

October

October's the month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
Of Autumn leaves,
Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves sailing down-
October is red
And golden and brown.



October leaves are lovely
They rustle when I run
Sometimes I make a heap
And jump in them for fun.

Autumn leaves float quietly down
And form a carpet on the ground.
But when those leaves are stepped upon,
Listen for the crackling sound.

Unknown

Weather August 2019

August is the main harvest month and it very frequently has a break in the proceedings and this has occurred again this year, it began with a dry week which followed a very wet end to July. The following two weeks were very unsettled but then it ended with a heatwave giving us 30c at times and in some places the temperatures were even higher breaking the previous records for August. The rainfall for the month was 1.30 inches with a total of 13 inches for the year.

Russell Ling

*"The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings"*



Robert Louis Stevenson

Otley & District Gardening Club

I'm sure many of you will be busy this month in your gardens, dead heading to prolong the flowering of your plants, splitting perennials or digging in manure to the cleared earth in your veg patches. We at Otley and District Gardening Club are asking if any one has any spare perennials, seedlings or houseplants, to think of us on 23rd May 2020 when we're doing our Annual Plant Sale at Otley village hall. Pot some spare plants up and bring them along if you can. This year was a great success and we'd like to repeat it again next year.

Septembers meeting was fantastic, with Andrew Sankey speaking about the traditional cottage garden. Next months speaker is David Coop of Elsom Seeds who will be talking about composts. Please come along if you'd like to know more about this essential medium we all use in our garden. The meeting is on 7th October at 19:30 at Otley village hall.



The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard

Old Michaelmas Day

Michaelmas



Feast Day of St Michael and All Angels

Although Michaelmas is celebrated on the 29th September, when the calendar was reformed in 1752, "Old Michaelmas Day" was moved to the 10th October. Old Michaelmas Day is also called "Devil Spits Day"; it's the last day that blackberries should be picked, according to old British folklore. This is known as the day that the Devil came to earth; he fell from the skies, straight onto a blackberry bush, whereupon he cursed the fruit, scorched them with his fiery breath, stamped on them and then spat on them making them unfit to eat! Although in my experience, they are usually a little past their sell by date by this stage, a bit "blown" or maggoty!

An old Irish proverb says:

"On Michaelmas Day the devil puts his foot on blackberries"

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING



Last month was the funeral of a dear friend of many of us. We have known Sue Surridge and her husband Mike since they moved into Ashbocking to live in the extension of Katy and Carl's house due to Sue's failing health.

We all knew her as a very warm lady who was always interested in everyone. She was a regular member of our congregation until latterly and helped at all the events we put on to raise money.

She will be missed by many.

The church was full, and her funeral service reflected the love everyone had for Sue, her children were full of stories and wonderful memories. Mike joked about finally getting the last word! Sue herself had some words that she wished to be read out and the atmosphere, although sad, was indeed a celebration of her life. From the eulogy read by Sue and Mike's son, here is a brief history of Sue's life. She was born in Broxbourne on the 27th August 1946 and was an only child and lived there for most of her childhood. Sue was a studious, well behaved child who enjoyed simple pleasures with her parents which included playing card games, a love of hers in recent times even when poorly, she enjoyed playing patience on her iPad.

Sue did well at school and was keen on sports such as tennis and hockey. She made many friends at school who kept in touch throughout their lives. It was at Chestnut Grammar school that she met Mike who of course later became her husband. Sue continued her thirst for knowledge into adult life and after working in a somewhat boring job she decided to go back to education to gain a degree in social science. Her 2.1 achievement was one of her proudest moments.

Sue loved books and kept a diary of all the books she had ever read over twenty-five years, books of every type and title, giving her the upper hand at Trivial Pursuit.

Mike and Sue were married in 1970, and during the following years Sue ran an organised household, with strict stock control system which meant she never ran out of anything. She expected everyone else to do the same and Mike would often be in trouble for finishing something without telling her.

Hockey was a big part of her life and she followed Mike's career all over the country, sharing many happy time and friendships, as well as many wonderful

experiences. She was very proud of Mike during the time he played for the LX and Grand Masters.

Through her life Sue always went out of her way to help others. She also had a love of animals and always had a dog who needed her love. She had many different jobs to help make ends meet, including fruit picking, collecting census data and did night shifts in a children's home. She had worked with people with learning disabilities and helped look after elderly relatives, but she never neglected her family. It was tough, having little time for herself and Mike and when Mike retired in 2003, they looked forward to some relaxation and new opportunities. Unfortunately, in 2007 Sue had her final diagnosis which was a terrible blow to the family as she lived a healthy life and they felt it was undeserved.

Sue began her biggest battle and true to form she faced it head on with a matter of fact attitude and stoicism and bravery that we all could see in her every day. She did not stop loving her life.

Sue loved her garden and was never happier than when she was pottering around or sitting on the bench with a cup of coffee. She was in her garden up until the last month of her illness, but when she unable to do it any longer she made Mike wheel her around in a wheelchair instructing him on what needed to be done.

Last year Sue wrote some memories in a book and with the question, what piece of advice would you like to offer me, she wrote,

"Don't look to the future too much but enjoy life day by day. Appreciate your children as they are now and don't be impatient for them to grow up too much. Be thankful that you and those you love are healthy, good health can be snatched away at any time, then everything changes. Happy times are usually doing the simplest of things that cost very little or nothing".

This eulogy was loving, family centred and honourable, and very sound advice for us all.

The Historic Churches ride, and stride saw seven visitors to Ashbocking church, an improvement on last year. Sadly, we only had two riders from our village doing the rounds.



The next service at Ashbocking is the Harvest Festival. A family service to celebrate the season.

This is on Sunday 13th October at 11.00, with tea and coffee afterwards.

Linda and John Pollard are rota'd to clean, but we would be grateful for any produce you can spare as well as dried goods for FIND and help to decorate the church.

The next coffee morning is on Friday 4th October at 10.30 at the home of Linda and Mick Ellis, Dormers, The Green, Ashbocking. Everyone is welcome.

The Knit and Stitch group are meeting in October on Monday 7th and 28th. We are focusing on making things for the Christmas Bazaar but are quite happy if you have your own project to work on.

Please join us, we meet at Hawthorns, The Green, at the end of Ashley Grange, 10.00 until 12.00.

Come and enjoy coffee and a chat, and a chance to do something new or work on a current project.

We are now collecting for the Christmas Bazaar and have accepted quite a few boxes of donated books, bric a brac etc. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Please bare us in mind when you are clearing out or have items of clothing you no longer need. We are busy making gifts and handmade decorations. We hope to have a very successful day on December 7th.

The dates for the Ashbocking Bible study group, meeting at Hawthorns the Green, 7.30pm on Wednesdays 9th and 23rd October. Everyone is welcome to come and explore issues of faith and discuss the Bible and its message.

We enjoy good discussion, laughter and refreshments. All welcome even if you think you know nothing about the Bible



Many congratulations to Jon and Bev Last of Allotment Lane on the early but safe arrival of their second son, Archie William Last.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

The Festival of Hobbies, Crafts and Skills organised by Jennie Schurr in August was a great success. The church was full of an amazing variety of articles all of which were made by local people.



There are certainly a lot of very talented people in the area. The Suffolk weavers gave demonstrations each day. We had a 'busking' corner and Peter Day kept everyone entertained from 10am until 6pm on each of the three days with a variety of music played on his keyboard. Andrew Schurr joined in on his violin and the other 'buskers' were Xanthe on violin and Rufus on recorder. Peter took requests and Clive and Ann Willetts danced to their favourite tune as it was their wedding anniversary. The buskers raised a substantial sum of money in the cap beside them.



There were many crafts for sale and the Tombola attracted lots of people especially on the last day when one of the star prizes was still on the table waiting for a winner. There were lots of delicious homemade cakes for people to enjoy.

We would like to thank everyone who played a part in making it such a great three days. Thank you to the people who helped set up the displays, those who showed their crafts, gave prizes, all those who baked cakes and helped serve teas and a special "Thanks" to everyone who came to support us. Each evening everything was covered in plastic and then it was removed the next morning-- we love bats at Clopton! The total amount raised was £950, a big "Thank you " to Jenny and Andrew for all their hard work behind the scenes.



We enjoyed our bacon butties before our Harvest Service taken by James. All the donated produce was taken to the Salvation Army Hostel in Ipswich. We appreciate the kindness of the Taylor family for letting us use the field behind the church for special occasions.

We park in the churchyard for normal services.

The October Hobbies morning is on Wednesday 2nd October from 10am until noon in the Village Hall.

The Coffee Morning will be hosted by Jennie Vince on the 16th October from 10am until noon in the Village Hall, please come and join us.

Our next Lay-led Service is on 13th October at 11am, everyone is very welcome.

Doris Main

OTLEY

Please join us in celebrating the end of harvest at our **Harvest Festival** on the **6th October at 9.30am**. The Scouts and Cubs will be on parade and taking part. The church will be decorated the day before and any produce from your gardens will be very welcome. We also appreciate canned and packet foods which will be delivered to the Food Bank "F.I.N.D" in Ipswich. All items will be distributed later. There will be coffee/tea and biscuits to follow. We look forward to seeing you.



Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' (*Report by Karin Upson*)

This took place on the 14th September. We had 19 riders visiting our church. They came from as far away as Lowestoft. The information pack from the area organiser contained 3 orange balloons and I did make the effort to blow them up and put them on the gate. I am glad I did because the Woodbridge area organiser did actually ride himself and came to our church in the morning. The balloons also helped people to find the church as the finger post is not very easy to see. People remarked how bright the church looked. The sunshine certainly helped! I would like to thank the people who manned the church: Nigel and Pauline Crowley, Russell Ling and Audrey and Chris Barker.

The older part of the Churchyard, which was very overgrown, has now been given a good haircut by Robert Carlton who has very kindly agreed to cut it twice a year. Our thanks to him and to Russell Ling for yet another brilliant idea!

Congratulations to Marcus and Charlotte Adie of Chapel Road on the baptism of their son Oliver.

The next Coffee Morning will be held on **October 10th** at 9 Spring Park, the home of Ruth Farnhill, where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Finally, we send our love and prayers to Peter Rogerson who is very poorly and to Rose. They are in our thoughts.

Angela Treloar

Village Diary for October

Oct 3rd Friendship Club - Lunch at Suncroft

Oct 7th Otley and District Gardening Club, 7.30pm "Composts"

Oct 10th Otley Coffee Morning 10.00am at the home of Ruth Farnhill 9 Spring Park

Oct 17th Friendship Club – Wreath Demonstration by Sue Montgomery

Oct 24th Community Lunch at The White Hart 12.30pm

Date for your Diary: Otley Firework display is on the **2nd November**.

Look out for posters for more information



Church Flowers: Harvest, everybody

Church Cleaning: Mary Hunt/Ruthie Bullock

SWILLAND

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE - the weather was perfect this year. Thank you to everyone who manned the church, 12 cyclists visited us this year, more than we have had in previous years. Gill Reidy was our sole participant and covered a magnificent 60 miles, visiting 39 churches.

Our Harvest Festival was held on 15th September. Thank you to all who helped decorate the church. The fruit and vegetables were taken to Winesham Nursing Home who were very pleased with them.

Ann Kent

Coffee mornings:

5th October- Gill Reidy, 1 Church Lane

2nd November- Ann Kent, Red Court

Flower Rota:

6th – 13th October Jackie Williams

20th – 27th October Ann Kent

3th – 10th November Margo Barker

*"People are lonely because they build walls
instead of bridges"*



RUSSELL LING REPORTS

There is no comparison to the harvest machinery of today with that of only eighty years ago. The modern combine cuts, threshes and clears a field in a very short time compared to the harvest in the horse age. The most modern and up to date machine then was the binder, it was called a binder as it cut the corn and tied it up into bundles called sheaves. The binder consisted of a platform with a large driving wheel at one end and a smaller wheel on the outside at the other. The large wheel turned all the machinery which consisted of the reciprocating knife at the front of the platform and all the canvases which conveyed the cut corn to the knotter. There was a wooden reel which pulled the standing corn against a



reciprocating knife and then onto the platform. The canvases went round a roller at each end of the platform one of which was driven from a chain and sprocket from the driving wheel. When the cut grain reached the driving wheel end it was conveyed between two other canvases over the top of the wheel to the knotter where packers pushed it into a bundle ready to be

tied up. The canvases had wooden slates fixed across them to help move the cut corn and were held together with straps. The rollers which turned the canvases were able to be tightened in order to keep them from slipping.

The binder was originally pulled by three horses but once the tractor came into use this then became the motive power. The binder had an operator who sat on a metal seat attached to the rear and he was able to tilt the platform to enable the lifters to get under any laid corn in order that it could be cut and pulled onto the platform. He could also heighten or lower the reel and move the knotter so that the sheaf was tied in the correct position for making the shocks. The shocks were made by farmworkers who put the sheaves against one another in the form of a tent.

Russell Ling

Otley Primary School Open Day 11th October

Otley School is holding an Open Day on 11th October designed for parents and carers considering the School for their children to start in September 2020.

It will be an opportunity to meet the dedicated staff and see the school in action, that was last rated 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2017, as well as viewing the extensive facilities, including the new school hall.

The Head of School will be making presentations at 9.30am and 1.30pm and tours will be available throughout the day. In addition the onsite pre-school will also be open and available to tour.

There is no need to book in but if you would like to inform the school that you plan to attend you are welcome to phone the office on 01473 890302.

Please pass the invitation on to anybody you might know who would be interested in sending their children to a small, friendly, family orientated and successful village school, who value every child in its care, and whose aim is for every child to reach their maximum potential.

'On our own we are great, but together we are amazing'

Ian Liddell
Chair of Governors

Final Days at Otley Hall



Two ghost stories by M R James, the master of English ghost stories, will be performed by **RM Lloyd Parry** at Otley Hall on Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23rd November.

Robert Lloyd Parry has performed a one man show of M.R. James tales since 2005 and tours his show up and down the country.

Tickets cost £17.50.

In '**A view from a Hill**' a pair of old binoculars reveals the grisly history of an idyllic stretch of the English landscape.

In '**The Treasure of Abbot Thomas**' a treasure seeker comes face to face with unspeakable horror at the bottom of an ancient well.

Please arrive by 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start. Late admissions only at the interval.

Our last ever **Christmas tours at Otley Hall** are on Thursday the 12th and Friday the 13th of December, starting at 6:30pm.

Tickets cost £17.50 and visitors can experience a Tudor style Christmas with our festive tour of the Hall. A full guided tour will be followed by festive nibbles and mulled wine in the company of the owner Ian Beaumont.



Roaring log fires, beautifully decorated and candle lit rooms with plenty of seasonal cheer - what better way to start your Christmas celebrations!

Tickets for both events are available to purchase via **01473 890264** or **events@otleyhall.co.uk**.

The Hall closes to the public at the end of the year.

Debenham Group Practice



Flu vaccines:

The Flu vaccination clinic was on Thursday 26th September at Debenham Community Centre. If you missed this please ring your usual surgery to make alternative arrangements.

Smile Lines

Family Bible surprise

A little boy was fascinated as he fingered through the pages of the old family Bible. Suddenly, an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages fluttered out. "Mum, come quick!" he cried. "I think I just found Adam's underwear!"

Toys

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys

Moses

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.



CHILDREN'S CORNER



Q: What do owls say when they go trick or treating?

A: Happy Owl-ween!

Q: Why did the skeleton go to the prom alone?

A: Because he couldn't find any "body" to go with.

Q: Which type of pants do ghosts wear?

A: Boo-Jeans.

Q: What do they teach in witching school?

A: Spelling.



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