

FREE

REEPHAM LIFE

YOUR Community Newspaper

www.reephamlife.co.uk

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January 2014

Byfords completes Old Brewery House purchase

IAIN Wilson of Holt-based Byfords has announced the completion of the purchase of the Old Brewery House Hotel in Reepham.

Mr Wilson, who managed the hotel for five years in the 1990s, having initially run the hotel's health club, said an extensive consultation lasting six to nine months will now be held with the town's residents and key stakeholders, with the aim of coming up with a viable commercial plan to move the project forward.

However, it is likely that there will be major changes, particularly at the rear of the property, which closed as a hotel in August and is now in "a sorry state".

The first phase of development will be renovating the roof, exterior and downstairs areas of the Grade II listed building on the Market Place side, initially providing a commercial venture for the sale of food and drink. Mr Wilson revealed that this phase alone is likely cost around £1.5 million.

The second stage would be the development of the back of the property. This will probably mean the demolition of the sports centre, which includes a swimming pool and squash courts, and the construction of a number of high-quality residential units in order to fund the renovation and refurbishment of the remainder of the property.

The third phase would involve developing the upstairs area of the main building and the east and west wings, which were later extensions to the property. Mr Wilson suggested that this could result in



Photo: John Tym

The Old Brewery House Hotel, Reepham

around 10 bedrooms for the hotel, possibly along the lines of the "posh B&B" offered by Byfords in Holt. (The hotel currently has 23 bedrooms.)

The entire project could take five years to complete, said Mr Wilson. With traditional pubs closing and consumer habits altering drastically over the past 15 years, "so the Old Brewery House will also have to change," he said.

"It is simply not viable for a hotel to exist on a site of that size in Reepham today. Solely as a hotel as it is now, the bottom line is that there will have to be significant changes."

Byfords also owns, co-owns and/or manages the Kings Head at Holt, The Pigs

at Edgefield and the Assembly House in Norwich.

Mr Wilson stressed that the company acquires property not just as an investment, but to retain for the long term, although any proposition has to make commercial sense: "Our track record proves that we can provide sustainable benefits to the community."

He admitted that, following his earlier experience in Reepham, there is a bit of an emotional attachment to the Old Brewery House (he met his wife on the treadmill in the leisure centre). "We were looking for a challenge and this project gives us a

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news

Rotary leads typhoon relief efforts

REEPHAM & District Rotary Club is appealing for donations to help victims of last month's Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The storm, which hit on 8 November, killed at least 3,900 people, left more than half a million homeless and affected around 11 million people in total, according to United Nations estimates.

To help in the relief efforts in the Philippines, the local Rotary club has already sent a cheque for £1,570 to fund 11 Aquaboxes and a community filter.

The Aquabox Gold (pictured) is filled with 25 kg of new, specially purchased humanitarian aid goods to meet the basic needs of victims of natural (and man-made) disasters.

When combined with a water purification unit, the emptied Aquabox is capable of producing 18,000 litres of safe, clean, drinkable water – enough for a family of six for more than 18 months.

The AquaFilter Community filter can generate up to 500,000 litres of drinking water from local contaminated water sources, which is enough for 100 families of six (600 people) for more than 18 months.

Through its fundraising efforts, which



includes a 100 Club, Reepham & District Rotary Club has supplied (and in the past filled) more than 370 Aquaboxes for disaster relief worldwide since the club's foundation 24 years ago, said spokesperson Paul Smith. Each Aquabox Gold costs £120, while a community filter costs £250.

As well as sending its own funds, Reepham Rotary has set up an appeal for anyone in the Reepham district to send money to the Disasters Emergency Committee for use in the Philippines.

To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/reephamrotary, or text RROT98 and an amount between £1 and £10 to 70070.

www.reephamrotary.org.uk
www.aquabox.org

Crown planning decision appeal 'forgotten'

AN appeal lodged against Broadland District Council's decision to refuse permission for a planning application for a change of use of The Crown from a public house to residential has been "forgotten".

The Planning Inspectorate was due to visit the pub in Ollands Road, Reepham, by the end of September and to have an-

nounced its decision in the first week of November.

Speaking at November's Reepham Town Council meeting, Broadland District Councillor Chris Wheeler revealed he had finally managed to speak with the relevant officer at the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol, who admitted the appeal had

been overlooked.

It is understood the visit will now take place in the week commencing 16 December with a decision to be announced within six weeks of that date.

The appeal against Broadland's decision was made by Mr G Monk, who has submitted revised plans to turn the pub into a five-bedroom residential dwelling.

Rags to riches for Bircham Centre Charity Shop

THE Bircham Centre Trustees and shop volunteers wish to thank all customers for their support over 2013.

Donations received are sold, recycled or sent off with our ragman, all of which bring money into our charity

pot. Nothing is wasted; everything is welcome. May we remind Reepham ladies sorting out their wardrobes that we appreciate any clothes, hats, scarves, shoes, bags or unwanted gifts.

Our shop is now open on Monday af-

ternoons from 2-4 pm, as well as our usual three mornings each week – Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am – 1 pm.

Wishing the town a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Best wishes from all at the Bircham Centre.

Gill Wheatley, Administrator

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Reepham
TOWN COUNCIL



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tinasnorfolkartcourse.blogspot.co.uk, or call Clementina Sutton 01603 872441



views

Exploring our footpaths

I would like to express my appreciation of the recent walks led by Trevor and Imogen Ashwin in the Reepham area, organised as part of the Exploring Our Footpaths initiative.

I was unable to attend the first walk, but took part in the other two, both of which revealed many new and fascinating aspects of our local landscape and history.

Places which previously I had known

only from maps are now firmly fixed in my mind's eye; gaps in familiar routes have been filled.

Much thought and imagination had obviously gone into the planning of the walks so that ultimately they were not only informative, but also moving and thought-provoking, especially in relation to the idea that generations of people have known, appreciated and loved these special places.

I won't go into detail about exactly where we went, what we saw and what we did, because if the sessions are repeated at a later date it would spoil the surprises en route.

But I would urge anyone to take advantage of any future opportunity to join these guided walks. You will have a sociable and unforgettable experience.

Kay Riggs, Wood Dalling

Christmas lights for charity

REEPHAM Hair Studio has been raising money for charity for several years now. It's that time of year when we again ask for your support. Our chosen charities this year are the Reepham Patient Care Fund and the Big C Appeal Norwich.

We lost our mum to cancer two years ago and the support that the Colney Centre at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals provided was invaluable and we still feel indebted to them. That is why we wish to continue raising money for them while we still can through our Christmas lights.

Many of us know someone who has had treatment at the Centre and about the amount of people going through its doors every day. We are also lucky to have the Reepham Rover and the equipment that the Reepham Patient Care Fund has bought for the town.

However, we will not be going door to door selling lucky squares as unfortunately we do not have the time. But we will be selling tickets from Reepham Hair Studio for a Christmas hamper and other prizes. We hope we can count on your continued support.

The lights at Reepham Hair Studio will be switched on from 1 December until 6 January from 5-9 pm.

Ian Tooley

Condescending response

I WAS interested, but terribly disappointed, to read Trevor Ashwin's response to my recent letter in *Reepham Life* (September 2013).

Mr Ashwin may choose to hold different views – that is his prerogative – but to insinuate that I only hold them because my husband is employed by the Salle Estate is condescending in the extreme.

I happen to think that the Reepham 1 proposal is far more imaginative than any of the others on offer, and offers a possibility of better quality and more varied housing than the other proposals.



Horses at an army camp in Burry Port, Carmarthenshire

Booton's war horse

A few years ago I wrote a small book called *Fragments of a Village Life: Booton: 1900-2000*. I only knew some of the people mentioned in this as I was not a native of Booton, having come to live there from London and Norwich in 1956. The information was told to me by Booton folk and by my mother-in-law, who was a native.

A great deal of pleasure for me was to receive letters from people who had lived in the village as a child or who had relatives in Booton and were interested in tracing family or had a story to tell.

As so much interest is shown now in the war years and the plight of the war horse, readers may be interested to know that an ex-charger named The Lad lived at Town Farm, Booton, in the 1930s. This is what Kay Baillie née Howard, who lived at the farm, had to say about him:

"Mr Stackwood (the miller) had had him for a time to cart his corn in his tumbrel. Father purchased him and I felt sorry for the poor old horse, who could barely walk.

"The very nice vet called Mr Gooch, who lived at The Oaks, treated Lad's feet, which were in a shocking state and I trotted the old chap round the country lanes for quite a few years. [He was] a big horse nearly 18 hands high with half an ear (a scar from a battle).

"I think there were about 15 horses in the stables plus father's Kitty, mother's Peggy and my Lad, and two traps: one dogcart, the other a "Governess" cart as it was called."

● Reepham Library and the Bircham Centre Archives have a copy of *Fragments of a Village Life: Booton: 1900-2000*.

Lorna Gray, Station Road, Reepham

views

And, just for the record, neither I nor my husband have any financial interest in the Salle Estate's proposed development – I didn't feel it necessary to declare this at the time of writing to *Reepham Life* as I did not consider it relevant to my views.

As an owner of property in Reepham (in my own right) I think I am more than entitled to express an opinion on what I see as the future or otherwise for Reepham without being subject to thinly veiled accusations by Mr Ashwin.

I am sure we all hope for a constructive public debate at this time and the use of imagination in any development in addition to a respect for others' opinions is what will ensure Reepham has a great future, not ill-informed "gossip".

Turning our backs and jumping to conclusions will not help anyone.

Alison Hovesen, Salle

Cawston concerns

A DEVELOPER has put in for outline planning permission in Cawston just off Fred Tuddenham Drive, which leads off Paul Engelhard Way, which leads into Chapel Street.

The developer does not seem too clear about the exact number of houses, but is clear that sewage disposal and rainwater runoff will run directly into the existing sewer system, which is already overloaded, so much so that new houses opposite the winery had to have septic tanks built because this same existing sewer was not capable of taking any more sewage.

When asked, the developer could not state whether the new development would consist of nearer 20 or nearer 80 houses.

This proposed site is outside the council's development area and is a greenfield site to boot.

There are brownfield sites in the village that would be better suited to such a development because of better access and sewage disposal.

Traffic on Chapel Street is already at bursting point, so any further development will not help the situation to



"More use to Reepham than a cricket pavilion in Salle."

say the least.

Every day large lorries delivering to the winery mount the pavements to allow them access to pass. Surely pavements are for pedestrians, and sooner or later there will be a serious accident with a pedestrian because of this excessive traffic load on such a narrow street.

Do you think that you can trust Broadland District Council to look after your best interests in the way they did by allowing Scira to develop the Salle substation and its attendant 24/7 "hum"?

Clementina and Paul Sutton, Chapel Street, Cawston

Great news about the OBH

WHAT great news that Iain Wilson has purchased the Old Brewery House Hotel.

Since the Wilsons left it has gone downhill at a steady pace. None of the owners since that time have managed to make the hotel a going concern and under the last ownership, the degradation was ever swifter.

Welcome back to Reepham, Iain; we look forward to your changes to the hotel and are pretty sure that you will go from strength to strength.

Brenda Palmer, Chapel Close, Reepham

I AM delighted that Iain Wilson has purchased the Old Brewery House. He knows Reepham, having worked at the hotel in the past, and I am sure if anyone can make a go of this fine old building, he can. He clearly has a fine

business head and has a great portfolio of pubs/restaurants to his name.

I wish him all the best and look forward to seeing the Old Brewery House transformed into something special.

Joanne Powell, Reepham

Top of the queue

THE following was published in the Reepham Society newsletter of January 1999:

"Members will, no doubt be pleased to learn that, at a Parish Council meeting on 25 November [1998], there had been a constructive exchange of views with two County Council Highways officers on a range of highways topics.

"The officers accepted long vehicles should be discouraged from coming through Reepham. As soon as possible they would put notices on the B1145 at Bawdeswell, Aylsham and Fir Covert Road advising drivers that the road was unsuitable for long vehicles.

"The effect of these advisory notices would be monitored to assess the likely value of framing a restrictive regulation. They would also change the direction of the sign off the A1067 at Bawdeswell so it showed Reepham rather than Aylsham, as at present.

"They thought various other ideas about changing road priorities, protective kerbs and a chicane were not feasible, though they believed Reepham was near the top of the queue for traffic calming.

"They would come and look at our

letters@reephamlife.co.uk

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views

parking problems outside Spar and along Norwich Road. There was a possibility of extending the 30 [mph] limit beyond Booton Beck.”

The above information was supplied by John and Paulene Rowe of Victoria House, Norwich Road, Reepham, whose house was extensively damaged by an unidentified vehicle, probably a tractor and trailer, in June this year.

Following a 10-day road closure entail-

ing traffic diversions, the house has now been repaired, but the problem remains – inappropriate vehicles using a narrow road, said Mrs Rowe. She added: “While some of the actions identified back in 1998 have been undertaken, problem parking and traffic calming measures have not – we are still waiting 15 years later.

“In the past few months, we have got nowhere with the Police, Highways or

our local MP,” said Mrs Rowe, who is worried that her house – and others – will be hit again. “The problem still needs to be addressed.”

When you write to or email

Reepham Life... please give your name, full postal address and daytime telephone number. All verified letters will be considered for publication – we aim to provide a wide cross-section of local views and opinions

Big Country to headline Reepham 14 Music Festival

THE organisers of the Reepham 14 Music Festival have announced that the headline act for next year's summer event over the weekend of 9-10 August 2014 will be the legendary Big Country.

From 1983 onwards the band delivered a series of multi-million selling singles and albums including the classics *In A Big Country* and *Wonderland*. In the 1990s they toured with the likes of The Rolling



Stones and The Who.

2007 saw a reunion of the band, and this year has seen Big Country complete a new studio album.

“We are very, very pleased indeed to have secured such a prestigious band for Reepham 14,” said festival director Steve Jenkins. “This further enhances Reepham Festival's reputation as a place to see internationally renowned bands performing in the heart of Norfolk.”

www.reephamfestival.co.uk

Byfords completes purchase of the Old Brewery House

FROM PAGE 1

chance to extend our portfolio, both on the commercial and domestic side,” he said.

“I am a strong believer in organic growth. Putting this proposal together has really excited me, and everyone we've

spoken to so far has been very supportive.”

Sited on an early 17th century building, the Old Brewery House was rebuilt and extended in 1729 and originally named the Dial House because of a large sundial over the front door.

The house was converted into a commercial hotel in 1972 and renamed the

Old Brewery House Hotel in recognition of its previous role as residence of the Bircham family that had run a brewery in Reepham for several generations, and because one of the hotel's principal rooms used to be the brewery.

The Old Brewery House, gates and railings received Grade II listing in 1952.

www.byfords.org.uk

A lack of protocol, but a cautionary 'Happy Christmas'

ONE Christmas Eve some years ago, I was at home enjoying drinks with friends when the phone rang.

It was another solicitor saying that a client of the firm I was working with at the time had been arrested for breaching a domestic violence order. (The other solicitor represented the victim.)

The client was immediately due to appear at a specially convened court at Diss Police Station. He needed legal representation and no-one else from the firm could be contacted.

So, the plea to me was to attend this hearing on his behalf. “But I've had a bit too much to drink and don't know the client or anything about the case or even the law involved,” I protested. “It'll be easy and I'll help you through it,” he assured me.

legal view DAVID LAWS



He then collected me and drove me to this specially convened court.

The hearing went smoothly enough through a bit of an alcoholic haze on my part and my client was duly discharged with a caution.

The Judge announced a generic thank you for the loan of some papers from my client's file and placed them carefully in front of him. In my “happy” state, I immediately strolled over to where he sat, tapped the papers loudly on the front of his desk, smiled broadly and wished him “Merry Christmas, Judge”.

Only at that point did I become crush-

ingly aware of my faux pas when the Usher suddenly announced in a loud voice “all rise”. This was the usual cue for all in attendance to stand and politely bow to the Judge as he stood to leave the “courtroom” before any of us were supposed to make a move.

Instead, I was standing about two feet from him wishing him compliments of the season. It was not at all the right way of doing these things, but he politely grunted back at me and I felt I'd got off with a bit of a “caution” myself.

Here's wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

david laws
solicitor

YOUR COUNCIL MATTERS

The basic rules for dogs

UNFORTUNATELY, the subject of selfish dog owners had to be raised again at the last Town Council meeting; in particular, about problems on Stimpson's Piece.

To most of us ordinary folk it's unbelievable that there are people in our community who are happy to let their dogs mess where footballers and children play and then can't be bothered to clear it up.

If you're one of those irresponsible dog owners read on because here are the basic rules, so you can't say you weren't told if you are reported.

1. Identification. It is a legal requirement that your dog wears a collar with, at least, your name and address on it when it is not on private property.

2. Stray or wandering dogs. If your dog escapes from your garden and causes damage or an accident you could be found liable for damages.

3. Out of control. You must ensure that your dog is not "dangerously out of control", which means that someone else has a reasonable fear that your dog's behaviour will cause injury to a person. If your dog is behaving aggressively towards a person or even another dog, there is clearly a reasonable fear. However, even if it not behaving aggressively, but is running loose where, for example, there are cyclists or vehicles and this could cause an accident, your dog could be deemed "dangerously out of control". In all circumstances, you are the person in charge and would be the one committing an offence.

4. Dog fouling. The law requires you to clear up after your dog immediately in any place with public access. In law, being unaware that your dog has fouled is not accepted as an excuse. If you don't bag and bin the mess you face a fixed penalty fine of £50, possibly more. Where it is possible to move the dog mess to a place where the public does not walk, for example, under a hedge, this is OK. Finally, it is OK to bag your dog's mess and put it in your own household "general rubbish" wheelie bin.

Stimpson's Piece

As well as the legal requirements above, there are some local, common-sense rules for dogs on Stimpson's Piece. These are:

1. Off-lead. Dogs must only be exercised "off-lead" in the area beyond the football pitches and tennis courts. They must be safely under your control and you must clear up any mess.

2. On-lead. Whenever you are in the area of the football pitches, tennis courts, skatepark and the pavilion and nursery school your dog must be on a lead and you should keep to the perimeter of this area.

3. No-go. You must not allow your dog onto the pitches, courts, skatepark or any part of the children's grassed play area or where there is playground equipment. A dog in the

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skatepark or playground equipment area in particular, could easily cause an accident.

Idiot(s)

While on the subject of Stimpson's Piece playground equipment, be warned that there is at least one idiot loose in the community. That person has undone bolts on playground equipment and already one person has been hurt when the bolts on the swings came loose.

Reepham Town Council is taking what action it can to stop the sabotage, but at significant expense to you (maintaining Stimpson's Piece already costs Reepham's taxpayers approaching £6,000 a year and that will rise); however, the best protection is to catch the person. So, if you know who the culprit is please report them to either the Town Council or the police because next time a child could be killed.

And finally...

If you care about our town and how your taxes are spent (the Council's budget is around £115,000 a year), and you want to have a say about its future, whoever you are and whatever you do, why not consider becoming a councillor? It really does take all sorts. We have one confirmed vacancy now.

No specific experience is required and full training and support are available. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) in the Town Hall.

The Town Council is responsible for the management and monitoring of the cemeteries, churchyard, public toilets, car park, the allotments, the market, street lighting, the Town Hall, Stimpson's Piece, verge cutting, grit bins and the budget that everybody pays into.

The Town Council is also consulted by Broadland District Council on all planning applications and it supports local events and grants funds to local groups.

There are quite often vacancies and these are advertised on the town noticeboards and in *Reepham Life*, so keep an eye open to apply when a vacancy arises.

Merry Christmas from Reepham Town Council

Contact us – we can only do what you want if we know what you want

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Follow the Town Council blog on www.reephamlife.co.uk for current opinions and urgent news such as road closures in the area

Post: "Your Council Matters", Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4JW

(Please do not telephone the Town Clerk to contribute to "Your Council Matters")



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New name for life coaching business

SAM James Coaching is the new name for an expanding life coaching business established just two years ago and now based in Whitwell.

Formerly known as Skylights, the business has a new website and is holding a series of workshops to help demystify the concept of life coaching.

Life coaching can help to address issues and transitions in people's personal life, relationships or career by examining what is going on right now, discovering what the obstacles or challenges might be, and choosing a course of action to achieve a specific life goal.

"It is not counselling or psychotherapy," Sam stresses. "Instead it focuses on the future to bring about real, long-lasting changes in any area of life – sort of like a personal trainer for the mind."

Having grown up in Norfolk, Sam gained a BSc (Hons) in Psychology at the University of York and lived in several places until 2012, when she, husband Toby, who is a lecturer at the University



Sam James

of East Anglia, and their three-year-old son moved back to Norfolk to be closer to their families.

Sam also has a Graduate Diploma in Addiction Studies, is accredited with the Institute of Leadership & Management as a qualified Life Coach, and is an Associate Member of the Association for Coaching UK. And as well as running her business, she is a voluntary committee member at their son's pre-school.

"When I set up the business I didn't feel quite right about pushing my name forward. But now the time was right to make the change from Skylights," she explains. "I have come to realise that it is me that my customers are investing in: I am the brand – and it's unique."

While some of Sam's customers are local, clients in more distant locations can be contacted by telephone or Skype.

To grow the business, Sam James Coaching will be looking to expand, par-

ticularly in the Norwich area and this is where the workshops will come in.

The two key customer groups are mums and young people. Life coaching can help mums cope with being a new parent, trying to juggle never-ending commitments, and when they are considering returning to work.

It can also help young people make decisions about their future direction at school and beyond, and more practically to cope with exams and meeting deadlines. Life coaching for teachers is another area that Sam is exploring.

"The key is motivation and choices – helping people's life balances," she says. "I'm just giving the nudges!"

www.samjamescoaching.co.uk

Workshops

Give your New Year's resolutions a turbo boost: this two-hour workshop will give you the best chance of succeeding in your plans for 2014.

Tuesday 7 January 2014, Elements of Health, Bethel Street, Norwich, 7 – 9 pm.

Thursday 9 January 2014, St Michaels, Reepham, 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

Cost: £15 including useful resources. Booking essential. Contact: Sam James on 07736 325189 or email hello@samjamescoaching.co.uk

Top tips for New Year

- Take some time to think back over the past year and everything you have achieved.
- Write your resolution in a positive way, for example, "I will do..." rather than "I won't..."
- Keep your resolution realistic.
- Be specific with each step needed – often we just think about the resolution, but not all the steps needed to achieve it.
- Think about the help or support you need along the way.
- Be accountable for your resolution – set milestones along the way. You need someone who will support you if you go off track, and help you get back on track, and celebrate your achievements along the way.

Reepham Good Neighbour Scheme set up

REEPHAM has set up its own Good Neighbour Scheme to assist vulnerable, disabled or isolated local residents in simple ways, such as by befriending them, helping with domestic tasks like mowing the garden, putting up curtains, changing light bulbs, arranging appointments, helping with shopping, giving a lift to shops or appointments, or filling in forms.

It will be several months yet before the scheme is formally launched, but the inaugural meeting was held in the Bircham Centre on 4 November, when a consti-

tution was adopted and a steering committee and officers appointed to manage the scheme and take it forward. The scheme has already signed up 12 enthu-



siastic volunteers, but more are still needed.

Good Neighbour Schemes are a great way to meet new people and to make a difference in your community. Volunteering is flexible so you decide what you are prepared to do and when, according to your interests and availability. Training is provided and expenses are covered.

If you are interested in getting involved or just want to find out more, please call Gill Wells on 01603 872788 or Linda Fullegar on 01603 870945.

The inaugural meeting of the Reepham Good Neighbour Scheme

news

Revised housing development proposals from Salle

THE Salle Estate presented its revised proposals for housing development in Reepham at an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on 21 November – just four days before the deadline for the Preferred Options – Alternative Sites consultation, which has now closed.

The plans are for three smaller sites on and around the large Reepham 1 site to the north of the town on Cawston Road, which was originally earmarked for 200

new dwellings.

In May, Salle presented its initial plans for up to 100 houses on the whole 8.77-hectare site. However, this was not chosen as one of Broadland District Council's preferred options for building 100-200 new houses in Reepham by 2026.

The three fields now put forward on behalf of Salle Estate by planning consultant Helen Adcock of CODE Development Planners and Chris Parsons of Swaffham-

based Parsons + Whitley Architects, are: "Salad Field" – 2.6 hectares, up to 70 houses at 27 dwellings/hectare; "Bircham's" – 1.96 hectares, 45 houses at 23 dwellings/hectare; and "Fairway" – 2.91 hectares, 75 houses at 26 dwellings/hectare.

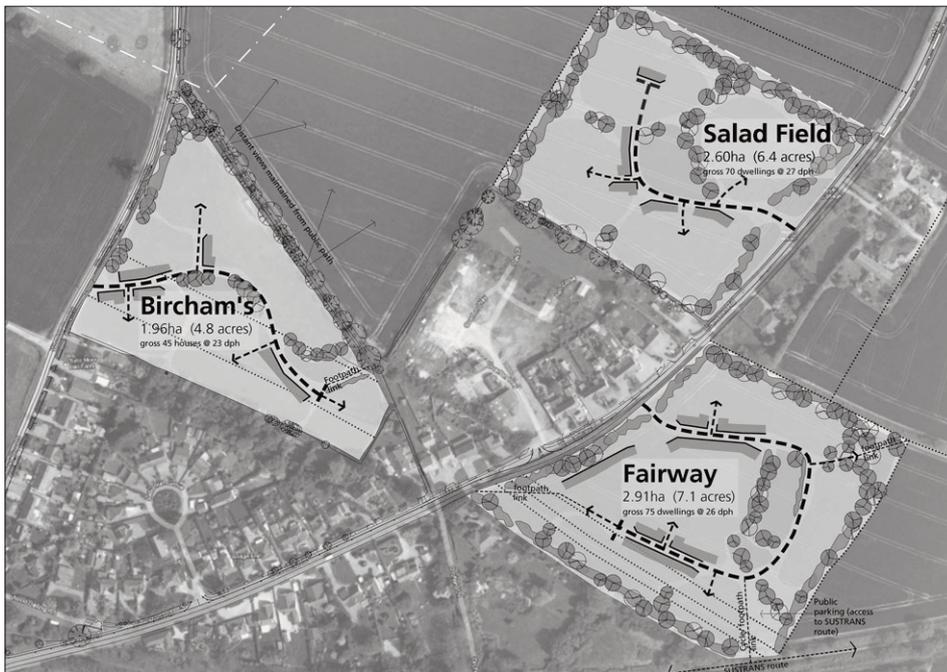
The first two areas form part of the original Reepham 1 site, while the third, Fairway, is a new site not having been previously considered.

Plans for a reed bed sewage treatment system have now been scrapped, although a commitment to high-quality sustainable construction and low-energy housing is retained. In addition, green areas are planned for the storage and disposal of surface water runoff.

Ms Adcock stressed that the proposal is for either one or two sites to be developed, which could mean up to 145 new houses, with the housing densities now in line with Broadland's requirements.

When asked by residents about what social benefits the proposal would bring to the town, the consultants suggested a new pavilion could be built for the Salle cricket ground. However, concerns remain about increased traffic on Orchard Lane and the effect of edge-of-town developments on the local economy.

The Town Council said it would need more time to consider these proposals.



Keep an eye on all your pension schemes

THERE has been a lot of coverage in the press recently about the charges levied by pension fund providers. While charges are important, there are other factors that should also be taken into account when reviewing your pension. For example, the range of investment options and efficiency of administration are also important.

Many people will have small pension pots associated with former employee schemes into which they are no longer contributing. Some of these schemes may be with providers who have since closed their funds or who have sold their pension business on to other providers.

In these instances, there is a real danger that the underlying investments in your fund are not being reviewed and performance is being affected accordingly.



money matters
JANE ARMSTRONG

It's really important that you check that your pension funds are performing as expected. You can do this yourself by asking for an up-to-date statement from the pension providers – using the Pension Tracing Service if you don't have the necessary documentation to identify your policy. Alternatively, an independent financial adviser can help you get the valuations you need.

In the event that some of your pensions seem to be providing disappointing returns, it may be worthwhile considering consolidating small, older plans into a

more modern arrangement that offers more suitable investment options for your circumstances.

Although there may be costs involved in transferring your pension to another provider, if your fund is performing badly or being eroded by high charges then a transfer may still be your best option.

■ **Jane Armstrong is a Chartered Financial Planner at Almary Green Investments Ltd. To discuss any of the above or for help with your financial planning, call Jane on 01603 706740 or email jane.armstrong@almarygreen.com**

Almary Green

> Independent Financial Advisers

business

From Salle to the Ardèche: the journey of a shepherd's hut

SALLE-based Norfolk Farm Shepherd Huts made its first overseas sale to a farm in the Ardèche. What followed was an epic adventure to transport the hut, involving an 800-mile trip by road to the southwest of France. Clare Buxton picks up the story:

We crossed to Calais by ferry – the loaded hut being too tall for the Channel Tunnel – and drove with one overnight stop down to the south.

Securely strapped to the back of the lorry, the hut was protected by a layer of dense green netting and, having survived the speed of the Péage, negotiated the Lyon traffic, crossed the Rhône and just fitted under a low railway bridge, it arrived in the village of Rompon at midday to park by the village cemetery and await the unloading deliberations.

We had the assistance of Thierry, a farmer neighbour of our customer, who arrived, smiling, with a small front-end loader. He was doubtful that his tractor would lift the hut – and we should have listened. But something got lost in translation. All went according to plan, the lorry pulled out, the hut hung in mid-air, Thierry began to lower...

But then an almighty crash, a tractor precariously balanced on two wheels and a lot of dust and bilingual expletives filling the air.

Happily, we looked again to see the hut still intact and Thierry back on four wheels. Remarkably, the only damage was a minor dent in the turntable and one plank with an additional “distressed” finish.

Once the wheels were back on the axles, the last stage of the hut's journey was a two-mile tow up the hill to a perfect pitch in a pretty orchard, enjoying wonderful views up and across the valley to Thierry's farm.

It was soothing listening to the rumble of the iron wheels proceeding slowly up the hill, following our Landrover smoothly



The shepherd's hut settled in place: a perfect pitch in a pretty orchard in Rompon, a commune in the Ardèche department, southwest France

round the hairpin bends, past the little chapel on the edge of the cliff to the heights of the old farmstead.

Once the hut was settled in place, this time with the aid of Michel the gardener, his pruning saw and some railway sleepers, it looked great.

Even better, Thierry's sheep flock were grazing the hillside beyond, the gentle tinkle-tonkle of the bell attached to the lead sheep's collar echoing across the valley as the sun set... cue for a well-earned glass of wine.

Norfolk Farm Shepherd Huts is a small business based at Park Farm on the Salle

Park Estate just outside Reepham. It was only last summer that we changed the emphasis of our business from agricultural haulage to the huts, which are based on the original shepherd's hut in use on our family farm at Heydon until the 1960s.

Large-scale woodwork and carpentry is second nature to husband Andrew. He wanted to restore the old hut for our sons when they were young, but it was felt it should stay on the farm. So Andrew decided to make his own – and that's how we got to the Ardèche.

www.norfolkshpherdhuts.co.uk

Reepham Town FC December fixtures

- 1st Team: 7 December – Cromer (home); 14 December – Spixworth (away); 21 December – Caister (home); 28 December – Mattishall (home).
- Reserves: 7 December – Corton Seltic (away); 14 December – Thorpe Village Res (home); 21 December – Scole Utd Res (away); 28 December – Thetford Town Res (away). All matches are 2 pm kick-off.

Also a reminder that Tin Pig will be playing at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham, on 14 December at 7.30 pm. Tickets £6 each are available from various shops in Reepham or the Club Secretary on 07887 442470.

Maureen Wilkinson, Secretary

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Tel. 01603 871071 Mobile 07818 417739 e-mail claudia@clbas.co.uk web www.clbas.co.uk

business



Reepham campaign launched

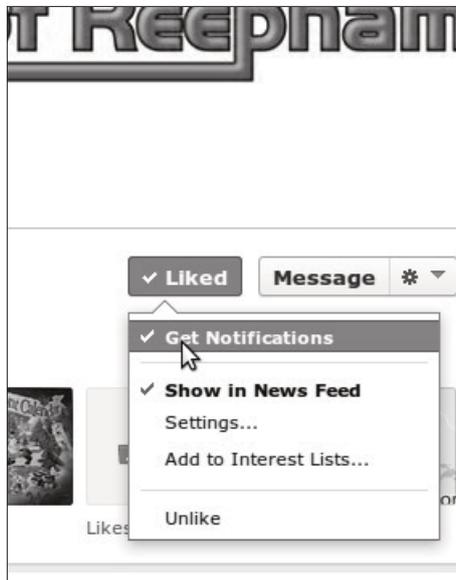
REEPHAM Chamber of Commerce has been offering free social media training sessions to local businesses and organisations to help them connect with their customers and members. It is now asking people to “Like” local businesses or organisations on Facebook.

Where resources are limited, using Facebook and Twitter is one of the easiest ways of getting a presence on the internet. Panther Brewery and Johnson’s are two of the many local businesses using such social media marketing methods, as well as a website, to keep in touch with customers.

You can find links and other details of businesses in the Reepham Life Business Directory (www.reephamlife.co.uk).

Click on the “Business” menu and you will see the directory on the right hand side. There is a separate list of community organisations and voluntary groups on the Community page.

If you reckon one of our local business-



es or organisations is good enough to recommend, go to their Facebook page and click on the “Like” button. In doing so, you will spread the word. Don’t forget to check “Get Notifications” so that you are

kept up to date with their latest news.

We know we have some great local businesses in Reepham and district, so go on, “Share the Secret”.

If the details in the directory need to be edited or updated or if a business is missing, please let us know by using the “Contact Us” form on the website.

Winter opening hours for Reepham Diner

Sweet Success (Norfolk) Ltd, which trades as Reepham Diner and Reepham Sweet Shop on Townsend Corner, has announced its winter opening hours:

- Monday-Friday 8 am – 6 pm;
- Saturday 8 am – 5 pm;
- Sunday 8 am – 12 noon.

Owner Roy Wainwright reports that recent children’s parties have been a huge success.



N.F Coverdale Ltd continues to be a family run business that has grown to be a team of 30 experienced, highly skilled employees several of whom have been with us for many years. As well as our direct labour we have over the past 25 years built strong relationships with many specialist sub-contractors therefore allowing us to operate as Main Contractors and manage projects ranging from a few pounds to 1.5 million. Following a period of controlled expansion, we are pleased to announce that 2013 will see N F Coverdale Ltd dedicating a team of employees to form a Small Works Department to work alongside our larger Contracts Team thereby ensuring that we can continue to give the attention to detail and provide the quality of service that we have built our reputation upon. Our services include:

**Barn Conversions - Brickwork & Blockwork - Building Maintenance & Repairs - Carpentry Works
Decorating - Disabled Facilities - Flintwork - Joinery Repairs & Replacement - Listed Buildings
Renovation - Re-pointing - Re-roofing - Restoration Specialists
Church Maintenance - Church Repairs - Church Extensions - Church Conversions**



website: www.nfcoverdaleltd.co.uk

email: office@nfcoverdaleltd.co.uk

tel: 01603 871969

UNIT 1 - OLD STATION YARD - CHAPEL STREET - CAWSTON - NR10 4BB

business

Late night opening a success, says Chamber of Commerce

REEPHAM'S shops held their first late night opening of the year to coincide with Halloween. The evening event, organised by Reepham Chamber of Commerce, was designed to get residents to come along and see what the town's traders had to offer.

All the shops and cafés around the Market Place were open for the evening. The Chamber had organised a Children's Halloween Trail sending them from shop to shop with their families collecting clues to solve a Halloween puzzle. Those who succeeded were rewarded with a treat, thanks to the generosity of Johnson's of Reepham, who donated chocolate bars and sweets.

Many of the shop and café owners had entered into the spirit of Halloween, offering treats ranging from pumpkin soup to children's face painting.

Chairman of Reepham Chamber, Brenda Gostling, was delighted with the success of the evening. "Traders have reported a total spend of over £1,500 during the evening, which is fantastic," she said.



"But even more importantly, they have welcomed in people who normally do their shopping outside the town. We have a wonderful diversity of shops here offering things that can't be found on many high streets. This event was about making sure all of Reepham knows what we have."

The late night opening was part of an ongoing initiative to stimulate Reepham's economy, which is supported by Broadland District Council. Reepham Chamber

is organising a range of projects to help local businesses compete both on the ground and online. Plans are in place to encourage businesses to engage with social media, with two training courses organised recently.

Following on from the success of the Halloween event, Reepham Chamber has persuaded many of the traders to open again for a special Christmas Late Night Shopping Event on Thursday 5 December from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Not only will many of our shops and eateries be open on the evening, the Country Market will have a special extra session in the Bircham Centre and there will be a Santa's Grotto in Melton House Gallery, thanks to Reepham Scout Group, who have invited Santa along, and their hosts, Norfolk Country Cottages.

Christmas music will be supplied by the High School Jazz Band, who will be playing in the Market Place from 6 pm onwards.

Merry Christmas

from Reepham Chamber of Commerce

Christmas Late Night Shopping Evening

Thursday 5 December 2013

5pm to 8pm

SANTA'S GROTTTO SPECIAL OFFERS

REEPHAM

Share the Secret...
...of Christmas



Buy Local this Christmas:
see overleaf for Vouchers from our
fantastic unique shops and businesses

A Reepham Chamber of Commerce Initiative

business

Reepham Life 2014 Calendar selling fast

THE *Reepham Life 2014 Calendar* is selling fast, reports Reepham Community Press. An initial print run of 200 virtually sold out within three weeks of going on sale and a further 100 have been printed to cope with the demand.

This first-ever calendar project for the publishers of *Reepham Life* community newspaper has involved many hours of sifting through hundreds of old photographs and postcards generously supplied by readers. A total of 12 pictures as well as a cover photo were chosen for the inaugural calendar, ranging from the early 1900s to the mid-1950s.

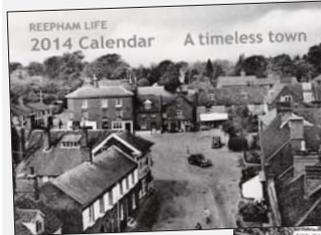
The *Reepham Life* team, including local photographer John Tym, then went out to capture the same pictures as they are today, providing a unique insight into how the town has changed – or not – over the past century.

The calendar costs £8 and is available at selected retail outlets in Reepham, including Very Nice Things, Johnson's, Reepham Library, the Bircham Centre Charity Shop, Hampton's Home & Garden, Robertson's Family Butchers and The Crown, as well as Wood Dalling Post Office.

Copies can also be ordered online at www.reephamlife.co.uk (postage and package is extra for mail orders).

If the 2014 calendar proves popular it is hoped to produce another for 2015, so if you have any old photographs of Reepham and the surrounding villages up to about 1990 that you

Reepham Life Calendar 2014



Featuring 12 nostalgic photographs capturing Reepham's history over the past century. The calendar also includes modern-day images of each scene



OUT NOW!
£8
plus postage

Available from selected retail outlets in Reepham or order online at www.reephamlife.co.uk

think would be interesting and you would be happy to lend to the calendar team for a few days, please contact us as soon as possible.

■ Reepham Community Press, Homerton House, 74 Cawston Road, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4LT. Tel: 01603 308158. Email: info@reephamlife.co.uk Web: www.reephamlife.co.uk

REEPHAM LATE NIGHT SHOPPING VOUCHERS

Vouchers valid 5 December
5pm to 8pm
unless otherwise stated

angelica

10% OFF all Christmas Wreaths
sold on the night
Market Place, Reepham



10% OFF all
purchases and
Christmas orders
placed on the night

1 Collers Way, Reepham
(but outside the Bircham Centre on the night)

MOTTS PHARMACY

30% OFF all Rimmel products
sold on the night
Market Place, Reepham

Hansells

Solicitors and Financial Advisers

Hansells Solicitors and Financial Advisers
are pleased to offer 60 Minutes FREE Family
Advice before 31 March 2014 on presentation
of your Reepham Chamber Voucher

THE GREEN ROOM

Lots of fabulous Christmas
Party clothes available at
the Green Room.
Come and browse.
Drinks and nibbles too.

21 Church Hill, Reepham

SPAR

10% off when you spend £10 or more
on the night of 5th December.
Excludes spend on cigarettes and services.
Ollands Road, Reepham

Bennetts of Reepham

10% DISCOUNT on any purchases
or orders taken between 5-8pm only
18 School Road, Reepham



Johnson's of Reepham

10% off Christmas cards & wrapping paper
between 5pm and 8pm

The Bircham Centre

Free raffle ticket if you spend over
£10. Prize is a selection of goods
from the market.
Market Place, Reepham

Reepham Hair Studio

15% OFF Christmas Gift Sets
sold or ordered on the night
Townsend Corner, Reepham

HAMPTON'S

Home & Garden

10% OFF all purchases over £50
sold on the night

Reepham Garage Services

£10 OFF when you book in for a
large service and mot
until end 31 January 2014
14 Collers Way, Reepham 01603 870814

ENJOY A FREE CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE on the evening at **REEPHAM DINER**, Townsend Corner

arts & crafts

Festive temptations at the Christmas Craft Fair

HAVING been recently re-located owing to the closure of the Old Brewery House Hotel, the annual Reepham Christmas Craft Fair has now found a new home in the beautiful two-storey, light-filled space of St Michael's, where the event will be held on Saturday 7 December from 9 am to 3 pm.

Now housed in this intimate and atmospheric building, traditional crafts mingle with the stunning architecture to create a unique event that is filled with creativity, life and bustle – all made possible by the considerable efforts of organisers Sandy and Terry Nevard and their team of enthusiastic volunteers.

The fair not only provides the chance to browse and buy a variety of hand-made, unique gifts, but also offers the tempting opportunity to sample some delicious home-baked cakes accompanied by a steaming hot cup of tea or coffee to banish the winter chills.

This year's fair shows the work of more than 20 talented artists and craftspeople from all around the county, including photography, jewellery, a driftwood bird



maker, knitting, pottery, glassware, vintage clothing, handmade boxes, animal sculptures, bags, hats and fascinators with accessories, original prints and rustic hand-bound books and journals.

But beware – with prices to suit every pocket, you may be tempted into buying something that you didn't expect to see

or be lured into eating far too much cake. Still, it is nearly the festive season, so shouldn't we indeed be jolly?

Put the date in your diary and come and join us for a "crafty cuppa".

■ For further information, contact Sandy Nevard sandy.nevard@btinternet.com

Jules Allen

Calling all local artists and craftspeople – if you would like to be featured in the 2014 Arts & Crafts section of *Reepham Life*, please contact Jules Allen on 01603 879687 or julesallen.arts@btinternet.com

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios 2014

If you are an artist or craftspeople and would like to be involved in the first "Reepham Arts Trail" as part of the Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios scheme next year, please contact Jules Allen on 01603 879687 or email julesallen.arts@btinternet.com no later than 12 December.

Local history all sewn up while you wait

PATIENTS waiting to see a doctor at Reepham Surgery will now have the opportunity to view a visual history of Reepham while they wait.

This takes the form of a beautiful tapestry that was started in 1983 by a

group of WI members and finally discovered and completed in 1991.

For a while it hung in the Town Hall and, after living in a cupboard for some time, it found its way back to Reepham WI.

Only a few of the present WI members knew much about it and we were amazed at how detailed and accurate it was. We vowed it should find a new permanent home so everyone could enjoy it.

Members were delighted when Sue Chapman, practice manager at Reepham Surgery, agreed to hang it in the waiting room.

Finally, on 7 November the tapestry was presented to the surgery by Liz Howes, president of Reepham WI, on behalf of the members.

Present were two of the original WI members involved, Sandra Hilton and Liz Stimpson, as well as Dr Penny Ayling and Dr Souad Ziouani, Sue Chapman and members of the Reepham WI Committee.

Sue Robinson 01603 261771



Left to right:
Dr Penny Ayling,
Liz Howes,
Liz Stimpson,
Sandra Hilton,
Dr Souad Ziouani,
Sue Chapman and
Angela Briggs

books

Keep your New Year's resolutions at the library

WITH Christmas coming Reepham Library is full of books to stoke up your festive spirit. To help you plan your celebrations we have cookery and crafting books, such as *Delia's Happy Christmas* and *The Perfect Christmas* by Anthea Turner (no pressure!).

And if you need to unwind after all that hard work, you can relax with a Christmassy novel – from Christmas romances, to rural nostalgia with Miss Read or even a festive crime by Anne Perry or Simon Brett. And of course, we have lots and lots of children's Christmas books.

And when the New Year rolls around, we can help you keep your New Year's resolutions. Whether you've decided to take up fishing, start a diet or learn a language, there's bound to be a book for it in the library.

It's free to join and use the library – all you need is proof of address. So why not make it your New Year's resolution to vis-

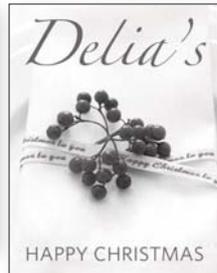


it us at Reepham Library?

With winter setting in, some people may find it hard to travel to the library – please don't worry. If you can't make it into the library to return your books, just give us a ring on 01603 870474.

And don't forget – with your library card number and PIN you can renew and reserve books from home. If you're not sure how, just pop in or ring us and we'll help you out.

And finally, merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the team at Reepham Library.



Please note: Reepham Library will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Return dates will be adjusted to reflect this.

Helen Johnson, Library Manager

Activities at Reepham Library

- Bounce & Rhyme Time: every Friday from 2 – 2.30 pm. Jolly songs and a story for pre-school children and their grown-ups; term time only.
- Book & DVD sale: books for all ages and DVDs for sale throughout January.

Library opening times:

- Monday 2 pm – 7 pm
 - Wednesday 9.30 am – 1pm, 2 pm – 5 pm
 - Friday 10 am – 1 pm, 2 pm – 5 pm
 - Saturday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Reepham Library The Bircham Centre,
Market Place, Reepham NR10 4JJ
Tel: 01603 870474
Email: reepham.lib@norfolk.gov.uk



Christmas Eve Party + Disco 6pm - 10pm
New Years Eve Party + Disco 6pm - 12:30am

*Both of these events are **FREE!!***

The Bar will be open, and hot snacks will be available to purchase.

Whitwell & Reepham Station - Whitwell Road, Reepham, NR10 4GA
Telephone 01603 871694 www.whitwellstation.com

local history

Bircham Centre Archive Rooms opened to the public

THE Bircham Centre officially opened its Archive Rooms on 30 October. The three rooms in the building in Market Place have been carefully restored to house a collection of memorabilia and artefacts from Reepham and surrounding parishes.

The collection, some of which dates back to Roman and Anglo-Saxon times and has been held in trust by the Centre for many years, has now been consolidated into a facility that can be visited by the public and used for local historical research.

The Archive Rooms project was led by Gloria Davis with the assistance of Jan Bevan, Jean Rayfield and Di Pinder. The facility is located on the first floor of the oldest part of the building – the timber-framed north wing of the Bircham Centre, formerly known as Hackford House, which was donated to the town in 1919 by Samuel Bircham and used as a Red Cross hospital during the First World War. Parts of the building are believed to date back more than 400 years.

Around £5,000 was spent in renovation and refurbishment of the Archive Rooms over the past three years, including a grant of £2,000 from Broadland District Council, with the remainder coming from Bircham Centre funds.

The archive consists of three rooms: the first, which retains some of its 1950s wall-

paper, houses a computer and information retrieval facility and is manned during opening hours by one of the Centre's volunteers; the second is a paper room for reading and research; and the third displays exhibitions, memorabilia and artefacts, including an old Red Cross stretcher, cameras, a dolls house, and magazines and books from past decades.

The rooms are now open to the public on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 am to 1 pm; appointments can also be made outside these times.

The archivists are appealing to older readers to send in anything they can remember of Reepham when they were younger. Donations of written records, old books, photographs and other memorabilia are also welcome.

It is hoped the Bircham Centre and the Reepham Society will consolidate their archives into one location that can be easily accessed by the public, as well as by Society members. "We expect the first batch of Reepham Society archives to arrive here soon," revealed Bircham Centre administrator Gill Wheatley.

■ The Centre is currently looking for several new trustees, as well as volunteers to help in the archives. If you are interested, please telephone 01603 879242 or email birchamcentre@yahoo.co.uk

Top: Cllr James Joyce (left) and Bircham Centre trustees chair Sue Ivins officially open the Archive Rooms



Booton Bridge recalls Elwin family's tangled web

ON 16 December 1811 as he was returning to Reepham from Booton Hall, David Williams fell from his horse and broke his neck crossing the ford over the Eyn Brook at Booton.

A cast-iron plaque in St Michael's, Reepham, recorded that Williams was a "respectable surgeon" resident in Reepham, and that he was "in the 58th year of his age" when he died. He was "a native of Stormy near Bridgend Glamorganshire" (this is probably Stormy Down about halfway between Bridgend and Porthcawl).

Williams' wife Charlotte was the daughter of Peter Elwin and his first wife Margaret Paston of Booton Hall.

Charlotte was born in 1865, one of nine children: seven girls and two boys; she died a year after her husband in 1812 aged 47.

Elwin is said to have been "paying attention" to Susanna, his second wife, before the death of his first, Margaret, "and she knew it".

Margaret died in 1768; Elwin married

Susanna in the same year and went on to have a further 17 children with her. He died in 1798.

On that fateful day in 1811, Williams had been dining at Booton Hall with his brother-in-law Peter Elwin, the eldest son of Elwin.

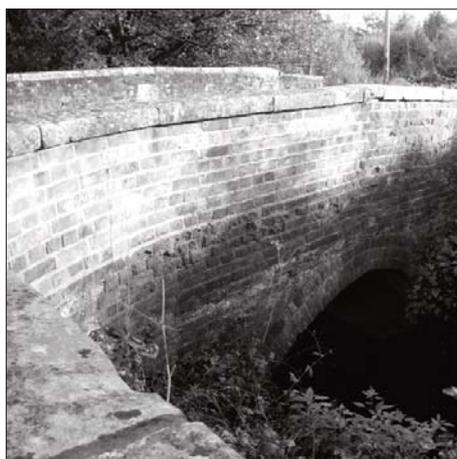
The plaque commemorating David and Charlotte Williams was erected by their sons, Peter Elwin Williams and Richard David Williams. The plaque is currently being restored.

A bridge over the Eyn Brook at Booton was finally built in 1820.

A barely legible stone set into the upstream parapet of the bridge states: "This bridge was built by subscription 1820".

● Thanks to the Paston Society for information included in this article.

Chris Peakome



Booton Bridge

news

High school sports hall funding questioned

WHILE plans for a new sports hall for Reepham High School & College have been generally welcomed by the town, concerns have been raised about whether the associated new housing development would contribute anywhere near the full cost of such a facility.

The plans are part of a residential development proposed by a local landowner, which could see 100-120 new homes being built on 4 hectares of land to the north and west of Broomhill Lane.

The new sports facility would also be made available to the community outside school hours. In addition, development of this site would provide the opportunity to extend the existing cemetery on Whitwell Road.

The school's earlier plans included a "four court" sports hall, a weights room, a climbing wall, changing facilities and a viewing platform for spectators; a swimming pool is not being considered, it is understood.

The cost of building such a facility is estimated at around £2 million. However, it is likely that significant external funding would still be required, even if the housing development gets approval.

Responding to criticism from a local action group, principal Mark Farrar said the high school had not asked for "positive comments" from parents as Realistic Reepham had asserted, but asked that the local community consider the proposal and make their comments to Broadland District Council.

"Normally, the school remains entirely neutral on proposed housing developments in the town," Mr Farrar said. "Because this development, however, gives the school the opportunity to acquire a modern and suitably sized sports hall, we support the proposal.

"You will be aware how inadequate our current sports hall is for a school of our size. You will also be aware how limited indoor sporting provision is for the local

community at weekends and evenings."

Adding that the school did not instigate the building proposal, Mr Farrar explained: "I hope the people of Reepham understand that my responsibility is to deliver the best quality education possible for the young people of our catchment area.

"If houses are to be built in Reepham (and this is not my decision nor is it something we have promoted), then I have to support the proposal that allows us to improve the quality of the education offered to our pupils."

Planning a party?

WHETHER it's a birthday, anniversary or a Christmas get-together, why not use Reepham Town Hall. It has an up-to-date kitchen, spacious hall and reasonable rental prices. To check availability and to book, please ring Peter Frost on 01603 870845.

angelica

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Market Place ★ Reepham ★ NR10 4JJ

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Premium Quality Christmas Trees



**Open from
1st - 24th
December**

- HOLLY
- MISTLETOE
- WREATHS
- TREE STANDS



The Old Sawmill
Salle, Reepham
NR10 4SG

01603 879488

You will find the shop on the B1145
between Reepham and Cawston

Seasonal produce with a face and sense of place

food & drink

HANNAH APPLIN

NESTLED in the heart of Reepham is the warm and welcoming retreat of the Reepham Country Market. Away from the bustle of the Market Place, within this cosy space you can buy fresh seasonal food, and meet the people who grew, cooked or produced it.

There are ingredients for making your own chutney, like quinces, tomatoes and chillies, or ideas for Christmas, such as hedgerow jellies, sticky jams and fruity cordials.

The comfort of home-made gingerbread and shortbread provide a weekly treat, but the generously iced chocolate cakes are well-nigh impossible to resist. Still strong after 25 years of trading, the Reepham Country Market is as good as local food gets.

60 seconds with...

Reepham Country Market

Name and role: Vanessa Sinclair (VS): Producer and secretary of the Reepham Country Market. Jim Fraser (JF): producer of three years, active gardener and spends Tuesdays baking bread.

Bestselling produce: VS: Bestsellers vary throughout the year. In the summer, demand for fresh fruit and veg is high. Then as winter draws in, pies and puddings become greatly sought after.

What do you enjoy most about the Reepham Country Market? JF: I have a garden and allotment, and selling my produce means that almost everything I grow will pay for itself.

What is your earliest memory of Reepham? JF: There used to be a wonderful ironmonger, the sort of place where you could go and buy just three nails, paid for by weight.

Reepham Country Market's best kept secret? VS: Our loyal customers and 20 active producers are the secret of our suc-



Jim Fraser with his home-made bread

cess. But we need more producers to supply fresh fruit and veg, baked goods and crafts.

■ To become a producer, or to simply see what's on offer, visit the Reepham Country Market, open every Wednesday from 8 am to 11 am at the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham.



digger's diary

A Christmas ding-dong

DURING the repairs to St Michael's a document was found sealed in the wall. After careful examination by Professor Porova of the Institute of Serbo-Croatian Studies, it has been possible to read most of it, though parts are still uncertain:

"In this year of grace 15... (possibly 16... – obscured by pigeons) a most remarkable occurrence didst happen in this village to our sexton, Farmer Gotobed. He didst come to the church at midnight on Christmas Eve before the ringing of the bells, to prepare ye jug of ringers' punch in the ancient way.

When he entered in at the door, he espied (as he surmised) his neighbour Farmer Froggatt standing in ye ringers' gallery, which made him feel miffed, as by tradition he should be the first in ye church.

But when he had climbed to the gallery, lo, it was empty. Thus he reasoned; perhaps there is something amiss with the bells, and he has come early to attend to them?

So taking his candle in his hand he didst ascend on high; the wind entering at ye little windows blowing ye flame almost out; until he didst reach the belfry, where he beheld the great bells standing on end,

and the bats flying, but no other person.

Then he began to be sore afraid and didst descend in great haste to ye nave again, when, wonderful to relate, he met Farmer Froggatt coming through the doorway.

'Why, neighbour,' he saith, 'How didst thou come down from the tower without passing me on the stairs? Surely thou canst not fly like a bat!'

'What meanest thou, sexton, for I have but presently arrived?'

'Nay, neighbour, I didst see thee in the gallery, only... thou wert not wearing that hat and coat, but an old grey cloak and hood such as our grandsires wore.'

Then Farmer Froggatt became right grave and said, 'Methinks thou didst see the ghost of my grandfather, who was a bell-ringer here in King Harry's time. I have been told his spirit doth haunt this place'

'But, neighbour, he looked so like thee.'

'Yea verily, for he is a Dead Ringer.'

■ Dr Hans Zarkov, who translated the above, notes: "A possible reason for the sexton's fear at being alone in the belfry is the legend of the Violet Woman, known in Norfolk as Mary Lee, who is said to haunt belfries on Christmas Eve

and jangle the bells. Hence our Yuletide expression, 'Ding dong, Mary Lee's on high.'"

Candlelit carol service at Booton church

The annual candlelit carol service will be held in the Church of St Michael the Archangel, Booton, on Monday 23 December at 6.30 pm.

Children are invited to dress as a nativity character.

Seasonal refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome, but please wear warm clothing and share transport if possible as parking is limited to the roadside only.

A collection will be taken and divided between the Churches Conservation Trust and St Martin's Housing Trust, which helps homeless people in Norfolk.

Rita Buxton 01603 870200

February 2014 issue deadline:
20 January 2014

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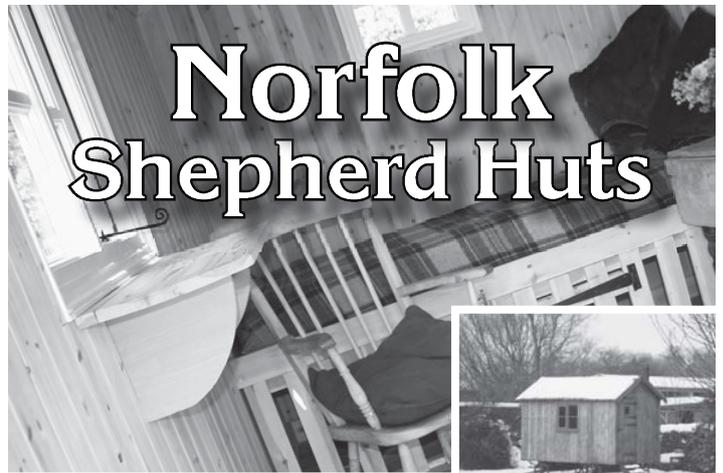
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gardening

Allotments in winter – time to take stock

WITH Christmas approaching, most allotments have gone to sleep, except for a few brussels and leeks, and the odd row of hardy wallflower, broad bean or brassica seedlings.

The more organised allotment holders have dug over and manured the emptied beds ready for the frost to break down. Fruit canes are dormant and hens are taking a rest from laying until the New Year. Only the hardiest gardener braves the weather.

So at this difficult time in the gardening calendar, you may be wondering what Christmas present to give an allotment holder?

Reepham Allotments & Leisure Gardens Association (RALGA) members may have ordered next year's seeds from their catalogue, but a gift of your favourite vegetable seeds makes a good hint of what you'd like to be eating next summer.

If the ground isn't frozen, bare-root fruit canes, fruit trees and rose bushes can still be planted.

It may be late to plant spring bulbs, but plenty of nurseries allow you to pre-order dahlia tubers for a spring delivery (and will often supply you with a gift card if these are a present).

There are excellent gardening books available – I can recommend Charles Dowding's *How to Grow Winter Vegetables*. Tools and equipment such as cloches can be expensive, but make a

useful gift.

One friend I know was ecstatic to receive a trailer-load of manure, although not everyone might be so happy.

Or how about the simple promise of a few hours of your time as a willing helper?

And if you're lucky, even in the bleak midwinter, the allotment has supplied the roast potatoes and other vegetables for Christmas dinner and raspberries from the freezer to go in the trifle.

■ To ask about renting an allotment, contact: Jo Boxall, Town Clerk, Reepham Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4JW. Tel: 01603 873355. Email: clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

■ For information on joining RALGA, email: reephamalga@yahoo.com

Sarah Oates



How tidily should I tidy my garden?

I WAS tidying in the garden recently and was surprised by a moth flying out of the undergrowth, though it was a very cold day. So I was reminded of the fact that snails (and of course all their attendant insect and invertebrate friends) live in a different world from us.

At the low and sheltered level where they move (slowly) the temperature is three degrees warmer than it is for us, high-born creatures. And this leads me to a dilemma: how tidily should I tidy my garden?

I have this problem every year at about this time, because traditionally we gardeners dig and leave the soil bare to "weather" through the winter, but I am aware that our soil needs looking after, needs protection, not harsh exposure to the elements.

Nature's way of looking after the soil is for foliage to fall and lay on the ground, therefore protecting it and fostering all those little creatures that are working the soil for us, allowing them to thrive.

But if we are too tidy and neat then we prevent Nature from helping us, so really we should negotiate with the natural world, which has been working well for a lot longer than we have, and work with it rather than pitch ourselves, armed with our array of chemical and mechanical "aids" against it.

Back to the armchair, then?

■ Don't forget the next meeting of the Reepham & District Gardening Club, which will be on 17 December at 7 pm in Reepham Town Hall. Please bring a sweet or savoury dish to share for this light-hearted and enjoyable evening. There will also be entertainment.

their standard bearers.

The service celebrated friendship and religious tolerance and included words written by students from all five nations in response to their visit to the Belgian battlefields and war graves. Pupils were obviously moved by their visit and made friendships that will hopefully stand the test of time.

Lucy Lubbock, Librarian

High school awards evening

ON Thursday 14 November, Reepham High School held its Awards Evening for students from last year's Year 11. The event is used to celebrate the exam success of pupils, and give particular recognition for those who have excelled in either effort or achievement in all examined subjects, as well as a couple of special awards for contribution to school life.



Jeremy Buxton

It was really nice to see so many pupils who have moved on from Reepham, as well as those who are now attending Reepham College.

A highlight was the talk given by guest

speaker Jeremy Buxton, who spoke brilliantly about his time at Reepham High School, as well as his French work experiences and working as a presenter for Eurosport. Jeremy has recently returned to run the family farm near Reepham.

Alex Edgar, Head of Key Stage 4

Remembrance Day service

REEPHAM High School's annual Remembrance Day service this year had an international dimension. Taking part in the service of music and readings alongside pupils were staff and students from schools in Germany, Poland, Belgium and Turkey.

The school was extremely proud to welcome Normandy veterans and representatives from the British Legion with



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church life

A time for everything and a season for every activity

AS usual, November was a month of remembering with two special services.

The "In Memory" service was held on the first Sunday after All Saints' Day. This service, to which everyone was invited, provided an opportunity to remember, with love and thanksgiving, the lives of those who have died in recent years – and those who died many years ago.

As each name was read, candles were lit either by relatives or the clergy of St Mary's. Prayers were offered in thanksgiving for the lives of relatives, some of whom had only a brief life, as well as others who had lived for decades.

There were prayers, too, for those who mourn and for those finding it difficult to adjust to a very different way of life.

We are so fortunate that our church is

open during daylight hours and, of course, everyone is welcome to slip in for the quietness and peace that St Mary's offers. Some people find this helpful and although they feel lonely, they are never alone.

As usual the annual Remembrance Day service was well attended. The British Legion paraded their flags and, again, thanksgiving was the theme for lives sacrificed during the two world wars as well as more recent conflicts.

Prayers were said for those who survived, often sustaining physical injuries and emotional distress, which affects not only their lives, but also those of their families.

However, December will have a very different feel: Advent with calendars to

open and candles to light; Christmas with carol singing and celebrations of all kinds.

Most of us will pause normal life to spend time with family and friends and celebrate Christmas with customs we've enjoyed for years.

New Year follows, bringing lively celebrations for some – and a hot toddy and an early night for others!

Next year, 100 years on, we'll look back again at the First World War, reminded of how we are all connected through our own family history, our local community here in Reepham and its impact on the world we live in today.

As the year unfolds, it's a reminder that "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens".

Susie Hall

Chapel supports Tools with a Mission

TOOLS with a Mission (TWAM) is a national charity enabling people in developing countries to earn a living and to support themselves.

The charity started more than 25 years ago within the Baptist Men's Movement, but is now truly ecumenical. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help.

TWAM has assisted by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them overseas.

Last year more than 434 separate organisations benefited from 220 tonnes of aid (worth over £1 million), shipped from TWAM's warehouse in Ipswich.

The warehouse and headquarters have recently been extended. At the open day on 11 October, Tommy Walsh of TV's *Ground Force*, the new patron of the charity, opened the new mezzanine floor. The Archbishop of York and Delia Smith are the two other patrons.

All types of tools are accepted and assembled into kits for motor mechanics, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, builders and others.

Sewing and knitting machines and general haberdashery items are particularly welcome, but no electric hedge-cutters or lawnmowers can be accepted.

Have you noticed that many church meetings and events are supported main-



TWAM open day showing the warehouse in Ipswich and part of the new mezzanine floor, which was full of renovated sewing machines waiting to be shipped to Africa

ly by women?

When I entered the TWAM warehouse HQ in Ipswich I found out where all the men were! They were in blue workmen's overalls sharpening saws, regrinding chisels and renovating sewing machines to send abroad.

If you would like to know more about TWAM why not drop into the Chapel on a Wednesday morning between 9.30 am and 12 noon. Leaflets are available and there is a display about the open day.

If you have tools to donate, please speak to someone at the Chapel or contact me and I can arrange for collection.

www.twam.co.uk

Michael Price, Church Steward
01603 871831

Christmas concert

A Christmas concert will be held at St Mary's, Reepham, on Monday 16 December at 7.30 pm. The Norwich Cathedral Choir and friends will perform a variety of festive music with organ, strings and percussion.

The concert will feature both new and old pieces, including works by Bach, Corelli, Mendelssohn, Warlock and Gritton.

The event will be raising money for the Malawi Association for Christian Support (MACS) and its project to improve a remote health centre at Lulunga in rural Malawi, which will help to save the lives of expectant mothers in an area where medical care is difficult to access.

On Sunday 15 December, MACS chairman Richard Barton will be speaking at the 10.30 am service at St Mary's.

Tickets are £9 (includes a glass of wine), available from Hampton's Home & Garden, by telephone on 01603 872686 or on the door.

There will also be some Malawian artefacts for sale during the evening.

www.malawimacs.org

■ For more information, contact:
Kristina Bartlette
kristina.bartlette@gmail.com

February 2014 issue deadline:
20 January 2014

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**The Reepham Life team
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a Merry Christmas**



and a prosperous 2014

reepham WI

Looking forward to a busy year

DON'T forget the Reepham WI Christmas Bring a Bite Social Evening on 19 December at 7.30 pm in St Michaels. Music, food and fun. Bring a guest. Women of all ages are welcome.

The following is Reepham WI's 2014 programme. More details can be found each month on our website and on the WI blog on www.reephamlife.co.uk

All meetings will take place in St Michael's, Reepham, at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated.

- 16 January: Tales of a tour operator for singles – Daniel Adams
- 20 February: Relaxation and self-massage – Juyna Bibi Lewis
- 20 March: 4women Resource Centre, Norwich – Rowena Haggard-Utting
- 11 April: Social evening in Reepham Town Hall: Steam engines – Christine Adams
- 17 April: Pilates demonstration – Joanna Norton
- 15 May: Wrapping turbans and saris – Ujjai and Manjit Kular
- 19 June: Marie Lloyd, music hall artist – Rachael Duffield

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

- 17 July: Cookery demonstration – Rita Vizvary
- 21 August: Sheepdog trials and training – Gerry Foster
- 18 September: Islam in Norfolk – Hajira Ben Moussa
- 16 October: History and etiquette of toast-mastering – Martin Wynne
- 20 November: Annual meeting
- 18 December: Fun and games and food

Finally, we would like to thank all our speakers over the past year, each of whom brought us something special. A very happy Christmas and New Year from Reepham WI.

Sue Robinson 01603 261771
reephamwi.weebly.com

Reepham Life grants for community projects

Reepham Life is inviting applications from voluntary organisations and community groups to help fund local projects.

Thanks to the fantastic support we have received from all our advertisers, Reepham Community Press will end its first calendar year with a small profit. For 2013, we will have covered all our costs for printing and distribution, and we plan to make the publication bigger, better and even more widely circulated.

As we are a not-for-profit social enterprise, we will reinvest any profits we make this year into worthy community projects and good causes.

If you are involved in a community organisation or association, and need funds for a specific project, write to us and tell us how much you need and why. The closing date is 31 December 2013. The awards will be announced in the February 2014 edition of Reepham Life.

■ Please email your application to info@reephamlife.co.uk or send to Reepham Community Press, Homerton House, 74 Cawston Road, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4LT.

More adult help needed for local scouting group

REEPHAM has a wonderful scouting headquarters at Smuggler's Lane with five acres of tree-lined nature providing a base for fun-packed activities and adventures for the town's children, enabling them to gain many life skills.

This is all brought together by the hard work of many people who have volunteered their time over the years, helping to raise funds to acquire the site and finance the building in 2005.

Thanks go to past helpers, fundraisers and executive members, especially to Leslie Tooley, group scout leader, who has now been made group president, a rare scouting honour indeed. He will be continuing on the executive team using his skills in a fundraising capacity.

The Scout Group relies on the voluntary work of many people other than the dedicated leaders that run the various programmes for the children: Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8-10½ years, Scouts 10½-14½ years old. We also have a main executive, a fundraising committee and a building committee.

The Scout Group is growing and we need more adult help, which will enable us to get even more out of the facility. And the more children who join the Group, particularly the Beaver Colony, the more fun they can have and the more we can do.

So why volunteer? The following are quotes from our current leaders:

- Laura, Cub leader: "Kids doing is what scouting is all about. Getting stuck in, doing it."
- Steve, Scout leader: "What I see is the guys that have been scouts in the past have usually grown up to be well-rounded people who give back to their community."
- Richard, Scout leader: "The biggest thrill I get is when a child achieves something they didn't think they could do."
- Karen, Scout leader: "It is the community aspect that brings people together – and it really works."
- Adam, Scout leader: "What I like about scouting is what we do, what we give to people and the skills we teach

them. The organisation is all-embracing and pushes boundaries, and the achievements are very rewarding."

● Neil, Cub leader: "Giving the children an experience that I had instead of being stuck on computers; giving them different experiences."

● Andy, Cub leader: "We are imparting the knowledge of outdoor life. I especially like to see their faces when they light that fire."

We are looking for help in all our groups, plus we have executive roles available, such as secretary and treasurer, and non-executive roles on the building or fundraising committees.

■ If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Simon Taylor, Chairman on 01603 879550 (before 7.30 pm) or sitaylor2ndreepham@hotmail.com

February 2014 issue editorial/ advertisement copy deadline:

20 January 2014

Contact: Judy Holland on 01603 308158 or email: jholland@reephamlife.co.uk

school life

Japan trip strengthens international link for Primary School

FOR many years Reepham Primary School has been linked with Sakado Azuma Kindergarten in Sakado, Japan. This October we had the opportunity to send a small group of staff to help enhance this link further.

Myself, the Key Stage 1 Leader and Reception Class Teaching Assistant were the lucky delegates, and we are very grateful to the Kindergarten in Japan as they not only funded the travel expenses, but also organised time at the kindergarten (in the nursery and main school), the local primary school and the junior high school.

We learnt so much about the Japanese education system, and in particular we were very impressed with the emphasis on outside learning and the independence of the children.

We were also surprised to find that even in high school blackboards are the norm rather than the more technological smart boards that we now use in the UK. There is also a huge emphasis on the arts,



Reepham Primary School Key Stage 1 Leader Mrs Dickens introducing 'Wilbur', a toy animal, to the Sakado pupils

in particular visual arts and music, in addition to English and maths.

Being part of the school community was invaluable, and we now understand so much more about Japanese society. We really feel we can impart this knowledge to our children and make our link an even more active, enjoyable and important one.

Since returning to school we have

shared many experiences and photographs with the children and parents. It really was a fantastic, life-changing opportunity!

Miriam Jones, Headteacher

Beaver Scouts receive award

SIX Reepham Beaver Scouts recently received their Bronze Award – the highest award that can be achieved by Beavers.



These young people all aged 6-8 years old have worked hard to gain this award and they and their families should be extremely proud.

Well done and congratulations.

Leslie Tooley, President, Reepham Scout Group



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WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Thursday 5 December

Reepham Christmas late night opening, 5 – 8 pm. Contact: Reepham Chamber of Commerce reephamchamber@gmail.com

Thursday 5 December

Visit Santa in his grotto, Norfolk Country Cottages, Market Place, Reepham, 5.30 – 7.30 pm. All proceeds to 2nd Reepham Scouts

Saturday 7 December

Reepham Art & Craft Fair, St Michael's, Reepham, 9 am – 3 pm. Come along for your Christmas presents: 20 art and craft stalls with a variety of special goods. Light refreshments available. Free entry/parking. For further details, contact Sandy Nevard on 01603 871600 or sandy.nevard@btinternet.com

Saturday 7-Sunday 8 December

Santa Specials (booking essential), Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Wednesday 11 December

Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) public meeting, Reepham High School & College, Sixth Form Block, Room C9, 7 pm. Contact the Reepham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) by calling non-emergency number 101 or email sntreepham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Wednesday 11 December

Reepham Town Council meeting, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Contact: Town Clerk 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

Thursday 12 December

Reepham WI, Christmas meal, Marsham Arms, 7 pm. Contact: Sue Robinson 01603 261771 or suzierobbo@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 13-Sunday 15 December

Santa Specials (booking essential), Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Saturday 14 December

Reepham Town Football Club presents Tin Pig at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Tickets £6 available from Diane's Pantry, The Cutting Station, Reepham Home Hardware and club members. Contact: Maureen Wilkinson 07887 442470/01603 870626

Saturday 14 December

Film: Scrooge (U), Bawdeswell Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30 pm; film starts at 7.30 pm; bar/café. Come and join us for mulled wine, mince pies and a mardle. If you have the need to dress to bring "spirit" to the evening, please do so, but it's not compulsory. For further information, contact Bawdeswell Village Cinema 01362 688749 or bawdeswellvillagecinema@gmail.com

Monday 16 December

Christmas Concert, St Mary's Church, Reepham, 7.30 pm, given by Norwich Cathedral Choir and friends. A festive evening of Advent and Christmas music for choir, organ, strings and percussion. Tickets £9, includes a glass of wine, available from Hampton's Home & Garden, by telephone on 01603 872686 or on the door. In aid of the Malawi Association for Christian Support. Contact: Kristina Bartlette kristina.bartlette@gmail.com

Tuesday 17 December

Reepham & District Gardening Club, Christmas Social Evening, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7 pm (please note change of time and date). An evening to relax with a live performance of "Up the Garden Path", a humorous musical with a horticultural flavour! Refreshments donated by members washed down with drinks provided by the club. All welcome to join in with the washing up afterwards. Contact: Judy Holland 01603 308158

Thursday 19 December

Reepham WI, Christmas Fun Evening, St Michael's, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Contact: Sue Robinson 01603 261771 or suzierobbo@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 20 December

Film: Frank and the Robot (12A), Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. Doors open 7.15pm; film starts at 7.30pm. Presented by Reepham Town Hall Management Committee. Tickets (£4 each) available from Reepham Post Office or the King's Arms

Friday 20-Sunday 22 December

Santa Specials (booking essential), Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Saturday 21 December

Visit Santa in his grotto, Bircham

Centre, Market Place, Reepham, 10 am – 12 noon. All proceeds to 2nd Reepham Scouts

Sunday 22 December

Reepham Runners cross-country run (10 km, two-lap course) starting at Whitwell Station, 10.30 am. Further information from Nick Bowden on 07802 969759

Monday 23 December

Annual candlelit carol service, Church of St Michael the Archangel, Booton, 6.30 pm. Children are invited to dress as a nativity character. Seasonal refreshments will be served. Please wear warm clothing and share transport if possible as parking is limited to the roadside only. Tel: Rita Buxton 01603 870200

Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Eve party and disco, free, 6-10 pm, Sidings Bar, Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Tuesday 31 December

New Year's Eve party and disco, free, 6 pm – 12.30 pm, Sidings Bar, Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Sunday 5 January

Reepham Runners cross-country run (10 km, two-lap course) starting at Whitwell Station, 10.30 am. Further information from Nick Bowden on 07802 969759

Sunday 5 January

Steam Sunday, Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Wednesday 8 January

Reepham Town Council meeting, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Contact: Town Clerk 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

Saturday 11 January

Film: Promised Land (15), Bawdeswell Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm; film starts at 7.30 pm; bar/café. Contact: Bawdeswell Village Cinema 01362 688749 or bawdeswellvillagecinema@gmail.com

Thursday 16 January

Reepham WI, St Michael's, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Tales of a tour operator for singles – Daniel Adams. Contact: Sue Robinson 01603 261771 or suzierobbo@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday 21 January

Reepham & District Gardening Club, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.45 pm. Dave Brady, Blickling Hall Estate Manager: Some historical background about Blickling and the work of the National Trust, in particular the management of the landscape and woodland and changes brought about by landscape design and the influence of two world wars. Contact: Judy Holland 01603 308158

Sunday 2 February

Steam Sunday, Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Tel: 01603 871694. Email: info@whitwellstation.com

Sunday 9 February

Reepham Runners cross-country run (10 km, two-lap course) starting at Whitwell Station, 10.30 am. Further information from Nick Bowden on 07802 969759

Wednesday 12 February

Reepham Town Council meeting, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Contact: Town Clerk 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

Tuesday 18 February

Reepham & District Gardening Club, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.45 pm. Gertrude Jekyll & Edwin Lutyens: a presentation by Liz Barnard. Contact: Judy Holland 01603 308158

Thursday 20 February

Reepham WI, St Michael's, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Relaxation and self-massage – Juyna Bibi Lewis. Contact: Sue Robinson 01603 261771 or suzierobbo@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 12 March

Reepham Town Council meeting, Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham, 7.30 pm. Contact: Town Clerk 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

We cannot accept event details or corrections by telephone. Please send to: Reepham Community Press, Homerton House, 74 Cawston Road, Reepham NR10 4LT or email: info@reephamlife.co.uk

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USEFUL INFO

Emergency services

Fire, emergency only: 999

Fire Station, School Road, Reepham 01328 862222 (office hours)

Police emergency only: 999, otherwise: 101 and ask for the Reepham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) or email sntreepham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Ambulance, emergency only: 999

Local representatives

Member of Parliament: Keith Simpson 020 7219 4053 or 01603 865763 or email: keith.simpson.mp@parliament.uk

Norfolk County Councillor: James Joyce 01263 587212 or email: james.joyce@norfolk.gov.uk

Broadland District Councillor: Chris Wheeler 01603 871799 or email: cllr.chris.wheeler@broadland.gov.uk

Town Council Chairman: Les Paterson 01603 871983 or email: les.paterson@yahoo.com

Shopping

Market Day: Wednesday

Early closing: Some shops Thursday and/or Saturday

Public transport

Daily (Monday to Saturday) coach services to Aylsham and Norwich via Cawston. There is also a once a week service to Fakenham, Wroxham and Dereham. Timetables are displayed outside the side window of the Police Station. For information Monday to Saturday 8:30 am – 5 pm 0845 300 6116

Local help

Reepham Patient Care Fund – Reepham Rover or general enquiries. Contact: Jeanette Overton 01603 870426

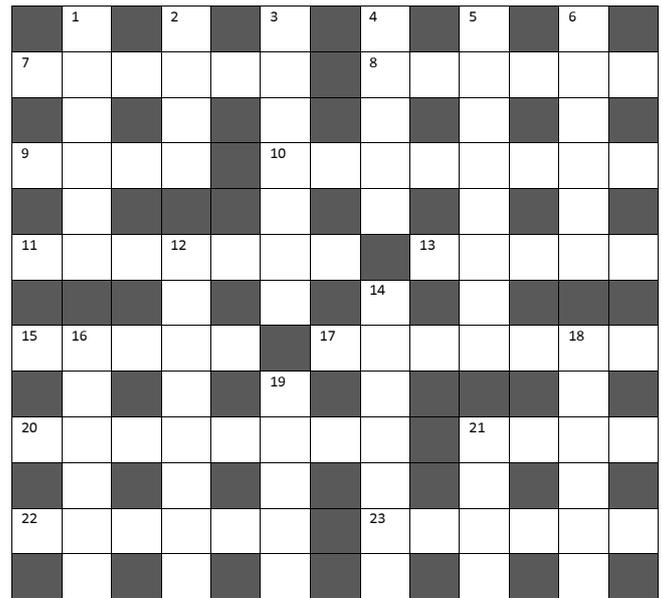
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Girton House, Market Place, Reepham. Wednesdays 10 am – 12.30 pm only, otherwise telephone Norwich office 01603 765783 for advice or 01603 660857 to make an appointment. Full information on services available at <http://www.ncab.org.uk>

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ACROSS

- 7 US mice fail at snooker (6)
8 Does cliff top them this season (6)
9 Short reel hid festive essential (4)
10 Control quadrupeds for others (8)
11 Jape the French played on a little water (7)
13 NCO alright with energy to make communications for Indians (5)
15 Girl for seasonal decoration (5)
17 Gap for first performance (7)
20 Asking certain delight (8)
21 Volcano can be tidy (4)
22 Girls for seasonal celebration (6)

23 Thinned perhaps in January (6)

DOWN

- 1 On reflection, I'm about love and 3Rs (6)
2 Care about a piece of land (4)
3 How we ding dong on high (7)
4 Pungent card I moved around (5)
5 Bends man about musicians (8)
6 Run of luck for a flash of hair colour (6)
12 Oval cads make spirit (8)
14 Stretches big meals (7)
16 Nicola confused for lubricant (3,3)
18 Ten are more 21 (6)
19 Prize for fighting worth taking shopping (5)
21 Festive bloke (4)

Solution on page 30

police

Some simple steps to avoid bicycle thefts

FOLLOWING the successes of Team GB at the London Olympics in 2012 and Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome winning the Tour de France in the past two years, there is a call for budding new cyclists in Norfolk to think carefully about bike security.

With more and more people buying new bikes and dusting off old rusty ones, police are warning cyclists to take the necessary steps to make sure their bike is safe.

There has been an increase in bike thefts in the area over the past few months as bikes are being left unlocked and unattended outside houses, schools, shops and in open spaces. Officers are concerned these figures could rise over the coming months if people do not se-

cure their cycles properly.

Cyclists can take simple steps to help avoid them becoming a victim of crime by recording and registering your cycle model, make and frame number and property-marking the item.

Other advice includes:

- invest in a quality lock – hardened steel D-shaped locks are recommended;
- lock your cycle through the frame and secure removable parts;
- always lock your cycle, even if you are only gone for a couple of minutes;
- make the lock hard for a thief to manoeuvre and face the lock to the ground;
- at home, keep your cycle in a secure



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garage, shed or inside your home.

Anyone with information about bike thefts or anyone who has been offered a bike for sale at a reduced price should contact Police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Reepham SNT will be holding their next public meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) on Wednesday 11 December at 7 pm at Reepham High School & College, Sixth Form Block, Room C9. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

■ **Contact the Reepham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) by calling non-emergency number 101 or email sntreepham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk**

REGULAR EVENTS

Bawdeswell Village Cinema Held second Saturday of each month in Bawdeswell Village Hall; doors open at 7.00 pm; film starts at 7.30 pm; the bar/café will be open for refreshments for all films. Tel: 01362 688749. Email bawdeswellvillagecinema@gmail.com

Bircham Centre Shop Market Place, Reepham. Opening hours 9 am – 1 pm, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, plus tea shop open at these times. Tel: 01603 879242. Email: birchamcentre@yahoo.co.uk

Bircham Under 5s Music Group Meets every Monday from 1.45 pm – 2.30 pm (term time only) upstairs in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. All under 5s and their adult welcome for lively fun. Only £1 per child. Contact: Louisa Dreisin 01603 879466 or louisa.dreisin@hotmail.co.uk

Bridge Club Meets every Monday from 7.30 pm in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham

British Legion, Men's Section Meets first Thursday in the month from 2 pm – 4 pm in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. Contact: Bernard Dye 01603 871791 or dye.reepham@btopenworld.com

British Legion, Women's Section Meets first Thursday in the month at 2.30 pm in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. Contact: Moira Dye 01603 871791 or dye.reepham@btopenworld.com

Cawston Amateur Theatrical Society Meets every Monday at 7 pm at Cawston Village Hall during school term time. We stage two productions per year and welcome members age 8 years and over from Cawston, Reepham and surrounding villages. Contact Liz Beard 07884 488642. Email liz.beard@btinternet.com or mail@catsdramagroup.com

Cawston Historical Society Meets fourth Thursday in the month from 7.15 pm – 9.15 pm at Cawston Village Hall

Citizens Advice Drop in for free advice every Wednesday from 10 am – 12.30 pm at the Police Station, Market Place, Reepham

The Craft Club Meets every Tuesday from 9.30 am – 12 noon at The Annexe, Oak Farm, Park Lane, Reepham. Knitting, embroidering, tapestry, card making and other crafts. Contact: Moira Dye 01603 871791 or dye.reepham@btopenworld.com

Decibells Handbell Ringers Meets every Thursday from 10 am – 12 noon in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. We are available to play for events, groups and concerts. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Tamara Goulding 01603 870249 or playford1@btinternet.com

Kurling Meets every Tuesday from

2 pm – 4 pm in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. First session no charge, but if you do decide to join us it will only cost you £2 per session, with tea/coffee/biscuits included. Equipment provided. Contact: Gwenda Dove 01603 870598 or grandove@doves.eclipse.co.uk

Line Dance with the Wednesday Weavers Meet every Wednesday from 1 pm – 2 pm beginners, 2 pm – 4 pm beginners and improvers, in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. All ages, easily paced, casual dress. Tea/squash break. Country music-based 60s/70s golden oldies/pop. £2 per session, first taster free. Contact: Sandra Williams 01603 872102

Rayzone Youth Club Meets every Friday at Reepham Methodist Church, 7.30 – 9 pm (unless notified otherwise). Open to all Year 5-11 students. Subs 50p. Games, chat, tuck... The autumn term will have a mixture of regular sessions (with a choice of activities) and themed evenings. Contact: Claire Mead, Rayzone Youth Worker 07748 502603 or rayzoneyouthworker@gmail.com

Reepham Badminton Club Meets at the Reepham High School Sports Hall every Thursday evening during autumn and spring terms. Junior session (for Year 7 upwards) from 7.00 pm – 8.15 pm. Adult session from 8.15 pm – 10 pm. Tel: 01603 873244 or 01263 584221

Reepham Business Network Meets on alternate Thursdays from 7.30 am – 9 am at V's Café, Townsend Corner, Reepham. There is no membership charge – just pay £6 for breakfast, but please let us know if you intend to come. Contact: David Laws 01603 871126 or 07933 149810. Email: info@reephambusinessnetwork.org.uk

Reepham Carpet Bowls Club Meets every Monday from 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm and Monday evenings 7.30 pm – 10.30 pm in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. Membership is £1 per year and £2 each session, including tea and biscuits. Children half price. Contact: Eve Webber 01603 871943 or Doris Frost 01603 870845

Reepham Chamber of Commerce Meets every month – for the date and venue of the next meeting see the Chamber website at www.reepham.uk.com. The Chamber exists to promote businesses in and around Reepham and to act as a channel for sharing information. New members are always welcome. Contact: Brenda Gostling 01603 870582 or reephamchamber@gmail.com

Reepham Cluster Area Sure Start Bumps to 5s Meets every Friday from 1.15 pm – 3 pm (term time only) at Stimpson's Piece,

Reepham. Play, chat and snacks including toy library every third week. No charge

Reepham Country Market Held every Wednesday from 8 am – 11 am, in The Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. Home-made cakes, pies, biscuits, savoury dishes, vegetables, fruit in season, free range eggs, jams, jellies, chutneys, etc

Reepham & District Day Centre Meets every Wednesday from 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Welcome coffee on arrival, home cooked lunch and social time. Contact: Beth Rossetti 01603 870393 or Pauline Cooper 01603 871230

Reepham & District Gardening Club Meets on the third Tuesday in the month at 7.45 pm (except for the AGM, which starts at 7.30 pm) in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. Visitors and new members welcome. Contact: Judy Holland 01603 308158

Reepham & District Photographic Club Meets on the third Thursday of each month from 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm in The Sidings Marquee, Whitwell & Reepham Railway, Whitwell Road, Reepham. Contact: M.R. Battams 01603 870874 or mickthemole9@hotmail.com

Reepham & District Rotary Club Meets 6.45 pm for 7.15 pm every Monday at St Michael's, Reepham. Contact: John Tym 07760 272422 reservations@reephamrotary.org.uk or Robert Buxton, President 01603 870200

Reepham Golf Society Meets monthly at various courses around Norfolk and Suffolk. Contact: Mark Smith 07824 849397 or Dean Mears 07825 299634/01603 870814 (day time)

Reepham Good Companions The Friday Club meets every Friday at 2 pm in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. The Reepham Rover will bring you and take you home if transport is a problem. Contact: Eve Webber 01603 871943

Reepham Knit and Natter Meets on the first Monday in the month from 2 pm – 4 pm in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. Contact: Brenda Palmer 01603 871641

Reepham Methodist Church Station Road, Reepham. Sunday Worship at 10.30 am. Coffee morning/Traidcraft every Wednesday from 9.30 am – 12 noon. Contact: The Minister 01263 732102

Reepham Raiders Dodgeball club meets for training every Wednesday from 6.00–7.30 pm at Reepham High School. New players aged 15 and over, both male and female, are welcome. Contact: Henry Skinner henry.skinner@hotmail.co.uk

Reepham Runners Meet Sunday mornings 8.30 am start; Tuesday evening sessions 6.30 pm start, (which offers more structured

training sessions with a coach and is suitable for all standards, including beginners); Friday mornings 9 am for a slower run; and Thursdays 6.30 pm. Meet at car park of Stimpson's Piece, Reepham. Contact: Jenni Egmore 01603 308192 or jenni@egmore.co.uk

Reepham Singers Meet every Thursday (term times) at 8 pm in the Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham. We are a small, female voice choir. Contact: Louisa Dreisin 01603 879466 or louisa.dreisin@hotmail.co.uk

The Reepham Society Holds public meetings from February to November, on the second Tuesday in selected months at 7.30 pm at St Michael's, Reepham. Contact: Christine Powell 01603 879184 or contact@reepham.org.uk

Reepham Toddler Club Meets every Wednesday (term times) from 9.15 am – 11.15 am at Stimpson's Piece, Reepham. Pregnant mums and parent/carers with children from newborn to nursery age welcome. Toys, crafts and activities and a snack time (with a cup of coffee or tea for you too!). £2.50 per first child and 50p per additional sibling. Health visitor is also present at each session

Reepham Town Council Meets on the second Wednesday of the month (excluding August), at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall, Church Street, Reepham. Contact: Jo Boxall, Town Clerk 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamnorfolk-tc.gov.uk

Reepham WI Meets on the third Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm at St Michael's, Reepham. Women of all ages are welcome to join. Contact: Sue Robinson 01603 261771 or suzierobbo@hotmail.co.uk

Rock Solid, one of Rayzone's (Reepham Area Youth Project) Friday clubs, meets alternate Fridays at St Michael's, Reepham, from 6 – 7 pm. All Year 5-9 students are welcome to come along for games and challenges – looking at life skills. Subs 50p. Contact: Claire Mead, Rayzone Youth Worker 07748 502603 or rayzoneyouthworker@gmail.com

St Mary's Sunday Worship at 10.30 am, followed by refreshments in St Michael's. For details of services, see the church noticeboard. Contact: Revd. Margaret Dean 01603 879275

Yoga Classes Held Monday 6.15 pm – 7.45 pm (£6) and Tuesday 10.30 am – 12 noon (£5). Also chair-based exercises for mobility, flexibility and strength, breathing exercises and relaxation, Tuesday 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm (no charge, donations only). St Michael's, Reepham. Contact: Angela Thompson 01603 870800 or ken_thompson@lineone.net

**February 2014
issue deadline:
20 January 2014**

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Found: Digital camera in Reepham Market Place on Wednesday 20 November 2013. Tel: 01603 872457

Smith Corona electric portable typewriter, comes with spare ribbons, printwheel and user's manual. Cost £90 when purchased new (as new, unused present), £40 ono. Tel: 01603 871448

Mobility four-wheel scooter: Cadiz Shoprider, capable and stable in gardens and grass, as well as streets, one lady owner, VGC including batteries, lights, etc. Open to offers. Tel: 01603 872498

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For sale: two-seat bed settee, pulls out to double bed, clean and in very good condition £35. Tel: 01603 870995

For sale: 24 Stephen King paperbacks including complete Dark Tower series £12.50; 23 fantasy/sci-fi books incl. Eddings, Hobb, Kerr £12; 30+ paperback novels incl. Brown, Rice, Erskin £15.00; £30 lot. Tel: 01603 871640

Wanted: community correspondents. Reepham Life aims to inform local residents about the everyday life of the district. It can only do this by drawing on the knowledge of the people who know best – the people who live here. If you are interested in becoming a community correspondent, please contact the editor by email

gfisher@reephamlife.co.uk or call 01603 308158

Aquarium, Clearseal tropical fish tank VGC, complete with stand, hinged hood, heater, thermostat, pump, 48 x 12 inches £75. Tel: 01603 872498

I knit for charity. If you would like me to knit to your pattern with your wool or use my patterns and wool, please contact me. I also have some items already knitted up for sale. Tel: Edna 01603 872510

For sale: Russell Hobbs Mini Oven, with twin hot plates; bought in 2008, little used, condition as new; receipt and instructions available £25. Tel: 07721 855121

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Free ads can be emailed to: freeads@reephamlife.co.uk or left at Very Nice Things, Market Place, Reepham
Please include your name and address (not for publication) so we can verify your entry

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Cromer
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01263 512 003

North Walsham
Canada House
4 Grammar School Road
North Walsham NR28 9JH
01692 404 351

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INTRODUCTION TO YOUR COMPUTER AND THE INTERNET

Mon 27 Jan - 24 Feb (excl 18 Feb) 1.30pm-3pm
This course is free of charge with only a £3.50 enrolment fee to pay, with Simon Pocklington

This course is designed for people completely new to computers and the internet. Your tutor will explain the basics of computer use and how to explore the internet and use email to stay in touch with friends safely and easily.

INTERNET SHOPPING

Mon 3 March - 24 March. 1.30pm-3pm.
This course is free of charge with only a £3.50 enrolment fee to pay, with Simon Pocklington

This course is a follow on to the introductory course or for those already using the internet and email. It covers how to buy and sell items online. Your tutor will explain how to make sure online transactions are as safe as possible, how to make sure you are dealing with reputable people and how to use ebay to both buy and sell.

GROW YOUR OWN FOR BEGINNERS AND NOVICES

Tues 4 Feb - 18 March (excl 18 Feb)
10am-12 midday. Only £22pp for 6 weeks
(subsidised by our lottery funding, normally £50pp)
with Nigel Boldero

The course will aim to provide beginners and novices with basic advice and support in starting to grow their own food or to build on early experience. The course will provide a mixture of teaching, discussion, group and individual activities over six sessions.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 27 Jan - 10 March (excl 17 Feb)

6.15pm-8pm £45pp (concessions £39pp)

This course is for beginners and those who are familiar with using compact or Digital SLR on automatic settings. Covering composition and framing showing how to improve using simple techniques. To get the best out of this part of the course you will need to be computer literate. Please bring your camera with fully charged batteries, USB lead and a memory stick for all sessions.

AUTHENTIC INDIAN COOKING WORKSHOP

Sat 1st Feb - 2pm-5pm at Reephham High School
£25pp plus ingredients. By Julie Philpot
www.plantocook.co.uk

Following Julie's previous successful workshops she is back with new recipes! Would you like to learn how to cook more authentic Indian dishes? A sumptuous chicken curry (can use quorn as vegetarian option), together with aloe gobi and paneer and spinach is on the menu. Come and learn to cook and take home and enjoy!

INTRODUCTION TO BREADMAKING WORKSHOP

Sat 1st March - 1pm-5pm at Reephham High School
£25pp plus ingredients. By Sue Hudson
www.breadworkshops.co.uk

An informal, fun workshop teaching beginners and those with some baking experience how to make several different styles of bread from scratch. The best way to learn is the "hands-on" approach giving you the confidence to continue baking at home. You will make hot freshly baked loaves to take home and enjoy.

DINNER PARTY WORKSHOP

Sat 8th March 2pm-5pm at Reephham High School
£25 pp plus ingredients. By Julie Philpot
www.plantocook.co.uk

Do you struggle when catering for a dinner party or are you looking for some new ideas? Well impress your friends and learn three dishes to make up a three course meal – **Starter** Red pepper and tomato bavarois **Main** Stuffed chicken thighs with raspberry & port sauce, **Dessert** Chocolate & pecan tarts (veg option available).

For details of all our other courses and workshops or for further information please visit our website

www.reephamlearningcommunity.co.uk

email rlc@reephamhigh.com or call 01603 308133 (term time) or Sandie Athow 07796 698127 (other times)