

WOBUL

Wortham & Burgate Letter

Merry Christmas



Neuschwanstein, Ostallgäu, Bavaria

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December 2015



Borderhoppa Community Transport

wishes all of its current and future customers a very

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Many thanks to you all for your support throughout 2015.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

WOBUL CONTRIBUTORS

Copy to the Editor by Tuesday 29th December please, for inclusion in January 2016 edition

NEWS FROM WORTHAM STORES AND TEA SHOP

We have had a very busy and eventful year and would like to thank all of our customers for your support and encouragement throughout.

We stock goods from many local suppliers, including:

honey from bees in Wortham, **beers** from Hoxne Brewer **bread** from bakers in Diss
eggs from Hoxne **ham and meats** from Halesworth **milk and yoghurts** from Halesworth
oats, muesli and flour from Garboldisham and when available, **flour** from Thelnetham
plus many more goodies.

We take in your dry cleaning and offer most Post Office services.

**If you would like to order bread, or any other items, for the Christmas period,
please let us have your order by Sunday 18th December.**

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

SHOP

Mon 21 st & Tues 22 nd December	9am – 5pm
Wednesday 23 rd December	9am – 1pm
Thursday 24 th December	9am – 12.30pm
Fri 25 th , Sat 26 th , Sun 27 th & Mon 28 th December	closed
Tues 29 th , Wed 30 th & Thurs 31 st December	9am – 1pm
Friday 1 st January 2016	closed
Sat 2 nd & Sun 3 rd January	9am – 12.30pm

Please remember that the Post Office counter closes between 1pm and 2pm every day

TEA SHOP

Monday 21 st December	9am – 5pm
Tuesday 22 nd December	closed
Wednesday 23 rd December	9am – 4pm
Thursday 24 th December	9am – 3pm

The kitchen closes one hour before closing time.

The Tea Shop will remain closed until Thursday 7th January 2016 when it reopens at 9am

We have now finished the **Bring and/or Buy** table outside the shop. This table is where our lovely customers bring any surplus home grown fruits and vegetables. The produce is then taken by other lovely customers in exchange for a donation. This year, thanks to your generosity, we have raised **£606.88**. This money has been divided equally between East Anglian Childrens Hospice (EACH) and East Anglian Air Ambulance. We continue to collect used stamps which we also send to the two charities above.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year – from all at the shop, post office and tea shop.

Keep up to date with what is going on at the Shop and Tea Shop by 'liking' us on Facebook.



Don't forget – **the kettle's on** every Tuesday at the Church Hall in Burgate. Do come along and enjoy a hot drink and homemade cakes, meet your neighbours, catch up with old friends, bring children. 10.00 am until 12 noon. Look for the 'A' board by the side of road.

The Friends of Burgate Church present
Saturday 5th December at 7.30 pm in Burgate Church

A Winter Concert

with
Amici

Suffolk's friendliest a capella choir – singing a programme to suit all tastes
interval music by John Wistow, Burgate resident and renowned Flamenco guitarist

Tickets £10 per person obtainable from
Gina Cole on 01379 783718 or email gibatijore@hotmail.com
Mince pies and mulled wine included in ticket price

Firework Quiz – 6th November

Once again the church hall was packed with regular quiz teams, and a few very welcome new faces to pit their wits against the Quizmaster and his fiendishly difficult questions about the events of 5th November, and much else besides. The Wortham Originals proved to have the keenest minds and won with a total of 74 points, just 3½ points ahead of The Crackers and the Odds and Sods who were joint second. The Sparklers brought up the rear (I won't mention it was your team Dick), with an impressive 58. Mr Pell won a special prize for knowing the firing order of a Morris Minor engine. A total of £342 was made for church funds. Many thanks to all – especially the cooks who served up a marvellously warming supper.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The house to house collection in Burgate raised a total of £237.84 – many thanks to all those who donated and to the collectors.

Church Hall Renovations

The Friends of Burgate Church and the Parochial Church Council are working together to arrange for the heating in the Church Hall to be replaced with something more efficient. We are at present unsure of the exact timing of the installation works, which may last around 3 days. Would anyone wishing to use the hall ensure that they contact the Hall Booking Secretary, Judi Tann, to check that the hall is available.

Church Flowers

No flowers in Advent
24th December - All help decorate the Church for Christmas

Hall Cleaning

Fran Jones

Church Hall Booking Secretary: Judi Tann 01379 783302

Community Buying at CAS Ltd



**Want to save money on the
cost of your heating oil?
So do we!**

**Join our new community-based
countywide oil buying syndicate
and see how easy it is**

Community Buying at CAS Ltd

Tel: 01473 345400

Email: oil@communitybuying.org.uk

www.communitybuying.org.uk



Community Buying at CAS Ltd, reg. no. 04794467, is a subsidiary of Community Action Suffolk, a charity working to strengthen and champion communities across the County.

Registered office: Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 0HH
Community Action Suffolk Registered Office as above. Registered Charity Number:
1150501.

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England. Number 08316345



WARTS PRESENTS

A musical fantasy

KING GRUNT'S CAKE

BY JULIA DONALDSON
AUTHOR OF *THE GRUFFALO*

BOTESDALE VILLAGE HALL
THUR 10TH – SAT 12TH DECEMBER AT 7.30
MATINEE ON SAT 12TH AT 2.30

TICKETS £8.00 UNDER 16 £5.00

BOX OFFICE: 01379 687580

OR FROM

HILLTOP HARDWARE

WORTHAM

POST OFFICE

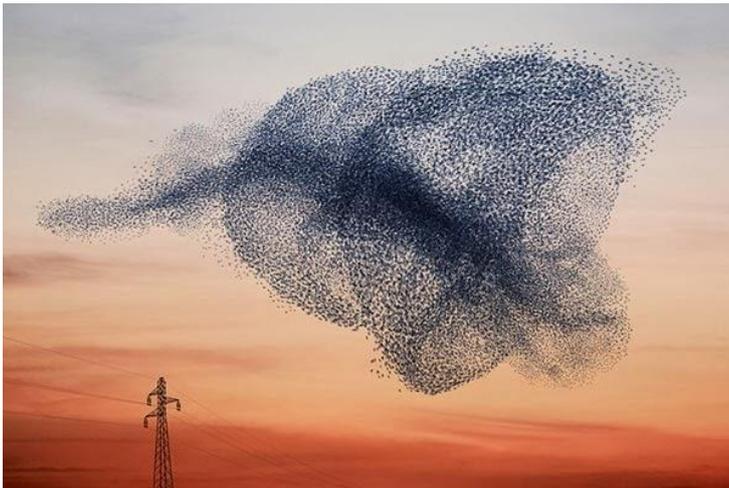
& REDGRAVE

SHOP



I have my outside temperature recorder near a tall rose hedge. Checking it recently I heard a high-pitched 'twittering' nearby. It was due to a flock of Long Tailed Tits travelling through my garden. These small flocks continue 'twittering' as they move from shrub to shrub. It is a friendly way of keeping in contact so that the flock stays together for safety, as an alarm, or discovering good food. These flocks often contain other tits, Blue and Great, and near the coast, small migratory birds such as Gold and Firecrest may join them.

Just, and only very occasionally, rarities such as a Yellow-Browed Warbler may join them in the autumn. I once saw one in the centre of Southwold. It was not my discovery but that of local bird watchers, and me being inquisitive. If you ever see a group of people using binoculars or telescopes looking in the same direction, ask them what it is they are looking at. They are usually only too pleased to inform others of their findings.



There have been some excellent photos recently in local papers of murmurations (enormous flocks) of Starlings (left). They make fantastic and ever-changing shapes.

So off I went to Redgrave Fen where I have seen such gatherings in the past. I was duly rewarded, the first visit was to Middle Fen, a small group, and later, on another day, a much larger group on Little Fen. It was a lovely evening, a perfect sunset.

To start with, small groups arrived coming in low over the trees, and gradually more flew in until there were at least 1,000. Already the groups change from being long and strung-out to being a small ball. New further small groups continued to fly in and then in the north-east corner they literally all fell down together into the reed beds. That is when they start 'chattering' to each other. After the main group arrives, small flocks continue to fly in and go straight to where the major flock has gone down. If they had arrived a bit earlier they might have swelled the original influx to perform those wonderful patterns. Do visit that part of the Little Fen about sunset. These displays should continue for several weeks.



Another bird seen recently near Fen Lane, Redgrave, was a Short-Eared Owl. A big owl, pale brown, larger than our Barn Owl, but similarly quartering the fields. Coincidentally several had been reported along the east coast of Suffolk. I last reported one earlier this spring, very close to the BTO headquarters at Thetford.

At home again, Robins are singing. They will show themselves when you start gardening; nearly every garden has one. Their song also shows their presence in local woods. The Wren, which is really very common, heard but not seen. It has a 'rattling' warning cry. Very loud from such a small bird.

Lastly, and sadly, I caught sight of a male Sparrow Hawk at a kill in our garden. It flew away letting out a shrill 'squeak'. I realised it seems cruel, but its prey was a Wood Pigeon, and really we do have too many of them, but the Sparrow Hawk is a beautiful bird.

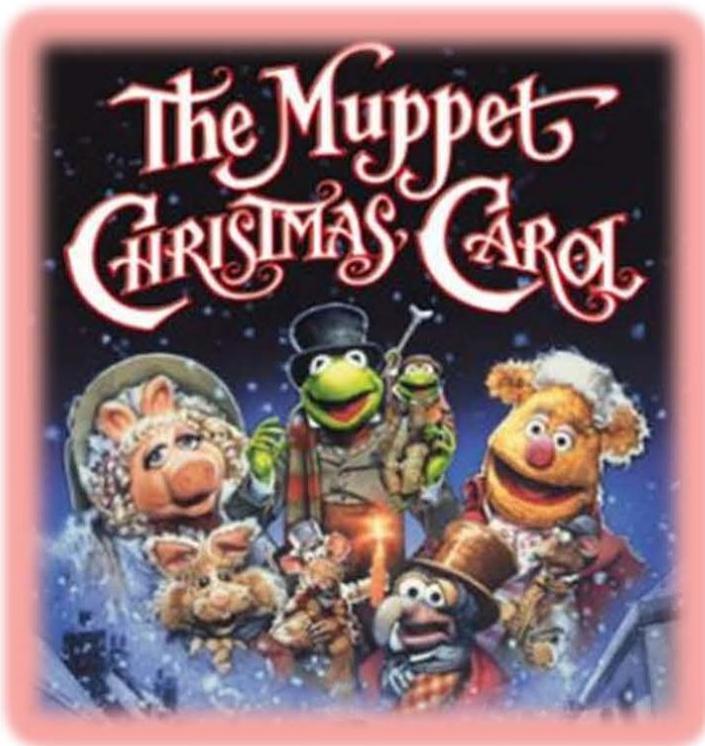


Have an excellent Christmas. Do report any exciting ornithological events to me.

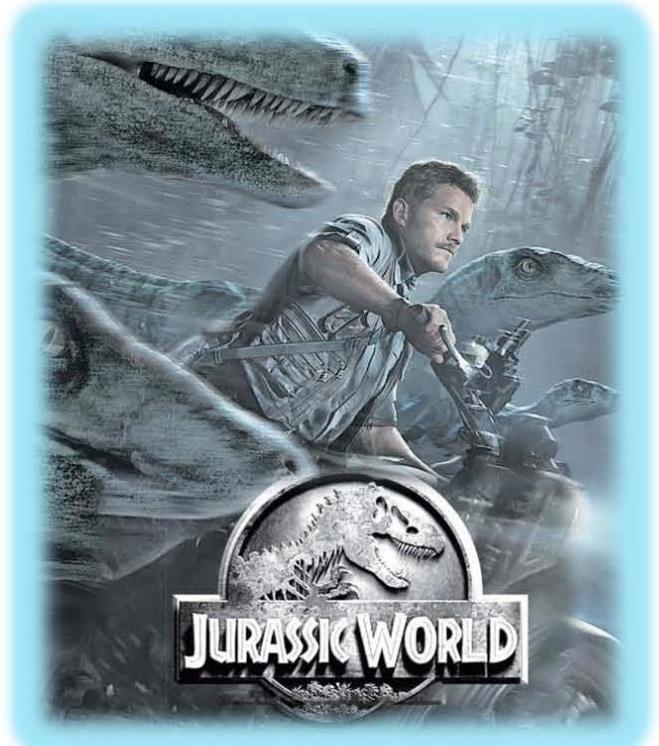
Saturday 12 December 2015

FREE @ 3pm

£5 @ 7:30pm



Children to be accompanied by an adult



Adults asked not to scream too loud

Licensed bar and Ice Creams during the intermission

www.palgravecinema.co.uk

Tickets – **Book online**, email robert.moore321@btinternet.com
and pay at the door or buy tickets from **Wortham Post Office & Store**

TICKETS £5 each

January 2016 programme

Mr Holmes.

45 years.

Blade Runner – The Final Cut.



Mark Mitchels captivated his audience when he spoke about the Bayeux Tapestry and the events of 1066 to the November meeting of the Heritage Circle at Rickingham Village Hall. He explained that the Bayeux Tapestry was completed between 1006 and 1076. It is 70m long and 50cm wide. It is comprised of nine linen sections and is embroidered cloth rather than a tapestry. It is both a remarkable piece of art and an invaluable historical record. It is thought a male artist who sketched the images and then groups of eight women stitched the pictures using ten colours of woollen thread.

The tapestry contains three types of information. There are the central pictures which illustrate the complex events of 1066. Above this is text which may have been added later. This tells the story mostly in Latin, but parts of it is in Anglo-Saxon which has led historians to think that the tapestry was embroidered in Canterbury. There is a border above and below the pictures which are a mystery to historians. They do not know what the animal and human images are meant to depict and how they relate to the Bayeux Tapestry's story.

Mark Mitchels emphasized the importance of William, Duke of Normandy, as an historical figure. There are very few occasions in which an individual has changed the course of British and European history in a single day which is what William achieved through his victory in the Battle of Hastings. Most of the Anglo-Saxon nobility of England was killed, allowing about 20,000 Normans to subjugate an English population of about 2,000,000 people. He views William as a very ruthless man who had emerged from a troubled early life with a suspicion of most people. He was an outstanding warrior and strategist who would not forgive any person who let him down. The tapestry should be viewed as Norman propaganda which legitimised William's claim to the English throne. It claims that promises were made to William by Edward the Confessor and Harold Godwinson that he should be the next King of England. These were broken and William had to mount an invasion to remove the usurper, Harold Godwinson, to gain what was rightfully his.

Some of the most graphic scenes of the Bayeux Tapestry show the Battle of Hastings. The art work of the horses is amazingly realistic. It is possible that the artist may have been present at the battle as historians think that the ebb and flow of the battle described in the tapestry mirrors the actual events. The armies appear to have been of a similar size, about 8,000 men on each side. There was terrible slaughter as the battle went on from dawn to dusk, unlike most medieval battles which lasted less than an hour. The outcome was decisive. William broke the major resistance of the English and could claim his throne.

Bishop Odo of Bayeux, William's half-brother, is believed to have commissioned the Bayeux Tapestry. This is supported by his prominent appearances in the tapestry, for example, his image is larger than that of William in a feast scene and he is shown fighting bravely at Hastings. After the battle, he became Earl of Kent which strengthens the view that the tapestry was sewn in Canterbury. Odo also rebuilt Bayeux Cathedral and the tapestry was seen for the first time in 1076 when the new cathedral was consecrated with William and the Norman nobility in attendance.

The subsequent history of the tapestry begins to explain why it has survived in such good condition. Odo fell from grace in 1082 when he was imprisoned by William. It appears that the tapestry was stored away in the crypt of the cathedral until its rediscovery in 1476. It was later protected from Napoleon and the Nazis by the people of Bayeux who proudly display this remarkable artefact in a museum today.

The next meeting of the Heritage Circle will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at The Village Hall, Rickingham IP221HD when Neil Lanham will be speaking about Experiences as a Fine Art Auctioneer. Further information about the Heritage Circle is available on its website, www.heritagecircle.onesuffolk.net.

Gerry Gurhy

WORTHAM TENNIS CLUB WINS SUFFOLK SPORT '2015 CLUB OF THE YEAR'

At an Oscar style awards evening on Friday 13 November, Suffolk Sports made the 2015 Club of the Year Award to Wortham Tennis Club. Really exciting and a result that, unsurprisingly, the club is absolutely delighted with. We were competing against all sports throughout Suffolk, not only other tennis clubs. There was strong competition from the two other shortlisted clubs - Gipping Valley Angling Club and Stowmarket Ladies Netball Club. A short video of each club was made in advance of the Awards evening and both our 'rivals' came across strongly, offering a great range of opportunities especially for junior members. The Angling club in particular does some great work with disabled and disadvantaged children.

Wortham Tennis Club had 7 representatives at the Awards evening – it's hard to describe the excitement when the envelope was opened announcing Wortham as the winner – a moment of disbelief then a massive cheer!

For tennis to be chosen, when there is competition from hockey, football, netball, rugby, angling, golf and many more sports, is an amazing achievement. The award is a huge accolade for Wortham Tennis Club and great recognition of our recent achievements – installation of a fourth floodlit court; a comprehensive, fun and thriving junior programme; promotion of teams into the first division of the Ipswich and Felixstowe Floodlit league and being the first club to 'twin' with another club – Rutherglen in Glasgow (this has received national and international recognition). But most importantly we try to ensure that tennis is fun for all and that there are opportunities for everyone regardless of age or ability.



The club has had some lovely congratulatory messages, not only from individual club members, but also from members of other Suffolk and Norfolk clubs and from national officials -

Mike Watling, Chair of Suffolk LTA, sent the club the following message

Congratulations to you all on receiving the ' Club of the Year Award' at the Suffolk Sports Awards Evening last night. A great reward for all the hard work and commitment that has been put in running your Club by you all. You have developed a great team which have combined in running the club, providing excellent facilities for your members and enjoyment in club social events including travelling to watch tennis both in this county and abroad.

I wish you every success for the future and many more happy events where your hard work is rewarded and enjoyed both on and off the court.

Steven Law, LTA Councillor for Suffolk tweeted

'Great for @britishtennis, great for @LTASuffolk, well done @wortham_tennis'

If you would like to know more about Wortham Tennis Club take a look at the club website <http://www.worthamtennisclub.co.uk/> or contact Club Secretary Isobel Hunter on isobelhunter@btinternet.com. We have all sorts of opportunities – cardio tennis (a great way to keep fit), tennis xpress (aimed at adult beginners or those who haven't played for a while), tots tennis (3 – 5 yr olds), a comprehensive junior programme from 5 – 18yr olds + social and team play for adults. Lots for everyone so come and join in!

A festive celebration of
music and laughter

SOMETHING HAPPENED AT CHRISTMAS



'A fabulous evening' *Sheila King, Pennoyer Centre*

'This superb trio must be seen to be believed' *Adrian Black, Milkmaid Folk Club*

Saturday 5th December 7.30pm
Wortham Village Hall IP22 1PS
Tickets £9 01379 652241 www.disscornhall.co.uk

Garden notes by Linda Simpson

Having now had a real frost some of the colour in the garden from the dahlias and later/second flowering geraniums has now gone. It doesn't mean there is no colour in the garden however as the nerines and chrysanthemums are just getting into their stride.

Nerines are grown from a bulb and are like many other bulbs enjoy sharp drainage. They are deemed to be not quite hardy (one of their common names is the Guernsey Lily) but seem to be happy provided they are not too wet. In my garden in Essex I sometimes had problems with slugs eating the stems before they could develop into fully open flowers.

Here in Suffolk though I grow them against a south facing house wall where they benefit not only from the extra warmth but also getting a baking in the summer. They seem to increase fairly rapidly and quickly build up into a good clump. I understand they are happy to have their feet in rubble/ stony sharply drained soil which is why you so often see them against house walls.



Elsewhere in the garden I also recently planted a white form, *nerine bowdenii alba*. It flowers a bit earlier and has certain elegance, the white flowers being tinged with pink in places. I don't know how hardy this will prove to be.

However, I think probably the main point of nerines is to produce a lovely display of cheerful flowers at a time when everything else has given up so if you are thinking of buying some bulbs next spring you may find the pink form is a better bet.

Another pink flower that was still flowering until the frost hit (this photo was taken on 20/11) is one that has been in flower for months. It is a form of alstromeria called Freedom.



I have other varieties of alstromeria which flower well and repeatedly but do not last nearly as long as this one. I think it has probably been flowering since July and had it not been for the frost would probably have gone on and on.

We still have lots of colour too from the various berrying trees and shrubs. So far the birds have not felt the need to raid these food stores (not even in the cold snap last weekend) but no doubt it will not be long before they do.

We hope that one day a flock of waxwings might decide to pay them a visit but so far they haven't discovered them. I gather waxwings tend to form raiding parties and once they have gorged themselves on the available berries move on to a new location. We would have to be lucky to see them.

A CHRISTMAS EVENING

presented by RAHOF with

Carols, Mince Pies and Alcohol-free Mulled Wine

7.30 p.m. Friday December 11th

All Saints Church, Redgrave

Music, Munching, Entertainment, Christmas Draw

Tickets: £7 (£3.50 for under-16s) from:

June Hart on 01379 897180

or RAHOF Committee members

(In aid of St Nicholas Hospice Care, Bury St Edmunds)



GISLINGHAM SILVER BAND

(FOUNDED 1885)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

GISLINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

TUES 15th DEC at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 (under 16 free)

Ring - 01379 788411



BritishRedCross



**Refusing to ignore
people in crisis**

Every year our volunteers help thousands of people in their own homes following an illness or hospital stay

Could you spare the time to visit someone and provide some extra support...maybe shopping or befriending?

We accept referrals from the community, GPs, Police, friends and family and self-referrals

Our service is totally FREE to all our beneficiaries

For more information please call:

01603 288320 or chriscollect@nnuh.nhs.uk

The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949) and Scotland (SC037738). Information correct at date of print

St Mary's Church, Wortham.

The Autumn Fair was held in the village hall on Saturday 31 October, there was a variety of stalls, competitions and refreshments. Competition winners were: Hoopla – Myra Pinnell; How Many Chocolates in a Tin – Colin Lond; Fishing Game – (Child) Joseph Hilling (Adult) Alison Smith and Large Hamper – Pearl Neve. A total of £705 was raised for church funds. Thanks to all who helped on the day and those who came along to support the event.

The Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 8 November. A short service was held at the War Memorial where two wreaths were laid, one from Wortham & Burgate Parish Council's Chairman, Stephen Rash, the other by Rhys Chisiyan, a pupil at Wortham Primary School. The full service continued in the church and was taken by Rev Ginny Manning and organist Myra Pinnell.

The War Memorial Roll of Honour of the men from the parish who lost their lives was read by Janet Bromley and the Silent Tribute was given by Elizabeth Garnham. The two readings were given by Sheila Rush and Cathy Hume. A collection was taken for the work of the Royal British Legion and the service concluded with the National Anthem and the Blessing.

Village Hall Quiz

Chairman

Barry Higgs welcomed everyone to the Wortham Village Hall Committee Quiz Night on Saturday 21 November in which 14 teams were entered. The two Quizmasters were Ian Haywood and Mike Green and the winning team was Wortham & Burgate Parish Council comprising Chris Williams, Jean and Chris Grocott and Esther Piper. There was a bar and raffle and £480 was raised for hall funds.

Good Companions

held its club afternoon on November 10 at the Village Hall. Members were entertained by 53 pupils from Wortham Primary School. They sang Christmas carols and songs with several taking turns at playing the piano. Led by their music teacher Janet Kenyon, they opened the show with Frosty the Snowman, and sang Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and many more, finishing with We Wish you a Merry Christmas.

Also present as guests was the Open Book Team who go into school on Monday afternoons, and also our new rector, Rev Adrian Watkins. Chairman of the club, Betty Garnham thanked the children for a lovely afternoon and club member Audrey Rose presented a donation to the school. The children received orange squash and sweets.

Shoe Boxes

St Marys Church Wortham was able to send 67 boxes this year to the Samaritans Purse International's annual Shoe Box collection for their **Operation Christmas Child**. It was also a Benefice effect.

School Christmas Fair

Wortham Primary School held its Christmas Fair in the school on Saturday 28 November. There were many lovely stalls – Gifts, Cakes, Pickles, make-up; there was a Child Cancer stall and a Lucky Dip. The children made all of the decorations. At 2pm Father Christmas made a special early visit to the school and he was kept busy all afternoon in his beautifully decorated grotto.

Competitions were: Guess the Weight of the Cake (4lb 1oz) was won by Penny Flounders; 50/50 (£50) by Caroline Wales; Sweets in the Jar was guessed at 129 by Max Well. There was coffee and mince pies and a very large raffle which included 8 boxes of groceries and many other prizes.

My Twelve Days of Christmas (anon)

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me: I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a real Christmas tree. On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard as we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird. On the third day we entertained the people from next door, the turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before. Day four relations came to stay – poor Gran is looking old – we finished up the Christmas Pud and ate the turkey cold. On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried, but we were nice and warm inside, for we had our turkey curried. On the sixth day I must admit the Christmas spirit died, the children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles fried. On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince, when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince. Day Eight the nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter; I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer. On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto – he said he had to drink a lot to face my turkey risotto. By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our homemade brew) and if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew. On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting, the mince pies were as hard as rocks and the turkey was revolting. On the twelfth day my true love had a smile upon his lips – the guests had gone, the turkey too and we dined on fish and chips.

Courses for Family Carers



is a county-wide organisation which aims to offer support and information to anyone caring for a friend, family member or neighbour with any kind of illness, disability or frailty.

If you offer support, help or encouragement to a friend or family member who is unwell then you are a Family Carer and are able to access our free Caring With Confidence courses. These courses provide information and tips on ways to confidently care for your friend or loved one.

A variety of topics is covered, such as effective communication to get your needs met, ways to manage your emotions and take better care of yourself, balancing caring with other commitments you may have, and looking at day to day challenges.

We also have a wealth of resources which may help with a variety of issues and concerns you face within your caring role. If you care for someone with Dementia you could also access our Caring for Dementia with Confidence course which is specifically designed for those caring for someone with Dementia or memory loss.

These sessions are not only a great way to gain useful information but also give you the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation. Family Carers who have attended the sessions have said they have found it useful for a variety of reasons such as “feeling that I am not alone”, gaining “friendship and knowledge” and knowing “that there is help out there”.

These sessions run regularly so to find out more about either Caring with Confidence or Caring for Dementia with Confidence please contact us on 01473 835446 or by email to cwc@suffolkfamilycarers.org.



THE DOLPHIN INN IS DEAD

By Terry Quinn

The Dolphin Inn is dead. Long live The Manor House. Wortham's only pub is currently closed for a complete renovation but will reopen in a few days with a new name, new landlord, new cuisine and a new decor but at least one familiar face behind the bar.



Thai cuisine will be the speciality of the new Manor House but English favourites like fish and chips, steaks, burgers and Caesar's salads etc will also be on the menu. The Thai options will be authentic dishes prepared by the head chef Su who will be assisted occasionally by her partner Nish. He was born in Thailand but has lived and worked in Britain for more than 20 years, most recently as manager of a Thai restaurant in London. He has now signed a five year rolling agreement with Star Pubs and Bars to run the newly named Manor House.

The designers and decorators have done an excellent job and when I visited on Friday last, I counted no fewer than 26 people hard at work on the transformation. The ambience in the pub is welcoming, bright and cheerful. The bar has been renovated and new display shelving added. The rather grubby toilets have been stripped out and the replacements are first class. A new patio area has been added outside the front entrance and the restaurant area is now more welcoming with a selection of local photographs for added interest.

Thai food enthusiasts like me will now be able to enjoy popular dishes like Pad Thai, Beef or Chicken Massaman, Thai Green Curry and other subtly flavoured dishes. (Please excuse the dribbles. My mouth is already watering!)

The Manor House is owned by Star Pubs and Bars, part of Heineken, and Alex Ashton, who manages the division, told WOBUL: "We have invested £146,000 on the project and there will be another £20,000 or so spent on drainage in the new year. This is proof that Star Pubs and Bars is committed to creating a successful pub. This has always been the case. We have taken feedback on board and in Nish I feel we have a great operator for a great pub. I am really hopeful that the people of Wortham will support the transformation."

Nish has signed a five year rolling contract and Johnny Parr, who has been the licence holder for the past two years will be a 50-50 partner in the upgraded pub. Nish will be the landlord and is fully committed to making it work. Unlike some of his predecessors, he says that customer opinions and suggestions for improvements will be welcomed.

The opening date will be set once the decorators depart and is likely to be in early December. Nish says watch for a display of balloons at the front door that will signal that he is open for business. A new website that includes the full restaurant menu will go live shortly. Future plans include a Christmas menu and the return of regular music nights with live bands and support for the pool and darts teams.

One familiar face will return after an absence of several years. Julie Clears, who has worked at the pub off and on over the past five or six years, will return as bar supervisor.

Opening hours at the bar will be unchanged with food served from 6pm till 10pm Monday to Wednesday and noon till 3pm and 6pm till 10pm on Thursday and Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, the restaurant will be open from noon until 10pm.

Gourmets and Thai food enthusiasts will welcome the availability of this delicious food in the village and newcomers to one of the most popular cuisines in the world are in for a treat. Pub regulars will still have a choice of the same popular beers as before.

SO WHY CHANGE THE NAME?

A PERSONAL OPINION

It is inevitable that when a name that has around for centuries is changed, some people will be opposed or even angry. The Dolphin Inn has been an important part of village life for a long time and predates the Cobbold years by many decades.

There are strong arguments for retaining a name that everyone in the community knows and that in the past was well respected. But therein lies the problem. Over the past few years, the Dolphin lost a lot of respect and many of its long-time customers. Many in the community share horror stories of problems ranging from innocent mediocrity to incompetence, rudeness and even aggressiveness. There has been a succession of new managements in recent times and when I was editing WOBUL I gave every set of new faces a warm welcome and a promise of support.

But disenchantment with poor quality turned to dismay when the promised improvements failed to materialise. Many organisations and individual customers took their business elsewhere. I feared that the decline brought a very real possibility that Wortham would join the many other pubs in East Anglia that have closed for ever.

The owners of the Dolphin had a difficult choice to make. Soldier on with a devalued name and hope that customers would forgive and forget. Or try to accelerate improvement in the fortunes of the pub by starting afresh with a new name and a new image.

The main objective of the owners and the new management team is to ensure that The Manor House prospers and therefore survives. Opting to change the name was a marketing decision and I for one believe it was the right thing to do. We'll know in a year or two by which time the Dolphin name will still be an important part of our history while The Manor House will have replaced it as an important part of village life.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THAI CUISINE

Although some Thai dishes are hot and spicy, others are mild and subtly flavoured. Coconut milk, spices like turmeric and curry paste and fresh herbs like Thai basil, mint, coriander and lemongrass are commonly used ingredients. Thai chefs are skilled at balancing five basic tastes, (spicy hot, sweet, sour, salty and occasionally bitter) and the clever combination of different flavours makes Thai dishes mouth-wateringly delicious.

Like China, there are distinct regional cuisines in Thailand. For example, green curry originated in the Central region, Massaman Is from Southern Thailand and dishes making frequent use of coconut milk and turmeric usually come from the south. Pad Thai has long been a national dish. However, Nish has lived in the UK long enough to respond to British enthusiasm for the most popular specialities from all over the country.

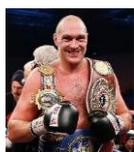
Most Thai chefs, including Nish, will cook dishes to match the taste of customers. Hot dishes can vary from mild, and barely qualifying for a spicy label, to "sound the fire alarm and get me a large jug of Heineken!" Customers averse to very spicy food should ask the serving staff to recommend dishes from the "mild and subtle" end of the spectrum. Try the most popular dish from Thailand, Pad Thai, with a choice of prawns or chicken.

Bon appétit or as they say in Thailand, tan hâi a-ròy!

Terry Quinn

WOBUL SALUTES THE AUTUMN 2015 BRITISH WORLD CHAMPIONS

25 October – **Lewis Hamilton** is a 3-time **F1 World Champion** after winning USA GP. Now the all-time leader of British drivers' winners list with 43 races.



28 November – **Tyson Fury** wins the **WBA, WBO and IBF world heavyweight titles** after thoroughly beating the formerly 11-year unbeaten, champion, Wladimir Klitschko on points.

29 November **Team GB wins the Davis Cup**, led by an unbeaten **Andy Murray** in eleven 2015 matches at the Davis Cup Finals in Ghent, Belgium last weekend. It had been a 79-year wait for the tennis world championship, until Murray beat David Goffin 3 – 0 in his singles match.



VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

Wortham Morning Yoga	Village Hall	Tuesday	01, 08	10:00 – 11:30
Wortham Afternoon Yoga	Village Hall	Thursday	03, 10	11:45 – 13:15
Ballroom Dancing	Village Hall	Monday	07, 14	19:00 – 20:30
Sewing Class	Village Hall	Monday	14	09:30 – 14:30
Good Companions	Village Hall	Tuesday	15	14:00 – 16:30
Tea's Made	Village Hall	Wednesday	02, 09	14:00 – 16:30
Pilates	Village Hall	Wednesday	02, 09, 16	09:30 – 10:30
Pilates	Village Hall	Thursday	03, 10, 17	18:00 – 19:00
Pilates	Village Hall	Wednesday	09, 16	18:30 – 21:30
Something Happened at Christmas	Village Hall	Saturday	05	19:00 – 23:00
Private Function	Village Hall	Tuesday	22	10:00 – 15:00
Private Function	Village Hall	Sunday	27	10:00 – 24:00
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Tuesday	08	19:30 – 21:00

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The Editor thanks all contributors for their timely submissions and states that the views stated herein are his or those of the article contributor and not of the W&B Community Action Programme.