

Winter 2013

FREE

The Grundisburgh and District News

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ROUTE 30

A number of Tuddenham residents raised concerns about the service since its change from Carters to Beestons and these have been discussed by the parish council. As the 30 also serves Grundisburgh, contact has been made with their parish council to see if others have similar worries. Villages such as Hasketon, Charsfield and Clopton are also served by this bus and there may be concerns from people which could be raised with the appropriate parish council. This topic will be raised at Tuddenham's parish council meeting on 3 December: please contact me or your own parish council if you have concerns (or compliments!) about the service.

Pauline Procter 01473 785368

David Burrows, spokesman for Beestons, said that they recognised there had been some problems with getting low-stop buses into service.



The air ambulance touching down at the Burgh dog gymkhana on 22 September (see back page). Several other recent events in our area also supported this worthwhile cause.

They are introducing them at their own expense (no subsidy from SCC) and there would soon be three such buses available. Beestons have taken on eight new staff in the last three months and are altering their rosters to ensure buses were staffed at all times. At least one driver has been moved from Route 30.

Passengers with issues about the service can email David at: david@beestons.co.uk or via Twitter: @beestons

Richard Watkinson

See also letter on p. 19.

Windfarm cabling: current situation

The public hearing on the planning application was held in September. Key issues:

- *underground cable routeing;
- *disruption resulting from the cabling work; and
- *impact of construction traffic.

It will be some time before the inspector delivers his findings but the indications are that the routeing will be as per the application. The alternative suggested for a northern route around Little Bealings did not seem to be taken on board.

It is also fairly clear that the transit depot proposed for Playford will be agreed. This will involve some of the construction traffic being routed through Grundisburgh. However, the inspector did give a clear indication that he would be seeking positive measures from the applicant to mitigate the impact of this traffic and the potential nuisance and disruption from

the work. This would involve an agreed work plan that fixes the hours of work and reduces traffic movements to the minimum.

Recent public exhibitions have featured proposed subsequent windfarm developments (East Anglia 3 & 4). Although it would seem sensible to put in the ducting for the cabling during the initial construction phase to avoid future disruption, as yet we have no assurances that this will happen.

Tony Fryatt



The 28 October storm brought considerable disruption to the area but it also brought out the volunteer spirit. Among others, Ben, the Grundisburgh postie helped to clear the stream of fallen branches. James Poole got to work on this fallen tree at Ashbocking just before an ambulance had to make an emergency call.



Bradley Wattleworth powering on in the Ipswich half-marathon. See p.18 for story

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS, CONTRIBUTORS, ADVERTISERS, DISTRIBUTORS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

News Diary

DECEMBER

Monday 2

Fauna & Flora of the Falkland Islands Otley & Dist Gardening Club VH 7.30pm Contact 738244

Thursday 5

A Sing Song for Christmas WI Gr Baptist Chapel 7.30pm Contact 735838

Tuesday 10

Boudica and the Iceni Rebellion Local History Soc. Gr PR 7.30 pm Contact 738108

Death, Sex & Drugs - The Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood Tuddenham WI VH 7.30 Contact 785583

Friday 13

Dan Poulter MP - advice bureau Grundisburgh PBE Contact 01728 684834

Wednesday 18

Celebrating Christmas Elsewhere Carlford Network Group Gr PR 2.30 pm Contact 738188

Saturday 21

Kiddywinks Kitchen Cookery Class GrVH 10 - 12 Contact 735975

Tuesday 31

New Years Eve Barn Dance Clopton VH Contact 623296/737417

Village New Year Celebration Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785682

JANUARY

Thursday 2

Social Evening & Quiz WI Gr Baptist Chapel 7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 9

World of Optical Illusions Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 735579

Monday 13

Hedging Plant Varieties Otley & Dist Gardening Club VH 7.30pm Contact 738244

Gr & Culpho PC meeting Gr PR 7.30pm Contact 735541

Tuesday 14

'Trekking to Everest base camp'. Talk by Irene Lewison and Nick Green. WI Tuddenham VH 7.30pm Contact 785583

Tuesday 21

Place Names of the Grundisburgh Area Local History Soc. Gr PR 7.30 pm Contact 738108

FEBRUARY

Monday 3

New, Different & Unusual Plants Otley & Dist Gardening Club VH 7.30pm Contact 738244

Thursday 6

Historic Houses WI Gr Baptist Chapel 7.30pm Contact 735838

Friday 14

The Mystery & Magic of Chelsea Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 735579

Tuesday 18

Building Methods in Suffolk During the Enlightenment Local History Soc. Gr PR 7.30 pm Contact 738108

MARCH

Monday 3

Weather influences on Gardening Otley & Dist Gardening Club VH 7.30pm Contact 738244

Thursday 6

A Talk on Guide Dogs WI Gr Baptist Chapel 7.30pm Contact 735838

Monday 11

Gr & Culpho PC meeting Gr PR 7.30pm Contact 735541

Friday 14

Curry & Quiz Gr Sch 7 for 7.30pm Contact 738944

Growing Up in the Deep South of USA Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 735579

Tuesday 18

Suffolk Deer Parks Local History Soc. Gr PR 7.30 pm Contact 738108

APRIL

Friday 11

The Ipswich Charter Hangings Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 735579

MAY

Friday 9

10,000 Miles in Africa Hasketon VH 7.15pm PBE Contact 735579

JUNE

Saturday 14

Hidden Gardens iao Gr Hort Soc 2 - 6pm Contact 735517

Sunday 15

Hidden Gardens iao Gr Hort Soc 2 - 6pm Contact 735517

JULY

Saturday 12

Village Show iao Gr Hort Soc Gr PF from 12.30pm Contact 735517

Key for abbreviations:
PBE - pre-booking essential
P/VH - Parish/Village hall
PF - Playing field
PR - Parish rooms
VG - Village green
Pav - Pavilion
Gr - Grundisburgh

All codes are 01473 unless given otherwise.

Brief details of village events should be sent by 5 February for next issue direct to Heather Langdon, The Holme, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, heather.langdon@btinternet.com.

Please always give a contact phone number and indicate if tickets must be bought in advance.

The News diary is published both to publicise events and to help organisers avoid clashes, so please send details as far ahead as possible.

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Images: Solar panels, Electrical components, Cable management

What's On

CARLFORD CALLING

In January, when the Mothers' Union closed in Grundisburgh, another group was formed to include men. We meet four times a year in the Grundisburgh Parish Room. We welcome everyone to these meetings, which are church based but cover a wide variety of subjects.

The theme for the December meeting will be 'Christmas Celebrated Elsewhere' with several short presentations by people who have lived or spent Christmas abroad. There is no 'joining' or membership fee but we do ask for £1 for our expenses and charity.

So, make a date in your diary and come to the Grundisburgh Parish Room at 2.30 on Wednesday 18 December: you will be made very welcome.

Mollie Bolton 01473 735098

Hasketon Fridays

The programme of a ploughman's supper followed by a talk on the second Friday of most months, continues. The Diary (page 2) has brief details: the full schedule can be found on the Hasketon website www.hasketon.net

Everyone is welcome, wherever you live. The evening begins at 7.15 and entrance is £5 each. Please let Katherine Smith (01473 735579) know by the previous Wednesday if you wish to come but pay on the door.

Hilary Hill 01473 735336

Burgh happenings

The newly refurbished old schoolroom is the venue for a Christmas coffee morning on 7 December from 10-12 noon. Free tea/coffee and donations for cakes. There will be a raffle and gifts, including Christmas cards featuring the Burgh millstone, on sale. 'Make a door wreath' class is on 11 December from

1.30-3.30 pm. To book, contact Sally on 01473 738877. There will be a Christmas social evening from 7 pm on 20 December. All welcome.

How hot?

Friends of Grundisburgh School (FOGS) Curry and Quiz. Friday 14 March 2014 at the school. 7 for 7.30pm start; £7.50 per person in teams of up to 6 people. Licensed Bar.

Tickets available in the New Year from the school office or Olde Forge Stores.

Brush up your skills

Two more students have signed up with Sula Rubens for her Monday art classes in Bredfield Village Hall as a result of reading about her in the last News - despite our having omitted the last digit of her phone number. For the record this should be 01502 723408; she still has some vacancies.

DOCTOR DAN'S SURGERY

Dr Dan Poulter MP will be holding an advice bureau in Grundisburgh on Friday 13 December 2013. To book an appointment, please ring 01728 684834 or email daniel.poulter.mp@parliament.uk or write to him at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Cop shop slots

The Spring 2014 timetable for visits of the mobile police station is as follows:

Days: Tuesdays, every three weeks: 14 Jan, 4 Feb, 25 Feb, 18 March, 8 April, 29 April, 20 May.

Times and places:

9.30 Grundisburgh Green
10.15 Witesham Weyland Rd.
11.00 Tuddenham village hall car park;
11.45 Westerfield church hall car park;
1.30 Martlesham behind the Douglas Bader PH;

2.15 Bealings village hall car park;

3.00 Playford village hall car park.

Future event

Come and enjoy an evening of clairvoyance with international psychic medium Ryan Gooding on Thursday 5 December at 7.30pm in Otley village hall. Tickets are £10 and all monies raised will go to Otley Under Fives. Please contact me for tickets.

Amy Cranfield 07889276775

SEASONAL SINGALONG

Upbeat!, the ladies' singing group, is holding its second Christmas concert in Grundisburgh church on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm. Profits will go to 'Caring for Me', a local charity providing support for cancer patients. The programme will include popular songs and Christmas music: the audience will be invited to sing along to some Christmas carols! Tickets cost £5 per adult and £2 per child and includes a glass of wine (or juice) and a mince pie; children will be offered juice and a mince pie or biscuits. Come along and join in the festive fun! For tickets and further details, contact Biddy Vince on 01473 735891.

Scout post

The Scout Christmas card postal scheme runs until 10 December. All cards (any size) will be delivered by

Christmas Eve for 22p each to addresses in IP1 to IP5, plus Pinewood, Barham, Claydon, Great Blakenham, Kesgrave, Martlesham Heath, Rushmere, The Bealings, Playford and Grundisburgh village. Cards addressed to other places will not be delivered.

More information from me or at our collection points: Williams stores, doctors surgery and 3 Post Mill Crescent, Grundisburgh; Grange Farm Shop, Hasketon; in Woodbridge, the library and Wotsits in The Thoroughfare. All cards left at collection points should have with them the right money in a sealed bag.

Pat Ross 01473 735352

STEPPING OUT

The annual Christmas walk starts from Grundisburgh Green at 6.45pm on 18 December, finishing at Little Thatch, Culpho, with free mulled wine and festive food provided by the parish council. All welcome.

Sally Grahm

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SPEEDERS BEWARE....

In an attempt to help reduce the speed of traffic through Boot Street and Lodge Road, Great Bealings parish council has agreed to set up a community Speedwatch scheme. Working on behalf of the police, volunteers have no formal powers to issue speeding tickets but their presence with a speed camera for a couple of hours twice a month can prove effective. Persistent speeders will receive letters from the police which well may result in a speeding fine.

Safety in numbers

The training is carried out by Malcolm Gooch and the actual Speedwatch is done in groups of three: one manning the camera, one writing down details of the car plus one other. Volunteers are advised not to engage in long conversations with car drivers.

Great Bealings residents are optimistic that this scheme will help slow down the "rat

runners" that use these roads. We have nine keen volunteers just itching to get started!

Sarah Cartwright, Clerk for Great Bealings Parish Council
greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk 01473 621050

Speedwatch is looking for more volunteers for Otley, Grundisburgh, Clopton, Debach, Swilland and Witlesham. The commitment is only two hours per month, full training is given and all equipment supplied. If you are interested in joining this worthwhile scheme, please contact me on 07788 806627

Malcolm Gooch

DISCOUNT TRAVEL

The 'Endeavour Youth Card' entitles 16-19 year olds to get a minimum 25% discount off full-price adult fares with participating bus operators in Suffolk. For now, users have to pay in cash but, in future, cards will be cashless and topped-up online. Visit www.endeavourcard.co.uk to

apply for a free card.

There is also a Park & Ride Endeavour card for all ages: you can bulk-buy single adult return journeys in multiples of 10. Cards can be obtained both online (as above) and at the P&R sites.

Community Awards

Nominations for the sixth Annual High Sheriff's Awards are being invited. These prestigious awards, consisting of a trophy and a cheque for not-for-profit groups, are designed to showcase and recognise the vibrant volunteering culture that is alive in Suffolk and hopefully inspire others to make Suffolk a better, safer county for us all to live in.

Nominations for volunteers and non-profit groups benefitting Suffolk people need to be made on a form available online at www.suffolkcf.org.uk or by calling me on 01473 786915 and must be received by 16 December. The awards will be presented at a ceremony

hosted by BBC Radio Suffolk's Lesley Dolphin on 27 March.

Entries should be submitted for one of five 'of the year' categories: 1-youth group or organisation; 2-community group or organisation; 3-community partnership; 4-volunteer; 5-under 25 young volunteer, plus a new lifetime achievement award. Details on www.suffolkcf.org.uk

Elizabeth Stephenson
Suffolk Community Foundation

Poppy appeals 2013

Ashbocking: many thanks to all Ashbocking residents for their generous contributions. The village raised £239.74

Liz Stegman

Grundisburgh: I would like to thank all the collectors and everyone who gave so generously to this year's appeal. We raised an amazing £1,783.59, which is up on last year! Many thanks for supporting the Royal British Legion, which helps to support our soldiers and their families.

Ingrid McIvor



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Jenny keeping a watchful eye on the pupils in her rag rug workshop in the reopened Burgh schoolroom. *photo: Peter Kendall*

UP AND RUNNING AGAIN

Last year, the old schoolroom in Burgh underwent a major refit. It is now a splendid facility and very much open for business. The building is compact but light and airy with a servery and a state-of-the-art toilet designed for people with a visual handicap as well as wheel-chair users.

It is available for hire: contact Sharon Proctor on 01473 738405 for details. It has already been used by a number of groups: one such was the rag rug workshop run by Jenny Knight in September. Rag rug making is a creative but inexpensive activity as it uses recycled materials to produce functional or decorative items. Almost anything can be used to make rag rugs - even plastic bags!

For other events in the schoolroom - please see details in What's On (page 3)

THE SHOW GOES ON

The Grundisburgh village show will go ahead next year and in a marquee! This had been in doubt as committee members have been wrestling with the amount of work that mounting such an event involves. The AGM in September considered whether the show should just run every other year and/or take place in the village hall rather than under canvas. But it was

agreed it would go ahead - on Saturday 12 July 2014 on Grundisburgh playing field. We'd all like this traditional event to continue; I'm told there is only one other show in Suffolk which features a large marquee like ours and I've booked the Phoenix Brass band again for next year. To help us, we'd like some more volunteers to give us a hand with an hour or so at the show and other events, especially some muscle with gazebos, tables etc. Give me (01473 738267) or Iain Langdon (01473 735517) a call and I promise you won't be arm twisted on to the committee like I was! We'll just add your names to the list of supporters we can call on.

Gardens open

Hidden Gardens is on the weekend of 14/15 June 2014 when we hope to have a wide range of gardens in Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho, old faithfuls and new venues, open for visitors.

The Horticultural Society has been able to give £800 to each of our chosen charities this year: Crossroads Care and the Matthew Project. The funds came from Hidden Gardens, the post-show dance and the evening garden party. The £450 raised at the Pumpkin Festival in October has gone to Grundisburgh Scouts towards the building of their much needed new hut.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Kendall, chairman, Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society, 01473 738267, peter@peterkendall.com

WI News

Another year draws to a close: the Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho WI have again enjoyed an interesting and varied programme. Rachel Sloane, of Radio Suffolk was the guest at our harvest supper and proved to be a very entertaining after-dinner speaker. She is a qualified nursery nurse and used to live in Grundisburgh, working at the playgroup; her husband was our village policeman. Radio Suffolk invited her to take part in a six-week series on child care which resulted in her being offered a job at the station as a reporter, and eventually becoming presenter of her own show.

We had a taste of Zumba dancing in October when Bethany came along to demonstrate this extremely energetic dance and tell us a little of its origins. She also teaches ballet, tap and jazz dance. She did manage to persuade some of us to attempt to 'dance' to Zorba the Greek. We were more than

ready for our tea and scones. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Grundisburgh Baptist Chapel and visitors are welcome to join us for a 'taster'.

Carol Barker 01473 735838

Cash pours in



Fiona Knott and Rineke Brightwell pour the tea.

Tuddenham WI Macmillan coffee morning was held on 28 September and was kindly hosted by Harry and Rineke Brightwell at Fynn Valley farm. There was a raffle, cake stall and Bring & Buy sale. The event was well attended - including a visit from our MP Dr Dan Poulter - and raised £316 for the charity.

words: Pauline Procter; photo: Jean Ellinor

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NEWS TRIBUTES

Maisie Caryer 1917 - 2013

The last issue of The News carried an appreciation of her involvement with the scouts but there were other facets to her life. After moving to Grundisburgh in 2000 she started attending St Mary's church, the Lyttleton club, the Leg club, the W.I., the Lunch Club and many other organisations.

She enjoyed gardening, especially in the front garden so she could talk to passers-by. She did flowers for the Jubilee flower festival and helped Sheila with church flowers and to clean the church. When not gardening or off to one of her many meetings Maisie would knit squares for blankets for Africa.

She slipped away quietly on 18 August at Grove Court nursing Home and we would like to give thanks to all who

visited her there, especially those told to go away as she was not feeling like talking today.

Maisie had many wonderful friends in Grundisburgh: people who helped her, especially at the post office; the Reverends Clare Sanders and Wendy Gourlay and Lesley from the East Suffolk Association for the Blind (ESAB). We have been touched by the very generous donations in her memory: these have gone to ESAB, Grundisburgh scouts and St. Mary's. A huge thank you to all those kind people for your help, support and good wishes.

Geoffrey, Sheila and Felicity Caryer

Roy Compton 1943 - 2013

Roy came to live in Clopton as a very small child when his father moved the family from war-torn London to the

country for safety - and chose the village as he knew someone with a house to rent in Snipe Farm Road. They later moved to Manor Road when Roy's father bought Manor Cottage.

With an HNC in Business Studies from Suffolk College, Roy had a varied career in Ipswich and London and later ran companies from home. He was chairman of Clopton parish council for a number of years, only standing down



when he became too ill to carry on this year. During his chairmanship, Roy was instrumental in founding the Speedwatch Scheme (see page

4). Roy also started and ran the Grundisburgh Dining Club where members met and ate in a range of hostelrys around the area. The summer fetes and bonfire parties held at his home in aid of local funds were very successful.

A longer tribute by Della Hughes is included in the forthcoming issue of Clopton News.

Frank Hercliffe 1922 - 2013

Frank Hercliffe came to live in Grundisburgh 20 years ago to be close to his son Alan, daughter in law Barbara and his grandsons Andy and Matt. He became involved in many aspects of his grandchildren's lives including cycle proficiency training for them and fellow pupils at Grundisburgh School.

Before then Frank had a distinguished career in first the

Navy and the Fleet Air arm, and then the RAF, rising to be squadron leader.

His good looks are immortalised in a stained glass window dedicated to Bomber Command in Lincoln Cathedral where he was one of two officers asked to act as models wearing full flying suits. Only retiring from the services when health problems would have consigned him to a desk job, Frank then became a driving examiner.

Dorothy, his first wife died in 2004. Four years later he married widow Joan Grahn (when The News carried a photo of the couple "with 166 years between them"). They had met through the Golden



Club, now known as the Lyttleton Club, of which they were stalwart members. A great teller of jokes, Frank had many fans - and Joan has been overwhelmed by the messages and kindness she has received. "People in Grundisburgh have been wonderful" she says.

Words Nicola Hobbs

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Support is provided by volunteers who are parents themselves or have parenting experience and, once accepted, receive ongoing support, training and expenses.

If you would like to find out more please ring Louise or me at Home-Start Suffolk Coastal on 01394 389402 or visit www.homestartsuffolk.org

Sarah Holmes

Grundisburgh Gleanings

New village hall: another step forward

The outline planning application for the proposed site for a new village hall and residential development has been registered and accepted by Suffolk Coastal. This has triggered a short consultation period for residents to put their views direct to Suffolk Coastal. **All comments have to be in by Thursday 5 December 2013.**

Grundisburgh parish council are holding an open meeting in the village hall as we go to press (Friday 29 November).

If approved, this outline application will crystallise the agreement made with the planners for a new village hall on Top Field on land donated by the current owners plus £250,000 towards the new hall. An estate of 24 two-storey houses is also proposed (see map) but it will be for any developer to apply for detailed consent for these.

More trees

Because a sight line has to be made at the vehicular entrance to the site, some trees will have to be removed but a fund of £30,000 has been created to plant mature specimens in their place. The object is to retain as much greenery as possible around the site.

Next steps

If outline planning consent is given on the basis of the current proposals, the village hall management committee will call a village meeting to approve the sale of the old hall and reinvestment in a new one.

Richard Watkinson

Chapel news

We warmly welcome you to join us for our Christmas services on 22 December. At 10.45am we have Christmas worship and at 3.30pm we have a family carol service followed by tea.

We do not have a service at Grundisburgh on Christmas



morning but we are joining with Charsfield Baptist Chapel for a joint service at 10am.

We are planning to go carol singing around the village on Friday 20 December raising money in aid of EACH. If you would like join us, meet us on the Green at 7.30pm.

If you would like a taste of our Sunday sermons, you can now listen to them at www.grundisburghchapel.org.uk

*Colin Grimwood 738856
candgrimwood@tiscali.co.uk*

Change at Grundisburgh Hall

My wife Fanny and I came to live at Grundisburgh in 1968 when we were married. We lived first in the Stable Flat at the Hall while we tackled the repairs and updating of the old-fashioned house where my grandparents had lived for over 50 years. We moved into Grundisburgh Hall in 1974.

My wife Cammy and I have

lived there for seven years but always with the plan eventually to turn the house over to my son Robin Gurdon and his family. They have just moved in and I know that they are looking forward to being part of the Grundisburgh community.

We have only moved a few miles away and continue to look after the land so are pleased to remain involved in village affairs through the farm.

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Grundisburgh Gleanings

SCHOOL NEWS

Our primary school has 168 pupils, seven teachers and eight teaching assistants. Now we have seven classrooms as we recently had a new one built with the help of FOGS fundraisers. Oscar Scott, in Reception, had the honour of officially opening it, since his dad helped in building it. We now have 17 children being taught in it.

We have a netball, football and tag rugby team. A couple of weeks ago, our tag rugby team went to a tournament against other local primary schools and came first. On 14 November they went back and played other primary schools. More recently, the football team competed against 13 primary schools and came seventh.

Fun fair

Just before half term FOGS held an Autumn Fair on the school playground. They raised about £350. There was apple bobbing, pumpkin soup, throwing conkers into wellies, a cake stall, doughnut bobbing, guess the name and age of the pumpkin, which square is the teddy hiding in? and a few tables of carved pumpkins.

In our school, we have a wide variety of musical instruments and we have various music teachers coming in to give music lessons. We have: flute, clarinet, violin, viola, piano, trumpet, guitars and recorders. Mr Richards, the year 6 teacher, encourages us to learn new instruments. He also has choirs for Key Stages 1 and 2 and also organises an orchestra for years 5 and 6.

Very soon, we have a Christmas concert in the school hall. Nearly the entire top half of the school takes part in this to show their talents by playing or singing Christmas songs. This concert always gets everyone in a Christmas mood just before the end of term.

Molly Sampson and Amber Grant (both aged 10)



THE NEW ROOM



Reception class teacher, Fay Vickerstaff said "I'm absolutely delighted with it". Teaching assistant Julie Churchyard agreed: "I really love it. It's a lovely school to work in and it's a lovely space".

And the pupils? For one, Elizabeth Sim really likes it, too: "We do writing and reading work. And painting -

that's my favourite thing."

Children have access to their own open space and they go outside on trust - but under supervision. The idea is to teach them independence: they can choose to do what they like but they mustn't throw sand or indulge in other dangerous behaviours.

Indoors, when I visited the class, Pip and Jahmin were negotiating the car mat while Elizabeth and Heather were colouring; Fay was helping Abbie-Leigh with her reading.

Looking rather sad and sitting on a side-table was a special little person - Spencer Bear who goes home with

week-end doings - available for class-mates to see when he gets back to school!

Along with a set of books, 'Spencers' were given by M & S to primary schools a few years ago to encourage healthy lifestyles in the very young.

words and photos Richard Watkinson



Clockwise from above: Pip and Jahmin on the car mat; Abbie-Leigh reading with Fay; Elizabeth and Heather at the drawing board; budding pavement artists in deep concentration; Spencer waits for someone to take him home and Oscar declares the new room open



children at the week-end to help develop their personal and social skills. For instance, the host child must ensure that Spencer gets a good balanced diet and that he cleans his teeth regularly: what's good for Spencer is good

for them! Spencer likes meeting people, looking at books, doing puzzles, watching TV (in moderation) and playing games. Sometimes he features in an illustrated diary of his



Grundisburgh Gleanings

SCOUTING NEWS

In September we welcomed Jenny Sewell and Ollie Billsberry as volunteer beaver colony assistants. They now join Sally Grahn who started with us last Autumn and we are very grateful to all three for their help and hard work.

Some of our scouts had a weekend Camp in Derbyshire and hill-walked Kinder Scout in September. The Explorer section hiked the Fynn Valley from Tuddenham to Martlesham.

In October, beavers had an international food tasting night organised and cooked by Jenny. The next night over 50 cubs, scouts, leaders and parents walked the Fynn Valley to the Martlesham fish shop for a hot supper.

Pat and Robert Fletcher came to a Beaver night and gave us a very interesting talk and demonstration about Fairtrade, showing various products and telling us which countries they came from. We tasted some delicious 'Geo Bars'.

Some of our Group helped with the Pumpkin Festival on the village green organised by Jo Lawrence, Heather and Iain Langdon plus their hardworking helpers. The event was great fun with lots of games and some amazing carved pumpkins, all in aid of



our funds: £450 was raised for which we are very grateful. The same weekend our cubs, scouts and leaders attended camp at Hallowtree where they enjoyed archery, grass sledging and human football.

Before half-term all four sections had Halloween parties at the scout hut. Everyone wore fancy dress and had a fantastic time: the hut was decorated with skeletons, spiders, ghosts, skulls and UV lights. The games were 'bobbing' for apples, cutting 'flour mountains' and using their teeth to get bats, rats and spiders (plastic!) out of 'glowing' jelly.

In November, Beavers visited

Martlesham Pets at Home store and had a global music night at the hut, learning about music from around the world. The cubs will be visiting the Ipswich Buddhist centre as

part of their promise challenge and a police team will visit the hut to give cubs a talk on safety. A scout team took part in the district cooking competition at Kesgrave.

In December the beavers, cubs and scouts will be ten pin bowling and the explorers are having a Christmas party.

We have started archery training again and hope the 2014 national archery competition will see us win more than before - this year's total was 33 medals, ten cups, nine shields and a new compound bow!

The 1st Grundisburgh scout group wishes to remember

Maisie Caryer, one of our most faithful supporters, who died in August. Instead of flowers at her funeral the family asked for donations to our scout group. We were very grateful when Geoff Caryer presented us with £295. Thanks go to everyone who gave to our group in this way and to the Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho Horticultural Society for having the scout group as their nominated charity this year.

More information and photos on our websites:

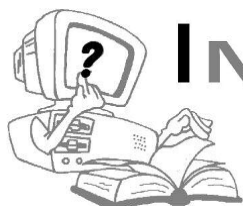
www.grundisburghscouts.org.uk
www.fynnvalleyexplorers.org.uk

Pat Ross 01473 735352

90 - not out



Nearly 30 Lyttleton Club members and friends had a special lunch at The Dog in mid November - to celebrate Christmas and Jeff Jay's 90th birthday. They were entertained by members of St Elizabeth Hospice Choir - much appreciated by Jeff who had sung in St Mary's Church choir for over 50 years, only recently retiring. Above, Jeff cuts the cake, with Lyttleton club organiser Mary Bean.



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Above: Zoe works on a Chinese sleeve vase which had arrived in about 30 pieces. Below: Suzy with a Dutch Delft plate which had a whole bit missing and a hairline crack before restoration. Bottom: English dogs with ears restored in the studio.



THE FIXERS

Suzy Bellow and Zoe Firebrace have been working together on and off for over 30 years. They both trained at China Repairers, a ceramic restoration company in London before Zoe went on to do a conservation diploma at West Dean College in Sussex, and Suzy to work at another restoration firm. They joined forces a few years later to set up their own large studios in London. Here they carried out restoration work and ran courses for students from all over the world.

After bringing up their respective families in London, both moved to Suffolk. They now share a studio on the edge of Grundisburgh.

"We feel very lucky to do a job that still enthuses us. Ceramic restoration covers a wide variety of skills involving painting, sculpting and research and each piece brings its own challenge. We take on many different materials - porcelain, terracotta, pottery, ivory, glass, enamel, stone..... We have worked for a very diverse mixture of people and public institutions - and loved it all" they say.

Clients include museums, dealers and collectors, as well as people who want a much loved object or family heirloom restored. They can give estimates before starting work and aim to ensure that the restoration is as authentic as possible.

Contacts: suzybellow@gmail.com, 07783 062868 or zoe@firebrace.com, 07786 925237



words: Nicola Hobbs; photos: Peter Kendall

Enterprising joint venture in Witn



Above: Wendy's herd in their winter quarters. Right: Wendy and her beef joints.



For most of the year the Red Poll cattle can be seen grazing contentedly in the field next to the Houstons' home. In the

In 2010 Wendy and Andrew Houston started a new venture, selling Strawberry Hill beef from their Red Poll cattle. Wendy had farmed pigs and arable crops on the family farm in Swilland since 1997 and, with her husband Andrew, they decided to move to Witnesham (just round the corner and still part of the family farm).

Sarah's new line

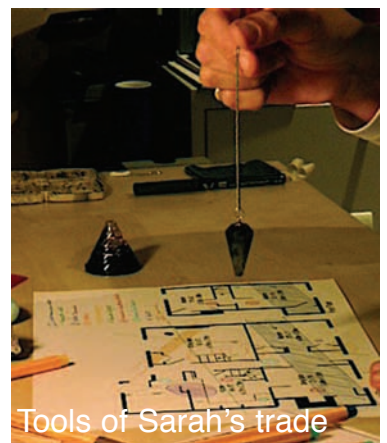
I have what some people might consider a slightly unusual career! I've retrained as a professional dowser and I'm now involved in the identification and treatment of problems in the land known as earth energies or geopathic stress. These can cause issues with health to those living in houses built on top of them.

Part of my work involves streams underground but it can also be as diverse as mineral deposits, magnetic lines, ancient ruins, burial sites, prehistoric ley lines or earthbound spirits. Every house seems to be affected one way or another. If you're sitting over the top of a line for a short time it might give you a headache, make you ill at ease or make you kind of fuzzy. If you sleep (or sit at a desk) over the top of one or crossing lines particularly, for eight hours every night, it can soon lead to serious illness. Apparently solving the problems is relatively

straightforward normally with a number of techniques that can be used and the resulting benefit can be felt quickly. Occasionally it involves novel solutions which can be amusing to clients too!

I am happy to make an initial free check of a property to determine the level of geopathic stress being faced before carrying out further work. I live in Charsfield and can be contacted on 01473 737056. My email address is sarah@designerinput.co.uk

Sarah Payne



Tools of Sarah's trade

winter they are fed grains grown on the farm.

The Red Poll is derived from the original cattle of Norfolk and Suffolk. The blood red Norfolk cow was crossed with dun coloured Suffolk polled (hornless) cattle thus creating a traditional native British dual-purpose breed (quality beef and milk) and by 1883 was called "The Red Polled". By the early 1900s the breed had become one of the dominant breeds in English dairy farming as well as in quality beef production.

The beef is sold in 10, 5, or 3kg boxes containing a variety of joints (see picture below). These are available with matured fresh beef for a short period, and then the meat is frozen. The packages also contain recipe suggestions.

Wendy says that they sell mostly by word of mouth but if you want to contact her the email is:

info@strawberryhillredpolls.co.uk Telephone 01473 785332.

words and photos: Wendy Witt

KEEPING AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Lee Paget wants the furniture he makes to 'stand out like a sore thumb'. He was fed up with looking on designer home websites and in furniture stores, and seeing the same thing each time.

"Shabby chic or square and wood coloured may be great if you live in a country house but not always if you live in a modern house or apartment or just want to be a little different", he says.

So the Sore Thumb Furniture company was launched in April this year to make colourful curvy wooden furniture. Lee had been toying with the idea for a while and finally took the leap, after going on a short college course to brush up his



DANCE IS HER LIFE - STRICTLY!

I live in Clopton and sleep, eat and breathe dance! I attended dance classes from the age of six and ballet as part of the Suffolk County Council ballet scholarship scheme and numerous workshops, including those with the Royal Ballet School and National Youth Ballet. I have also performed in dance works at various venues including English Youth Ballet's Sleeping Beauty at the Ipswich Regent and Sir Frederick Ashton Studio Appeal garden party. I have been holding children's dance classes since the age of 18 and decided this year that I wanted to try and spread my love of dance to adults as well, that's when I enrolled on the FitSteps training.

As a freelance dance tutor, choreographer and 'FitSteps' Instructor, I teach and choreograph in a number of venues in the Ipswich, Woodbridge and Felixstowe areas. I teach children's dance classes in classical ballet, modern jazz, tap, lyrical, acrobatics, hip-hop and contemporary dance at the Martlesham school of dance and also within mainstream secondary education in the local area.

Graduating with my BA (Hons) in dance education in 2010, I am now a fully registered teacher with the Associated Board



Louise flanked by Strictly stars Ian Waite and Natalie Lowe.

of Dance and the National Association of Teachers of Dancing. Most recently I underwent an intense training day with Natalie Lowe, Ian Waite and their master trainers: that made me glow!

I hold FitSteps classes in Grundisburgh on Thursday mornings - please contact me if you would like to come along!

Louise Mayhew 07769182199

skills. His wife Christine is very much a partner in the business, and most of the furniture and the smaller highly original decorative items are made at their home in Great Bealings.

Larger items are built at Lee's father's Bonsai nursery in Boxford, near Sudbury. (I can't help feeling that the fact his father runs Suffolk's only Bonsai nursery has provided some of the inspiration for the shape of the furniture!)

Lee had been a landscape gardener for almost 15 years and discovered their home in Bealings while looking after the garden next door.

Christine works as an administrator at Green Label Foods full time and does all the Sore Thumb Furniture admin and office work at evenings and weekends. She also designed its website and is going with Lee to a series of craft fairs this autumn to

promote his work. They have been getting lots of positive comments about the furniture and the range of smaller, highly original articles created from wood. The last fair of their season will be at Stonham Barns on 1 December.

In his younger days Lee was a keen footballer and played for Grundisburgh Football Club for a number of years in the late 1980s.

The business can be contacted by phone on 01473 738079 or through the website www.sorethumbfurniture.co.uk

words Nicola Hobbs, photo Peter Kendall



Christine and Lee break the mould with bendy bookcase.

If you run an enterprise in The News area why not tell us about it?
Contact editor@grunews.com

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Bealings Bylines

We would like our pub back!



A forlorn looking Admiral's Head is the subject of a local campaign to bring it back to life as a pub.

It has been closed for over a year but can the Bealings Admiral's Head be saved? We believe so, but we need your help. Quite simply, visit www.admiralshead.com and complete our straightforward survey if you would like to see a pub operating in Bealings once again. We can then gauge the level of support locally and discover what sort of a pub people really want.

In mid-2012, the Admiral's Head stopped trading. This year, the parish council had it registered as a 'Community Asset'. This means it has to be offered to a local group to bid to buy it if it is to be sold on the open market. This new legislation effectively stops it being used as anything other than a pub if there is enough local interest to buy it.

Unremarkable history!

There has apparently been a pub on this site since the 1830s, though it is unclear if it was named after Lord Nelson or not (he was Steward of Ipswich and had an estate at the bottom of Rushmere Road). It would seem that the Admiral's Head has always been a local village pub because there is a distinct lack of any record to the contrary! No-one really famous seems to have visited it: the pub has simply served its local community over many generations. For example, during World War II the cellars were used by local primary school children as a bomb shelter. That was the

high point for excitement as far as we can find out!

The pub was extensively refurbished in the 1980s but even then, trade was very up and down. Some remember busy jazz nights with great fondness. There were other times when customers were harder to find. Various factors have combined to force hard times upon the old pub once again. We hope that we may have hit upon a possible solution.

Having a say

As a community group, we have been beavering away gathering information in preparation for any bid that may be required in response to a formal offer of sale. We do have to make sure that there is enough interest in the local villages to give any new business a chance of success and the number of responses we get to our questionnaire will obviously be indicative of the level of local interest. Just visit www.admiralshead.com and complete the simple survey to tell us what you think.

If you know any history of the pub or have any old photos, do let us know: we can then add them to the website to make it more informative. words:

*'Save the Admiral's Head' group
photo: Steve Foster*

Pub owner Rosario d'Angelo says he tried for ten years to make the pub work and would like to see it come back to life again. He would welcome a realistic bid. Ed.

Otley Offerings

1st Otley Scout Group News

Cubs had a lovely weekend camp at Bury St Edmunds in June; scouts went to MOOT V in August, a county camp for scouts and guides at Bentwaters. They stayed for a week and had a fabulous time. Our group camp was in early October at Hallowtree (Ipswich): the Beavers and Cubs were also involved in the 'Treemendous' day where they planted trees and seeds to contribute to the camp site.

Our regular bingo sessions held in the scout hut are growing in success. The Christmas bingo is on 19 December but will be held in the Village Hall. The Group will also organise the Christmas post delivery. Look out for the box in the PO - Otley village deliveries only. Church parade will be on 1 December at Otley Church and Scouts are already planning "Winter Camp" at Gillwell.

Jayne Vaughan, Secretary

Otley takes on the Challenge

Age UK (Suffolk) is celebrating its 65th Birthday. The Charity has "challenged" businesses, groups and communities to raise money any way they can, so Otley has taken on the challenge...

The Village Shop had already raised nearly £200 (from the famous spaghetti jar and selling Cup-cakes) prior to the big launch on 2 November. The White Hart then hosted the launch party with an afternoon of face painting, building the Best Guy, decorating biscuits and afternoon tea. This was followed by a hot supper and live music from Clare Free: we raised over £300 from this event.

FFY are car-washing and the Under 5s joined them to run a coffee morning on 24 November. Nellie Sunaway ran the Norwich half marathon.

Otley primary school, 1st Otley scout group, Otley church and the Friendship club have all said they have ideas to help the village community to rise to this challenge. Look out for events to support - the Challenge ends in March. If you would like to help, please contact Penny at Otley village stores on 01473 890257

Richard and Jayne Vaughan

New councillors

Following the retirement in March of Malcolm Smith and Geoff Cant, two long serving councillors, Otley parish council is delighted to welcome two new members: Abigail Lord and Martin Liddel.

Abigail grew up in Felixstowe, has two children, Newton and Daisy, and has lived in Otley for ten years.



She works at Suffolk One sixth form centre. Abigail said "I hope in my 14 years of teaching that I have inspired many young people to consider the role we can all play in protecting the future through our actions today. I became interested in being a councillor as I would like to take on a more active role within the community and support development in a sustainable way. Living in Otley is a real delight and we are a truly lucky family". Contact Abigail at Rosemary Cottage, Chapel Road, Otley, IP6 9NX (01473 890535)

Sailor

Martin has lived in Otley for over 15 years and is married with a daughter studying at university. He is a chartered structural engineer. Martin says "I have worked in Ipswich for over 25 years. In my free time I enjoy sailing dinghies and crewing on bigger boats as opportunities arise. I also enjoy assisting with the set building for the Junior Otley Players.



"Otley Past" – Russell Ling and Lester Hawes presenting Martin Hunt, Treasurer of Otley Community Council, with a cheque for £500 for the village hall.

OTLEY PAST HELPS THE HALL

Dennis Hawes worked for the Lings as a farmworker: in the early days and during harvest they talked of the past. Russell Ling made notes of these conversations with the idea of writing a book sometime in the future. When meeting up with Lester Hawes after many years, they decided to collaborate on publishing it.

Both Lester (Dennis' nephew) and Russell contributed and wrote the articles. With the help of Sally Whiffing, founder of the Otley Local History Group and familiar with publishing, the book came into being. Profits from the book have helped to fund the village hall. Both Russell and Lester are delighted with the result and so appreciative of the response to the book that there may be a second edition.

I decided to become a parish councillor to put something back into the superb community in which I live". Contact Martin Liddell at Bay Tree Cottage, Chapel Road, Otley, IP6 9NX (01473 890491)

Vanessa Osborne

Poker pays out

More than sixty players, many complete beginners, sat down to play poker on 3 November at the White Hart to raise money for St. Elizabeth's Hospice, Ipswich. This was our fourth annual charity poker tournament and the biggest so far: we raised £600. The winner had learnt to play poker only the night before!

Lynda, landlady of the White Hart, said "this growing event is turning into a very exciting weekend. We had music on both Saturday and Sunday nights and put on a special tournament menu".



Tony Barrett presenting Sarah Platt with the winner's prize of dinner, bed and breakfast at Orford Crown and Castle.

A lot of people have seen Texas Hold-em on television and want to have a go. This event provides a friendly and safe environment to try out this exciting game while raising money for a great cause.

Tony Barrett, event organiser

Dunkirk Digest

Witnesham residents Barbara and Gary Butler are keen members of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust -



in fact, Gary is a mate on their barge, Pudge. Perhaps Pudge's finest hour was at Dunkirk in 1940 when, along with hundreds of other craft, she helped evacuate allied troops from occupied France. Barbara and Gary went to Dunkirk in 1990 to

commemorate the 50th anniversary of the evacuation and met so many people then - and since - with stories to tell about their experiences that she felt she had no option but to write a book about barges' role at Dunkirk, with many local references.

The result is now available for all to read in an absorbing paperback 'Sailing barges - the Dunkirk Story'. An excellent Christmas present, I would say: it's on sale for £9.95 direct from Barbara (01473 785067) or at Waterstones in Ipswich, Browsers in Woodbridge and Olde Forge Stores in Grundisburgh. Or it can be ordered from Amazon - but you will have to pay postage!

Richard Watkinson

BROADBAND UPDATE

The Suffolk Better Broadband programme will ensure that 90% of Suffolk premises will be served from fibre broadband:

the remaining 10% will enjoy speeds from 2Mbps to 24Mbps, with a minimum commitment of at least 2Mbps across all Suffolk. This will be completed in 2015: after that, we intend to secure additional funding to push coverage and speeds further.

Grundisburgh should see upgrades to some small sections of the parish by 30 March with the majority of the parish in phases to September and December 2014, subject to planning and survey work. The **Otley** area benefits over various phases. Villages such as **Boulge, Bredfield, Clopton** and **Hasketon** will see fibre later. The rest of the area will be addressed in phases 4 -6 of the nine phases.

Speeds experienced generally depend on how close you are to the green street cabinets. If you live on the edge of villages, you may need a different solution after the main fibre rollout. We have recently published a broad phasing map, showing where in the programme each parish will fall: visit www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

I must stress that this is a guide only and is subject to change.

Jonathan Chown, Suffolk CC

SCOOP IT!

Last spring The News carried an article about dog fouling in Otley. Tuddenham parish council is also concerned enough to put in this plea to all living in or visiting their village.

We are very fortunate to live in a wonderful part of the

country, with a variety of walks that can be enjoyed by everyone. We want to keep the environment safe and welcoming for everyone and we need your help. If you are a dog walker please clear up any waste from your dog and also make sure that it does not cause distress to other walkers or animals. The elderly and the young are particularly vulnerable to a bouncy dog jumping up. Sheep are grazed through the Fynn valley and there are incidents every year where they are chased by out-of-control dogs, sometimes resulting in fatalities.

Risky

Dog waste can be harmful to children if they come into contact with it - so please dispose of it either at home or in one of the waste bins. Not having a doggy bag or not noticing that the dog has fouled is no excuse. Any bag will do: use dedicated dog waste bins where available but waste can be placed in any litter bin. If there are no bins, please take it home and put it in your grey-lidded wheely bin. Leaving your bagged dog waste behind is a littering offence and very unpleasant.

The law has teeth

Failure to clear up after a dog in your charge is an offence for which an £80 fixed penalty can be issued. If it goes to court, you could be fined up to £1,000. Anyone seeing someone failing to clear up after their dog can report it, in the strictest confidence, to Suffolk Coastal District Council on 01394 444000.

Carol Frost



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Bredfield Barometer

HAVING A FIELD DAY

Now that the parish council has finalised the purchase of two acres of glebe land in Bredfield the planning for a village orchard and environmental space can really begin. It's an exciting time! The next task for the field's volunteer group is to agree a first order of trees for the orchard. Paul Read of Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group has been advising us on this, and we hope to plant between 20 and 30 trees early next spring.

On Friday 1 November, Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Community Wildlife Adviser Angela Jones organised a Family Foraging afternoon in the Field. This was the first event to be held there since its purchase, and it was a great success. A number of families attended and Angela had planned lots of interesting activities, including apple carving, following a nature trail, identifying animal tracks, foraging in the hedgerows and cooking haw ketchup. Everyone of all ages enjoyed the afternoon, and we are grateful to Angela for the support that Suffolk Wildlife Trust is giving our project.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the Jubilee Field project then do get in touch. We would welcome any offers of help to develop the land into a beautiful amenity for the village.

Karen Bowe, Bredfield Jubilee Field
volunteer group

bredfieldpc@gmail.com

WWW

Want to know what happened at the parish council meeting?

Want to let the village know the date of your next event?

Check out the new website:

<http://bredfield.onesuffolk.net>

For more information, please contact Karen Bowe 01473 277165 or Anne Henderson 01473 737605



Practice makes perfect

The Debenham Group Practice is looking to recruit young mothers, single parents, senior citizens and those with a long-term medical condition to join its Patient Participation Group. The group meets quarterly to help us to enable patients take more responsibility for their own health; to provide a way for patients to make positive suggestions about our practice and to discuss particular issues and problems that may have been encountered by patients with us and local hospitals.

The group is not a forum for personal complaints - these should be made to the Practice manager through the official complaints procedure.

Are you interested in joining us? Are you motivated or do you have a special skill to offer? If so, please contact me on 01728 628427 or email: Jbhous1950@btinternet.com

Jean Housley, Debenham Group Practice

Farewell.....

Stephanie Searle, dispenser at the Grundisburgh Surgery for the past 14 years, left the practice in November. She has written to The News to express her sadness at leaving and thanking patients for making her feel so welcome. Stephanie is moving out of the area to be closer to her husband's job and to be able to spend more time with their beautiful new grand-daughter Mollie.

Photos left, from top: making fire; foraging; making haw ketchup.



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Tuddenham Tales

All to play for

Since the parish council took over responsibility for the playground and playing field, work has been going on to repair the established play equipment and to seek ideas for further improvements to this village resource. Most repairs are now complete: the swing seats have been replaced and the supports painted a bright blue, though it was disappointing that within two days of plastic spikes being installed to discourage birds from creating mess on the swings, they were vandalised.

Families were invited to an event on 15 September (a day threatening wind and rain!) for a barbecue and games event on the playing field and to bring ideas for the future development of the area. About 35 people, including 15 children, came and after enjoying our barbecued food and some competitive debate about what games to play, an 'all age' energetic football game emerged (see photo) before rain stopped play!

Contributors

There was time for some debate and sharing of ideas for the future of the playing field. Improvements to support its continued use for ball games were popular: nets for the goals, a basketball hoop with hard standing, some fencing of the football 'pitch' and strimming the nettles. And more ambitious ideas, such as a 'zip wire'!



The energetic ones not deterred by threats of wind and rain

The need to consider our overall aims for the area was raised: what do we want it to look like? available finances? on-going maintenance ? safety checks, including access - especially the roadway to Keightly Way from The Street? Concerns about the area's isolation were also raised.

Looking around

It was suggested we look at what other villages have done (some in the News' area were cited as having some good developments to visit). All the above ideas will be considered further by the playground committee of which Mike Trotman is chairperson. If you wish to contribute further ideas, please let us know.

There was no response to an earlier idea about developing allotments but in the summer

it was a lovely peaceful spot away from the traffic. If you haven't been there lately, do go and see if you feel inspired with any ideas or would like to help with any of the on-going work.

Pauline Procter

One happy chappy!

A big thank you to the helpers, stall holders and folk who made donations or who came to buy at our Tat and Treasure sale. We raised a grand total of £644.55 for church funds. The variety on sale was excellent with clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, Vicar Catherine's chutney, home produce and cakes. The Best Buy of the day goes to Henry Richards (below) - his parents bought him a bike and a play tent. His beaming smile was priceless!



TADPOLES WELCOME TALENT

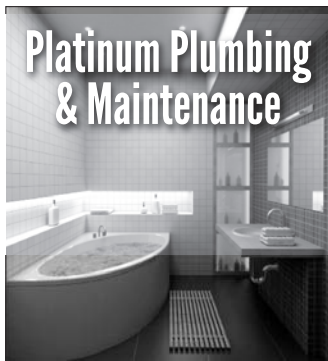


Woodland creatures from Snow White: back row (l - r) Kate Clayton, Laura Tickle, Eve Poole & Holly Airey. Front: Fay Poole & Ella Gosling.

It's sometimes daunting joining in with groups who have been going for a long time - will you fit in? Will you be made welcome? This is Janet Poole's experience. 2013 was our first year of involvement with the TADPOLES pantomime but it certainly won't be our last! My three daughters and I were each given a warm welcome and it soon felt as if we had been a part of the company for years rather than weeks. Rehearsals were every Sunday and the girls looked forward to going and soon had parts allocated and lines learnt. I wasn't too keen to be on stage but that didn't stop my involvement as I had the role of 'Aunty' for some of the performances, looking after the children backstage.

Being a part of the pantomime in whatever capacity is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with a brilliant community show and, more importantly, to be with such lovely people. It's no wonder they have been going for over 20 years!

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Charsfield school report

The children certainly enjoyed the warm autumn weather we had, especially the new Reception children. They built and enjoyed all manner of things outside in their outdoor area. The whole class went to the cinema as part of the National Schools Film Week to watch Peter Pan along with Dennington, our partner school.

Classes 2 and 3 dressed as Tudor citizens and visited Kentwell Hall in October. The children had a wonderful time (some were a little worried about getting their heads chopped off) but they all came back - intact. One comment on what the children learned: "We discovered that dead mice were used to treat whooping cough".

The highlight of the day for some of the children was the "Great Hall" and the archery display. "We saw demonstrations on how to shoot a bow and arrow."

Parents of children who will be 5 next year are reminded that they should soon be applying for a school place: please make an appointment at the school office (01473 737347) to come and see what Charsfield school can offer your child.

Val Jones, Headteacher

HASKETON FAIR

Hasketon's annual Charity Fair on 17 November raised £808.22, not quite reaching last year's total but a really worthwhile sum for the



The Quizmasters' view of the contenders for the coveted Grundisburgh village quiz shield, 2013.

many good causes represented. Thanks to all those who came to spend their money, whether on pickled onions, bamboo socks, cuddly toys, intricate bead work, Christmas cards or treasures from the bric-a-brac stall. And of course thanks go to the backstage crew of local residents who supported the fundraisers: Antonia Stevenson, Anne Naylor, Dot Warner, Alastair McWhirter, Tom and Charlotte Wells, John Dyter and the ladies of the WI who were kept busy serving the teas.

Replacement wanted

Hasketon has had a charity fair for more than 23 years - no one can quite remember when it started and I have been helping to organise it for ten years. As a 'newby' in Hasketon it was a really great way to get to know people - and make a contribution to village life. Now I need to hand over the reins to someone else....the question is, who will that be?

Please contact me if you are interested. I'd be happy to explain what's involved and to

pass on details of all the stallholders who really hope they will be back next year. I hope someone local will help keep this wonderful tradition going for another ten years!

Charities represented this year were: St Andrew's Church, Hasketon; Crossroads Caring for Carers; Save the Children Fund; Redwings Horse Sanctuary; Family Activity Breaks; Suffolk Home Start; Send a Cow; Goodwill and Growth for Africa; East Anglian Air Ambulance; Fair Trade; St Elizabeth's Hospice.

Jenny McWhirter 01473 735174

GRUNDISBURGH Quiz results - 2013

As last year's winners, Grundisburgh playgroup organised this year's event in the school - complete with table service of drinks. Winners of the shield this year were The News team, with Carlford Group second and, as joint third, Burgh Church and Playgroup.

Richard Watkinson

ps so we'll be organising next year - but we can't guarantee table service! Ed.



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Sporting stories

Wizard on four wheels....

Grundisburgh go-karter James Clarke has so far had an amazing year, having just completed the National TKM Championship where he finished second again. He is the youngest in the class and competing against 17 year olds and, with two rounds to go, he is currently third in the Kimbolton Championship.

....on two

Joe Jacobs, Grundisburgh's young speedway star, riding at Coventry, has been awarded the title 'National League Rider of the Year 2013'.

... and on legs!

Bradley Wattleworth of Grundisburgh, recently competed in the Ipswich Half Marathon, finishing fifth overall. His time was 78mins 13secs, the fastest time by a 17 year old in the UK. What's more, this was his first breakthrough competition since returning from injury in 2012: a great achievement.

Bradley started running at the age of 12 and a year later was selected to compete for the English cross-country squad. He now competes at distances between 1500m and 10km and trains with the Ipswich Harriers: his normal training regime adding up to 40-50 miles per week! His aspirations for the future include competing at the university championships over the next three years and running internationally in the senior ranks.

Bradley ran the half marathon to raise funds to go on a volunteering trip for student athletes to Kenya next summer, run by a charity called Strive. The trip involves helping the local community of a rural town called Iten by teaching children in schools and working on building projects. During his free time, Bradley will be able to train – although the facilities are not exactly world class! Iten is a poor town far from the major



Ashbocking's squad in this year's inter-village rounders tournament

cities and therefore receives little funding; however it's also home to the Masai tribe which claims many Olympic athletes. Bradley says, "Everyone goes down to a dirt track at 6am every morning, so you're guaranteed to meet an Olympian."

His sponsors for the half marathon included three local firms - 'The Dog' in Grundisburgh, 'Zoobookoo', and Harbour Logistics. Some £1,300 of sponsorship came solely from Grundisburgh locals and Bradley would like to thank the village for its incredible support. He is now working at The Dog in order to raise the rest of the funds needed but is also still open to donations. If you wish to contribute towards his trip, his contact details are: bradww@btconnect.com or phone 01473 735346

Katie Davis

BOWLS ON OFFER

With at least one local club finding it hard to attract members, this initiative is timely. The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) is to roll out the 'Play Bowls Roadshow' across Suffolk to give people the chance to try the game in local venues. The roadshow comes equipped with a 45 foot mat, bowls, banners, tables, chairs, marquee and a BDA member who sets up all the gear and encourages you to try the game

in a relaxed, familiar and friendly environment. If people like the game, there is plenty of scope for it to become a regular activity, with funding available through Sport England's Small Grants Fund (up to £10,000) to purchase new equipment.

For villages that already have a club, the roadshow can be used to recruit new members. If your village is interested in hosting a roadshow, please contact me and we can arrange a date, either this year or next.

Henry Tapp 01394 444289
www.suffolksport.com/fitvillages

Big hitters

How can so much fun be had from a short wooden stick, a padded leather ball, four white posts and nine inexperienced folk aged between 16 - 64? I'm sure there are several answers, but we, Ashbocking, were playing rounders in this year's Suffolk Villages Rounders Tournament

So how did we get on? The weather was helpful and only ten minutes play was lost, due to a light shower. One of our team got knocked on the head by a bat; another had a bat hurled over her head and an Otley player hurt a knee joint. However, all finished the day with body parts intact.

In the first five matches, we beat Sutton and Orford A and B teams and lost to Bawdsey and Otley. That put us in the semi-finals against Otley, whom we beat convincingly second time round. We were

in the final against Bawdsey!

We achieved 4 1/2 rounders to Bawdsey's 7. They had been tournament winners previously so were an experienced team: we had practised for an hour the week before in a field with rather long grass! In our squad of 15, only four were women: one had a sprained ankle from a previous accident and another was a pensioner.

There were many 'men of the matches.' Special mention goes to 'the Leggett boys' for their batting and fielding skills, Charlotte Bray for her bowling and running skills, Ray Youngs for his hitting power and Shoab for his fielding on second base and all-round performance.

Come on, girls

There is likely to be a tournament next year - are we up for it? I'm sure Robert, Chris, Robert, Ray, Shoab, Keirron, Karl, Pete, Cathy, Katie, Charlotte and Liz will be but we would like some more players. We really need more ladies if we are to take over that first place next year.

It was fun and, hey, we were good! With you joining us, we could be that much better and win the tournament!

Liz Stegman

Grundisburgh FC100 Club:

September: £50 Sean Wright, £35 Josh Kerridge, £25 Kev Cunningham.

October: £50 Alison King, £35 Brubby Grey, £25 Rob Smith.

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Solve the Christmas present problem with a virtual gift - and help make an African family self-sufficient. Catalogues in Grundisburgh Post Office and Grange Farm Shop or online www.sendacowgifts.org.uk

Wanted: Yamaha keyboard needing a new home. 735932.

Gabrielli ceiling light: six spotlight unit finished in aluminium with fully directional heads. £50ono. 738267.

It's free to advertise private sales here: send details direct to the editor by 5 February for the next issue.

All codes 01473.

Letter to the editor...

It has recently come to my attention that accessing bus services if you are elderly, infirm or someone with a child in a pram is difficult to say the least. I was shocked to learn that one elderly resident had not even left the village (Grundisburgh) by bus since Beestons took over the route.

As a result I have written to both David Burrows - spokesman for Beestons - and Dr Daniel Poulter to ask them what they plan to do to improve bus services through rural Suffolk.

Beestons have informed me that they will be replacing their 'step on' buses with 'low floor' buses, supposedly from

the start of October (this did not happen) but I also think that the service would improve if the drivers were courteous and didn't set off prior to all passengers finding a seat, for example. I have witnessed many people (including myself) struggling to get on and off the bus and I have even been subjected to verbal abuse from one of the drivers as I was struggling to get my pram and baby on to the bus.

If you have problems with the buses, write to our MP, the council and to Beestons: through the power of numbers we may manage to at least have a bus service that is accessible to those who need it.

Magdelaine Snowden, Grundisburgh

See Beestons' comments on page 1 - Ed

GENERAL PLUMBING BATHROOMS, SHOWERS, ETC.

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About The News

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community magazine produced by volunteers. Four issues are published annually. Around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 17 other villages (as listed on front page). It is also published on-line at www.grundisburghnews.org.uk Ideas, comments and contributions are welcomed: please send to Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA or editor@grunews.com

Information can be supplied on paper or emailed. If emailed, please give an indication of topic in the subject box. Photos can be sent as JPEGs (but not embedded in documents) or as prints (please include self-addressed envelope if to be returned).

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Local organisations advertising fund raising events are charged at half the normal rate.

Adverts for next issue to be sent by Wednesday 5 February to Val Crouch, Finndale Cottage, Grundisburgh IP13 6UD e-mail val.crouch@btinternet.com Queries 01473 738845

Earlier booking of space is advised as demand is high and there is often a waiting list for inclusion.

DOGS DELIGHT IN BURGH

Over 200 very well behaved dogs and their owners showed off their paces in Burgh in September. The 'Dog Gymkhana' raised over £6,000 for The East Anglian Air Ambulance and Burgh Church.

The 14 classes ranged from the most handsome male and the prettiest female dog, the waggiest tail and the best biscuit catcher, to sections for rescue dogs, veteran dogs, and the dog 'the judge would most like to take home with him' – the judge on this occasion being local retired Bishop John Waine.

The award for the 'Best Dog in the Show' chosen from all the first and second prize winners by Wendy Holden,



author of 'Uggie The Artist: My story' went to George, an English pointer/springer spaniel cross owned by Seth and Sarah Lord and their son Archie.

Riding for the Disabled members ran a very happy ring for athletic dogs doing fun things, while The Easton Harriers Hunt organized an exhibition of hound racing

The Air Ambulance helicopter dropped for a short visit between being called out

Photos clockwise from top left:

Beth and Danny Fewings from Burgh with Spud and Jesse; Archie Lord and father Seth Lord with their dog George, who was judged 'Best in Show';

Organiser Gillian Gurdon; Julie Slinn with Doris and Elsie, winners in the pairs class; Margaret Williams of Grundisburgh and a familiar face from Grange Farm Shop, with her lurcher Sprockett, a winner in the hound racing.

"The dogs and humans at the event had a wonderful day, with no fighting and very little barking. Many people from Burgh and from further afield provided fantastic support to make it such a success - including my husband Adam buzzing around in his buggy lifting the halt and lame from one area to another" said organiser Gillian Gurdon.

At the end of the day helpers were treated to a hot meal from The Dog, Grundisburgh's dog friendly pub.

It was certainly a brilliantly planned event, down to the lilac coloured plastic poo bags inserted into the programmes given to each visitor.

Words Nicola Hobbs,
photos Peter Kendall

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