

Green Links

December 2023

The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield



Cockfield Community Presents...



CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT

Wednesday
13 December 2023

Meet in the hall car park b.30pm
for a candlelit walk to the church
Singing your favourite carols
finishing with a drink and a mince pie



Children are invited to bring an Angel
to decorate the church if they wish



Green Links Copy Deadline!

Please note all copy for the January issue must be
with me by 8th December please

Janne Cutting-Keyton, Newholme, Smithwood Green,
Cockfield. IP30 0JQ
01284 828264 or janne@twerbs.co.uk

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Green Links



The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield
Edition 4- No 199 December 2023

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Sue Harrison

It's December again, don't the months go by quickly, in fact the years pass all too quickly as well. If you would like to look back at Cockfield from 1960 to 2000 then the booklet Memories II is now available, there has also been a reprint of the popular Memories I which covers the period 1920-1960, both are an excellent read and give an insight into village life over an eighty year period. Details of how you can purchase copies are on page 13.

For many years Rodney Williams has contributed articles, and the occasional poem, to Green Links, he has collected fifty of these into a booklet, the proceeds from the sales of which he wishes to go to Cockfield Community Council, A Countryman's Musings will be on sale at Cockfield Stores and other outlets in the village, it is also a very good read and it comes highly recommended.

To allow time for the January edition of Green Links, also a very good read, to be printed before Christmas copy for the January issue needs to be with me by the 8th December please.

Green Links wishes all readers, contributors and distributors a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2024.

Janne

www.cockfield.org.uk

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Saturday December 2nd
St PETER'S CHURCH
COCKFIELD IP30 0LA

**4.00PM: Talk about the church,
by Clive Paine**

**4.30pm: Concert (to include
works by Bach,
Lauridsen and Rutter)**

5.30pm (approx.): Refreshments

FREE ENTRY

**Donations (contactless donations
terminal in place) towards the
Fabric Fund**

**It's Back
By
Popular
Demand
Soup
Saturday!
9th
December
12.00- 2pm**



We are delighted to announce our Cockfield soup lunch is back.

Winter warmer soup lunch available to all in the village. Come and join us at the village hall.

It's only a donation of £1.00.

Cockfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 September 2023 at 7.30pm held in the Village Hall, Cockfield.



Present: Cllr Ian Levett (Chair), Cllr Janne Cutting-Keyton (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dale Baber, Cllr Joe Brinkley, Cllr Sarah Fletcher, Cllr Nic Knight, Cllr Robin Morley & Cllr Ralph Turner.

In Attendance: Suffolk County Cllr Robert Lindsay, District Cllr Paul Clover and District Cllr Margaret Maybury, the Clerk, S Ball and 6 Members of the Public.

2023/100 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Andy Golding,

2023/101 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Morley declared a Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 7 (Payments) as recipient of reimbursement for a purchase on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Fletcher declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 8 (Post Office and Village Stores) as Secretary of The Village Group. Cllr Turner declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 8 (Post Office and Village Stores) as Post-Master and owner of the Village Stores. Cllr Cutting-Keyton declared a Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item 9 (Village Hall) as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee and Cllr Morley declared a Other Registerable Interest in Agenda Item 9 (Village Hall) as the Parish Council Representative on the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Levett declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 9 (Village Hall) as a School Governor.

2023/102 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Cllr Baber that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, held on 24 August 2023, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

2023/103 Outstanding Actions:

2021/189: BMSDC Public Realm Land: Work has been completed to realign the fence at the junction of Dukes Meadow. The Clerk an SCC Cllr Lindsay had complained to SCC Highways that the 'partial' realignment had not significantly improved visibility when exiting Dukes Meadow, however SCC's Enforcement Team have subsequently visited the site, are happy with the work and closed out the complaint. **(Action Closed).**

2021/194: Local Needs Housing: SCC have still not progressed the Parish Council's application for 'Granting of a new right of common and application for registration of a right in the commons register'. The Clerk has emailed, and left messages chasing SCC Legal every two weeks for an update and will continue to do so.

2022/178: Pavilion Balustrade: The Clerk has received a verbal quotation from one Contractor, a written quotation from another contractor and is still awaiting a third for a new balustrade. The Clerk was asked to meet with a contractor to agree and produce a specification with which to seek formal quotations.

2022/184.1: Reduced Speed Limits: SC Cllr Robert Lindsay has received a negative response from SCC Highways regarding the possibility of a lower speed limit on the A1141 between The Abbey and the Windmill. The Clerk to prepare the Parish Council's argument before the September meeting for submission to SC Cllrs Robert Lindsay and Paul West, Cabinet Member for Highways, seeking a meeting on site to discuss proposals.

2023/007.1: Parish Council Investments: Clerk to forward Parish Council's Account Details to enable Cllr Levett to investigate PC bank savings account options for PC reserves.

2023/011.9: Other Assets: The Clerk and SCC Cllr Robert Lindsay had complained to SCC Highways that SCC's Contractor had failed to undertake verge cutting in Windsor Green in accordance with their cutting schedule for C & U Roads. SCC Highways have visited the site and confirmed that they will not be taking any further action. **(Action Closed)**

2023/077: Community Council Request: The Clerk has contacted the Parish Council's Insurance Brokers AJ Gallagher, who confirmed that Community Council assets stored in the Pavilion Shed and/or Pavilion were not Insurable Risks under the Parish Council's Insurance so would not be insured. **(Action Closed)**

2023/078.2.9: Other Assets: Cllr Baber has revarnished the PC Noticeboard at Great Green. Cllrs thanked Cllr Baber for his efforts. **(Action Closed)**

2023/093: Parish Council Mission Statement: Cllrs Knight and Golding have redrafted the Mission Statement which has been circulated to Cllrs. (See Agenda Item 11) **(Action Closed)**.

2023/093: Neighbourhood CIL: The Clerk has advised the resident of the PC's decision not to install any additional bins at Crowbrook Place. **(Action Closed)**

2023/094: D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024: Cllr Cutting-Keyton provided the link for the D-Day 80 Anniversary Guide to the Clerk and this has been circulated to Cllrs. **(Closed)**

2023/095.1: Children's Play Equipment: Cllrs Morley and Knight met with Action Play & Leisure Ltd who have now completed all outstanding snagging items. **(Action Closed)**

2023/095.2.2 Glebe Land Allotments: S Shepherd & Son is scheduled to cut the hedges before 10/01/23. B Colson has topped the Meadow and surrounding grass areas but will return within 2 weeks to undertake a second cut. **(Action Closed)**

2023/104 Public Participation Session:

2023/104.1 Suffolk County Councillor's Report:

Suffolk County Cllr Lindsay circulated his report in advance of the meeting and answered questions about Dukes Meadow and SCC's Verge Cutting programme. Cllr Lindsay offered to forward SCC's criteria for establishing speed limits.

2023/104.2 Babergh District Councillor's Report:

District Cllr Maybury read out her report which she had circulated in advance of the meeting. District Cllr Clover highlighted 3 items from his report. Parish Cllrs raised their extreme disappointment with Cllr Clover about BMSDC's approval of DC/22/06014. Cllr Maybury to forward details of Lavenham Parish Council's complaint to BMSDC Planning about a similar issue and seeking a meeting with the Planning Officer. Cllr Levett to write to BMSDC Head of Planning making a formal complaint and seeking a meeting. Cllr Clover was unable to provide an update on the Fly-tipping at Crowbrook Place.

2023/104.3 Public Participation Session:

An allotment holder enquired about the Parish Council's policy on charging for water once the new supply is connected by Anglian Water handed Cllr Levett a list of other questions. Cllr Levett confirmed that Cllrs on the Allotment Group would be convening

a meeting shortly to consider these issues and would respond accordingly.

A resident complained about the hedges overgrowing the narrow footpath along the A1141 near Jeffreys Green. Cllr Morley confirmed that the land was owned by local farmers and not the Parish Council. The resident also complained about the extent of glass and other debris that had overspilled onto the public footpath on the Airfield and the risk to walkers, children and pets. Cllr Baber (Footpath Warden) would investigate the footpath.

2023/105 Planning:

2023/105.1 Applications Received: It was noted that the following applications had been referred to the Parish Council:

DC/23/04116: Full Planning Application - Construction of 2no. ponds: Cockfield Hall, Howe Lane, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0HU **(The Parish Council Supports the Application).**

DC/23/04474: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of grain storage building.: New Barn Farm, Lavenham Road, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0HX **(The Parish Council Supports the Application).**

2023/105.2 Decisions Received:

DC/23/03315: Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Erection of summer house, fencing and installation of an oil tank (retention of). The Abbey Cottage, Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0LY. **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted).**

DC/23/01527: Proposal & Location of Development: Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/21/02296 dated 09/11/2021 Erection of up to 28 no. dwellings (Plots 5, 6 and 7 of Reserved Matters Permission DC/19/02020 to be repositioned/amended). Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Condition 1 (Approved Plans and Documents) to enable alternative materials for fencing, driveways and road surfaces. Land to the West of Plough And Fleece Inn, Great Green, Cockfield, Suffolk. **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted).**

DC/23/03345: Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension (following removal of existing side structures). 1 Crowbrook Cottages, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0HX. **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted).**

DC/22/06014: Proposal & Location of Development: Planning Application - Erection of 3no dwellings with associated parking and landscaping Land at Junction Of Bury Road And Felsham Road, Great Green, Cockfield, IP30 0HJ. **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted).**

2023/106 Finance:

2023/106.1 Payments:

It was proposed by Cllr Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Cllr Baber that the schedule of payments be approved. The proposal was carried.

Councillors to note Income received.

2023/106.2 Purchase of Strimmer:

It was proposed by Cllr Morley and seconded by Cllr Knight that a Strimmer, spare blade, fuel mixing bottle, 5 Ltrs pre-mixed fuel and safety equipment be purchased from Garden Fox Ltd, Long Melford for the sum of £345.20 + £66.65 VAT for use by the

Earls Meadow/Jeffreys Green Working Group. The proposal was carried.

2023/106.3 Annual A/C Inspection and Service:

It was proposed by Cllr Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Cllr Baber that Acorn A/C & Refrigeration Ltd be appointed to undertake the annual service of the Pavilion A/C & Heatpumps for the sum of £187 + VAT.

2023/107 Community Shop & Post Office:

Mr D Lewsey presented a request on behalf of the Village Group, for a donation from the Parish Council towards the start up costs (fridge, freezer, till etc) involved in The Village Group taking over the running of the Shop as a Community Shop. Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Turner left the room for the Parish Council's discussion and vote. Mr Lewsey answered questions raised by Cllrs. The Clerk explained the Regulatory restrictions and financial limits on the Parish Councils powers to donate, the current budget provision and what budget transfer would be required to fund any donation. It was proposed by Cllr Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Cllr Baber that the Parish Council offer a donation up to a maximum of £4,800, to be drawn down as and when required. The Village Group to provide copies of purchase receipts. The proposal was carried.

It was also proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Cutting-Keyton that a budget transfer be made from the Earmarked Reserves budget (£10,000 for the purchase of a share of the Pub) into the Section 137 Budget, to fund the donation. The proposal was carried.

2023/108 Village Hall Agreement with the Multi-Academy Trust:

Cllr Cutting-Keyton presented a request on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee for a donation of up to £900 from the Parish Council towards the costs of appointing a solicitor to review and advise on the revised legal Agreement drafted by Multi-Academy Trust's solicitors. Cllr Cutting-Keyton answered Cllr's questions and then together with Cllr Morley, left the room for the Parish Council discussion and vote. The Clerk advised Cllrs of their legal powers to agree the donation, the current budget provision and what budget transfer would be required to fund any donation. It was proposed by Cllr Baber and seconded by Cllr Knight that the Parish Council offer a donation up to a maximum of £900, to be paid upon receipt of Solicitor's fee invoice. The proposal was carried.

It was also proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Fletcher that a budget transfer be made from the Earmarked Reserves budget (£3,000 for the Kings Coronation Event, of which £945.42 remains unspent). The proposal was carried.

2023/109 Bandstand Roof Refurbishment:

It was proposed by Cllr Morley and seconded by Cllr Cutting-Keyton that the estimate from D Harradine to remove the existing external roof boarding and replace it with OSB boarding, membrane, seal joints, flashband flashing and felt shingles for a maximum budget cost of £4,650. The proposal was carried.

2023/110 Parish Council Mission Statement:

It was agreed to defer this item until the October Parish Council meeting.

2023/111 D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024:

Cllr Cutting-Keyton advised there was no further update this month.

2023/112 Updates on Neighbourhood CIL Projects:

112.1 Childrens Play Equipment: Cllrs Knight and Morley confirmed that APL Ltd had fixed the Zip-Wire seat and topped up the woodchip under the new Witches Hat Equipment. Cllr Knight agreed to undertake regular safety checks on the play equipment.

112.2 Allotments: Meeting to be arranged to agree charging policy for water at the allotments and to review issues raised by resident.

112.3 CIL Projects: Cllr Morley to convene meeting of the CIL Working of the CIL Working Group to review CIL Project ‘wish list’.

2023/113 Maintenance Schedule and Asset Management:

113.1: Maintenance Calendar: (Full Review, February, June, October only) undertake full review of 23/24 Maintenance Requirements for budget preparation purposes.

113.2: Maintenance Matters by Exception:

113.2.1 Greens Management: None

113.2.2 Glebe Land: None

113.2.3 Earls Meadow: None

113.2.4 Cemetery: Cllr Morley will instruct S Bradnam to undertake the 2nd Bi-annual hedge cut at the end of October. Cllr Turner confirmed that one of the gate posts will require replacing shortly.

113.2.5 Playground: None

113.2.6 Village Hall Car Park: None

113.2.7 Parish Paths: None

113.2.8 Pavilion: Cllr Brinkley advised that one of the electrical circuits has been tripping out. It was agreed that he contacts S & N Electrical

113.2.9 Other Assets: None

2023/114 Community Engagement Initiative:

It was agreed to defer this item until the October Parish Council meeting.

2023/115 Third Party Liaison:

115.1 Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC): Cllr Cutting-Keyton announced that Cockfield had won the Suffolk Small Village of the Year Award for 2023. Cllrs Levett and Cutting-Keyton were asked to investigate event options for the village to celebrate its success.

115.2 Highways and Emergencies: None.

115.3 Police/Fire: Cllr Cutting-Keyton confirmed she would be attending the Police Commissioner and Chief Constable’s Forum to hear about the new Suffolk Policing Arrangements to be introduced in December.

2023/117 Local Needs Housing:

Cllr Morley advised there was no further update this month.

2023/118 Future Management of the Village Website:

Cllrs Cutting-Keyton and Baber offered to support Cllr Levett in drafting an Options paper for submission to the next Parish Council meeting.

2023/119 Correspondence:

Email 19/08/23: Resident complaint about brambles overgrowing the public footpath in Chapel Rd. Footpath Warden Cllr Baber trimmed back the overgrown hedge on 20/08/23. Email letter of thanks from Resident received 21/08/23.

Email 24/08/23: Action Play & Leisure enclosing TUV Safety Certificate for Cone Climber. Circulated to Greens Committee.

Email 25/08/23: Cllr Cutting-Keyton enclosing link to D Day Anniversary Guide. Circulated to Cllrs.

Email 26/08/23: SC Cllr Robert Lindsay advising that the boundary fence at the junction of Duke Meadow and Great Green had been realigned. Clerk has written to Cllr

Lindsay expressing concern over the realignment which although an improvement, still doesn't provide a safe line of sight exiting Dukes Meadow.

Email 01/09/23: BMSDC Communications, enclosing BMSDC Monthly Update. Clerk circulated to Cllrs.

Email 07/09/23: District Cllr Paul Clover forwarding invite to attend Police Forum at Glemsford Village Hall on 17th October. Clerk circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Levett will attend.

Email 07/09/23: SCC Highways reply to problem reported regarding missed Verge Cutting along Windsor Green. Circulated to Cllrs and forwarded to SC Cllr Robert Lindsay who is pursuing on our behalf.

Telephone 07/09/23: Vertas Group Ltd Tractor driver complaining about a piece of football equipment left on the grass which damaged the blades of the mower. Cllr Golding believes this was left by Bury Boys U11 FC and will remind them to check they have removed everything when leaving.

Email 08/09/23: The National Allotment Society, invite to attend their AGM at Baldock on 14/10/23. Circulated to Cllrs Levett, Fletcher and Morley.

Email 11/09/23: David Bracey Play Safety Inspections enclosing Annual Play Inspection Report. Forwarded to Greens Committee to enable them to update their Risk Register.

Email 13/09/23: Contractor Dean Evans providing AWA Pass Certificate for water supply to allotments. Circulated to Cllrs Levett, Fletcher and Morley.

Email 14/09/23: 20s Plenty Campaign. Circulated to Cllrs and written to SC Cllr Robert Lindsay seeking SCC's position on campaign.

Email 14/09/23: Community Action Suffolk, confirming they will forward slides of their presentation on Community Led Homes, to be circulated to Cllrs.

Email 14/09/23: Police Connect invite to attend Police & Crime Commissioner's & Chief Constable's Briefing on plans for Community Policing in Suffolk. Circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Cutting-Keyton to attend.

Email 18/09/23: PKF Littlejohn LLP enclosing Notice of Completion and signed Section 3 of the AGAR for 2022-23.

Email 19/09/23: Slow Ways, initiative to connect all communities via a National Walking Network. Forwarded to Cllr Baber (Footpath Warden) to review and propose any necessary action.

Email 20/09/23: BMSDC Media Release on the Planning Inspectorate's feedback on BMSDC JLP. Circulated to Cllrs.

Email 20/09/23: BMSDC Publication of Planning Inspector's Report on BMSDC JLP. Circulated to Cllrs.

2023/120 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council either for information or for inclusion on the agenda of a future Ordinary Meeting:

Review amendments to Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Community Led Planning update from Elizabeth Ling Adoption of Parish Council Mission Statement

Future management of the Village Website

Community Engagement Initiative

2023/121 Next Meeting:

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall (Main Hall) on 30th November 2023, 25th January 29th February & 28th March 2024.

The Parish Council may be contacted through the Clerk,
Steve Ball by email at: parish.council@cockfield.org.uk
or 01284 828987 10am - 4pm please



Cockfield Village Community Store and Post Office

The end of our first week as a community shop (more by the time you read this) and all is well!

Our volunteers have been amazing, very enthusiastic, extremely capable and they all seem to be enjoying the challenge.

We still have gaps in the rota and would welcome new volunteers, feel free to come in and see us in operation. Alternatively, you can access the form at the following website address www.bit.ly/cockfieldshop or email sjfletch25@gmail.com.

If you are unable to volunteer, you might like to contribute to a new fridge and a few other things we need via our GoFundMe me page or by bank transfer (see details below).

We are very grateful for the ongoing help and guidance from Barbara and equally grateful and happy that Ralph is still making his amazing sandwiches and cakes.

Let us not forget a thank you to all the patient customers who have endured our fumbling's at the till!

We are now a community shop and we look forward to the community continuing to support us in any way they can.



Account Name: Cockfield Village Group Limited
Bank: The Co-operative Bank
Sort Code 08-92-99
Account No. 67305683

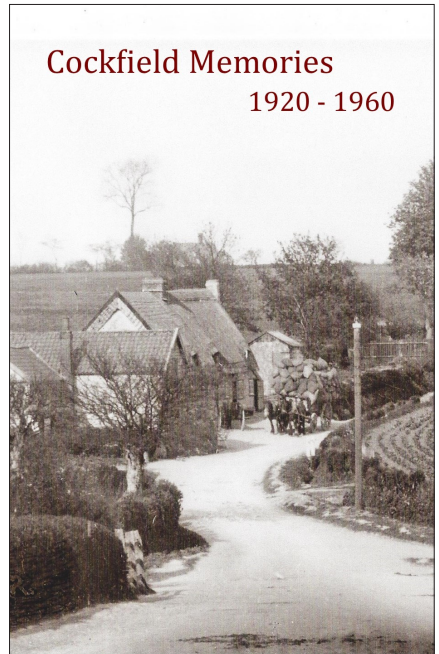
Scan the QR code or

visit <https://gofund.me/c6f9e2f8>.

COCKFIELD MEMORIES II

VOLUME II will be available from December 2nd. - just in time for Christmas
For your convenience, there will be four selling points around the village:
A few more copies of Memories I are also available

They are both £5 a copy and it would probably be sensible to ring up and ensure the seller is at home if you want to buy one.



Special thanks are due to Brenda Dyer, Ann Green, Gillian Hodge, Janne Cutting-Keyton and Barbara Ruffell who, after the enforced Covid break, have completed "Cockfield Memories II", in time for publication in December 2023.

Thorpe Morieux and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club meeting for October was our AGM where we reviewed and reflected on our past year, and voted in a new Committee for 2024. We then discussed our program for the coming year.

The meeting closed and was followed by some social time and a buffet. The competition for this month for the Hardingham Trophy for preserves was won by Dave Ransom with his delicious plum jam. Well done Dave !



The November meeting on the 29th is our Annual Quiz evening contest with Lavenham Garden Club, to be held at Lavenham Village Hall.

The final meeting for 2023 is the Christmas Party/Meal, on Monday December 11th to be held in Thorpe Morieux Village Hall.

Looking ahead to our 15th January 2024 meeting, we would love to welcome any guests or potential new members at Thorpe Morieux Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Patricia Everitt

Cockfield W.I.

Report for November



In November we were hoping to have a talk by Amanda Bloomfield, about the work done by the charity she works for - The Gatehouse. Unfortunately the weather was predicted to be very bad that evening so that we felt it was wise to cancel the meeting, as did our visitor. We will fit in a new date for Amanda to visit as soon as we can and let everyone know the new date. This charity has a Home Store and a very valuable Foodbank. They organise Community Wellbeing support and also have a thriving Christmas project. The charity would not be able to deliver their services without support and donations. They are based in Dettigen Way, Bury St Edmunds and can be contacted on 01284 754967 or by e mail at info@gatehouse.org.uk. A great local charity and well worth supporting!

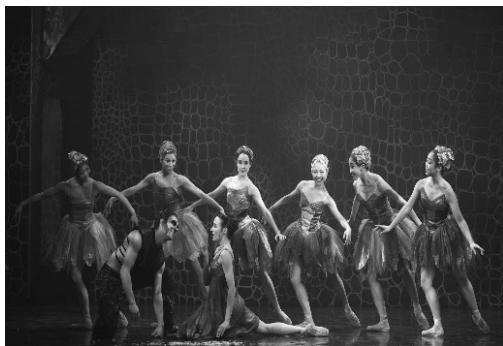


A popular outing in November was the lunch at West Suffolk College, prepared and served by the students as a part of their catering training. They have an opportunity to prepare and serve meals, work very hard and are well supervised. 22 Members of Cockfield WI were able to attend this time and had a very enjoyable meal.

Additionally in November some members visited the Christmas shop at Blackthorpe Barns and I will be able to share more information with you in the next Green Links. Christmas will be here all too soon!

A small number from our book group also visited Norwich Theatre Royal to watch a production of Beauty and the Beast by The Northern Ballet.

In December we are also looking forward to a speaker, Lindsey Barrel, also known as Ms Cherry-Bombe, with a talk entitled 'Burlesque, Me and the WI'.





Other groups report that this is an excellent talk. Lindsey has been a regular speaker on the WI circuit since 2014. She is a Burlesque and Mindfulness teacher as well as a WI member and is understood to be a gifted storyteller!

In January we will have a visit from Kara Andrews advising us about Tropic Skin-care.

In February Allen Burbridge will talk to us about 'The Hervey family of Ickworth'. We are also still currently thinking about planning visits for next year. These may include a visit to a gin distillery, a flour mill, a vineyard and a local fudge maker! An obvious food and drink theme! I will circulate a list of all the possible options we have so far considered at the December meeting for members to express an interest in any options offered. Plus any other ideas are very welcome!

The coffee morning we hold in the village hall each month is a great place to meet and have a chat! It is open to everyone and everyone is very welcome to share some lovely homemade cakes and biscuits, as well as tea and coffee. The next coffee morning is from 10.30 am until 12 noon on Thursday 25th January, in the Village Hall Committee room. The monthly coffee mornings will return and continue as you can see from January 2024, after that short break in December!

The WI monthly Saturday lunches are returning! The next one is on 9th December, followed after Christmas on 6th January 2024. The lunch is available for a small contribution of £1, for the food! Teas and coffees are also available. Please come as the lunch dates are returning, we would love to see you then!

We would all really like to say welcome to you if you have recently moved into the village and would love to meet you. Visitors are always very welcome to WI meetings and if you would like to come along, haven't felt comfortable going out due to Covid or used to come to WI and would like to think about coming back, please contact Michelle Callinan on wi@cockfied/org.uk

Joan Ball

Tips & Recipes for Christmas Leftovers

Thinking ahead now as the days rush by, it is a good idea to be prepared for the Christmas and New Year period! There is a lot to do and inevitably there will be some leftovers, which can be an issue! There is pressure to get everything right and even in these difficult times we can buy too much. We just want everything to be perfect.

Please enjoy this special time with family and friends and don't work too hard!

Merry Christmas everyone and have a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year!

It is a time to be together, to celebrate, remember the true meaning of Christmas, enjoy simple things and share it all.

'For it is in the giving that we receive' (Francis of Assisi)

'Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone' (Charles M Schulz)

Before the ice is in the pools.

Before the skaters go,

Or any cheek at nightfalls

Is tarnished by the snow,

Before the fields have finished,

Before the Christmas tree,

Wonder upon wonder

Will arrive to me!

(Emily Dickinson)

I have a turkey recipe for left overs but have otherwise concentrated on a much maligned vegetable, the Brussel Sprout! I remember as a child they were inevitably over-cooked and frankly the butt of jokes about how inedible they were! (I actually like them now).

Spicy Turkey Noodles

Ingredients

250 medium egg noodles

1 tbsp soy sauce

2 limes, juiced

2 tsp brown sugar

2 tbsp vegetable oil

1 garlic clove, thinly sliced, 1 red chilli, thinly sliced

500g cooked turkey, sliced

2 spring onions, thinly sliced on the diagonal

100g bean sprouts (fresh or tinned and drained)

30g salted peanuts or any other nuts you have left over, coriander, lime wedges to serve

Method

Cook the noodles according to the pack instructions, drain and rinse in cold water. Set aside. Mix the soy, lime juice and sugar together. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok and add the garlic, chilli, turkey and spring onions, fry for 2 minutes then add the noodles and the bean sprouts and fry for a further 1-2 minutes and then add the sauce, tossing until well coated and thoroughly heated through. Serve with the nuts and coriander scattered on top & with lime wedges for squeezing over.

Brussels Sprout Slaw

Ingredients

200g sprouts, trimmed and shredded
1 small red onion, sliced
1 carrot, sliced into thin strips or coarsely grated
¼ red cabbage, cored and shredded
1 tsp celery seeds
Small bunch of chives, parsley or dill, roughly snipped or torn
50g yogurt
50g mayonnaise
1 tsp mustard of your choice
2 tsp apple cider vinegar or any other vinegar

Method

Put the sprouts, onion, carrot, cabbage, celery seeds and all but a small handful of herbs in a bowl and mix well to combine.

Put the yogurt, mayo, mustard, vinegar and seasoning in a small bowl and mix well.

Spoon the dressing over the vegetables, then toss to coat everything well. Taste for seasoning. Spoon the slaw into a serving bowl or platter and scatter with the remaining herbs before serving.

Mustardy Sausage and Sprout Gnocchi

Ingredients

250g gnocchi (bought or homemade)
1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, thinly sliced
3 pork sausages (200g)
250g sprouts, shredded
100ml chicken stock
2 tsp wholegrain mustard
2 tbsp half fat crème fraiche
½ small bunch parsley, chopped, plus extra to serve
Parmesan, grated (optional)

Method

Cook the gnocchi in a pan of salted water following the packet instructions, if not homemade. Drain and set aside.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan and fry the onion over a medium heat for 8 minutes, or until soft and turning golden brown. Squeeze the sausage meat out of the skins and into the pan, breaking them up with a wooden spoon. Cook for 5 mins or until golden brown. Stir through the sprouts and cook for a further 5 mins until softened. Add the stock and mustard and bring to the boil. Stir through the crème fraiche and parsley. Season. Tip in the gnocchi, tossing with 100ml of water to loosen the sauce and bring to a simmer for 3 mins. To serve, sprinkle with the extra parsley and parmesan, if you like.

Any leftover mashed potato or mashed up roasted potatoes make amazing bubble and squeak with Brussel sprouts (especially) or cabbage!

Joan Ball

A Countryman's Musings



Rodney C Williams
2023

£5 per copy

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A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12A)

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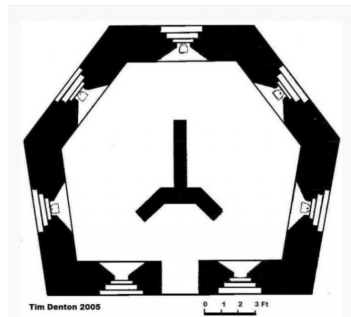
Cockfield and the Eastern Command Stop Line - Part 2

In the first part I did a brief overview of what the Eastern Command Stop Line was, and how it was part of General Ironside's plan to counter a possible German invasion in 1940. At that time around 28,000 pillboxes were built, and approximately 6,500 of these are still in existence today. They have become a symbol of a desperate undertaking associated with what we sometimes call Britain's finest hour, when the country came together to stave off the very real threat of invasion, helped by its island geography. The country was turned into a fortress, with the stop lines and pillboxes becoming the first line of defence of the homeland. The fact that so many still survive today points to how well they were designed and to the degree of robustness in their construction. However, all had features that were characterised by their local area, with the character of individual pillboxes being shaped by the materials available locally and the abilities of the local soldiers, labourers and volunteers who toiled long hours to turn the designs into reality.

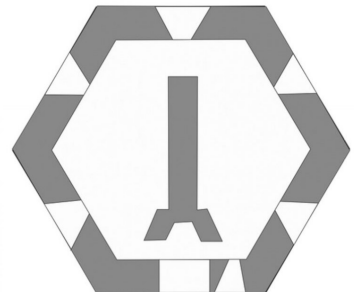
As we shall see, most were made with reinforced concrete as specified by a pattern laid down by the Directorate of Works and Fortifications, but even the mix of concrete varied depending on the availability of sand, cement and gravel or shingle. This gives rise to the variation in appearance of pillboxes. In May 1940 the Directorate of Fortifications and Works at what was then the War Office was established in order to provide specific pillbox designs to be constructed throughout the countryside at defensive locations, which were examined in Part 1 of this account. By June and July seven Basic Designs were issued, numbered types 22 to 28. Of these, the type 22 and type 24 are the most prevalent in this area. Type 22 is a regular hexagon, whereas the type 24 is an irregular hexagon. Both are designated as being bulletproof, but neither would offer much, if any, protection from an anti tank gun or field gun.

Most designs specified as a minimum that they should provide protection against bullets and shell splinters, but some were designed to withstand hits by field artillery or anti tank shells. Simple blast walls would provide protection for open entrances, and they would have flat side walls with a polygonal shape, typically hexagonal or pentagonal. No attempt was made to provide any living accommodation, so they were purely functional. The use of common designs with standard sizes of doors and embrasures made it easier to mass produce items for concrete shuttering (ie the temporary moulds to hold the wet concrete in place until it had set and cured). However, in practice it was often common

practice to use bricks as the shuttering and to leave them in place, fooling the casual observer into believing that the whole structure is constructed of bricks. Only closer examination reveals the integral reinforced concrete core.



Type 24 Pillbox



Type 22 Pillbox

The type 24, common in our area as stated previously, was of an irregular hexagonal construction with rear wall being the longest at about 14 feet. It has embrasures (firing ports) either side of the entrance. The other four walls are about eight feet in length, with a single embrasure each, these being suitable for rifles or light machine guns. These embrasures were designed to allow a 60 degree arc of fire, ie 30 degrees either side of the centreline. Internally there was a Y shaped blast wall, with the top of the Y nearest the entrance. This wall also served to help support the roof. All type 24s were built to the bulletproof standard of 12 inches thick, although the walls were often thicker. There are plenty of examples in the local area. Try and spot them when you are next out for a walk. How many of you have spotted the one on Newmarket Road on the right hand side of the road as you head out of town towards the Westley interchange? Ever wondered why it's there? Well, you have to bear in mind that there was once an airfield right opposite (no doubt the subject of a future article), so that explains its seemingly peculiar location.

As with the former airfields that abound in this area, nature is doing her best to reclaim these structures at last, with their concrete shells disappearing under a cloak of choking vines, bushes and tangled undergrowth. They serve then, as metaphors of both a time of high endeavour, and a time of gradual decline at one and the same time.

Jeremy Gardner



Four notable Suffolk graves

In this four part series I will look at four gallant soldiers and airmen who have been laid to rest in Suffolk. All of their graves lie within a thirty minute drive from us here in Cockfield and all of them are remarkable stories. I will start at Beck Row near Mildenhall, where Rawdon Middleton is buried in the churchyard of St John's Church, the only member of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to be awarded the Victoria Cross (posthumous) whilst serving with Bomber Command during World War Two. In part 2 we head 11 miles north to Stanton on the A143 where the spotlight falls on Reg Seekings, one of the legendary SAS 'originals', along with founder members David Stirling, 'Jock' Lewis and Blair 'Paddy' Mayne. In part 3 I will head over to Chelsworth, four miles to the east of Lavenham. Here in the churchyard of All Saints Church you will find the grave of Jo Woodgate, a member of the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals) who was killed whilst on active service in Sangin, Afghanistan, in 2010. Finally I will wrap up the series in Cavendish, nine miles to the southwest where perhaps the greatest bomber pilot of them all is buried in the cemetery. I'm talking of course about the incomparable Leonard Cheshire VC OM DSO (two bars) DFC.

Part 1. Pilot Officer Rawden 'Ron' Middleton VC

Rawden Middleton, the one time jackeroo from the outback in NSW, was born in Sydney in 1916. He was the great nephew of the explorer Hamilton Hume, after whom the Hume Highway is named. Any reader who has travelled from Sydney to Canberra will have barrelled along this highway, as have I. Middleton enlisted into the RAAF in October 1940 under the Empire Air Training Scheme, and after completing his initial training at Narromine in rural NSW, he was sent overseas to Canada to complete his training (as was a certain Norman Gregory). After completing his flying training Middleton arrived in Britain in September 1941 and was duly promoted to Flight Sergeant.

In February 1942 he was posted to 149 Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, flying one the three new four engined 'heavies', the Short Stirling. This was the least successful of the new aircraft (the other two being the Handley Page Halifax and the iconic Avro Lancaster) and it was notorious for its poor ceiling of around 12,000 feet, making it much more vulnerable to anti aircraft fire and fighter attacks.



This shortcoming would later spell trouble for Middleton and his crew. When a new pilot arrived on the squadron he would typically fly for a 'bedding in' period as a second pilot (known as a second 'dickey' for some obscure reason) with an experienced crew in order to gain vital operational experience. He would then be given command of his own aircraft. By July 1942 Middleton was ready to fly his first operational sortie (or trip, as they were known) as captain of his aircraft (Incidentally, the pilot was always the captain of the aircraft, regardless of rank). Middleton flew his first trip to Düsseldorf.

In October 1942 the focus of Bomber Command's attacks switched from Germany to targets in Northern Italy. This was to support the imminent offensive by the British Eighth Army at El Alamein, and also Operation Torch, the Allied landings in northwest Africa, which were to take place on 8 November. These raids to northern Italy involved prodigious distances, up to 1400 miles, and flying times of up to ten hours. These targets were at the very limit of the Stirling's range and required careful flight planning and precise fuel and engine management if they were to get back home. The biggest obstacle to overcome was the Alps, which peaked at around 16000 feet, and for the Stirlings with their poor ceilings, laden as they were with fuel and bombs, it was a case of picking their way through the mountain passes, rather than flying over the mountains. Bad weather, particularly icing, would make these flights even more hazardous and arduous. On the plus side, these operations were considered easier as the Italian flak was less accurate and intense compared to that experienced over Germany. Operations to Italy were often represented by ice cream cones painted on the nose of the aircraft, as opposed to the more usual bomb motif!

On the evening of 28 November 1942 Middleton and his crew were briefed for an operation to Turin to bomb the large Fiat motor plant. 149 Squadron would put up seven Stirlings that night, part of a force which comprised 117 Lancasters, 46 Stirlings, 45 Halifaxes and 19 Wellingtons - 227 all told. Middleton and his seven crew mates boarded Stirling BF372, coded OJ-H. On the outward flight Middleton's aircraft experienced severe weather which ate into their fuel reserves. Middleton considered



abandoning the sortie when he couldn't find a way through the mountains, but when the lights of Turin were spotted through a mountain pass he decided to press on and bomb the target. Middleton hated the idea of bombing indiscriminately and made three low passes at 2000 feet in order to positively identify his precise target. It was whilst he was making this third pass that his aircraft was hit by anti aircraft fire and a shell exploded in the cockpit. Shell fragments tore into the right side of Middleton's face taking out his right eye. His body and legs were also hit by multiple shell splinters. His co pilot, Flight Sergeant Hyder, was also badly wounded.

Middleton lost consciousness and the aircraft began an uncontrolled descent. It was eventually pulled out of its dive at 800 feet by Hyder, who managed to get the aircraft back up to 1500 feet. Clearly a bomb run was now impossible and the load of incendiaries was jettisoned. On regaining consciousness Middleton insisted on taking control of the aircraft despite his appalling injuries. His aircraft had been badly damaged amidships and the windscreen had been shattered by the blast of the exploding shell. The scene in that cockpit must have been horrendous. Middleton was determined to get his aircraft back to England, or as close as he could, in order to give his crew a fighting chance, even though this meant an arduous four hour flight eating into his precious reserves of fuel. He was helped enormously by FSgt Hyder, who refused to have his wounds dressed in order stay by his captain's side.

Several times on the return flight Middleton's crew considered other options, such as diverting to Spain, or baling out over France, but Middleton was determined to make it back to England. To lighten the aircraft as much as possible the crew threw out virtually everything they could - guns, ammunition, seats and other equipment. One of the crew even went around with an axe, chopping off anything he could. When the aircraft approached the French coast it was bracketed by accurate flak (anti aircraft fire) and hit again but, incredibly, despite his terrible wounds, Middleton somehow found the strength and resolve to fly evasive action and the aircraft made it across the Channel. With the fuel tanks all but dry, Middleton turned his aircraft parallel to the English coast and, since he could barely talk, signalled to his crew to abandon the aircraft. Five of the crew, including Hyder, made a successful parachute descent and all were later rescued from the sea. Two crew, FSgt Mackie, and Sgt Jeffrey, heroically stayed on board the aircraft until the last possible minute, then they too baled out. Sadly they did not survive and drowned. Their bodies were recovered the following day.

FSgt Middleton must have known there was no way that he could abandon the aircraft with his injuries, or survive a ditching onto water and somehow escape from the aircraft before it sank. At shortly before 3 in the morning the engines cut due to fuel starvation and the aircraft plunged into sea, taking its brave Captain with it. On 13 January 1943, FSgt Middleton was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. It was not until 1 February 1943 that the wreckage released his body. It was washed ashore near Dover. He was buried with full military honours at St John's churchyard in Beck Row, Mildenhall, but at the rank of Pilot Officer. The news of his commission had not reached him before his death.

The photos show a Stirling of 149 Squadron, Rawden Middleton at Elementary Flight School in Narromine, FSgt Hyder recovering from his wounds, and the grave of Plt Off Rawden Middleton VC

JG



🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶 Catey
Preschool 🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶🎄👶

Hello to you all,

November was a busy month for us. We have been enjoying lots of firework night activities and hearing all about where the children have been to see them. The days are getting shorter and there is a chill in the air now but we have still been outside going for walks on the field and playing in our Catey garden. The children have been jumping in the leaves and helping to sweep them up, we have really enjoyed watching the trees change colour and begin to drop their leaves. Our Pumpkin Party was a huge success and we raised £461 so a huge thank you to the committee for organising it, to our volunteers who helped set up and tidy away and to everyone who came and supported us, we really do appreciate it.

December has come around again and the children are getting excited for Christmas time. We at Catey preschool have been busy practicing the nativity for our performance in the church on the 19th December. There has been lots of singing Christmas songs and the children are improving each week. It's going to be so lovely to see them dressed up in their costumes and hear them singing in the church. We will be spending December doing Christmas crafts and decorating the preschool with decorations the children have made. Writing letters to Father Christmas and making our Christmas lists. It's such a magical time of year and we at Catey wish you all a warm and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes from your Catey Team

Enquiries: Mary or Steph 01284 827274 cateypreschool@hotmail.com



Cockfield Carpet Bowls Club



News from the Carpet

Wow! What a good start to the season.

The first three months of the Winter Season have gone really well for the club.

Our Open Evening attracted three new players, two of whom have already started paying in matches! We are really pleased to welcome new players (whether they want to play competitively or just socially). If you would like to join us please contact me (Chris Ford 07979089636) or come down to the village hall on a Monday evening (7.30pm to 10pm). This winter season we have entered the Suffolk and Bury St Edmonds league competitions. The results so far, have been good; we started off with a fantastic away win at Wethersfield (possibly last summer's top team and a difficult place to win at) and continued with three more wins, against Hundon (A), Thurston (A) and Barrow (H). This was followed by a dip in form with two back to back losses to Stanningfield (A) and then Woolpit (A), but I am pleased that we have bounced back with a big win, last night, at home to Brockley.

On Sunday 29 October we entered a team in the Suffolk Fours competition, to be held at Needham Market. Our team comprised Colin and Keith Fellingham, June Pettit and Jane Coulon.

This year 27 teams entered the competition. After progressing unbeaten, through to the final, Cockfield might have been considered the underdogs against a strong Claydon side. Our 'awesome foursome' brought their scintillating form taking a well deserved 9-2 victory.

Colin last won this event in the 2011/12 season and for June she had to go back thirty years to the 1993/4 season for her last success in this event.



Congratulations to our 'fantastic four'!!!

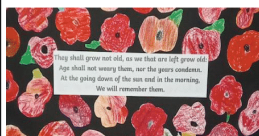
We are proud that, team members, Sue Davey, Colin Fellingham and Peter Fellingham continue to be selected in the Suffolk county team. Over the weekend of 3 – 5 November Suffolk won the Inter County League Final beating Durham and then won the overall National Championships, pipping Herts to the win by just one point! Congratulations Suffolk and the Cockfield players!

Here's hoping we continue to have a successful season, I will update you in the New Year!

Chris Ford



Welcome to the November edition of our school newsletter! As the days grow shorter and the air becomes crisper, we are thrilled to share the heart-warming activities and achievements that have taken place at Cockfield Primary School.



In Oak Class, our brilliant Year 1 and 2 children have been embarking on an exciting investigation into different materials. They have transformed part of their

classroom into a dark den, exploring which materials allow light to pass through. Using their newly learnt language, they then tested multiple materials to see if they were transparent, translucent, or opaque.

Birch Class recently took part in a fascinating journey to Bury St Edmunds. Their trip tied in perfectly with their history topic of crime and punishment. The children had the opportunity to dress in period costumes, step back in time, re-enact scenes, and explore the numerous artefacts and information on display. It was truly a day of immersive learning!

Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the talented Birch Class has been exploring food from around the world. They have been following recipes and creating their very own delicious hummus. We are incredibly proud of their culinary skills and their eagerness to explore different cultures through food.

Moving from food to festivities where the Christmas spirit is beginning to take hold at Cockfield Primary School as Lime and Oak Classes have started practicing their Nativity performance and songs. We can't wait to witness the magic and talent that our young stars will bring to the stage!

In honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all our children participated in an art afternoon dedicated to remembering those who gave their lives during the war. Together, they created beautiful artwork, which was displayed in our local church, serving



as a poignant reminder of our community's reverence for the past.

Our pupils have also been actively engaging with our Christian values, fostering discussions and sharing examples of how they have displayed these values both within our school and in our local community. It's truly inspiring to see our children embodying perseverance, respect and compassion.

Willow Class joined forces with Birch class on their school trip but spent their time exploring the captivating Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. Among the highlights were the awe-inspiring ceiling designs adorned with pictures of angels, the tranquil Abby gardens housing some of the original ruins, and the enlightening lessons about the young King Edmund. It was a day filled with wonder and learning.

Lime Class loved their Diwali dance workshop! First, they heard the Hindu story of Rama and Sita. Next, they sat in a circle and Josie asked us to say our name and then show her a dance move. They were ALL brave enough to show her a solo move and she was impressed!

Then we started working on our dance routine, the first part of the routine told the story of Rama and Sita. It was tricky as the children danced separate moves for some of the dance - the boys danced the part of Rama, Eloise danced the part of Sita and Rowan was Ravana, the demon king! The second part of the dance was the celebration dance to show the celebrations which happened when Rama rescued Sita. The children performed some traditional Bollywood and Bhangra dance moves.

As we embrace the joys and challenges of the upcoming winter season, let us continue to celebrate the remarkable achievements and experiences that make Cockfield Primary School such a special place. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our children, parents, and staff, and we look forward to another incredible month ahead.

Warmest regards,

Marc Gilbert
Headteacher.



A Poacher's Ghost

Nobody sees and nobody knows in the silence of the night
She is always there in the moonlight
A strange and lovely sight.

Come gather friends and hark to me, for I have a tale to tell.
A tale so strange, known just to me but you should share as well.

About a ghostly maid I spy, a dancing in the wood
Stardust swirls around her hair and moonlight head to foot.

I've seen her many times now, and the scene just draws me back,
all gold and silver dancing there just off Woodman Seaton's track

She dances in a clearing, just off Old Robert's Way.
In the midnight grove by moonlight, until the break of day.

I've been round here for many a year, yet heard none tell the tale
of a ghostly maiden, moonlight clad, with stardust as her veil.

The glade is flat and short grass down, a fine set stage for her
in flowing gold and silver stars, men's eyes she doth allure.

Well now my lads, your lips keep pressed, and secret keep this
tale
I'm just small meat to his lordship's men but poachers end in jail.

I know well his lordship's woods, I've poached them all my years,
I know all of their wide open spaces, I know all of their deep
hidden fears.
But if his bailiffs catch me, then there'll be nought but tears.

I've shared with you my story, and, if closed lips you lack,
I'll be bound for Van Diemen's Land, and ne'er be coming back.

Nobody sees and nobody knows, in the silence of the night.
She is always there in the moonlight,
A strange and lovely sight.

RW

Cockfield Village of the Year 2023

Dear Cockfield Resident

I am writing on behalf of Cockfield Parish Council to invite you to join in the event to mark Cockfield winning Small Village of the Year 2023.

**Join the Parish Council in the Village Hall
on Saturday 20th January 2024
between 11am and 2pm**

Just feel free to drop in between these times

16 Village clubs, societies and organisations will be showcasing the contribution they make to village life, by means of a display and/or by having appropriate people on hand to speak with attendees.

Light refreshments will be available.

A toast will be offered to the Village at about 1.30pm.

Well done to everyone who contributes to Cockfield being such a good place to live.

Cockfield Parish Council
Nov 23



The Horseshoes Christmas Menu

28th November - 22nd December 2023

STARTER

BRIE & CRANBERRY WONTONS

SERVED WITH A SWEET CHILLI DIP

PRAWN & SMOKED SALMON TOWER

SERVED ON A BED OF CELERIAC & GRANARY BREAD

CURRIED PARSNIP SOUP

SERVED WITH A BREAD ROLL

CREAMY CHICKEN LIVERS

SERVED ON GARLIC TOAST

MAIN COURSE

TRADITIONAL NORFOLK TURKEY

SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES, PARSNIPS, ROAST POTATOES, PIGS IN BLANKET AND STUFFING, TOPPED WITH GRAVY

DUCK BREAST WITH A BLACKBERRY SAUCE

SERVED WITH A GREEN MEDLEY OF VEGETABLES & ROASTED NEW POTATOES

ROASTED SALMON

SERVED WITH BRAISED COURGETTES AND A LEMON & CORIANDER COUS COUS, TOPPED WITH A HARISSA MAYONAISE

BUTTERBEAN, SWEET POTATO & SPINACH STEW

SERVED WITH A POTATO PUREE

BUTTERNUT SQUASH, LENTIL & ALMOND WELLINGTON

WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES, PARSNIPS, ROAST POTATOES & TOPPED WITH A VEGETARIAN GRAVY

DESSERT

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

SERVED WITH A BRANDY SAUCE

LEMON CURD CROISSANT PUDDING

SERVED WITH CUSTARD

CHOCOLATE ORANGE TORTE

SERVED WITH CREAM

PROSECCO SORBET

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01284 828177

lloydandjessicawarwick@hotmail.com

PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM REGARDING ALLERGENS OR FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION

The Horseshoes Christmas Menu

28th November - 22nd December 2023

**Party name -
Date of party-
Time -
Party size -
Telephone number-**

STARTER	QTY	DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
BRIE & CRANBERRY WONTONS		
PRAWN & SMOKED SALMON TOWER		
CURRIED PARSIP SOUP		
CREAMY CHICKEN LIVERS		
MAIN COURSE		
TRADITIONAL NORFOLK TURKEY		
DUCK BREAST WITH A BLACKBERRY SAUCE		
ROASTED SALMON		
BUTTERBEAN, SWEET POTATO & SPINACH STEW		
BUTTERNUT SQUASH, LENTIL & ALMOND WELLINGTN		
DESSERT		
CHRISTMAS PUDDING		
LEMON CURD CROSSIANT PUDDING		
CHOCOLATE ORANGE TORTE		
PROSECCO SORBET		
COMMENTS		

01284 828177

lloydandjessicawarwick@hotmail.com

**PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM REGARDING ALLERGINS
OR FOR ANY FURTHER INFOMATION**

Children's Page December 2023

With Christmas coming now could be the time to make some decorations. Any decorations you have over could go in to the church maybe you could bring them for the Community Carols by Candlelight on the 13th December.

I have had great fun looking for ideas and I have found these which I am sure, maybe with a little help, you could make. I particularly like the one with a pine cone base but there are so many materials you could use.



Have Fun
and I hope you
have a really
special
Christmas



Cockfield United Football Club

Hello again from Cockfield United. As I write this we are nearly three months into the season, but the 1st IX have only played four league games so far. This is an indication of the period of very wet weather we've been experiencing. I gather all sorts of rainfall records have been broken, and of course grass being what it is, this has forced the postponement of a number of games, both home and away. The season got underway for the 1st IX in early September with a 4-3 victory away at Achilles, with Luke Spivey bagging no less than four to get his account up and running for this season. The following week we lost our opening home game 2-1 against Somersham, who slammed the first torpedo into our promotion hopes in the penultimate game last season. We then drew at home with Stanton and completed the double over Achilles with a 4-2 win on the Green. It seems Luke Spivey enjoys playing against Achilles because he notched up another hat trick, taking his tally to seven goals in four league games. Most recently we lost at home to Stanton in the Junior Cup, so no semi final for us this year. There's always next season! The table looks a bit lop-sided at the moment as you will note, with the top side having played five more games than us, so it's fair to say that there'll be some fixture congestion later on as we make up these games.

The Reserves have fared a bit better in respect of games played, having played 7 league games so far, winning two, drawing two and losing three, leaving them in seventh place. Josh Allen has been an ever present, and the veteran Barry Budgen is the leading goal scorer with three to his name.

So a stuttering start, but plenty of action to come!
JG

League Table *As at 11 Nov 23*

[FULL TABLE DETAIL >](#)

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Thurston F.C. First (Sat)	9	7	2	0	27	23
2	Somersham F.C. First (Sat)	6	4	1	1	7	13
3	A.F.C. Kesgrave First	7	4	1	2	2	13
4	Saxmundham Sports F.C. First (Saturday)	8	4	1	3	-5	13
5	Grundisburgh F.C. First	8	3	1	4	4	10
6	Bacton United 89 F.C. First (Sat)	6	2	2	2	1	8
7	Woolverstone United F.C. First	7	2	2	3	-2	8
8	Cockfield United F.C. First (Sat)	4	2	1	1	2	7
9	Achilles F.C. First (Sat)	8	2	0	6	-5	6
10	Stanton F.C. First (Sat)	8	1	3	4	-6	6
11	Capel Plough F.C. First (Sat)	7	1	0	6	-25	3



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Cockfield Community Presents...

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BY
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Wednesday
13 December 2023



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Singing your favourite carols
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to decorate the church if they wish.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday December 2nd
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**4.00PM: Talk about the church,
by Clive Paine**

**4.30pm: Concert (to include
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5.30pm (approx.): Refreshments

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JANUARY	7th, 14th, 28th	Time
MARCH	3rd, 17th, 24th	10.30 – 11.30 am.

The course is in the form of a video with Nicky Gumble
This will be part of our normal service led by Josh Bolt

The service will be followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME

Come to all of the sessions or as many as you can.

NO CHARGE

For more information or if you would like a lift,
please contact the church elder on 01787 247821

Dear Friend,

If you are reading this before 25th December then we are in Advent.

For Christians, Advent, which starts on Sunday 3rd December and covers the four Sundays before Christmas Day, is a season of expectation and preparation as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations throughout these four weeks are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. During this season it is traditional not to have flowers in Church.

Darkness and light are the themes throughout Advent, as we wait for Jesus the Light of the World to be born. We often use an Advent Wreath, which has four candles in a circle with a fifth candle in the centre. Each candle is lit across the four Sundays in Advent, and the fifth candle is lit on Christmas Day.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle, but most of us in the Church of England use the first one to represent the Patriarchs (Abraham and David from the Old Testament); the second one represents the Prophets, those who we read about again in our Old Testament who foretold the birth of Jesus such as Isaiah; the third one represents John the Baptist who proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah and baptised him in the River Jordan and the fourth one represents the Virgin Mary who gave birth to Jesus. Each Sunday our prayers reflect these four themes, and finally on Christmas Day we light the fifth and final candle, to represent Jesus himself.

Of course, today we are very much affected by the commercial nature of Christmas, and shops seem to stock Christmas goodies way before we even dust off the Advent Wreath frame! However, I hope that you will have a blessed Christmas and be able to spend quality time with your friends and family. And may peace reign in our communities, our country, and our world.

with every blessing

Sharon

Canon Sharon Potter
revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events December 2023

Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion - Bradfield St Clare 4pm Advent Carol Service - Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 7 December	5.30pm Open Air Community Carols - The Red House, Stanningfield
Sunday 10 December Advent 2	10.30am Holy Communion - Bradfield St George 4pm Carol Concert with the Tudor Rose Choir - Gedding
Wednesday 13 December	6.30pm Community Carol Singing - Cockfield (meet at Village Hall Car Park)
Thursday 14 December	6pm Community Carol Singing in Gt Whelnetham (meet at Community Centre)
Sunday 17 December Advent 3	10am All-age Christingle - Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion - Cockfield 4.30pm Carol Service - Bradfield St Clare
Monday 18 December	7pm Carols by Candlelight - Lt Whelnetham
Tuesday 19 December	7pm Carol Service + Oil Lamp display - Felsham
Wednesday 20 December	7pm Carol Service - Bradfield St George
Thursday 21 December	7pm Carol Service - Cockfield
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service - Bradfield St Clare 9pm Holy Communion - Stanningfield 9pm Holy Communion - Felsham 11.30pm Holy Communion - Cockfield
Sunday 31 December Holy Innocents	10.30am Carol Communion - Bradfield St Clare

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am. A prayer group meets every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom. For more details contact Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com

I do most of my shopping online. I am always on the lookout for a bargain, especially with the festive season coming up but I'm worried about scammers. What should I look for, to avoid getting caught out?

You're not alone, lots of people do their shopping online these days, it's convenient and can save you time. But as more and more of us move online, so are scammers, with their tactics becoming more sophisticated all the time. While scams can be tricky to recognise there are always things you can look out for and steps you can take to protect yourself from falling foul to a scammer.

The golden rule to remember is that if it seems too good to be true then it probably is. This goes for products which are 'must-haves', are sold out at major retailers, or are heavily discounted.

If you're buying from a site you haven't used before, do some research before hitting buy. Find the company's return and refund policies so you know your rights if something goes wrong with your purchase. You should also look up the company's address, this can normally be found in the website's 'contact us' section and should have a street name, not just a post office box.

Also take some time to see what other people have said about the website. Start with an internet search and look at different review websites, don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Be very wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something. And scammers will often ask you to pay in unusual ways or put you under pressure to buy very quickly. For example, they'll ask you to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

If you do fall victim to a scam, firstly don't feel embarrassed or ashamed. Scammers are clever and regularly adapt their methods making them harder to spot. Anyone can get scammed.

Secondly, do report it, this alerts authorities to scammers' techniques and prevents others from being taken advantage of. You can report a scam to Citizens Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/reporting-a-scam or Action Fraud www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime

If you've transferred money in the last 24 hours contact the police via the non-emergency number 101, however if you feel unsafe use 999. Also contact your bank to let them know you've transferred money; you should still do this if 24 hours have passed.

You can find out more about your rights via the Citizens Advice consumer advice pages <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/> or by contacting our Consumer Helpline if you need more help. Tel 0808 223 1133 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



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Cockfield Community Events

We are now almost at the end of 2023 and just one more organised community event for this year, but don't forget that the usual monthly village cinema will continue to be shown on the 4th Friday of the month in Cockfield village hall. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm screening. A raffle takes place during the interval, the bar will be open or alternatively tea and coffee can be purchased as well as cake, snacks and ice-cream. If you haven't tried the cinema yet maybe now is the time to give it a go! Did you know that you can also buy gift vouchers for the cinema. These could prove to be the ideal Christmas present or stocking filler for someone!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DECEMBER CINEMA WILL BE A WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL SO WILL BE ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 15th.

The final event for this year is Carols by candlelight on Wednesday 13th December 2023. This event was new and very popular last year despite being a very cold and frosty evening. The atmosphere was magical and is therefore being repeated this year. The event will be starting with a candlelight procession from the village hall car park and goes up to the village church. Once inside carols and festive songs will be sung, again all by candlelight. A lovely fun evening for all the family just before Christmas to get everyone into the festive spirit. If you are able to, do try and come along, it's easy to join in and suitable for all ages. What better way to end the year

Events for 2024 will start with the annual New Years Day Hike. This year the hike around Cockfield will start at the Horseshoes Inn at a 10.30am, so not too early for those of you that have stayed up to welcome in the New Year. The route will go along the footpaths in a circle so as to finish back at the Horseshoes where the doors will be open for the purchase of refreshments. This event is always popular and a great way to start the year. Children must be accompanied by an adult and dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

A list of events for 2024 should be confirmed soon so look out for the list in the next Green Links and hopefully it will include something for everyone.

More details for each event will be advertised in Green Links, on village notice boards, on posters around the village and on the community broadcasts as the date gets closer.

Cockfield Community Classifieds

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Friday	10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00
Saturday	10.00 – 2.00
Sunday & Wednesday	CLOSED

Fundraising with Tracy Borman



The Friends enjoyed another successful visit on 28th October from our patron, Tracy Borman, who gave one of her usual interesting and entertaining talks, about Anne Boleyn and her daughter, Elizabeth I.

A capacity audience also enjoyed afternoon tea. Thanks not only to Tracy but also to the many volunteers and charitable donations, we raised very welcome funds for our library.

The future of libraries in Suffolk – Have your Say

Suffolk County Council have started their consultation and want to hear your views on Suffolk Libraries. We're encouraging everyone who visits our libraries or uses the library service to take part in this consultation and have their say!

Suffolk Libraries offer free books to borrow and provide community spaces to learn, socialize and take part in activities.

You can access the online survey by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation Those who cannot access the consultation online can request a printed copy by calling 0345 603 1842 or visit the library where we have paper copies with self-addressed envelopes available.

Please take the opportunity to express your views. It will only take a view minutes. This survey is **particularly important** because Suffolk County Council's contract with Suffolk Libraries comes to an end on 31st May 2025, with a new contract set to begin in June 2025. The council is seeking views from the public about what is important to them, ahead of awarding the new contract. **The consultation is open until Friday 26 January 2024.**



Lavenham Library would like to thank our customers for their support and we wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Contact Details



Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT
Tel No: 01787 247729 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk
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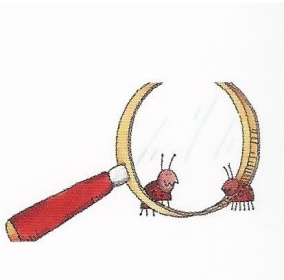
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Congregational Church Corner

It has been said that Charles Dickens invented Christmas. This is untrue, of course, but he certainly did much to popularise the festival through his books and other publications - particularly the novella, *A Christmas Carol*, which was released on 19th December 1843, and was sold out by Christmas Eve of that year.

The story centred around the reclamation of a miser, named Ebenezer Scrooge, who did not celebrate Christmas himself, and wanted to spoil it for everyone else. His change of heart came about through the intervention of three spirits: the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost, that he feared the most, the ghost of Christmas future; all introduced to him by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who died seven years to the day on which the spirits visited Scrooge.

These fictional spirits emanating from the mind of a brilliant novelist (who, it must be said, did very well financially from the book, and so, whose Christmas that year, and in subsequent years, was far removed from the lot experienced by many people of his day), were instrumental in the reclamation of one man. But the true spirit of Christmas is neither fictional nor exclusively for one man; because, the Bible tells us, the Christmas message is open to all, for: "His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation"(Luke 1 :50), and this is amplified by the very well known: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever should believe on Him should not perish but shall have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Love came down from heaven to earth at Christmas - the love of God to mankind - and unlike Ebenezer Scrooge, who would not give away even a penny of his fortune to alleviate the plight of anyone in need, God gave sacrificially to all of mankind who need salvation (and that means everyone), His one and only Son, Jesus Christ; acceptance of whom, leads those who receive Him as Lord and Saviour, to salvation and thereafter to a rich and glorious inheritance.

We all tend to give generously to one to another at Christmas time, but the gift of God's Son to us is unimaginably generous. He did not have to do so; He was not forced into doing so, but out of His love for humanity He chose to do so. And His gift remains available to everyone still - all you have to do is accept it.

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Announcements

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting
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in Cockfield Village Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend

Janne Cutting-Keyton

Chair

Do you have an announcement you would like included here?

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Please contact the Editor Janne Cutting-Keyton on

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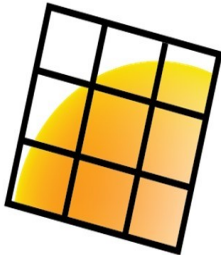
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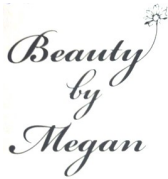
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Megan Pryke VTCT, BABTAC **07876 717 008**

megz_pryke@hotmail.com

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Cockfield Contacts

March 2023 Web

CATEY Pre-School	Mary Tolhurst	catey@cockfield.org.uk
Cockfield Carpet Bowls Club	June Pettit	carpet.bowls@cockfield.org.uk
Cockfield Cemetery	Ralph Turner	828201
Cockfield Charities	Tony Box	charities@cockfield.org.uk
Cockfield Football Club	Joe Brinkley	football@cockfield.org.uk
Cockfield Netball Club	Lindsee Summers	netball@cockfield.org.uk
Cockfield Post Office	Barbara Turner	01284 828201
Cockfield Primary School	Trudie Harkin Headteacher	admin@cockfield.suffolk.sch.uk
Community Council Secretary	Janne Cutting-Keyton	community.council@cockfield.org.uk
Computer Circle, e-news	Neil Ashton	computer.circle@cockfield.org.uk
County Council - Local Member	Robert Lindsay	07738 264087
		robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk
Dentist	Lavenham Dental Practice	01787 247058
	Paul Rolph & Associates	01787 247046
District Council	Babergh offices	0300 1234000
Local Member	Clive Arthey	01787 211316
		clive.arthey@babergh.gov.uk
Local Member	Margaret Maybury	01787 464358
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Doctors	Long Melford Practice	01787 378226
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Footpath Warden	Mark Webster	footpaths@cockfield.org.uk
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Green Links - Village Magazine	Janne Cutting-Keyton	green.links@cockfield.org.uk
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St. Peters Church	Rev. Sharon Potter	01284 828599
Church Wardens	Norman Kelly/David Smith	church.warden@cockfield.org.uk
Village Hall - Bookings	June Pettit	village.hall@cockfield.org.uk
Secretary	Vera Shepherd	village.hall@cockfield.org.uk
Village Recorder	Brenda Dyer	recorder@cockfield.org.uk
Women's Institute Secretary	Suzanne Veal	wi@cockfield.org.uk



Just outside the church gate towards the railway line steps. Kathryn Vernon
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