

Autumn Fires

In the other gardens
And all up the Vale,
From the Autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blaes,
The gray smoke towers!

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall



Robert Louis Stevenson

Weather July 2019

July began with a short heatwave but just as we thought that it was going to be another 2017 it all changed to being unsettled again. This didn't last long, it continued fine and dry until the 20th of the month. Another welcome half inch of rain brought a much needed respite from the dry conditions, then we had a very short spell of extremely hot conditions with temperatures that broke the records. This was then followed by another inch and a half of rain, a most unusual month's weather. The total rainfall for July was 2.55 inches.

Russell Ling

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the start of the Harvest season beginning in August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. They were then used as the Communion bread during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church, and nowadays we have harvest festivals at the end of the season.



At the start of the harvest, communities would appoint a strong and respected man of the village as their 'Lord of the Harvest'. He would be responsible for negotiating the harvest wages and organising the fieldworkers.

The end of the harvest was celebrated with a big meal called a Harvest Supper, eaten on Michaelmas Day. (The Feast of Michael and All Angels, which is celebrated on the 29th of September every year. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days; in England, it is one of the "quarter days".) The 'Lord of the Harvest' sat at the head of the table. A goose stuffed with apples was eaten along with a variety of vegetables. Goose Fairs were and are still held in English towns at this time of year.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.



In Otley a memorial to the left of the organ celebrates the life of James Last who died in 1843 at the age of 64. The then Rector, Francis Storr, wrote a book about him entitled 'The Christian Farmer' of which some 7000 copies were sold. In nearly every line of the memorial some phrase from scripture is used – appropriate for one who was wholly committed to the Christian faith and life. In his time he must have been generally respected, in evidence of which his memorial was erected. The story is told that he would not start the harvest without the Rector being invited to cut the first swathe – how things have changed.

Harvest Festivals are held in each of our Churches and are advertised in the magazine. Do come and join us to celebrate this special time of year.

Richard Treloar



*“Happiness is a butterfly which, if pursued,
is always beyond our grasp,
but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight on you”*

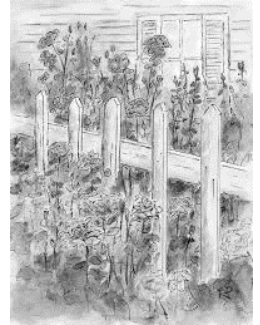
Otley & District Gardening Club

Dear avid readers

It's a short piece for me this month with only our annual members BBQ happening since our last edition.

The BBQ was a great success this year, even if we had to battle with high winds for it to take place. The club provided the meat and vegetarian alternative, this year a slow roasted shoulder of pork was the offering. A special thanks go to Phil and Denise Wilcox for providing that service. It was gorgeous. The Salads and desserts were provided by our members, and what an amazing spread we had!! Thanks to all of your hard work for making it so enjoyable.

Next months meeting is at Otley Village Hall on 2nd September at 19:30pm. Please come along to meet our guest speaker Andrew Sankey who will be talking to us about “A Year in the life of a Cottage garden”. It's also time for Membership to be paid. We charge just £10.00 a year plus £1.50 per meeting for our subscription, which includes a 10% discount at Ashbocking Nursery and invitation to all our meetings and garden visits. You can come to as many of the meetings as you can make or are intrigued by and you get to meet our fantastic members and committee. A great way to meet new people with a common interest. If you are wanting to come along and join, please feel free to turn up on the night.



We all look forward to seeing you there

The Green Gardener, Phil Pollard

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot
change.....*

*Courage to change the things I can and the Wisdom to know the
difference”*



ASHBOCKING

Ashbocking's Songs of Praise in August was well attended considering how many people were on holiday, and it was lovely to welcome visitors from Clopton.

Sadly, I must report the death of our friend and parishioner, Sue Surridge, after a very long illness. Sue was a very brave lady who was always cheerful and joined in as much as she was able, always supporting church events. Sue always contributed flowers and her hessian covered pots were in evidence at our recent service, in her honour. She rarely missed providing her pretty arrangements even if she was unable to get to the church herself. We will miss her and send heartfelt condolences to her husband Mike and the whole family.



Sue's funeral is at Ashbocking Church on Monday **2nd September** at 1pm. All who knew her are welcome to attend.

September means that it is time for the Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride. This will take place on **14th September** between 9am and 5pm.

Sponsor forms are available from John Pollard and are a requirement before you start visiting as many historic churches as possible.

This used to be just for cyclists, but it can now be done on foot which means that visiting a town rich in churches is a much easier option for those who prefer to walk.

The Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1973 and makes grants to churches and chapels of all denominations towards repairs, improvements and restoration. Since it began it has raised more than £5million to make grants to over 700 churches. Money raised is divided equally between the nominated church and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Participating helps to keep our church open and the generosity of the sponsors is much appreciated. Why not make it a family day out, there are many beautiful and interesting churches within our area.



Knit and Stitch begins again on the 9th September at 10am, at Hawthorns, The Green. (bungalow found at the end of Ashley Grange) everyone is welcome to join our group. We knit or sew, drink coffee and natter. We are now getting into gear for the Christmas Bazaar, so we

hope to make lovely gifts to sell. The other September meeting is on the 23rd, same venue and time. For information or suggestions for the Bazaar please ring Linda on 01473 890836.

Bible home group recommences after the summer break, on **Wednesday 25th September** at 7:30pm at Hawthorns, The Green. Anyone who would like to join our group are very welcome when we read, discuss and gain knowledge of the Bible. It is a very light -hearted group who enjoy exploring Faith. Do join us if you think this might be for you.

The next coffee morning is at the home of Nel and Rex Peries, Chez Onz, The Green. On Friday 6th September at 10:30. Everyone welcome from Ashbocking and surrounding villages.



Church cleaning for September is Janice Williamson.

Our next church service is a family Communion service on **8th September** at 11:00am. There will be coffee and biscuits after the service. All welcome to join us.

I mentioned the bazaar which will be held on **7th December** this year. I know it sounds a long way off now but when you think how quickly September has come around, it will be here before we know it. Therefore, this is a plea for anything that we can sell, such as books, bric-a-brac, good second hand and nearly new items, clothing (particularly children's), puzzles games etc. we will gratefully collect any items you may have from now onwards. There will be a church café at the back of the church on the day so please pencil the date in your diaries. Please contact Linda or John Pollard on 01473 890836



The next Christmas Bazaar meeting is on **Monday 30th September** at 7:30pm at Hawthorns. All welcome who are contributing hand made gifts and decorations, those who are willing to help on the day and anyone who can give a hand with the teas and coffees. Ideas are welcome too. The more the merrier...

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

The September Hobbies Morning is on 4th September from 10am until noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 8th September at 11am. We shall be serving bacon butties, tea and coffee at 10.30am. Any gifts of produce for donation to the Salvation Army Hostel in Ipswich will be very welcome. We hope that you will come and join us.

On 14th September is the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride from 9am until 5pm. If anyone would like to ride for Clopton (or walk!) forms are available from me or at the back of the church. It would be great if anyone would like to sit in the church for an hour or two to sign the riders forms as they arrive. Ring me on 07927115888 if you would like to help. Half of the sponsor money raised goes to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and half to the church. Thank you.



Kath Raffell will be hosting our Coffee Morning on 18th September. Coffee and biscuits are served from 10am until noon and it is always an enjoyable event so please come along.

We offer our best wishes to all those going off to university for the first time and those starting at a new school. We hope that you enjoyed the holidays, work hard!

Doris Main

OTLEY

We hope everybody has enjoyed the summer holidays despite the very changeable weather, from sizzling heat to heavy downpours. This is England!

The Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday 14th September, from 9.0am to 5.0pm. Sponsorship forms are available from the church, and also a full list of the churches and chapels in Suffolk which will be open that day. We hope quite a number of cyclists will visit our church, and volunteers will be needed to check them in. Please contact James if you can help with this.

We shall again be holding a coffee morning with a draw for Macmillan Cancer Support, as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, here at Church House on Friday 27th September from 10 o'clock. In the past this has always attracted good support for this wonderful charity, so we look forward to welcoming lots of people here. We have delicious cakes!

The next monthly coffee morning will take place on Thursday 12th September at 10 Spring Park, the home of Nigel and Pauline Crowley, and they will be ready to greet you.



Many congratulations to Russell Ling on his 90th birthday - still so active - which he celebrated with a tea party in the garden for family and friends. And congratulations, too, to James McCallum and Catherine Soames who were married here at the beginning of August. We wish them a long and happy life together.

We are very sad to hear that Arthur Chamberlain has died at a young age, after a short illness. It is unexpected and shocking news and we send our love and sincere sympathy to Deja and his three children, and Benedicta, Fergus and Bertie.

Finally, we wish Good Luck to everybody starting something new after the summer, especially children going to school and students to college.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary

- 5th Sept.** Friendship Club - barbecue at Suncroft
- 19th Sept.** Friendship Club - talk by Russell Ling at Grange House
- 26th Sept.** Community Lunch at The White Hart
- 27th Sept.** Macmillan coffee morning at Church House
- Church flowers:** Valerie Pitchers

SWILLAND

The weather was warm for our well attended August coffee morning which was held in the churchyard. We welcomed friends from Ashbocking and Debenham as well as five dogs. Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 7th September at Brookfield, High Road, the home of David and Julie Stainer starting at 10am.

Do come and join us for coffee and a chat whichever village you live in.

The fields and lanes have been busy with combine harvesters and tractors full of grain and straw bales over the last few weeks, often working late into the evening to avoid the next day's rain. We will be giving thanks for this harvest at our Harvest Festival Service on September 15th to which all are invited. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Anyone wanting to help decorate the church for Harvest please contact Ann Kent. Also please contact Ann if you are willing to sit in the church to welcome walkers and riders taking part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride which takes place on Saturday 14th September.



We send congratulations to Izzy Williams who was awarded a first class degree on completion of her law studies at Bristol University and wish her success in her future career.

Gill Reidy

Flower Rota

- 1st September** Ann Kent
- 8th-15th September** Margo Barker
- 22nd - 29th September** Gill Reidy

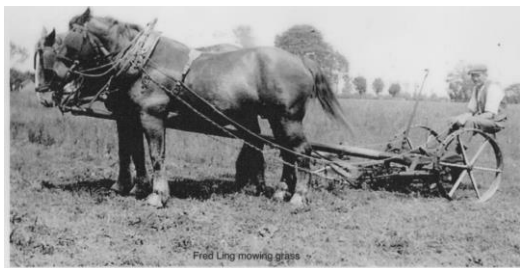
Become a Trustee of the Otley Church Preservation Trust

The Otley Church Preservation Trust is seeking a new trustee. The Trust raises money to help maintain the fabric of St Mary’s Church, a beautiful 13th century building and Otley landmark. It is not concerned with the religious activities of the Church. Many Otley residents will be familiar with the Trust’s collection boxes and initiatives such as our Christmas cards and calendars. Trustees meet twice a year to review fundraising and to consider requests to fund ongoing maintenance projects. No previous trustee experience is necessary and we would welcome support from any member of the Otley community. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please do contact me.

Ian Beaumont, Chair OCPT - 01473 890264

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

July was and still is the main month for haymaking, in the horse age it was a slow process and took up a considerable number of man hours particularly when the weather was unsettled. The grass was cut with a horse drawn mower called a grass clipper and was pulled by two horses guided with reins by a man sitting on an iron seat. A four foot cutter bar on the right hand side of the clipper with a reciprocating knife driven by the wheels of the clipper through a connecting rod cut the grass. It was essential that the finger points through which the knife went were sharp as tufts of grass could adhere to them and cause a blockage. The knife guides must also hold the knife down tight to the fingers otherwise a clean cut would not be possible. If a blockage did occur the drive to the knife had to be disconnected this was done by turning over with your toe a short knob low down beside the seat. As there was no reversing mechanism the driver had to get off and pull the machine back with the help of the horses and then clear the blockage. For transport the cutter bar could be raised and held in a vertical position. Horse drawn machines were made of solid iron parts and would last a very long time as the mechanism would only be turning relatively slowly.



Fred Ling on the mower, taken when he farmed at Hall farm Otley

Russell Ling

News from Otley Primary School

Mr Benstock for personal reasons, has decided to leave his post as Executive Headteacher at the Otley and Witnesham Federated Primary Schools. He wishes to thank the children, staff, governors and parents for all the support he has had and wishes everyone every success for the future.

School Governors are currently in the process of seeking to appoint a permanent successor to Mr Benstock with a view to them starting early in 2020. In the

meantime Mrs Laflin has been appointed Interim Headteacher and we look forward to working with her this term.

Pupils had the normal busy end of year. Years 5 & 6 went on their usual biennial residential trip to Derbyshire where they abseiled, zip wired, caved, raft built, weaselled (rock scrambling), high roped, hiked and canoed (on the reservoir that recently very nearly collapsed) to name some but not all the activities. They, and the adult helpers, all came back exhausted but with memories of a very enjoyable and challenging week.



Amongst other end of year activities, Sports Day was held on a warm day in June and parents joined their children for a picnic lunch before the afternoon races started. Years 4, 5 & 6 had a sailing experience day at Aldeburgh Yacht Club also in June. They all enjoyed the experience very much and many thanks to all the volunteer members of AYC who made the day possible. Both the U9 and U11 athletes did themselves and the School proud at the large annual Quad Kids athletics competition. The younger children spent the day at Bewilderwood near Lowestoft and the new hall has been a great addition to the School's facilities and is much in demand.

We wish all year 6 leavers good luck as they start at High School and congratulate them all on their excellent end of Year 6 SAT test results, where the pass rates was 80% or above in all the papers examined.

We welcome Miss Tribe as the new Class 1 teacher in September as Miss Hayton returns to Class 2 and wish both Mrs Eaton and Mr Williams good luck for the future as they move on.

An early invitation – the School will holding an Open Day for perspective 2020 joiners on Friday 11th October. Please put the date in your diary now but more information will follow next month.

Ian Liddell, Chair of Governors

*“The limit of giving is to be the limit of our ability to give”
C S Lewis*

Smile Lines



I don't mean to sound ungrateful Fred, but when I asked for something to 'represent farming in the community'...

School blues

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

Say it slow

On a beautiful late summer's day, two American tourists were driving through Wales. They reached

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch (yes, *that* place in Wales) and stopped for lunch.

Still gazing in fascination at the place name on the sign outside, one of the tourists approached the waitress and said: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?"

"Sure," the girl shrugged. She leaned over the counter and said: "Burr-gurrr-king".

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Back-to-School Maze

What 5 school supplies do you pass to get out of the maze?



Q: Why did nose not want to go to school?

A: He was tired of getting picked on!

Q: How do you get straight A's?

A: By using a ruler!

Q: What did the pen say to the pencil?

A: So, what's your point!

Q: How did the music teacher get locked in the classroom?

A: His keys were inside the piano!



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