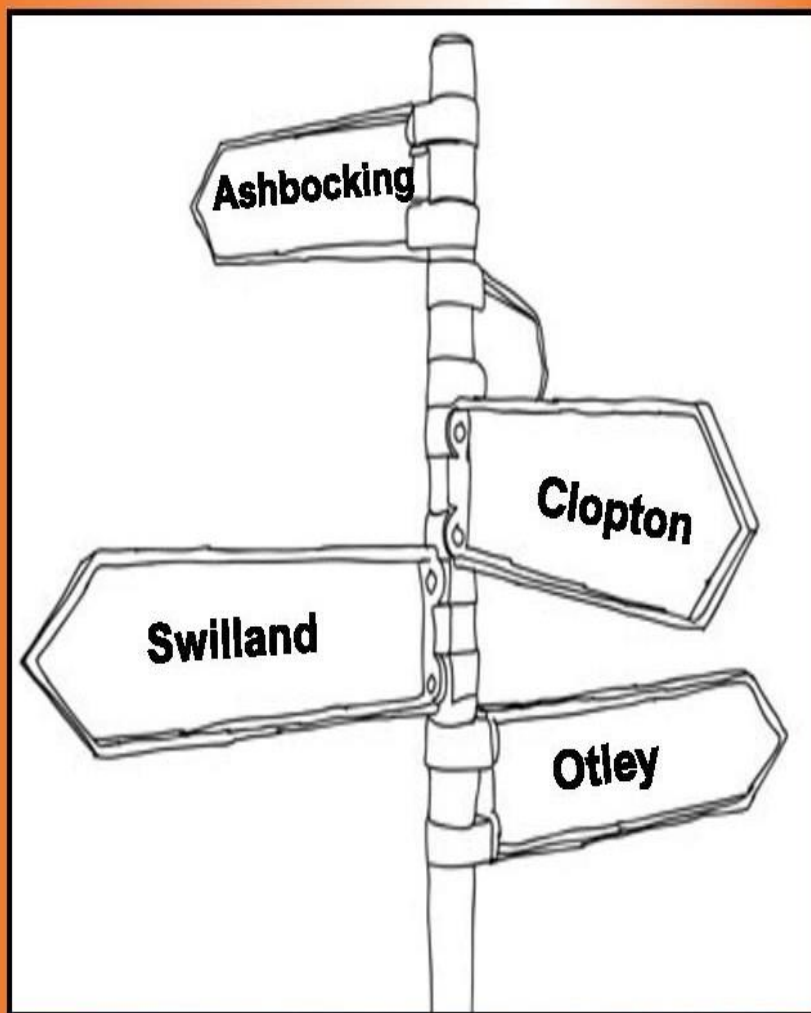


# *The Signpost*



*News from the Parishes*

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

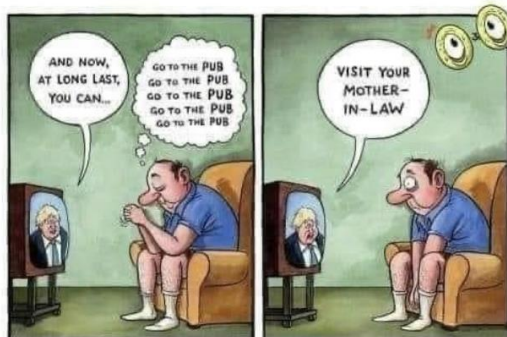
Welcome to the **March Signpost**. So the birds are singing, the sun is shining – has spring sprung? Or will we be in for some more wintery days in the coming weeks? At least the gradual easing of lockdown means that officially we can all look forward to meeting up with our loved ones, regaining church services in our churches and bringing back all our local groups and clubs which have been in hibernation throughout the pandemic. Wishing all Mums, a very Happy Mother's Day.

Have you started your spring cleaning already and found some delicious recipes to share, old photos of our local villages, poems, you may want to write to us and tell what three things you would most like to do after Coronavirus or anything else you would like to see 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 **April** issue with a deadline **of the 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

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@cresswell.onl](mailto: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>.

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



*Hopes were dashed across the country following the Statement from Boris on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February!*

All powerful Father ,  
God of mercy,  
look kindly on us in our suffering,  
ease our burden and make our faith strong,  
that we may always have confidence and  
trust in your fatherly care.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and The Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Rainfall for January**

The weather in the New Year hasn't improved, with rain every few days giving a total of 3.70 inches for the month.

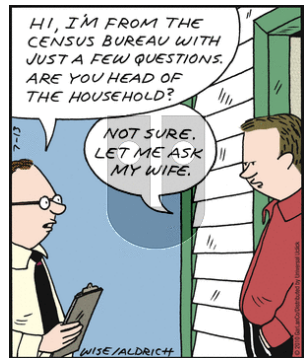
*Russell Ling*

### **The 2021 Census will provide a snapshot of modern society**

Households across the UK will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once in a decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.



Ian Bell, deputy national statistician at the office for National Statistics, said. "A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it's so

important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The census is unique, there is simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society in which we live.

All kinds of organisations from local authorities to charities use the information to help provide the services we all need including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census it would be much more difficult to do this and by taking part you will be helping make sure you and the community get the services needed now and in the future.

The census day is **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March** and for more information visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

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

Dear lovely readers,

It's getting to that time of year where seeds and plants are starting to develop in our greenhouses and in our gardens. I get quite excited in spring. All the bulbs and herbaceous perennials that we planted in past years are starting to head for the skies and bloom. It's just magical. But considering that recently we've been under feet of snow, it's astonishing that shooting plants weren't killed in the freezing temperatures we experienced. It made delivering bouquets at Valentine's Day very tricky I can assure you. I'm hoping that come Mother's Day, on March 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll be out of the woods as far as snow and thick ice, and I'll be able to deliver to the local community without a hitch. If you'd like something to be created and delivered to your special mum, please get in touch.



There is some gardening club news to report. We're thinking about our annual plant sale and how we can proceed like last year and raise some money for local charities and have some fun doing it. We had 3 stations last year where we accumulated our plants together. 2 in Otley and 1 in Ashbocking. It was an overwhelming success raising £1,000.00 across the 2 villages for St Elizabeth Hospice and NHS Covid charity. This is something we're keen to repeat. The date is to be confirmed as yet,

but if you would like to be involved with this year's sale, please get in touch with me on 07880-627984 or [phil@florabundant.co.uk](mailto:phil@florabundant.co.uk)



zoom

We're also toying with the idea of Zoom meetings with a gardening related speaker whilst we're not able to meet in person.

Hopefully, there is some light at the end of the tunnel with people being able to meet at home, but regular meetings are a little way off I expect. The speaker to test the water with us might be Michael Perry of Channel 4 and ITV fame, as well as having his own regular show on QVC. Please get in touch if you're interested in joining our Zoom and I'll organise the date.

I hope you are all keeping as sane as possible at the moment. It won't be long until we can get together in person again.

Fondest of wishes to you all.

*Phil Pollard, The Green Chairman*

*A mother's love endures through all. – Washington Irving*

### **8<sup>th</sup> March: Felix of Burgundy, apostle to East Anglia**



East Anglia is blessed with a rich Christian heritage. Just two examples: at more than 650, Norfolk has the greatest concentration of ancient churches in the world, and at 500, Suffolk has the second greatest density of medieval churches. And that is not to mention all the churches in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire...

And it all began with one man, back in 630 A.D, a bishop named Felix. His name in Latin means 'successful' and 'happy' – an excellent description of someone who brought great good and stability to this beautiful corner of England.

Felix came from Burgundy in France. At some point he was consecrated bishop, and went to Canterbury, to see Honorius, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 630 the

Christian King Sigebert returned from exile in Gaul to rule the East Angles, and Honorius sent Felix along with him, to evangelise the people. According to local legend, Felix went by boat, and arrived at Bablingley in Norfolk.

Felix may well have known Sigebert back in Gaul, for the two men worked exceptionally well together. Sigebert settled Felix in Dunwich, which became the centre of his diocesan 'see'. Then, with the support of Sigebert, Felix set up the first-ever school in East Anglia. He brought teachers up from Canterbury to staff it, and the school became, according to Bede, the place "where boys could be taught letters".



Felix had a fruitful ministry to the Anglo Saxons for 17 years. He preached Christianity, encouraged the school to grow, and did a lot of other good. All in all, Felix brought the love of God, the good news of Jesus, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, delivering "all the province of East Anglia from long-standing unrighteousness and unhappiness," according to Bede. Certainly, the people came to love Felix.

When Felix finally died on 8<sup>th</sup> March 647 or 648, he left the Christian faith firmly embedded in East Anglia. Six ancient English churches are dedicated to Felix, and Felixstowe bears his patronage.

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### ASHBOCKING



Thank goodness the snow has gone, however pretty it might be, it was too cold for most to venture out and quite dangerous in places too. There was a plus in that walking the dog was much easier on frozen foot paths and much cleaner.

Here we are now back to mud but much milder and dryer conditions, with better days it really does feel as if spring is nearly here. Snowdrops, primroses and crocuses have all been seen in abundance and the daffodils are not far behind. The days are lengthening, and the birds are feeling it too. They are much busier and generally more active getting ready for the nesting season.

As the Covid situation improves and lock down is about to be eased over the next few months, there is the hope of meeting friends and family again. It has been a long and difficult time for us all and I for one, hope that this will finally be the end of restrictions. This is very much a period of hope; Easter is not so far away and many of us are following Lent going towards Holy week and services in church to celebrate Easter.



On a sad note, I must report the passing of Louise Peel from Ashbocking. She had been suffering with Motor Neurone Disease for over two years and has relied on the devoted care of her husband Marcus. Louise went into hospital with an infection, not Covid, and sadly died on 13<sup>th</sup> February with Marcus at her side. Our love and prayers go to the family at this very sad and difficult time.

We remember Louise as a vibrant member of the community, she was the First Aider at our last village event at Manor Farm and had been one of the founder members of Ashbocking's Knit and Stitch group. She also supported our very first Christmas Bazaar by stitching some lovely felt hearts for the Christmas tree. She will be sadly missed.

There is also now the hope that groups like Knit and Stitch will resume in the near future. This group is friendly, relaxed and welcoming. We have members from outside Ashbocking and enjoy the friendship this brings. It is what it says on the tin! Anything you enjoy doing, bring with you and enjoy tea, coffee and plenty of chat. Any crafts welcome and we can also teach you to knit if you wish. There are plenty of odds and ends of wool so don't worry if you do not have any.

Also, coffee mornings are within sight, so watch this space for dates and times. It will be lovely when we can all meet again but only when it is safe to do so.

As promised last month I have found a recipe to share. This is a firm favourite at coffee mornings and was brought to mind after several friends said they had been making marmalade. So guess what?

In helping others, we benefit ourselves; we heal our own wounds in binding up those of others. – *Ambrose*



## Marmalade Cake

275g SR Flour  
200g light soft brown sugar  
1 tsp baking powder  
100ml sunflower oil  
170ml cold water  
1tblsp ground ginger  
3 heaped tbsp. marmalade  
¼ tsp xanthium gum, only if using GF flour



You will need a 2lb loaf tin greased and lined

Mix all dry ingredients together in a bowl.

Pour in the wet ingredients to form a loose batter

Once all the ingredients are mixed together pour into the loaf tin and put in the oven on 200°C /190°C fan

This takes 35 to 40 mins. Test with a clean dry skewer and wait until it comes out clean and the cake feels springy to touch.

Cooking time can vary depending on the consistency of the marmalade.

Allow to cool thoroughly before removing from the tin.

During the next couple of months there will be some essential work carried out in the church, including works to the roof and repair of windows.

Much of this work is being done with the help of money which Duncan Bray has managed to secure from the grants system. Thank you to Duncan for pursuing this and securing the funds. As always, the church was in need of money to complete the work which was necessary for its preservation.

Below is a piece by Duncan Bray outlining these works.

During the next three months we will be carrying out some essential maintenance on the Church. The most significant works will be repairs to several windows, including one in the Tower that has warped, and retiling of the north Chancel roof. The handmade roof tiles have been progressively deteriorating over the last few years and they now need replacing. We have agreed a 6-week window with the Bat



Preservation Society and will start the work in April, with scaffolding being erected in March. This type of work is not cheap however and hence we were incredibly pleased to secure two grants at the end of last year. We have received £3,000 from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and just under £8,000 from a Heritage Stimulus Fund administered by Heritage England – this is part of the government’s £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund established “to protect heritage sites and ensure that jobs and access to culture and heritage in the local community are protected in the coming months”. Our Fabric Fund will meet the balance of the costs.



We are expecting our next Quinquennial Inspection Report imminently, which will identify further work required. In addition to the work, we plan to overhaul the vents in the Nave windows. With our Fabric Fund now significantly depleted we will need to seek additional funding sources to carry out future work.

*Linda Pollard*  
([linda.pollard3@btinternet.com](mailto:linda.pollard3@btinternet.com))

## CLOPTON

It only seems like a week or so since I was writing the news for February! With the church being closed and lockdown making it difficult to meet anyone it is difficult to find anything interesting to write about.

It is great that we have an online service each Sunday. Thank you to all the people involved in producing the service, I am sure that it is enjoyed by everyone, it must take a lot of organisation and time each week.

The week of snow caused some disruption in the village. Several people were stuck in snow drifts and had to be pulled out. Jenny and Ronnie Woods did a wonderful job of gritting and sanding Rouse Hall and part of Shop Road to enable cars to reach the main road. We did not have post or milk deliveries for several days. It was wonderful to see, when the snow melted, all the snowdrops, crocuses, primroses and aconites standing up and looking good.

The organisation 'Bats in Churches' are working with a group of churches who have problems with bats to see if they can find solutions to the problems. They have regular 'bat seminars' on Zoom so



that they can show how their work is progressing. These one hour sessions are very interesting, especially if your church plays host to a bat colony. Go online to Bats in Churches for a link. It has certainly made me think of bats quite differently!

I do hope that we shall soon get back to some form of normality. Keep safe.

*Doris Main*

## OTLEY

We are very pleased to announce that the Reverend Katrina Dykes has been appointed the Rector of the Carlford benefice and will be licensed in May. Katrina is presently the Rector in charge of the Anna benefice in Upper Clatford, Hampshire. Please pray for Katrina and her husband Phil and their family as they move to our benefice and as we look forward to welcoming them.

Spring is here at last!

The trees are beginning to blossom, snowdrops, aconites and primroses are appearing in the hedgerows and gardens.

The Church is still closed for the time being, but a lot of work has been going on in the churchyard.

Large amounts of ivy have been cut down from the large yew trees and the overhanging trees and shrubs leading up the drive to the Church have been trimmed back. Additionally, the surrounding hedges have been beautifully cut. Our thanks go to Tom Lyons Tree Services and Chris Woods.

All this activity has left us with quite a large pile of cuttings to clear and we aim to have a bonfire soon once the wind has dried out the heap.

We are also pleased to announce that the church gate posts have been reset and the gates re-hung. This has been a long overdue task and we are grateful to Nigel for arranging this.



You may have noticed quite a lot of molehills in the churchyard. These are a nuisance and an eyesore, especially if they appear on the graves. Although there are a lot of hills there is probably only one mole. They are very territorial, and we hope they will leave soon!

The churchyard is consecrated ground and so we ask if you walk your dogs on the footpath which leads past the Church, to please keep them on a lead and clear up after them.

This week we continue with our online services at [www.carlfordchurches.org](http://www.carlfordchurches.org)  
James Hall will be leading the service.

*Angela Treloar*

### **Iona Hope, Episcopal Church**

Whilst living in our home in Fort Myers, on the south west coast of Florida, Pauline and I regularly attend a local Episcopal church, which has an Anglican communion service. The Episcopal church in America was founded after the American Revolution, in 1776, when it became separated from the Church of England. Church of England clergy were required to swear allegiance to the British Monarch, George III, as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Clearly, this was not possible in the newly annexed country.



Over the past fifty years, the Episcopal church has followed a very liberal course. It has opposed the death penalty and supported the civil rights movement. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal church is Michael Curry, the first African-American bishop to serve in that position. He came to prominence in this country when he was invited to give the address at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Much of the service is familiar – hymns (though often with an unfamiliar tune), readings from the Old and New Testaments, the Creed, Communion, and a rather more informal sermon (or ‘homily’). Average Sunday attendance, during the Winter season, is 200. People attending for the first time receive a welcome pack. All members of the congregation wear a name badge, and we have found it very inclusive and friendly. The church is a modern building, and large audio-visual screens allow all members of the congregation to follow the service. There are no hymn books, or orders of service booklets. Wide ranging sermons are given thoughtfully and with no reference to a script. There is a vibrancy and enthusiasm throughout the service, which I find truly uplifting.

The church is largely autonomous, and self-funded. It is not supported by the Diocese. It pays its own clergy, directly, including their medical insurance (an important issue in America). The Rector does not have a rectory, he, or she, must make their own arrangements. It follows that churches in more affluent, middle class areas, have better facilities, and more clergy. Six years ago, our Rector retired. The church (not the Diocese) advertised for a new incumbent, and received over sixty applications, from around the world. Revd. Ray Buchanon was appointed, assisted by Revd. Suzy Post.

Our church is called Iona Hope, because it is situated in the Iona district of Fort Myers. However, in addition, the church is linked to the Iona Community in Scotland, and it has a processional cross, which was made by a wood carver at Iona Abbey.

Iona is a small island, off the west coast of Scotland. The abbey was founded by St Columba in 563. Columba crossed from Ireland, where he was Abbot of Derry. He was instrumental in bringing Christianity to Scotland.

In September 2017, Pauline and I decided to have a driving holiday to Scotland, to include a visit to Iona. The journey to the island is rather complicated, and often beset by poor weather. We stayed near Oban, and took the ferry to the Isle of Mull, on a conveniently calm day. After driving across Mull, on a winding, narrow road, we parked at Fionnport, and boarded the foot ferry for the final part of the journey to Iona. The Iona abbey and surrounding buildings can be entered and explored. It is a place of great peace, and spirituality. Members of the Iona Community work, world-wide for peace and social justice.

We felt privileged to be part of the Iona Hope community, and to experience its link with the historic island of Iona.

*Nigel Crowley*

### **40 Days Of Kindness**



“40 days of kindness” is a Suffolk-wide initiative for Lent. We are seeking to live the message “Love isn’t cancelled” with different small initiatives in communities right across the county. In Otley, the Lightwave group have partnered with the village store to seek to put together a couple of “thankyou hampers” to show appreciation to the local

school and doctors' surgery. You can contribute by placing a donation in the jar at the village store or handing in a thankyou note/card at the post office.

It's not too late for new groups and individuals to join in with 40 days of kindness and it's open to anyone. To find out more, go to [www.light-wave.org/lent](http://www.light-wave.org/lent) or ring Sally Gaze on 07446933129. Stories from "40 days of kindness" are being featured on Radio Suffolk on Sunday mornings and Monday lunchtimes – so listen out for these and if you have a story of kindness to tell (a kindness you have received or part of doing), please give Sally a ring.

*Sally Gaze, Leader of the Lightwave Community  
Archdeacon for Rural Mission and Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral*

### **SWILLAND**

What a contrast in the weather! For a week we were clearing snow and I even made a snowman. Now it is really Spring like and crocuses, snowdrops and hellebores have popped up everywhere and my Daphne is full of flower and scent. It's a very exciting time of year in the garden. With the promise of the end of lockdown, I hope we can look forward to a more sociable summer. The daffodils we planted along the roadside are beginning to flower. They go all the way from the post box to Moat Farm drive. Over the years they will multiply and will look lovely. We hope eventually to get up to Blacksmith's Corner and then perhaps on the other side of the road. Thank you to the Parish Council for providing the bulbs.

Hopefully, we will be in Church by Easter. It will be good to have live services again. We are very grateful to Mark for all the work he has put into the online services and the Lent programme. They have been really good.

*Ann Kent*

### **Bergersh House Open Garden**

The gardens of Bergersh House will be open again this year as part of the National Garden Scheme (which supports nursing charities). Please follow the link below to watch an informal video of the garden which hopes to be open on the Bank Holiday weekend, Sunday 30th May 2021 from 12 noon - 5 pm.

<https://youtu.be/TDzP5PwU4T8>



Due to current restrictions, pre-booking on the NGS national website is necessary, <https://ngs.org.uk>, but this may have changed closer to the date. Further updates will be available nearer the time.

There are links to lots of beautiful gardens as well as talks on the national website and some of our local garden enthusiasts might like to browse the Suffolk gardens listed to make a plan to visit some of them when everything is back to normal.

### **From one signpost to another...**



Otley and other parish councils in Suffolk are planning to introduce 500km of 'Quiet Lanes' across the County as part of the Suffolk Quiet Lanes Project. These are small lanes with less than 1000 vehicle movements per day and regularly used by less vulnerable road users such as children, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those on mobility scooters. Green signs will show which lanes hold this special status, the signs remind drivers they should 'Expect' to find other road users in the road and that they should 'Respect' their presence.

Getting the signs in place requires the support of resident's and consultation letters have been delivered to all households in Otley, with a closing date of the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Subject to feedback from residents, the parish council will take a vote on the scheme at its next parish council meeting and if agreed, Suffolk Highways formal consultation will take place around June.

The 'Suffolk Quiet Lanes Project' website gives full details of the project and a map showing all the proposed lanes. Highway code rule 218 sets out the requirements for drivers using these lanes. Quiet lane designation aims to prioritise people over traffic in a similar way 'Home Zone' schemes do in towns and cities.

Quiet Lane designation does not restrict vehicle access, provide traffic calming measures, or reduce speed limits. If these are required then lobbying Suffolk Highways, local Councillors, MP's, and Central Government is the way to get them. Funding of the project is shared between Parish Councils, Suffolk County Council and for parishes within their district, East Suffolk District Council. Implementation should be completed by the end of 2021, look out for the green signs.

*Chris Taylor, Project Lead for Otley. [Christaylorotley@gmail.com](mailto:Christaylorotley@gmail.com),  
Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/quietlanessuffolk/home>*

Content makes poor men rich;

discontent makes rich men poor.

– Benjamin Franklin

## **14<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

## **Memories of An American in Otley: I Dyed at Flatford Mill**

My absence was noticed at a gathering in the Officers’ Club at RAF Bentwaters. My husband, when asked where I was, replied that “She is dyeing at Flatford Mill.” Regrettably, those listening could not see or hear the spelling of “dyeing,” and



began offering their condolences. They also must have thought Pete was a jerk for leaving me on my deathbed in a Gainsborough picture to attend a cocktail party!

Not long after learning to spin, I realized that my choices of colours in the fleeces I spun was limited to what a sheep could produce - creamy whites, beiges, tans, browns, greys, and dark browns, but not the rainbow of colours a girl sometimes wanted. I knew I could dye fleeces but I did not want to use chemical colourants. I wanted to learn how to use traditional English plants to impart colour to all the neutral shaded fleeces I was acquiring. I remembered from childhood reading that Robin Hood clothed his men in Lincoln Green. I had read that Catherine Parr (Henry VIII's sixth wife) had worn gowns of Kendall Green while managing to keep hold of her head. It occurred to me that there must be native dye stuffs to be found in the Suffolk countryside that would yield these colours and many others.

So began my dyeing experiments. I quickly learned that the colours of flowers and plants did not correlate to the colour, if any, of the dye they produced. A dye is a *colourant* which can impart its colour to substances. It penetrates fibers and, with luck, results in a permanent, colour-fast thread or material. A flower's or plant's colour that you see is the result of insoluble chemicals within it which alter its appearance by the absorption or scattering of light. Just because your eyes see a red rose, that rose will not produce a red dye. It will give you a sludgy yellowish green when simmered in water and washes out of any fiber.

England has notable natural dye stuffs. I was most interested in working with woad, weld, and madder. I foraged through hedgerows, clambered into ditches and over dikes. I even went into ponds to secure water iris rhizomes. Dyer's woad (*isatis tentoria*) is an indigo-containing plant and was known to the early Anglo Saxons and Celts. Caesar remarked on the blue colour of native inhabitants who had smeared woad or tattooed woad ink onto themselves. Oddly, the blue dye (the colour of denim jeans) is obtained



from the green leaves of this biennial plant, preferably in its first year of growth. Many gardeners grow woad for its decorative properties, so it was not too difficult to find. The process to extract the indigo dye from the woad leaves is long,

potentially fraught with some danger because you use strong alkalis, and it is very smelly. Happily enough, I obtained the dye which was a sickly yellow green solution. Only after I dipped wool into the solution and then exposed it to air did the blue color emerge. The more often I dipped and then exposed the wool to air the deeper the blue I obtained - It was quite magical.

Dyeing with Dyer's Rocket or Weld (*reseda lutea*) does not require the same effort, but finding weld took a month-long search. Today, gardeners would consider weld a weed and you usually only find it growing in waste areas of the UK, often where the ground has been disturbed by construction and then left dormant. I found mine growing on the grassy lane divider of the A12 south of Ipswich. The passing cars must have been mystified by this mad woman tramping down the median strip of a heavily used four lane highway harvesting plants with tall stalks with bright yellow flower spikes. Had they known I was an American it might have made sense. As it was, I brought the weld home, chopped the flower spikes into smaller portions and submerged them in a pan of cold water. After gently bringing the solution up to a simmer and letting it heat for one hour, I extracted a brilliant yellow dye and smelly cooked flowers.

Both weld and woad are dyes of historic importance. Their ability to brighten cotton, silk and wool yarn, thread or cloth was known in the ancient times. For me, the satisfaction of seeing their vibrant colors was overwhelming. Also, it allowed me to solve the riddle of Kendal and/or Lincoln Green. If you first dye wool blue and then dip that wool into the yellow dye, you get a marvelous green. So, in those moments of discovery, I became a natural dyer and I have gone on to dye with amazing plant materials and have produced beautiful, colorfast yarns.



As to why I was dyeing at Flatford Mill? I was attending a three-day course on natural dyeing, spinning and weaving. It was sponsored by the Suffolk Country Council as part of their adult education scheme.

**Now, a warning Gentle Readers:** If you become interested in natural dyeing, there are excellent books on the subject. At first, confine your dyeing projects to 100% wool fiber because it accepts dye most readily. Even so you will need to use chemicals, some of which are dangerous, to set or bind the dye onto the fiber. These are called mordants. The safest one, and the easiest to obtain, is Alum which you can find at a chemist's shop. Also, when harvesting dye plants, obtain the landowner's permission before trampling through his/her gardens or fields. Finally, never take all the plants available from a site. Leave some for re-propagation and remember that some plants are so rare that they are protected and must not be picked. This is especially true of lichens. Having said all that, this hobby is great fun and can produce colours which are remarkable.

*Mary Miner*

### **A Brief Pageant of English Verse**

*How many lines from famous verses you can spot?*

I won't arise & go now, & go to Innisfree,  
I'll sanitize the doorknob & make a cup of tea.

I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,  
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu,  
But I shan't be seeing him just yet & nor, I think, will you.

While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay,  
I'll make a bit of supper & eat it off a tray.

I will not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye,  
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.

About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go,  
To see the 'Keep Out' posters or the Cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.

Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends,  
Not come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

## SMILE LINES

### **Relative Value**

A Jaguar mechanic was removing the cylinder head from the engine of an E-Type when he spotted a well-known cardiac surgeon in the garage.

The cardiac surgeon was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?" The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working.

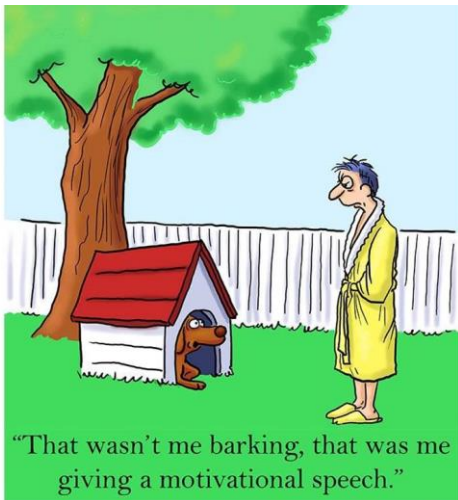
The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and, when I finished, it worked just like new. So how is it that I make £30,000 a year and you make £600,000, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiac surgeon paused, leaned over and whispered to the mechanic: "Try doing it with the engine running."

### **Bend**

I got a package envelope in the mail the other day that had written on the front, 'Photographs: Do Not Bend.

Underneath the postman had written: "Oh yes they do."



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 8 differences between these two pictures?



Free printable courtesy of PrintItFree.net

How do you make a lemon drop?

Just let it fall.



How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying?

You rocket!



What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?

That hit the spot!



Why did the Cookie go to the hospital?

Because he felt crummy



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