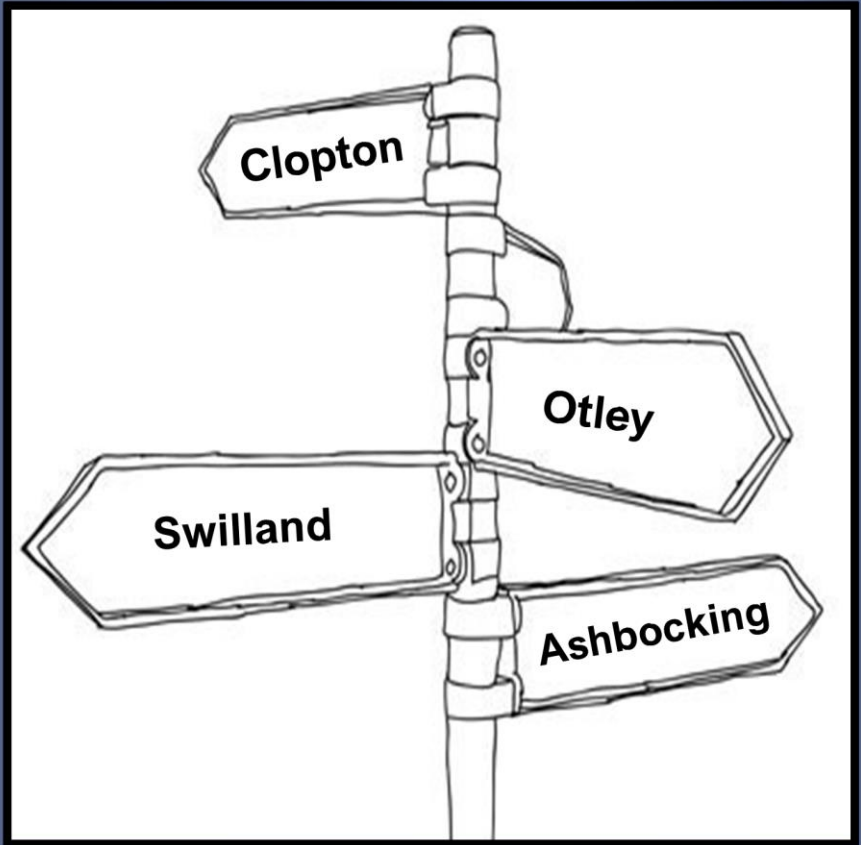


# *The Signpost*



*News from the Parishes*

### **A Word from The Editors.....**

Welcome to the **June Signpost**. Last month we were crying out for rain and now we are crying out for sunshine and drier weather again. You can see everything in the garden has grown so much in the last 4 weeks, the hedgerows too. It is a lovely time of year but would be even nicer with warmer and more settled weather. No doubt there will be some upcoming holidays for some of you and we wish you all safe journeys and an enjoyable time.

We have another interesting issue for you to read through. We have all the latest news from the villages and updates on social events. If you would like to see anything else within our magazine, whatever it may be, we would gratefully receive it for inclusion in our upcoming editions. If you would like any family or friends' birthdays or anniversaries celebrated, then please do let us know and we will include in next month's magazine.

Our next magazine will be the **July** issue with a deadline **of the 24<sup>th</sup> June.**

To register to receive The Signpost via email each month, please email Amy [bakergirl174@gmail.com](mailto:bakergirl174@gmail.com) and Angela [amtrelor@btinternet.com](mailto:amtrelor@btinternet.com)

News of the Carlford Churches and details of online Worship can be found on the website [carlfordchurches.org](http://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](http://carlfordchurches.org) or with Mark Cresswell – [mark@carlfordchurches.org](mailto:mark@carlfordchurches.org). 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>.

***Keep safe and take care, Amy and Angela***

*God of stillness and healing  
In our silence  
Help us to learn  
the wisdom that heals the world  
Be with those who suffer this day  
Comfort those  
who wait and watch and pray  
Wipe the tears of those who mourn  
May your still voice  
be heard amidst the storm.  
Amen*

## **Welcome to our new Rector, Katrina Dykes**



Hello! It is good to be here and beginning my time as your new Rector. I am so looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you.

We have really appreciated the warm welcome we have received from so many parishioners in recent weeks since we moved in. The county of Suffolk and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich are new to us, so we hugely value your prayers as we settle into the area and our work here. I have much to learn so expect lots of questions and probably a few mistakes as I find my way.

Living at The Rectory with me are my husband Phil, elder son Iain and our two border collies, Shadow and Talisker. Our younger son Jonah is married to Rebecca and they live in Leicester. Phil is also a Church of England ordained minister and he has recently started his new job as Mission Enabler in the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team.

Since arriving we have enjoyed local walks and visited all the churches to see them from the outside at least. What a delight they are! I can't wait to join you for prayer and worship inside and share in God's mission with you in these lovely villages. I will be leading services in Otley on 6<sup>th</sup> June, Ashbocking on 13<sup>th</sup> June, Swilland on 20<sup>th</sup> June and Clopton (for a second visit) on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

My priority over the summer, will be to meet as many of you as I can and learn all about you and your village and worshipping communities. If you would like to invite me to meet you at home, on a dog walk or offer me an invitation to a local group you belong to, I would be delighted.

Peace and joy to you,

Katrina

[Katrina@carlfordchurches.org](mailto:Katrina@carlfordchurches.org)

07922 153765

## **Rainfall for April**

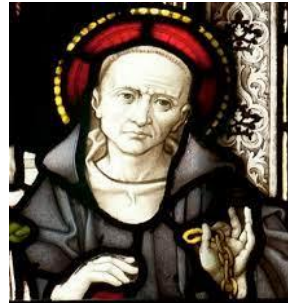
We seem to be stuck under a high-pressure area which has given us cold nights with some frost and dry days with sunshine at times. This often happens in these conditions as the wind comes from the north east over the North Sea which is always cold. Unfortunately, this has lasted for the whole month without any rain which is now badly needed. Once more we have broken records for a cold and dry April as there have only been three others since records began. Rainfall - you wouldn't get your hand wet!

*Russell Ling*

## **4<sup>th</sup> June - St Petroc, the founder of Padstow**

If you would like to be in Cornwall this summer in search of peace and quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you used to find Padstow a bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised.

This 6<sup>th</sup> century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc – now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow).



Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30 years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he must have decided to try some 6<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of 'Fresh Expressions', because he engaged with his local community by building a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So he tramped off to the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit – until some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space in a cell by the river.

But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the famous holy man, and went their way. The stag's

gratitude made him tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in c.1000 his shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were translated to Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short, unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted off by a naughty Canon of the Church. Henry II intervened, and everything but a rib of Petroc was eventually returned.

### **Otley and District Gardening Club**

Dear readers,

I'm so excited to write this piece to you this month. We've had a committee meeting and have several bits of news for you fresh off the press.



Firstly, the plant sale. We've done extremely well this year considering that most of the plants that were sold, were sold green without any flowers. Most of the things I donated to the cause were seedlings at best. The total we managed to achieve is £1,217.00 which we will give to the Motor Neurone Disease Association. I'd like to thank everyone that gave plants to our stalls and to all those that participated in the running of things over the weekend. Chiefly, Issy Lincoln, Liz Stegman and Sue Montgomery, as they setup the stalls and were on hand to give advice to the shoppers about what plant did what. Some imagination was required.

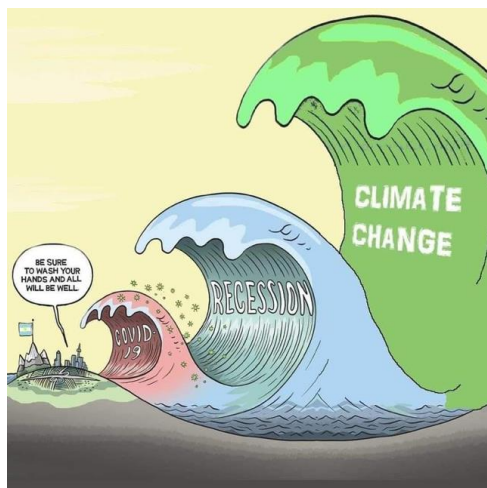
Secondly, we are planning on putting on a meeting for members and potential members to come along to on 21<sup>st</sup> June. We've got the pleasure of the talents of the "as seen on TV" star Michael Perry. We'll start at the usual 19:30, but we will need to know that you're coming. It's going to be the first day of the new rules after lockdown is eased, so we're not 100% sure of how things are going to go, but we're hoping that things will go back to some sense of normality. Please email me on [phil@florabundant.co.uk](mailto:phil@florabundant.co.uk) and I can monitor how many people are going to come along. It's on a first come first serve basis, so get in quick while there are spaces. There will be a gardening related raffle halfway through with my seasonal grand prize, but no refreshments. Please feel free to bring a flask with you if you would like a drink. Especially as we will



be holding a brief AGM at the beginning to swear in the committee, secretary, treasurer and myself. Hopefully someone will back me as I've really enjoyed being the chairman, even through these troubled times. We look forward to maybe seeing you on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 19:30 at Otley Village Hall.

I look forward to updating you as to our meeting next month.

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman*



### *Hidden Churches*

Some people like to explore old churches rather than attend a Church service.

As the saying goes:

*Every time I pass a church, I make a little visit  
Then when at last my time has come  
The Lord won't say "Who is it?"*

Sir John Betjeman the poet, was known to like his churches "Quiet".

In Suffolk we have quite a few churches tucked away that are interesting to visit for their history alone.



## Troston St Marys



Troston is a village around five miles north-north-east of Bury St Edmunds.

Along a quiet lane is the parish church St Marys, which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The church contains rare medieval wall paintings, including dragon-slaying and the Martyrdom of St Edmund.



There is a Doom painting above the Chancel depicting Heaven and Hell, also a ‘Troston Demon’ and many other forms of medieval graffiti.

The churchyard is well maintained with a Remembrance garden and wildflower and meadow grass areas.

You should find lots of interesting things to look at. Please don’t forget to leave a donation on your way out...it costs quite a lot to keep these churches open. There is a also pub in Troston called The Bull, <https://thebullfreehouse.com/> which is now open for meals.

*N.B If the current Govt “roadmap” remains in place, churches are due to re-open this month but it would be prudent to check before setting out on your journey.*

A.T.

“The universe seems to have been designed by a pure mathematician.”  
*James Jeans*

## Brain teasers

Keep that brain working; see if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common?

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess



Give it another try.... Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer. (Solutions on Page 17)

### 20<sup>th</sup> June Summer Solstice, longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

*While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here is a Christian alternative that honours the Creator rather than the created.*

#### ***A Canticle for Brother Sun***

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.  
St Francis of Assisi





## Otley Past

Christine Childs is the Village Recorder for Otley. She collects anything of interest that has happened in the Village e.g. Fetes, Performances, or other significant events and sends them to the Records Office in Ipswich for archiving and historic use. Christine has lived in Otley all her life; her family name is Davey and they have had connections with Otley for around the last 200 years.

If you have any queries or would like to know more about Otley, she would be happy to help. Also, if you have any materials or photos, past or present that pertains to the village and would like archived, please contact Christine by email at [brian.childs@uwclub.net](mailto:brian.childs@uwclub.net)



Ancient House,  
Helmingham Road



The Mill, Church Road now  
Windmill Cottages



Doug Davey, Mr Folkard, Thomas Davey, his son William Davey and Mr Ruffles. 1920 photo taken on the land which is now St Marys Grange – the new housing development.



Taken on the Helmingham Road pre-1914. (L-R) John Serruton Bricklayer, John Hatcher, Jonathan Chinnery Bootmaker, Mr Tawell, Butcher from Debenham and James Sawyer (killed in 1st WW – his name appears on the War Memorial)

## Griddled Courgette Salad with Goat's Cheese and Honey

This simple summer salad couldn't be easier to make – just 20 minutes – and marries together that wonderful flavour combination of goat's cheese and honey.



### Ingredients

- 5 small/medium courgettes, sliced lengthways into long strips using a Y-shaped peeler
- 4 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 200g kalamata olives, pitted and sliced
- ½ red chilli, chopped
- 1 lemon
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp red wine vinegar
- 2 drizzles clear honey
- 150g soft rinded goat's cheese
- Handful fresh mint leaves, torn if large

### Method

1. Toss the courgettes in 1 tbsp of the oil and season with salt and pepper. Heat a griddle pan until hot, then grill the courgettes on both sides, in batches, for 4-5 minutes until tender with clear char lines.
2. Meanwhile, make the dressing. In a bowl, combine the remaining olive oil, olives, chilli, zest of the lemon and a squeeze of juice, oregano, vinegar, a drizzle of honey and plenty of salt and pepper.
3. Arrange the courgettes on a platter and spoon over the olives and dressing, dot with the goat's cheese and scatter with mint leaves. Drizzle with honey and serve.

Now how about a little refreshing drink to have on the side maybe.....

To reply to a nasty remark with another nasty remark is like trying to remove dirt with mud. - Anon



## **Strawberry, Lime and Elderflower Muddle**

### **Ingredients**

- 2 limes, roughly cut into chunks
- 4 tbsp elderflower cordial
- Handful fresh mint leaves
- 150g strawberries, roughly chopped
- 120-200ml vodka
- Fizzy or tonic water to top up
- Ice cubes or crushed ice to serve



### **Method**

1. Divide the limes between 4 tall tumblers or highball glasses. Add the elderflower cordial and mint leaves then, using a wooden spoon handle or muddler stick, pound the ingredients together until they're really juicy. Add the strawberries, then pound again, but more gently to crush them lightly.
2. Add the ice, pour in the vodka (choose your measure), then top up the glasses with fizzy or tonic water.

**Tip** - For a non-alcoholic version, omit the vodka and top up with just the fizzy/tonic water

## **NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

### **ASHBOCKING**

There is not much news to report this month other than to tell you that all of the repairs to the church at this time are now complete and we will be opening our doors again in June.

Our first service, which is when we welcome our new incumbent, Katrina Dykes is on Sunday 13th June at 11:00am.

Covid restrictions are still in force, so facemasks and social distancing must be adhered to. As space is limited and to be sure of a space please contact John Pollard or Duncan Bray.

It will be a special day and I am sure Katrina is looking forward to meeting everyone.

*Linda Pollard*

## CLOPTON



Clopton church opened in mid-May for the first time since Christmas day.

It has been thoroughly cleaned and all Covid guidelines have been followed. It is great to see that things are slowly getting back to normal.

Our first service was Holy Communion on Pentecost Sunday and it was wonderful to welcome Katrina to hold it in our church. We had a lovely service; we were still unable to sing but we enjoyed hearing James sing the hymns. It was nice to meet people that we had not seen in person for many months, we hope that we can soon resume services as normal.

We are looking forward to seeing lots more of Katrina in the months ahead and hope that she will enjoy leading the Carlford Benefice.

We were sad to hear that June Hughes, a long-time resident of Clopton died in hospital on May 6th, exactly one month before her 93rd birthday. June was a very special person who had many friends in the village. She was a regular at our village Coffee Mornings and loved to take her turn in hosting them. She also enjoyed being a member of the Hobbies Group where she did her crochet as well as helping with our production of over a thousand poppies for our poppy Festival. June had so much knowledge about wildlife, classical music and astronomy and she loved to share that knowledge with others. She loved dogs and over the years she took in several that needed a home.



A lovely person who will be greatly missed.

We really need to do some fund raising but we are waiting to see how things go over the next few months. We had several things planned for last year and this year as well, hopefully we can soon rearrange these events.

During our long lockdown, the bats do not seem to have been as active as usual. Maybe they are waiting for the warmer weather!

*Doris Main*



"What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity."

*Richter*

## OTLEY

### **Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

Due to current Covid regulations, these meetings were held online, by Zoom, on 15<sup>th</sup> April. This format meant that the meetings followed a formal agenda, with only those invited able to participate. For the previous few years, Clare Sanders incorporated the annual meetings and reports within a family service of thanksgiving, which was much more inclusive of the whole congregation.



### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

Perhaps we shall be able to return to this format in future years.

The meeting commenced with the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which simply covered the election of churchwardens, and any other business. Once again, no nominations had been submitted for the position of churchwarden. This situation has not changed in two years, but the functions of that role have been adequately covered by Karin Upson, Nigel Crowley (who have both served as churchwardens), and James Hall. This arrangement will continue.



There being no other business, the meeting moved on to the main event – The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, commencing with the annual reports.

In his Minister's report, Mark Cresswell explained the effects of the pandemic on our church life – the restrictions on church activity, but the success of online services, shown to be reaching a number of people who would not normally have attended church. The Christmas online service of 'Nine Lessons, Nine Carols, in Nine Churches', was particularly successful. He also commented on the retirement of the much-missed Clare Sanders. It was very unfortunate that Clare's retirement occurred in a period of severe lockdown, and it was not possible for parishioners to express their love and appreciation of a wonderful Rector.

Penny Clark presented an excellent PCC Annual Report and Review. Meetings had been held in the usual manner – jointly with Ashbocking, Swilland and Clopton, and as individual PCC's. James Hall had presided over the joint meetings, and individual PCC's were chaired by its lay vice-chair. The usual

service pattern had been severely restricted, but Otley had still managed to hold a harvest thanksgiving service, and two services during the Christmas period- at Advent and on Christmas Day. There are currently 23 people on the church electoral roll.

The Fabric Report explained that substantial structural work had been completed during the year, including essential work on guttering, and the church roof. This work had cost approximately £7,800, mostly funded by the Otley Church Preservation Trust, whose support is invaluable.

Richard Treloar presented the financial report, which showed that the PCC remains solvent, although fund-raising events could not be carried out. The Parish share was paid in full.

The members of the PCC were re-elected for the new period of office, with the exception of Richard Treloar, who was standing down after many years' service.



Sharon Proctor had agreed to become a member. The full membership is : Penny Clark (secretary), Nigel Crowley (lay vice-chair), Pauline Crowley, Rose Rogerson, Kate Watson and Sharon Proctor. Automatically elected are Karin Upson (Deanery Synod Rep.), Reader James Hall, and the Rector.

The meeting concluded with a short agenda for the new PCC.

Zoom meetings have, unfortunately, become the norm during the Covid restrictions. They serve a purpose but are not as productive as a conventional meeting, and certainly not as enjoyable. Hopefully, as restrictions continue to relax, we shall be able to conduct normal meetings, and enjoy our regular services, in church again (with singing!).



Starting from June onwards service patterns will be as before the pandemic. The service in Otley will be on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30am. On the 6th of June we will have our new rector taking the service and we are hoping to have a good congregation to welcome her.

*Nigel Crowley*



## Otley and Witnesham Partnership Outside Areas

Lockdown has been hard on all of the children but, as we start to return to something resembling normality, we have enjoyed seeing the development of the school grounds. We are incredibly fortunate to have large school grounds and we are continually striving to make the most of this.

Outside classrooms have been developed at both schools to enable safe learning in bubbles, but also the grounds developed to developed healthy lifestyles. This way, children can enjoy outside learning in all weathers as well as partake in physical exercise to boost health and wellbeing.

At Witnesham Primary School, in addition to the outside classroom, we have a new daily mile track and a solar powered stopwatch so the children can see their personal best improve. This reflects the positive attitude to personal development in our vision of **Passion + Pride = Progress.**



At Otley Primary School there is a new trike track aimed at the younger children, but the older children have been enjoying it too! The beautiful roadway provides a ‘real life’ scenario to role play in and children are enjoying the responsibilities involved in setting up the bikes and scooters each day. We have already seen so many smiles and some fantastic **Teamwork Tigers** too.



If you would like to know more about the schools in the Partnership, please visit our new website: [www.owfed.co.uk](http://www.owfed.co.uk) or contact the school offices on 01473 890302 (Otley) or 0147378525 (Witnesham).

### **SWILLAND**

We would like to welcome Katrina Dykes to the Benefice and look forward to seeing her at Swilland. I'm sure many of you will have been to her induction on Zoom or via You Tube. We are also very pleased that Mark has been licensed as Assistant Curate for the Benefice.

On Saturday 15th May, we had a working party to tidy the churchyard. Several of us worked all morning strimming, cutting bushes back, cleaning the gutters. Robert Stennett very kindly brought his dumper and took all the cuttings away. He also did a lot of work with his chainsaw on the overhanging trees. We were very grateful for his help and the refreshments provided by Amanda were much appreciated. It was a very productive morning. Thank you to all who took part.

There will be a service in the church on 20th June at 11 a.m.

*Ann Kent*

*The reason some people know the solution is because they created the problem. - Kelly Fordyce*

## Fathers Day is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June



It was first celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1910 by Mrs Sonora Smart Dodd, an American, whose father as a single parent raised six children.

Love it or hate it, the card companies certainly do, with 7 million cards being sent in the UK each year compared to the 13 million Mothers' Day cards.

Mark Twain said of his Father "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around but when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years!"

### **WHEN YOU'RE A FATHER**

They say if you're a father  
You've got eyes behind your head,  
And lots of fine-tuned radar  
When your kids are off to bed.  
They say when you're a father  
That your arms are wide for hugging,  
And also wide enough to stop  
Your children from wild slugging.  
They say when you're a father  
That your kids think you're not "fair."  
But when they are in trouble,  
Well, they know you'll soon be there.  
They say when you're a father  
You must mix your work with play.  
And when your kids grow older,  
They'll say,  
"Happy Father's Day."



### **Solutions to the Brainteasers on Page 8**

In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

## RUSSELL LING REPORTS



Last month I wrote about the changes in the way poultry was kept after WW2, this month it will be the methods of pig keeping. Pre-war there were only a few combines that had been imported from America for harvesting and the binder was the main machine used for cutting the corn which then had to be carted and stacked. This meant that after threshing there was a considerable amount of loose straw left to be used. Both pigs and cattle were given straw bedding both to keep them warm and dry with the added bonus of farmyard manure to put back on the land to fertilise the following crops.

Pigsties were mainly constructed of wooden pan tiled buildings with an outside area open to the elements. Pigs are mainly a clean animal and the sleeping area inside the building was always kept free from any excrement. The outside area therefore was not clean and had to be littered with straw on a daily basis. Pigs were fed both in the morning and afternoon and were usually given a wet feed which was made by putting the quantity of meal that was required for that yard into a wooden barrel. Water was then added from an adjoining barrel and stirred with a wooden paddle to make a thick porridge. The feed from this barrel was emptied by delving a pail into it and taking it to the open part of the yard, it was then tipped into rounded cast iron pig troughs. At one time the pig man had to open the yard gate carry the pail and tip the contents into the trough while the pigs did their best to knock him over. When I came to work on the farm, I had gates made to keep the pigs in their shed while the meal was put in the troughs. Later I concreted half round glazed troughs onto the side of the yard and then spread the meal along it after which the water was added for the pigs to mix their own feed. During WW2 meal was rationed and the feed was made up with Tottenham pudding. This came in hessian bags and was a swill which was boiled up from the scraps.



## **An American in Otley: Birds I loved in Otley**

Just as I was interested in the new and unfamiliar plants and flowers I encountered in Suffolk, so too was I taken by the birds I spied. When we moved into Foxgloves, we were amazed to learn that the back property line was a farm pond which originally belonged to Russell Ling. The pond was home to a flock of mallard ducks, moorhens, and the occasional migrating Canada goose. We came to be familiar with our waterfowl and on occasions at Russell's farm. We even learned what his ducks tasted like! My major observation about ducks was that they were messy creatures when it came to keeping up one's lawn.



On the other hand, members of the Tit family certainly were intelligent! The very name of the birds makes me giggle for reasons I shall not specify in this family friendly article. North America does not have tits 'per se'. Even confirming this on the internet led me into dangerous computer links. We do have a bird that is part of the tit family, the Chickadee, but we have no named birds such as the Blue Tit, the Great Tit, etc. Alas, we have lost a great source for humour.

When I first ordered my milk from the dairy man, he offered to place stones on the bottle caps, and I could not think why. He explained about the love affair between blue tits and great tits and cream. Suffice it to say, I was skeptical. Since we in America don't have milk men, home delivery (except in rare instances), glass bottles or aluminum caps, the whole process of home delivery seemed novel. Add to that the notion that very small birds would attack the bottle caps in order to drink dairy products and I thought the village had gone mad. American birds were not this ill-mannered. However, two weeks on and I began placing stones on the porch for the milkman.

Curiously, this cream consumption was first noted in Swaythling, Hampshire, in 1921 when a new form of milk delivery was introduced – the glass bottle with metallic cap. Housewives began reporting breeches in their bottles throughout the UK and it did not take long to find the culprits. My belief that North American chickadees would not be so rude as to tamper with the milk was dashed when researching this article. Apparently, our neighbours to the north, the Canadians, studied the behavior of Chickadees when introduced to the cream on the top of milk bottles with foil caps and found that flocks of our black and white tit cousins soon learned to peck away the foil.



Not surprisingly, my favorite bird was the English Robin. This spunky garden visitor delighted me as it has so many. It did come to visit me when I was in the garden, hoping I would turn up some tasty tidbit when I spaded over earth. American robins will do the same thing, but they lack the daintiness of the English robin. European colonists named the large bird with a rust-coloured breast, dark head, and dark gray/brown uppers a “robin” after the bird they left behind. American robins are part of the thrush family and are the size of a blackbird. Their song is as melodic as the blackbird’s.



I tried to find the origins of the name “robin” and could discover little. Apparently, “Robin” was a common name and people applied it to the bird. This was a custom in earlier centuries. The bird had been known as a Ruddock, a Robinet, and even a Redbreast and the alliteration of Robin Redbreast was a pleasing sound to the English tongue. This explanation makes as much or as little sense now as it did when I arrived in the village and tried to research the matter.

I began feeding birds in England and the habit has persisted for forty years. Wild birds are a treasure and the stressors found in the modern world take a toll on their existence every day. By the estimates of the British Trust for Ornithology, one-quarter of the UK’s bird species are on its endangered Red List. Even the fabled nightingale is threatened. I bought my first bird table in Woodbridge and installed it at Foxgloves. Find one yourself and feed the birds. Don’t forget to put out a bird bath too since birds need a ready source of water throughout the year. In Utah I have had to learn a new bird census. I delight in the many finches, chickadees, siskins, and grosbeaks that visit but my favorites are the hummingbirds that arrive every spring from Mexico. We are fortunate to have four varieties of these jewel-coloured birds darting in and out from our feeders filled with sugar water. Their aerial antics put fighter pilots to shame.



Mary Miner, [Susiespinner36@msn.com](mailto:Susiespinner36@msn.com)





## **FASCINATING LANGUAGE**

### **GO SIP**

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

### **BIG WIG**



As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

## **SMILE LINES**

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

### **Ground**

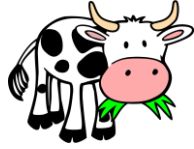
Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Why did the chewing gum cross the road?

It was stuck to the leg of a chicken !!!

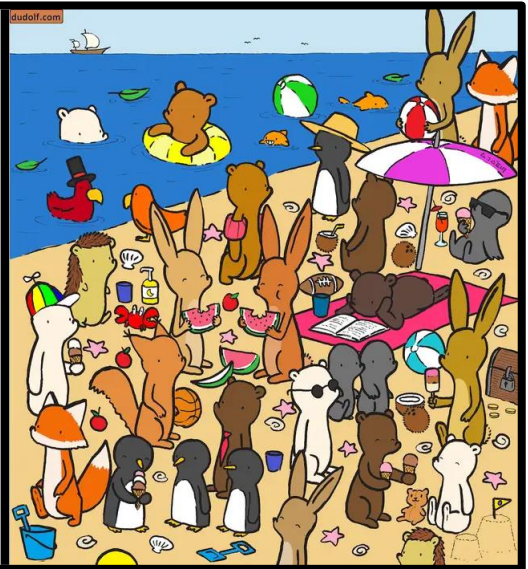


What do you say to a cow that crosses in front of your car?

Mooo-ve over.

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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