

POEM FOR THE MONTH

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds
is come, and the voice of the turtle
is heard in our land.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

Has the more summery weather finally arrived? I do hope so, as for many of us it has seemed a long winter this year. With thoughts of summer flowers, I am pleased to say that the planning of Ashbocking's flower festival on 30th June and 1st July is well under way. There have been several promises by people offering to decorate a corner of the church already. The theme is "Celebrations" and we have plenty of space left for anyone who would like to do a themed flower arrangement as well as non-themed space. e.g. pew ends, pedestals, outside space etc. Children aged between 5-15yrs are invited to create a "garden in a tray" for which small prizes will be given in each age category. On the Friday evening prior to the opening of the festival there will be a ticketed cheese and wine evening. Price will be £10 for adults which will include a first glass of

wine and £6 for children including a soft drink. Tickets will be on sale from 1st June. Please put the dates in your diaries and support us by joining us over the weekend for a wander round our beautiful church and perhaps a cup of tea and piece of cake. For further details contact Linda and John Pollard on 01473 890836.

Our Bible group which meets twice a month on a Wednesday evening, will meet on 9th and 23rd May at Steve and Sarah Wilson's, Eastbrook House, The Green. Please note this is a change from the usual venue but the time remains the same, 7:30pm.

The next coffee morning is at Jan and Jon Bates house, No. 4 Ashley Grange on Friday 4th May, 10:30 – 12:00, parking space available at Hawthorns (next door).

Our next church service is the Christian Aid service on Sunday 13th May at 11:00am led by Fred and Jane Woods, everyone welcome.

Linda Pollard

Church Cleaning: Mike Surrige (I'm sure he would appreciate any extra help.)

CLOPTON

Thank you to those who made the church look so beautiful for Easter.

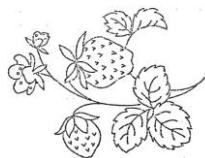
We had a very enjoyable service on Easter Day taken by Fred and Jane. Before the service there were plenty of bacon butties, hot cross buns and drinks for everyone to enjoy. The church smelt wonderful!

The next Hobbies Morning will be on Wednesday 2nd May from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

The May Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 16th from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Della Hughes. Please come and join us and meet friends or make new ones!

On Saturday 16th June at 7pm the East of England Co-op Brass Band will be giving a concert in Clopton church. The first half of their programme will have music relating to WW1 and the men of WW2 who served here. There will be a break for light refreshments followed by the second half with a selection of pieces chosen by the band. We are very fortunate to have them playing for us and we hope that they will attract a large audience. Tickets are £8 for adults and £4 for children. They can be obtained from Jenny Schurr Tel. 01473 738357 or Doris Main Tel. 01474 737602. Don't leave it too late to get your tickets. There will be parking in the churchyard.

The 493rd Bombardment Group Control Tower Museum on Debach airfield will be open on the last Sundays of each month from April until September from 11am until 4pm. Entrance is free. More information can be found at www.493bgdebach.co.uk



Our Strawberry Tea this year will be on Saturday 7th July. details later.

Doris Main

OTLEY

The Bishop of Dunwich, Dr. Mike Harrison, came to celebrate Easter at Otley and it was very good to see him here with his wife and family. Refreshments were served after the service, so people could stay and socialise. The church was beautifully decorated with spring flowers - plenty of daffodils this year - so thank you to the ladies involved.

The Annual Church Meetings took place in April when reports were presented, and elections made. In the churchwarden's report, Nigel Crowley gave a summary of the past year, detailing services and

projects. LED lighting has been installed in the nave, the noticeboard has been refurbished to a high standard, and Lawrence Homes are donating a piece of land to extend the churchyard to the south east. He thanked everybody for all their voluntary efforts. Nigel has now resigned as churchwarden after seven years and he was presented with a golf voucher. Clare thanked him for all he has done. Richard Treloar was reappointed as treasurer, Penny Clark as secretary, and the rest of the PCC was re-elected en bloc. Richard presented the treasurer's report and said that, despite a drop in income last year, the accounts are in a healthy state for the time being.

There were other reports and topics discussed. Clare had organised a 'Homeless' evening in Woodbridge for FFY, so they could walk around the streets trying to imagine what it would feel like to be homeless. They had a talk from a street pastor who was very forthright, and she said it was an eye-opener for the young people. Clare also visits Otley school once a month, and the playgroup, reading bible stories.

FIND (Families in Need) is very well supported in the village and there is a collection box for food and toiletries in the village shop, as well as in the church. Nigel said the need for donations is increasing. The St Mary's Handbell Ringers are continuing to visit care homes where their ringing is much enjoyed by the elderly residents. Last year they sent £200 to their charity of the year, Heartbeat East Suffolk.

Karin Upson had sent £165 to the Leprosy Mission as a result of her coffee morning and a collection in church and thanks everyone who contributed. This will go towards the charity's work in Dinja in Niger, improving medical care, training people for business, sending children to secondary school, and providing clean water for a very poor community.

Please note that the AGM of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 21st May at 7 o'clock, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. Any resident of the village can attend this, so do support it.

The next drop-in coffee morning will be held on Thursday 10th May at Grange House, the home of Russell Ling, where you are assured of a warm welcome. The coffee mornings are increasingly popular and provide a good opportunity to meet up.

Congratulations to George Chilvers who ran in the Paris Marathon and completed the course in 4 hours 25 minutes in a temperature of 22C, after training all through the bitter winter. He raised over £1,100 for St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, where he is the Community Fundraising Manager, and money is still coming in. He wants to thank everybody who sponsored him, Penny and Andrew in the shop and everybody who dropped their change in to the spaghetti jar, and says, "It's wonderful to have the support of the village, and it really does mean a lot". To add to this, the Chilvers family are hosting a Royal Afternoon Tea at Warrens Farm to celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on Saturday 19th May. Tea will be served between 3.00 and 5.00pm which should allow everyone to get home for the start of the F.A. cup final! The cost of the full English afternoon tea, including a celebratory glass of Prosecco, is £10 and all the proceeds will be going to George's fundraising efforts at St Nicholas Hospice.

The new season has started at the Bowls Club and I am sure they are always glad of new members. You can look them up online, otleybowlsclub@outlook.com

Finally, we are sorry to hear that Alan Taylor has died after a long illness. Alan came from a Scouting background when he moved here and soon became treasurer of the Otley Scouts and was an enthusiastic helper at many of their events. He was also an active and encouraging member of the Gardening Club when it first began. We send our sympathy to Audrey and the family.

Rose Rogerson

Village Diary:

- 3rd May** Friendship Club - Eric Punak
5th May Gardening Club – Open Plant Sale 10.30 am (Otley Village Hall)
6th May Friendship Club - Jumble Sale
14th May Gardening Club – “Dazzling Dahlias” with Nick Dobson
17th May Friendship Club - Dinner at Suncroft
18th May The Otley Players - AGM 8.00 pm
19th May Royal Afternoon Tea at Warrens Farm 3.00pm
20th May Messy Church at the Village Hall 3.00pm
21st May Parish Council - AGM 7.00 pm, followed by Annual Parish Meeting
24th May Community Lunch at the White Hart

Church Flowers: Joan Parish/Betty David

Church Cleaning: Philip and Betty David

Sidepersons:

6 th May	11.00am	Family Service	Tess Papworth
20 th May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Tess Papworth

Progressive Dinner Otley **Saturday 30th June**

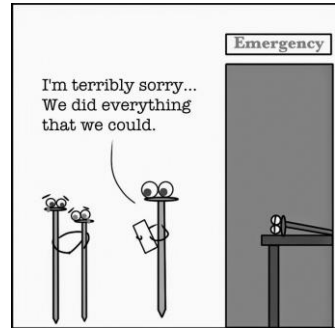


Now Book Your Place!

£10 per person contact: Vanessa Ling on 890787 or
vanessa@papermaze.co.uk

OUR FASCINATING LANGUAGE

If you hammer a nail through a piece of timber and then flatten the end over on the inside so it can't be removed (a technique called clinching) the nail is said to be dead, because you can't use it again. Doornails would probably have been subjected to this treatment to give extra strength in the years before screws were available. This led to the saying "As Dead as a Doornail".



Otley and District Gardening Club

As I write this month's article, we are still awaiting the moment when (with apologies to Max Bygraves - who? I hear you say) "Spring starts to spring, the cuckoo starts to sing, a song to take the edge off Winter's frown". Mind you, today's forecast is that next week "Sumer Is Icumen in"(sic). And that song's even older than Max!

Journeying out-of-county a few days ago I passed through the Essex village of Thriplow, home to the eponymous "Daffodil Weekend & Country Fair", occurring this year on 17th and 18th March - well, most daffs hadn't nearly mustered enough courage to show their heads above the snow by then. This week though, they're in full resplendent bloom - just nearly 4 weeks late! When does "unusual weather" become "climate change"?

Our 9th April Annual General Meeting went briskly and quite successfully, except that we haven't yet persuaded any eager member to be our Club Secretary for the coming year. Once the AGM was out of the way we sat back to listen to an excellent talk on plant propagation from seeds and cuttings, given by Anne Twedde who is a local expert horticulturist with "Plant Heritage", the world's leading garden conservation charity.

We didn't sit back for long, though, because Anne quickly made us snap to attention by posing short quizzes on the content of each section of her talk as she went along. Echoes of being back at school, and no slouching at the back please! Seriously though, it was a very good topic and so clearly explained by Anne, with her good-humoured quizzing making for a very enjoyable evening. And we all learned a lot!

May 5th sees our 2nd Open Plant Sale, on a Saturday morning this year, and we're hoping lots of people will come along. Even if you're not gardeners, there will be a cuppa and cake or biscuit on offer as well as a chance to chat about the weather, politics and religion - no, maybe not the last two.

Nick Dobson will be "Dazzling us with Dahlias" on Monday 14th May, and we still have a few spare seats on our 9th June coach trip to Pensthorpe Natural Park, Fakenham. Yes, it's over the border but be brave - we come home again that evening!

The Reluctant Gardener

SWILLAND

We had a good congregation for Easter, despite the rather miserable weather. As I write this, it feels much more Spring like.

Our Joint Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on 18th March after our service, chaired by Mark Cresswell. Both our Churchwardens Brian Williams and Andy Ling were re-elected and thanked for their hard work. The Annual Report and Accounts were presented and approved. Mark Cresswell outlined the new General Data Protection Regulations that come in to force in May. We welcomed Richard Easton on to the Electoral Roll bringing the total up to 9.

The next coffee mornings are on 5th May at Gill Reidy's and 2nd June at Ann Kent's.

Ann Kent

Flower rota:

6th – 13th May

Ann Kent

20th – 27th May

Gill Reidy

3rd – 10th June

Jackie Williams

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

The snow finally melted during the first three days of the month, we had about six inches which equated to .50 inches of rain. When it did finally melt, the ground was still frozen and therefore the water was unable to sink in, we then had another two inches of rain during the following ten days and together this caused a considerable amount of flooding. There was a short spell of fine weather but towards the end of the month we had another inch of rain. The total for the month was 3.75 inches which was the same as March 2016 and that was a wet year.

One of the other operations that had to be carried out in the early spring was to clean out the muck or should I say “manure” from the yards occupied by animals. There were no buildings with slatted floors in the horse age and all the animals would be littered with straw to keep them clean, wheat and barley straw was used for this purpose. The older varieties of wheat and barley produced much longer straw than we get today so it would last longer as bedding but during the winter months the muck would build up until it became necessary to clean the yards out.

All the yards would be cleaned out in turn by filling a tumbrel using a four-tined muck fork, the loads would then be taken and tipped up and a muck hill was made. The size of the stack would be approximately ten yards by six yards and a man would then level the tipped loads over the hill, as it got higher a ramp composed of muck would be made for the horse to get the tumbrel to the top. When all the yards had been cleaned out, the ramp would then be flung up onto the top of the hill. The reason that the yards would be cleaned out in sequence was due to the fact the muck hill would heat up if left and then the tumbrels would then sink in. At one time there were men

who would visit farms to turn the hill over with forks, the reason for this was to further reduce the germinations of any weed seeds as there was no herbicide chemicals available then.

Gardeners with compost bins can achieve the same effect by turning over the contents.

Tales from the Archives

The Parsons Lake

This was situated behind the Rectory (now Toad Hall) and was approximately an acre in size. It was made by building a brick damn about 30 feet high across the stream which runs between the hills to the High House, through the Rectory meadows and alongside the road to Clopton. There were several varieties of fish in it. It was a beautiful spot with sloping banks lined with great elm trees. There was a boat house and the Sunday school children had boat rides when they held their 'treat'.

It was in August 1912 (a very wet summer), that after two days of continuous rain, the damn collapsed, and the lake was no more.

There is a story told of a man who had offended the Smugglers in some way. He disappeared from his home near Burgh Church. Years later a skeleton was uncovered in the sandpit at the bottom of Church Hill and was assumed to be that of the missing man.

A man was working on the banks of the lake in the 1850's and found a smugglers cave, covered with a large stone, no doubt borrowed from the Churchyard. Inside the cave were some casks and a velvet smock.

The old song goes 'Brandy for the Parson and baccy for the Clerk'. This may not have been true in Otley, but they were on the Rector's land!

The 'Old Timer' – Otley News 1968

With our thanks to Christine Childs Otley Archivist



The Ipswich Hospital Charity are excited to announce the “Masquerade Charity Ball” at **The Venue at Kersey Mill** on **Friday, 22 June 2018** at 7.00 pm in aid of the Blossom Appeal.

This glamorous evening will include a night of live entertainment with a drinks reception, a three course meal with wine in a beautiful location. Ticket price is £50 per person. To find out more details or to purchase tickets please visit www.ipswichhospitalcharity.co.uk contact 01473 702929 or email at: charity@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk

SMILE LINES

There’s Something Nasty in the Shrub Bed.

I like my garden very much and enjoy a peaceful contemplative time in it.

Unfortunately, I have to share this little oasis with rabbits, moles, voles, hares, pheasants and other creatures that go bump in the night. They also like my garden, but mainly as a restaurant!

The dish of the week lately has been shrubs and roses which have been the main course for one special animal and my tulips have been its dessert. I am of course talking about MUNTJAC.

I lovingly planted all tulips in containers last winter, having experienced voles as underground diners before. Come this spring, lovely large flower buds appeared -just in time to be lopped off in one go like lollipops.

I don’t mind my shrubs going down the hatch but my herbaceous border is war!

Husband offered to stand guard at dusk armed with a pitchfork....at 6.30pm the regular strolled in to take its place at the table. The remaining few bergenia flowers were on special offer. Just as hubby prepared to charge.... the local farmer roared past with his tractor and scared the muntjac off.

We are waiting for the return booking and maybe a favourable comment in the guest book!

Now – where did I put that venison recipe?



Yours truly

Children's Corner



The Spirit of God - often unseen yet felt by many - a key to Christian faith. Come and hear about God's Spirit.

A fun event for adults and children together, involving, singing, stories and sharing food.

Otley Village Hall

Sunday 20th May, 3pm to 4.30pm

All Welcome,
£1 per family
suggested donation.



If you'd like to come, please let us know names of adults and children so we can get the catering right and have fun together.

mark@thecresswells.me.uk



The Carlford Churches
Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh,
Clifton Grundisburgh, Hasketon,
Otley, Swiland.

www.CarlfordChurches.org

The WHITE HART
Helmingham Road
Otley
TEL: (01473) 890312

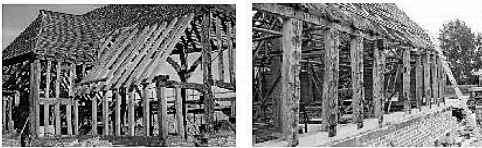
www.thewhitehartotley.co.uk
team@thewhitehartotley.co.uk

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter...”

... and as we move into Spring and Summer the pub opens up its sunny beer garden with wonderful views of the Suffolk countryside, where you can enjoy local asparagus, crabs and all the other wonderful taste sensations this area has to offer. When Autumn and Winter approach, we light the fire and cook up game pies, hearty stews and crack open the winter ale. Our community lunch gives you a slap-up meal, including pudding, and a chance to meet your neighbours for a mere £6 on the last Thursday of every month and there are Ukulele, Knitting, Cribbage, Book Clubs, all sorts of things to get involved with. See our website, give us a ring or pop in for more details.

The Pub is the Hart of the Village...

Dorsett Building Restoration



•
30 years experience in the restoration of all period buildings.

•
Specialising in timber framed houses and listed properties.

•
All work is of the highest quality and undertaken by skilled craftsmen.

01473 737355 (landline) 07711 183996 (mobile)
Poplar Farm, Monewden, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7DE
www.dorsettrestoration.co.uk

Graham Fowler Painting and Decorating



Top quality finish at a very reasonable price.
All aspects of interior and exterior redecoration.

Many years' experience in the trade with reference's available.

Please contact for a free estimate:

01728 685448

Mobile: 07798 832636

E-Mail:

graham.fowler@ymail.com

C Ling and Son
Grange Farm, Otley, Ipswich

We sell Point of Lay Chickens, Eggs
Hay, Straw, Shavings, Chicken feed,

Bird seeds and much more.

Tel: 01473 890787

SHARON'S ALTERATIONS

*Roman Blinds • Zips replaced
Hems shortened / lengthened
Curtains made for Caravans,
Home • School Name Labels
Collection & delivery available*

**Call Sharon on:
Mob 07790 227488**

or email:
sharonsmithwick@sky.com



**THE OTLEY VILLAGE STORE, POST
OFFICE and GARDEN SUPPLIES
CHAPEL ROAD, OTLEY 01473 890257**

The Otley Store is a traditional family-owned village shop which can supply all of your needs. It is well stocked with a range of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, wine, beers and spirits, newspapers and magazines, Calor gas and garden supplies. It also has a lottery terminal. Weekly home deliveries in the area are available, Monday-Friday 7.00am-7.00pm, Saturday 8.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 9.00am-12.30pm. Follow us on Twitter @otleystore and Facebook on "The Otley Village Store"

Coastal Building Supplies

7 Wentworth Road Ransomes Europark Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9SW 01473 320315	Unit 2, Sizewell Crossing Leiston Suffolk IP16 4LW 01728 833453
---	--

Riverside Business Park
Dock Lane, Melton, Woodbridge
Suffolk, IP12 1PE
01394 799000

**For all your Timber and Building
material requirements**

Debbie mobile Hairdresser

25 years' experience. In the
comfort of your own home.

Tel 01473 890692 or Mobile
07765193247.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN

Providing a friendly, reliable, quality service

SSJ

Specialist in Small Jobs

Based in Ashbocking

Call or email:

**Ken Petherbridge
07974 748887**

Kenpetherbridge@hotmail.com

**Boots
Blades**

GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICE & REPAIRS.

SPRING INTO ACTION IN YOUR GARDEN

WE NOW HIRE GARDEN MACHINERY OUT FOR THOSE ONE OFF JOBS.
ROTOVATOR, SCARIFIER, POST HOLE BORER AND LOTS MORE

VISIT OUR SHOP FOR GARDEN TOOLS, BIRD FOOD/FEEDERS, BOOTS & WORKWEAR

Closed Sundays & Mondays. Open Tue-Fri 9am-3pm, Sat 9am-12pm.



Specialising in traditional handcrafted furniture to complement and enhance both country and town houses.

Office: 01473 890509

Mobile: 07750 014017

ellis.furniture@virgin.net

Ellis Furniture

Donners, Ashbocking, Ipswich, IP6 9JX

Superbly crafted with

Timeless elegance

L.G.S

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS

Top quality work at reasonable prices.
Supply & fit or fit only.
Please call for a free quotation.

01728 685448
or
07798 832636

WOOD FARM HAIR Otley

Hair Salon opening times

Monday 9am – 5pm
Tuesday 9am – 5pm
Wednesday 9am – 5pm
Thursday 9am – 5pm
Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 12 Noon

**Late night
Wednesday and Thursday**

01473 890782

Birketts

Excellence in Practice

For all legal work:
Business and private.

Local partner - James Hall
01473 406270 (232300 switchboard)
james-hall@birketts.co.uk

Offices in
Cambridge | Chelmsford | Ipswich | Norwich



GUARANTEED BY THE
REAL MOTOR INDUSTRY



EVERGREEN GARAGE CROWFIELD LTD

Gosbeck Road Crowfield Ipswich Suffolk IP6 9TB

ESTABLISHED 37 YEARS

Latest dealer diagnostic equipment for service, repair, engine management and body system electronics
Hunter all four wheel alignment to improve vehicle handling and tyre wear with print-out before and after adjustments

Good tyre selection at competitive prices – Air conditioning service and repair – Routine servicing histories maintained
Attended forecourt service (Fuel/Coal and Gas Cylinders sold)
Modern fleet of courtesy cars – Collection & delivery service available
Telephone: 01473-890377

Website: www.evergreengarage.co.uk
E-mail: jim.davey@evergreengarage.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Evergreengarag

WOOD FARM KITCHENS

QUALITY KITCHENS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

Show room open Friday to Sunday

Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 10 - 5pm

Sunday 10 - 4pm

By appointment Monday to Thursday

**Wood Farm Barns, Helmingham Rd
Otley IP6 9NS**

Tel: [01473 890122](tel:01473890122)

Email: woodfarmkitchens@btconnect.com