
735681

Sunday 29

Jazz & BBQ Shrubbery Farm
Hasketon Contact 01394
383106

JULY

Saturday 5

Otley Village Fete 2.30pm
OPF Contact 890970/890283
Otley Eve Event 7.30pm
Otley PF

Saturday 12

Gr. Village Show & Dance
G'burgh, Burgh & Culpho
Horticultural Society GPF.
Contact 738267

Saturday 26

Car Boot Sale iao Gr Football
Club GPF 8am-1pm Contact
735681

AUGUST

Saturday 2

Hasketon Village Fete
Contact 01394 388970

Friday 8

Evening Garden Party
G'burgh, Burgh & Culpho
Horticultural Society, Little
Thatch, Culpho 6.30pm.
Contact 738330

Monday 25

Fun Day & Car Boot iao Gr.
Football Club GPF 2-5pm
Contact 735681

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 27

Crossroads Concert Gr.
Parish Church. 7.30pm
Contact 01394 388970

Key for abbreviations:

P/VH - Parish/Village hall

PF - Playing field

PR - Parish rooms

VG - Village green

iao - in aid of

*All codes are 01473 unless
given otherwise.*

*Entries must be separated
from any editorial sent and
must include a contact phone
number.*

*The diary is prepared to help
organisers plan events, as
well as to publicise them.*

What's On

Tuddenham offers Sleeping Beauty

It's pantomime season once again and the village folk of Tuddenham St Martin are working hard on the 22nd production to be performed by TADPOLES (Tuddenham Amateur Dramatic People Of Little Experience). This year's offering is 'Sleeping Beauty' and performances will be held in Tuddenham St Martin's Village Hall on 14, 15 and 16 February starting at 7.45 pm with a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £5 per adult and £2.50 for children and can be obtained from Pat Tanner on 01473 785003.

WHAT THE DICKENS!

CADS' 2008 production, 'What the Dickens!', is now in rehearsal. Inspired by the works of the great nineteenth century novelist, the play, by local boy Tony Hale, tells the tale of two young foundlings taken in by a kindly benefactor. Tony describes the play as a "Victorian melodrama with a pantomime twist".

The show will be staged on Thursday 13, Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March at 7.30 pm at Charsfield Village Hall. Tickets (priced at £6.50 for adults and £4 for children under 16) will be available from 11 February from Bridge Garage (01473 737481) in Charsfield and from members of the cast.

For any further information, please call Peter Holloway (01473 737206). Sponsors of this year's performance are Paddy & Scotts - seriously good coffee.

Evening of rare films

On 7 March the Friends of St. Peter's Church, Charsfield, have pleasure in providing an evening of rare film from the East Anglian

Film Archive, presented by Francis Jacobi. The films range in age from 1927 to 1984, and are as local as possible. One was made at Clopton and another is a tour along the Deben Valley in 1965 with Robert Dougal, the BBC news reader

The venue is Charsfield Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Supper of Revett's sausages and mash and a pudding, is included in the ticket price of £10 (£6 for children under 12). They will be available at Charsfield Garage, the Three Horseshoes, members of FOSP or Gill Winkworth (01473 737352). Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own beer, wine etc.

Show classes

For people who want to get going on planning their entries for this year's Village Show copies of the class list are now available in Grundisburgh Post Office, and on The News website, www.grundisburghnews.org.uk.

Because of the popularity of the men's only baking class last year, two more reserved classes have been introduced - for a second baking class and a men only flower arrangement. The most popular class of all in 2007 was for an alcoholic drink; this year there will be one specifically for Sloe Gin and another for any other fruit based alcohol. There will also be guidance in the schedule about how judges expect these to be presented.

Photographic classes are for pictures entitled 'In the rain' and 'A doorway', as well as one sponsored by Grundisburgh Post Office for a photo of a village garden. The over sixties are invited to submit one called 'Suffolk Water' and the 8-11 year olds a photo of an animal.

The full schedule will be published in early May. The show is on Saturday 12 July.

The fund raising events to enable the show to be mounted are the Hidden Gardens

weekend on 14/15 June (Wendy Witt, 01473 735932, would welcome hearing from anyone in Grundisburgh, Burgh or Culpho willing to open their garden), a dance in the marquee after the show and an evening garden party at Little Thatch in Culpho on 8 August.

Nicola Hobbs, secretary, Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society, 01473 738267

Mustard Theatre comes to Bealings

The Mustard Theatre Company is touring with its latest production, 'Humble Boy,' by Charlotte Jones, during February weekends. For the first time it will be visiting a hall in The News' villages - Bealings on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm.

The play is a bitter-sweet comedy about life and death, love and lust, guilt and dreams. The story's most obvious parallel is in Shakespeare's Hamlet. It involves dysfunctional families, bee keeping, theoretical physics and the gaps between reality and our perception of it. If this sounds rather heavy going, the opposite is in fact true - the witty dialogue and uplifting end to the play is enough to boost anyone's spirit on a cold winter's evening.

The tour also takes in Wickham Market, Woolpit,

Hoxne and Henley. To book ring 01473 890964 or online: www.mustardtheatrecompany.org.uk.

Dianne ffitch, play director

Quiz night

On Saturday 1 March there will be a quiz night in Clopton Village Hall. We will start promptly at 7.30 and supper will be served half way through the evening. Please bring your own drink.

Teams of four at £5 per person, the proceeds are in aid of Clopton Church Tower Fund and the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society. To book a table please ring 01473 737602 or 737417.


JAZZ & BARBECUE

The date for the 2008 Hasketon jazz barbecue is Sunday 29 June, at noon as usual. The band will be Mike Barry and his Uptown Gang, a band very popular in 2005 and we look forward to this repeat. Tickets available from March at £12 inclusive.

Gordon Smith, 01394 383106

Dining out

The next dates for Grundisburgh Dining Club are Saturday 9 February when the diners will be heading to the Royal Bengal in Woodbridge, and Saturday 12 April to the Queen's Head in Brandeston. Anyone interested in joining this informal group should contact Roy Compton on 01473 735495 or Jane Hilliar 738891.



Presents Charlotte Jones' bitter-sweet comedy:

HUMBLE BOY

A comedy about life and death, love and lust, dreams and guilt. Felix, a physicist searching for "the theory of everything", returns home following his father's death. He realises he must also come to an understanding with his mother, and deal with an unfinished relationship with his lover, Rosie.

8 Feb: Wickham Mkt Village Hall
9 Feb: Bealings Village Hall
16 Feb: St Edmunds Hall, Hoxne
22 Feb: Henley Community Centre
23 Feb: Woolpit Village Hall

Tickets: £8.00
01473 890964

Buy online: mustardtheatrecompany.org.uk

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NEWS TRIBUTE

Geoff Frost, July 1938 to November 2007

Geoff was born at the cottages in Barley Mow Lane, Grundisburgh, the sixth of ten children. He attended Grundisburgh School, and also the Sunday School at the Baptist Chapel, before going to work for Mr AR Burch at Elm Tree Farm.

In 1958 he was called up for two years National Service in

the army. He served his time first in Germany and later in Malaya where he saw jungle warfare and received an active Service Medal.



After army life Geoff worked at Notcutts Nurseries for 32 years, rising to Landscape Manager. He later

set up his own business, Geoff Frost Landscapes, and he and Sheila lived in the same house in Charsfield since. He was a parish councillor at Charsfield, and vice chairman of the flower show committee. For many years Geoff was also a flower and vegetable judge for SHAPA at local shows, and an extremely successful exhibitor himself.

As well as Sheila, Geoff leaves four children and eight grandchildren, and will be greatly missed by them and his surviving brothers and sisters and their families. The celebration of Geoff's life at

Geoff (right) with his mother and brother Terry in 1950. The late Ethel Cotton is in the background.



Charsfield Baptist Church was conducted by Bernard Catchpole and attended by over 150 people. The family would like to thank everyone for their love and support, and kind letters and messages.

Terry Frost

Belated Thanks

Dear Friends of the late Dennis Hazelwood. Thank you for the donations given in his memory. St Elizabeth's Hospice £105, Grundisburgh Baptist Church £200 plus and for cards and letters received. Thank you to Colin Grimwood, Jim Hopkins and all at the Chapel who supported the family in many ways. It was a tribute to Dennis to see so many people at his Thanksgiving Service. A special thank you to Stella and John Ward for being my telephone go between which kept Dennis in touch with me in an emergency and their constant help when we cleared Fenn Cottage (his home for 70 years). As the song says "Everybody needs Good Neighbours"!

Mary Mann

Grundisburgh Baptist Chapel

We have another in our series of themed services on the subject of "Who decides what is right and wrong?" on Sunday 10 February at 10.45am. Do come for a thought-provoking time!

Our Men's Group now meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm. We have a variety of interesting speakers and/or discussions. All men are welcome to join us. Ladies are welcome to the meeting which continues to get together on the second and fourth Wednesdays at the same time.

We invite everyone to our Easter services as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ:

Good Friday at 10.30am.

Easter Sunday
Morning service 10.45am
Family Service 4pm, followed by refreshments.

Colin Grimwood

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Local enterprise ...

DESIGNS ON SPEED

Fed up with motorists speeding past me whilst out walking in Charsfield, I finally put my money where my mouth is and have produced a range of speed safety aware clothing.

The designs, based on road traffic signs, have been applied to a high visibility tabard and also white t-shirts. I regularly go for a walk in the village and take my son in his pram and have Berti, my black Labrador, by my side. There are no paths so we have to walk on the road but quite often I find cars do not bother to slow down when they see us and some clearly go over the speed limit of 30 mph.

Having moaned about it to my husband, I searched the internet to see what road safety products existed but found nothing that would remind the driver to check their speed - so I designed my own.

Currently only available in two designs, I will expand the range if it proves to be a hit. The feedback from people so far is very good, and the media coverage I got when they were launched at the beginning of the year was terrific, and included Anglia TV news. An adult tabard



with the 'slow' design costs £17.95 + p&p and the price of a '30mph' t-shirt starts from £14.95+p&p; both can be purchased from www.damselfly.biz/dotviz. People without internet access can call me on 07974 648897.

Ten percent of profits from the sale of these items will be going to the national road safety charity Brake (www.brake.org.uk).

Sally Thompson



Charsfield residents Nicky Turner and Pearl Crane with their certificates.

COMPUTER TRAINING BUILDS CONFIDENCE

I now have confidence to re-enter the job market, says Nicky Turner who has just completed a CLAIT Level 2 word processing course with Harambee Training, based at Charsfield School.

Although she had previously worked for 17 years in an office environment, a five year break had left Nicky feeling rather nervous about returning to work. "The thought of applying for jobs is far less nerve-wracking now that I've completed this course. I've really enjoyed it and am keen to do another unit this term".

CLAIT is very flexible. It is split into units (word processing, spreadsheets and databases etc.) so students can study one unit at a time and it is their choice if they want to

take an exam at the end. CLAIT is a nationally recognised qualification and is taught on industry standard software, for some learners the qualification is important but others just want to learn the skills. Last term over half the learners took the exam, with 100% pass rate.

As part of the 'extended schools policy', Charsfield School have allowed Harambee Training to utilise the computer suite.

This spring term sees Wickham Market Community Primary and Thomas Mills also offering the use of their facilities. For a copy of the course timetable, please contact me.

Jacqui Martin, 01728 747323,
jacqui@harambee.biz, www.harambee.biz



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Debach Enterprises

Continued from page 1

At the SORR meeting on 14 February we also need to agree what action should be taken should Suffolk Coastal District Council fail to grasp the nettle.

After 20 years of failure to enforce planning conditions, Suffolk Coastal now has the opportunity to establish proper and effective controls over this site. We hope that they will seize this opportunity, but it

cannot be taken for granted. Please help us to fill the hall. Maximum turnout is critical.

Suffolk Coastal received 50 letters of objection to the now withdrawn application, as well as a 329 name petition, and objections from numerous groups (including the Suffolk Preservation Society, the Woodbridge Society and Transport 2000). Suffolk County strongly recommended rejection on traffic grounds..

In addition, SORR instigated a successful challenge on the validity of Suffolk Coastal's

decision. Our barrister's opinion was that Debach Enterprises are in breach of their planning consents across the entirety of their existing site. They have a very restricted consent for only two of their buildings but this does not cover the current plastic bead operations. Suffolk Coastal has subsequently acknowledged the validity of this opinion.

Tony Fryatt, Secretary, Save our Rural Roads, 01473 737218

BURGH CHRISTMAS SHOW

The new stables on Burgh Hill were launched with a 'Christmas Show with Carols' on 8 December. Norma Calver, with help from Sue Emmerson, her husband Charles and myself, organised the children of Burgh to enact the Christmas story.

The children popped in and out of the stables on the way to Bethlehem (the hay barn). The Kings and Soloists sang sweetly, the donkey almost behaved and the rain stopped as the first of the audience arrived.

Carol Jopling very kindly came and played for the carols. We drank gallons of rather strong mulled wine donated very kindly by Richard Harvey Jones, we ate quantities of mince pies and had an extremely happy, social time with roughly 120 guests plus children. Donations, towards Burgh Church Schoolroom Development Project, made over £150.

Gillian Gurdon

A library to save energy

Hilary Hill has agreed to be a 'light bulb librarian' for people in the Hasketon area until the end of February. This means that she has a selection of low energy bulbs available for people to borrow and try in their own homes. It includes candle bulbs, spot lights, dimmable and LED, which all use less electricity, save money and last longer. They can also get a discount if they order bulbs via her. She can be contacted on 01473 735336.

The library may be made available to other villages later. The scheme is organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The Suffolk Energy Action Link can be contacted on 0800 02 88 938

BUS NEWS

Ipswich Buses has given the Traffic Commission the statutory 56 days notification of the withdrawal of Service 22 Ipswich – Woodbridge via Grundisburgh. Suffolk County Council will provide a subsidised service in its place and is currently putting the service out to tender. The county council will inform parishes as soon as a new timetable has been finalised.

The News can be sent by post - for £4 a year within the UK, £7 mainland Europe and £12 elsewhere. Send details and payment (cheques to Grundisburgh News) to Pat Hall, Crest Cottage, Chapel Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6XL



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Grundisburgh Gleanings

MEETING LANE - OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING PROPOSALS

Local residents were invited by Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council to view the plans for a development in Meeting Lane.

The proposal for housing for the land behind 3-7 Meeting Lane and replacing nos 1 and 2 is from Flagship Housing. It is for six houses and six bungalows - half for shared ownership, half for rent.

All the residents who spoke at the meeting expressed negative concerns which the parish council has incorporated in its comments to Suffolk Coastal District Council. These include a number of road safety issues:

- * Meeting Lane is very narrow, in parts only single track
- * The exit point at the crossroads in the centre of the village is blind in both directions
- * The Lower Road/Park Road crossroads at the other end is also very dangerous.

The proposals would increase the volume of traffic in an already recognised danger area by a further 26 cars.

Another objection raised by villagers and the parish council is that it would cause severe loss of amenity through noise and light pollution, and privacy due to nearness of other homes in Meeting Lane and Post Mill Gardens.

The parish council has

recommended to the district council that the application should be refused on the grounds that the density of the development would lead to serious road and highway safety issues and loss of residential amenity.

This application will not go to Suffolk Coastal District Council Development Control Sub Committee before 6 March.

Ann Willetts, chairman, Planning Sub Committee., Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council

Exhibition offer

Paul Bruce, tutor of the flourishing art groups in Grundisburgh and Culpho, is organising a trip to the Russian exhibition at the Royal Academy for his students on 27 March. Some additional places will be available and anyone interested should contact him on 01473 738265, pauldbuce@tiscali.co.uk. The cost, covering entrance and bus, will be about £24.

Bowls club back from the brink

The response to the appeal for members to join Grundisburgh Bowls Club in the last edition of The News has been magnificent. So far over 30 people have expressed an interest in keeping this

village 'institution' alive and if this number is translated into new members, the club will be close to a break-even position.

Many of the prospective new members have never played before and a few more complete beginners to join them would help secure the club's future. Please contact Kay Fitzsimmons on 01473 738768 or myself.

Roger Anderson, 01473 738918, roger637@btinternet.com

Scrabble tournaments

Two Grundisburgh residents have decided to put their love of Scrabble to good use by organising tournaments in

the Parish Rooms. The next takes place on Tuesday 18 March from 2 to 5pm. The £2 entry fee will be donated to Cancer Research. The event will be a knock out competition. Refreshments will be provided free throughout, and even if you are out in the first round, you can stay and play with others who are knocked out. All we ask is that you bring any Scrabble sets you have.

So whether you're a novice or a Scrabble veteran, please come and have some fun. For more details, contact Frances Pratt on 735609 or Sandra Billings on 735604. The first tournament in January was won by Rose Reynolds.

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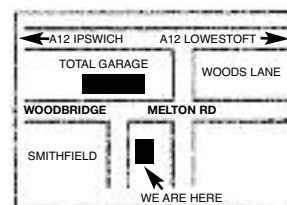
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Grundisburgh Gleanings

Celebrating Christmas

Scouts on The Green

1st Grundisburgh Scout Group wish to say a big thanks to all who supported our event 'Celebrate Xmas with the Scouts' on Sunday 23 December. Thank goodness it didn't rain; although it was a bit foggy, this did not deter the many people who came along to have hot soup, mulled wine and mince pies, warm themselves round the camp fires and listen to seasonal music from Rudolph and the Santa Sleigh which was kindly loaned to us by Woodbridge Round Table.

Also appreciated were the delicious mince pies that many of you made for the evening, the excellent mulled wine from Sally, and the help given to set up and clear away later by our volunteers.

We are hoping to have more fundraising events this year - perhaps another 'Duck Race' in the summer. If anyone would like information about the Scout Group please call Stuart Ross, Group Scout Leader on 07855 089520 or me.

Pat Ross, Scout Secretary, 01473 735352

Lunch club

The familiar surroundings of the Parish Rooms were decorated and tables beautifully set for Grundisburgh Lunch Club's annual Christmas meal. The traditional dinner was cooked by the staff of The Dog.

The celebration started at 11.30 with a glass of sherry. After pulling crackers and sharing the jokes the members were served with turkey and all the trimmings, roast



Lunch Club members Lucy Bellows and Betty Lankester,

potatoes and gravy. The choice for dessert was Christmas pudding or lemon posset.

After tea and mince pies we sang carols led by Jeff Jay and Carol Jopling, and Joan Hepburn read poems. The members were given bags of treats before being taken home.

We should like to thank the team at The Dog for supplying delicious meals for the Lunch Club throughout 2007. To round off the pre-Christmas celebrations 27 members, drivers and helpers went to Snape Maltings to see the Co-op Juniors 'Spectacular'.

Mollie Bolton

Church party for children

Sunday December 16 saw a party in Grundisburgh Village Hall for village children, provided by St Mary's Church. The under 6 year olds enjoyed fun and games from 3 to 5pm, and shared tea with the older children, who then enjoyed high jinks until 8.30pm with Ann and Clive Willetts, and all their helpers. Many folk were involved with the parties,

the decorating and providing food Father Christmas (ho! ho! ho!) greeted the children as they arrived courtesy of Frank and Joan.

I want to say a huge thank you to all concerned, it couldn't happen without you all. A special thanks to Alison, Lucy, Pat, Irene, Sheila and the older children who helped with the younger children. Also to Maisie and those who helped her with all the washing up.

Jenny Sewell

PS Left behind were a black umbro cap, a muslin square, a cake slice and the end gift from the Pass-the-Parcel all at 10 Postmill Orchard, 735329.

Women's Institute

The ladies of Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho WI and guests celebrated Christmas with a party at the Village Hall. It was a lovely evening, with entertainment provided by The Kesgrave Singers. We were enthralled one minute and giggling the next as they worked their way through a variety of items including songs from the shows, wartime music, carols and humorous poems. A most enjoyable evening.

December saw a change of office; our President Liz Pettman stood down and Brenda Sadler stepped into her shoes. Liz has given unstintingly of her time and has kept us all in order with good humour.

Have you ever wondered what the WI ladies get up to? Why not pay us a visit. No it's not all Jam and Jerusalem! We enjoy a varied programme, with speakers on diverse subjects, competitions, outings and above all good company. Members also have the chance to vote on important national issues which can influence decisions in Parliament

We meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month, usually in the parish rooms. You would be most welcome.

Carol Barker, 735838

Santa Special

Once again Santa visited Grundisburgh and enjoyed seeing lots of children in his Grotto on 15 December. Our thanks to Martin Hunt for providing steam traction engine rides; Ann Willetts for face painting, and lots of other helpers, especially 'Santa'. Your support was much appreciated, raising £461 for Crossroads, the organisation that cares for carers.

Marion and Dennis Pratt

A thank you from a satisfied parent

I would like to congratulate and thank the community of Grundisburgh for making Christmas such a traditional family event rather than the usual commercial hype.

I have lived in the village for five years with my husband and daughter who was born here. The village provides something for everyone with



Taylor Beckett at the Santa Special event.

all the different groups providing unique and lovely experiences for all ages.

My daughter in particular enjoyed the Santa Special and the party held for the children. The village has something very precious and not available to many.

Elaine Beckett, 23 Gurdon Road, Grundisburgh

More Christmas thank you's are included on page 19.

Grundisburgh Village Hall requires a Caretaker

General cleaning and housekeeping duties.
Hours vary - £5.35 per hour.

Please contact Judith Bignell. Tel: 735459.

Grundisburgh Gleanings

Your local history society needs you!

With the growing interest in research into family history, the Grundisburgh Local History Society is receiving an increasing number of enquires for information from people outside the area. It is proposed to set up a research group which will meet on a regular basis, not only to answer the queries that are being received but also to assist local people who are conducting their own family history research - and to catalogue the society's archive.

With this in mind the speaker for our 18 March meeting will be Nick Sign, who will be talking on 'Getting Started in local history'. Nick will not only be showing us how to read Secretary Hand but will also be bringing documents along to show us. This is a must for anybody who is doing research into local or family history.

So if you are doing research into your family, or indeed if you are interested in becoming involved in researching Grundisburgh, its history and families, please contact me. This will be an informal group, no experience in historical research is necessary and hopefully it will be both fun and informative! It is hoped that the first meeting can be arranged for sometime in February

Sally Williams, 01473 738321, lovett-williams@tiscali.co.uk

Marines in tights

Despite exceedingly inclement weather, there was a good audience for the January meeting of the Grundisburgh Local History Society. This meeting was the first of what is hoped will be a close association with Grundisburgh School, and took place in the school hall.

Mervyn Lemon, resplendent in



Dressed the part: Mervyn Lemon

the uniform and carrying the equipment of the Duke of York & Albany's Maritime Regiment formed in 1664, gave a light-hearted and informative talk about the founding of the regiment and the battle that took place at Languard Fort, when the country was saved from the Dutch.

The February meeting will be on the 19th and will revert to the Parish Rooms. This will be an illustrated talk on the 'Mid-Suffolk Light Railway - Then and Now.'

UPDATE FROM GRUNDISBURGH SCHOOL

Staff, pupils and governors of Grundisburgh School have been extremely busy over the past few months! Having 'raised the roof' in the summer holidays (by installing a new double-glazed atrium roof to help stabilise temperatures in the school), the entrance lobby, front offices and ICT suite have all been refurbished and now look extremely smart.

Display boards in the atrium have been fitted with spotlights to show children's work off to its best advantage. We are about to start on an ambitious art project with advisory teacher for art Gill Woodward, replacing the

murals in the atrium and school hall.

Our children are also winning local acclaim for their musical prowess - the choir and orchestra both performed brilliantly at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich, just before Christmas - and for their academic achievement, with impressive SAT results at both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in the summer putting us in the top 20 of Suffolk primary schools.

Well done to everyone associated with the school, we are really proud of you - but we haven't finished yet!

Rosemary Scott, headteacher

School singers excel

It was the second year running that Ipswich Choral Society had invited Grundisburgh School children, led by John Richards, to take part in their Christmas concert at the Corn Exchange. They were absolutely amazing - a credit to themselves, John, the school and Grundisburgh. Well done!

This year's concert was in aid of 'Somebody's Daughter Memorial Fund' to create a lasting legacy by helping the young vulnerable people in Ipswich.

Ipswich Choral Society is a very friendly group who meet at St Helen's School, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, at 7.30pm every Tuesday. We always welcome new members. Do contact me.

Irene Brunning 735481

Anna Greenwood

Playgroup report

After a very busy pre-Christmas rush including the children's party organised by the committee and then the wonderful nativity play watched by family and friends the Grundisburgh Playgroup's Christmas celebrations were complete.

Returning in the new year the children are enjoying a very open ended theme of the 'cold'. We will be thinking about the cold weather and the changes which occur in our environment; the effect the cold has on humans and animals, and we will find out about other countries in the world where animals and humans live in the cold.

We will be experimenting with ice and considering how it is made. Generally themes are based around half termly planning, although we always encourage and develop the children's own likes and interests. Each half term the staff aim for the children to:

- * Celebrate a cultural event.
- * Experience cookery or woodwork or water play or local walks or visits from people of interest.

The group operates five sessions/mornings per week. Each session runs from 9.15am to 11.45am. An optional lunch club operates on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, offering care till 1pm. For further details contact 01473 735853.

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AFRICAN LINKS

Several villages in The News' area have developed links with Africa. Here are the stories of some of them. The first is contributed by Dr John Day, a Playford resident who retired six years ago after thirty years as a consultant physician at the Ipswich Hospital.

Ipswich Hospital into Africa: a success story!

Early in 2000, whilst still working at the Ipswich Hospital, I joined a working party to look at setting up a new medical school in Beira, Mozambique. It didn't appear too hopeful. But faced with the desperate shortage of doctors in the country to do nothing seemed unacceptable.

With goodwill, ministerial support and a determined Rector the first students arrived in the autumn of that year - a process that would have taken about 15 years in the UK! Last autumn, after a seven year journey against the odds our first 16 young Africans graduated. We anticipate a further 34 new and very enthusiastic young doctors this year.

Mozambique has been peaceful and democratic for 16 years, but the people are poor and many die young. Cholera, malaria and TB, measles and AIDS have reduced average life expectancy to around just 41 years. With only 350 doctors for a population of 19 million health care is patchy or non-



existent. The students have to learn clinical skills in the local hospital which, in 2000, was a pretty unsavoury place to be - even if you weren't ill! By setting up a charity - the Ipswich-Beira Health Initiative - and twinning the Central Hospital, Beira, with the Ipswich Hospital, we have been able to fund improvements (like provision of running water to ward bathrooms); support for a teaching clinic and funding of visiting lecturers.

All our graduates are now working in Mozambique. New posts have been created in the University and hospital in Beira. As long as we can go on helping, in four or five years' time, the best of our new graduates will be able to take over. So they won't need to depend on charity, and doctors coming in from abroad. And that has been our objective!

Find out more on our website: www.ipswich-mozambique-health.org.uk

John Day

Photos from left: John Day; New doctors and tutors celebrating graduation at Beira University; Nicola Hobbs 'passes on' a sheep in Ethiopia.



Africa Action in three parishes

Three parishes in the Bealings, Playford, Culpho Benefice are supporting their own charity in Africa. Whilst each parish may have their own fundraising events we do come together to promote and raise funds for the projects. Under the umbrella name of Africa Action each parish takes it in turns to host an event, eg a summer supper, a series of Lent lunches and so on. The proceeds are then split three ways.

Little Bealings supports the Bintang Bolong Project. Run by Murray and Sallie Staines who live in Woodbridge the project has been to build a new school in the Gambia. This has now come to an end and Sallie and Murray hope to move on to building another school. The main attraction of the project was that it was run by people living locally who could give us frequent and direct updates. For more information they can be contacted at: mursal@supanet.com



The passing on of gifts is one of the cornerstones of the charity's work. Each person who has benefited from help passes on something to someone who has not yet done so - first female offspring from a sheep or cow, or perhaps seeds or training.

Seeing the work at first hand provides me with useful information for the talks and other promotional activities I undertake as an 'ambassador' for Send a Cow. We need more people to spread the word in Suffolk. One of the real privileges of this voluntary role is being offered 'study tours' (at our own expense) and being able to see people and places tourists never will.

I will be putting more of the knowledge gleaned about growing vegetables in dry conditions to use in my garden in Grundisburgh this summer - and will be continuing to sell plants in aid of Send a Cow. Last year I raised about £400 from donations for plants.

For more information about the charity please visit www.sendacow.org.uk. Or ring me on 01473 738267.

Nicola Hobbs

It really works!

I have recently returned from Ethiopia to look at how the charity, Send a Cow, is helping very poor farming families to work their own way out of poverty. I was able to see for myself how lives are being turned round through training in sustainable agriculture, gifts of livestock, the provision of tools and seeds

Sheep are well suited to the southern Ethiopian highlands and I was very lucky to take part in a 'pass on' ceremony.



Liam Branton

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ST MARY'S SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL MOZAMBIQUE VILLAGE

Every year St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, supports a local, national and international charity from the money given by the congregation. In 2007 one share went to a project called Vila Maninga in Mozambique and recently the Rev. Robert Clifton came to report on the project. He gave a very moving talk about the

wonderful work done by the leaders who founded the village in 1991.

Vila Maninga means 'place of safety' and is a small community that began to care for the orphans from the civil war and now those children and adults affected by the high rate of Aids. The project has five strands:

- ✧ Orphans are placed with foster families, who live in huts in the village

- ✧ A school which provides basic education for the children of the

community as well as others that walk for miles from the surrounding area and, in the evening, adults who come in after work.

- ✧ A Bible college aimed at families from other villages, who receive basic religious instruction, but also health care, child care, sewing etc before passing on their knowledge to others.

- ✧ Care of the elderly - many of whom have lost their children through Aids and have no means of support.

- ✧ To augment the income from donations, the community is aiming for self-sufficiency by growing eucalyptus trees.

To find more information on the project and how to make a donation, please visit: www.vila-maninga.org.

Ingrid McIvor

Right: A wide selection of Reg Snook's paintings were able to be on view in his extended studio at Hill Farm, Grundisburgh, during a weekend in late November. Reg plans another exhibition there when the weather improves.

Photos on this page by Peter Kendall.

Singing Messiah

The invitation to 'Come and sing part 1 of the Messiah' in St. Mary's Church in late November was responded to by around 100 singers. They included Royal Society of Church Music (RSCM) members and people from different choral societies, as well as individual singers.

Singers gathered at 2.30pm to rehearse the choruses that they were to sing with the orchestra and organ and under the direction of the retiring Chair of Suffolk RSCM, John Cooper. As well as two of the three soloists being his children, the orchestra was largely made up of members of John's family. John had been chairman of the East Suffolk District of RSCM and more latterly the Suffolk Area for 14 years and was local representative since 1971. He has been a church organist for 60 years, including many years at St. Mary le Tower in Ipswich.

After a short rehearsal during which John managed to co-ordinate and gel the orchestra and choir into an effective unit, there was a short break before the performance started. The whole of Part 1 of the Messiah was sung with the exception of the last chorus which was replaced by the Hallelujah chorus making a rousing finale.

There were many highlights, particularly the singing of the air "O Thou that tellest Good

Tidings to Zion" by the combined group of altos, when the rich mellow sound rang round the rafters of this beautiful church.

At the end, presentations were made to John Cooper. The Rector of Grundisburgh, Rev. Canon Clare Sanders gave a short history of John's musical career and introduced The Bishop of Dunwich, The Right Reverend Clive Young who handed John a long service award on behalf of the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich. Ken Brock of the Suffolk Area RSCM committee presented John with a gift and card. The afternoon ended with refreshments provided by the Grundisburgh Church members before singers and audience dispersed, happy that "John had been sent off in grand style."



Top: Singing Messiah: Stephen Cooper, Bass, with John Cooper conducting.
Middle: John Cooper with Bishop Clive.

John continues as organist and choirmaster at St Mary's, Grundisburgh, where new members of the choir are always welcome.

Irene Brunning, 01473 735481

Open days brings visitors to Reg Snook's Grundisburgh studio



Hasketon Highlights

Our pre-Christmas celebrations in The Victory Hall went off well.

The Village Dance was again run by Norman and Pat Kerridge and attracted over 100 people. The band 'Infrared' played music which must have appealed to everyone and they had an excellent lead singer.

After a good evening we were able to give £100 to Chloe Pitcher's charity 'Women for Women' and her exciting cycle ride around the island of Cuba.

A week later, Alice Evans and her team of helpers had a great and happy Christmas party for younger people, but unfortunately the dance for teenagers later in the evening had to be cancelled due to lack of support - very sad after all the trouble the girls had gone to in raising funds and promoting the event.

Our Evergreens had a enjoyable Christmas tea, and the Lunch Club's party run by 'cook' Miriam Buchanan was a much appreciated success with delicious food, and this was followed by Peter Holloway's trumpet playing and infectious Suffolk humour! Just 42 Club also had parties for Kidz Klub and JADS, and another one for their supporters, while the WI and their guests had a supper feast followed by party games.

Having said this, there are still gaps in The Victory Hall's calendar for regular events, especially in the mornings and some afternoons. If you are interested in hiring the hall, please contact our bookings secretary Claire Harrington (01394 380644).

We hold events in the hall on

the second Friday of each month, to which all News readers are welcome. As with the next three, we usually start with a ploughman's supper at 7.15pm:

Friday 8 February Local historian Dr John Blatchly's illustrated talk on a miscellany of Suffolk interests and attractions, including decoding flint flushwork.

Friday 14 March: Comedian Charlie Haylock

Friday 11 April: Molly Smith's quiz night.

Tickets can be obtained by phoning me on 01394 388970.

As we have some unsafe gravestones in the churchyard, we are still wanting to trace the next-of-kin of two Hasketon people so that we can rectify this.

Help would be appreciated in finding relatives, who are thought to live nearby, of William Harcourt Harris, who died on 3 December 1976 and had lived in Red House Cottage, and of Ethyl Charlotte Thompson, who died on 19 July 1978.

Hasketon Parish Council has several items of concern on its agenda.

At present the two main worries are the discussions with Suffolk Coastal District Council about the future of Area 3 on The Green which we have used for many years as the car park for both the hall and the church, and the problem of cars speeding in excess of the 40mph limit along 'rat run' Manor Road, which seriously affects residents living beside this shortcut.

Richard L. Smith

Bredfield Barometer

MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

We have received this delightful email from the US that we wanted to share with you -

To Those Responsible for the Bredfield Website:

This morning, for the first time ever, I had an inspiration to look up Bredfield on Google. Lo and behold I found your website and it brought back a flood of memories. In the 1930s on three or four occasions my mother took me to visit her uncle, Harry Lachlan White, the squire of Bredfield House. In 1940 he died, as did his wife 'Pansy' shortly thereafter, and left Bredfield House, its entire contents and the attached farm and herd of Red Poll cattle to me. There were also investments what provided a modest income.

At the time, I was an impoverished graduate student (I am now 91) at Yale University. Moreover, my political views were such that I could not see myself idling my life away as a country squire paying miserable wages to a sort of feudal household staff housed in unduly modest cottages owned by Bredfield's 'master'!

I decided to sell the property which at the time (World War II) was occupied by an airforce unit. I was stationed in Britain much of that period and visited Bredfield several times but unfortunately about 1943 the house was bombed and badly and irreparably damaged. The latter had on it a plaque dedicated to Edward Fitzgerald, the famous translator of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, who was born in Bredfield House. A rose bush named after Omar Khayyam was imported from Persia (Iran) and planted below the plaque and cuttings used to be sold by a local nursery. Fitzgerald wrote a poem about Bredfield House.

I have many memories of visiting with my mother from our home in Ottawa, Canada, to Bredfield in the 1930s where I remember fancy

garden parties, strutting peacocks by the pond, delicious fruit from the greenhouse, a huge rabbit warren in one of the pastures, having to dress (ie trussed up like a penguin in a dinner jacket!) for dinner every night, being chauffeured around in one of the two Rolls Royce automobiles, visiting the artistic iron works in the village that made huge fancy gates for vast castles, as well as the Anglican Church where my uncle is buried and where he had installed the large leaded stained glass window (and the lectern my mother gave the church). Later I visited my great-uncle's grave at the church where he had paid for its perpetual upkeep!

Above my desk as I write I have an oil painting of Bredfield House done by my step-cousin Elizabeth Richardson - it is magnificent. About 20 years ago I gave a large collection of documents about Bredfield and my uncle's family to the Ipswich Library. They should still be there.

I obviously did not follow my uncle's wishes that I succeeded him as squire of Bredfield (my own story is on the Web) but your website brought back a flood of memories of a life that, for me, never was. I will visit your website periodically from now on. I have no idea why I just decided to do so today but perhaps a glance at its painting reminded me. I hope this finds you all flourishing and enjoying the truly wonderful little village of Bredfield.

Kerr L White MD, 250 Pantops Mountain Road, 5328 Charlottesville, Virginia 22911, USA, Email klw2j@virginia.edu

If anyone would like add anything to Kerr's story or has any comments, please contact Roswyn Bradshaw (01394 387867, brdjo4@aol.com). From the internet one can see he has had a very eminent career in Epidemiology.

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Tel: CULPHO (01473) 738190

Bredfield Barometer

Progress on the parish plan

It is now nearly one year since Bredfield Parish Plan reached a crucial stage, the preparation of the printed report, which was presented to the village at a public meeting. Since that time the plan has not disappeared, and it is perhaps time that parishioners should be brought up to date.

A new committee was formed after the public meeting to carry forward the various action plan points raised in the report, and this meets on a regular basis in the village hall.

Some points have already been actioned - a 'dog waste bin' has appeared on the playing fields, and a youth group has been formed. We have also raised the problem of the bus timetables, re-cycling and the enforcement of speed limits with the various authorities. The question of access to the A12 from the village has been discussed with local councillors and we have contacted the Local Development Framework (LDF) team for future meetings to ensure that your views on future development in the parish are understood.

We are also actively pursuing various other points, in particular an environmental study of the parish, for which we will call on the help of villagers. You should hear more of this later. We have also agreed to give every household in the parish a copy of the Action Plan, and how we are progressing.

*David Hepper, Chairman,
Bredfield Parish Plan*

Three events are planned to raise funds for the village hall refurbishment. On 15 February there will be an East Anglian Archive Film evening, on 12 March a production by Eastern Angles and on 28 March a quiz night and auction of promises. Tickets from 01394 386977.



Bredfield Youth Club members after they completed the Olympic challenge – the sheet of paper being held up shows the amount of laps each person completed.

Young people raise money for youth club

The young people at Bredfield Youth Club have been busy raising money for their new club. They wanted to make a contribution and decided that having their own 'Bredfield Youth Club Olympic Challenge' was the answer! This consisted of using their current equipment as part of the circuit of challenges they set themselves - table tennis challenge, pool challenge, Uni Hoc Challenge and running around the hall to complete the lap of challenges. The aim was to see how many laps they could complete.

After lots of sweating and competitive combat to overtake each other, the whistle finally blew to call an end to the event. This proved an exhausting but fun event for the young people, with everyone completing at least 40 laps, and contributing hugely to what was a very successful fund raising event.

The young people also decided to raise some more money by bringing in their own cakes and biscuits, for everyone to buy and enjoy at

the end of the evening. They raised £87.96 through sponsorship for the Bredfield Youth Club Olympic Challenge, and a further £14.61 from the cakes and biscuits, all of which will go towards the continuing development of their new club. A big well done to our young people of Bredfield for this great achievement!

All young people aged 10 to 16 living in Bredfield,

Dallinghoo, Debach or Boulge are welcome to come along to Bredfield Youth Club on Mondays, 6.30 - 8.30pm, at Bredfield Village Hall.

Baz Wilkinson

Even younger people raise money for the youth club...

The Woodridge Town under 8s football club held a tournament for their League, Felixstowe and District Youth League, at their home ground, Bredfield Playing Fields, on 22 December and tucked into some tasty home made mince pies, sausage rolls and cheese straws. Their parents (and some lucky Bredfield locals) warmed themselves on a very frosty day with teas, coffees and mulled wine, all in aid of Bredfield Youth Club and we managed to raise a fantastic £282.80 (including two additional, very welcome donations). We intend to hold another event in the summer.

Roswyn Bradshaw

Please see the sports page (18) for details of Bredfield Bowls Club's new season and open day to attract new members.

Application for a Club Premises Certificate

Name of Applicant: Bredfield Playing Field Bowls Club

Name of Premises: Bredfield Bowls Club

Postal Address of Premises (or description of premises): The Street, Bredfield, IP13.

The application may be viewed at:
Suffolk Coastal District Council, Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Proposed Licensable Activities/Variation: Sale of alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks to members and bone-fide guests only, during specific hours.

Dates between which representation may be made to the Licensing Authority.

Start Date: 5th February 2008

Closing Date: 19th February 2008

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Bealings Bylines

SPAGHETTI NIGHT

The next fund raising event for the John Belstead Playingfield appeal is a Spaghetti Night, with food and bar at Bealings Village Hall. This is on Friday 8 February and tickets must be booked by the 5th by ringing 614855.

committee and president was confirmed and we sat back to be transported to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Chris Parfitt is a well known popular speaker, his informed and humorous commentary supported by superb slides. The many islands, each with a separate identity in flora and fauna, are home to giant tortoises, marine and land iguanas, seals, sea lions and the boobies - comical birds with coloured feet - red on one island, blue on another!

Our speaker in December was Ally who entertains on ships between Harwich - Hook of Holland, and also does street fayres. 'Magic for Everyone' was the title as she demonstrated with party balloons. We watched her make different animals including a rocking horse for Christmas. Two of our visitors were persuaded to 'have a go' and very accomplished they were

Joan Moorn & Doreen Shilling.

WI report

The November meeting of Bealings WI opened with the lighting of a candle to mark International End Violence Against Women Day. Its significance engendered thoughts of our comfortable lives, which was reinforced by the reading of the annual reports. We looked back on a year of friendship, interesting meetings, happy coffee mornings, discussions, outings and Suffolk Show successes.

The re-election of the present

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Clopton Chat

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

At its January meeting Clopton Parish Council approved its budget for the financial year 2008/9 and resolved not to increase its precept. In its 2008/9 budget the council has set aside monies to replace or relocate the notice boards which it is hoped will give more parishioners information on what is happening in the parish.

Following comments from several residents on the unsuitability of the current bus shelter, the council has also earmarked funds for a feasibility study to look at the optimum location and style of a new bus shelter which, it is hoped, will form part of a new footway project by the county council on the B1078 near Shop Road.

The parish plan questionnaire is in its final stage of production at the present time and should be delivered to every household in the parish within the next few weeks. Parish plans are important documents reflecting the wishes of parishioners for the development of their community and are referred to by principal authorities when looking at their development strategies. In order to be of the greatest benefit the parish plan needs the views and aspirations of all households, so please take a few minutes

to complete and return the questionnaire when it arrives.

Clopton Parish Council is still looking to co-opt additional councillors to fill its two vacant seats. The council welcomes new ideas and input so if you care about your local environment and would like to be involved in the present and future strategy of the parish, please contact the chairman, Roy Compton on Ipswich 735495, the Clerk, or any of the other councillors.

The next scheduled meeting of Clopton Parish Council will take place on Thursday 20 March at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome. Any extraordinary meetings will be notified on parish notice boards.

Janet Clarke, Parish Clerk, 01473 830398, email: janetinclydon@aol.com

Zillionaires rock Clopton Village Hall again

Around 150 people enjoyed a great night of music and festive fun at The Zillionaires Christmas Party in Clopton Village Hall on 22 December. The show was the start of the local group's mission to take music into venues where people of all ages can get to see live music as well as meet friends for the evening.

The next event is the 'Winter Warmer' party at Capel St. Mary Community Hall, on 22 February. Tickets are available from 01473 312026, and via www.zillionaires.co.uk.

BRIEFLY ...

As part its 60th year celebrations Age Concern Suffolk is making February Day Care Awareness Month. It is offering people a chance to come along and see the 'difference a day centre makes' at one of its open days at various centres. The nearest centre to The News' villages are at Foxhall, Ipswich, which will be open on Thursday 21st, and New Horizons in Woodbridge on Tuesday 26th. Both sessions run from 10.30am to 2.30pm. Details from Sherry Harrow, Day Services Administrator, 01473 353525, sherry.harrow@ageconcernsuffolk.org.uk



A programme offering free vocational and skills training is being coordinated by Suffolk ACRE. Skills 4 Tomorrow is available to 16 to 18 year olds employed in small to medium sized companies in the eastern part of Suffolk, and involves work related NVQ training and key skills. Employers and individuals can get information from Glynis White on 01473 242500, glynis.white@suffolkacre.org.uk.



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Otley Offerings

A CHARITABLE CHRISTMAS IN OTLEY

Christmas was well celebrated in Otley, with plenty of village events being held, many of which contributed to charitable causes.

In the church, between the Carol Service, Crib Service, and the Family Communion Service, £260.82 was raised and sent to The Children's Society and £185.12 to Help the Aged. The Christmas carol singing round the village with the tractor has been an Otley tradition for well over 30 years. On 18 December villagers joined together with a tractor festively decorated by Anthony Ling, who has taken on the job from Jimmy Wightman for the last couple of years. Carols were sung and

£276.63 was raised for St Elizabeth Hospice.

The Handbell Ringers had a busy pre Christmas period as usual, including ringing a medley of carols at the Carol Service in Otley Church. Each year they make a donation to charity from any surplus funds and from donations by members in lieu of sending each other Christmas cards. They sent £100 to Air Ambulance this year. They are also delighted to report that they have three new ringers when the new season starts in February.

The Otley School Christmas Bazaar was a great success with a craft stall, cakes, tombola and a raffle. The children themselves organised 10 stalls and Father Christmas made an appearance despite his hectic December schedule! £550 was raised which will be spent on a new project to provide a kitchen garden to teach the children about organic produce and nutrition.

Otley Hall Update

Otley Hall finished 2007 by hosting some fantastic Christmas events.

Robert Lloyd Parry joined us on the 5 December to perform some chilling ghost stories written by M R James. Sat by the fireplace in the stunning Great Hall, the atmosphere was perfect, with the room lit only by candles as he told the

stories. The performance was extremely professional and a pleasure to watch, as he took on the roles of all characters, creating different voices and accents and narrating all the while. We had a full house of 40 and certainly hope to welcome him back this year.

Our Christmas tours, created in 2006, were repeated, with two open dates filled to capacity, and one private evening for Ashbocking, Swilland and Winesham WI. Guests were treated to a guided tour of the hall, followed by mulled wine and festive nibbles in the Great Hall and Linenfold Parlour. Helen Jay provided some wonderful background music on the piano, which created a wonderful atmosphere amongst the festive glow of the fire, the Christmas tree and the beautiful decorations.

2008 is set to be another exciting year. We have 15 Quiet Days starting in March, details of which are now available online. We have a full calendar of summer weddings and we will be holding our three Open Days on 4 and 25 May, and 24 August. Alongside this we hope to hold some more exciting one-off events including a garden party and open-air play.

For more information on any Otley Hall event please contact me on 01473 890264, enquiries@otleyhall.co.uk or visit www.otleyhall.co.uk.

Lucy Rudduck, Events, Manager

News From Otley Under Fives

In their busy autumn term Otley Under Fives held a road Safety Day when we all

practised crossing our 'pretend road' safely; looking and holding hands, we made sure we were listening for any traffic coming.

We also supported Children In Need and raised over £40; for this we decorated sponge buns and asked for a donation for them; Otley Village shop kindly supported us by selling the cakes as well. We also had some Pudsey Fun and Games in the Centre to raise money.

We practised our Christmas play (Christmas at Thistlewood Farm) to make sure it was just right for the Mummies and Daddies and other family members to attend.

As always the children were fantastic; super dancing to 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' and brilliant singing. 'We Wish You a


Christmas play performed by the Otley Under Fives

Merry Christmas' could be heard in the village shop!

Otley Under Fives Centre is open Mon-Fri 9am until 12noon for ages 2 1/2 to 5, and there is also a toddler group which runs from the centre on a Tuesday afternoon. Prospective parents and children are always welcome to visit.

For more information and to arrange a visit please contact 07789 468853 or 01473 890302.

Alison Tiley-Nunn



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Otley Offerings

Village Store reaches national final in Best Rural Retailer Awards

It all began at the end of last summer when a member of my family asked if we had entered the Best Rural Retailer Awards run by the Countryside Alliance, Daily Telegraph and Farmers Weekly? We hadn't been involved but thought it was well worth investigating and so when the 2008 competition was launched we signed up for voting forms and set to work.

Customers were keen to get on board so with a little light cajoling we got going; not long afterwards we heard we were one of 2,500 business nominated, and were in the 'Best village store and post office' category. We were thrilled and kept up the pace, not long afterwards hearing that we had been short listed within our group for the East of England, one of just three.

We had to fill in a large questionnaire about how many employees we have, the principal activities of the business, give examples of the local food producers that we support and which local products stocked, whether we had been asked for details of a local plumber, builder, gardener, babysitter, cleaners etc... Did we support local community groups and were we in turn supported by our local community (which of course we are). It also covered our role in the community, our outlook on our place within the local area, which business, colleges and schools we work with and generally how we fit in to village life and the countryside. We told them about our team that make the Otley Village Store what it is and that in 2006 we were voted best supported village shop in the East Anglian Daily Times and BBC Radio Suffolk competition.

Our judge arrived at the end of November to find the shop full, the Post Office busy and told us we would hear the result in the middle of December. December arrived in a whirlwind and the letter was filed unopened until we had five minutes later in the day! What a shock when we eventually opened it - we had

won the East of England region!

Over the past three and a half years since taking over the shop we have found and reunited with their owners 11 dogs, two cats and a pony and have even delivered a litter of kittens! We and our staff have battled with Post Office network change, births, deaths, illness, marriages, new business competition and through it all have maintained a sense of humour and devotion to our customers, some of whom are blind or housebound or unable to read or write. Providing a service to them that means they can maintain their independence in their own homes and continue living in the community they know and love.

We run a free home delivery service, and Andrew's wine lodge offers sale or return on wines for functions and parties - his motto is cheaper wine than Tesco! Without the team spirit and a willingness to go above and beyond, the Otley Village Store would not be what it is today. So a big thank you to the team (Nellie, Jack, Peter, June, Sandee, Hayley, Christine, Sharon, Dan, Kerri, Shelly and Steve) and to our customers before we head to London for the National final at the House of Lords with fingers crossed for 6 February!

Penny Sunaway

TOPS GET FARCICAL

Rhearsals are well under way for the Otley Players spring production of 'Off the Hook' by Derek Benfield. The



Penny and Andrew Sunaway. Photo by Wendy Witt

farce, which is to be staged at Otley Village Hall on 10, 11 and 12 April is directed by Margaret Glass.

The action takes place at Hook House, a country hotel, where the proprietor is more concerned about the welfare of his pigs than his guests. Mrs Catchpole, the proprietor's wife has a fetish for pinching men's bottoms and Edna, the cleaner, is determined never to do anything "beyond her province"

A forthright and fearless Justice of the Peace, who prides herself "in having an eye for a criminal" is staying at the hotel with her pretty young daughter. New arrivals Baxter, Mullins and Spook, three unscrupulous characters, have turned up in the search for hidden loot which they believe has been stashed there by the notorious bank robber Harold Spook. It is some time before Fred, the forceful cockney and his accomplice, the charming and easy going Charlie, realise that they have sprung the wrong Harold Spook from prison.

To complicate matters even more is the arrival of Polly and her very deaf and senile father Mr Parkinson. Polly is the girl friend of the real bank robber,

Harold Spook.

The pace is fast and frantic and in the best tradition of a true farce. Tickets are available from Joan Parish on 01473 890715

BARN DANCE

Otley Community Council is holding a barn dance and supper on Saturday 23 February at Otley Village Hall. We are delighted to have 'Workhouse' providing the music for what should be a very entertaining evening. There will be a licensed bar and doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 per head and can be purchased from Ruth (890970) or Diane (890283).

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Sporting stories

NEW BOWLS SEASON IN BREDFIELD

Considerable activity has taken place at Bredfield Bowls Club during the winter months to prepare the green for the new season. We now compete in three evening and one afternoon leagues as well as various cups and friendly matches. New members are very welcome whether beginners or experienced

players and we would invite everyone to our Open Day on Saturday 19 April between 10.30am and 4pm. If new to the game, all you need to bring is flat bottomed shoes. You can try out our green and look at the club house. Existing members will be on hand to answer any questions or to offer advice.

We look forward to seeing you there. The club is situated next to Bredfield Village Hall. For any further information please telephone me or Tony Horn (01394 383175).

Paul Brown 01394 386921

The club is applying for a licence for the clubhouse - see page 13.

Grundisburgh Football Club needs more supporters

Since the last edition of The News, Grundisburgh Football Club's 1st team has won four games and drawn one to get to third place in the Senior Division. We have also reached the next round of the Ommico Cup. On 5 January they beat Melton/St Audrey's 2-1 to play in the semi final of the Senior Cup to be staged on a neutral ground on 1 March.

Having won the league last season, and played at Portman

Road in the final of the Senior Cup, only losing 2-1 to Stowmarket, we hope the village will give full support. At present there are far too few people who keep the club going and raise thousands of pounds to ensure the facilities are kept in good condition.

In the year 2010 we will be celebrating 90 years since the club was started. I hope there will be enough people interested in the club's future to reach the 100th year. We do need help and I quote Delia Smith's plea at Norwich to say "Where are you?"

Bert Grundrill, President, GFC

Late news. 1st team won 8-0 on Saturday 26 January.

GFC 100 club winners

November

£50 Darren Harper, £35 Trevor Rocket, £25 Daniel Payne, £20 Chris Elden.

December

£50 Stella Cook, £35 Peter Garrod, £25 Paul Gladden, £20 Peter Girling.



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Classified

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For sale: Gulbransen Columbia 110 electrical organ with 12 rhythm sections, including drums and percussion, on view at The Victory Hall, Hasketon. Any reasonable offer considered. 01394 388970.

For hire: The Victory Hall, Hasketon. Contact 01394 380644.

Wanted: Sack trolley. 738267.

Wanted: unwanted computer games for Bredfield Youth Club. 01384 387867.

For sale: Dark mahogany display cabinet, with three shelves, glass beaded doors. Small cupboard underneath. H55" W32" D12". Good

condition. £25. Buyer collects. Also mahogany finish wood nest of tables £8. 735719.

For sale: 3 piece suite, 2 seater navy with cream, 8 feather cushions, on mahogany barley twist frame. vgc. £325. Light wood standard lamp £12. Telephone table £2. 738933.

Free: Big clumps of Kerria - and some other shrubs and plants. Donations iao Send a Cow. 738267.

For sale: Nice looking walnut piano. Needs tuning. £25 ono. 738819.

For sale: Moped/scooter. Black. Piaggio ZIP with '04 plate. 49cc. Good condition. £650 ono. 738322.

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Thanks

The News receives many requests for thank you's to be passed on through its columns. Unfortunately we don't have room to publish them all in full.

So, thank you to ...

... everyone who attended, helped and made donations for the New Year's Eve party at Grundisburgh Village Hall which raised £292 for the air ambulance. *Julie and Andrew Peck*

... everyone who contributed so generously to, and joined in, the carol singing in Grundisburgh on 17 and 18 December - especially as it

was so cold! £142.21 has been sent to The Children's Society. *Hilary Hill*

... everyone who helped and supported the 2007 Poppy Appeal in Grundisburgh, raising a record £1,052-94p. *Margaret Quinton.*

... the people who bought Christmas cards in aid of Home Farm Trust at the Hasketon charity fair, Round Table shop in Woodbridge and Grange Farm Shop in record numbers. Particularly to Grange Farm who provide free facilities to us and other charities throughout the year. *Mike Stiff*

Children in The News

The News is always concerned to protect children, and its photographers will always try to make it clear that they are taking pictures for use in the paper. If any children need to be excluded for any reason we can always either avoid including them or, with the miracles of Photoshop, remove them from the picture later. However, most pictures we have of children are supplied by group leaders, schools, etc. and we assume that permission will have already been sought if appropriate.

We will remove any photos destined for the printed version from the on-line version if requested.

ABOUT THE NEWS

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community newspaper produced by volunteers. Around 2,700 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 16 other villages (as listed on front page). Six issues are published annually.

Ideas, comments and contributions are welcomed: The Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, grunews@fast-mail.net

When e-mailing please include 'News info' and indication of topic in the subject box. Photos can be sent as JPEGs or prints (please include self-addressed envelope with latter if to be returned). All items will be in the internet version unless otherwise requested: www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

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**Advertisements to be sent by
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Earlier booking of space is advised.**



GADS visit the court of King Arthur

Photos courtesy Brian Robinson

Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic's panto this year was 'King Arthur' by Paul Reakes. Camelot is ruled by the henpecked, doddering Arthur, played excellently by Phil Bailey and his Queen Guinevere. Here Ian Frost is in his element. The irrepressible, Kate Adams is a kitchen maid Sally, desperate to see her love Squirry the Squire, aka Adam Kearney. This outrageous and daft double act is enormous fun. The keyboard accompaniment is by the director John Richards. The singing is never as delightful as the duet between Nikki Brown as Lady Olivia and Vicky Hart as Lancelot. Mary Johnson, a name to

remember for the future, continually upstages the King, as his page. Adam Thurkettle as Merlin delivers his lines rhythmically with confidence.

I have seen many wicked women over the panto years, but none to match Jo Bailey's Morgana who is as good as they come, specially in her gorgeous costume. The dancers and chorus and everybody played their parts admirably, delivering a superb production.

Sheila Caryl

Remaining performances are on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd. Any tickets left will be available from Forge Stores or on the door.



The adult leads - from left Adam Thurkettle (Merlin), Vicky Hart (Lancelot), Phil Bailey (King Arthur), Ian Frost (Guinevere) and Nikki Brown (Olivia).



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