



WOBUL

Wortham & BURGATE Letter

MARCH 2018						
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NORTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE

Wortham and Burgate Sunday Club

Meet at Wortham Village Hall from 10.00am to 10.45am (followed by coffee and cookies) once a month during term time.

Dates for Spring Term 2018 are:

4th March

Stories



Crafts

Singing

Games



and lots of fun and friendship



All children aged 4-11 welcome.
Just turn up or ring Lyn on 788479
for more details



Beyond the Wall

Well, we're at the threshold and yet Spring seems to be very distant. Listeners to Gardeners Question Time will have heard that at times like this we go indoors and make plans. We already certificate a number of subjects, and now have a programme for the horticultural trainees. The gardens manager, Phil explains it and keeps a diary of events at the walled garden on: <https://beyondthewallthornham.wordpress.com/>

We've also discussed the possibilities of using the large range of plants as a resource for practical tuition in various garden skills propagation, pruning and so on. Look out as the year goes by for invitations to attend training days – for next Autumn; pruning roses and/or shrubs.



A couple of days before the official start of Spring, nothing looks less likely. Time to go into the warm classroom and get on with a bit of academic study...

...and those on café duty will still be needed to welcome visitors in need of refreshment and, just now, shelter. A chance to buy jars of honey or jams, and perhaps an indoor plant. Or just a cuppa and cake, and time to gaze out at the snowy garden and think about how wonderful it's going to look in a few weeks' time, and how much more likely a party in the garden is going to seem.

BLOSSOM DAY
Sunday 13th May
12.00noon - 3.30pm

MUSIC STALLS
MORRIS & MAYPOLE DANCING
CHILDREN'S GAMES BBQ
BOUNCY CASTLE RAFFLE

The Walled Garden Beyond the Wall,
Thornham Magna, Eye, IP23 8HA

Walled Garden open for tea and cake

January – May, **Monday to Wednesday** 10.00am – 2.30pm
(except Bank Holidays)

May – September, **Monday to Friday** 10.00am – 2.30pm

The Walled Garden and Vinery are available for weekend and evening hire.

A great way of supporting us whilst enjoying our lovely surroundings.



Contact admin@beyondthewall.org.uk for more information.



Saturday 10 March, 7:30pm - **SOLD OUT**

Murder on the Orient Express

Branagh, Dench, Cruz, Dafoe, Depp, Jacobi & Pfeiffer, etc

Saturday 7 April, 7:30pm

Goodbye Christopher Robin

Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie, Kelly Macdonald

www.palgravecinema.co.uk

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

TICKETS £5 each



Need help with transport? Borderhoppa buses are available to people of all ages who are unable to use ordinary bus services either because of mobility difficulties or because there isn't a bus service for them to use.

Our door-to-door dial a ride service can take you shopping, to medical appointments (excluding hospitals), to visit a friend or relative or attend a local club.

Our regular members outings are very popular. We have trips to the seaside, garden centres, shopping trips, boat trips and pub lunches.

If you would like to find out more about the great service we provide please call us on 01379 854800 or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org

BILL'S BIRDS

When I go out onto our terrace in the morning to read my rain gauge. I am conscious of bird song, even in the winter months. The Hedge Sparrow's delightful voice is ever-present, as is the House Sparrow's 'chirp'. The Bluetits fly from hedge to hedge with their cheerful cries (how can they see insects in the winter weather?). In the background, nearly always, is the guttural rattle of the Magpie: the bird we have been brought up to dislike, to be fearful of, as it waits to take bird eggs and nestlings. 'Who does not know the rhyme "One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy". I was brought up to bow three times to each magpie which I saw. Quite time consuming with a family of magpies seen from a moving bike or car!

The history of the Magpie is interesting. At the start of the twentieth century my book on Suffolk Birds states it was nearly extinct. Destroyed by well-rewarded gamekeepers. The gamekeepers joined up in the 1914-18 War as expert snipers, and the Magpie reappeared. Gamekeepers are still its enemy, by shooting or trapped in an open one-way Lassens Decoy (an elderly Magpie and a tempting meal inside the trap, and, once in, the inspecting Magpie is caught). Roosts of over one hundred Magpies have been recorded over the years and one in Sotterly in 1947 numbered six to seven hundred. Magpies, like similar raptors, also suffered from organic chloride pesticides in the 1960's.



I am not instinctively attracted to this bird, though various studies have not shown that their presence affects the number of our garden breeding birds' eggs and fledglings, especially in those gardens in which birds are fed artificially, thereby increasing the amount of available food for the Magpie.

Could there be more than a hint of spring in the air? On 20th January I found an unbroken white egg in our garden. I am sure it belonged to a Collar Dove. I had always heard that it was an early and long-term breeder. Here was proof, (and they can go on breeding until November!). No wonder they have had such a population growth despite our Magpies and Sparrow Hawks. I saw my first Collar Dove in Walberswick in 1973. It is now number 9 on the BTO's National List of Garden Birds, though much higher on mine!

Within a few days of receiving this March magazine you might hear our first migratory Mediterranean spring Warbler. From high in the still leafless trees, a melancholy 'chiff-chaff'. It is thought that its early arrival gives it the choice of the best habitat for nesting and the caring of its first of two broods. This bird must not be confused with its identical (in appearance) twin Willow Warbler which arrives a month later. Identical, that is, in all but voice which is quite different. Its song is a slowly descending series of double notes, also somewhat sad! It is only supposed to have one brood, so it has more time to look around.

I have just received a delightful letter from a reader recently returned from Africa. He informs me that the Cattle Egret does not sit on the back of cattle and feed on the resident insects. It is always present where cattle are in areas of high grass. Whenever the cattle move and disturb the grass, they disturb the insects, typically grasshoppers, on which the Cattle Egret feeds. It is the role of the Oxpecker to sit on top of the cattle. Our reader had a nesting colony of Cattle Egrets near his house and many of the young fell out of their nests and became household pets. He kindly enclosed a picture of his visitor nicknamed 'Osbert' calmly sharing the Labrador's food from the dog's bowl.

Rickingham & District Community Bus



The first 18 months has proved very successful with respect to vehicle usage: some 3,500 people journeys per annum.

With respect to financial support: fares collected are adequately covering running expenses although we must bear in mind that the vehicle warranty expires in June 2018. Clearly the vehicle replacement in say 3-4 years, at a cost of some £3,000-£35,000 must be our long-term planning.

Our County Councillor, Jessica Fleming, is confident that if we can acquire 50% of replacement costs through donations etc., we would be in a good position to apply to grand fund the remainder.

It is my opinion that with support from more Parish Councils, (Rickingham and Botesdale already substantially contribute), plus voluntary donations that continue to arrive, the future of our community bus is secure.

Gordon Lawrence Community Bus Co-ordinator.
Tel: 01379 897109, 24/7 answerphone



HOWARD NURSERIES LTD

WORTHAM DISS SUFFOLK IP22 1PX

Tel: 01379 898529 Fax: 01379 898620

Email: sales@howardnurseries.co.uk

www.howardnurseries.co.uk

WHOLESALE SUPPLIERS OF HARDY PERENNIAL PLANTS

Howard Nurseries is looking for a local family to host two female horticulture students from Austria. We are looking for accommodation from Saturday 16th June to Saturday 28th July 2018, ideally with meals provided. We can provide bikes for their local transport. Please contact Christine Howard, sales@howardnurseries.co.uk or 01379 898529 if you can help. We are also grateful for newspapers to help with packing the field grown plants, which can be dropped into the office.

Half term seems to be fast approaching. Howard Nurseries have a team of school, sixth form, and college students who work during holidays, days off from college and some Saturday morning from February to May. The work is varied from making boxes, moving container plants to putting cuttings in. We can take students from 13 years old with a work permit. It's a great way to start to learn about the world of work and gain some skills to help with their next step. If you would like to learn more, please contact Christine Howard 01379 898529

Garden notes by Linda Simpson

As winter continues seemingly endlessly (as I write at the end of February there is snow outside!) it is still nice to be able to think that the winter garden can be colourful. There are many gardens now that have been planted up for winter interest – near here are several options - the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall in Essex, the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge and Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire.

It is a joy to visit one of these gardens if possible on a crisp cold day (no lack of them as I write!) and take the lessons home. Like everybody else, I too try to glean new ideas where possible by visiting other gardens and so was delighted recently to visit Flatwood Cottage and Ashwood Nursery in the West Midlands.

I had seen an article about it in a garden magazine and had commented I would like to visit. It was a lovely surprise then to have a weekend birthday treat when Andy announced we were going to stay at a nearby hotel and visit the garden (in fact the whole weekend was a wonderful weekend with the family waiting when we got home for a surprise birthday get together – thank you, lovely family).

The garden didn't disappoint with its picturesque setting beside a canal and planted with lots of winter interest from hammamelis (witch hazel), dogwoods, conifers, bulbs, hellebores and more. The owner is a hellebore specialist so there were plenty of different ones to see. The garden layout was well done but one of the things that interested me as much as anything, was the slightly different treatment of some of the shrubs in the way in which they were pruned.

Take dogwood for example. Grown for their lovely coloured stems that brighten up the winter garden I usually prune mine hard in the spring so have a fairly bushy mass of twigs from low down. The most colourful in my garden is cornus Midwinter Fire, pictured here, which has a slightly suckering habit. It is the newest growth that is the brightest with an orange/red growth at the end of yellower stems. I don't want this one to get tall in this location and it is attractive over a long winter period, with its mass of bright low growth.



However, I was interested to see the effect in Flatwood Cottage Garden, of encouraging long stems to arch up over the border and then pruning them from high up. Keeping the main stem clean of side shoots the effect is of the coloured new growth at a higher level and more space to grow early spring bulbs such as iris and cyclamen underneath. This might not be suitable for everywhere, but I certainly am going to try this in some spots in my garden where a bit of extra height would enhance the overall effect.

WORTHAM BOWLS CLUB 2018

As the days grow longer and soon to be warmer, we turn our thoughts to another enjoyable season of outdoor bowls.

The first club event of the year is the Annual Dinner and Presentation evening which will be held at the Manor House Country Pub, Wortham on 20th March 2018.

The green officially opens at 2pm on 15th April 2018 and once again everyone will be welcome, including potential new members interested in trying their luck at bowls.

We plan to continue with the very popular Friday evening informal roll up sessions. The first session will be on Friday 20th April 2018 with existing members available to welcome potential new members and play some bowls in the sunshine. Start time 6:15pm each Friday until September.

Once again, the club will play in the Stowmarket Bowls League and Division One of the Upper Waveney Bowls League. The first league fixtures will be against Stradbroke and District Bowls Club away on Tuesday 24th April 2018 and Haughley Bowls Club away on Wednesday 25th April. The first home matches will be vs Diss & District Bowls Club on Tuesday 1st May and vs Bildeston Bowls Club on Wednesday 2nd May 2018.

Thereafter, there will be two fixtures each week until the end of August 2018. Details of fixtures and club contact details are available on the club website which can be found at www.worthamandburgate.suffolk.cloud

Brian Callin, Hon.Secretary

Attention residents of Wortham

TEA'S MADE

You are invited to a weekly meeting with a difference. There are no agendas, no objectives and nothing on sale. The event is nothing more than an opportunity to meet new neighbours or old friends over a cuppa and a piece of homemade cake in a relaxed atmosphere. We meet every week in Wortham Village Hall on Wednesdays, between 2 and 4 pm.

Some of our regulars are among the 50 or so people who live alone in the Wortham area and they look forward to a weekly outing to have a natter. We try to avoid discussions on health problems, Brexit or Donald Trump, but we don't always succeed!

And the price for this get-together over tea, coffee and cake? Anything you like. We must pay for village hall hire and refreshment supplies and they're covered by voluntary contributions.

For more information call Miriam Quinn on 01379 898864. Or just join us on Wednesday afternoon. Our weekly natterfest resumes **every Wednesday starting this month on 7th March.** No reservation is necessary.



Tapestry Kneelers for Wortham Church

An exciting project to introduce tapestry kneelers to enhance our beautiful church has been launched and sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Friends of Wortham Church. We needed the support of the FOWC membership to get it under way and to find volunteers to stitch the kneelers – you might have noticed there aren't any in the church!

The first get together has been arranged for 20 March at Ling Farm with ten people taking part, which is enough to get us started. If this lovely project appeals and you would like to take part, please register your interest by replying to the email address below, and a meeting will be arranged for early April. More examples of the Kneeler designs from Jacksons are below.

Caroline Blacker

CSoper@chathamhouse.org



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.

Leslie Hubbard – 25th September 1931-18th December 2017

On 15th January St Mary's church in Burgate was full of family and friends attending Les's funeral. He was born in Burgate, the ninth of Harry and Mary Hubbard's eleven children. Les went to Wortham School, leaving at the age of 14 to work on Gibson's Farm, then later at Home Farm in Gislingham. From 1967 until his retirement he worked as an HGV driver for Savilles, RHM and Dalgety.

Les met Ann at the railway crossing in Mellis as she walked her younger brother to school, and they were married in 1962. Ann recalls that on the morning of their wedding Les sent his brother to deliver a gold watch for her to wear that day, with a little note saying, "I love you". After a short spell living in Mellis, they moved to the School House in Burgate. They had four children (Natasha, Nicola, Marie and Gary) and later moved to a house built on the same plot of land where Les was born on Little Green.

Les was a very active man, and in his youth, he wouldn't think twice of cycling to Great Yarmouth for a day out. He enjoyed shooting with his brother, and in later life he was a very keen gardener. He enjoyed growing many vegetables which he generously shared with family, friends and neighbours.

Les was a remarkably hard-working person, a man of great kindness and a true gentleman. Above all, he believed in his family. He always said upon difficult times "We will always get through, we always have". He will be much missed.

Old Skool Quiz – 16th February

With 7 teams completing, Burgate Church Hall was once again full for one of the regular quizzes in aid of the Friends of Burgate Church. Aibly kept under control by Headteacher Nick Robertson, and after enjoying a "school dinner" of sausage and mash followed sponge with pink custard, the teams answered questions on subjects ranging from Spelling, the 3Rs and History and Geography. The "Infants" team came out top, while "Juniors 1" a disappointing last. Thanks very much to all who came and participated fully in what was a very enjoyable evening, raising £320 for FOBC.

Did you know.....

..... that you can hire Burgate Church Hall for meetings, parties and other social events? It has a very well- equipped kitchen with excellent cooking facilities, fridge, microwave and dishwasher. Toilet facilities are modern and are fully disabled accessible.

Church Flowers
No flowers in Lent

Hall Cleaning
Linda Pell

A new TV programme is looking for Grandparents who want to spend more quality time with their Grandchildren

Are you a Grandparent?

Do you have three or more Grandchildren aged over 18?

**Do you wish you saw them more often?
Would you like to help them out?**

If so, a new Documentary would like to hear from you!

If you are interested please email us on shivercasting@shiver.tv
OR CALL US ON: **0207 157 4588**

Please get in touch as soon as possible!



Friends of Botesdale
Health Centre

Patient Transport

CAN YOU HELP ?

This increasingly busy service is in need of more volunteer drivers.

If you have a car, time to spare and would like to help please phone Val Goodwin on 01379890190 for details.



WORTHAM *OS* OPEN GARDENS 2018

CALL FOR
GARDENS



Wortham will be opening its gardens again on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of June, 2018.

In the past this event has not only raised much needed money for the maintenance of the village hall, but has also been a very enjoyable social occasion. In order to make 2018 equally successful we need volunteers willing to open their gardens. It doesn't matter how big or small your garden is, or whether it is manicured or natural, all gardens are interesting. If you would like to volunteer your garden, or if you would like to have a chat about the possibility, please phone or e-mail me.

Joy Cornish

(on behalf of Wortham Village Hall Committee)

Family.cornish@gmail.com

Tel: 01379 309538



VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR MARCH DIARY

Wortham Morning Yoga	Tuesday	06, 20, 27	10:00 – 11:30
Wortham Midday Yoga	Thursday	01, 08, 22,	11:45 – 13:15
Ballroom	Monday	05, 19, 26	18:30 – 20:30
Tea's Made	Wednesday	07, 14, 21, 28	14:00 – 16:30
Pilates	Wednesday	14, 21, 28	09:30 – 10:30
Gentle Exercise Mornings	Thursday	08, 15, 22	09:30 – 10:30
Gentle Exercise Evenings	Wednesday	07, 14, 21, 28	19:30 – 20:30
W&B Sunday Club	Sunday	04	09:45 – 11:00
W&B Parish Council	Tuesday	20	19:30
Wortham Tennis Club	Thursday	01, 08	16:30 – 17:30
Good Companions	Tuesday	13, 27	14:00 – 16:30
Private Function	Saturday	03	11:00 – 23:59
Private Function	Saturday	10	12:00 – 23:59
Private Function	Saturday	17	14:00 – 24:00
Private Function	Saturday	23	19:00 – 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.