

A Thought for February

“Winter is the time for comfort,
for good food and warmth,
for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire:
it is the time for home.”

- Edith Sitwell

To all our Readers, Contributors and Advertisers:

We hope you like the ‘new look’ of the magazine.

We have managed to keep the cost of the magazine and the advertising at the same price as last year; the publication is non profit making. Your contributions are always very welcome and we try our best to accommodate them. Please keep sending them to us. We would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you a belated Happy New Year!

Weather Review of 2018

Here is a resume of the weather for 2018 which has been unusual to say the least. In January we had an average rainfall and this carried on until the middle of February when the Beast from the East gave us some very cold weather. This was further compounded by snow and frost, the snow was blown off the fields in some places and caused blocked roads which could only be cleared by tractors with buckets. This continued into March and then the snow melted but the ground remained frozen, this plus a high rainfall for the month caused quite a considerable amount of flooding. In the middle of April it suddenly became very warm for the time of the year and this occurred again in the beginning of May. June was very dry and again we had some very high temperatures, this continued into most of July and at one time reached 35c. The beginning of August was again very hot for the first week but thereafter returned to a more normal condition with slighter lower rainfall than average and this carried on until September, October and November which had warmer temperatures than usual. This milder weather came to a halt in the middle of November when the temperature returned to being more autumnal for the time of year. The weather in December continued to be unsettled up until Christmas when high pressure brought a change to dry

but dull conditions. The temperature was however noticeable warmer than is usual for this time of year at times reaching 9c. The rainfall for the month was 2 inches and the total for the year came to 24.25 inches which is about the average in Otley, this is quite surprising considering the very dry summer that we had. It remains to be seen if the weather in 2018 is the beginning of a climate change that is going to effect the British Isles or is it a one off. If hot dry summers carry on there will undoubtable be a drop in food production particularly potatoes and vegetables.

Russell Ling

The Legend of St. Valentine



The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

Stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Did you know? Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas.

Otley & District Gardening Club

Even as deep midwinter tightens its chill grip on the land, Mother Nature reminds us of her constant self-renewing vigour. Pure white snowdrops cheerily brave the elements, while fresh green daffodil shoots give promise of their golden host to come.

On Monday 4th March at Gardening Club we reassemble after our winter hibernation, to hear Dr Ian Bedford tell us how to encourage butterflies into our gardens. I wish he'd just tell me how to encourage Cabbage Whites into other people's gardens! With "Ornamental Grasses" and "Gardening for Wildlife" as future topics, our Spring Plant Sale and Summer Outing to look forward to, Everything's Coming up Roses!

The Reluctant Gardener

"OUR FASCINATING LANGUAGE"



Malingering Mark always seemed to fall ill on important dates.

According to naval history it was the job of a leadsman to calculate the depth of water around the coastline by dropping a lead weight, attached to a measuring line, over the bow end of the ship. As the easiest job on board it was usually given to a sick or injured seaman and many feigned illness in an attempt to secure such light work. The phrase '**swinging the lead**' came ashore to describe somebody making excuses to avoid work or giving the appearance of toiling when not actually doing anything.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

We have now started planning for the coming year. We are going to be holding a quiz night at the church during May, date to be confirmed, and another Christmas Bazaar at the end of November.

Thank you to all who have given their used Christmas cards. I am still willing to receive them if you have them. Please keep any good bric-a-brac and any clothing, books, bags, games, household items that are in a nearly new condition for our sale. We will be open to receive items shortly. More details later.

At last, the water supply for the church will be installed soon. This will only be to the church boundary, but will make things so much easier for our flower arrangers, coffee providers and events as well as for people visiting graves.

The other change to the church yard is the installation of a bench, kindly donated by the Parish council. The new bench looks very smart beside the church path and will be a welcome stopping place for people to enjoy.

The bench, originally from Ashbocking crossroads, was refurbished by Jonathan Bell. He will do the same for the old bench which will then be placed along a footpath for walkers to use. We would like to thank all those concerned for the storing, refurbishment and installation of the bench. Also, thanks to Barry Chamberlain for the loan of his mini digger.

On the 19th of January was the 100th anniversary of the death of Rev. Cowell of Ashbocking, aged 83, and his memorial has been refurbished using the last of the money in his maintenance trust fund. A good job has been done by Ken Petherbridge. Our village historian, Brian Bell, has written an article about him which is at the bottom of this piece.

A big thank you to Ashbocking's flower arrangers, who always make sure the church looks lovely for our services. Up until now this has been headed by Linda Ellis, who has been doing flowers in the church for a number of years to a very high standard. Linda has decided to retire from this and the job has been handed over to Phil Pollard. Many, many thanks to Linda for all her hard work.

Our next coffee morning is being hosted by Noreen and Ken Petherbridge at Feoffee Farmhouse, near Allotment Lane Ashbocking, on Friday 1st Feb at 10:30. Everyone very welcome.

The house group dates at Hawthorns are Feb 13th and 27th at 7:30pm, and Knit and Stitch club, also at Hawthorns on Mon 4th Feb at 10am. Bring along a project you are working on or help us to knit blankets for the church. Chat and coffee included.

Church cleaning for February is Duncan and Yvette Bray, and our next service will be held on February 10th at 11:00. This is a Family Communion service, everyone welcome.

Linda Pollard

Article from Brian Bell on Rev Cowell

Canon Maurice Byles Cowell was vicar of All Saints Church Ashbocking from 1862 to 1919. He died at the age of 83 on January 19th 1919 and was by far the longest ever serving vicar, of 57 years, at All Saints Church. He left money in his will to set up three Parish charities - The Children's School Treat Trust, The Coals Trust and The Cowell Graves Trust. A sum of £100 was invested in 3½ per cent War Stock for The Cowell Graves Trust with the interest to be used for "the repair and the keeping in good order of the Cowell family tombs and memorial stones in Ashbocking churchyard". As 2019 is the centenary of Canon Cowell's death the Trustees have allocated a sum of £200 towards the cost of restoring the family graves and memorial stones in the Churchyard. This work is now underway.



Canon Cowell was the last incumbent to live at Ashbocking Rectory. On two separate occasions during his long residence Canon Cowell ran a private school at the Vicarage and the 1881 census recorded twenty-three boys at the school. Over the years, pupils included Viscount Allenby the conqueror of Jerusalem, two boys from N Ireland, another from India and several members of the Ipswich families of Fisons and Ransomes. His wife, Anna Maria Cowell ran a free

lending library at the Vicarage in the late 1890s when there were books for adults and children.

Following the death of Canon Cowell, the property was sold to Mr. & Mrs E Cazelet in 1920. They lived at Ashbocking House until 1946 when Professor Denys Harding and Mrs Jessie Harding, retired child psychiatrists, bought the house and called it The Old Vicarage. Professor Harding died in 1993 and after standing empty for a while, it was sold, for £275,000 in 1994, when the Old vicarage became Ashbocking House again.

CLOPTON

The church was full for the Candlelight Carol Service on Christmas Eve. We sent £332.26 to the East Anglian Children's Hospice in Ipswich. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

January and February seem to be very quiet months so not a lot to report on.

Hobbies Morning will be on Wednesday 6th February from 10 am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

The Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 20th February from 10am until noon. We will make sure the Village Hall is warm! It will be hosted by Sue Emmerson. We look forward to seeing you there.

The subs for the magazine are due now, the price remains at £8.50. Wishing everyone a belated Happy New Year

Doris Main

OTLEY



The main event in the village in the New Year has been the retirement of our wonderful postman Adrian. On a freezing Saturday morning about fifty people and a large number of dogs gathered outside the Post Office to give him a great send-off. Penny presented him with a substantial gift

of cash from collected donations, a T-shirt with photos of many of the Otley dogs, and a matching shopping bag for his wife. And later he was interviewed on Radio Suffolk. We are certainly going to miss him. We wish him a happy retirement and welcome Jane who is taking his place.

The next monthly coffee morning will be held on Thursday 14th February, Valentine's Day, at 16 Spring Park, the home of Brian and Karin Upson, where you will have a warm reception. The Friendship Club will resume their meetings at the village hall on the first and third Thursdays of the month - they are just planning their programme for the year.

The Gym Club is starting up again for primary school children, after school on Fridays (otleygym@gmail.com) and Pilates classes are still running in February (contact@larapepper.com).

I have reviewed the church visitors book for 2018 which 55 people had signed, including some from New Zealand and Australia. There were a group of students from Otley College doing a survey of bats, and a couple from Creeping St Mary walking to all the churches listed in 'Mortlock's Guide to Suffolk Churches'. This was visit no. 499 and they had walked 1.520 miles by then, a good effort. Others were researching family history, and several noted their thanks that the church was open.

With no magazine in January, Christmas seems a long time ago, but we had a very good congregation at both of our Christmas services, and the crib service at Warrens Farm was well supported. From the carol service collection we donated £70 each to Age UK and the Children's Society. Attendance at the church is improving but it would always be good to welcome more people from within the village. Please contact Clare Sanders on 01473 735183 if you would like to arrange a wedding, have your marriage blessed in church, or your children baptised. It would be great to see some new faces and we look forward to welcoming you on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30am. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to church life throughout the last year, giving their time, and Joan especially wants to thank the flower arrangers.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

7th Feb.	Friendship Club
8th/9th Feb.	Junior TOPS - "Bugsy Malone"
21st Feb.	Friendship Club
28th Feb.	Community lunch at The White Hart
Church flowers:	Joan Parish

The Otley Players (TOPS)

The Otley Players are Otley's amateur drama group and we've been performing in the Village for over 30 years. Currently we stage 1-2 productions a year, our last one in the Autumn saw members of the Tap Dancers and Ukelele groups take to the stage alongside us in a variety-filled evening with a quiz and 3 course meal, all raising funds for Lighthouse Women's Refuge. If you are interested in joining our small, friendly group email info@theotleyplayers.co.uk

Junior TOPS

Junior TOPS are the youth section of The Otley Players, for children aged between 8 and 17. We produce one musical a year, with rehearsals on Saturday afternoons starting in September running through to three performances in early February. We don't hold auditions, as we like to give every child the opportunity to be involved. It's a great way to improve confidence and make new friends. This year's show, Bugsy Malone, will be on 8th and 9th February and tickets are available from 01473 892040. For children looking to join us email juniors@theotleyplayers.co.uk

Otley Community Council

The Community Council is responsible for running the Village Hall and playing field, and has 2-3 main fundraising events throughout the year – the fete in July, fireworks in November and the Christmas Dinner Dance. These events, along with regular (Pilates, Suffolk Singers, Table Tennis etc) and private (birthday parties, weddings etc) hirers help to keep the hall well maintained. The Committee comprises several elected members, and then representatives from each of the Village Organisations, such as Parish Council, The Otley Players, the Church, Bowls Club etc. We have 5 meetings a year, and if you would like to join us, or join one of our fundraising committees please email vanessa@papermaze.co.uk

SWILLAND

Christmas Draw

As there was no January magazine, I haven't reported on our Church Draw and lunch. Thank you to all those who bought and sold tickets and to everyone who so generously gave prizes. We had almost 60 prizes. The lunch in Winesham Village Hall was well attended. Thank you to all who helped and gave things for the stalls. In total we raised £750 which was 20% up on last year. A wonderful result.

This year's draw will be on Saturday, 7th December.

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 2nd February at Gill Reidy's, 1 Church Lane.



There will be a coffee morning on the first Saturday of each month at various people's houses. Do come and join us. People from outside Swilland are more than welcome.

Ann Kent

Flower Rota

3rd February

10th-17th February.

24th February - 3rd March.

Margo Barker

Gill Reidy

Ann Kent

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

In my last article I said that sugar beet was the last crop to be harvested which was true but in the horse age we also had cattle beet or later fodder beet. Cattle beet unlike sugar beet did not have a tap root which meant



that they could be lifted by pulling the beet by their tops straight out of the ground. The tops were left on the beet which would then be carted to a clamp and covered with straw and soil to prevent them being frosted as they were used for feeding to cattle over the whole of the winter. Beet would be taken from the clamp as required and put into a shed where the soil would be scraped off

with a hand held hook with a pointed end which was used to lift them off the ground. The beet was then sliced up using a machine which had a hopper and a round vertical blade with protruding slots to slice the beet and this was turned by hand. A tin bushel was placed under the machine to catch the sliced beet which was then put into a bag. Feed for cattle in those days consisted of chopped straw mixed with chopped beet and some ground barley which was all put into long mangers hung from poles by chains round the walls of the building. A bye product from sugar beet called sugar pulp could also be bought from the beet factory and mixed with the feed.

During these winter months when it was often raining and little field work available cleaning and slicing beet gave farmworkers another useful occupation.

Russell Ling

Mr Mole

Love ‘em or hate ‘em they have a horrible ability to appear in our gardens and particularly lawns when they are least wanted. Our love for the cuddly little creatures we first found in the “Wind in the Willows” are far from the frustration we feel when that small mound of earth first appears in the middle of our green sward! Eat your heart out Kenneth Grahame!

They are having a real party in my garden and the churchyard this month and looking at the piles of earth you would think there are a whole host of them – in reality it is probably at most only one or two of the little b.....s.

They are on the move at this time of year because the breeding season is February to May and they are busy looking for mates. They are thought to be solitary creatures, coming together only to mate. Their territories may overlap, but moles avoid each other and males can fight fiercely if they meet.

There is a complete industry with sprays and devices which are said to get rid of them along with old wives tales about moth balls and rags

soaked in paraffin and even more obnoxious substances. In truth these only cause greater frustration as you lament the damage to your bank accounts and your nervous system – maybe the mole population own a mole device hedge fund – now there's a thought!

Unfortunately the only solution is traps but if like me you have Buddhist sympathies, it's best to just sit back turn another page and pray they will find better pastures in which to roam. **RJ**



My Boss And I

When I take a long time – I am slow
When my boss takes a long time – He is thorough

When I don't do it – I am lazy
When my boss doesn't do it – He is too busy

When I do something without being told – I am trying to be smart
When my boss does the same – That is initiative

When I please my boss – That's apple polishing
When my boss please his boss – He's co-operating

When I do good – my boss never remembers
When I do wrong – He never forgets!

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Messy Pancakes



What's more fun than traditional Pancakes?

On the ceiling, on the floor or on your plate (we hope). A fun event for adults and children together, involving singing, stories, the inevitable pancakes and sharing food.

Otley Village Hall

Sunday 24th February, 3pm to 4.30pm

All Welcome.

If you'd like to come, please let us know names of adults and children so we can get the catering right.
Email: mark@cresswell.org
£1 per family. Suggested donation.



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For details please see our newsletter, *Grapevine* on our website:
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Children's Sunday Clubs

@ St Mary's Church Grundisburgh

Sunday Club

Second and third
Sundays of the
month

An active session with stories and crafts of about 45 mins starting at 10.45am in the Parish rooms for ages 2 to 7. Contact Jenny: jonje@talktalk.net



Discovery Club

On the same Sundays, for children from 7 upwards. Discovery club gives us space to reach out and explore.
Contact Sandra:
Sandra@thecresswells.me.uk



Sardines



A baby sardine
Saw her first submarine

She was scared and watched through the Peephole.

"Oh come, come, come"
Said the sardines mum
"Its only a tin full of people"

Why did the man run around his bed?

Because he was trying to catch up on his sleep!

What do you call a pig that knows karate?

A pork chop



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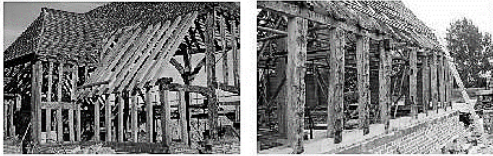
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