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WORTHAM WALKERS

We walk on the first Wednesday of each month.
Next walk – **Wednesday 1 March**



Keith & Pauline Kendrick have organised the next walk at Rattlesden and tested it last week. It is 5 miles west of Stowmarket.

From Wortham drive on A143 to Ixworth and turn left at the second roundabout on the A1088 through Norton. At the next roundabout, take the third exit, still A1088, and cross over the A14 through Woolpit on Heath Road. Turn right, go through Woolpit Green to Clopton Green. Carry straight on past the Stowmarket Road and the **Brewers Arms** pub will be found shortly on the right side. Park opposite the pub. Driving distance 20 miles. Allow 45 minutes.



‘The walk is approximately 3 miles on mainly good surface but there are a few muddy places and 3 or so styles to cross. We found it a very pleasant walk and we also tried the Brewers Arms, the food was good and there is no need to pre-order food.’

John Scott, Leader, Wortham Walkers

juliejohn_scott@yahoo.co.uk

WORTHAM & BURGATE HAS A NEW WEBSITE

<http://worthamandburgate.suffolk.cloud/>

The old site no longer exists.

Change your favourites settings, and use this new community site.

Your contributions to the site pages are most welcome

Netty Verkroost, Wortham & Burgate Parish Clerk and RFO

07557 333 811

WORTHAM & BURGATE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Hello Everyone

Thanks to those who came to the AGM for all their useful comments and suggestions. These will be considered at the next committee meeting at the beginning of March. We will be putting a social programme in place for the year. Linda will be producing a newsletter following that meeting to keep you all informed.



In the meantime, plans for our visit to France in April are well under way. If anyone else would like to join us, please do let me know as soon as possible.

There are a couple of things I need to tell you about now. The first is that we are desperately searching for a replacement for Dave Long, our Treasurer. Dave has done an admirable job for us over the past few years but is stepping down at the end of this year. We need to find someone who is prepared to take over. There really is not a great deal to do, apart from keeping a spreadsheet of the comings and goings of cash, handling the cash and any invoices and costs, and preparing a simple statement of account for the committee meetings and AGM.

The accounts are audited at the end of each year. Dave would be happy to show you exactly what to do and offer any support you might need. During this year, he would show you the ropes and then step down at the end of the year. Is there anyone out there who would be prepared to do it? Please do come forward if you can help as we cannot function without a Treasurer!

The second thing is that Nadine, my equivalent in Hede, is hoping to bring a team of 8 or 9 girls over in July to play basketball. Katherine Hughes has been talking to Hartismere High School and they have agreed to have the girls into school for a couple of days and will arrange some basketball matches. There will be 4 members of staff with the girls. We are looking for people who can host during the time they are here. The dates would be from around 9th to 13th July. One lady would need to be responsible for and stay with 2 girls in our hosts houses. Are there any members who would be prepared to host? We will be preparing a simple programme to keep them busy while they are with us.

I look forward to hearing from any of you who could help with either of the two things above.

Kind regards. Judith Phillip, Secretary, Wortham and Burgate Twinning Association

01379 741806

Tony Diamond presented a lively and interesting talk to the December meeting of the Heritage Circle at Rickinghall Village Hall about Rudyard Kipling which made effective use of quotations from his extensive writings. Tony used the pun, 'Where does the truth lie?' to explore the life and work of a man who he described as the first 'spin doctor' because the patriot Kipling was a propagandist for the British Empire.

Kipling was born in Tipperary Barracks in Bombay, in 1865. His father was a cartographer serving in the British army. Kipling claimed to have learned to lie when he was five because of the harsh treatment he received at the hands of his nanny. One punishment was to spend hours locked in cupboards where he whiled away the time devising stories in his head. A recurring theme in his fiction is the small and the weak overcoming the powerful. For example, his hero Kim helped to defeat the Russian Empire and Mowgli survived in the jungle.

Living in India gave Kipling the opportunity to become the editor of a newspaper which was an invaluable experience aiding the success of his later career. By 1890, Kipling had returned to England where he married Caroline Balestier. They had two children. Despite the wealth that Kipling amassed through huge sales of his short stories and poems, he did not belong to any social class. He was not bound by the rigidity of late Victorian society and so he was able to mix freely with people of all classes. By 1895 he was very friendly with the Duke of York, the future King George V, who helped him to become the foreign Correspondent of *The Times*. He wrote headlines for the newspaper which were read all over the world. Many would now describe these as propaganda but at the time they were accepted as the 'truth.'

Kipling became interested in South Africa. In his newspaper articles, he pressed for action against the 'ignorant, half-German Boers' who were mistreating the native population. This was his 'truth' but it ignored the underlying 'lie' of the gold and diamonds that would be the prize if the Transvaal became part of the British Empire. Kipling was pleased when the Boer War began in 1899 as there was an expectation of an easy victory over the 'cowardly' Boers. However, the British repeatedly suffered very heavy casualties inflicted by an enemy that they could not find. A system of concentration camps was devised to deprive the Boers of shelter and supplies. Victory was won at the expense of terrible suffering of women and children held in insanitary conditions where many died of malnutrition. These events and the incompetence of the army leadership led Kipling, the patriot, to change his views and he became very critical of imperial policy.

Kipling won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907 but refused other offers of honours, including Poet Laureate and a seat in the House of Lords. By 1914 his belief in Empire had been restored. George V appointed Kipling as press liaison correspondent which meant that he effectively controlled the content of newspapers when World War I began. Kipling worked extensively upon recruitment posters which were extremely successful as hundreds of thousands of men enlisted. In 1915, Kipling experienced personal tragedy when his only son was killed at Loos.

Later that year he created a myth around the execution of Edith Cavell to encourage recruitment to avenge the murder of a woman by monstrous 'Huns.' In 1916 he played down the horrendous casualties suffered in the Battle of the Somme. After 1918, he acted as the literary advisor for the inscriptions on memorials and graves, commemorating the war dead. Kipling's influence gradually diminished. His warnings of the Great Depression and the threat posed by the rise of the Nazis in Germany were ignored. However, Kipling was a patriot who remains a major literary figure and he was an extremely influential, though not always uncritical, apologist for empire. He died in 1936 aged 70.

Gerry Gurhy

WARTS PRESENTS with permission of Samuel French

THE

GHOST TRAIN

A Comedy Thriller by

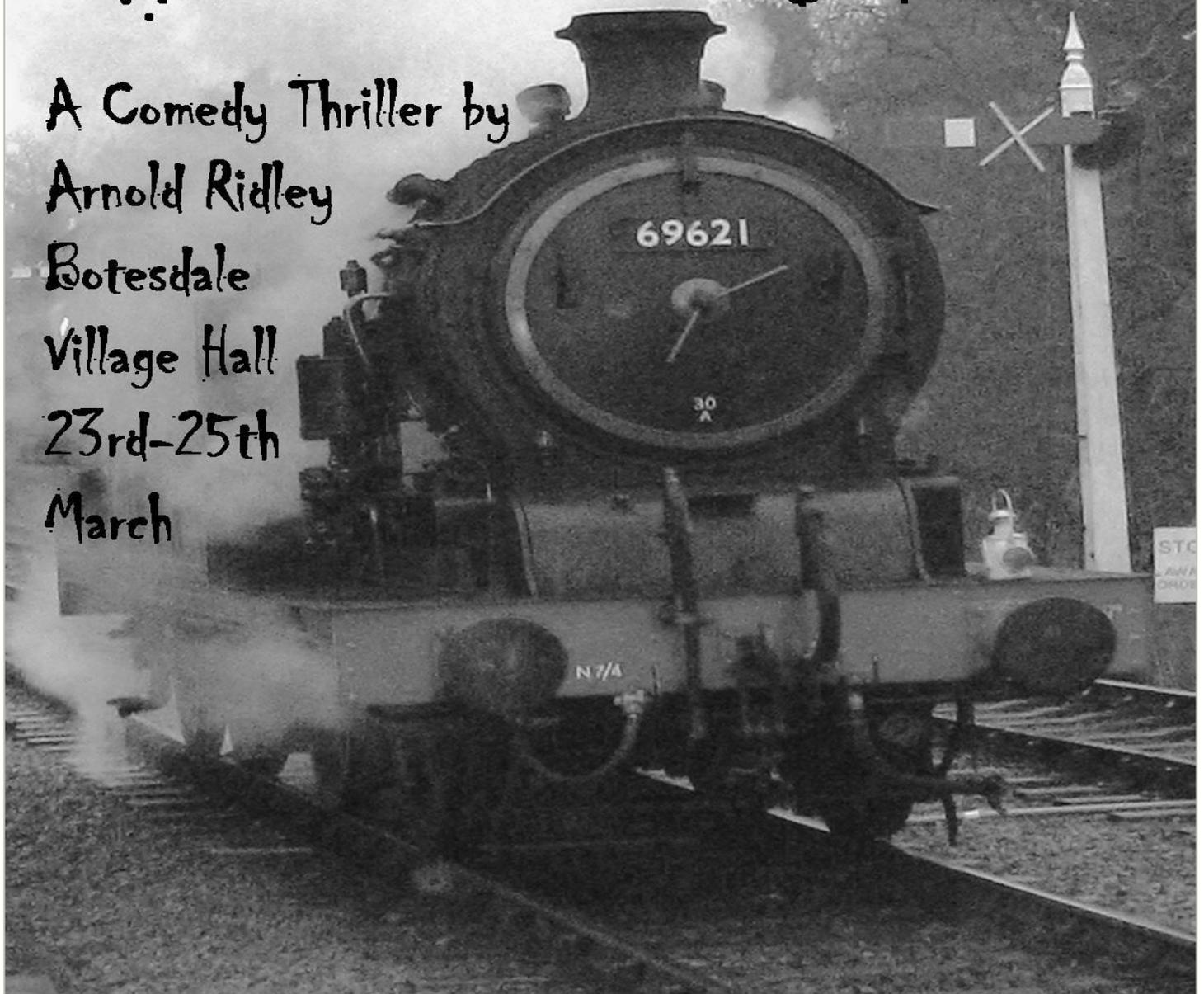
Arnold Ridley

Botesdale

Village Hall

23rd-25th

March



**23rd-25th March. Doors 7pm for 7.30pm. Licensed Bar
Tickets £8 each (under 16s £5) from Redgrave Shop,
Wortham Post Office or Box Office Tel 01379 687580**

Police in Norfolk and Suffolk issued more than 200 tickets to drivers caught using their mobile phone behind the wheel.

Roads policing officers from both counties carried out extra patrols last week as part of Operation Ringtone, which coincided with a nationwide campaign led by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC).

The week-long campaign carried out between Monday and Sunday (23-29 January) resulted in 102 tickets being issued in Norfolk while 149 were issued in Suffolk.

During the last Operation Ringtone campaign, held in November, tickets were issued to 137 drivers in Norfolk and 132 in Suffolk.

Driving while using a mobile phone is one of the 'fatal four' offences which makes you more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a collision; alongside speeding, drink driving and not wearing a seatbelt.

Legislative changes expected to come into effect from 1 March will see the penalty for using a mobile phone behind the wheel rise to a £200 fine and six penalty points on your licence.

Chief Inspector Kris Barnard, head of the Norfolk and Suffolk Roads Policing & Firearms Operations Unit, said: "Using a mobile phone behind the wheel significantly increases your risk of being involved in a crash. If drivers are talking, texting or using the internet on their phones they are distracted from the job at hand and will therefore take longer to brake and longer to stop.

"If drivers are looking down at their phone they will be much less aware of what's happening on the road around them; they're more likely to tailgate the vehicle in front, fail to stay in the correct lane and be less aware of road signs and traffic lights.

"We use a number of tactics to carry out patrols including the use of marked and unmarked motorcycles, high-sided vehicles and officers on foot patrols. This is something we target all year round but this campaign gives us the opportunity to highlight the dangers and increase awareness among motorists."

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore said: "Time and time again we see drivers using their phones on the move so I absolutely support the Constabulary's campaign to increase enforcement on our county's roads.

"Using a mobile phone at the wheel is reckless and costs lives. It absolutely horrifies me when I see drivers on their phones and sadly we see it all too often.

"Nothing that anyone is talking about on their phone while they are driving can be so important that it is worth risking their own life and the life of others."

Police in Suffolk work closely with partner agencies, including the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership, to educate drivers and improve safety. A lot of work is focused on the fatal four motoring offences of drink driving, speeding, using a mobile phone and not wearing a seatbelt.

AVIAN FLU IN REDGRAVE - UPDATE

This story broke between issues of WOBUL while I was on holiday. It has been widely covered in the media, but in case you missed it, this was the situation to date. I have also published it because it is only a couple of miles from Wortham. *Mike Bowen, Editor*

The UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu at a poultry premises near Redgrave, in the district of mid-Suffolk.

This follows the announcement of an initial 10km Temporary Control Zone around the premises on 13 February after laboratory analysis identified the presence of H5N8. Further investigations into the nature of the virus have now confirmed that it is the same highly pathogenic strain of H5N8 that has been found in wild and farmed birds in the UK since December 2016.

A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises to limit the risk of the disease spreading. Defra have published [full details of the controls in place](#).

Suffolk Trading Standards are providing regular updates via their social media channels, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), as well as to all their Consumer Champions via email ([find out how to sign up here](#)).

Starting from Wednesday 15th February, Suffolk Trading Standards will be working with their colleagues in Norfolk Trading Standards to visit all premises within the 3km zone.

[Read the latest advice and information on avian flu in the UK](#), including actions to reduce the risk of the disease spreading, advice for anyone who keeps poultry or captive birds and details of previous cases.

If you keep poultry you are required to take action to reduce the risk of avian flu spreading.

All poultry keepers – whether commercial farmers or those with a small backyard flock – are currently required by law to house poultry or otherwise keep them separate from wild birds. This is because a [Prevention Zone](#) is currently in force across the UK. This applies until 28 February 2017.

For advice and guidance on what to do if you keep poultry or to report suspicion of disease in animals, call the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301 or read our detailed [guidance on avian influenza](#).

Members of the public should report dead wild birds - such as swans, geese, ducks, gulls or birds of prey - to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77. Defra will then collect some of these birds and test them to help us understand how the disease is distributed geographically and in different types of bird.

Public Health England advises the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency is clear that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers.

You can report non-compliance of the housing and separation requirements to Trading Standards on 01473 264859.

THE SHEILA RUSH PAGE

Benefice service. The North Hartismere Benefice Service was held at St Mary's Church, Wortham on 29 January when the seven churches came together to worship and celebrate Holy Communion and Candlemass. The service was conducted by Rev. Adrian Watkins and the organist was Myra Pinnell. Readings were given by Paddy Richards and Janette Higgs with Reader Graham Reardon giving the Gospel. Prayers of Intersession were given by Lyn Pelham Burn and an anthem was sung by Penelope Lucas.

A large congregation celebrated Holy Communion followed by the lighting of candles from the Paschal Candle which were taken to the four corners of the church. The service ended with the Blessing and Dismissal prayers. After the service, coffee and biscuits were served at the back of the church.

Wortham Wine and Social Club. The club sadly closed for the last time on Thursday 2 February at Diss Bowls Club. The club celebrated its 40th Anniversary when members past and present attended a celebratory dinner at the Park Hotel in 2013.

The club was formed on 5 September 1973 by Mary & Percy Coe at their home in Wortham named The Winery. In its early days, the club joined with Harleston, Palgrave, Old Buckenham and Attleborough in wine-making competitions and many trophies were won by Wortham. The club has raised thousands of pounds for various charities during its existence, and members also had outings and holidays together.

Membership has gradually decreased over the years. At the last meeting, Chairman Jim Smith thanked members past and present for their support in making the club a very special one, saying that it's sadly time to say goodbye and closed the club.

Wortham & Burgate Twinning. Twinning held its Annual General Meeting on Friday 3 February at Wortham Village Hall. After the business part of the meeting was concluded, there followed a talk by Jason Salisbury from Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses who make Suffolk Gold, Suffolk Blue and seasonal cheeses. It was a very interesting talk and sampling the product followed.

Friends of Wortham Church. FOWC held its dinner and speaker on Saturday 11 February at Wortham Village Hall. 35 people attended and a lovely meal was provided by the Ladies of the Committee. Chairman of the Friends then introduced Mike Wabe, the speaker for the evening who gave a talk and slide show about Foul Murders of East Anglia.

He showed pictures of murderers and gave a summary of how they had killed their victims. The most common method was to give them Arsenic. Mr Wabe received a vote of thanks. A raffle was held and the evening made £742.25 for FOWC.

Congratulations. A few weeks ago, Howard Nurseries of Wortham honoured one of its long-serving workers with a presentation of a specially-created piece of art. **Andrew Daniels**, who has served the company for 25 years, received a drawing depicting workers in the fields at Wortham from local artist Timothy Easton recreating a scene from the mid-1990s



International Garden Photographer of the Year 2017

International Garden Photographer of the Year is the world's premier competition for garden, plant and botanical photography, with a truly global reach. With 8 categories to choose from, there is something for everyone – the competition is open to amateurs and professionals worldwide and you don't need expensive camera equipment either – images from compact cameras and entry-level SLR cameras are all welcome.

The overall winner of the 10th IGPTY is amateur photographer **Lee Acaster, of Long Green, Wortham**, who also won the Trees, Woods and Forests category. Acaster will receive a prize of £7,500 for his shot of a birch tree in Snowdonia, Wales. "It was a dark and wet morning in Snowdonia, but autumn always offers opportunities," Acaster said. "The dark water behind the lake helped to isolate the form and texture of the tree while providing contrast to the dazzling individual leaves." The judges called the photo "a stained-glass window of nature, steeped in mystery and metaphor."

Editor, WOBUL, Mike Bowen: I was away on holiday in the southern hemisphere when the winner was announced, and many of you have probably seen this news and photograph already. But I could not resist congratulating Lee and asking him for a copy and his comments, and I am grateful to him for the following.



Lee Acaster's winning image

Lee writes:

“The winning image was of a birch tree which was taken in Snowdonia where I was joint leading a landscape photography workshop. It was a grey drizzly day at the end of the autumn and I had a day to myself before the workshop started but the conditions meant there wasn't much scope for shooting the more obvious views.

While it certainly won't be to everyone's taste as its quite far removed from a traditional landscape shot, I think that helped it stand out for the judges. Some of their comments follow.

Susan Brown of the Royal Photographic Society.

“Those of us that spend our lives surrounded by photography see many competent and inspirational images regularly. IGPTY submissions showed a wide range of potentially winning images, but sometimes a photograph just jumps out as being different, from a photographer who looks at the world in an individual way.”

Clare Foggett, Editor of The English Garden:

“It demands closer inspection.” We realise the darkness of the lake acts as the perfect canvas for the birch trees to display a last defiant act of colour.

Tyrone McGlinchey, Managing Director of Garden World Images

“This humble autumn scene has been elevated into something challenging and truly spectacular. The dark inky mauve of the lake creates the perfect canvas on which these beautiful birch trees bear their last hints of autumn colour, which glow on a centrally focused plane of light.

The scene has been framed beautifully and feels completely balanced even with so much to look at. Each branch, twig and leaf has incredibly defined detail which exhorts us to stare deeper and deeper into the image. When we do, the photograph reveals a stained-glass window of nature, steeped in mystery and metaphor.”

Despite having tens of thousands of entries from all around the world, remarkably last year's winner was Richard Bloom who lives in Mellis and is superb professional garden photographer, so it's almost becoming a local competition for us. Maybe we can try and get somebody from Burgate to win next year!

The award ceremony was held at Kew Gardens, where I attended with my wife Diana and our 2 children which was great fun and in lovely surroundings. The exhibition looked fantastic, there is no substitute for seeing images in print and it was really very impressive.

it runs until the 12th March and is well worth a visit if nearby. It then tours around the world, but a selection from it, including my shot, will be at Sheringham Park from August until October. (Full list of dates is on the website <http://www.igpoty.com>)

There is also a hardback coffee table book of all the winning and commended images - International Garden Photographer of the Year Collection 10 - available from all the usual outlets.

If anybody would like to see any more of my photography, then my website is <http://www.leeacaster.com>

I have had a report from a watcher that one of our winter visitors from the north, a Redwing, (it looks like a small thrush with a red flank and a noticeable dark eyebrow), took a look at his prized cotoneaster - a red-berried bush - and, with his Redwing mates, de-berried it completely overnight and then disappeared!

Likewise, my great-grandfather in the Autumn of 1870 noticed a small bush in the Lincolnshire fens full of Goldcrests, and the next day, on returning to look at the bush again, found they had all gone.

Now we know that Redwings winter here for food in large numbers, coming from sub-Arctic areas and some Goldcrests group together in the winter in this country having bred in northern Europe.

Through noticing that these Goldcrests had disappeared, my great-grandfather began thinking about the movement of birds and realised that many birds, not just Swallows and Cuckoos, make many distant journeys over their lifetime. He made early investigations of bird movements by finding out which birds were killed by the blinding lights of lighthouses and lightships over the years and noting weather conditions and the date. This was well before ringing had started.

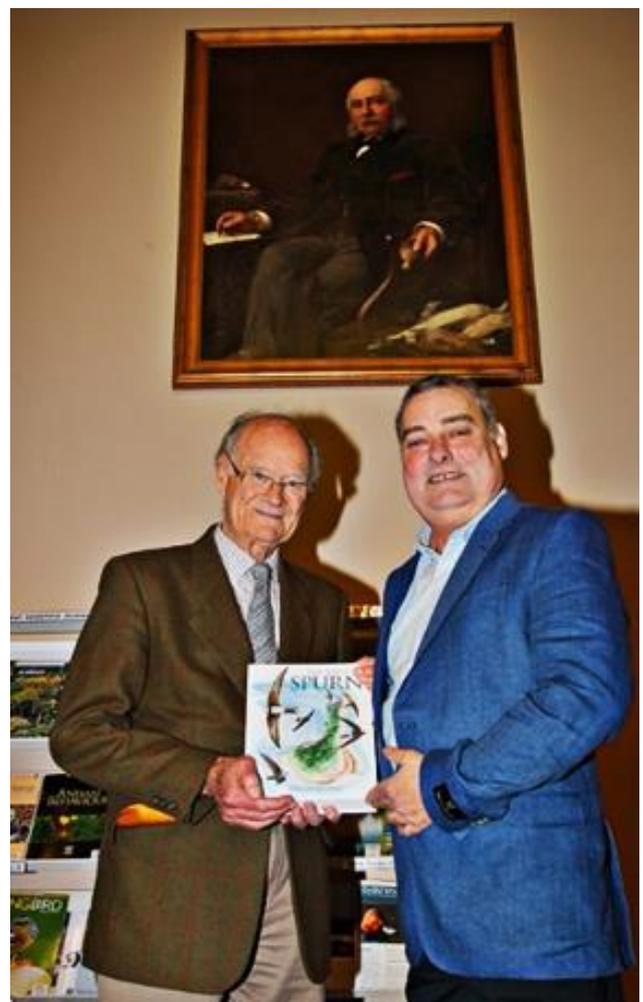
One of the centres he frequented was Spurn Head in Yorkshire. From a small observation hut he made routine records. That hut has now expanded into the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust in the year 2000. The Trust under the authorship of Andy Roadhouse has published a book on the history of this Reserve and its early watchers, of whom J Cordeaux was one of the first and most industrious.

Andy Roadhouse contacted me and in November last year we both visited the headquarters of the British Trust for Ornithology in Thetford and I received a copy of his book, (as did the BTO), *The Birds of Spurn*.

On his insistence, we had a photograph of ourselves and his book beneath a portrait of John Cordeaux himself. the portrait used to reside at The Chapel House, Botesdale.

So, if my readers wondered why I have this interest in birds, it is probably in my genes, but, also, I acquired many of John Cordeaux's original field notes which now reside in the BTO's library.

My grandfather, John Cordeaux's son, was so pleased at my interest in birds at the age of eleven, that he gave me a copy of the first edition of 'Handbook of British Birds', as it was published in the 1940's, to encourage me in the family interest in birds, not just looking at them but recording for the first time methodically the study of bird migration.



Future Events

Willow Weaving Course making a Deer Wortham Village Hall. Friday 17th March. 9.30 until 4.00 pm. £50 for the day to include a light lunch. Limited places are going fast. If you wish to join the course please phone Maureen Ling.

Barn Dance Saturday 1st July The Rookery, Wortham. Live Band and a Hog Roast supper. Tickets are £15 for adult, under 14 years £5 and children under 5 years free.

Tickets for the above events will be available from the Wortham Village Stores or for more details phone Maureen Ling on 07788455688.

For details of fundraising events please check the website friendsofworthamchurch.weebly.com



Come and enjoy a baked potato supper and talk raising money for Friends of Wortham Church

Friday 24th March

7:30pm for 7:45pm start
at Wortham Village Hall

REDGRAVE & LOPHAM FEN

‘Back From The Brink’

By Debs Crawford



£10 PER PERSON BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS
(Price includes baked potato with a variety of fillings)

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WORTHAM POST OFFICE
OR CALL SUE ON 01379 898479**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UP COMING EVENTS GO ONLINE:
www.friendsofworthamchurch.weebly.com Find Friends Of Wortham Church on Facebook

Foul Murders of East Anglia with Mike Wabe

This was a very enjoyable evening. We started with champagne and canapes, then moved on to delicious themed main courses and finished with luscious desserts, coffee and chocolates. Excellent wines, sourced from the Wine Society, were available to buy to accompany the meal. Then Mike Wabe, from *Medieval World* gave us a fascinating talk about East Anglian Murderers.



A technical hitch meant that he had not brought the details of the notorious Wortham Murder with him and he has kindly sent this on to us to distribute to everyone who was there.

We thought that those of you who missed the dinner might be interested in reading the story as well so we are sending it to all members:

The Wortham Murder of 1899

8 July 1899 Eliza Dixon, 32, the wife of James Dixon, a pork butcher and dealer, who lived at Long Green. They formerly kept the Half-Moon public house at Redgrave. Mrs Dixon was the mother of 6 children, the oldest aged 8 and the youngest 11 months.

At the end of the working day, Eliza left her home to go to the Dolphin Inn, about a quarter of a mile away, to fetch some stout. She arrived at the Inn at about 10 minutes to 10. She asked for 2 pints of stout to be put in a glass bottle that she had brought with her. The pub was busy, and so the landlady, Mrs Messenger, asked Eliza to step into the small back room whilst the bottle was filled. Whilst she was waiting, Eliza asked for a glass of stout to drink there.

At this point, a young man George Nunn, 18, who had been playing 9-pins all evening, came into the passage and overheard Eliza's request. He said that he would pay for the glass of stout, and did so. Nothing further happened. Nunn disappeared, and Eliza after drinking her glass of stout, and paying 6 1/2d for the bottle containing the 2 pints of stout, left the pub just before the 10:0pm closing time.

What happened next is a matter of conjecture.

At about 11:0pm her husband, who had been waiting at home for Eliza's return, began to be alarmed by her non-arrival. Initially he thought that she had stopped to talk to a neighbour. But after a further wait, he went to the Dolphin Inn and roused the landlord from his bed, asking about his wife's whereabouts. The landlord could not help Mr Dixon, but he was informed about George Nunn buying Eliza a glass of stout.

Mr Dixon went to the home of Nunn, who lived with his father in a cottage about 300 yards from the Dixons. Nunn said that he had left Eliza at the Dolphin. Mr Dixon, Eliza's father John Rodwell and Peter Potter, a postman, then started a search for Eliza. At the same time, a message about Eliza's disappearance was sent to PC Mills at Palgrave, who was the nearest police officer.

About 2:30am, before PC Mills arrived, Eliza's body was found on the green, about halfway between the Dolphin and her home. Her body had been horribly mutilated. Her throat had been cut, almost from ear to ear, there was another gash under her chin, and there were stab wounds through the eyes, cheeks and various other parts of her face.

The next day, Superintendent Page of Eye arrived on the scene, with Inspector Taylor. Assisted by Sergeant Chapman and PCs Mills, Hope and Hart, began an investigation.

George Nunn stuck to his story that he had seen nothing of Eliza after he left the Dolphin. His father, who was also at the Dolphin when his son left, arrived home at about 10:30pm and George was in the house. Supt Page saw light stains on George's wrist, and asked to see the clothes that George has been wearing the previous night. When the clothes were produced, there were clear patches of wet on the trousers, the jacket sleeve and cuff, as though recently washed. Closer inspection revealed bloodstains on the clothing. A pocket knife, also recently washed, was discovered and there were bloodstains inside the handle. Bloodstained hair belonging to Eliza was also found on Nunn's waistcoat.

George Nunn was arrested and taken to Botesdale, then to the Eye lock-up. On the way to the Eye lock-up, Nunn's father asked Supt Page if he could speak to his son. When permission was given Nunn senior advised his son to tell the truth and, if he were guilty, to admit it. George

Nunn said nothing to his father. However, later at the police station, George made a statement to Inspector Taylor. The statement is as follows:

Frederick Churchyard and I left the pub together. We got out before the woman did, and we met her where she was found. We offered her sixpence each for sex. That's how sixpence came in my trousers pocket. I threw her down. He kicked her two or three times on the head with the heel of his boots. Then I stabbed her in the throat with a knife. Then I went home and tried to get the blood off my trousers.

The police had found a sixpence in the pocket of the trousers he wore on the night of the murder.

Police enquiries soon revealed that, while Churchyard had been in the Dolphin that night, several witnesses stated that he went straight home, arriving about 10:0pm and going straight to bed.

Supt Page advised Churchyard to confront George Nunn about what he had said. Churchyard did so, but Nunn repeated his accusation. Churchyard stoutly denied it, and the police were stuck in the middle of two conflicting statements.

Nunn was brought before the Hartismere Magistrates on Monday 10 July, where he was remanded for one week.

That same afternoon, the Inquest was opened on Eliza Dixon at the Faith, Hope and Charity School, before Mr Coroner Chaston. Mr Chaston said that the case was clearly one of murder, and that he proposed to take the formal evidence that day, then adjourn proceedings until 11:0am that day week (17 July).

James Dixon, Eliza's husband, identified the body and said that the body now lies at the home of Eliza's father, John Rodwell. He said that he last saw Eliza when she left the house on the Saturday to go to the Dolphin to buy 2 pints of stout to have with their supper. He said that 9 times out of 10, that is what Eliza did on Saturdays after they had shut the business. He said that Eliza was in good health and spirits, and that she had not fallen out with anyone, nor had any enemies he knew of. He said that, like most married couples, they

had argued from time to time, but not recently. He said that when Eliza had not returned by about 11:0pm, he became worried and went to look for her. He said that he went to the Dolphin to ask about Eliza, but the pub was shut up and the landlord, Mr Messenger, was in bed. He said that he knocked Mr Messenger up, and was told that Eliza had left the pub before closing time. He said that he went to the home of Peter Potter, because Eliza knew Potter well, and he thought she might have called in to see him. He said that he then went across the green on the way to Palgrave where he saw PC Mills.

The Coroner started to adjourn the Court until the following week when James Dixon said that he wished to make a statement. The Coroner advised him to wait until the next week, but would allow him to make the statement now if he wished to do so.

James Dixon said that he had been told the previous night that his wife had been threatened 3 months ago. The Coroner again advised Mr Dixon to reserve his statement for any future enquiry. Mr Dixon said that he wanted the "whole truth thrashed out". The Coroner then adjourned the Court until the following Monday.

When the Coroner reconvened the Court, for some reason he decided not to pursue the fact that Eliza had previously been threatened. When questioned, Nunn repeated the assertions he had made to Superintendent Page at the previous hearing. Charles Pretty stated that on the night in question he had met a woman he did not know, and George Nunn was close behind her.

Fred Churchyard was asked if he and Nunn were friends, and he said that they were not, and had not been for some time. He said that he and Nunn had quarrelled some 2 years previously and their friendship had ended at that time.

The jury retired for some 10 to 12 minutes before returning a verdict that the death of Eliza Dixon was caused by the wounds to her throat. The Coroner recorded a verdict of wilful murder against George Nunn, and remanded Nunn to appear before the Magistrates. He did so appear. Nunn was remanded in custody for 8 days.

On 2 November, at the Suffolk assizes, Bury St Edmunds, before Justice Wills, George Nunn, 18, a labourer, was indicted for the murder of Eliza Dixon, a married woman, at Wortham on July 8. At the close of the exhaustive trial, the Jury rose to consider their verdict, and on their return found the prisoner guilty, with a strong recommendation for mercy on account of his youth.

The Rector of Wortham, the Rev C C James, said that he had written 2 letters to the Home Secretary, saying that he felt that aspects of the case had not been fully considered. The Home Secretary had replied that there were no grounds for submitting a case for clemency to the Queen. Rev James also wrote to the prison Governor asking to be allowed to see Nunn. The Governor replied that Nunn did not want to see Rev James.

On Tuesday 21 November at Ipswich gaol a large crowd gathered to witness the hoisting of the black flag when George was executed for the murder of Eliza Dixon. The execution was fixed for 8:0am, and 4 minutes later the black flag was hoisted. The execution was carried out by Hangman James Billington.

At the statutory inquest, held at 11:30am, the Forman of the jury, Mr F J Bales, said that Nunn had met with his death "in accordance with the law of the realm".

Editor's Note: Eliza Dixon is buried in the churchyard to the east of the lych-gate. Her headstone says:

Here sleeps in peace Eliza Dixon Who resisted unto blood striving against sin July 9th 1899 aged 32 years Faithful to death the way of life she trod True to her troth, her husband and her God Heb XII 4

A FRIENDS OF WORTHAM CHURCH EVENT

BARN DANCE

AT ROOKERY FARM WORTHAM

**SATURDAY
JULY 1ST**

7:00PM - 10:30PM

**HOXON HUNDRED
CEILIDH
BAND**



BAR



**HOG
ROAST**



TICKET PRICES

(INCLUDES HOG ROAST)

ADULT £15

CHILD £5
14 YEARS & UNDER

CHILD FREE
UNDER 5 YEARS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WORTHAM STORE
OR CALL 01379 898176

Raising Money for
St Mary's Church
Wortham

Diss Post Office Proposed Closure

We can all help save our Post Office in Diss Town Centre.

We don't want a franchise based service in WH Smith. These premises are inaccessible for buggies and wheelchair users and for those unable to access steps. The layout is wholly unsuitable to add counters and staff to work effectively and efficiently.

Here are just a few things we can do together, the first one is MOST important!

- Continue supporting our Diss Crown Post Office in the town centre.
- Write to the MP Margot James to voice your concerns about the proposed closure of Diss Post Office.
- Sign the online petition [Change.Org](#) 'SAVE DISS POST OFFICE '
- If you're unable to access the online petition there are paper petitions placed throughout Diss Town Centre, please sign them and encourage friends and family to do same.

Brigitte Butcher



A MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

SAVE DISS CROWN POST OFFICE

Its Time to Listen to the People of Diss

Write to Margot James MP

Tell her we want to keep a Crown Post Office in our town

By Policy Exchange (Flickr: Margot James MP) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Post Office Ltd are putting the future of your Post Office at risk, with plans to close Diss Crown Office and replace it with a concession in a shop.

This will lead to an inferior Post Office for customers and local businesses. The changes are simply a cost cutting exercise which will have a huge impact on the service you receive.

Crown Post Offices offer a dedicated specialist service, by highly skilled, trained Crown Post Office staff, who have the expertise to make sure that you get the highest standards of service at your Post Office.

PROTECT THE PEOPLE'S POST OFFICE IN DISS

It's Your Crown Post Office— Let's save it!

You can help us to save Diss Post Office by writing to Margot James MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, urging her to act in the interests of her customers and save Diss Crown Post Office.

Please address your letter to either :

Margot James MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State BEIS 1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET	Richard Bacon MP Grasmere Denmark Street DISS IP22 4LE
--	--

YOUR CROWN POST OFFICE STAFF DESERVE BETTER

YES To keeping the Crown in Diss

NO To Post Office franchising
To a downgraded service
To losing vital experience and expertise
To handing control of vital Post Office services to a third party

PROTECT THE PEOPLE'S POST OFFICE


the communications union
Northern Territory

CWU Eastern No4 | Union Office | Royal Mail House | Clifton Road | Cambridge | CB1 1QQ |

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PALGRAVE COMMUNITY
CINEMA

SATURDAY 4 MARCH, 7:30 pm

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

SATURDAY 18 MARCH, 7:30 pm

CAFÉ SOCIETY

Sat 22 Apr, 7:30pm INFERNO, Tom Hanks

Sat 06 May, 7:30pm A STREETCAR NAMED BOB

www.palgravecinema.co.uk

Book in advance online, where trailers can be seen and reviews read.

TICKETS £5 each

Garden notes by Linda Simpson

We always look forward to spring once the new year gets going and the herald of spring is usually snowdrops. They often start to show some white in January but it usually takes a few milder days before they 'plump' up and really make an impact. This year has been no exception and after the very mild weather we have just had the snowdrops in my garden have really come into their own. When we first moved here they were in two main areas in the garden - in the middle of the lawn under an enormous coppiced hazel and on one side in what was then the undergrowth of a dense planting of dark evergreens.

Since then, of course, I have removed the hazel and shaped the beds. As I did that and every year since, I have been dividing the snowdrops after they have flowered and spread them around the borders under shrubs and in the shade of trees. I have also picked off the seed heads and scattered them at the backs of borders and in the meadow. This policy is paying off and this year I have a good spread and the clumps are making a lovely show. I make a point of ensuring also they are in areas I can see from the house so that even when the weather is inclement I can still enjoy them. Snowdrops do have a faint scent and if the weather is warm you may even catch a faint waft.



I have continued to plant other early spring bulbs in the middle and back of borders near the house. I have mentioned before making notes to remind myself where the gaps are so that when I am planting in the autumn I can put them in the right spot. It is very easy in the autumn when the herbaceous plants are still in leaf to forget that there will be bare ground there in winter until March/April. When I was reading my notes in October about where to put more daffodils I remember wondering if that really could be right. But it was and my diligence will be rewarded by brighter borders in the coming weeks.

The beauty of planting early spring bulbs in the middle and backs of borders is also of course that the untidy foliage is hidden by the emerging herbaceous perennials.

Meanwhile instead of just admiring the fruits of my labours there is work to do not least repairing the ravages of storm Doris. It has completely knocked over an arch which was supporting a very large rambling rose - Wedding Day. The rose went over the arch and onto the roof of our summerhouse and is very vigorous. The arch and all the rose stems are lying across the path and I need to decide what to do. There is a cherry tree on the other side of the path and I may try to take the rose into that to give it more support. I still need to get it across the path though and as this is an extremely thorny rose it is a task I do not relish.

I also need to decide what to do with a large variegated winter buckthorn shrub which has been blown sideways and partially uprooted. I fear I might have to cut it hard back before I can try to get it upright. On its way down it also took down decorative metal screen supporting a smaller rose. That will be easier to sort out hopefully.

Perhaps I will just go back to enjoying looking at the bulbs for a bit longer!

Burgate Village News



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 the road.

Burns Night Supper – 28th January

The Friends of Burgate Church organised a Burns Night supper in the hall on Saturday 28th January – after a welcome drink and canapés, everyone sat down to a marvellous three course meal – all on a Scottish theme.



To end the evening, the adventurous (or foolhardy) took to the floor with some energetic Scottish country dancing. Many thanks to all who came, and to the organisers – a total of just under £450 was raised for FOBC.



Church Flowers
No flowers in Lent

Hall Cleaning
Linda Pell

Church Hall Booking Secretary:

Judi Tann 01379 783302

Corn Hall on tour - March

All events are available to book online at www.thecornhall.co.uk

Film

1st March 7.30pm

Diss High School

The Girl with all the Gifts (15)

This intelligent British chiller is set in a dystopian near future. Society has broken down after most of humanity is wiped out by a mysterious fungal infection. A scientist, a teacher and two soldiers embark on a perilous journey of survival with a special young girl named Melanie.

£5 / Under 18s £2.50 / Free to Diss High Students



Film



8th March 7.30pm

Diss High School

I, Daniel Blake (15)

A 59-year-old carpenter recovering from a heart attack, befriends a single mum and her two kids as they find themselves in no-man's land, caught on the barbed wire of welfare bureaucracy now played out against the rhetoric of 'striver and skiver' in modern day Britain. With equal amounts of humour, warmth and despair I, Daniel Blake is heartfelt and emotional until the end.

£5 / Under 18s £2.50 / Free to Diss High Students

Jazz

9th March 8pm

The Park Hotel, Diss

Diss Jazz Club – Tina May with the Chris Ingham Trio

An expressive and inventive vocalist renowned for her nuanced interpretive skills, freewheeling creativity and richly varied repertoire, Tina brings clarity and class to everything she sings.

£12



Saturday Club



25th March 2pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Diss, IP22 4QQ

The Norfolk Story with Isabelle King

Author and Performance Storyteller, Isabelle King, will give an hour's 'fun for all the family' storytelling event from her debut children's book 'The Norfolk Story Book.' Discover the magic of the Norwich Snap Dragon, adventure through Norfolk with a mammoth and get ready to make some noise!

The event will consist of interactive storytelling, character creation games and a talk about being a writer with a chance for the audience to ask questions. There will be an opportunity to buy books and have them signed after the performance. **£6 adult/ £4 child**



Borderhoppa Group Hires

If you are a member of a not for profit community group, you can hire our minibuses for outings. Go to destinations of your choice, visit your favourite places and enjoy shopping trips with your group.

Our requirements are very simple. Your group must register with us as a not for profit organisation, cost of our annual group membership is £15, and tell us what your group does and when and where you would like use of a minibus.

If you would like to make a booking or would like more information, then please call 01379 854800 or visit www.borderhoppa.org

NORTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE

Wortham and Burgate Sunday Club

Meet at Wortham Village Hall
from 10.00am to 10.45am on the
2nd Sunday of each month during term time.

Dates for this term are:

12th February, 12th March, 9th April



Stories

Games



Crafts

Singing



All children aged 4-11 Welcome.

Just turn up or ring Lyn on 788479 for more details



EYE TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2017

7.00 P.M.



Igor Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*

Karol Szymanowski *Stabat Mater*

Joseph Haydn *'Nelson' Mass*



The Burgate Singers

with Henrike Legner *Soprano* Joanna Gamble *Mezzo*
Benjie del Rosario *Tenor* Alistair Bamford *Bass*

The Burgate Sinfonia

Conducted by Alain Judd



Tickets £20

from Eva at **01379 677333**

and at the door

WORTHAM VILLAGE HALL – CLEANER REQUIRED

After several years looking after the village hall, the incumbent is moving on and we are seeking a replacement cleaner. Times are to suit applicant, but are usually about 8 – 10 hours per month. Please apply to Mike Burgess on 01379 898037 or by email to: burgym@btinternet.com

VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR MARCH DIARY

Wortham Morning Yoga	Tuesday	07, 14, 21, 28	10:00 – 11:30
Wortham Midday Yoga	Thursday	02, 09, 16, 23, 30	11:45 – 13:15
Ballroom	Monday	06, 13, 20, 27	18:30 – 21:00
Sewing Class	Monday	06, 20	09:30 – 14:30
Pilates	Thursday	01, 08, 15, 22, 29	09:30 – 10:30
Tea's Made	Wednesday	01, 08, 15, 22, 29	14:00 – 16:30
Gentle Exercise Evenings	Wednesday	01, 08, 15, 22, 29	19:30 – 20:30
Gentle Exercise Mornings	Thursday	02, 09, 16, 23, 30	09:30 – 10:30
W&B Sunday Club	Sunday	12	10:00 – 11:00
FOWC Willow Weaving	Friday	17	09:30 – 15:00
Village Hall Committee	Thursday	30	19:00
FOWC Spud & Spout	Friday	24	19:30 - 22:30
Private Function	Friday	10	10:00 – 23:59
Anglia Polymer Guild	Sunday	19	10:00 – 15:00

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Members of the CAP: Terry Quinn (Chairman), Michael & Paddy Richards, Jacky Bradley, Sheila Rudland, Paul & Alexis Burd, John Payton, Pete Antill, John King and Chris Williams (Treasurer).

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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.