

Your local news  
and interesting  
monthly  
newsletter

# WOBUL

Wortham & Burgate Letter

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## WORTHAM WALKERS

We walk on the first Wednesday of each month. **Next walk – Wednesday 07 June**

In May, Alan and Pam Miller took us on a varied walk in and around in and around the Gipping Valley at Needham Market. It was a rain-threatened day and the walk was not well-supported, partly due to confusion over which Needham was the meeting place, although this article in May's WOBUL gave full meeting details and postcode. The rain didn't fall until we were at lunch in The Lion pub.



Rape field on a grey day near Needham Market

As Mike Bowen is responsible for the next walk, he is therefore very careful with his instructions! His June walk is a circular footpath around rural Westhorpe and will take about one and a half hours, with a shorter second part for those needing fewer hard yards.



Our meeting place will be St Margaret's Church in Church Road, off the road to Wyverstone and is about one mile from Finningham. It is a 9-mile, 15-minute drive from Wortham Post Office: take the A143 to Rickinghall Crossroads and turn left on B1113 towards Stowmarket. At Finningham White Horse turn right on Westhorpe Road.

Drive straight on at the left turn to Wyverstone and Bury, continuing along Church Road and pass through the village centre. The Parish Church will be found on the right side masked by mature trees but highlighted by a low red-brick wall, in front of which we will park and meet at 10:30, as usual. For those with car satnav, enter **IP14 4SU**.

The church is a Grade One, 14<sup>th</sup> Century building and was the Sunday church of Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, sometime Queen of France, and later married to Charles Brandon, Earl of Suffolk. We will visit the building after our walk and see more detail inside.



Lunch will be taken at the Trowel & Hammer in Cotton, but because we are not meeting there, Mike asks that you email him ([WOBUL@mcb-biz.net](mailto:WOBUL@mcb-biz.net)) or 01379 650192 to advise whether you will be lunching, or maybe just joining us there for lunch. Mike can then advise the pub of expected numbers attending and allocate sufficient space in the bar or restaurant.

John Scott  
[juliejohn\\_scott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliejohn_scott@yahoo.co.uk)

## Burgate Village News



Don't forget – **the kettle's on** every Tuesday at the Church Hall in Burgate. Do come along and enjoy a hot drink and homemade cakes, meet your neighbours, catch up with old friends, bring children. 10.00 am until 12 noon. Look for the 'A' board by the side of the road.

### Festival of Flowers and Music.

After a break of a year, we are delighted to once again be organising a Flower Festival in Burgate Church, over the weekend of **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June** from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Entrance free. The theme for the flowers is "Famous People" – come and see how many you can name! Light lunches will be available, as well as teas, coffees and homemade cakes over both days. We are also putting on a display of work from the Burgate Art Group, who have been meeting regularly over the last few years to learn the art of watercolour painting under the direction of local artist Sue Heaser.

On the Saturday evening at 7.30pm, there will be a concert in the church given by local "a cappella" group "Amici". Those of you who have been before will know that they will provide you with a delightful variety of music, ranging from spirituals such as "Ol man river", to more classical pieces by Bach or Britten.

Tickets for the concert are £12.50 and include a glass of Pimms and canapés in the interval. Contact Gina Cole on 01379 783718, or [ginacole49@gmail.com](mailto:ginacole49@gmail.com).



### Fashion show in Burgate Church.

There were no spaces in the pews when a "full house" turned up to see the show of nearly new clothes in Burgate Church on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The success of the show was down to the incredibly hard work put in by the chief organiser, Liz Chapman; but she would be the first to admit that she could not have done it without the help of a very able team of supporters. Rod Chapman, who proved himself to be a very witty Master of Ceremonies; the "volunteer" models who paraded a selection clothes up and down the catwalk (aka the aisle); the ladies who made and handed round the canapes, and not forgetting the barmen. Thanks are also due to those who supported this event, and bought many of the very nice items of clothing. An incredible profit of £845.00 was raised for church funds. So many thanks once again to *all* involved.

### A thank you letter.

"To our dear friends at Burgate:

We asked for your help and support with clearing our beautiful Churchyard at Burgate. It was becoming out of hand so quickly, with brambles, stinging nettles and much overgrowth, not to mention the long grass, overgrown hedges and shrubbery. True to form, there you all were, men, women and young gentlemen all willing and prepared to work hard and bring our Churchyard back under control. You came with your hand tools, your power tools, you came with scones, cakes and drinks to sustain us, and we all worked together. You gave up your time, which we know is so very precious, and worked tirelessly and we are sure that you, like us, must all be thrilled with the end result. A loved and cared for Churchyard once more. Everyone played a huge part. We cannot thank you enough. It just shows what a wonderful place Burgate is and that together we can make a big difference.

Thank you,

Liz & Rod"

## Church Flowers

4<sup>th</sup> June Flo Tyler

11<sup>th</sup> June Flo Tyler

18<sup>th</sup> June Liz Chapman

25<sup>th</sup> June Liz Chapman

## Hall Cleaning

Fran Jones

Church Hall Booking Secretary: Judi Tann: 01379 783302

# *Festival of Flowers and Music*

*10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017*

*10.00 am to 5.00 pm*

*St Mary's Church, Burgate*

*Flower Festival on the theme of famous people*

*Entrance FREE*

*Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, a light lunch  
& home made cakes during your visit*



*Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm*

## *"Amici"*

*"Suffolk's friendliest a cappella chamber choir"*

*Director: Adrian Knott*

*A concert of short pieces of varying styles.*

*Pimms and canapes in the interval.*

*Tickets £12.50 - 01379 783 718 or*

*email [ginacole49@gmail.com](mailto:ginacole49@gmail.com)*

## **RAHOF (Rickinghall Area Hospice Fundraisers)**

this year celebrates 30 years of fund- and friend-raising  
for St Nicholas Hospice Care, Bury St Edmunds,  
our hospice for this catchment area.

Please support our special 30th Anniversary Concert in June,  
a lovely summer evening of popular song.

## **MERELY DIVAS IN CONCERT**

(RAHOF 30th Anniversary Concert)

**Saturday 24th June**

**St Mary's Church, Redgrave**

**7.30 pm start**

Grand Draw; Bar available

Tickets: £12 pp, incl. light refreshments  
from June Hart on 01379 897180  
or RAHOF committee members

Merely Divas, making a welcome return to Redgrave,  
is a popular group of talented local lady singers and accompanist,  
who perform harmonised arrangements of classic popular melodies.  
Not to be missed, so please book early.

**hello!**

**From 16th April The Forge  
Community Church will be  
at Hartismere School in Eye.**

**There will be a fun programme  
for kids and teens, great live  
music and amazing talks tied  
into your everyday life.**

**Every Sunday from 16th April, 4pm  
Hartismere School in Eye.**

**Get your diary, book the date  
and tell your friends.**

**See you there...**

**forge community  
church**

Can't wait? Check out:  
[www.forgechurch.com/eye](http://www.forgechurch.com/eye)

# DISS CYCLATHON

A DAY TO CELEBRATE ALL THAT IS GREAT ABOUT CYCLING IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

*Including the:*

**NINE TOWN SPORTIVE**

**25 JUNE 2017**



Register at:

[WWW.DISSCYCLATHON.ORG](http://WWW.DISSCYCLATHON.ORG)



A FRIENDS OF WORTHAM CHURCH EVENT

# BARN DANCE

AT ROOKERY FARM WORTHAM

**SATURDAY  
JULY 1ST**

**7:00PM - 10:30PM**

**HOXON HUNDRED  
CEILIDH  
BAND**



**BAR** 

 **HOG  
ROAST**

## TICKET PRICES

(INCLUDES HOG ROAST)

**ADULT** £15

**CHILD** £5  
14 YEARS & UNDER

**CHILD** FREE  
UNDER 5 YEARS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
**WORTHAM STORE**  
OR CALL 01379 898176

Raising Money for  
**St Mary's Church**  
Wortham



**ELIZABETH'S**

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**CHARITY DANCE**

**TO**

**THE MUPPITS**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**

**8PM-LATE**

**DISS CORN HALL**

**TICKETS £5**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO DISS MUSEUM**

**CONTACT : 01379 650471**



## Letter from reader Betty Garnham

### My Memories of the Crystal Palace Fire

I was very interested to read the March *Heritage Circle* article regarding the Crystal Palace. When the palace burned down, I was living in a turning off Wells Park Road, Upper Sydenham, South-east London. I must have been about eleven years old at the time of the fire. My parents and older sisters went off to get a closer look, and my younger sister, brother and I were left in the care of our grandmother. We watched the clouds of smoke from a bedroom window, but were unable to open it because of burning fragments in the air.

Before the fire the children in my road, a cul de sac, used to go to the bottom of the road every Thursday night to watch the wonderful firework display from the palace grounds. They also held circuses and local children could win tickets by colouring circus pictures. I won one, but was very scared to find myself in a seat that seemed to be on top of a mountain. I did not try to win a ticket again.

They managed to release some of the exotic birds, and one found its way into the front bedroom. This happened a few days after the fire and the birds were all collected. Unfortunately, the fish in the many ponds did not survive. The fire happened in the years leading up to World War II and many local people thought that it had been started deliberately as the glass palace would a central landmark for enemy aircraft.

I think the palace was partly in Sydenham and partly in South Norwood. South Norwood Railway Station was on the other side of Crystal Palace Parade and there was a bus terminus on the other side of the road. My brother and sister-in-law who also live in Diss, have a wonderful picture of the original Crystal Palace in Hyde Park and it shows ladies in crinolines with their escorts.

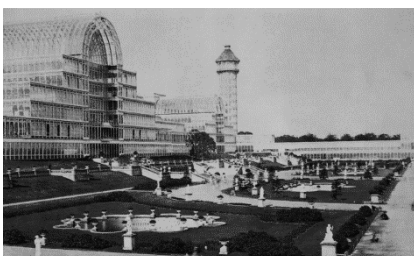
I hope that my memories of the Crystal Palace are of interest to Heritage Circle members and WOBUL readers.

Elizabeth (Betty) Garnham.

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**Editor:** Readers may know of Betty as the Chairman of Wortham Good Companions Club, and that she was named after HM The Queen as they share the same birth date. Her memory of Crystal Palace is excellent, and my research shows that she lived about half a mile from the famous building which was re-sited on Penge Hill from Hyde Park after the closure of the 1851 Great Exhibition. The fire was on 30.11.1936, and I show here contemporary before, during and after photos of the palace and the fire. Thanks, Betty.

**Mike Bowen**



## A South African Success Story Carmen's Kids

Last month, I told you of Lesley and my visit to Stellenbosch to meet Carmen Stevens, award-winning black winemaker of Amani Wines and Winemaker of 2015 at Naked Wines, the online wine retailer from Norwich.



I finished the article with "However, the story does not end there.... There is more to Carmen Stevens than first meets the eye. See the May issue of WOBUL for more about Carmen the humanitarian."

Every harvest, winemaker Carmen Stevens hires a few seasonal female workers to supplement her two full-time male employees. In March 5 years ago, with the women, she started a to feed their children as part of the job package. Like Topsy, the project grew rapidly and before long nearly 400 kids were being fed at school. Attendance and learning standards rose with the lessening of hunger, but Carmen noticed that the food they received at school was often the only food they ate all week. Then funding ran out about two years after starting, and the project ceased.



By then, Carmen was becoming a star winemaker for Naked Wines, and when Managing Director Eamon FitzGerald heard of the project and Carmen's plight he talked to his Norwich HQ staff and they agreed to donate their £300 Free Food Friday Initiative charity drive to Carmen's project which could then re-start its work. This amount can feed 500 kids twice a week for one month. There were few dry eyes in the office when Carmen's photos arrived!

Eamon then realised that, with over 150,000 customers (or Angels as we are known) maybe we can make the same difference, but on a far greater scale by holding an Angels-funding drive. We each pay £20 into our accounts towards future purchases and for funding new winemakers, and helping in emergencies. If the Angels are requested to donate the difference between their lunch and a bowl of soup, say £20, each donation would feed a school kid for one year.

Carmen explains why there is such a need for help: "In the Western Cape, where the Winelands are situated, the unemployment rate is at 25.5%. The kids are the ones that suffer the most because of this situation. A hungry child struggles to concentrate in class, they visit the school nurse with daily headaches and stomach aches, some even faint, it is just so sad. A known fact is that the weight of a child falls from Friday to Monday because of the lack of food over a weekend."



On 29 January 2016, the call went out and by Monday morning when the drive finished, over £60,000 had been raised! The primary schoolchildren in six schools in Belhar were to receive three meals a day for the next year. The project would start in April 2016 and after the twelve months to the end of March this year 776,750 meals would have been provided to 3060 children, an amazing story.

But it didn't stop there. Lesley and I flew to Cape Town on Sunday 29 January this year. On Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, the second call went out from Norwich to the Angels to fund the next year's feeding of Carmen's Kids. When I texted Carmen on the Monday to make an appointment to visit the winery, she was SO excited as 2016's total had been exceeded, and when we saw her at Amani on Wednesday 01 February donations had totalled just over £70,000! She later that week posted her thanks on the Naked Wines website:

*"I am truly humbled by your generosity. I know that Naked's Angels can do amazing things but, never in a million years did I think this was possible again. I am in tears because of the generosity of people from another country for our kids in South Africa. Thank you Naked and thank you Angels for all this amazing work."*



On 20 April 2017, Carmen mailed Naked Wine's Angels with this update:

*"Dear Angels*

*Harvest 2017 is all done and although still very early to say, the new wines look pretty impressive. During harvest, we had a few visitors, some enthusiastic Angels, the very energetic Antonio Díez Martín from Spain and the awesome Naked Wines team. The request from Eamon was that if possible, they would love to visit one of the schools where the Angels are making a difference. I decided to visit one of the schools where the soup kitchen started a few years back.*

*On our arrival, Rowan inquired what the visit will entail and my response was just a short visit during lunch break with maybe a few pictures with some learners. Big was my surprise when the team walked in and took position behind the tables, dishing up plates of food, serving and interacting with the learners. To crown the visit, the team started cleaning up as the learners finished with their plates to ensure there will be enough clean plates for the learners that were still to come.*

*The kids were very impressed that their visitors arrived by aeroplane and that they came from all over the world to see them. Their little faces just lit up with surprise. The Naked team was so taken by what they saw and experienced at the school and what they saw was only a small fraction of what you, the Angels and Naked made possible. For me, it was so great to have the Naked team experience first-hand, what a difference the donations are making and for them to see the eagerness and appreciation that the kids are showing for the food. A real humbling experience for me.*

*Now, as reported before, because of your generosity we could feed 3060 learners for the school year April 2016 - March 2017. I have some ecstatic news, we reported that we have raised £70,000 with the second donation day. To our surprise, funds kept on being donated days after the donations weekend.*

*Because of this continued support, we will feed 3481 learners for the school year April 2017 - March 2018. That is 421 more learners that will benefit from the generosity of the Naked Angels. These 421 learners were identified at 3 different schools. That will bring the number of schools to 9, which means the donation from you the Angels are being spread over a wider area in the Western Cape, therefore having a bigger impact on the communities of the Western Cape.*

*I have so much gratitude for all your donations. Thank you, Angels, for caring so much. Kind regards, Carmen."*

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However poor and desperate their township home conditions, I have never seen a South African child go to school without a proud uniform. To see videos of Carmen's Kids project, please go to the links in my accompanying email for this issue of WOBUL. They are worth viewing.



It has been a privilege to see this amazingly-driven woman at work. Should you be interested in joining me and Lesley and contributing a little to Carmen's Kids, please email me at [mike.bowen@mcb-biz.net](mailto:mike.bowen@mcb-biz.net) where I can receive donations and forward them to her not-for-profit bank account in South Africa. Mike

## THE SHEILA RUSH PAGE

### Laying-up of The Standard.

A large congregation was present for the laying-up of Suffolk Royal British Legion Women's Section County Standard on 30 April 2017 in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds. The Welcome was given by Canon Malcolm Rogers along with the Opening Prayer. The Congregation remained standing for the presentation of the Standard. There was an Act of Remembrance, The Last Post.

The Exoration was given by Vice Chairman, Josephine Lea:

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.'*

Response: *'We will remember them.'*

Two minutes' silence. The Reveille.

The Address was also given by Canon Malcom Rogers and Sheila Jeffrey, the County Standard Bearer. Several hymns were sung during the service and the Congregation then followed The Standard to the south-west corner of the church. The Vice Chair and Suffolk County President handed The Standard to The Vicar of St Marys with: *'We commit this sacred Standard of the Suffolk County Women's Section Branch of the Royal British Legion to you, as Vicar of Parish of St Mary's for safekeeping in this church for evermore.'* Vicar: *'I accept the charge.'*

Also in the congregation were the Suffolk County President, Mrs Maureen Ludder OBE, County Vice Chairman, Mrs Josephine Lea, former Suffolk County Chairmen and former Standard Bearers who had carried their Standards over the years for their branches. The National Anthem was sung and the service ended with the Blessing. Refreshments were served at the back of the church.

### Good Companions.

Members and Friends of the Good Companions Club went to Sheringham on Tuesday 16 May. It was a lovely, fine day, lots of shops to explore. You could take the train to Holt pulled by a steam engine, bringing back memories of bygone days. A raffle was held on the bus on the way home.

### Wortham Bowls Club.

A coffee morning will be held in the club house on Saturday 8 July at 10:30: Stalls, plants, homemade cakes, Bric-a-bra, coffee and a raffle.

### WORTHAM & BURGATE HAS A NEW WEBSITE

<http://worthamandburgate.suffolk.cloud/>

The old site no longer exists.

Please change your favourites, and use this new community site.

Your contributions to the site are most welcome

Netty Verkroost, Wortham & Burgate Parish Clerk and RFO, 07557 333 811

## Wortham Broadband Appeal

Hello Everyone,

I have been working hard trying to get answers from BT about plans for Wortham Broadband. I created a large database of all your numbers, addresses and email contacts. I included your reported Broadband speeds and any comments you sent in about how much it was affecting your work and life. The resulting database had details for 87 homes on it and I think made a very good case for our village and the dreadful broadband that we suffer. On the 20th March I sent the database in three directions: To Jo Churchill, our MP; to Jonathan Chown, (Project Manager for Suffolk County Council); and to BT Community Fibre Partnership.

**THE CURRENT SITUATION.** The village is on three different exchanges - Diss (mostly the Ling and Low Road), Botesdale and Mellis. The last two are spread around the main part of the village, Long Green, Mellis Road, The Marsh and Magpie Green. Bad speeds are reported by people on all three exchanges. The best speeds are on the Ling as they are closest to a fibre cabinet in Diss. Rumours have been abounding that we are on the list for fibre this summer, but nothing has been confirmed as yet and Better Broadband for Suffolk shows that we are not on any list for now.

**THE COMPLAINT TO OUR MP.** Jo Churchill has been very proactive and BT certainly seem to take things seriously when sent in by her. She is dealing with "BT Wholesale and Ventures High Level Escalations Team". They have been emailing her every week or so to tell her they are making enquiries, then more enquiries. She says she thinks that the very comprehensive report I sent has somewhat overloaded their system. Well, good. They promised to get back to her last week. We are waiting. My main angle here has been to ask why our existing service is so bad.

**THE COMPLAINT TO SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.** I had an email back from Jonathan Chown asking for a selection of 15 only of all the numbers and complaints that I had sent in. He said otherwise it was too much to investigate. I will pursue this if the other approaches fail but he would only duplicate Jo Churchill's efforts and at a lower key in my opinion. I would rather keep it all or nothing - everyone needs a better service.

**THE APPLICATION TO BT COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP.** This is a service offered by BT for communities who are not on the slate for fibre broadband in the near future. If eligible, the community gets grants and can also raise funds through a crowdfunding appeal to bring a cabinet into the village. The presence of the School will give us another grant. I have applied for this for Wortham in case the news from BT is bad. You can read about the scheme here:

<http://www.communityfibre.bt.com>

I had to send all the info from all of you again, entered into their application form. Jane Darley of the scheme has now been in touch to tell me that we do not need this scheme as we are slated for a fibre cabinet in Wortham this quarter. As the latest newsletter from Better Broadband for Suffolk does not list us, I expressed amazement. She was surprised and said she would investigate. I rang her today again and got voice mail. I will keep trying.

BUT She did confirm that if we are not on the list, we would be eligible for the Partnership funding. If we get a cabinet in the village, it would be near the school. It would then serve all those on both the Botesdale and Mellis exchanges, and provide fast speeds as long as they are within 1km of the cabinet. I appreciate this is not good news for those further away. It also does not affect those on the Diss exchange who have poor Broadband because of distance the Diss exchange.

I hope to receive more information imminently now - I will keep pushing for it. As soon as I have anything more, I will let you know. If we have to go down the Fibre Partnership route, we will organise a public meeting for us all to investigate the options available.

Please do email me if you have any new information of your broadband situation.

Sue Heaser

The Farthings, Wortham.  
[sueheaser@live.co.uk](mailto:sueheaser@live.co.uk)

# Restaurant Review

## Momiji Japanese Restaurant, Harleston

By Terry Quinn



Japanese food enthusiasts were disappointed when the only Japanese restaurant in the immediate area closed in 2008. Then, last November Momiji reopened after its owners, Taka and Charlotte Nakamoto, returned from Japan and acquired the Cherry Tree Pub which is on the left as you enter Harleston.

Momiji has adopted the informal Isakaya "family sharing" dining style where some dishes are shared with only what we would call the main course being served individually. The menu features Little Eats (starters), and Big Eats, (more substantial meat, fish or vegetable dishes).

We took our daughter to Momiji recently and we started with the hard to describe but delicious miso soup and then a bowl of edamame beans. These are soybeans which are steam heated, lightly salted and popped straight into the mouth from the pods. Soy has been called a wonder food because of its health benefits and versatility. The beans are the basis of soy sauce and its gluten-free alternative, tamari, soy milk, tofu and miso soup.

Next we shared pork and vegetable gyosa dumplings with dipping sauce. For our Big Eats we chose salmon or chicken with teriyaki sauce, roast vegetables and boiled rice. Two of us ended with puddings. Our meal came to about £21 per person including a beer and soft drinks.

Other favourites at Momiji include crispy fried chicken and thinly sliced steak with a sauce and salad and rice or vegetable based dishes. We also like tempura tiger prawns or a mixture of vegetables fried in a light batter. All are accompanied by a dipping sauce with grated ginger and spring onion. There are additional options on the weekend menu including a personal favourite, katsu breaded chicken curry. Momiji has occasional sushi weeks when popular nigiri, maki rolls and sashimi are offered on a taster menu.

Momiji became very popular soon after reopening and everyone I know to have made the journey to Harleston has become an instant fan. It is already one of our favourite dining places.

Food rating, Yummy. Service, friendly but unobtrusive. Overall rating? Well I salivate just writing about it. What does that tell you?

*Momiji at The Cherry Tree pub. 74 London Rd, Harleston. IP20 9IBZ. 01379 852288. Open from 6pm daily except Sunday and Wednesday. Not open at lunchtime. Reservations recommended.*



## Mid Suffolk Light Railway – A Hidden Gem in our Midst

How many of us know about a little gem of a steam museum that recently featured on Michael Portillo's Great Railway Journeys but is only a fifteen-minute drive away at Wetheringsett, close to the Mendlesham mast and sign posted from the A140?

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum (affectionately known as Middy) has re-created an Edwardian country railway, which in its heyday served Suffolk for nearly half a century as a branch line running for just 19 miles from Haughley to Laxfield. The Middy was a classic case of a railway built too late for the great railway age. Bankrupt before it opened for business but struggled on until it finally closed in 1952, well before the Beeching cuts.

In 1991, after almost all traces of the line had disappeared, a group of enthusiasts decided this country railway should not be forgotten and resurrected it as Suffolk's only standard gauge railway museum and ironically is busier now than it ever was.

The museum is now home to preserved buildings from the original railway in the context of an Edwardian station along with restored rolling stock characteristic of that used on the original line.

As far as is known, no coaches or locomotives of the original MSLR remain in existence, however the museum has been recreating the past through restored coaches and wagons that would have run on its neighbouring line, the Great Eastern Railway, and its successor, the London & North Eastern Railway.

The museum has three small tank locomotives (Cockerill, Bagnall and LNER Y7 all on loan to the museum) that are often in steam and a Ruston diesel generally used for shunting duties. The museum's own locomotive 1604 is currently undergoing a major restoration to enable it to steam for the first time. This was built by Hudswell, Clarke of Leeds, the builders of the original MSLR engines, and is of a similar design.

Other recent restoration work has included a Great Eastern Railway first class, 'smoking' saloon coach, which is a unique survivor of a small group of carriages dating back to 1863, the early days of railways. This makes it of great interest and of national importance as it is likely to be one of the oldest railway carriages in regular use on any heritage railway in the country.

Also to be seen at the museum is a horsebox built in Derby in 1869, one of 40 made for the Great Eastern Railway. This is also thought to be the oldest surviving horsebox, which was used to transport racehorses, horses for the army, for hunts and for individual owners but has now been modified to enable passengers to ride in the groom's compartment.

The museum has a short demonstration track, which is just about to be extended to a new halt, which enables visitors to enjoy an authentic experience of railway travel on the Middy a century ago, capturing the atmosphere of this once quirky line

Now boasting a purpose-built refreshment room, shop, museum and the Kitchener Arms, a real ale bar coach, with workshops and restoration locomotive shed, the museum recreates a slice of Edwardian railway history that everyone and every age can enjoy.

The museum is open to the general public throughout the summer months and runs a number of special events throughout this period connecting the railway's history with the social history of rural Mid Suffolk during the first half of the 20th century. Details of these events and steam days can be found on the Museum's website at <http://www.mslr.org.uk/>

Today's Middy is not only a museum but also has a programme of ongoing restoration work to complement its efforts to recreate this slice of Edwardian England.

Recently the museum has secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend its volunteering activities so why not come along and join the 'Wednesday gang', similar to the well-known 'Men in Shed' concept but undertaking real preservation and conservation work. A place where people of all ages can spend time tinkering, repairing and making things while socialising. A newly constructed restoration workshop at the museum has become the hub for the main activities. The building is fully accessible for disabled people and equipped with showers, toilets and new workbenches etc. (Please note these pictures are of the old workshop buildings.)

Activities generally take place every Wednesday as part of the normal volunteer day at Brockford Station and the activities that you will participate in will be the regular volunteering work and projects being undertaken within the museum. These could range from metal working, carpentry, painting, engine maintenance, building and grounds maintenance. All participants will spend time on the main heritage restoration projects ongoing at the time and will include the restoration of the museum's main steam locomotive.

In addition to experiencing heritage from hands on working there be at the start of each session a short talk on a specific topic of Middy's past for example being a Station Master on the line.

If you are interested in this Lottery funded programme or just would like to volunteer at Brockford you can either contact the museum on 01449 766899 or email [volunteering@mslr.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@mslr.org.uk)





## Garden notes by Linda Simpson

At last - rain wonderful rain. Here in Wortham we had 1.5 inches last week and the garden looks so much happier for it. It doesn't seem to matter how much you water the garden, it does not have the same effect as rain. It should keep us going for a while although with a warm week this week we will need another top up before long.

Every year plants flower and perform in different ways. This year the alliums have behaved well by taking over as soon as the tulips were fading. Some years there is a gap. They are beginning to be a bit of a weed in some areas of the garden, particularly since I usually like to leave the spent flower heads on for a while as they look almost as decorative as the flowers themselves.

I think though that I need to be more selective where I do this. It's not so much the flowers that cause a problem when they self-seed – I don't think you could have too many – but it's the leaves which have the unfortunate habit of dying off and looking very messy well before the flowers are finished. In mass numbers this can look unsightly.

Somebody I was talking to recently suggested keeping the dried flower heads and spraying them for decorations at Christmas – good idea.

Although damage from the frost of a few weeks ago is still making itself apparent it does not seem to have hit the hostas so badly this year. They are looking very good at the moment, particularly after the rain. We have not been bothered by slugs and snails early in the season this year and although they are beginning to appear now it is the early slug and snail damage that seems to do the most harm. My clumps which have been in for a few years now have been bulking up and are making bold and calming impact in the borders.

A reminder that that now is a good time to spread around snowdrop seeds as you remove the dying foliage. I usually scatter the whole seed head in the borders and let time and nature do the rest. It's a very easy way of building up a good show even though it might take a few years to have an impact.



NORTH HARTISMERE BENEFICE

# Wortham and Burgate

## Sunday Club

Meet at Wortham Village Hall  
from 10.00am to 10.45am  
(followed by coffee and cookies)  
on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of each month  
during term time.

Dates for the summer term are:

7<sup>th</sup> May

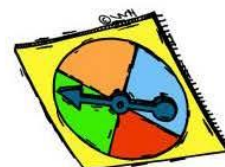
4<sup>th</sup> June

(special joint **Sunday Club Jamboree**  
at Palgrave Community Centre)

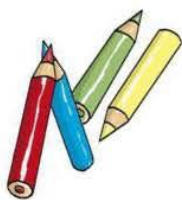
2<sup>nd</sup> July



Stories



Games



Crafts

Singing



All children aged 4-11 welcome.

Just turn up or ring Lyn  
on 788479 for more details

## Bill's Birds for June

Our Fen (Redgrave) is full of surprises as well as moods of weather. A recent walk on the Fen started on a dull cold day, 29 April, walking from the Fen Reserve building westwards. On entering Little Fen everything changed - the cold wind died down, the sun came out. Then, suddenly, came the 'ching' call of a Bearded Tit. What an excitement. We stopped, to listen, and then to see these rare birds, several of them criss-crossing the path in front of us; so busy, they must be nesting, flying low over the tops of the reeds and then diving down in to them. It was difficult to realise that we were seeing and hearing Bearded Tits on our Fen.



Then, behind us on Middle Fen two Hobbies arrived, flying their swift-like acrobatic flight and, in the background, all the time the Cuckoo was calling. Then, over the Little Fen, majestically rose the Marsh Harrier. People often refer to the Fen as 'so quiet'. From my point of view what we were seeing with a background of Chiff Chaffs, Blackcaps and Sedge Warblers, it has much to offer. It could also have had in the area the Bittern 'booming' but that would have been too much to ask. Anyway, I had heard it there two days previously!

After that what else on offer? I have seen more of the Song Thrush, after months of its disappearance. To prove it the male bird gave us a ten-minute recital within a few feet of our sunroom.

My first Swallow was on 17 April, somewhat late this year.

A recent unusual sighting, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. I underline the 'Lesser'. It is rarely seen these days. This one was seen several times in Fen Lane, Botesdale. I can remember past sightings well. About 25 years ago one flew over the Chapel House in Botesdale several times. The size of a Sparrow with a typical undulating woodpecker flight and with a characteristic 'peeping' call. Other instances: one in the middle of the road coming over a brim in the Lake District and hearing, note only hearing one, on a birding trip to the Thetford 'battle area' (heard also by experts present).

We now await Martins and Swifts. Could we possibly hear again the Turtle Dove? A warden at Lackford told us that he had seen one passing only through. How sad and they are still being shot in Malta. We had hoped for a Nightingale at Lackford. Two had been reported there but not on our visit.

Meanwhile, we have a personal visit to our living room, through the wonders of modern science, a nesting box plus an infra-red light sited a year ago just outside our house. In it a Great Tit has braved man's modern technology and laid eight eggs. We are fascinated. To date three fledglings are still with us. I fear the recent  $-3^{\circ}$  temperatures accounted for the losses. Far better than the 'telly' and of daily interest, watching the parent birds continual shuffling of the eggs and 'buffing' of their feathers to make a warm covering. Also, their rapid breathing of warm exhaled air. I suggest these forms of central heating keeps the family going and the temperatures at survival level.

We are not up-to-date with our television viewing but why worry? Our youngsters are far more exciting and more interesting.



### Can you spare some time to help with a vital community service?

Borderhoppa, the provider of community transport across 56 parishes in South Norfolk and North Suffolk, urgently needs volunteer drivers to help with regular outings for residents in the areas covered by the scheme.

Community transport works because of the goodwill and time given by people who volunteer as drivers, office staff and trustees. At present Borderhoppa needs drivers to help with outings, including trips to the coast, lunches and visits to garden centres.

Service users value the outings as ways of getting out and about and meeting up with friends, which many people are otherwise unable to do, either because they don't have a car or don't have access to a regular commercial bus services to and from where they live.

Drivers need to have a D1 category on their licence, basically, entitlement to drive a minibus with no more than 18 passengers. Mileage expenses are paid but the time commitment is a gift to the community.

To find out more, call Borderhoppa on 01379 854800 or e-mail [adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com](mailto:adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com).



**SATURDAY 03 JUNE, SOLD OUT**

**SULLY, A MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON**

**SAT 08 JULY, 8pm** **LION** a true story of life lost and found,

LA LA LAND Sat 05 August 8:00pm

**[www.palgravecinema.co.uk](http://www.palgravecinema.co.uk)**

**Book in advance online, where trailers can be seen and reviews read.**

**TICKETS £5 each**



Friends of Botesdale  
Health Centre

## Patient Transport

CAN YOU HELP ?

This increasingly busy service is in need  
of more volunteer drivers.

If you have a car, time to spare and  
would like to help please phone Val  
Goodwin on 01379890190 for details.



**Annual Coffee  
Morning**

**Wortham  
Bowls Club**

**8th July 2017  
10:30 am**

**Tea, Coffee and  
homemade cakes**

**Bring and Buy stalls  
with plants, Bric-a-brac  
and books**

**Raffle prizes**

**Watch a match or try  
bowls for yourself**

**We look forward to  
your company**

**For more  
information,  
please call  
Jean on  
07958398226**

# WORTHAM BOWLS CLUB NEWS

May 2017



May has been a funny month all round as the weather has been capricious in its moods and the match fixtures have also been a mixture of wins and losses in equal measure. Players have enjoyed the warmer evenings and continue to further improve their skills at the regular Friday evening practice/rollups at 6.30pm when we welcome any interested new players.

The club competitions will begin in early June and some of the early rounds are played on Friday evenings. Our greenkeeper, Charlie Gooderham and his helpers have kept the green in excellent condition this year and compliments are often paid by visiting club teams.

Wortham will be holding their Annual Coffee Morning at the clubhouse on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. Cake Stall, Raffle & other items for sale. Weather permitting there may be some bowls to enjoy watching or even to give it a try. This is one of the main fund-raisers for the club and we hope to see many visitors. Keep an eye out for posters in & around Wortham, Burgate & the area.

Any further information and match results can be found on our webpage under Clubs and Organisations.

<http://worthamandburgate.suffolk.cloud> or email [worthambowlssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:worthambowlssecretary@gmail.com)

Jean Hoskins, Hon. Secretary  
01379 643641

## VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR JUNE DIARY

Wortham Morning Yoga	Tuesday	06, 13, 20, 27	10:00 – 11:30
Wortham Midday Yoga	Thursday	15, 22, 29	11:45 – 13:15
Ballroom	Monday	05, 12, 19, 26	18:30 – 21:00
Pilates	Wednesday	07, 14, 21, 28	09:30 – 10:30
Tea's Made	Wednesday	07, 14, 21, 28	14:00 – 16:30
Gentle Exercise Evenings	Wednesday	07, 14, 21, 28	19:30 – 20:30
Gentle Exercise Mornings	Thursday	15, 22, 29	09:30 – 10:30
W&B Sunday Club	Sunday	04,	10:00 – 11:00
Good Companions	Tuesday	13,	14:00 – 16:30
General Election	Thursday	08	06:30 – 22:30
Village Hall AGM	Thursday	15	19:00 – 20:30

***WOBUL is published monthly as a service of the Wortham & Burgate Community Action Programme***

***Members of the CAP: Terry Quinn (Chairman), Michael & Paddy Richards, Jacky Bradley, Sheila Rudland, Paul & Alexis Burd, John Payton, Pete Antill, John King and Chris Williams (Treasurer).***

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***The Editor thanks all contributors for their timely submissions and states that the views stated herein are his or those of the article contributor and not of the W&B Community Action Programme.***