

# Green Links

February 2024

The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield

and then there  
were nine!



Jeffreys Green  
Photo Kathryn Vernon

## Green Links Copy Deadline!

Please note all copy for the March issue must be  
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# Green Links



The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield  
Edition 4- No 201 February 2024

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I don't know if you can say a Green is Born but I am going to anyway. Welcome Jeffreys Green secured for the village by the Parish Council, it brings our tally of Greens to nine.

As I tried to explain at the Village of the Year Event things like acquiring a new Green, the allotments and local needs housing take a long time to come to fruition and although we all live in the present we mustn't forget the work of those who went before, those who had a vision for the village, who worked to build the Village Hall, the Pavilion, the War Memorial, lobbied to bring infrastructure to the village such as the station and the school and those whose stewardship of the land continues today. We need to know where we are and where we are going but we also need to know how we got here.

It was really gratifying to see the turnout for The Village of the Year Event last month, sixteen Cockfield groups and organisations were represented showcasing what they had to offer, some have been going for many years and helped build the village, a report with photos will be in next months Green Links.

Janne

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# A new Village Green for Cockfield

The Parish Council is pleased to announce the registration of Jeffreys Green. Cockfield now has 9 Greens, these being Great, Parsonage, Cross, Colchester, Buttons, Old Hall, Windsor, Smithwood, and now Jeffreys.

We feel this is an important landmark for the village. Traditionally settlements have evolved around most of the Greens and thus the acquisition of Jeffreys Green continues this theme for the village.

Over the last fifteen years the Parish Council has purchased land from Suffolk County Council to create Earls Meadow, a length of disused railway line and the field now registered as Jeffreys Green. The whole area measures approximately 8 acres - Jeffreys Green is now the second largest Green in Cockfield - Great Green being the largest.



We felt the connection to local history to be important and the history of the Greens can be found on the Village website. The Jeffreys Green development, new Village Green and the Earls Meadow area are very important parts of the village as Cockfield continues to evolve.



The development and the Green have been named in recognition of local history. Reverend Jeffreys was responsible for introducing the village Primary School in 1856 and encouraging a Railway Station into Cockfield in 1865. Reverend Jeffreys campaigned for a station as originally only Whelnetham and Lavenham were proposed. He lobbied with the case highlighting the need for coal to be available for the people of Cockfield and the surrounding area and thus an additional station was required.

The residents of Jeffreys Green, MacKenzie Place, Crowbrook and the whole village, via the public footpath, have access to our new Green which is a peaceful, safe environment for all to explore and enjoy.

Robin Morley. On behalf of the Parish Council

# Cockfield Parish Council



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 November 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 Andy Golding, Cllr Nic Knight and Cllr Robin Morley.

**In Attendance:** Acting Leader of Babergh District Council John Ward, the Clerk and two members of the Public attended.

**2023/142 Apologies for Absence:** Suffolk County Cllr Robert Lindsay, District Cllr Paul Clover, District Cllr Margaret Maybury and Cllr Ralph Turner.

## **2023/143 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cutting-Keyton (Non-Pecuniary interest in the Village Hall) and Cllr Morley (Non-Pecuniary interest in the Village Hall).

## **2023/144 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Cutting-Keyton that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, held on 19 October 2023, be signed as a true record. The proposal was carried.

## **2023/145 Outstanding Actions:**

**2022/178: Pavilion Balustrade:** No progress since last meeting.

**2022/184.1: Reduced Speed Limits:** The Clerk has shared SCC's Policy Document and Hadleigh Town Council's successful speed limit reduction paper with Cllrs Levett, Cutting-Keyton and Morley. Group to meet to discuss any application.

**2023/104.2: BMSDC Cllrs Report: Planning:** Mark Russell (BMSDC Area Manager, Planning) met members of the Planning Consultation Group on site on 23/10/23, to hear their concerns about BMSDC's approval of Planning Application DC/22/06014. **(Action: Closed)** The Clerk has chased SCC Highways twice but is still waiting for SCC Highways to provide suitable dates for a similar meeting with the Planning Consultation Group.

**2023/104.2: BMSDC Cllrs Report: Flytipping:** The flytipping on BMSDC land below Crowbrook Place was removed by SCC Contractors over the period 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks to District Cllrs Clover and Maybury for their assistance over this protracted issue. **(Action: Closed)**

**2023/104.3: Public Participation:** Following several public complaints, Cllr Baber (Footpath Warden) has inspected the public footpath on the Airfield and observed evidence that the footpath had been swept recently removing the immediate danger. However the large pile of debris (Glass and medical waste) adjacent to the path posed a potential risk to users of the footpath, so has been reported to the SCC Footpath team. **(Action: Cllr Baber to monitor).**

**2023/112: CIL Projects:** CIL Working Group met on 16/11/23 to review and update the PC's 'project wish list'. **(Action: Closed)**.

**2023/113.2.8: Pavilion:** Cllr Brinkley has reconnected the electrical circuits to the two water tank heaters which has resolved the tripping out problem. **(Action: Closed)**.

**2023/133: Allotments:** The Clerk obtained from the installation Contractor, two keys to the locked box around the water supply tap on the Standpipe and provided one to Cllr Fletcher and will retain the other as part of the master set of keys. **(Action: Closed)**.

**2023/135.2.1: Safety Sign on Great Green:** Cllrs Golding & Turner to develop a proposal for a sign on Great Green warning about the overhead power cables.

**2023/135.2.7 Parish Paths:** Cllr Baber has inspected the footpaths at the junction of Windsor Green and the A1141 and confirmed the hedges are acceptable but will continue to monitor them. **(Action: Closed)** A letter of thanks has been sent to P Bowcher and his staff for cutting the hedges along the A1141. **(Action: Closed)**

Cllr Baber to contact SCC to request that the footpath between the Bungalows on the A1141 and the Abbey Cottages are skirted back.

**2023/146 Public Participation Session:**

**2023/146.1 Suffolk County Councillor's Report:**

Suffolk County Cllr Lindsay circulated his report in advance of the meeting.

**2023/146.2 Babergh District Councillor's Report:** District Cllr Clover circulated his report in advance of the meeting. Cllrs were concerned about the negative impact that SCC's 'No spraying' policy will have to the maintenance of the footpaths. It was proposed by Cllr Morley and seconded by Cllr Golding that a letter be written to SCC asking how they would control growth of unwanted weeds without the use of Glycosulphates. The proposal was carried. **2023/146.3 Public Participation Session: None.**

**2023/147 Planning:**

**2023/147.1 Applications Received:** It was noted that the following applications had been referred to the Parish Council:

**DC/23/04922:** Householder Application - Erection of greenhouse. Steward House, Cross Green, Cockfield, Sudbury Suffolk IP30 OLG (The Parish Council Supports the Application)

**DC/23/04926:** Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to form a larger utility room. Steward House, Cross Green, Cockfield, Sudbury Suffolk IP30 OLG. **(The Parish Council Supports the Application)**

**DC/23/04813:** Householder Application - Erection of part two storey and single storey side extensions (following demolition of existing single storey extensions). Highview, Great Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 OHN. **(The Parish Council Objects to the Application)**

Cllr Levett confirmed receipt of Arthur Chaponiere's letter agreeing that the £20,000 Bio-diversity offset payment by the Developer to BMSDC for DC/22/06014 would be spent in Cockfield.

## **2023/147.2 Decisions Received:**

**DC/23/04116:** Full Planning Application - Construction of 2 no. ponds Cockfield Hall, Howe Lane, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 OHU. **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted)**

**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 OHX. **(Decision: Formal Approval is Not Required)**

**DC/23/04710:** Application for a Non Material Amendment relating to DC/23/01777 - Change in size, shape and material of garage. Longwool Lodge, Bury Road, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 OLB. **(Decision: Amendment Approved)**

**Planning Appeal Ref: APP/D3505/W/22/3306364:** Planning Application for the erection of new workshop building with the existing access to the site from the A1141 upgraded by First Grade Recycling Systems Ltd, Ivory House, Crossways, Cockfield, Suffolk IP30 OLN. **(Planning Inspector's Decision: Planning Appeal is Dismissed).**

**Costs application in relation to Appeal Ref: APP/D3505/W/22/3306364:** Application by First Grade Recycling Systems Ltd, Ivory House, Crossways, Cockfield, Suffolk IP30 OLN for a full award of costs against Babergh District Council. **(Planning Inspector's Decision: Application for the award of costs is Dismissed)**

**DC/23/05146:** Application for Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/19/04755. Land to the west of the Plough & Fleece Inn, Great Green, Cockfield. Suffolk. **(Decision: Amendment Details Approved)**

**DC/23/05343:** Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/03345 - Condition 3 (Construction Management Plan). 1 Crowbrook Cottages, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 OHX. **(Decision: Conditions Approved)**

**DC/23/03374:** Full Planning Application - Change of use and conversion of existing curtilage listed barn/outbuilding to music studio/home office for use ancillary to main dwelling. Addition of insulation, insertion of glazed doors behind the existing timber barn doors, insertion of two new skylights to the rear elevation, creation of a new mezzanine floor. Buttons Green Farm, Buttons Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 OJF **(Decision: Planning Permission has been Granted)**

**DC/23/03375:** Application for Listed building Consent - Change of use and conversion of existing curtilage listed barn/outbuilding to music studio/home office for use ancillary to main dwelling. Addition of insulation, insertion of glazed doors behind the existing timber barn doors, insertion of two new skylights to the rear elevation, creation of a new mezzanine floor to 1/3rd of the floor area. Buttons Green Farm, Buttons Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 OJF **(Decision: Listed Building Consent has been Granted)**

**2023/148 Finance:**

**2023/148.1 November Payments & Income:**



It was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Golding that the schedule of payments be approved. The proposal was carried. **Councillors to noted Income received:**

**2023/148.2 December Payments:**

It was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Golding that the December Pre-Authorisation Schedule be approved. The proposal was carried and Cllrs Levett and Golding signed the Schedule.

**2023/148.3 Cambridge Building Society Account:**

It was proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Cutting-Keyton that the Parish Council open a 'Parish Council' Deposit Account with the Cambridge BS and transfer its Earmarked Reserves from the Parish Council's Barclays Community Bank Account. The proposal was carried

**2023/148.4 Tree Surgery Works:**

It was proposed by Cllr Morley and seconded by Cllr Levett that the quotation for £1,180.00 + VAT from Stuart Bradnam for tree surgery around the perimeter of Great Green and around the Village Pond on Great Green be accepted. The proposal was carried.

**2023/148.5 Cockfield Village Group Ltd:**

It was proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Cutting-Keyton that the Parish Council authorise a cheque for £4,800.00 to the Cockfield Village Group towards the purchase of a new commercial fridge and payment for existing stock (following receipt of the independent Stock Audit) for the Community Store (Note: The Parish Council agreed a Section 137 donation of up to £4,800 – Approved Minute No.2023/107 on 28/09/23). The proposal was carried.

**2023/148.7 Village of the Year Event:**

It was proposed by Cllr Levett and seconded by Cllr Morley to authorise Cllr Cutting-Keyton Section 137 expenditure up to £150.00 towards the cost of the Village of the Year event on 20/01/24. The proposal was carried.

**2023/149 Budget Proposal for 2024/25:** The Clerk outlined the process being undertaken to present the Budget at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on January 2024, and obtained Cllrs preferences on certain options.

**2023/150 Community Engagement Initiative:**

Cllr Knight confirmed his attendance at SALC 'Communicating with your Community' course (Part 1) on 09/11/23. Part 2 scheduled for 11/11/23 had been deferred. It was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Baber that the idea of Parish Council Surgeries be taken off the agenda and instead, Cllr Knight would submit a proposal to the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in January for the Parish Council to adopt a Mission Statement. The proposal was carried.

**2023/151 Future of the Website:**

Cllrs Levett, Baber and Cutting-Keyton will submit a proposal at the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 05/01/24.

### **2023/152 Event to celebrate Village of the Year Award:**

Cllrs Cutting-Keyton and Levett provided an update on the arrangements for the event to be held on 20/01/24 in the Village Hall, details of the catering, attendees, invitees etc. A notice outlining the format & detail of the event will be published in Green Links, on the Website and on Noticeboards.

### **2023/153 Community Shop & Post Office:**

Cllr Fletcher confirmed that the transfer of the Shop to the Cockfield Village Group had been successful and was operating similar hours as before on a Volunteer Rota basis. Barbara Turner has continued as Post Mistress until the potential Post Mistress has been formally appointed by the Post Office. The new Post Mistress is expected to take over in the New Year.

Cllrs enquired about the availability of a Business Case for the Pub as a long-term location for the Post Office & Shop. Cllr Fletcher agreed to provide further details at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council in January.

### **2023/154 Updates on Neighbourhood CIL Projects:**

CIL Working Group members, Cllrs Morley, Levett & Baber and the Clerk met on 16/11/23, reviewed actual expenditure, committed expenditure and the future projects 'wish list' that could be funded by Neighbourhood CIL. Several new projects were included and will be submitted for Parish Council agreement at a later meeting.

### **2023/155 Emergency Planning:**

Cllr Cutting-Keyton raised concerns about the effectiveness of the Parish Council's Emergency Plan (which is based on the SCC Template). It was proposed by Cllr Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Cllr Levett that Cllrs should consider areas of risk for discussion at a future Ordinary Parish Council meeting. The proposal was carried.

### **2023/156 Maintenance Schedule and Asset Management:**

**156.1: Maintenance Calendar:** (Full Review, February, June, October only) undertake full review of 2023/24 Maintenance Requirements for budget preparation purposes.

#### **156.2: Maintenance Matters by Exception:**

**156.2.1 Greens Management:** Cllr Knight confirmed that he had completed the November inspection of the Play Equipment on Great Green.

**156.2.2 Glebe Land:** The Clerk advised that UKPN had to postpone the replacement of 3 of the 6 poles on Glebe land scheduled for 27/10/23 due to adverse weather. The Clerk advised that UKPN will take 26 weeks to process our Wayleave application form and payment. The Clerk confirmed that AWA connected the water supply to the Allotments over the night of 29/30<sup>th</sup> October.

**156.2.3 Earls Meadow:** None.

**156.2.4 Cemetery:** None.

**156.2.5 Playground:** None.

**156.2.6 Village Hall Car Park:** None.

**156.2.7 Parish Paths:** None.

**156.2.8 Pavilion:** None.

**156.2.9 Other Assets:** The Clerk advised that he is now registered to enable him to test the Defibrillator (in the absence of N Kelly) and provide weekly status reports to Webnos. The Clerk also advised that following the receipt of several residents' concerns about icy pavements and roads on the inclined bend in Old Stonepit Way, Jeffreys Green, he has ascertained that the road is not gritted by SCC and until the road is adopted by SCC, the Parish Council cannot install a Grit Bin in the location for residents to use. The Clerk has that requested Orwell Housing Association install a Grit Bin on their land.

**2023/157 Third Party Liaison:**

**157.1 Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC):**

**157.2 Highways and Emergencies:** Cllr Cutting-Keyton advised that Greg Mattier is SCC's new Head of Transport and that following the appointment of SCC's new Term Contractor 'Milestone', any complaints in respect of their service should be directed through Robert Lindsay, our Suffolk County Cllr.

**157.3 Police/Fire:** Cllr Cutting-Keyton advised that she attended the online Police Commissioner's Forum. In future '111 Calls' would be triaged.

**2023/158 Local Needs Housing:**

Cllr Morley advised there was no further update this month.

**2023/159 Correspondence:**

The correspondence Register was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Tony Box, Chair of the United Charities advised that the Trustees are redrafting their Deeds which would be submitted to the Charities Commission for approval.

**2023/160 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 of the Draft Budget (30/01/24 meeting)

Adoption of a Mission Statement (30/01/24 meeting)

Future of the Website (05/01/24 Extraordinary Meeting)

**2023/161 Next Meeting:**

Extraordinary Meetings of the Parish Council are scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 8.30 pm and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30pm. The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Subsequent Ordinary Meetings of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall (Main Hall) on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 29<sup>th</sup> February & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**The meeting closed at 10.35 pm.**

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

## Garden Tips for February 2024

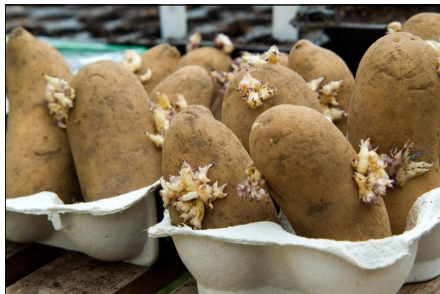
### Flowers & Grasses

- Herbaceous Perennials – Weather permitting take the opportunity to clear last year's dead flower heads and foliage. New growth should be visible at the base of the plant. You can also divide congested clumps to improve vigour and make new plants for free.
- Top dress established borders with proprietary fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone or well-rotted manure.
- Remove old foliage from Epimediums before the spring flowers start to develop.
- Divide large clumps of bulbs such as snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering then re-plant to establish new colonies.
- Cut back deciduous grasses (e.g. Pennisetum, Miscanthus) which were left uncut over the winter. With regard to evergreen grasses (e.g. Carex, Stipa) you just need to remove the dead grass.
- Continue removing faded flowers from winter pansies and violas to prevent the plants setting seed. This will encourage the plants to produce fresh flushes of flower when the weather warms up.
- Trim back winter flowering heathers to prevent them growing leggy.
- Remove leaves with brown/blackish spots on Hellebores (Christmas rose) by doing this you will reveal the true beauty of these early winter flowers. Do not add the leaves to the compost heap as this will spread disease.
- Trim back Ivy, Virginia creeper if they have outgrown their space and most importantly before the birds have started nesting.
- Sweet peas seeds can now be sown in deep pots/ root trainers. Keep them in a frost-free greenhouse or a sunny windowsill. If you have autumn sown Sweet peas now is the time to pot on and pinch out. This will encourage side shoots to form.



## Fruit and Vegetables

- Clear weeds from vegetable seed beds and fork in compost or well-rotted manure. Sow some vegetable seeds in greenhouse borders, cold frames or under cloches. Try sowing Aubergine, salad leaves, tomatoes, leeks, celeriac and onions.
- Broad beans can be sown outside providing the soil isn't frozen or water-logged.
- Chit first early potato tubers – by arranging the tubers in shallow trays or egg boxes with the eyes (young shoots) uppermost. Put in a light frost proof shed or room to encourage the tubers to sprout.
- Cut autumn fruiting raspberry canes down to the ground.
- Prune back blackcurrant, redcurrants and gooseberries to a good open framework. Top dress fruit bushes with a slow release fertiliser (potassium-rich) to feed plants during the new growing season.
- Put fleece or cloches over strawberry plants to start them into growth. This will encourage early cropping.
- Last chance to winter prune apple and pear trees while they are still dormant. You should aim to take out a bit of old wood each winter to stimulate new growth. Avoid the haircut approach and try to stagger the pruning cuts throughout the canopy. Your aim should be to create an open centre to the tree which will allow more light to ripen shoots and produce fruit. It will also allow good air movement which help prevent disease.
- Plant Rhubarb into enriched soil (well - rotted manure added) or split and divide established crowns.



## Trees, Shrubs & Climbers

- Prune winter flowering shrubs (Mahonia, Forsythia and winter flowering Jasmine) once they have finished flowering.
- Prune Buddleias back hard to keep this vigorous shrub to a reasonable size. This will ensure that the flowers and scent can be fully enjoyed.
- Complete winter pruning of Wisteria by cutting summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- Prune hardy evergreen hedges and tidy deciduous hedges towards the end February and early March before birds start nesting.

- Prune back clematis which flower in summer (July onwards) to 12 inches from the ground. Do not prune Clematis Montana or any of the early flowering (Jan – May) Alpina, Armandii species. These should only be pruned immediately after they have finished flowering.
- Roses – Complete planting of new roses but not if the ground is wet and sticky or if there is frost or snow on the surface of the ground. If conditions unsuitable then just heel the plants into a nursery bed as a temporary measure.
- Prune Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses mid Feb to early March before growth restarts. Remember the 3 D'S – Remove dead, damaged and diseased growth.
- Sprinkle slow-release fertiliser around the base of roses and flowering shrubs.



#### General Maintenance and planning

- Check your garden tools are clean and sharp. Check and service garden machinery so that you are fully prepared for the forthcoming season.
- Wash greenhouse glazing inside and out to allow as much light in as possible.
- Think about, plan and order any plug plants.
- Create a box with dividers for each month. Sort out seed packets and arrange in sowing date order.
- Clean empty pots with mild washing up liquid. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry.
- Get on top of perennial weeds whilst easier to control.
- Make sure you have a good supply of horticultural fleece to protect vulnerable plants when frost is forecast. For example protect new buds on Hydrangeas by using clothes pegs to attach fleece to branches.
- If you have old seed packets sprinkle a few seeds on damp kitchen paper to see if they would germinate.



Happy Gardening

Kate Ransom

# Cockfield W.I.

## Report for January



At our January meeting we considered the current proposed resolutions, which we vote on each year and pursue one as an organisation supporting action for change and development in society. The WI still has a voice!

This year the options are:

Dental Health Matters - Review, Training and Access.

Impact of Poor Housing Conditions.

Say No! To Gambling Advertising.

Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System.



Our January speaker was Erica Dorling, an ambassador for a beauty and cosmetic company called Tropic which guarantees to use only natural ingredients: 'green beauty'. She gave us lots of information about the company's background and we all had the opportunity to try a product on our hands.



Both options smelt lovely! The ranges include products for skincare, body care, sun care and make up. It was an enjoyable evening and the speaker enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Erica explained that 10% of their profits are given to a charity which educate children and adults in areas of deprivation, where there are no educational facilities.

In 2023 our WI in Cockfield was able to support an organisation called TWAM. 'Tools With A Mission'. They need support and are a charity which collects donated unusable or unused tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation! They also support local people in areas where they are working, with training to use the equipment. There are over 500 volunteers in the UK as well. TWAM are particularly interested in collecting hand tools, sewing machines, material and many other useful tools. Have a look at their website soon! Our collection centre is in Ipswich but if you contact us at Cockfield WI we will give you further details and of how to donate.



In February, Allen Burbridge will talk to us about 'The Hervey family of Ickworth'. In March we have a talk by Jason Kermeen on Faberge eggs. In April we will be entertained with 50s & 60s music by Barrie and Partner. We are also still currently planning visits for this coming year but have a number to select from and will do so based on the most popular soon. 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! A list of all the possible options we have so far considered was circu-

lated again at the January meeting for members to express an interest in any options offered and to suggest their own. Watch this space!

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 22<sup>nd</sup> February, in the Village Hall Committee Room. Following that there is one on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. The monthly coffee mornings have now returned, as you can see and will continue throughout the year until there is a short break in December!

The monthly Saturday lunches have also returned! The next one is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February and then on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. The lunch is available for a small contribution of £1, for the food! Teas and coffees are also available. Please come, 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 [wi@cockfield.org.uk](mailto:wi@cockfield.org.uk)

Visitors are welcome to attend up to three meetings before deciding about joining or not! There is no obligation! If you need transport we will help too!

Joan Ball



## Tips & Recipes for Pancakes

Pancakes are one of the cheapest foods to make, the batter consisting of milk, eggs and flour. A little butter or oil to cook them in and a squeeze of lemon and a little sugar is all that's needed to make Pancake Day a success (or be more generous with the lemon and sugar). Easy to make, I suggest making them from scratch!

Pancakes also make a great savoury base for meals. They freeze well and are delicious for a dessert too!

### **Topping or fillings!!!**

Toppings could include banana & honey, butter & jam (Scotch pancakes), pineapple, orange zest, yogurt & honey (drop scones), frozen berries & melted chocolate and ice cream + many others.

### **Recipe Tips!**

Make whichever size you wish. (The following are small and are cooked in an 18cm pan, which should make 12). The best way to achieve a good texture is to make the batter ahead of time – from 30 minutes up to overnight. Keep it in the fridge if overnight/or until ready to cook them.

The gluten will relax and the pancakes will spread more evenly and stay soft. Our pancakes do not use a raising agent.

The American style of pancake uses a raising agent which makes them light and fluffy.

If you use baking powder or bicarbonate of soda don't add too much, as there will be a bitter flavour!

It is important not to over mix, as this can make the batter too thin and runny and chewy!

You need a heavy pan which holds a consistent heat.

The pancakes are ready to turn when air bubbles start to pop on the surface.

Left over pancakes can be stored in an airtight container for a day or two and reheated for 30 seconds in an air fryer or a little longer in the oven. They also freeze well and can be reheated in the oven or the microwave (20 second bursts until warm).

Half buckwheat flour/half plain flour is a good base, if served with maple syrup and bacon. An optional extra is to add one teaspoon of cinnamon to the buckwheat batter and serve with caramelised apple slices and thick double cream!

## A Basic Pancake Recipe

### Ingredients

110g plain flour, sifted

Pinch of salt

2 eggs

200ml milk and 75ml of water for thin lacy pancakes or all milk if you prefer

50g butter

### To Serve

Caster sugar

Lemon juice

Lemon wedges

### Method

Sift the flour and salt using a large bowl. Make a well in the centre & break in the eggs & start whisking. Then gradually add small quantities of the milk whilst still whisking.

When the batter is smooth, leave to rest. (See above)

Add a little butter to the pan before making each pancake and, if you wish add two tablespoons of butter to the batter, whisking it in. When the pan is really hot turn it down to medium. Do not burn the butter and use a ladle, if possible. Tip the batter around in the pan to evenly coat the base.

When cooked and beginning to bubble flip over and cook for a few moments only. Put on a plate in a warm oven or better still stack them and keep warm in the oven by putting them between sheets of greaseproof paper.

To serve sprinkle each pancake with lemon juice and caster sugar & either fold them into triangles or roll them. Serve with more lemon juice/lemon wedges and more sugar.



## Fluffy 'American' Pancakes

### Ingredients

135g plain flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
½ tsp salt  
2 tbsp caster sugar  
130ml milk  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
2 tbsp melted butter  
(allowed to cool slightly),  
plus extra for cooking

### To Serve

Maple syrup  
Butter



### Method

Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and caster sugar into a large bowl. In a separate bowl whisk together the milk and egg, then whisk in the melted butter. Pour the milk mixture into the flour mixture and, using a fork, beat until you have a smooth batter. Any lumps will soon disappear with a little mixing. Let the batter stand for a few minutes. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat and add a knob of butter. When it has melted, add a ladle of batter (or two if your frying pan is big enough to cook two pancakes at a time). It will seem very thick but this is how it should be.

Wait for 3 minutes until the top of the pancake begins to bubble and the edges begin to set. Flip it over and cook for another 2 minutes until both sides are golden brown and the pancake has risen to about 1 cm thick. Reduce the heat slightly for the next pancake if it is a little dark.

Repeat until all the batter is used up. You can keep the pancakes warm in a low oven, but they taste best fresh out of the pan.

Serve with lashings of real maple syrup and extra butter, if you like or indeed other toppings, fruit or flavourings!

Joan Ball

# Catey Preschool February 2024

January has flown by at preschool. We have started the new year keeping active with obstacle courses, dancing and moving with the parachute. We have been finding out about healthy foods and playing games focussing on what is good to go on our plates.



February brings Valentines Day. The children will have the opportunity to make cards for their loved ones and we will use this theme to support the children's personal social and emotional development. Through books, games and discussions the children will be encouraged to find out about caring for one and other, being kind and sharing.

We are beginning to look forward to the early springtime which brings with it a whole host of new learning opportunities such as new beginnings and the start of the life cycle.

Best wishes

The children and staff at Catey Preschool.

Enquiries to Mary or Steph 01284 827274

[cateypreschool@hotmail.com](mailto:cateypreschool@hotmail.com)

## Earls Meadow Update

Although we have experienced one of the wettest autumn/winters on record Earls Meadow and Jeffreys Green have looked remarkably good throughout this period.

The volunteers have cleared the area used for the Annual Duck Race, this has also allowed the flood water to flow through the bridge and culvert thereby minimising flooding.

We trimmed the hedges for the fourth and final time in November and also carried out final cuts of grass cutting along the Railway, Jeffreys Green and Earls Meadow.

The Parish Council have purchased 1000 double snowdrops, which are being delivered in Early February. These will be planted 'in the green' and the school has kindly offered to



help with the planting. To celebrate the Registration of this new Green, the site selected is in the Silver Birch Copse at the top end of Jeffreys Green. We look forward to working with the school on other projects in the future.

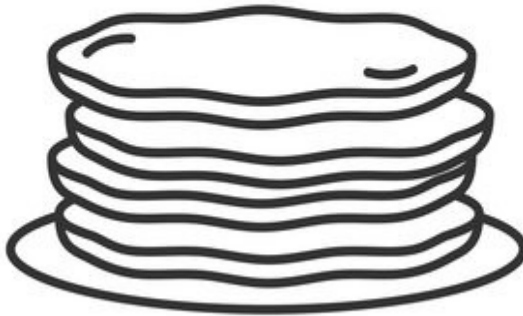
Please enjoy your visits to Earls Meadow and a reminder the Duck Race organised by the Community Council is on Easter Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

RM

# Children's Page February 2024

Pancake Day - I love pancakes there are so many toppings you can put on them. I love ice cream and strawberries, what do you like?

Draw your favourite topping on the pancake stack picture, there is lots of space for lots of toppings.



How many words can you make from the letters in **PANCAKE TOPPINGS**

**COCKFIELD COMMUNITY CINEMA PRESENTS**

**THE MIRACLE CLUB (12A)**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane, IP30 0LA

Doors Open: 7pm – Film starts: 7:30pm

Tickets on the door

Adults: £4.50 / Under 16s: £3.00

Raffle, Refreshments & Licensed Bar available from 7pm



Ballygar, Ireland, 1967. A hard-knocks community in outer Dublin marches to its own beat, rooted in traditions of loyalty, faith, and togetherness. There's just one tantalising dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom and escape the gauntlet of domestic life: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. And with a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night.

**MONTHLY SCREENINGS**

**4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
FOR FUTURE SCREENINGS**

**VISIT: [www.cockfield.org.uk](http://www.cockfield.org.uk)**

## Four notable Suffolk graves

### **Four notable Suffolk warriors - part 3. LCoH Jonathan Woodgate**

It was on 27 October 2014 that all combat operations for the UK Armed Forces ceased in Afghanistan, and already memories of Operation HERRICK (to give UK operations in Afghanistan in support of the NATO led International Security Assistance Force its military codename) are starting to fade. Names such as Kandahar, Camp Bastion, Lashkar Gah, Musa Qala, Sangin, Nad-e-Ali and Kajaki, that were once depressingly familiar names on news updates of casualties, will soon be largely forgotten. Even the name Helmand Province, the crucible of the conflict for British Forces, will soon be forgotten by the vast majority. However, to the servicemen and women who served in that remotest of places these names will always have an immediacy and an emotional pull that will not so easily fade away.

When you are next in Lavenham, you might like to take a few minutes to visit the beautiful church of St Peter and St Paul. Once inside you would probably notice a framed photograph of a smiling young man in the regimental mess dress of the Household Cavalry. This is Lance Corporal of Horse (LCoH) Jonathan Woodgate (Jo to his family and 'Woody' to those who knew him) of the Household Cavalry's B (Blues and Royals) Squadron, who was killed near Sangin district town centre on Friday 26 March 2010. At the time he was serving as part of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force. He was fatally wounded in a grenade attack on his foot patrol. He was 26 years old. Those are the bare facts but it says little about the man or the unit in which he served. It is worth noting that 2009/10 was the deadliest period of the conflict for UK Armed Forces, possibly because British troops were spread more thinly as more and more were funnelled south in support of General Stanley McChrystal's 'surge operations'.

To many people, the Household Cavalry conjures images of soldiers on horseback in splendid ceremonial uniforms during occasions such as the Trooping of the Colour. Of course, the Household Cavalry along with the Foot Guards Regiments that make up the Household Division are indeed central to all of this. The Blues and Royals, which was founded in 1969 from an amalgamation of the Royal Horse Guards ("the Blues") and the Royal Dragoons ("the Royals") is actually called the Royal Horse Guards and <sup>st</sup> Dragoons (RHD/G), but the regiment is unique in that it is the only regiment of the British Army to be officially known by its nickname, and not its official name. Things might get a bit confusing at this point but I'll do my best to unravel the mysteries of the Household Cavalry. In 1992, as part of Tom





King's 'Options for Change' – one of the typical euphemisms for Defence cuts that we've had – the Blues and Royals formed a 'union' with the Life Guards, to form the Household Cavalry, but the two regiments continue to operate as the Blues and Royals and The Life Guards, keeping their own Colonels, uniforms and traditions. Since 1992 the 'new' Household Cavalry has consisted of the Household Cavalry Regiment, which is the operational element, and the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, which is committed to the ceremonial side of things. The operational regiment provides armoured reconnaissance assets and is based in the Bulford Garrison in Wiltshire. The mounted regiment is based at Hyde Park Barracks in London and it is this part of the Household Cavalry that most people will be familiar with. The Blues and Royals element of the mounted regiment wears distinctive blue tunics and helmets with a red plume. The other element of the mounted regiment is the Life Guards, which wears a red tunic and has a white plume on their helmet.

It is a peculiarity of the British Army that there are no Sergeants in the Household Cavalry. In the past, no cavalry regiment had Sergeants, but the Household Cavalry is the only one to keep this tradition alive. All this is said to stem from the origin of the word *sergeant*, which has the same root as the word *servant*. Since even the lowliest trooper in Cavalry regiments was considered to be a gentleman, the rank of Sergeant was felt to be inappropriate, so the various versions of Corporal came into existence. The rank of Lance Corporal of Horse was created in 1971. This means that when a Lance Corporal in the Household Cavalry is promoted to full Corporal, he takes on the rank (technically it is an appointment) of Lance Corporal of Horse, and as such has access to the Sergeants' Mess. This is equivalent to the rank of Lance Sergeant in the Foot Guards regiments, such as the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards. The next rank up would be Corporal of Horse, which in most other regiments of the army equates to Sergeant. Jonathan Woodgate was holding the rank of Lance Corporal of Horse when he was killed in action.

The numerous tributes to him on the Government web page giving notification of his death not only paint a picture of a much loved colleague, who was the consummate professional soldier, but of one who was something of a style icon. In Army parlance this is known as looking 'ally'. This means wearing one's uniform with style and panache and a touch of swagger. RAF fighter pilots in World War 2 had this in spades with those unofficial white



roll neck sweaters worn under their RAF blue tunics (with the top button popped undone of course), ditto their American colleagues with their iconic A2 leather flying jackets. It seems that Jo led the way in sartorial elegance both on and off the battlefield. If you want to know what the opposite of 'ally' is, watch any episode of the BBC series *Vigil!*

Jo had an eventful career that, prior to that fateful day in 2010, included two close calls with death. The official MoD statement giving his career summary makes no mention of either event - events that surely would have left their mark on him. Jo was born in Chelsworth, a few miles to the southeast of Lavenham, but he spent more than half his life in Lavenham. He joined the Army in 2001 and after training he was deployed on Operation TELIC 1 in 2003 as a driver of a Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicle. Operation TELIC was the codename of the British element of the 2003 US led intervention in Iraq. On 28 March 2003 four vehicles of the Blues and Royals were serving as an armoured reconnaissance element for 16 Air Assault Brigade when they were mistakenly engaged by a USAF A-10 Thunderbolt of the Air National Guard using its GAU-8 Avenger seven barrelled 30mm Gatling gun. This had a chilling similarity to a similar 'blue on blue' in the first Gulf War which occurred on 26 February 1991, in which nine members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were killed when their Warrior Armoured vehicles were engaged by two USAF A-10s.

In the 2003 incident in Iraq the A-10 made two firing passes. The gun fires depleted uranium armour piercing shells the size of a small coke bottle at a rate of 3,900 rounds *per minute* with a muzzle velocity of 1000 metres *per second* out to an effective range of 4000 feet. One can start to appreciate the ferocity of such an attack. Jo Woodgate was the driver in the second Scimitar, and as he escaped from the blazing vehicle was unaware that his gunner, Corporal of Horse Matty Hull, was already dead in his turret. Jo appeared to have had what can only be described as a miraculous escape, with just holes in his body armour and tears in his shirt where shrapnel had passed through.

On his first tour to Afghanistan in 2006 the vehicle in which Jo was travelling drove over an IED (improvised Explosive Device) which detonated, but again he survived without serious injury. He was leading something of charmed life when his luck finally ran out. In March 2010, deployed on HERRICK 11 he was on the second day of a two-day reconnaissance mission, patrolling in a village in Sangin in Helmand Province when he and his comrades came under small arms fire. A grenade came over the wall behind which he and his comrades were taking cover and Jo suffered fatal injuries in the blast.

The greatest irony is that he was but hours away from completing his tour and making the long journey home for some well-deserved leave when he was killed. Instead, just two days later his body was being flown back to RAF Lyneham to begin the final, but very dignified journey through Wootton Bassett to the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford for the autopsy. Jo was buried with full military honours at a funeral held on St George's Day in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Lavenham, Suffolk. He is buried in Chelsworth in the graveyard of All Saint's Church. When I see the graves of young men such as these I cannot help but recall the lines of that famous epitaph by John Maxwell Edmonds:

“When you go home tell them of us and say:  
for your tomorrow we gave our today.”

JG

# They're back!



## The shantyfolk



### SHANTIES, FOLK AND FOOD

8TH MARCH 2024 - 7:30PM

A REPERTOIRE OF MANY SHANTY AND FOLK SONGS

BRADFIELD ST GEORGE VILLAGE HALL (PAY BAR)

£15 PER TICKET, TO INCLUDE 2 COURSE MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT

CONTACT ISOBEL ON 01284386169 OR 07888649809 (BEFORE 4TH MARCH)

TICKET AND RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF BRADFIELD ST CLARE CHURCH

SCAN THIS QR  
CODE TO SEE  
WHAT THE  
SHANTYFOLK  
ARE ALL ABOUT



## Cockfield Rainfall 2023

I have been keeping a daily diary since 2015 that has enabled me to record rainfall amounts and review the weather on any particular day over a period of 9 years.

Last year established new records, a recent common feature that may be due to climate change. I will briefly run through a few examples of how change is a constant element to our weather with the benefit of the table showing month by month rainfall figures since 2015.

**January** - average rainfall, mild except for sharp frosts mid month.

**February** - exceptionally dry, barely measurable amount equating to the driest since my records commenced in 2015. Sharp frosts w/c 6th.

**March** - twice the monthly average rainfall. Spring advances with a notable cold easterly breeze that persists through the next 2 months. 7th - 10th slight snow showers.

**April** - it has often been the driest month but 2023 measured slightly above average rainfall. Frost 3rd ,4 th& 25th.

**May** - average rainfall, becoming warmer, especially out of the cool easterly breeze.

**June** - very dry with good spells of warm sunshine, muggy at times.

**July** - twice the monthly average rainfall, mixed weather, good growing weather.

**August** - as per the previous month. More days of good long sunny periods. Exceptionally good crop of runner and dwarf beans due to the mixed weather of sun and rain. 1 inch of rain overnight 26th/27th.

**September** - average rainfall. As children return to school the weather hits new highs. Long sunny days prolong the summer season. This month has the most consistent rainfall amounts during the year. 28th saw a 'white' sun, caused by USA wild fires pushing smoke high up into the atmosphere.

**October** - mid month after some fine weather, the heavens open. Four times the average rainfall bringing just over 9 inches of rain (the highest I have recorded since 2015). The River Brett's measuring station along the disused railway line hits new heights, courtesy of Storm Babet; just the start of numerous winter storms to grace our shores. Cars and a van are abandoned in floods at The Stone and at Smallbridge. 16th first frost of the winter season.

**November** - twice the average rainfall and the ground has become saturated.

The month ends with a succession of frosts, giving us a true taste of winter.

**December** - a repeat of November. Spectacular sunrises. Isolated days of frost. Month ends with wet and mild conditions.

In summary:

1st half of 2023. Rainfall measured 12 inches or 31% of the total for the whole year.

2nd half of 2023. Rainfall measured 27 inches or 69% of the total for the whole year.

The wetter second half of the year has become a regular feature in recent times.

In the last 9 years, October, November and December have been the wettest months, measuring a total of 32 inches, 29 inches and 30 inches respectively since 2015. April, in 9 years has only recorded 12 inches.

Paul Heather

Rainfall measurements are only a guide. A cross reference is often made with the measuring station based at RAF Wattisham.

Cockfield Rainfall figures									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	1.85	3.03	2.46	2.6	1.00	2.52	5.12	0.71	2.4
February	1.40	0.81	2.32	1.63	1.02	4.13	2.30	3.13	0.12
March	0.96	3.07	1.50	2.99	2.32	1.38	1.65	1.34	4.7
April	0.73	3.68	0.41	2.56	0.30	1.10	0.08	0.63	2.52
May	2.19	3.07	2.48	1.54	2.15	0.40	3.18	1.54	2.03
June	0.51	5.06	2.85	0.08	4.37	5.93	2.82	1.83	0.47
July	3.43	1.34	2.46	1.02	1.71	2.62	6.10	0.28	4.2
August	2.85	1.32	3.37	3.17	1.46	5.72	0.87	0.67	3.4
September	2.17	1.89	1.89	1.34	2.72	1.56	2.66	1.69	2.13
October	1.48	0.67	0.63	1.75	5.59	6.01	4.66	2.28	9.13
November	2.91	3.78	1.54	1.81	4.76	2.22	1.87	5.55	4.6
December	2.28	1.12	4.04	2.93	4.31	5.69	3.21	2.60	3.9
Month total	22.76	28.84	25.95	23.42	31.71	39.28	34.52	22.25	39.6

# COCKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2024

We hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with excitement for the upcoming term at our wonderful school. We have a host of captivating topics and activities planned that will ignite the curiosity and creativity of our little ones. So, grab a warm cuppa and let's dive into the magical world of learning!



In Birch class, our young historians are embarking on an incredible journey through time as they delve into the captivating era of World War II. From the gripping stories of evacuees to the fascinating life of Neville Chamberlain, our children are fully immersed in the rich history of this period. To add an artistic touch, they will be channeling the spirit of L.S.

Lowry and creating their own masterpieces inspired by his unique style. We can't wait to see their creativity shine!

Over in Willow class, our young globetrotters are taking a virtual adventure around the world. With their passports in hand, they will be exploring different cultures and discovering the geographical wonders that make each country unique. In art, they will be designing and creating T-shirts and bags inspired by traditional themes from various countries. And that's not all! Our students have already had the opportunity to participate in a Skills Escalator Day, where they were exposed to a multitude of exciting careers. Who knows, this could be the spark that ignites their high aspirations!

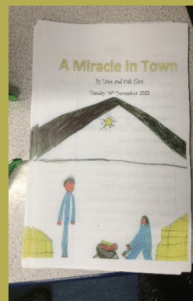
Calling all future architects and firefighters! In Oak class, our Year 2 students are delving into the thrilling topic of "Fire Fire!" They recently had a blast during their Baker's Experience Day, where they dressed up as bakers and crafted their own artisan breads. But the excitement doesn't stop there. They will soon be designing and building their own timber-framed houses, using their research on building materials and joining techniques. Get ready for some amazing creations that will make even the Three Little Pigs envious!

And last but certainly not least, our Lime class is delving into the wonderful world of agriculture and farming! They will be exploring farms from around the world and learning about the machinery, crops, and animals that make them thrive. A highlight of the term will be their local walks, where they will have the incredible opportunity to experience our rich countryside firsthand. And to showcase their green thumbs, our little gardeners will be preparing the outside garden area for spring, where they will plant, grow, and enjoy a delicious array of fruits and vegetables. Bon appétit!

We hope this glimpse into our term's activities has left you with a sense of excitement and intrigue. At Cockfield Primary School, we strive to create a warm, friendly, and stimulating learning environment that nurtures the potential of each and every child.

Wishing you all a fantastic term ahead!

Warmest regards,  
Marc Gilbert



[Pick the date] [Edition 1, Volume 1]



## Cockfield community Events.

Our last event in 2022 was carols by candlelight. Despite having been a very wet day the rain stopped before the event began and residents, family and friends were able to meet at the village hall and sing their way up to the church to jingle bells, something that everyone knows and a nice jolly tune to start the evening off. Once inside just like last year carols and Christmas songs were sung by candlelight giving a wonderful and magical atmosphere. Refreshments were then served with a chance to mingle. The perfect event to escape the busy days that lead up to Christmas.

2024 started with our annual New Years Day Hangover Hike. Once again we were extremely lucky with the weather. Despite being a bit chilly the winter sun shone brightly and enabled us to walk along footpaths, the old railway line and the aerodrome back to the Horseshoes where the doors were open for anyone that wanted some refreshments.

Friday February 16th is the date for our first cash bingo night for 2024. Held at Cockfield village hall, doors will open at 7pm with the first game at 7.30pm. Entry is free and you don't need to book. Bingo cards, dobbers and raffle tickets can all be purchased on the door. A fully licensed bar will be available as will tea, coffee and cake. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Our last bingo night was extremely popular, so why not give it a go, it could just be your lucky night!

Saturday 30th March - annual duck race at earls meadow

Saturday 6th April - first of two quiz nights in Cockfield village hall.

May - to be confirmed

Sunday 21st July - **Cockfield village fete on Great Green**

A Saturday night in August - village Bash on Great Green. Music and dancing in the open air, complete with a licensed bar and a BBQ. Date dependent on weather. Initially scheduled for the first Saturday in August, but if the weather isn't suitable it will go to second Saturday in August.



September - 50's Hop in the village hall - date to be confirmed.

Friday 11th October - second cash bingo night in Cockfield village hall.

Saturday 16th November - second quiz night in Cockfield village hall.

Friday 29th November - Cockfield community AGM in Cockfield village hall.

December - Carols by candlelight - date to be confirmed.

As you can see we have a lot of events planned for this year. These events help raise much needed funds for various village projects but this is only possible with your support, so please take some time to look through the list and consider coming to one or more of these events we are sure you will have a good time and a great way to meet new people.

More details of events are advertised in Green links, on village noticeboards and the community broadcasts as the date gets closer.

Don't forget we also have the monthly cinema in Cockfield village hall. Held on the 4th Friday of every month. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm screening. No booking required simply pay on the door where you can also get raffle tickets for the draw which is held during the interval. The bar is always open for alcoholic and soft drinks, ice cream and snacks and the kitchen for tea, coffee and cakes.

**Cockfield Community Coffee  
Run by Cockfield WI  
4th Thursday of the month**

**Hope to see you there**



**Cockfield Village Hall - Committee Room  
10.30am - 12 noon**

**No Charge but donations are welcome  
Enquiries please email  
wi@cockfield.org.uk**

**Soup  
Saturday!  
17th  
February  
12.00- 2pm**



A Warming soup lunch in  
Cockfield awaits you this February .  
Why not bring a friend, partner or the  
whole family. Join us at the village hall

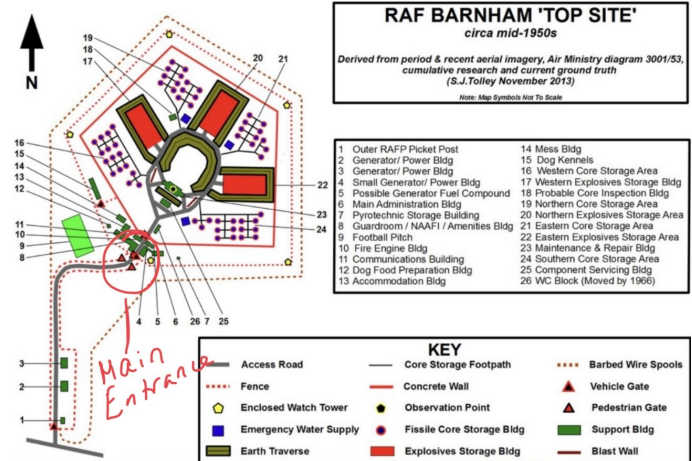
Saturday 17th for our popular  
soup lunch.

It's only a donation of £1.00.

# Special Storage Site' at RAF Barnham - Part 2

In Part 1 I looked at the establishment of the storage site at RAF Barnham and the reasons behind this. In this second and final part I will take a closer look at the site itself with a look forward to its future as a heritage site.

I recently visited the site on a quiet, sunny Monday morning. I really wasn't sure what to expect as I drove into the Gorse Industrial Estate. I parked up in a car park just outside what was once the main security gate, as indicated on the site plan. The site is in the shape of a pentagon and there is a watch tower at each angle, although these later models were only added in 1959, some



years after the site opened in the mid 1950s. These are shown in the photos. I gather that the original towers were wooden contraptions about 15 ft high. The site was guarded by the RAF Police, and there were dogs and their handlers to patrol the sterile area between the inner fence and the inner concrete wall. This sterile area contained trip flares on pickets to alert the guards to the presence of intruders, but more often than not these were set off by the numerous rabbits and pheasants that abounded on the site.

Just inside the inner perimeter wall, which today is all still intact, is a mock up of the Blue Danube bomb (Britain's first independent nuclear deterrent) This was really just a streamlined casing to

hold the 'physics package'. This was an explosive sphere about 5 ft in diameter, which created the necessary implosion needed to set off the whole shooting match. Into the centre of this 'physics package' was inserted the



fissile material', in other words the plutonium core. It still amazes me that this small amount of plutonium can cause an explosion equivalent to 15000 tons of TNT detonating. However, nuclear physics has never been my strong point. Ask me one on German strong verbs and I'll do much better!

Originally the site would have been clear of all vegetation to optimise fields of observation for the guard force, but since its closure in 1966 nature had taken over and the site had become very overgrown. Starting in around 2013, efforts have been ongoing to clear away the pines that have invaded the site, so that it will bear more resemblance to what it would have looked like in its operational days. The main secure site within the sterile area, as opposed to the administrative site (which contained the mess hall, main administrative building, fire tender, accommodation blocks, dog kennels, gym etc), consisted of four fissile core storage areas and three large explosive storage buildings. As far as I can tell these latter was where the 'physics packages' (ie the big 'football') and the bomb casings were stored.

For obvious reasons the fissile material was kept separate until it was time to transport the assembled Blue Danube bombs to one of the V bomber bases. The plutonium cores were housed in special flasks in small buildings, or 'igloos' as they were known. There are 57 of these igloos. Each igloo contained either one or two receptacles sunk into the floor. I understand that cobalt was also stored in some of these igloos. I don't know much about this. Perhaps a reader can shed light on this? These igloos, along with the receptacles



to take the flasks, can be seen in the photos. It is unlikely that we ever had anything like this number of Blue Danube bombs. Some sources suggest we only had 20 at any one time. The large number of igloos was to fool the Soviets into believing we had more than we really did, although to what extent this subterfuge fooled Soviet Military Intelligence is debatable. I was invited to look inside one of the restored igloos. This was very surreal. Here I was, in what was once one of the most secure and sensitive nuclear installations in the country (along with the other site at Faldingworth and

the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston) and I was now about to enter the inner sanctum, so to speak. Incidentally I'd been requested beforehand not to fiddle with the Mk IV manifoil combination lock on the door, because "no one knows what the combination is".



In the 1980s one of the three explosive storage buildings was badly damaged in a fire, and the building was subsequently demolished. I was invited by one of the current tenants to go inside one of these buildings and, once again, it was very surreal to think that here was once housed our independent nuclear deterrent. Today it all looked so ordinary with the tenants of the industrial estate going about their daily business. The overhead gantries are still in place. These were used to lower the bombs onto trucks for onward transportation to the RAF V bomber bases.

So that was my short self guided tour of the site. What of the future? Now that the Special Storage site at Barnham has been recognised by English Heritage the owner (Keith Eldred) is getting help with

preserving the site and returning some elements of the the site to their original state. As I said, this work has been ongoing since about 2013 and the results are impressive. It is hoped one day to have an Education Centre on site so as to help share this amazingly intact and iconic relic of the Cold War with as many people as possible. I should stress that permission should be sought before entering any of the buildings on the site.

JG

## VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on  
Thursday 15 February at 2pm  
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month we will be making pancakes!

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## An evening with Charlie Haylock



Join us for a fascinating evening with Suffolk author and dialect expert Charlie Haylock who will take us behind the scenes of the Netflix hit film *The Dig*

### Saturday 23rd March Tickets £20

Ticket price includes the talk, a two course meal and showing of the film 'the Dig' on Saturday 16th March



Photo: Larry Horricks, Netflix 2021

We will be showing the film on Friday March 16th, and Charlie will talk about it on the evening of 23rd March. The evening will combine a meal and talk by Charlie, and include the film showing the week before.

The movie tells the story of an unlikely hero, Basil Brown of Ipswich Museum, the self-taught archaeologist and modest man who discovered the Sutton Hoo treasure, the most magnificent ever found in this country. We will enjoy an intriguing and sometimes hilarious look at *The Dig*.

Historian and author Charlie will explain how a potential "scam" email from the film producer turned out to be real and was followed by a personal call from actor Ralph Fiennes. He will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played Basil Brown, and the other "Suffolk" actors learnt their Suffolk accent and managed not to sound like West Country pirates! He will also explain the extreme lengths that Fiennes took not only to play Basil Brown... but to become him. It looks set to be an entertaining evening for all!

Please contact **Annie Tavener** for tickets  
01449 736412 email [annie\\_tav@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_tav@hotmail.com)

Dear friends

I may have written before about my dislike of the month of February. It feels as though Spring is a long way off, and we often experience cold temperatures and snow in this month. However, there are some bright spots on the horizon for those of us who are averse to the second month of the year. One of them is Shrove Tuesday, otherwise known as Pancake Day!

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. It's an important time for Christians around the world, and is a time of solemn observance and preparation for marking the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

From its start until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has traditionally been a time for fasting or giving something up. Just as we prepare for events in our personal lives such as birthdays or weddings, we are invited during Lent to make our hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and bodily resurrection.

These days, Christians around the world observe Lent in many ways. I like to hold a 'Lent Course' every year, where anyone can come and join a group which thinks about the Christian Faith and studies the Bible. It's a great way of learning more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There are lots of devotional books and online courses that are available for individuals to help them study the Bible on their own too.

In recent years, Christians have been taking up challenges such as making a generous act every day through Lent. Our schools often take up Lent challenges such as fundraising for various charities.

If you would like to know more about Lent/Easter or anything else about Christianity, don't hesitate to get in contact with me!

with every blessing

Sharon

Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599



## Cockfield Benefice Services & Events February 2024

Sunday 4 February Second before Lent	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Six2Seven - Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 11 February Sunday next before Lent	10am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield 10.30am Communion CW - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday	11am Communion & Ashing - Felsham
Sunday 19 February First in Lent	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield 10am Morning Worship - Felsham 10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer CW - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 24 February	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' - Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
Sunday 25 February Second in Lent	9.30am Communion CW - Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George 10am Communion BCP - Gedding

*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at*  
**[www.cockfieldbenefice.com](http://www.cockfieldbenefice.com)**

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is normally held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.

For more details contact Canon Sharon, revsharon2@gmail.com,  
01284-828599 or 07825086063

I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my rent has gone up and my paycheque just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. I'm doing everything I can but it's not enough - what can I do?

First of all, it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and, crucially, there's support available.

You say you've built up a bit of debt. The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include whom you owe the money to (this person/company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, e.g. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're sorting them out. If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you're looking at the money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you're eligible for, including support with your energy costs and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, on the Citizens Advice website, [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There's also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers.

You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support. We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone, do contact Citizens Advice to help you find a way forward. For more information visit the Citizens Advice website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call Sudbury and South Suffolk Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at [advice@sudburycab.org.uk](mailto:advice@sudburycab.org.uk) or by using the contact facility on our website, <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact>

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# Cockfield Community Classifieds

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**The following** petrol garden tools have not been used for some while. They were in working order when last used but now they may need attention, or at least a good clean.

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Adverts in CC Classifieds' are free to insert please send your copy to the editor at [janne@twerbs.co.uk](mailto:janne@twerbs.co.uk) or 01284 828264 by the 15th of the month.

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Saturday	10.00 – 2.00
Sunday & Wednesday	- CLOSED



### The future of libraries in Suffolk

Thank you to everyone who took part in the public consultation which ended last month. Suffolk County Council’s contract with Suffolk Libraries (the independent charity that runs the library service) comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Now that the 13-week consultation has ended it will be followed by a competitive Tender process, before a new contract is awarded in November 2024 and will begin in June 2025.

### Support Suffolk Libraries with an ethically sourced jute bag – bargain at £5!



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### Tot Rock

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**Indoor Kurling** Join us every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm – 4.00pm for this fun indoor adult activity that helps to improve strength and mobility with refreshments and chat included!

**Top Time Group** Top Time is our sociable drop-in group for all adults held fortnightly on Tuesdays from 2.30-4.00pm.



**Lego Club** Held every Saturday between 11am – 12pm. A drop-in session for children of all ages.

### Contact Details

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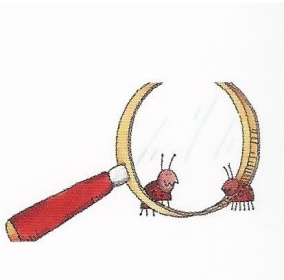
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## Congregational Church Corner

During His earthly ministry Jesus performed many miracles, the first of which is recorded In John chapter 2, where we find Him attending a wedding reception at Cana, along with Mary, his mother, and His disciples (verses 1 & 2).

It may be that the wedding was of a relative or a friend of the family, as Mary seems to have had a hand in overseeing the celebrations: because she not only took the lead in reporting to Jesus, that the wine had run down (verse 3), but she also directed the wedding stewards to do whatever Jesus told them to do, in resolving the issue (verse 5). Why the wine ran out is not disclosed to us, but whatever the reason, the poor host was in trouble; because to exhaust the supply of wine at a wedding celebration, in that culture, and in those days, would have caused him acute, and lasting embarrassment, in the face of his guests and his community. But what could he do?

Well, Mary knew the answer to that question: she took the problem to Jesus, believing that He, being kind, generous and compassionate (which He is by nature) would intervene, and help out the host in his time of need. And this is exactly what He did, because, as we see, He ordered the wedding stewards to fill some nearby empty containers with water (verse 7), and miraculously this water was turned into wine. And not only that, but it was acknowledged to be best wine that the guests had tasted all day (verse 10); thus Jesus turned a disaster for the host into a triumph.

This is not the only wedding reception that John writes about in the New Testament. The other one takes place at the end of the age, and is referred to as the marriage supper of the Lamb, also called the great supper of God (Revelation 19:9). This reception is by invitation only, and graciously offered by the Lord Jesus, Himself to all those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The only way to receive an invitation to this supper is by receiving Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Saviour. And as the angel told John to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" because this will be a glorious celebration for all those who are in Christ! What a glorious prospect to which we can all look forward, and thereafter to be forever with the Lord.

Bill Attwood



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Do you have an announcement you would like included here?

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*Alice Capriotti*

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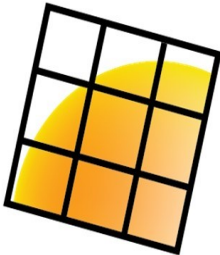
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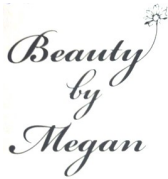
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# Cockfield Contacts

March 2024 Web

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	Paul Rolph & Associates	01787 247046
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