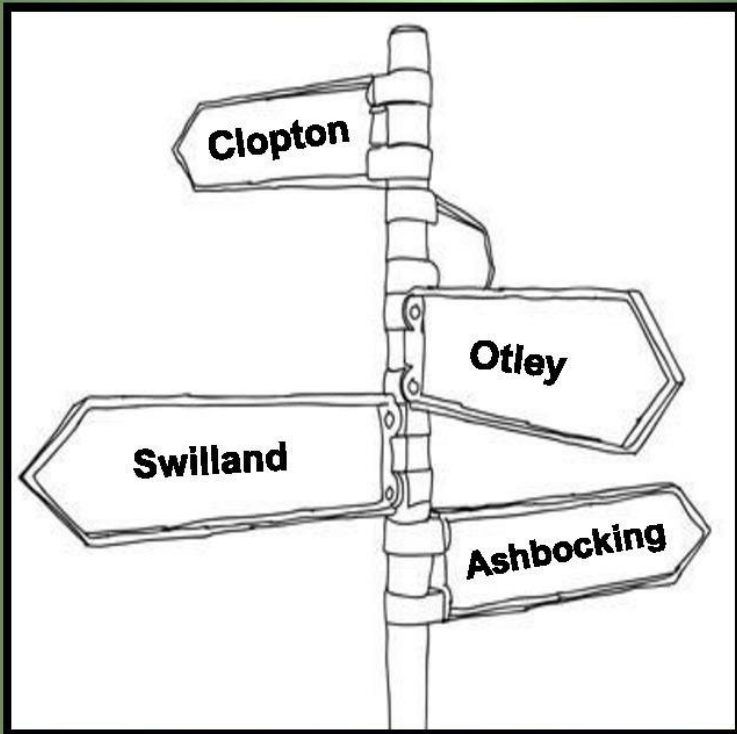




The Signpost



News from the Parishes



A Word from The Editors.....

Welcome to the **December Signpost**, the last of a very strange year and one that has seen so many changes. Changes in how we live, we work, we shop, we worship, we socialise and how we can stay connected despite Covid. We have changed our magazine but hope you have enjoyed our editions over the past few months. We have been in Lockdown, out of Lockdown and now back in but we hope very much that you will all be able to enjoy Christmas, remember those who we have lost and appreciate each and every one special still in our lives. We can all hope and pray that 2021 is a much kinder year for us all.

Thank you for all your support and articles that you have sent in during 2020. We look forward to receiving more of your jokes, recipes, poems, or anything else that you would like to see in our next magazine. If you would like any family or friends celebrated for any reason or you would like to wish them well, then please do let us know and we will include in next months magazine. Our next magazine will be the **February** issue with a deadline **of the 24th January.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email each month, please email Amy bakergirl174@gmail.com and Angela amtrelor@btinternet.com

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship and any Christmas services can be found on the website carlfordchurches.org and within the Mini Grapevine. If you would like to receive the Mini-Grapevine weekly via email, please register via the website carlfordchurches.org or with Mark Cresswell – mark@cresswell.onl. There are links on the Carlford Churches website to the Facebook page, Mini-Grapevine and The Signpost. The Carlford Churches Facebook page can be accessed directly <http://facebook.com/carlfordchurches>.

*Please stay safe and take care, wishing all of our lovely readers a
"Merry Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year"*



Amy and Angela

What Do We Love About Christmas?



What do we love about Christmas;
Does our delight reside in things?
Or are the feelings in our hearts
The real gift Christmas brings.

It's seeing those we love,
And sending Christmas cards, too,
Appreciating people who bring us joy
Special people just like you.

By Joanna Fuchs

Weather October and November 2020

October rainfall has exceeded the amount that has been recorded since records began nationwide and Otley is no exception having had 4.35 inches during the month. It is a very similar situation to 2019 when it continued to rain every few days throughout the winter. This pattern has continued into November but there have been a few sunny days to break the monotony.

Russell Ling



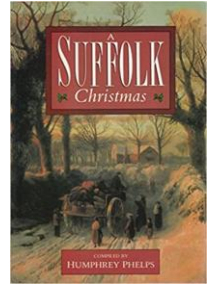
To Suffolk

Cecil Lay



Cecil Lay (1885-1956) was the son of the village schoolmaster at Aldringham. An architect by profession, he lived nearly all his life in Aldringham, the last part of his poem 'To Suffolk' which is quoted here states that Suffolk knew the reason!

When pool and stream were frozen hard,
And cattle stayed within the yard;
When elms were red, and ash-trees black,
And sparrows robbed the farmer's stack;
When tith and fallow changed to stone,
And hoodies fought around a bone;
When hands were numb and minds depressed,
When snow the naked trees had dressed,
Said I, I will away from here
In this hard season of the year
Yet here I stay and years go by
And Suffolk knows the reason why.



*Taken from "A Suffolk Christmas" compiled by Humphrey Phelps
A fascinating journey through Christmas past and present, illustrated with a fine
selection of etchings, paintings and photographs.
Recommended - a good read!*

The Story of Mince Pies



Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

CHRISTMAS IN THE BELL TOWER

- from the Otley News 1986

Christmas is a particularly busy time for bell ringers, but a happy one too.

Nothing pleases us more than to be joyfully ringing the bells on Christmas morning. The fact that there are ten towers with bells in the Deanery but only four bands of ringers may give you some idea of where the hard work comes in.



Our aim is to ring the bells in each of the towers at least once over Christmas. This involves some organisation as well as fast footwork with towers as far apart as Hollesley, Tunstall and Burgh. By lunchtime on Christmas Day, most of us have earned our pud!

So, when you sing the carol ‘Ding dong Merrily on High’, spare a thought for the ringers as they dash through the lanes to ring out the glad tidings in as many parishes as possible. And if we don’t join in the singing, it’s probably because we are out of puff!



Audrey Barker

I really enjoyed reading Mum’s piece! It brought back lots of memories of haring around the countryside on Christmas morning.

It seems as though Christmas 2020 will be quieter in every sense than past Christmas mornings spent ringing in several towers. During 2019, we were contacted by a group of people locally who wished to learn the art of ringing. A teaching programme got underway after New Year with the group divided between Clopton and Otley for a weekly lesson. Just as we were looking forward to welcoming lighter evenings for these extra practices, the lockdown put a halt to all ringing.

Let us hope that by Christmas 2021, ringing will have returned to normality and our band of learners will be joining in the festive ringing.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Tig Sweet

Otley and District Gardening Club

Hello everyone,

I hope this article finds you all well and healthy. With lockdown part two nearly over, it's almost the best time of year for me... Christmas!! I love it, from the traditional winter weather associated with this time of year to seeing all my friends and family. Unfortunately, the former is the only thing that seems to be happening this year. With the cold weather approaching, I thought what we have been doing in our own garden that might help other gardeners and enthusiasts with theirs.

As the frost has been quite harsh just recently, it's the perfect time to lift our Dahlia tubers (the plants food source and where they shoot from). Dahlias originate in Mexico and Central America, so the cold weather puts pay to any further blooms from your plants. Dahlias have a high-water content in their stems, and once the frost has touched them, they turn black and die back. Sugars contained in the stem return to the tuber when they have been frozen. So, it's best to wait until this has happened to give them a good chance next year.



Another thing we've been doing is pruning our rose collection. We've got Floribunda, Hybrid tea rose and a range of climbing roses. What's the difference? Floribunda have multiple heads in clusters on single stems, hybrid tea roses have a single bloom at the end of single straight stems and climbers surprisingly climb or ramble up things. Pruning helps promote strong growth and removes any dead, damaged or diseased stems. It's important to prune your roses in two stages. Firstly, in autumn you cut the stems back by one third to help minimise wind rock. This is the movement that occurs when the wind blows the plant. And secondly in spring, you reduce by another third. This encourages better growth from the base of the plant rather than from further up the stem, giving you longer and hopefully straighter stems.



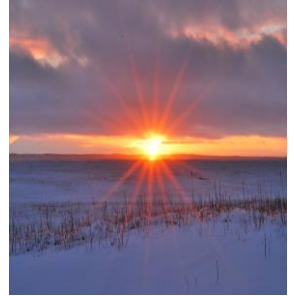
It's getting quieter in the garden now, so I can focus on making wreaths and garlands for my customers in the village and further afield. A thoroughly satisfying and evocative craft and past time.

It just leaves me to say Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. And I mean that!!

Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman

21st December - Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.



Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. “Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...” But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.



By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: ‘Against the feast of Christmas, every man’s house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.’

Covid Casualties 2020

Bra manufacturers have gone bust.

Submersible makers have gone under

Food blender companies have gone into liquidation



Dog kennels have called in the retrievers.

The origami paper makers have folded.

The Heinz factory has been canned. They couldn't ketchup with orders.



Tarmac laying companies have reached the end of the road.

The bakery has run out of dough.

The clock maker has wound down and the owner gone cuckoo.

The Chinese restaurant has been taken away.

The shoe shop owner has put his foot down and given his staff the boot.

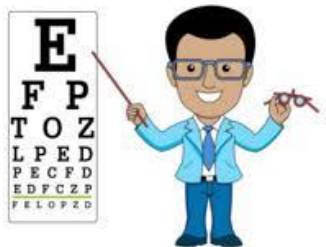
The laundrette has been taken to the cleaners.

The dentist is looking down in the mouth.

The plumbers have gone down the tube.

Opticians are on the blink.

The broadcasting companies have called in the receivers.



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

ASHBOCKING

Hello again from Ashbocking,

Another month gone by and nothing any clearer about the future of Christmas. With all the uncertainty and the worries over the second wave of Covid, I'm afraid the Remembrance service at Ashbocking Church was cancelled. Our service



always takes place indoors as we have no War Memorial outside, which didn't help. This was sad as people do like to come and pay their respects.

To mark the day and show that the church was indeed thinking of our War Heroes, Phil Pollard made a lovely cross with foliage and poppies to hang outside on the west door facing the road for all passers-by to see and reflect. We also placed five wooden crosses to remember the dead of Ashbocking.

As far as Christmas is concerned, we are still trying to sort out services. Not knowing what the restrictions will be, means that plans cannot be confirmed.

The Carol Service is the one that is most in jeopardy, mainly due to us not being able to sing. If it does go ahead then it will be December 20th at 4pm.

The Christmas Day Service is still in discussion, but likely to be at 11am. The service is with Holy Communion which will take place under strict Covid regulation, by Mark Cresswell.

I do hope we will see as many as is possible on Christmas morning, so we can celebrate together.

Ashbocking is supporting the Suffolk Lightwave doorstep Carols on December 16th at 6pm with Radio Suffolk. I think there will be lots of mulled wine flowing and mince pies eaten on people's doorsteps to get in the Christmas mood. At least we won't have far to go home!

Until restrictions are finalised it is difficult for any of us to make our plans for a family Christmas. Hopefully they will be announced in good time to do any extra shopping that's needed. Let's hope by Easter we will all be vaccinated, and life will have returned to some form of normality.



Having my garden fully prepared for winter certainly is not a normality but has been one of the perks of being at home so much. I just need to put straw around my rhubarb shoots to protect from the frost.

My bulbs are all planted, and some are already shooting, and the tender plants are safely nestled in the greenhouse to sit out the winter. The dry/rockery garden which I spoke of last time is now complete and I am really pleased with the result.

A real plus point too, is that it's no longer being used as a cat loo! They obviously don't like shingle.

My main thoughts now turn to recipes for Christmas and with not knowing who and how many there will be visiting it's good to have one or two things in the wings just in case.

I like dips and pates which can easily be eaten with crudites of carrot, celery and pepper as well as bread sticks or crackers. Along with a glass of something they make lovely nibbles with drinks or with cold meats on the buffet table.

Here are two super quick and easy suggestions.

Smoked Mackerel Pate

225g smoked mackerel
100g butter
100g cream cheese (low fat if watching the weight)
Tablespoon of capers
Lemon or lime juice, a good squeeze



Put all ingredients into a blender and blitz until smooth, although I like mine a bit chunkier, so don't blitz for too long.

This pate can be made with a dash of tabasco to give it a bit of a kick, you can loosen it with extra juice if it's too sticky and you can add chopped spring onion. In fact you can vary it by using smoked salmon or smoked trout instead.

Smoked paprika and cannellini dip

2 x 400g cans of cannellini beans drained and rinsed in cold water
2 garlic cloves peeled and crushed
Juice of 1 lemon
1/2tbsp sea salt
2 tbsp smoked paprika
100ml olive oil

Put all the ingredients except half the oil in in a blender and blitz for five minutes. Halfway through add the remaining oil and scrape the ingredients down into the bowl. You can alter the chunkiness of this dip by reducing the blitzing time. Taste test the dip and add more salt or juice if needed. Scrape into a serving bowl and add a pinch more paprika and a drizzle of oil.

I asked last month if there were any book suggestions for those who love reading during lock down and the long winter evenings.



I had an immediate response from the lovely Clare Sanders, who recommends a book by Anthony Duer called, “All the Light we cannot see”.

She says it is a book she found hard to put down. Her husband, Mark was also about to read it.

I have recently read a book by Victoria Hyslop called, “Those Who are Loved”. A really good read about Greece in the German Occupation and conflict within Greece between those who supported the government and those who supported the communists.

It is a family story with agonising consequences but another one you can’t put down.

I am reading another of her books at present which I am enjoying, called, “One August Night”. It is a sequel to “The Island”, an earlier book of hers which is the story of families separated by leprosy when victims are banished to Spinalonga off the coast of Crete.

The present book is about the repatriation of those who survived following a cure. Most are horribly disfigured and shunned by many, the stigma is still surrounding leprosy, and many families, one in particular in this book, are torn apart.

It probably doesn’t sound it, but it is a really good read, as Victoria Hyslop’s books always are.

I shall soon start Clare’s recommendation and will pass on my thoughts.

I do so hope that the New Year brings about permanent peace from Covid and our prayers have been answered with a successful vaccine we have been promised. It will be wonderful to be able to resume meeting together again, without fear.

We in Ashbocking wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

There is very little to report from Clopton for November!

Before the second lockdown started, we decided to decorate the church for Christmas!

As there was very little chance of us holding our annual candlelight Carol Service this year, we made a plan to film it so that people could view it online.



We put up all the wall candle holders, the Christmas tree, the advent wreath and decorated the windowsills with greenery and our Nativity figures. We even put our candle lanterns along the church path. It looked beautiful; it was such a shame that hardly anyone saw it.

The readers came to read the six readings (all socially distanced) and Jenny Schurr filmed it all. Hopefully when this lockdown ends Andrew will play for the singing of the carols by just two people and the filming will be completed. It will be available to view online near to Christmas.

<https://www.carlfordchurches.org/>

We wish everyone a happy Christmas, and hope that people will be able to see their families. Keep safe.

Doris Main

OTLEY

St Marys Church: Remembering service 1st November

This took place on All Saints Day and was led by Archdeacon Sally and James.

Current Covid guidelines were followed, an impromptu choir sang two hymns, Helen played the organ, and, despite the restrictions, we hope the service was meaningful for the small congregation, all of whom had loved ones to remember.

James read the names of over thirty relatives and friends, mostly



from Otley, whom parishioners wished to be remembered. A candle was lit for each of them.



The service was especially poignant this year as the village has lost several much-loved and missed residents in the last 12 months, including church members Janet Wightman, Peter Rogerson and Philip David.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Although we had originally planned a service in church, lockdown regulations meant that other ways of commemorating Remembrance Sunday had to be arranged.

Archdeacon Sally conducted a short service of prayer and commemoration at the war memorial opposite the shop. The service was unattended, and conducted in advance, recorded on video and put on the Otley Village website. In this way it was possible to observe the two minute silence on Remembrance Sunday, whilst watching a commemoration at the War Memorial.

James led a short, informal act of remembrance at the memorial for the small gathering there, when wreaths from the Scouts and Gardening Club were laid, to be joined later by one from the Parish Council. Thank you to Issy Lincoln and Jayne Vaughan for tidying up the memorial beforehand.

I live in Spring Park, as do Archdeacon Sally and her family. On the previous day, Sally posted an order of service and invitation to join her for a service in the close on Sunday at 10.55 am. Almost all residents of the eleven homes in Spring Park stood, socially distanced, on Sunday morning and participated in the service. The exhortation was read by Sally's husband, Chris, and daughter, Katie. Following the two minute silence, the Kohima Epitaph was read by Sally. It was a very personal and moving service, amongst friends and neighbours in our Spring Park community.

Remembrance Day in the USA



In normal circumstances, Pauline and I would now be in America, and would have observed Remembrance Day there. The military are held in high esteem in America, both those serving, and those retired and are called Veterans.

Veteran's Day is a national holiday, observed annually on 11th November, with parades and music concerts.

Veterans enjoy many privileges throughout the year, such as complimentary entry to events and their own designated health care. On Veteran's Day, many restaurants offer free meals to Veterans, and those currently serving.

Christmas Services

At the present time our services have not been finalised. We are hoping to hold an online Benefice Carol Service and a Christmas Day service in each of our churches.

For more up to date information please click on this link <https://www.carlfordchurches.org/> or email mark@cresswell.onl or telephone 01473 735183 and your call will be transferred.

Nigel Crowley



Dear Local Organiser,

I have received the 2020 sponsorship results for this year's Ride & Stride from the Trust.

The Woodbridge Area has had an excellent year. We raised **£6787** (£1008 or 17% more than in 2019).

Thank you everyone for your wonderful work.

Looking at Suffolk - £142,793 was raised. This is £14570 or 11.4% up on 2019.

This is such a good result especially with covid-19 and many churches being closed for the event. I will advise individual church results once they are available in early December.

Best wishes and remain safe and healthy.

Greg Spray, SHCT Woodbridge Area Organiser

"The love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind"

Frederick Faber



Well, what a year it's been so far for 1st Otley Scout Group!
All Scouting stopped in March and then, after lockdown No1 we were given the idea of "Zoom" meetings.

All our Sections now meet on Zoom. Cubs on a Monday, Beavers Tuesday and Scouts on Thursday. This is a challenging way of running our Sections, but ideas and resources have been shared nationwide and it's amazing what can be achieved.

We were being encouraged to start "face to face" meetings but only with HUGE risk assessments written, which have to be signed off by our District Commissioner. Until lockdown 2 only one group in the District had been given the ok. Ben our Scout Leader is working really hard on Otley's' RA and we hope we can start to see our Group members early next year.

Plans for the Hut are to install new hand washing sinks with heaters for immediate hot water. We hope this will play a big part in minimizing the risk for our young people.

We are understandably disappointed to have our fund-raising activities (pig roast and Christmas bingo) cancelled but we hope we can run them again in 2021. They are our main source of financial aid and we thank you for your support for our Group in the past. Our sincere thanks go to Otley Village Shop (donations jar), Lynda @ the White Hart (pork burgers on "Pig Roast day") and Jude (selling gorgeous ice creams on a VERY hot day) for their amazing fundraising in 2020.

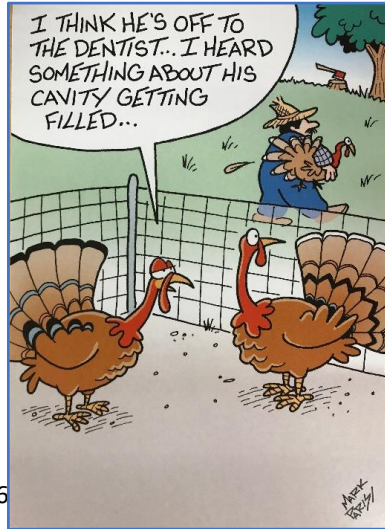
So, you may not have seen any Scouts around for a while, but we haven't gone away! If you need any information about our Scout Group please contact Martyn at the above e-mail address.



Jayne Vaughan

Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk has presented an award to our very own Otley Village Stores in recognition of Outstanding Service to the Community during the Covid19 Pandemic.

“Well done to Andrew, Penny and their whole team. A wonderful and very well-deserved achievement. Huge congratulations from us all.”



OTLEY VILLAGE CHRISTMAS POST

Box in Village Shop 1st - 13th December

Minimum **25p**/ Christmas Card

Cards delivered the following week

Complete addresses please – delivery within Otley village only.



Supporting **FIND....Families In Need**



SWILLAND

Remembrance Service - The British Legion met at the Memorial and laid the wreath and crosses in memory of those from Swilland who lost their lives in the two World Wars. At 12 o'clock we gathered in the Churchyard, socially distanced, and James conducted a service for the people of Swilland. It was wonderful to be able to do this as we have only had one service in the church since lockdown.

Apart from that, nothing has happened in Swilland, but maybe we shall be able to have a service in December and on Christmas Day. Hopefully when the vaccination has been implemented our lives will return to some sort of normality. Hopefully, next year we shall be able to have our Christmas Draw again.



May I wish everyone a Happy Christmas - it seems a bit early, but by the time the next magazine comes out Christmas will be upon us.

Ann Kent

Turkey Facts

- Only male turkeys gobble, females cannot.
- The dangly appendage on the face of a turkey is called a “snood”
- You can tell a turkey’s sex from its droppings: male turkey dropping are spiral-shaped, females are in the shape of a letter J.
- According to Benjamin Franklin, turkeys are “much more respectable than bald eagles, which are of bad moral character”.
- Turkeys were introduced into England in 1526 by the 16th-century navigator William Strickland.
- The word “turkey” referring to the bird, was first seen in English in 1555.
- Turkeys got their name as they were commonly brought to the UK by Turkish merchants.





Freezer mincemeat

I take no credit for this recipe, it came from my neighbour Sue Montgomery but I have used it for the last few years & it is great. It is easily made, usable straight from the freezer & has a lovely buttery taste rather than the usual suety taste of conventional mincemeats. It is ideal for using up windfall apples. It has a good soft texture that will not go solid when frozen because of the syrup in it. Enjoy!

Tess Papworth

Makes 6lb (2.70 kgs)

Ingredients:

- 1lb (450g) stoned raisins
- 12 ozs (350g) currants
- 8 ozs (225 g) sultanas
- 12 ozs (350 g) dark soft brown sugar
- 6 ozs (150g) butter
- 2 level teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 level teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 1 level teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 lb (900g) cooking apples, peeled, cored & diced.
- 1/4 pint (150ml) medium cider
- 2 lemons - grated rind & juice
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 4 tablespoons brandy or rum
- 3 ozs (75g) hazelnuts, roasted & chopped



Method:

- 1) Mix all dried fruits, sugar, fat & spices in a large bowl. Add apples.
- 2) Gently heat cider in a large pan until it bubbles round the edges.
- 3) Stir in fruit mixture, lemon rind, juice & syrup.
- 4) Simmer, covered, for 40 mins. stirring occasionally. Remove lid, simmer for 15 mins or until juice is almost absorbed.
- 5) Cool slightly, stir in alcohol & nuts.

To use now: Cool completely, put in airtight container or sealed jars. Leave overnight. Store in fridge & use as required.

To freeze: Put in rigid container leaving 1" (2.5 cm) headspace. Can freeze for 6 months. Use straight from the freezer.

RUSSELL LING REPORTS

Farm animals in the horse era



Today everyone takes the supply of chicken eggs for granted and they provide a relatively cheap meal, this however was not the situation until after WW2. There were a number of reasons for this but the primary one was that poultry flocks were either pure breeds or a first cross. It was not until after the war that hatcheries successfully cross bred the pure breeds a number of times to obtain the hybrid chickens that we have at the present time. Not only do they lay a large quantity of eggs all the year round but do not feather pick as they would have done in the past when kept in a close confinement. The modern hatcheries can produce all the required number of day-old chicks and to sex them by their colour so that there are very few if any cockerels in any delivery. Before the war day old chicks were individually sexed and this was a very specialist job which required very good eyesight to find the sex organs of the bird. The other main factor is that laying flocks are given artificial light during the winter months to increase the natural daylight and this stimulates the ovaries of the birds to carry on laying the same number of eggs as they do in the summertime. In nature the natural time for all wild birds is to lay their eggs during the spring in order for their offspring time to mature sufficiently to survive the winter. The layers meal that is now available to feed the present day, flocks gives them the full potential to produce eggs throughout the year.

You may be interested to know that during the war the ration was one egg a week per person provided that there were sufficient number produced which didn't always happen in wintertime as due to the blackout any building had to be light proof. There was dried egg imported from America which could be used in cooking and to make scrambled egg, but I am not sure if this was rationed.

Russell Ling

An American in Otley: Christmas Memories and Enid Richardson

Our families' Christmas traditions are decidedly European and reflect our diverse heritages – English, Scottish, Irish, and German.

When we spent our first Christmas in Suffolk in 1981, we felt quite at home. To be sure, there were slight differences. Laura went to visit Father Christmas as opposed to Santa Claus. Maureen invited us to a Pantomime in Ipswich which was a rollicking parody of Cinderella. That was a new experience, especially the audience participation.



One said “Happy Christmas” as opposed to “Merry Christmas.” Boxing Day was a new tradition. I had to learn to make English-style mince pies. Our families made mincemeat pies – big ones, not tarts. At home, my mom always cut up two tart apples and mixed them into the mincemeat mixture to cut the intensity of the spices. She placed the mixture in a 9-inch pie tin lined with a short pastry and covered it with a lattice work top crust. When serving time came, we topped slices of pie with vanilla ice cream. I was used to hearing and singing all the Christmas Carols from mid-November onward, not merely those deemed Advent Carols. Enid Richardson told me emphatically that it was only Advent Carols that were appropriate to listen to until Christmas Day arrived. Only then should you sing the joyous songs of Christmas in church. Our holiday traditions derived from yours, but over time some variations crept in.

Our first Christmas included getting to know Enid Richardson, the spritely senior who lived in an old cottage up the road. She invited us to several holiday events she organized. One was a musical evening at Otley Hall where she performed Christmas music on the harpsichord. The setting in the great hall was beautiful and transported us back to the Elizabethan Age. Attendees were asked to bring

mince pies and I nervously contributed 12 of my mini versions. Over wine and tarts, we got to know many more of our neighbours.

Later, on Christmas Eve, Enid invited several transplanted Americans to her cottage for drinks. She had decorated with live evergreens and a Christmas tree lit with candles. I had never seen a live tree lit with live flames! It was gorgeous. Gorgeous, that is, until a branch caught fire and then it was terrifying. There were six people crowded into a small lounge with lots of furniture, low ceilings, and narrow passageways. Movement was restricted, and I had visions of a Noel immolation. The fire was quickly extinguished with only a little damage to the branches and several ornaments. The evening proceeded and by then the drinks were most welcome.



Enid herself was one of the most fascinating people I met. She, like Tom Whitehead, bridged the period from the late Edwardian through the modern age. She was born on November 25, 1905 to David and Kate Richardson who lived in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Her father was a superintendent in the Postal Service. Early on she showed a real talent for music and during her grammar school years was formally trained on keyboard and string instruments, principally the piano and cello. After her schooling finished at the Royal Academy of Music in London, she studied in Germany for several years where she became fluent in reading German Shrift handwriting developed in the late medieval period.

On returning home to England, she joined her parents who had retired to Otley. They had bought Kersey Cottage and the house adjacent to it. Enid taught music and, with Britain's entrance into World War II, her linguistic skills brought her to the attention of British Intelligence. Enid spent the war years, from 1939 to 1943, in Bermuda along with 1500 other "Censorettes" and cryptographers reading overseas mail from the Continent. It was funneled through Bermuda aboard planes and ships and subject to British censorship before being forwarded to North America. She was searching for encoded messages written in the Shrift script she had learned as part of her musical training.



After the war Enid taught music in London and worked as the Director of Music at St. Helen's Church in Kensington and then later at the London Academy of Music. She retired in 1978 and moved back to Otley several years before we arrived. She died in

August, 1995, having been a successful composer of religious music, a noted keyboardist, and a code breaker. She lived a full and interesting life. Amazing who you meet in small English villages!

My family and I hope you have the happiest of Christmases and a New Year that is filled with promise and resolve to put behind us the difficulties of 2020.

Mary Miner

Susie Miner, susiespinner36@msn.com

SMILE LINES

Editor: Here are some titles of carols, as misunderstood by children...

Children's Christmas Carols

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip
gave to me
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by
the fire.

He's makin a list, chicken and rice.
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
With the jelly toast proclaim
Olive, the other reindeer
Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say
Sleep in heavenly peas.

In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is sparse and
brown
O come, froggy faithful.



Quick Quips!

1. The meaning of opaque is unclear
2. A man tried to assault me with milk, cream and butter. How dairy!
3. It's a lengthy article about ancient Japanese sword fighters but I can Samurais it for you.
4. Need an ark to save two of every animal? I Noah guy.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Spot 10 differences



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...

ASHBOCKING AUTO CENTRE
The Crossroads, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9LA
Call us today: **01473 785544**
The home of cost effective vehicle servicing, repairs and quality used cars

TRUST MY GARAGE
APPROVED CODE

Call us today: **01473785544**

| | |
|---|--|
|  Toyota Auris £2,995 |  Honda Jazz £2,995 |
|  Honda CR-V £7,495 |  Honda Jazz £6,995 |

MOT's only £35

"Very helpful garage, the lads are a great help. Thanks guys! Recommend this garage!"
Sadie Betts

Your local Garage... you can trust
Servicing & Repairs (including Hybrid)
Local collection and courtesy cars available
www.AshbockingGarage.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

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"



CHRIS HOWARD
PLUMBING AND HEATING

Local, professional and
reliable service

- ◆ All household plumbing
- ◆ Gas and oil boiler install and servicing
- ◆ Hot water cylinders

**Free non committal
quotes**

07749315908

chrisjhoward5@googlemail.com

www.chrishowardplumbingandheating.co.uk



Saddles and Leads

Sarah Sutcliffe

Horse care and house sitting

Highlands, Church Road,
Otley, IP6 9NP

07990875833

daveysarah23@gmail.com

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*

Birketts

Excellence in Practice

For all legal work: Business and private

Local Contact - James Hall

01473 406270 (232300 switchboard)

james.hall@birketts.co.uk

Offices in

Cambridge | Chelmsford | Ipswich | Norwich

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 n Blades



GARDEN MACHINERY

SALES, SERVICE & REPAIR
COLLECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE

10% OFF

SERVICING DURING DEC, JAN & FEB

www.bootsnblades.co.uk



VISIT OUR SHOP FOR PARTS, OILS, ACCESSORIES, GARDEN TOOLS & LOTS MORE

6A MEADOW WORKS BUSINESS PARK, DEBENHAM. IP14 6RP. TEL 01728 860330 EMAIL karen@bootsnblades.co.uk

Leisure Pool – Private Hire



£30 PER HOUR
(Max 6 people
& £2.50 for additional people)

Enjoy private hire of a beautiful indoor swimming pool, located close to Otley, Grundisburgh and Woodbridge.

- Kept at a constant warm temperature of 31 degrees
- Perfect to chill out with friends
- Floats, rings and toys for children to play with
- Includes endless pool allowing for "open water style" swimming
- Elegant and Comfortable soft furnishings

Come and treat yourself to this oasis and step away from the hustle and bustle of the day to day.

To enquire or make a booking, regular weekly slots available, please contact Donna: 07769536450.

Email donna@swimthemill.co.uk Visit www.swimthemill.co.uk



Eastern Landscapes & Fencing

Office 3,
Red House Barns,
Ashbocking,
Suffolk
IP6 1JY
Tel: 01473 785269
Email:
nina@easternplayservices.co.uk

Eastern Landscapes & Fencing

Gavin Rushworth (our director) has been in the landscaping business for 30 years. As a company we cover the whole of the UK, working nationwide. We are currently looking into expanding our client base further into our home area of Suffolk and East Anglia. We do a full range of works, from private customers, to county councils. Our works include;

- Patio/Paving/Driveways
- Fencing
- Turfing
- Planting
- Gate installation
- Site clearances
- Garden design
- Ponds/Water features
- Garden maintenance

If you are interested in finding out a price for our works, please contact Nina Neilson on the email or number provided above.

Florabundant

Unique flowers for any occasion

www.florabundant.co.uk

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

All your floral needs catered for by an award winning florist. Weddings, Events or Sympathy tributes, and personally created bouquets or arrangements.

Call for information, advice and prices

07880-627984

Phil Pollard

phil@florabundant.co.uk





GUARANTEED BY THE
RETAIL MOTOR INDUSTRY



EVERGREEN GARAGE CROWFIELD LTD

Gosbeck Road Crowfield Ipswich Suffolk IP6 9TB

ESTABLISHED 39 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

Anniversary * 1980-2020

GIPPING PRESS

Gipping Press are proud to print this publication

01449 721599

enquiries@gippingpress.co.uk

www.gippingpress.co.uk

Units 1 & 2 Lion Barn Industrial Estate, Needham Market, Ipswich Suffolk, IP6 8NZ

DESIGN | PRINT | PROMOTION
DISPLAYS | SIGNAGE | MAILING



TOM LYON TREE SERVICES

'NO JOB TOO SMALL, NO TREE TOO TALL'

NPTC/ND Certified Arborist/Public Liability Insured



City & Guilds



Crown Thinning/ Crown Lifting

Reductions

Planting

Sectional Dismantling

Stump Grinding

Hedge Trimming

Horticulture

For full details please visit my website
www.tomlyon.co.uk or email tom@tomlyon.co.uk

M: 07920130341 T:01473 721590

Follow us on Facebook

LIMES GARAGE

- MOT TESTING
- DIAGNOSTICS
- ALL GENERAL REPAIRS
- LOCAL COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE
- QUALIFIED EXPERIENCED MECHANICS
- SERVICING
- TYRES

Find us at Unit 21 Lewis Farm, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket

We are just up the road from Stonham Barns on the A1120 or put IP14 6AU in your SAT NAV.



Tel: 01473 890335
Email: mark@limesgarage.co.uk
www.limesgarage.co.uk



Selling 'pre-loved' and new baby and children's clothes (up to 12 years), toys, games, books, nursery equipment

Selling on a commission basis, visit our website or phone for further details

Open

Thursdays and Fridays 9:30am – 3:30pm

Saturdays 9:30am – 2:30pm

Website: www.skoobs.co.uk Email: info@skoobs.co.uk

Telephone: 01473 785888 or 07557386419

Upper Street, Winesham, Suffolk, IP6 9EW

PAUL KNIGHTS

Interior and Exterior Decorating

20 years' experience

01473 71147677

Mobile 07771796711

p.a.knights@outlook.com

James Rose-Porter

Plumbing & Heating
(and general building work)

07779 323003

