

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

June 2021



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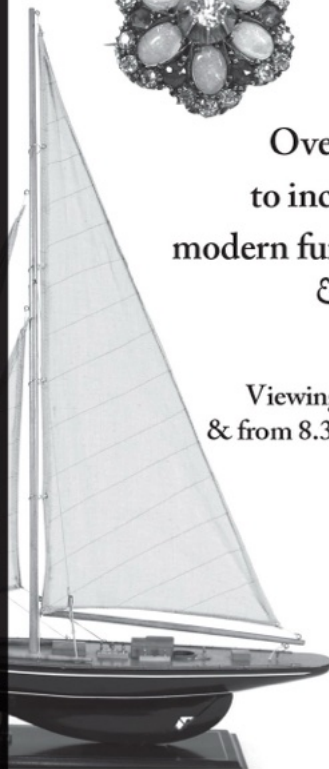


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FROM THE EDITOR



I hope you're impressed with our full colour middle section which should be a feature over the next few months. A new short series, 'Meet the Maker' will feature local artists, starting with the very talented Lily Hammond on P24/25. Thanks to Jane Baldwin for suggesting the idea and co-ordinating the contributions. Also, we have this colour middle section and cover, graced by the spectacular photographs from the recently formed Debenham Camera Club. Find out more about them on page 5.

With Covid restrictions being relaxed there are more events beginning to take place. For instance, the churches are holding services again in an actual building! Also St Mary's are reviving some events. See posters for this month's Summer Fayre (P7) as well as the popular Art Exhibition (P43) which will take place in September. Let me know if you have any events coming up during the summer and I'll publicise them.

Deb-Fest (P39) is growing in both the number of planned activities and also sponsors. It promises to be a really special event for the whole village and the hard working organisers deserve to have a perfect day weather-wise. Let's face it the weather has been awful this year, certainly not warm and dry like we enjoyed during last year, beginning during the first lockdown.

Vaccinations at our Community Centre finish on June 4 after nearly six months of action. The centre has gained a great reputation for its friendliness and efficiency. Thanks go to all the staff, volunteers and particularly Steve Spurling for his organisation. Debenham should be really proud for contributing to this amazing national programme, enabling us to feel safer and keep healthy. By the way Covid lateral flow tests are available from the pharmacy and library (see P11)

Roll on the summer. As I write, they promise that the weather is getting better!

Steve

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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DEADLINE for the July Magazine
Tuesday 22nd June 2021.
(Tuesday 15th June for Business Advertising)

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Cover Story - Debenham Camera Club

Debenham Camera Club is a FaceBook group for people living in and around Debenham who are interested in photography.

It's a place to exchange advice, hints and tips about taking photographs and using your camera. It's also a great opportunity to showcase your best images and to get fresh ideas and perspectives on subject and composition.

The group was setup in early March and already has 67 members. All photographers are welcome; whether you're a beginner or an expert, whether you shoot with a phone or a digital camera. Photographers of all abilities & levels of experience can join.

Every month we have a suggested theme for the photographs. In the first three months since March we've covered themes of Birds, Suffolk Skies and Something Small. Some of the images shared on these themes have been truly outstanding and it's great to see the interest and enthusiasm that is generated by all the contributors.

In time, as the world slowly unlocks, I hope to organise get-togethers, events and maybe even an exhibition. There are some great locations in and around Debenham for group photo-shoots.

If you're interested in joining the group search for Debenham Camera Club on Face-Book.

Richard Rogerson

(Cover photo - 'Milky Way at Batisford' by Anthony Ridge. See also pages 23 & 26)

New Editor Needed.

Regrettably I have decided to give up my editorship of the Debenham Parish Magazine at the end of this year. It is mainly due to personal reasons, but also I think, after 6 years, it will be good to allow someone else to bring in new ideas.

I have enjoyed my time editing the magazine and will support my successor in every way possible, so that a smooth transition can be enabled. This publication is church run, although very much a village magazine and profits go towards the work of the church and upkeep of the building. You don't have to be a church member to be editor (I'm not) but you need to be sympathetic to the part the church plays in the village.

Hopefully 6 months is enough notice to find someone. Please contact Rev Susan if interested on 01728 860222. Thank you.



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Debenham's only pub at present, is back in action after a tough few months, being unable to open until May 17. Mick and Zoe will welcome you back, but there are slightly reduced hours - Wednesday to Saturday 12 - 10pm; Sunday 12 - 7pm. Closed on Monday and Tuesdays.

Food will be served 12 - 2 pm Wednesdays to Friday only.

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A Thank You

Claudine Felton would very much like to thank all the lovely people who have helped her over the last few weeks

Debenham a very special village, we realised this very early on with the support we had for our two sons. Now after Howard dying one week and dear Chaka the next people have again been there for the family. Thank you so very much.

HELPING HAND IN DEBENHAM

If you need assistance, or you know somebody that needs assistance, then please ring on **07752 296136** for help with collecting prescriptions or food shopping.

Church Flagpole Update

An appeal was launched last month for the £1,400 to replace the flagpole which had lasted about 60 years. Amazingly the money was raised within a week! What a great result. Thanks go to all who donated and to John Feeney Howells for all his work on all this. The new flagpole should be up in the next month or two.



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Sunday 30th May

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Friends of Debenham Library

See www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/coronavirus for the latest details

Our shelves are full, so why not come and take some books out? We are open for browsing, computer use, printing and collecting reservations. We are now open until 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings.

Did you know....?

You can collect a free lateral flow Covid-19 testing kit from the Library.

Outside the library on the wall of the school hall there are four new swift boxes—we hope to see some occupants soon! The garden is looking good too.

We hope to resume films and other events when circumstances permit, hopefully in the Autumn.

For free audiobooks, ebooks, films, newspapers/magazines and other online services, use your library card at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk. There are also podcasts and videos available on the YouTube channel (SuffolkLibraries).

School corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School). Opening hours:

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Update On Money Raised For The Swimming Pool.

We have money available to invest in a functional asset thanks to all the people who worked so hard to raise money for the swimming pool. It is a credit to the Debenham Residents and we would like to put an asset up that can recognise the efforts put in by everyone.

I am researching outdoor gyms and it would be appropriate to have one in Debenham for everyone to use. It would cover the requirements of the Charity and at the same time be an asset and could be used by all ages. As a 78 year old I have been trying them out at Elmswell and Framlingham and there are at least 3 that I can use, but the rowing machine would be a non starter!

I would welcome comments from the community and any experience that will help with the research. My research is nationwide and there are many reports on the value of outdoor multi gyms by the medical profession. Also it gives access to all.

For comments please email me on a.m.evans@btinternet.com

Thank you, I look forward to hearing from you.

Ann Evans Chairman of the Swimming Pool Charity 1147470



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World Challenge Trip to Tanzania

by Isabella Porch Yr.11 at Debenham High



In less than three months I should be in another continent, contributing to community projects, socialising with the local Tanzanians, learning the local life and surrounding culture. As a student of Debenham High School I was offered the opportunity to fundraise and partake in a world challenge expedition when I was in year 9. The trip sounded amazing: a once in a lifetime chance to grow my independence travelling, camping, cooking and community work within a scenic landscape and beautiful culture.

The process started with application letters and meetings within school. Once I was accepted, I began the fundraising process. Deciding to make the most of the resources and contacts available to me as a farmer's daughter I organised a tractor



day for June 22nd, 2019. The day included a 15-mile tractor rally in which over 50 tractors from the newest John Deere 6250 to vintage collectors' tractors participated. When they returned to the farm there was a BBQ, a fantastic tractor related raffle/draw, pancake stall, cakes, teas, coffees, cold drinks, sweet stall, ice creams and activities such as target rifle shooting, have-a-go digger driving, tractor and trailer rides and have-a-go gator driving, bouncy castle, face painting and slime making all waiting from them!

I invited local business to rent a stall, we had a local artist selling animal portrait paintings, slate art, perennials, plants, jewellery and toys, there really was something for everyone!

The fundraiser was a huge success, to my astonishment thousands of people attended and £7000 was raised, once I'd paid for the portable toilet hire, meat for the BBQ, refreshments, draw prizes I'd just made the desired profit for the total fundraising amount for the Tanzania world challenge 2021 trip.

I remain hopeful that the expedition will go ahead despite the challenges we face surrounding Covid19. Regardless of if the trip happens in July or not, I will be forever grateful for the opportunity and the skills I've already learnt. My new skills range from organisation to public speaking to map reading to how-to-kill-and-cook-a-chicken which will stand me in good stead throughout my remaining time at Debenham High School and beyond.



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Fabulous Beast or Fantastic Character Competition Winner.

Drawing winner Casey Carpenter received the model of his imaginative 'Waterfall' creature from artist Anne Creasey recently. Due to the nature of the beast as it were, it presented Anne with quite a challenge! Thanks to her for all her work.





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The Story of Egg Farming by Russell Ling

A considerable change has taken place in the way that livestock have been kept since the end of WW2. Laying birds were all previously on free range but since the



war battery cages were the preferred choice. These cages would have had nipple drinkers for water and a trough in the front for the feed that was filled from a moving hopper. The eggs from these birds rolled down a slight slope in the front of the cage to be collected by hand or in the larger units a moving belt would have taken then to the end to be graded and

then packed onto egg trays. There were three cages high which were back to back and the droppings fell onto a wired glass and were removed by a scraper once a day. The scraper was pulled by a wire rope attached to a rod which was turned with a handle by hand or an electric motor. Depending on the number of cages in the building the droppings either went into a wheel barrow and were then tipped into a container outside or removed by mechanical means.

Another type of cage was the Californian system, this consisted of the tiers being staggered from the top to bottom so that the dropping all fell into a pit which would have been cleaned out after the birds had been removed at the end of their laying period. The advantage of the battery cage system was the ease of looking after a large number of birds in one building and the fact that all the eggs were clean. Free range birds were also more likely to be killed by a fox if there were any about and were more prone to get other diseases such as bird flu from wild birds.

Due to the public concern over animal welfare and the perception that keeping birds in cages was cruel legislation was brought in so that in future any new cages built had to have not only more room for the birds but also have a perching



space and a bird bath. The cost of these measures due to the increase in price for this type of cage made this method of keeping laying birds unprofitable and many poultry farmers then decided to go free range. Prices for free range eggs had been gradually increasing as more consumers preferred them to battery cage eggs and this made it another incentive to change. As more poultry keepers started producing free range eggs the quantities in the shops increased and the price per dozen eggs dropped.

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What's happening at the **Forge Community Church** in June

Important Announcement: we will be meeting in person at Debenham Leisure Centre at 10.30am and 4pm on: 27th June, 25th July, 29th August and then weekly from 6th September onwards. Live streamed services will continue.

June series: Mentioning the 'Unmentionable'—four questions to ask before you die!

Switch on the TV or open up the internet and you will probably be hard pressed to find anything that people aren't prepared to talk about. Money, sex, drugs, celebrity gossip or politics. People love to talk about near enough anything. Everything, except for perhaps one thing. Death. Official statistics show that 100% of people born will one-day die, and yet almost nobody likes to think about 'it' or even what happens next. In this series we invite you to join us as we mention what is normally 'unmentionable'.

WEEK 1 – The Good Place (and the bad!) – What happens one minute after I die?

WEEK 2 – The Ball and the Button - Where is God in my grief?

WEEK 3 – The Red Part of the Rope - How can eternity change my perspective on life right now?

WEEK 4 – The Balancing Act - How can I escape the fear of death and live life to the full?

Streamed live at www.live.forgechurch.com @10.30am

Also avail-able on YouTube (Forge Church) and Face-book (@forgechurchuk)

Church isn't just a Sunday thing. We've packed the week out with useful content that you can engage with. Take a look below at the running order.

NB: Kids' Material is on Facebook or YouTube at 9:00am (Little Village) and 9:30am (Uptown Kids)

Wednesday Unpacked Lunch

1pm Questions & discussions about Sunday's talk from the teaching team

Think Differently Thursday

5pm Practical chats with guests who have a specialist view/unique perspective - bringing fresh insight

Fridays with Fenning

1pm Thoughts from our Senior Leader (Steve Fenning) reflecting on faith during these times.

More info & the chance to catch up is available at: www.forgechurch.com/online

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Debenham Camera Club Gallery (more on P26.)



From the top:

Sunset Trees in Debenham
by Michelle Harvey

Barn Owl in Flight by
Morna Harding-Went

Male Kingfisher
by Arthur Jackson

One of my small things, and
some even smaller things
By Seth Underwood



Meet the Maker - Uwu Studio

Lily Hammond is an illustrator working from her studio in Debenham, Suffolk. After having recently graduating with a first class honours in illustration and with the effects of the pandemic she moved back to Debenham from London and has recently started her own business. Uwu Studio. Her practice spans the creative sector from working on a commis-



sion for Black History Month for the BBC to working in an East London studio, to now running her own illustration studio where she completes freelance illustration work, up-cycles furniture and is open to the public Friday - Sunday.

Lily has a real passion for colour and pattern that feeds into her love of interior decor. In



In addition to her decorative work Lily creates bright portraits, often having inspirational women from minority ethnic backgrounds as her subject focus. Her decision to represent women of colour coupled with need to tell uplifting stories springs from a desire to make inclusive art for the next generation of

women like herself.

Lily's portfolio demonstrates a plethora of different subject matters, whilst staying true to her loves and passions in life. Including a huge passion for nature and wildlife exacerbated by returning to the countryside. This has fed into increasing an eco friendly ethos, doing monthly litter picks with the studio and reducing plastic in products and packaging.

She works in a variety of media— predominantly digital art, markers and acrylic painting



— and makes use of textured and layered techniques to create energetic, eye-catching creations intended to uplift the audience.

Lily is available for both Illustration and mural projects.

For personal or business commissions.

Email: lily@uwustudio.co.uk

Website: www.uwustudio.co.uk

Etsy shop:

[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/UWUSTUDIO)

UWUSTUDIO

Number: 07584269598

Address: Uwu Studio,
7B Meadow Works,
Debenham,
IP14 6RP.



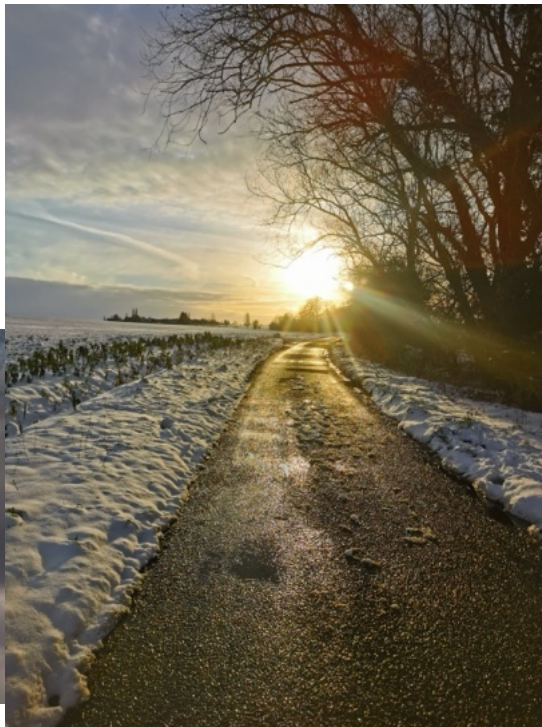


From the top:

Sunset over Felixstowe Ferry
by Richard Rogerson

'Fire and Ice' by Vic Johnson
(Taken on Low Road in Debenham)

Red Arrows by Mark Warren.



The Debenham WI Women Walk the World 2024



Angeles and The Debenham WI would like to congratulate members Sandra and Julia, who raised £208.35 for the ACWW charity.

The ACWW is an international organization, whose aim is to support rural women globally. Their 'Walk the World' event is held annually to raise vital funds for the organization's charitable works.

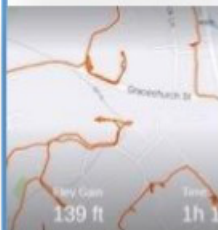
On the sunny, but cold morning of Thursday 29th April, Sandra and Julia joined with women worldwide to walk their patch of the world to help raise funds.



Starting in Debenham, they headed for Kenton, where they enjoyed two welcome pit-stops. The first, with Sue and Robin Franklin and the second with Ann and John Ensell.



Following a good chat over a cuppa, the pair resumed their walk, this time towards Bedingfield, before heading back to Debenham for a well earned spot of lunch.



That afternoon the pair were joined by Ellen Ayton who walked a second leg with them.

Sandra and Julia would like to thank everyone for their kind contributions. The healthy £208.35 they raised will certainly be a welcome boost to the coffers of the ACWW.



By Ann Ensell

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Lofty and Dave by Min Marshall



Living More Sustainably During Lockdowns.

In a survey by E.ON, 48% said that they now know how to run their homes more efficiently and sustainably after spending so much more time at home. 38% said they would take the lessons from the past year into life after lockdown. The main new habits post-lockdown are:

1. Shopping locally - 36%
2. Cooking more at home - 33%
- 3= Minimising food waste - 31%
- 3= Recycling more - 31%
5. Waiting for a full load before using washing machine - 29%
6. Turning off light switches when no-one is in the room - 26%
- 7= Turning off appliances when not in use - 24%
- 7= Buying locally sourced food - 24%
9. Only heating rooms that are in use - 18%
10. Growing own fruit and vegetables - 14%



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Hello everyone,

It is good that things are looking positive for the social restrictions to be lifted at the end of the month and that we can think about resuming our activities and groups in Dove Cottage possibly from the early part of July. However, it will completely depend upon there being no requirement for either social distancing or masks. However, if transmission of the virus, and especially the Indian variant, starts to rise once more, we may have to postpone for another month or so. Let's hope not. We have so missed being able to actually be together, and have fun.

Meanwhile, the 3rd week of last month was Dementia Action Week. Each year a wide range of special activities and events are put on to increase awareness of the impact dementia is having on so very many families. This year a new county-wide initiative was launched called "The Dementia Action Partnership" with the emphasis on encouraging communities and organisations to work together to make Suffolk truly "Dementia Friendly". Its vision is to build the local support that we know can make a big difference to families who are living with the illness. Many of you may have seen in the EADT, or heard on Radio Suffolk, Caroline Manning publicising the example of The Debenham Project by sharing hers and her husband Garry's story. Caroline eloquently told, not only of the stress and heartache that came with Garry's diagnosis of dementia, but also of how much it meant, practically and emotionally, for both of them to have support in their local community. Sadly, Garry passed away last November. Thank you so very much, Caroline.

Whilst we may not be able to meet in Dove cottage yet, we can now make the most of the opportunities outdoors. Everyone loves a fete. St. Mary's is putting on its Church Summer Fete on June 19th with all manner of stalls and games. The Project will be there with a table selling new giftware and small bric-a-brac. So please come along, have fun, and perhaps find the "odd" present ready for a birthday or Christmas.

And now a bit more evidence that things are coming back to life, Dance East is launching a new venture called Debenham Movers – Weekly movement classes for people over 55 – starting at 10.00 am on June 3rd at the Leisure Centre. Sounds like a great idea to improve our balance, flexibility, and fitness whilst having fun. Look out for the posters.

Now the summer is coming we all want to get out into the sunshine and fresh air. Sadly, many of our older relatives and friends find it difficult to get around comfortably and without pain. Why not think of borrowing a wheelchair and inviting them to come for a walk? Or, if you need to take someone with mobility problems to an appointment or social event, just ask. We have several wheelchairs that are available for loan.

Finally, thank you everyone who has made such generous donations to the Project - Your support has ensured that we will be around for years to come.

With all my best wishes, Lynden

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Debenham Shed

Opening ceremony in July!

Work is progressing during May and June to prepare for our opening ceremony on 20 July, by which time the four containers will be fitted out inside with workbenches, tools and lots of other useful stuff. It will be roofed externally, there will be landscaping and planting, plus outside seating. Sadly we were unlucky in our grant bid for a new composting toilet but will seek funding elsewhere in due course.



The new expanded Shed, from outside

Meanwhile if you'd like to help with the expansion project on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays you'd be very welcome. Contact us at debenhamshed@gmail.com or one of the phone numbers below.

See the video made by Archant (*East Anglian Daily Times*) in February at <https://youtu.be/VHdOkgiUsNY>.

The Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). Affiliated to UK Men's Sheds Association. Debenham Shed Officers: Les Wright 07793 470694, Bernard Rose 07538 974119, Tony Hutt 07906 614328. To receive occasional news by email contact us at debenhamshed@gmail.com. Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.



Debenhamlitterpickers, a green team, are already active and always ready for action! 'Keep Britain Tidy Great Spring Clean Fortnight' starts on 28th May.

If you are ready to adopt your street, or any other area that needs some TLC, we have equipment for you, health and safety guidance and other information to make it easy for you. Please get in touch.

If you come across fly tipping, photograph it so the location can be easily identified, and send this to Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council. They appreciate our vigilance.

And most of all, please keep the conversation going with friends and family, reduce, reuse, recycle – and 'pocket, bag, bin, do the right thing!' - we are all part of the problem and we can be the solution!!

Joy Walton 01728 860007

My Fast Moving Technological Career by Arthur Jackson

Many of you will know Arthur through his wonderful photos or seeing him around the village walking his dog Archie. Few of you know of his life in a world that has changed so much in a very short time.



My life has revolved around technology and I have witnessed monumental changes over my 43-year working career. When I was at Bristol University in the late 1970s we shared a single computer with the University of Bath; now there are on average about ten connected devices per person in the UK!



My first full-time job began in 1978 when I was working at the Marconi Research Laboratory at Great Baddow, Essex, in the Communications Research Laboratory. We built a bit-slice microprocessor system for digital signal processing and programmed it in machine code. Each instruction comprised a 56-bit code which we typed into an ancient teleprinter one byte at a time, storing the programs on punched paper tape. When I wasn't programming, I'd sit in front of an ancient oscilloscope, having waited for the valves to warm up!

In 1984 I moved to Suffolk to work at Screen Electronics Ltd. in Claydon. Things had moved on somewhat by then and most of our products were based on the 6809, Motorola's 8-bit microprocessor of the day. IBM had invented the Personal Computer a few years previously and each of the design engineers had a PC to work with, in my case a 16-bit Canon machine with 128KB of memory, running MS-DOS. Our programs were, of course, stored on 5¹/₄" floppy discs with capacities of 360KB. I worked on Teletext products and developed, amongst other things, an intelligent subtitle combiner for the BBC, used to insert the subtitles into the stream of vertical blanking interval data from the main CEEFAX computer. We also supplied the BBC with subtitle replay units which read the subtitles from 8" floppy discs, the BBC's standard in those days and Teletext encoders for live subtitling of the news.



In 1989 I formed an electronics design consultancy together with a friend. The following year we became Invision Microsystems Ltd. and developed PC plug-in cards for displaying live video windows on computer screens and a fax card for the Macintosh computer. Soon, we started developing our own products, large LED (light emitting diode) displays for information and advertising purposes. In 1992 we gained a contract with Dover Harbour Board to design, manufacture and install three large passenger information displays (PAXIS) for the ferry port. This led to similar projects at other UK ferry ports and also the first customer information system for channel tunnel. We built a large mobile graphics screen in 1994 and added

live video capabilities in 1995. We installed a full-colour display at London's Trocadero in 1996, two 35 square-metre screens at Aston Villa FC in 1997 and a similar one for Leeds Utd in 1998. These were some of the first full-colour LED video screens in the world. We built up a fleet of mobile screens which we rented out for sports and music events.

All our manufacturing was done in the UK, but now LED displays were starting to be manufactured in the Far East, so we turned our attention to supplying bespoke displays (such as the Energy Ring in London's Science Museum) and developing hardware and software control systems for sports stadia and advertising screens. Our control systems were in use at SC Heerenveen, Ipswich Town FC, Twickenham Stadium, Emirates Stadium, Stade des Alpes and the Coca-Cola and Samsung screens in Piccadilly Circus. We also provided scoreboard services to UK Athletics events during the mid 2000s.



With the T20 World Cup in 2009.

Then, in 2008, we gained a contract to install an 83 square metre scoreboard and replay screen at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, together with a complete scoring and event presentation package. I have been supporting Notts CCC ever since, adding a second 138 square-metre screen in 2013. I have added Headingley (Yorks CCC) and the Oval (Surrey CCC) to my client list, as well as providing consultancy to MCC at Lord's Ground. This year, Northants CCC has ordered our system, too. Supporting my cricket customers takes up most of my working time these days, with software and hardware updates, on-line technical support and in-person attendance at major matches. (In other words, I get paid to watch international cricket!)



The scoreboard during the Ashes test at Trent Bridge Nottingham in 2013.

2020 saw cricket being played behind closed doors, of course, but the screens were still operational throughout for the benefit of players and officials. This year the cricket season will see crowds of up to 4,000 being allowed into cricket grounds from May 17th plus the first matches in The Hundred format, starting in July, so 2021 should be a busy year for me.



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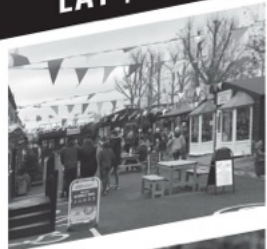
OPEN AIR COUNTRY
MUSIC EVENT
12th & 13th June

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26th & 27th June

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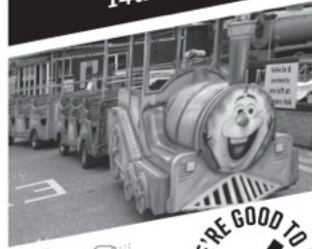
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We are rightly proud of the contribution that Suffolk is making to deliver clean and green energy as we have become a magnet for renewable energy production. Suffolk offers one of the driest climates in England with longer hours of daily sunshine and miles of coastline, so it is seen as the perfect location for solar energy and of course, offshore wind. Most of us will recognise and celebrate the benefits that renewable energy can bring, including much needed jobs for local people, as well as helping us to achieve our net zero carbon emission targets. However, these large scale energy projects cannot continue to be brought about in a piecemeal fashion without proper consideration for the potential consequences to some of our local communities.

With increasing numbers of planning applications for solar parks in our area, the time has come for our councils to plan more strategically for larger local energy projects. Rather than viewing each planning application for solar energy individually, we need a more joined up approach. Our local councils must work together to develop a strategic plan for the future development of solar power in Suffolk. Whilst we should support appropriately sited solar parks (preferably on brownfield sites), there is also an imperative for our council planners to balance green energy production against the need to protect the countryside which makes Suffolk such an attractive place to live and work.

Undoubtedly Suffolk will continue to grow as an energy hub, so it is essential that future energy development is sited in the right locations, so as not to blight our communities or damage our natural environment.

Since becoming the MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, I have worked hard to support local communities fight against inappropriate planning developments. In the energy sector, I helped to see off the mid-Suffolk straw burning power station plans and I worked successfully alongside Tim Yeo (the former MP for South Suffolk) to ensure that new power lines were installed underground (rather than overhead) throughout the beautiful Fynn Valley.

Recently, we have seen proposals coming forward for a number of new solar parks near Bramford and concerning plans to install new overhead power pylons between Bramford and Twinstead, which would be a blight to our beautiful Suffolk landscape.

My view is that new power lines should, wherever possible, always be underground, and ideally, put offshore in the sea bed. So I am currently working with other MPs to make the case to the National Grid and I shall continue to do all that I can to protect the Suffolk countryside from the threat of additional overhead electricity pylons.

However, solar parks are a local planning matter and as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is both an opportunity and a need for our local councils to work together to deliver a strategic local energy plan for Suffolk. If we get it right, there is a tremendous opportunity to grow more green jobs, support our local economy, protect the countryside, and to move swiftly towards a zero-carbon society.



United Reformed Church Reflection

Psalm 121



¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Can you believe it we are now half way through the year! And we are into our 17th Month of the pandemic, and we only now have some signs of getting back to “normal life”.

I used to work as an enabler, with people living with learning disabilities. One of my clients asked me what normal was, I could not answer him, as everyone’s normal is different, from the way we live our lives to our daily routines. Certainly, over the last 17 months, our “normal” has changed a lot, and it depends on who you listen to, we could never get back to normal again, or we get back to a new normal.

But if you think about it, our normal constantly changes, when you move school, start a new job or retire, move house, take up a new hobby, in fact the list is endless, so in every part of our lives, our normal never stays the same, which at times can seem very scary.

So, as we start to do more things, see more people and travel further afield, we may feel anxious, of what the future holds, as long as we remember that Jesus walks with us in all that we do, and God is ever present to comfort and uphold us, it may make our life journey a little easier to bear, knowing that we do not walk it alone.

Yours

Robert

URC Notices

We are planning and praying that it will have been possible to open for services on Sunday May 23rd and continue through June. There will still be social distancing, masks and no singing. Also we are making plans to start other meetings and coffee mornings very soon.



Join us if you can, all welcome. Keep safe. God Bless.

Sunday May 30th	Mr Steve Horrex	10:45am
Sunday June 6th	Mr John Webb	10:45am
Sunday June 13th	Rev Barbara Challis	10:45am
Sunday June 20th	Mr Keith Scarfe	10:45am
Sunday June 27th	Mr Paul Kemp	10:45am

URC Points of contact

Minister	Rev Robert Sheard	01449 678173
Secretary	Mr Lawrence Kelway	01728 860473
Treasurer	Mrs Janet Smith	01728 860857
Ladies' Secretary	Jean Rodwell	01728 861065

Editor's note. You might have noticed that there is a new secretary of the URC, Lawrence Kelway taking over from Ernie Read. I'm sure that all at URC will want to say a big thank you to Ernie for all the work he has done over many years. He has always been a very reliable and amiable link to the magazine.

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Parish Council - May Summary

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to officially record our most sincere Thank You to Mrs. Jane Baldwin, who chaired the Parish Council for the past two years. Jane did an outstanding job during what was possibly the most challenging year in recent history and will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best for the future in whichever adventures she embarks.



Cllr Steve Palframan was appointed Chairman and Cllr Richard Blackwell, Vice-Chairman at our Annual Parish Council Meeting. Most Committees, Working Groups, and Cllr representatives in local organizations have remained the same.

We currently have a number of councillor vacancies and would encourage community-minded parishioners to please come forward. There are some very exciting plans for the future, and we need your help to deliver them to our village.

Planning: DC/21/02982 - Land East Of, Aspall Road, Debenham: Erection of 54 dwellings (including 19 affordable), creation of vehicular and pedestrian access, public open space, infrastructure and landscaping. Following our update in the magazine's March issue, this application is now live on the MSDC website. The Parish Council will be holding an extraordinary meeting on June 7th at 7.30 pm (venue to be announced) to consider it and prepare a response. This is a meeting held in public, and parishioners are welcome to attend.

Traffic and Parking: Parishioners will have noticed our most recent addition to the village- A Speed Indicator Sign, which will be moved around the village and hopefully deter some of the excessive speeding on our roads. We can also collect some really interesting data from the device, which we will be sharing with the public in the future.

Debenham Community Awards: This year, we will be presenting the Community Awards at the Deb-Fest in September. The deadline for nominations has been extended to July 31st, so please do let us know who your Community Hero is.

Mrs. Dina Bedwell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Tel. no: 01473 787861 (please leave a voicemail if unavailable)
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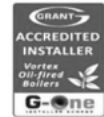
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June Reflection by Rev. Susan Bates

Have you heard the joke about the man on a roof in the rising flood waters? He prays to God to save him, but still the waters

keep rising. Presently a person floats by clinging to a barrel and invites him to join them, then a boat rows past, then a helicopter hovers overhead: each time he is invited to abandon his roof and go to safety, but each time he replies, 'No thanks, God is going to save me.' The waters rise and the man dies. He goes to heaven and says to God, 'I prayed to you to save me, where were you?' God says, 'I sent a barrel, a boat and a helicopter...' The point being of course, that help comes to us in ways we might not expect... or even want.



This same story was repeated to me recently, only the man on the roof was on a sinking ship.

That evening as I looked out over our wet spring garden, with the tulips just going over, the aquilegia racing each other to grow new buds and the damp, dark earth rapidly being hidden beneath the burgeoning spring growth... I wondered about those two analogies and if life really is like being on a roof in a flood or like being on a sinking ship. The rain water dripped from the leaves which bounced gently as they released their catch... and I decided that while life might, at times, feel like either a sinking ship or like being trapped by relentless flood waters, actually I would prefer to think of life as a climb up a mountain.

And a mountain, because, well, a mountain is beautiful. It is not easy – it is an upward struggle. It takes courage and stamina and determination. Often, we need other people to help and encourage us as they climb alongside us... and sometimes we do need emergency rations. On that beautiful mountain there are green and pleasant stretches where the sun warms us and the view is spectacular, but there are times when we face a seemingly impossible cliff. There are times when the clouds close in around us and we wander, lost in a fog, everything gone from view. Or we have days when it just rains and rains and we feel cold and demoralised. As we ascend that mountain, there are times when we stop and turn to look back and contemplate the path we have taken - its twists and turns and the choices we have made to go one way or another. There are moments when the clouds part and we turn to see the glorious beauty of our mountain and all the world that lies around it.

There are times for us all when life either is, or seems, rubbish; dark and difficult

times when we or those we love are hurting; when events or people in the world are hurtful. And for those of us who have even a slight inkling of God, we wonder where God is and why our prayers are not answered. And I can't say. But I refuse to believe anyone's life is a sinking ship, as if we are cast adrift with no control; neither is it a roof where we are trapped. And I do believe that even though at times, God doesn't seem to be with us, God *is* with us and is offering help... in one way or another.

And when we have climbed our mountain (or even a Suffolk sort of hill), when we have had the adventure of the struggle to the top, there can be an amazing sense of achievement and of wonder. It is no surprise that numerous cultures and faiths around the world consider mountains and particularly the very top of mountains, to be sacred. I believe, at the top of life's mountain, awaits the place where we will be most fully ourselves, delighted and at peace and completely at one with God.



THE BENEFICE OF
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

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Benefice Church Services in June

Please note that from the end of May there are no more zoom services for the foreseeable future. If you would like to join a service, but are unable to come to church, please do contact Revd Susan.

Sunday 6 th June	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion – traditional version
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th June	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion – trad version
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Helmingham	Morning Prayer – trad version
Sunday 20 th June	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion – traditional version
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Winston	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 th June	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Morning Prayer

We send a Benefice News email each week containing up to date details of events and services across the Benefice.

If you would like to receive this email, please contact Revd Susan:
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