

# REEPHAM REFRESH



11th June 2015

## The Dinner

## Ladies' Dilemma

## Reepham Retail

To be a shop keeper, you have to battle the year to make money from decreasing numbers of customers, we find out about the life of those trying to make it big on the streets

## Life of the church

Some find church boring, a place for older people, but what's life really like in the church and what are they doing to make the life of young people better...

*All and more in this weeks' Reepham refresh! Page 1*

### Photo Caption

By Lily Everard and Ellen Frosdick-Grand

### **Police officers are inspiring young students to become involved and part of the Police Force**

Budget cuts by the newly elected government, are causing sudden drops in the amount of police officers, leading to a lack of policing in rural areas, Reepham being one of them.

PC Betts, beat manager of 19 villages, is on a mission to recruit young students to join the police force. Commenting on different experiences she said to me 'there are a lot of good moments but there are also as many time which are challenging to say the least'. However, she does not want young minds to be put off by this, but insists they should know what they're going into.

PC Betts has been a member of the police force for over nine years and is still experiencing new situations every day, 'each day is different and even if your day is planned, there is a god chance that it will be disrupted'.

We asked her about what she feels is the main criminal offence in Reepham and throughout the county. She replied 'Reepham does not consist of much physical crime although social media and anti-social behaviour is one of the main scenarios we have to deal with on a day to day basis'. We not only have to deal with middle aged people returning from a night out, but also have to deal with children as young as ten and as old as eighty. In her time she has also encounter rounding up a herd of five-hundred sheep!

We asked her about the new law about Tasers, and if she would choose to carry one, to which she replied "Yes, definitely". We also asked her if she thought people would be more reluctant to approach her, she responded by saying that she wouldn't think so, as they would be hidden. Furthermore she said that she does not want children to be afraid of the police but to feel comfortable and be able to talk to her if they have a problem.



Photo Caption

## Dinner Ladies' Dilemma

**Queues can be a pain; no one likes waiting. However no one stops to think about what happens behind the scenes, about those who work to prepare the food we so often crave. 6 ½ hours, 500 plates 1500 knives, forks and spoons. This is the reality of a dinner ladies life. Cooking is one thing but the paper work and lack of a dishwasher is another. It's clear that cooking for around 500 hungry teenagers is not easy but with kitchen space limited and more equipment coming in cooking is becoming more of a labour than a leisure.**

We all love a chocolate triangle on a Friday and the pressures on to deliver a sweet treat with no chocolate inside it, the begets tight yet we can all enjoy the masses of food that's served with a smile to us daily. These lovely ladies work from around 6:45 until 3:15 every day, with five ladies cooking and a further 4 doing paperwork etc.

The kitchen is quite cramped. Lorainne and Jane both said they dream of a kitchen where they have a dish washer and more cookers as well as more work surfaces to make the most of the new equipment. They also wish for a bigger, separate, dining hall with a more relaxed atmosphere where they can chat with the students and allow them to eat and enjoy there lovingly prepared food for longer.

Even though the dinner ladies have many restrictions they still please every single student. The most popular meal being the excellent roast and the all-time favourite chocolate triangle. The favourite chocolate triangle is better than any other and healthier. This is because they use cocoa and icing sugar! The dinner ladies will never forget the recipes they cook and Lorraine says 'all recipes in my head- I'm like a robot'.

This is all good and well, but the dinner ladies are not getting enough space to cook and with the growing of Reepham High School, space is minimum. They're not getting their kitchen upgraded so the pots and pans they need to get have nowhere to go!

The kitchen cooks everything from scratch however they never know how much of a certain food they need to order. The kitchen order all their produce locally and everything is of a high quality.

## Breathe life into Reepham

By Oliver Latham, Sam Grant and Jay Delray

**On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June Geoff Fisher came into Reepham High School and Collage to talk to the students about editing the Reepham life.**

Mr Fisher edits the Reepham Life as voluntary work but is also a journalist for bigger newspapers,

According to Mr Fisher, it takes about 2-3 hours to come up with and edit an entire article, 'it takes 2-4 days to make a whole entire issue of the Reepham life.'

Mr Fisher told us how he found a good story, 'well we don't really find stories; the stories get sent in or the stories find or they find us'

Reepham Life is distributed free to residents of Reepham and is funded through local advertising.

Mr Fisher said, 'we are a non- profit organisation, selling ads to get money for printing. This helps members of the community to promote local business and provides free local news items, helping everyone to keep in touch with what's going on.' A previous paper that incorporated news from

# REEPHAM LIFE

YOUR Community Newspaper

both Aylsham and Reepham stopped in 2012 because the towns were not that close to each other.

However, the need for a local paper was clear and In 2013 the council of Reepham decided to start Reepham Life and now look where it is; it's booming.

Mr Fisher has been the editor there since 2013 and he is incredibly happy there.

## Competition



Is this the most Special shop in Reepham? Photo of the shop near the market

## Very Nice Business

By Jak Fuller, Gabrielle Fuller, Megan Gallagher and Holly Scott

### Is Reepham the best specialist town for specialist shops?

People nowadays are shying away from small specialist shops, but Very Nice Things in Reepham, owned by Sue, has been running for nearly twenty years, starting in 1997 in the Gallery across the road. As the business expanded and grew more popular with locals, they decided that they needed an advancement, so moved to their existing location.

The small shop, popular for its range of cards, small gifts and jewellery, is busiest at Christmas and on market days. It's not very busy at what is in the story even while skimming. This time of the year as the summer holidays are coming up, leaving Reepham quiet. The name of the shop came when Sue used to go shopping with her aunt, looking particularly for 'very nice things', hence when she eventually purchased her own shop, it would be called Very Nice Things.

One of the shopkeepers, Jackie, claimed "the shop is a 'fun working place that has built its reputation by selling garden decoration, home decoration and jewellery. All of the customers say it is a lovely store, even when the customers are coming from Norwich!"

As Jackie said, customers come from all over the county just to visit the shop. However, she has had some recent shoplifters, which will hopefully be sorted.

The shop includes cards for all occasions, gifts for all occasions, jewellery, new-born gifts, stationary, local pottery made by Jane Bygrave and Kevin Warren, Norfolk soaps, homemade cushions and natural beauty products.

The small shop is hoping to get a spike in the customers to get more business, so if you need a small gift, visit Very Nice Things.



Standing Tall, a beautiful image of the church captured

## DEAD CENTRE OF TOWN

By Poppy Griffin, Leah Glasspoole, Oliver Hendry and Benjy Fox

**Many people are concerned about the declining number of children interested in religion, Margret Dean, vicar of the Reepham church stated. "In my day, church and Sunday school was almost compulsory and there was nothing else to do on a Sunday." Margret along with many others are worried about who will carry on maintaining the churches and supporting the local area and charities. "It would be a great shame to see our churches crumble when our ancestors managed to pass it down through the generations and keep the faith going."**

Reepham church does have some fun activities for children of all ages, messy Thursdays are very popular especially for the younger children. This is a place where parents can leave their kids for the day while they go to work. Messy Thursdays are also a creative learning place for them to find their strengths and passions. Also the church hosts a fun youth club for the slightly older people which is an amazing environment for the kids. Margret and the rest of the church supporters also do a great deal to help the communities and vital charities such as Water Aid, Christian aid, and more to offer a helping hand in difficult times.

### **Are our local churches really dying?**

Be honest, how often do you visit church? The answer from the majority of teenagers across the country would be never. On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June we visited St. Marys and St. Michael's church to find out about the changes in the churches during the years. Reepham is one of two sites in Europe to have 2 churches on one site. Reepham's church of St. Mary is joined by its choir vestry to St. Michael's. The third church belonged to Hackford but burned down in 1543 and now only a fragment of the tower wall remains on the left of the path leading towards the market place.

We spoke to the female vicar of the two standing churches, most commonly known by her first name Margaret, as she is a gem to the Reepham community. We spoke to her about how she first became a vicar, she told us that she never used to want to be a vicar, but now she has been the vicar at Reepham for 4 ½ years and loves her job and what she does, saying that her favourite part of the job is being with the people.

We spoke to her about a number of topics including her views on gay marriage. She explained that she had a period of time in her life when she was completely against it, but now she understands as she has many gay and lesbian friends.

We learnt a lot about the daily life of a vicar and Margaret shared some very personal things with us. We questioned what the community thought of Margaret being the first female vicar in Reepham in 800 years and she said she had loads of support except for one couple who went on to worship at a different parish. We asked her about her most difficult experiences as a vicar and she said that funerals where someone had died unexpectedly, and babies dying are always the hardest, but she is there for the people who have had a loss and will pray to God for them.

Overall it was a lovely visit and we have been invited back to be asked some questions about our views on religion.