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60p

December 2018





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December Reflection by Revd. Susan Bates



THE BENEFICE OF
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What does an angel look like, do you think? Part of the Art Exhibition in Debenham church in June this year was angel themed and there were quite a few different interpretations of angels. Some more traditionally angelic than others!

This December St Mary's is continuing the theme of angels in the Christmas decoration of the church. Our schools, local community groups and businesses have been invited to contribute their own angels and we have a 'Diocesan angel' coming to visit for Advent and Christmas too! This angel was made by children visiting the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan tent at the Suffolk Show earlier this year.

Billy Connolly summed up a lot of people's thoughts about angels when he said, "I don't believe in angels, no. But I do have a wee parking angel. It's on my dashboard and you wind it up. The wings flap and it's supposed to give you a parking space. It's worked so far." There's a part of us that doesn't really believe in angels, but we rather like the idea of them anyway... and who knows, they might exist.

Angels appear many times in the Bible. They are primarily messengers for God. They appear early on in the story of God's people meeting Jacob and then Joshua. In these ancient stories they often give news from God, but they also give guidance. Sometimes they are challenging; sometimes their presence is mysterious. In the Christmas story they appear many times, to Zachariah, to Joseph, to Mary, and loads turned up to terrify the shepherds; not to mention the Magi or Wise Men as they headed home. Each time they gave a message from God and, in a way, helped to point the people they appeared to in the right direction.

Perhaps that is why we like them so much; because they are here, from God, to help us. Joan Westler Anderson said, "For what is it that angels do? They bring us good news. They open our eyes to moments of wonder, to lovely possibilities, to exemplary people, to the idea that God is in our midst. They lift our hearts and give us wings."

What do angels look like? Well, we often think of angels as having wings, but mostly in the Bible (apart from when they scared the shepherds) they look like ordinary people. Like us. Could it be that we all have the potential to be angels? Could it be that as we help others, guide them, greet them, give them messages of caring and kindness and compassion; that we all have the potential to be messengers from

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God. And could it be that as we travel through the seasons of Advent and Christmas that we will meet our own angels; for the Bible tells us, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2


Happy Christmas... and do come to see the angels of Debenham church – you are always welcome.

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Angels

Service starts 10.00am
with breakfast from 9.30am

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Winston

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Mr Brian Branch cmcbranch@btinternet.com 01728 861004

December Services

2nd	08.00	Aspall	Holy Communion
	09.30	Debenham	family@church
	18.30	Debenham	Advent Service
9th	08.00	Kenton	Holy Communion
	09.30	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
	11.00	Framsden	Morning Prayer
		Pettaugh	Holy Communion
	Aspall	Carol Service	
	18.00	Helminham	Carol Service
14th	19.30	Debenham	Carol Service
15th	18.00	Framsden	Carol Service
16th	08.00	Aspall	Holy Communion
	09.30	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Framsden	Holy Communion
	17.00	Kenton	Carol Service
		Helmingham	Holy Communion
	18.30	Winston	Evening Prayer
23rd	09.30	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Helmingham	Morning Prayer
	11.00	Winston	Holy Communion
	15.30	Pettaugh	Carol Service
24th	17.00	Debenham	Crib Service
	18.30	Winston	Carol Service
	22.00	Framsden	Midnight Mass
	23.30	Debenham	Midnight Mass
25th	08.00	Aspall	Holy Communion
	09.30	Debenham	Family Service
	10.00	Pettaugh	Family Service
		Winston	Holy Communion
	10.30	Kenton	Holy Communion
30th	10.00	Aspall	Benefice HC

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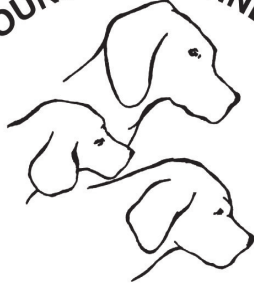


**Sunday 2nd December, 6.30pm,
Debenham Church
All welcome!**



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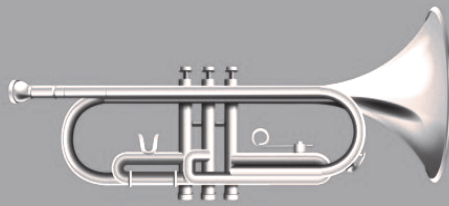
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Saturday 15th December

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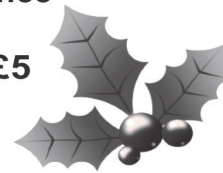
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CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)



Dates for December - Tuesday 4th and 18th

Meets are in Dove Cottage 2 - 4 pm

If you are interested in finding out more, please come along
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Debenham History Society

Tuesday 4 December
A TALE OF THREE CITIES – Images
of London, Paris and New York



An informal, well-illustrated talk by **Mark Beesley** a local artist and art historian. At different times, these were the greatest cities on Earth. All have been, and still are centres of art and creativity. All have been depicted in works of art over the centuries, in ways which reflect the period in which those works were produced. Artists have documented the changing plans and architecture of these cities, their grand palaces and churches, their rivers and docks, the world of commerce and trade, the building schemes which were planned but never realised, the destruction of war, their slums and their suburbs.

Meetings will be at 7.30pm in room 30 at Debenham High School, Gracechurch Street, Debenham, IP14 6BL, unless otherwise listed. Fee for lectures, £3 including tea/coffee or soft drink.

Facebook: Debenham History Society
Email debenhamhistorysociety@hotmail.com
Tel 01728 861601 - chairman Lesley Grant-Adamson

Debenham & District Garden Club



Wednesday 12 December

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

7:30pm at Coopersfield

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Debenham Bridge Club

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The Sunday teaching series in December at the Forge Church is:



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2 December Week 1 - Do you really believe all this Jesus swaddling?

9 December Week 2 - Do you really stake your life on an old book?

16 December 10.30am and 8pm Christmas At The Forge: our Christmas Carol Service

23 December 10.30am Christmas family time with games and food

25 December 10am Christmas Day service (45 minutes)

30 December No service—visit another church! (details in this magazine)

Every Sunday at **10.30am** at **Debenham Leisure Centre** (live streamed at www.live.forgechurch.com and you can watch later too); also at Thurston New Green Centre and Eye Hartismere School, both at 4pm. Kids & Youth programmes also available.

The Lunch Club, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Debenham United Reformed Church, brings together elderly people for a meal and a chat. For more details contact the office.



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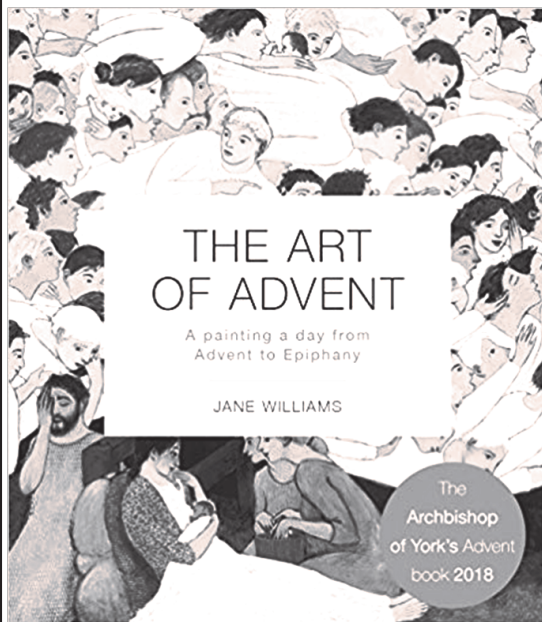
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The Art of Advent



Benefice Advent Group will meet at Winston School Room at 2pm on Mondays 3rd, 10th and 17th December. We will be looking at 'The Art of Advent' by Jane Williams which suggests we "join Jane Williams on a journey from Advent to Epiphany, and discover the timeless wisdom to be found in some of the world's greatest paintings." All are welcome. For more details and to order a book for £9.99, please contact Revd Susan whose details are on page 6.

Cover story - Debenham Remembrance Commemorations

For the centenary of the end of the First World War, Debenham marked it in many special ways. The cover shows the giant poppy displayed in St Mary's Church in all its glory. 1,400 individual, hand knitted poppies made up this wonderful creation. The idea was Ruth's at Webster's and an appeal for knitted poppies went out via this magazine. "I wanted 100 poppies knitted for the 100 years and this snowballed into the amazing total. I would like to thank all the knitters in Debenham and the surrounding area for the beautiful poppies. The oldest contributor was 103 years old!" Ruth added, "Putting it all together was a challenging task which took about 2 weeks. Special thanks to Sarah and David (for the use of their home) as well as Brenda, Gill, Sue and Audrey. The final creation was hung by David and Chris B."

The annual Royal British Legion service took place on Sunday 11th by the war memorial, followed by a service in the church. However extra commemorations took place before that event.



On Friday 2nd November an 'Avenue of Oaks' in memory of the fallen was planted at a special ceremony funded by Mid Suffolk District Council, on land adjacent to 'The Meadows' housing development, which involved students from the High School and Primary School. The Chairman of MSDC carried out the customary 'turning of soil' at the foot of a

sapling in the presence of district councillors and other invitees. Speeches were made, including one from Debenham Branch RBL Chairman Eddy Alcock. Wreaths were placed at the oak saplings by District Councillor Kathie Guthrie on behalf of MSDC and by Eddy for the RBL Branch, followed by a one minute silence.

The only Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave in Debenham, is that of Private Basil Eade. On Thursday 8th November the grave was the focus for a special ceremony, promoted by the Royal British Legion, which involved 1,332 similar graves throughout the county, all holding a short ceremony at 11am. Led by Eddy Alcock, chairman of Debenham RBL, poignant speeches were made and Steve



From l to r : Cllr David Burn (Cabinet Member for Economy), Cllr Derrick Haley (Chairman of Mid Suffolk), Cllr Nick Gowrley (Leader), Cllr Kathie Guthrie (Member for Debenham).



Palframan (chair of the Parish Council) and David Carruthers (vice chair of the RBL), who also laid wreaths. The impeccably behaved Year 6 pupils from Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary planted a poppy cross and an RBL grave marker, then joined in the minute's silence. Eddy and John Harvey (whose uncle's heroic war story was told in the August magazine) also visited the school to talk to the year sixes about remembrance. Eddy explained, "It is the wish of the Royal British Legion that we should concentrate on ensuring that young people are well aware of the horror and misery and sheer futility of War and that it resolves nothing that could and should be resolved by peaceful means instead, so maintaining 'Remembrance' is vitally important." This was also the theme of Eddy's speech at the 'Avenue of Oaks' event described on p20 and directed at the students present that day

Basil Stanley Eade was a resident of Debenham but was born in Framsdon in 1893, son of Frederick Eade, also born in Framsdon, and Kate Eade and they married in 1885. By 1911 though the family had moved to Debenham and lived at 13, Back Lane. Basil was aged 16 then and was employed as a 'Baker's Boy'. On 3rd December 1914 he was a soldier in the 3rd Battalion Suffolk Regiment and disembarked in France, ready for active service. He was wounded though, badly enough to be sent back to the UK, where his wounds deteriorated to become meningitis, from which he died on 26th April 1918, aged 25. He was awarded the '1914/15 Star', the 'Victory Medal' and the 'British War Medal'. His nephew's wife, Jill Eade (pictured above with John Harvey) attended the ceremony.



As we come to the close of another Poppy Appeal this year's special 100 year anniversary has surpassed all expectations. An amazing £3671.74 was raised beating all previous amounts since I have been organiser.

My thanks as usual go out to everyone who contributed to this great cause and also to the businesses and schools who have the collection boxes on their premises.

A special thank you goes to the army of door to door collectors who give up their time in the cold and dark and without whom this whole process wouldn't be possible.

Two phenomenal amounts of money were raised which I'd like to bring to notice, firstly the collection from the church for the Remembrance Service totalled £688.94 and also Ernie Read, Alan Barker and John Garrard, the ex servicemen who braved the cold, wind and rain outside of Abbotts Hardware to collect £343.32. Amazing!

Well done and thank you to all.

Shaun Chambers - Poppy Appeal Organiser

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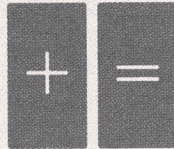
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St Mary Church Notices from Chris Bishop

Christmas Chutney

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar on 1st December at the Leisure Centre will have a home-made chutney stall and you can try before you buy. Tastiest you will ever try so worth waiting for. There will be Apple, Plum, 2 sorts of Pear and 2 sorts of Tomato chutney, Sweet Chilli Jam and also Plum Jam and Apricot Jam. See you there!

Flag Days

St George's Flag will be flown from Christmas until 6th January.

??????Calling all Quizzers??????

The Church's Annual Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 26th January in Dove Cottage playing for the prestigious St Mary's Trophy. This year our quizmaster will be Francis Whitbread - a case of poacher turned gamekeeper, as his team were successful winners of the trophy on a number of occasions. Teams of up to 6 players. Cheddar Ploughman's Supper included in the ticket price of £6 per player. Look out for posters and tickets going on sale in the New Year.



Christmas Coffee Morning

At Coopersfield

Tuesday December 4th 10am -12pm

Big Raffle and Stalls

All Welcome



The Burgate Singers Christmas Concert

at Eye Town Hall

on Saturday 15th December at 7.30pm.

A performance of 'L'Enfance du Christ' by Berlioz,
(perhaps best known for the chorus **The Shepherds Farewell.**)

The soloists are all professional singers chosen for their musicianship and voices by Musical Director Alain Judd. The orchestra is the Burgate Sinfonia, likewise composed of professional musicians.

Tickets are £18 (£16 for under 18s) and available on the door
or from 01379 677333.

BE STRONG

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

At Stowmarket, we have now said our goodbyes to our Minister, Chris. We shall miss him for so many reasons.

Some people will not realise what he did and the old joke about a Minister only working for 1 hour on a Sunday springs to mind. But what does a Minister do?

The dictionary tells us this about a Minister:

Noun - a person authorized to conduct religious worship; member of the clergy; pastor.

- a person authorized to administer sacraments.

verb (used without object) - to perform the functions of a religious minister.

- to give service, care, or aid; attend, as to wants or necessities.

- contribute, as to comfort or happiness.

Certainly, a minister works far more hours than the hourly (or longer) service on a Sunday when he is so visible to the congregation. Over and above the Sunday you will often see a minister visiting the sick and the dying as the need arises but also being with those on special occasions such as baptisms, marriages and other special life instances. Working closely with Chris I know that his role extends to comforter, social worker, chairperson, washer up, writer, teacher, enthuser in fact jack of all trades (except possibly gardening!). And at Christmas time eater of the occasional second (or more) Christmas puddings!

While we will miss Chris the life of our church goes on. The good folk of our congregation will rise to the challenge and not only keep our church alive but also keep it moving forward, responding to the call of God and the needs of our community.

The reading at the top of this letter comes from the Book of Joshua. After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua and gave him his instructions to take over from Moses. He gave him these words of encouragement, “⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

This seems appropriate to us all, both those with a minister and those without. Whatever we do, wherever we go we can have faith that God is with us. We

must be strong and courageous. We must continue to live the way of Christ and share the knowledge of his way to those around us.

As we approach Advent we think again about the coming of Jesus and how that event changed the world and our lives. May this Christmas be a time for renewal in God's purpose and a reminder of God's love for us such that he sent his son into the world so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God Bless

Anne (Stowmarket URC Group of Churches Secretary)

	DEBENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH			
<i>Services, Meetings and Speakers for December 2018</i>				
Sunday 2nd	Rev Richard Edwards	Communion	10:45am	
Sunday 9th	Mr Steven Walker	10:40am	10:40am	
	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE led by Mr John Sullivan	3:00pm	3:00pm	
	Followed by Afternoon Tea			
Sunday 16th	Mr Greg Noller	10:45am	10:45am	
Sunday 23rd	Mr Lawrence Kelway	10:45am	10:45am	
Sunday 30th	Mrs Veda Berriman	10:45am	10:45am	
NO SINGALONG THIS MONTH				
THURSDAY MORNINGS				
Join us for Tea, Coffee & Fellowship 10 - 11:30am				
THURSDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT 2:15pm				
No meetings during December				
<i>Points of contact</i>				
Minister	Rev Chris Wood	01449 678173		
Secretary	Mr Ernest Read	01728 860600		
Treasurer	Mrs Janet Smith	01728 860857		
Ladies' Secretary	Jean Rodwell	01728 861065		



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Be a peacemaker for Christmas Aid

At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We get the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas, peace seems like an impossible dream.

Violence and conflict remains the norm for many across the globe from South Sudan to Colombia. In 2016, more countries experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years. We will soon have half of the world's poorest people living in countries with high levels of violence.

While peace is broken every day, it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers. This Christmas, Christian Aid is calling for you to stand together with peacemakers around the world who are working tirelessly to bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations.

In South Sudan, Bishop Paride Taban is relentless in working for peace in his country where millions are suffering from hunger caused by years of civil war. Now in his eighties, he believes that peace is something that you practice and every day he repeats 28 words for peace. "If all put these 28 words into their hearts and every day they repeat them, there will be no war in South Sudan."

Elsewhere in the shadow of violence and conflict, Diana Abbas sows the seeds of peace through counselling and therapy. She is the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon. The centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre more children find peace.

Now more than ever we need peace. Peace is possible this Christmas with your support. Matthew 5:9 shows that blessings lie within peacemaking – in this world it is up to us to do what we can in our daily lives to help frontline peacemakers like Diana and Bishop Paride.

Will you stand with the peacemakers this Christmas? You may donate by visiting caid.org.uk/christmas-appeal, phone 0845 700 0300 or get an envelope from St Mary's Church, Debenham.

Talk to Chris Wilkes on 01728 860633 or crwilkes@btinternet.com

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 Saturday 15th
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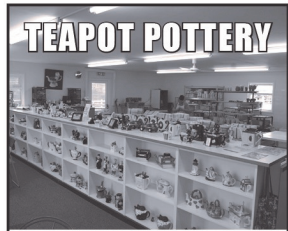


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**Debenham Clerics (Part 2) by David Shacklock**  
***Reformation to Restoration:***  
***Two Toms and a Dick – and a couple of Delinquents***

The first article in this series took us from the Felix and Fursey mission of the seventh century and the itinerant pastorate of Dummoc to the established church of the Burg of St Edmund. We concluded on the question-begging note of whether the Reformation had any discernable impact in East Anglia, and of course Debenham in particular. The answer is that it certainly did – the Reformation in England virtually started in Cambridge, and in its Puritan form took a strong hold in Suffolk.

The measure of support for Mary Tudor when she came to the throne evaporated under the vicious persecutions and divisions of the Counter-Reformation. Thomas Bilney of Ipswich is one of the best known Reformation martyrs. But more locally the nineteen year old Thomas Spicer of Winston was dragged from his bed and taken to Eye Dungeon by William Davie of Debenham and two accomplices; he was tried at Beccles, refused Mass, and with two others 'regardless of the manner of their persecution, yielded their lives to the death very gloriously and joyfully'. Puritanism maintained its strength locally under Elizabeth and beyond. One historian states: 'Debenham itself was a centre of intense religious and political conflict in the 1630s'. Three Suffolk men were key leaders in this regard: Samuel 'Watch' Ward of St Mary le Tower, Ipswich (1604-1634, dates which included a couple of spells in prison); John Winthrop of Edwardstone, near Sudbury (pictured right), who led the Pilgrim Fathers, including 600 Suffolers, one of whom was a

brother of Samuel Ward, to found the town of Ipswich, Massachusetts (1633); and later William Gurnall of Lavenham (1644-1679). The continuing persecution of Puritans by Archbishop Laud gave rise to extreme reactions: anti-royalists occupied the powder magazine at Bury and Landguard Fort at Felixstowe; William Dowsing





(pictured left) of Laxfield and Coddanham perpetrated his programme of image destruction and Matthew Hopkins of Great Wenham his witch-hunting campaign (1644-1647). The sympathies of many then reverted to the royal cause.

This duality is neatly summed up by *The Suffolk Traveller* concerning Sir Charles Gawdy of Crow's Hall (Debenham chancel brass dated 1650), 'who lived and died a zealous professor of the reformed religion', yet remained 'of an undoubted loyalty to his sovereign Charles I'. If that spiritual inheritance had already belonged to the family when it took on the 'vicarage' (ie the patronage) of De-

benham in about 1600 from the Framlinghams<sup>1</sup> (granted to Sir Francis in 1542 when Butley Priory was dissolved), then it is reasonable to suggest that our 'Dick' - Richard Mutley - was of that persuasion. His incumbency (described variously as Rector, Preacher, Vicar), lasted from 1585-1624. He was licensed 'to preach the Word of God in Debenham and elsewhere within the Diocese of Norwich' - the terms stipulated in 1605, suggesting that his first twenty years in office had given satisfaction to the authorities. Two years later we find his son Thomas at Caius College as a sizar<sup>2</sup> of the Master, Dr. Legge, having received his previous education at Debenham under his father.

Thomas Bond/e (our first 'Tom') then became Vicar and had a twenty year ministry, until 'reported by a number of leading residents' and ejected<sup>3</sup> by the Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers in 1644. According to Aldred (*Debenham's Ecclesiastical Heritage*) there had been twenty-four complaints against him, including royal support, 'high churchmanship' and insisting that women coming for 'churching' should be hatless. However it was not Bond, as some accounts have it, but an itinerant preacher, Hanserd Knollys<sup>4</sup>, (pictured top of next page) who in 1645 was 'stoned out of his pulpit by rude fellows and poor women of this town, who were sent for and called together and set upon him by a malignant High Constable of this town'. A year later the Suffolk Committee ejected 'the Vicar W.A. Duke'; he is not on the incumbents' list, which suggests that he was ejected before being appointed. Also in 1646 Sir Charles Gawdy (portrait below) was charged as 'delinquent'<sup>5</sup> and fined a large sum of money, which was considera-



bly reduced by the contributions of the ministers of Ashfield, Thorpe, Debenham and Kenton, surely a significant measure of their spiritual solidarity. At any rate the record testifies to the turbulent times of the Civil War and the Commonwealth and the unusually toxic mix of `politics and religion`.



Like Richard Mutley, our second `Tom` had a thirty-nine year ministry in Debenham (co-existing with twenty-seven years as Rector of Saxham Parva/Little Saxham): he was Thomas Johnson (1660-1699), whose son of the same name became Vicar in 1699 until his death in 1728. He may actually have overlapped with his father, or taken on the work when his father resigned the living of Saxham Parva in 1692. This Thomas was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1706 was also the Schoolmaster at Debenham. His son, yet another Thomas,



though born in Debenham, was educated at Monk Soham before going up to Magdalene; he too was ordained and became a Chaplain in Whitehall, pursuing an academic career before an early death in his thirties. During the incumbencies of Bond and the first Johnson there was also an influential dissenting minister in Debenham by the name of John King (1623-1674), one of the founders of what is now the United Reformed Church, who was driven from Debenham and imprisoned. Most local Dissenters met privately for worship, e.g. at Brames Hall, a farm in Wetheringsett.

In the era covered by this second article there were ten Vicars of Debenham (and one Stipendiary Curate). It was during the Johnsons` time that the Simpson memorial in the south aisle of Debenham church was erected (1697). The mistaken view that he was a (the?) clergyman has been perpetuated in such worthy volumes as *Suffolk Churches*; John Simpson was an apothecary (the `GP` of the time) – it was his son who was ordained. Nevertheless, as this book puts it, the inscription indicates `puritan sentiments transformed and made gentle....the realism and charity of a man who has lived through much, and come to realise what is important`.

<sup>1</sup>Sir Charles Framlingham`s chancel tablet in Debenham church dated 1595

<sup>2</sup>Sizar: Cambridge undergraduate helped financially in return for menial service

<sup>3</sup>Ejection: term usually applied to clergy removed or resigned following the 1662 Act of Uniformity; in the 1640s ejection was carried out by the Parliamentarians.

<sup>4</sup>Knollys was a Lincolnshire man, who after a brief spell as Vicar of Humberston, became a separatist, and went to Dover, New Hampshire; returning to England he became an army chaplain under Cromwell, then a Baptist minister in London between 1645 and 1691 when he died aged 92.

<sup>5</sup>Probably in its older, legal meaning of failure to pay a due, but in these instances with a lot of political `weight` involved!

# DEBENHAM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Saturday 8th December,  
starting 12pm



## MUSIC

Children's Choir, Bells, Hand Bells,  
Morris Men, Carol Singers, Brass Band

## SHOPPING

Special events in High Street Shops,  
Craft stalls in Dove Cottage and Church

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts, Dressing Up, Face Paints,  
Festive Hat Competition

Christmas Tree lights on at 4pm,  
bring lanterns and sing Carols with the Band

# Christmas Bazaar

Saturday  
1<sup>st</sup> December  
2 - 4pm

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**News from High Suffolk Rotary** *See Facebook for more!*

**Our October Ceilidh** at Debenham Leisure Centre raised over £500 for our chosen charity – Village Water. It was a great night - many thanks to all who attended.

**Christmas is coming!** As well as our usual mix of speaker evenings and the like, we've also been busy preparing for our two big Christmas charity activities – Music at Christmas, and our annual Sleigh ride. We'll be hosting the Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan society at St Mary's in Debenham for the first time – please come, it will get Christmas off to a great start! And our trusty sleigh has received an upgrade - new sound, New lights, the works! So, if you're in Debenham, Eye, Stradbroke or Framlingham, watch out for Santa and his elves on those cold December nights. As usual, all proceeds go to local Childrens charities.

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Eye..... Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Debenham..... Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
                                         Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Stradbroke..... Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Framlingham..... Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.(E→S)  
                                         Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.(S→W)  
                                         Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.(W→N)




More information:  
[info@highsuffolkrotary.org](mailto:info@highsuffolkrotary.org)


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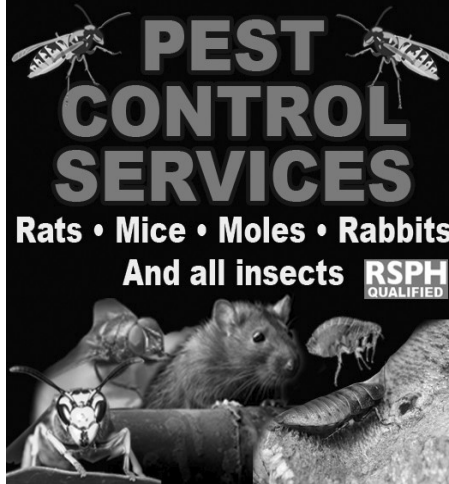
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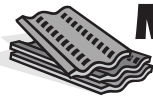
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## Debenham Roundabout Pre-school

Welcome to a News update on Debenham Roundabout Pre-school. We have had a busy half term learning lots of songs with Makaton signs. We have learnt Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, If you are happy and you know it, Goldilocks, I am the Music Man and Down in the Jungle.



The children, and staff have worked hard to learn the Makaton signs to go with these songs; Well done!

Debenham



Roundabout  
pre-school

We have also been busy welcoming our new children at the start of the term and teaching them our daily routines. Everyone has settled well and are making new friends. We have had trips to the Woodland area for our Woodland playtime. The children learnt about the 'rules' to keep ourselves safe in the woods.

This term we have said a sad Farewell to our Leader Pip. We are very grateful for everything she did for Roundabout Pre-school, both as an Assistant and as the Leader. She will be greatly missed by everyone and wish her all the best in her new job. We welcome Chloe to her role as Leader, and wish her all the best at Roundabout Pre-school.



We would also like to congratulate two of our members of staff on

Graduating from the University of Suffolk, they have both now gained their level 5 qualification, a Foundation Degree in Early Years Practice.

Thank you to the Forge for the hard work they have put in at Roundabout Pre-school, laying new bark, painting our outside shelter, repairing a shed and some general maintenance outside. All the hard work is much appreciated.



If you are interested in finding out more about Debenham Roundabout Pre-school please feel free to get in touch: [debenhamrps@btinternet.com](mailto:debenhamrps@btinternet.com) or 01728 861769.



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Hello everyone,

As I have often said, we are so very grateful for the way that people of Debenham and its surrounding villages have taken The Debenham Project to their hearts and want to help in any way they can. By giving their time as volunteers, in fundraising, organizing, and other ways, those families and individuals who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives know that they are not on their own, that there is help and support on their doorstep, and that the simple things that we offer – social activities, information and advice, transport, one to one, understanding, sharing, practical and emotional support, etc – can make all the difference. It is, more than anything else, that which shows why Debenham was awarded the status of one of the very first “Dementia Friendly Communities” in the country – not because of what we do – but for our wholehearted community involvement.

So this month, I want to celebrate those lovely people who, without being asked, just “get on and do something” to help. They are not formally counted in our numbers of our volunteers but they are every bit a part of our “family”. For example Bea and Scarlet with support from their mum Tammi King (Simply Stylish) organized The Spooktacular Debenham Walk for Halloween (and not forgetting Zoe George who got us all in the mood with the Zumba warm-up session). Despite the pouring rain 50+ ghouls and ghosts, demons and zombies, and countless other denizens of the dark followed the scary 3 km path and raised £700 to be shared between The Debenham Project and Dementia UK. And I see on Facebook (Yes, I am not totally out of touch with social media!!) that Tammi is helping us once more, this time with her Christmas Baubles. Then there was Sarah Hughes and Nicola Tomlin and the United Reform Church who ran their Christmas charity support event under the banner “Let’s celebrate our Debenham Project” – Coffee Morning, Games, Christmas gifts, and soup lunch – with all proceeds to benefit the work of the project. Just two groups out of many who have been so very kind – Thank you all so much.

Of course few of us will be unaware that the Christmas is already here. As you might expect this is a time in the Project where all our groups put on festive events, Christmas lunches and tea parties. Thank you to everyone who is making it special, including our annual Carers Club party on December 5th with our very own Music Man (Stephen McKie), seasonal goodies and all the trimmings. And don’t forget Way Back When – I know we all love to tell of our favourite past Christmases.

Finally, many thanks for all your generous donations and support, and please remember that we can receive donations via the Co-op (just ask for your dividend to be given to **609313**) and on-line using the button on the home page of our website (below). Also don’t forget, we have wheelchairs for loan if you need one for a few days.

With all my best wishes for a very Happy Christmas

Lynden



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## SIR ROBERT HITCHAM CEVAP SCHOOL

### Remembrance

To help pupils gain a greater understanding of the significance of this year's remembrance services, pupils across the school learnt about World War One. Each class took a slightly different approach, considering the ages and interests of the pupils. Work included learning about the events leading up to the war, the role of women and the horrors of trench warfare. A range of art work was produced and children have written or read poems about war. These learning experiences meant that acts of remembrance had a greater significance and meaning this year. Even our Early Years pupils could explain why people wear a poppy.

The School was delighted to be asked to participate in community events to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. Our Year 4 pupils attended a tree planting commemoration at the Meadows where they read a poem. Across Suffolk on 8 November, The British Legion arranged for a short act of remembrance to be held at 11am at each Commonwealth War Grave. It was very special to know that as our Year 6 pupils stood in silent respect, this act was taking place across throughout the County.

In a break from tradition, our school service was held at the church where pupils wove the poppies they had made, onto the cross. Pupils prepared readings and a specially chosen song. The silence was marked at the war memorial and we were touched by members of the public who stopped to listen to the Last Post as it marked the end of our silence.

### The Daily Mile

Earlier this year, the School successfully bid for a grant from what has become known as 'the Sugar Tax'. This enabled us to lay a running track for the Daily Mile.

Up and down the country, many schools have made the Daily Mile part of their curriculum. As well as developing stamina and perseverance there are also benefits to pupils' social and emotional well-being.

The path at Sir Robert Hitcham School, weaves around the back of the snake mound and re-joins the playground, with footprint markings to show the route. Nine laps of the track make one mile. Each day the pupils will run for ten minutes, with the aim that they all build up to running a mile a day. Early try outs showed that many pupils are well on the way to achieving their mile.



We're collecting the tokens for books from the East Anglian Daily Times & Ipswich Star. Please make donations at the school or at Websters. Thank you.

The Official Opening took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November where members of the School Council made speeches, music was played and the ribbon was cut. The first official runners were the oldest and youngest pupils in the school, then all the pupils ran a lap in celebration. To encourage use of the track, the pupils have also taken part in a sponsored running event in aid of the NSPCC.

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A.C.M.A.

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## Russell Ling's Farming Notes - The Sugar Beet Harvest.

One of the last crops to be harvested on the farm is sugar beet, this is a relatively new edition for the British Isles as we have always imported cane sugar from the Caribbean Islands. The first sugar beet factory was built at Cantly in 1912 but it wasn't until the early 1920s that any quantity was grown and this was partly due to the fact that the German U boats sunk many transport ships during WW1. Because of this the Government encouraged the production of sugar beet in order that we wouldn't be in the same situation in another war which was a far sighted move as it turned out.

Sugar beet was drilled in the spring mainly on lighter land due to the ease of harvesting but during WW2 many heavy land farmers were ordered to grow a small acreage. In the early years the Smyth drill with Suffolk coulters was used for drilling but the seed had to be planted



in a continues row. This meant that the plants when large enough were chopped out with a hoe so that they were approximately six to eight inches apart. All the farm workers were involved with this process and would follow one another down the rows. Today the modern seed drills plant the seed at the correct distance without any more hand work involved.

Harvesting consisted in loosening the beet in the soil by the use of a horse plough that had been adapted by fitting a blade with angled tines at the base and did one row at a time. The beet were then picked up from the soil by the tops and then knocked together to get as much soil off them as possible. The beet were then put into heaps and this was followed by another man who cut off the tops which were then put into a separate heaps to be carted back to the farm for cattle feed as required. Following the topping the beet were loaded onto a tumbril and taken to the roadside and unloaded onto a clamp. As the sugar beet factory was unable to process all the beet that was grown at once each farmer was allocated permits which allowed loads to be delivered when required. If there was the possibility of a hard frost occurring the clamp was covered in straw and soil put on top to keep it in place. When a load was allocated it meant that the beet had to be hand forked onto a lorry and transported to the factory. The forks that were used to load sugar beet consisted of ten curved tines 1.25 inches apart with a knob at the end of each tine to prevent then piercing the beet, the tines each side were also raised to prevent the beet falling off the fork.

In the horse age growing sugar beet was very labour intensive and also very hard work. Today all harvesting is carried out with machines and no hand labour is used.

## December Newsletter 2018!

Last month along with Debenham LCFC we hosted a successful American Theme Night, we hoped that everyone who came enjoyed themselves and had a fun night!

We would also hope everyone enjoyed our Firework Display at the start of November. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped put on another great night!

We have now purchased and will launch our indoor group cycling sessions early in January!

*Look out for the new timetable!*



This month we have lots more going on from live music in The Deben Lounge to football and Dinner Dances to Quiz Night!

### December Events

Saturday 1st December- Debenham LCFC v Wisbech St Mary 3pm KO  
Saturday 1st December- Live music in The Deben Lounge (Harri Snook) 7pm  
Friday 7th December- Debenham Youth Football Club Christmas Dinner Dance  
Sunday 9th December- Skates and Scooters 2pm  
Saturday 8th December- Debenham Sports and Leisure Christmas Dinner Dance  
Thursday 13th December- Pensioners Lunch Christmas Dinner  
Friday 14th December- Christmas Quiz Night in The Deben Lounge  
Wednesday 26th December- Debenham LCFC v Ipswich Wanderers 11am KO  
Friday 28th December- Open Mic Night in The Deben Lounge 7pm

To book for any of the above events mentioned please call us on 01728 861101

## Debenham Living Advent Calendar



From December 1st you will notice that the first few Advent windows have been revealed. We would like to thank all 64 householders who have come forward to take part in this project, we are delighted with the response. By Christmas Eve Debenham will be aglow with stunning displays.

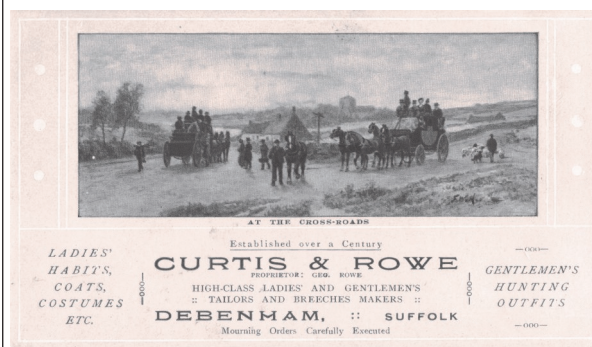
To make sure you don't miss any of them we will have maps, with all the locations, available from:

Debenham Veterinary Practice, Webster's Newsagents, Lucy Jane Flowers, Palfrey and Hall Butchers, Abbott's Hardware, Vanilla Bakehouse, Hamilton Smith Estate Agents, River Green Café and Debenham Leisure Centre.

We hope you enjoy walking around the village, spotting new displays as they are revealed.

Happy Christmas to you all from Ann and Louise

## Do you remember? - Curtis and Rowe



Peter Pink lent me this card from this long gone clothing shop that used to trade in Debenham. Please share any memories you have of this shop for the next issue.

More current articles about 'Traders of Debenham' will return in 2019.



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October and November 2018 have proved to be two very important months on the Debenham W.I calendar year.

The Debenham W.I's hundredth year's celebrations took place in October and what an event that turned out to be! Thanks to the hard work and precise planning of June Rodgers as President and Brenda Stowe as Secretary, aided only in a very small measure by the W.I committee. The number of 'Thank you letters' received from guests confirmed what a huge success the occasion had been.



November saw the Annual General Meeting take place. Both June and Brenda stood down after fulfilling their respective jobs for 7 years with great efficiency, warmth and considerable wisdom and laughter. That they will be greatly missed is only fair to say, though they will remain as resources and advice givers to the committee.

However as nothing ever stands still, two new members were voted on and approved into those vacant positions. They will ensure Debenham's W.I continuation for some further years to come with the support, help and advice of those retiring, plus the membership as a whole.

As always, visitors are warmly welcome every first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at the Community Centre.

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Do you want to save money on the cost of your heating oil, without the hassle of comparing prices? Community Buying Ltd, run by Community Action Suffolk, run a bulk-buying scheme which gets prices as good as or better than comparison websites. Currently Debenham has 21 members and Local Coordinator Tony Hutt will order oil for you or you can order online, minimum 500 litres.

To join the scheme contact me (details below) or fill in the form online at [www.communitybuying.org.uk](http://www.communitybuying.org.uk). There is an annual membership fee\*

There are savings for all who use the scheme. There are environmental benefits too: every time a tanker comes out to make a delivery, it is using a lot of diesel - a full tanker can get as little as a horrifying 8 miles per gallon. If deliveries are organised so that one tanker delivers to several customers in a village instead of making lots of individual deliveries, fuel consumption is reduced and so is the traffic in the village.

Scheme Co-ordinator for Debenham: Tony Hutt: 19 Priory Lane, Debenham, IP14 6QD. Telephone: (01728) 860173 Email: [tony@tonyhutt.co.uk](mailto:tony@tonyhutt.co.uk)

*\* £20 for each household, £30 for voluntary organisations, £100 for businesses*

## Friends of Debenham Library

### Would you like to be a friend of the library?

If you would like to help in organising events, fund-raising, or generally supporting the library and staff, please let Maureen or Sue know. Currently we have a small, very informal group which meets every month or two. No qualifications or audition required!

### Films and Event Cinema

Last month Michael Caine's *My Generation* attracted a good audience to experience the 60's (again, for some of use!). Next year we aim for a showing in alternate months, starting with Matthew Bourne's *Cinderella* in February, and later *Some Like it Hot* (1959 version). Other suggestions welcome.

|           |                   |             |                |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Tuesday:  | 0930 am – 1300 pm | Wednesday : | 1500 – 1930 pm |
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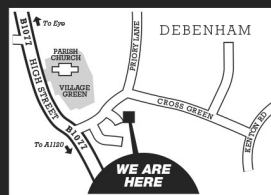
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Daniel Carter

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Gina Helm

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Leah Payne

*"We had amazing burgers and chips on Friday night, homemade and soooo tasty, we will definitely be spreading the word of this little local gem."*

Charley Marston

*"Fair play, that was a really good burger. I've only ever had one as good as that once before, and that was in a locally renowned place in New York!"*

Kecia Harris

*"The best takeaway we have ever had. Fast service and delicious food!"*

Alice Myhill

## Debenham Litter Pickers Autumn Clean Up Day.

There was a great turnout of volunteers at the clean up day on Saturday 27th October. It was encouraging to be joined again by the Debenham Scouts , members of the Forge Church, regular litter pickers and also people who joined us for the first time. Thank you to Muriel Dibbs and Carole Wood for the delicious cakes and to Mary Jones, David Secombe, Ruth Jack, Clive Bignell and Tony Mowles and Clare Tilbury, for help with the refreshments and organisation of the event.



We covered the lanes, hedges, shrubberies, play areas, footpaths woodlands and ditches within walking distance, within our parish - as you will no doubt have seen as you

drive, walk or cycle, the litterers of this world continue to drop it everywhere and anywhere. They are quite comfortable it would seem with spoiling the countryside, and creating a risk to wildlife and the food chain!

We collected 54kg of litter (slightly less than the past 3 Autumn pick ups ) and with the pick ups that several people do throughout the year, we have prevented many kilos of plastic in particular, from entering the food chain and via ditches and river beds, the sea - or from contributing to the layer of plastics on land that our society is, sadly, leaving as it's footprint on the Earth.

We also report any fly tipping we come across, worryingly on the increase in Britain at present, a very serious aspect of organised crime, costly in so many ways . Any fly tipping you come across can be reported to Babergh Mid Suffolk Council, via their website using the fly tipping form, or by e-mail, phone or letter. If you find any fly tipping, leave it exactly as you see it, so that any evidence that might be there, can be more easily investigated and hopefully traced back to the culprit. I and many other people are still thinking of ways in which to address the problem we have of the minority of people in our community, who both litter and do not clean up after their dogs. If you have any ideas for addressing this behaviour, please let me know, or the Parish Council. Next Spring, we will take part in the Keep Britain Tidy Great Spring Clean. Hope you can join us, hoping we find even less litter!

Joy Walton joyw@btinternet.com



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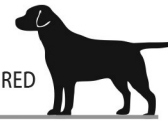
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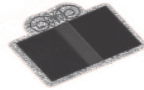
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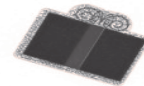
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#### Kenton Church Notes

**Kenton Carol Service** on 16th December 5:00pm in All Saints Church, Kenton. This is followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone welcome



#### **Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride - Kenton**

Congratulations and thanks to Sam Westrup and Anna Richardson and her family for raising a grand total of £372 for the Bike ride, half of which will be donated to Kenton Church. They visited a total of 39 churches between them. Well done!

Thanks are also due to everyone who so generously sponsored them.

Catherine Smith

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## A Thank You Page



### FAIRTRADE

Thanks so much to all who bought fair trade goods and charity Christmas cards at Dove Cottage on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. You spent £551 and donated over £35 for Tearfund's work. All profits I make on the fair trade items also go to Tearfund and last year I was able to send off £700.

You may be curious about Traidcraft's future, as it has been in the news, but there is a rescue plan and a new initiative to sell ethical, vegan, organic fair trade items and show where our money goes when we buy each item. More news in the Spring!

*Julia Rose*

### WINSTON EARLY BIRD CHRISTMAS MARKET

The 1st Winston Early Bird Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November was a great success. It raised just over £670 for the church and school room funds. Feedback has been very positive and we are already talking about combining a market with the Annual Fete next June and also holding another Christmas Market next year. Many thanks to everyone who supported us.



*Sandra - Winston PCC member*



### SHOE BOX APPEAL

A big thank you to all who filled a shoebox, or who left individual items at the back of church. Over 30 boxes have been delivered to the collection centre in Ipswich, from where they will be sent abroad. Many children will joyfully receive one of these boxes.

*Jo Noble - Shoebox Appeal organiser*

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## DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

[www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com)

The run-up to Christmas is undoubtedly one of the busiest times of the year – not only preparing for Christmas at home, but also out and about attending the many Christmas community events and fairs. One of the best things about Suffolk is our fantastic community spirit and with many events and lunches put on specially to ensure that no-one in the community is left out or lonely, I would like to personally thank each and every one of our volunteers who work selflessly at Christmas and throughout the year.

When visiting the many Christmas events and fayres, I also very much enjoy taking the time to browse and to buy locally where I can. We have such a fantastic range of small and independent retailers here in Suffolk, not to mention farm shops and local producers, so it's very important that we do our best to support our local economy.

As many of us get into the party spirit, we must also remember those in our NHS and emergency services who work around the clock to keep people safe and cared for. This year, I am looking forward to going out on a night shift with the Police here in Suffolk, to see for myself the challenges that they face on a daily basis. I will also be spending some of my Christmas break working as a doctor in the NHS, looking after those who are vulnerable. The Christmas period is one of the busiest times of year for our NHS and emergency services, with staff working around the clock to ensure help is at hand when needed.

Of course it's not just those working in hospitals who work on Christmas Day, the list is endless but so many work right across the festive season to ensure that services continue day and night – carers visiting the elderly and vulnerable in our communities, ambulance staff and paramedics, firefighters and police officers, to name but a few. Then there is the army of hard working public sector staff, working behind the scenes, to keep everything running smoothly.

Collectively they ensure that our communities are safe and functioning over the festive period, while we all enjoy ourselves with friends and family. This Christmas, please spare a thought for all those working tirelessly on our behalf, often in challenging circumstances, yet remaining committed to delivering services compassionately and professionally, despite knowing their families and loved ones are waiting at home to enjoy Christmas with them after a lengthy shift.

I would therefore like to pay special tribute to all of our dedicated and hardworking workforce here in Suffolk, thank you for all you do at Christmas, and all year round.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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### **Sir Robert Hitchin Foundation Trust**

The Sir Robert Hitcham Foundation Trust awards grants annually to individuals who have attended the primary school, to help fund further educational opportunities.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to act as secretary to the Trust. The task is not onerous, with only two or three short meetings a year. The secretary will also assist the Trust with the grant applications and awards, to ensure a smooth process for the distribution of Trust funds.

A small sum of money is given to the secretary each year for any expenses incurred.

If you are interested in helping the Trust, or wish to find out more, please contact the Chairman, either by email on [S.palframan@sky.com](mailto:S.palframan@sky.com) or by phone on 01728 860831.

Thanks,

Steve Palframan

### **The Angel Update**



The Angel in the High Street is sorry for all the uncertainty over its future. The good news is that Penny and Ali have just been offered and taken up a new 3 year tenancy!

This means Christmas bookings are being taken for between December 3rd and December 21st.

Lots is happening over the Christmas period including two live bands and Shaun's quiz on Sunday December 2nd.

New Years Eve includes a free buffet before the new year countdown.

On Friday 25th January there will be Gary's Burns Night. Book now!

## **DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Report of the November meeting**

**Parish Finances:** The half year accounts were approved, with expenditure standing at £37,736 and Income at £82,911, both well within budget expectations. Initial consideration regarding the budget and Earmarked Reserves for the next financial year were also discussed, with the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Committee being at the forefront of most of our financial forecasting. Reserves that had in effect been “frozen” since 2012 would be re-organised in order with NP identified priorities, such as Highways and parking, as well as necessities such as a cemetery extension, particularly when you consider Debenham’s identified potential for growth.

**Litter Campaign:** A presentation was received by our Litter Ambassador and a number of items which form part of our litter campaign were duly approved, so watch this space!! A huge thank you to all our volunteers who tirelessly work to keep our village clean.

**Thank you!** The Parish Council wished to thank The Forge Church for their recent help with the repainting of the Millennium Gates and safety rails. This had saved a considerable amount of tax payers money which could be put towards other projects in the village.

**Allotments:** The Community plot was in the process of being turned into an ambitious composting project, for which volunteers would be needed. One of the “perks” could well be free compost to use in your plots so if this is something that interests you and you aspire to become a Master Composter, please get in touch.

**Christmas 2018:** The Christmas trees are due to be erected and decorated on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9.30am, so please do come along and lend a hand if you can. The switch-on will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm. The Parish Council has also donated additional lights to the organisers of the Christmas Festival to use on the trees at Cross Green so our village should look quite amazing!! Please do attend the various events planned and support local businesses if you can, it all helps our village thrive!

And on this note, as I approach the end of my 10<sup>th</sup> year as your Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas on behalf of all the Parish Council! May 2019 be filled with joy, health, love, happiness and prosperity!!

***Mrs Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer***

*Tel. no. 01473 787861 - Mobile no. 07514 277974*

*(please leave message on answer phone / voicemail out of hours)*

*debenham.pc@btinternet.com*

*Office hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am to 3.30pm.*

*(Please note I will be on annual leave for 1 week from Monday 26 November)*

**Date of next Meeting:** December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## Neighbourhood Plan Update

Great news.....another hurdle overcome!

Our draft Neighbourhood plan was submitted to an external examiner in September, by Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC), to ensure it meets the basic conditions required. With just a few minor editing issues and modifications, the examiner was able to give the thumbs up to the Plan.

In her report the examiner praised our consultation process, saying we had done much more than was required by the legislation. She said it was a well written document and easy to understand, and, of greater significance, the examiner also said:

*'I consider that the allocated housing sites meet the Basic Conditions. Thus, I do not consider it necessary for the inclusion of additional, or alternative, sites.'*

This is extremely important given the pending Taylor Wimpey planning application for 295 houses on a different site.

The examiner concluded:

*I am pleased to recommend that the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2036 as modified by my recommendations should proceed to Referendum.*

The next stage is for MSDC, at its Cabinet Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, to approve the Plan, to go to referendum in the village, probably in February of next year. We must all make sure we get out and vote when this important event is held.

So, we have done all we can now to ensure the village develops according to the residents' wishes. It's now down to the Members of the planning committee at MSDC to give weight to our Neighbourhood Plan when determining future planning applications. With the possibility of the Taylor Wimpey planning application being considered before Christmas, let us all hope that Councilors respect and support genuine localism, and they stand up for their communities.

Steve Palframan

## FROM THE EDITOR

Normally the December issue's cover would have something distinctly Christmassy. However, it seemed more appropriate to showcase the wonderful large poppy that adorned the church during November's special Remembrance. As you'll see on pages 20 and 21 really fitting memorial events took place in the village. Well done to those who worked so hard to make them a success. Also well done to Shaun and his team, for their record breaking poppy appeal collection!



Christmas is not forgotten on some of the other pages of this issue as many events are taking place at the churches, as well as a special Christmas Festival from 12pm on Saturday December 8th (see page 32). A chance also to shop local for your Christmas gifts.

You may have heard the positive news about future housing in Debenham. The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the external examiner and was very positively received by her and given fully deserved approval. Steve Palframan explains all on page 61. Steve was also seen on local television on November 19 talking about the Plan. It looks far less likely that the Gracechurch Street development will go ahead and the television reporter was strong in his opinion that Debenham is showing how a village can successfully shape its own future through a strong and thoroughly researched Neighbourhood Plan. Well done!

A Merry Christmas to all readers.

*Steve*

### **DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE**

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**DEADLINE for the January Magazine  
Friday 14th December 2018.**

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