



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill

 facebook.com/beck.council

December 2025 – January 2026

Hello Readers

As always, we like to report on the Remembrance Wreath laying at Lambie Close Memorial and the War graves at St John's Church, the memorial service in the church was well attended also. The RAF was represented by CPL French, currently based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and originates from Beck Row, however this year there was no official USAF representation due to the shutdown of the US Government.

Cheenie Papinjeau made the journey from her home in the USA and played the Last Post at both the war memorial and the war graves at St John's Church.



The Christmas Trees should be in place the weekend of the 29th/30th November and the lights switched on. Inside this issue of the Beacon you will find the route that Santa's Sleigh will be taking on Monday 22nd December.

We need your help – is there anyone who lives in the area of the 'Birds Estate' Blackbird etc, we need a volunteer to deliver the Beacon. Unfortunately until we get a new 'deliverer' there is no-one available and that area will not receive a copy of the Beacon.

If you are interested in becoming the deliverer, please can you contact **Kay Sallis on 07484 107694**, who will give you all the relevant information.

I think that just leaves me to say a massive thank you to all involved with the putting the Beacon together and delivering in all weathers, and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sue French

What's Going On Locally...

St John's Church

Sunday Services 9.30am

1st Sunday – Encounter Service (in hall) and follows on at 11am with Messy Church (for families)

2nd Sunday – Service of the Word

3rd Sunday – Lightwave Breakfast Church (in hall)

4th Sunday – Holy Communion



Community Events (by donation)

1st Tuesday – Lunch 12 noon
(book with Kathy 07963 958017)

2nd Tuesday – Soup and Chickenfoot 12 noon

3rd Tuesday – Coffee Morning 10am

4th Tuesday – Soup and Bingo 12 noon

Temp contact details - The best church contact is the Rural Dean, Revd Canon Chris Childs on 01638 429212 or revcchilds@aol.com

BECK ROW LADIES CLUB

2pm – 4pm

2nd Monday of each month
St John's Church Hall, Beck Row

The Methodist Church

Sunday Services

Beck Row Methodist Church 11am

Holywell Row Methodist Church 6.30pm

Rev. David McAloon - 01842 753819

The Mildenhall Scale Model Club

now meets in St. John's Church Hall

7pm - 10pm

every 1st and 3rd
Wednesday

Gary Wenko • T: 01638 714543

THURSDAY CLUB

2pm – 4pm

3rd Thursday of the month
(over 50s)

at Beck Row Methodist Church

For further details please
contact Maggie Walker
on 01638 715447



St J's

Stay and Play

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Christmas is fast approaching, and we look forward to seeing you at our annual Crib and Christingle Service, which will take place at 4pm on Christmas Eve in St John's. This is immensely popular with families, as a gentle reminder of what Christmas is all about – the birth of a baby whose influence far surpasses anything else, before or since. A baby born in darkness who went onto be the Light of the World. Everyone loves to hear the familiar story, and make the Christingles, before lighting them and singing the familiar songs of Christmas. When the service is over, it is dark, and Christmas has begun.

All our painting, decorating and repairs have finally been completed, and we are pleased that the Church and Hall are both looking in such good condition. We have been fortunate to receive legacies and grants to get this work done, for which we thank all those involved.

The Hall is very well used and is available for hire at just £10 per hour. It is perfect for children's parties, meetings, exercise and craft classes. Please contact Maggie on 07937 846801 if you wish to make a booking.

The winter programme of Warm Rooms started out with a scenic coach trip around Norfolk, which was well supported. First stop was the Lavender Centre at Heacham for coffee, then around the coast to Wells for lunch. We then headed to Cromer and inland to Fakenham Garden Centre for our third stop. It was a beautiful day, and the countryside looked marvellous from the elevation of the coach.

With October came the regular programme of 1st Tuesday – Lunch, 2nd Tuesday – Soup & Chickenfoot, 3rd Tuesday – Coffee Morning, 4th Tuesday – Soup & Bingo. Please come along and join us, it is all free, but donations accepted.

St J's Stay and Play continues on Wednesday mornings, with an off-shoot which is Coffee Connections on the 2nd and 4th Fridays 9-11am. An opportunity for mums to make new friends, learn new skills and focus on themselves rather than their children. This is a Lightwave initiative, run by Angie who also leads the Encounter Service, Messy Church and Breakfast Church.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and New Year, from all at St John's.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON BINGO

at
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, BECK ROW
 2pm

£5 per book to play, refreshments and raffle

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025: 6th December

2026: 10th January, 7th February, 7th March, 11th April



Beck Row Methodist Church

Thursdays

5.30pm & 7pm

with Terri

07725 761922

Fridays

7am & 9am

with Caroline

07516 668517

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Everywhere we look during the month of December seems to be themed with Christmas - there's events on, food and presents to buy and soon there'll be trees, decorations and crackers everywhere too. At the reserve, however, life for the wildlife goes on as normal and we will be making provision to keep the birds fed over the festive period, and to keep the trails open for visitors throughout the holiday season. The toilets and Visitor Centre will be closed from 24 December to 1 January, but on any day, you will still be able to park up, walk round the reserve and enjoy the wildlife that lives here.

So, what might you see? Nearer the Visitor Centre, small birds like Siskin and Marsh tit should be using the feeders - these are two species we only tend to see at the feeders during the winter months, along with Long-tailed tits. There may also be the odd Redpoll mixed in with them or even a beautiful Brambling if we get a cold snap - these are very closely related to Chaffinches and often mingle with them, but they have beautiful, speckled orange, black and white plumage.



Brambling
Photo: Lee Gregory

As you walk along the riverbank there should be some Whooper swans visible on the Hockwold Washes - and depending on the time of day you could see quite a lot - the overnight roost now numbers hundreds, with many still present at first light and until around 9am. Some will stay all day, and we may even have a few of their rarer cousins - Bewick's swans - with them. Bewick's are smaller, with more black on their bills and their calls are different. They also tend to keep to themselves in their own little group, often near the edge of the main group. Ducks like Shoveler, Teal, Wigeon and Gadwall should be present on the Washland too, with egrets and herons around the edges and maybe even a Kingfisher flying down the river.

If you happen to come towards the end of the day, our raptor roost will have built up by December and could be quite impressive. We get a wide variety of birds of prey attracted to the reedbeds as the light fades, both for roosting and hunting in. The majority of these raptors will be Marsh harriers, but one or two Sparrowhawk and Kestrel are common and sometimes Barn owl, Peregrine, Short-eared owl or Merlin are present too. Lots of small birds like Pied wagtails, Reed buntings and Bluetits love roosting in the reeds too, and these attract some of the more nimble raptors.

If you stay to watch the roost coming in, don't be fooled into thinking that's the end of the show - on your walk back towards the car park, our visitors and staff often see Woodcock and sometimes a Barn owl, and during the winter hearing a Tawny owl hooting around the car park or along the entrance track is common.

We hope that our festive message to all our supporters has been delivered - that the reserve is here and full of wildlife and vistas for everyone to enjoy over Christmas and New Year, no matter how you celebrate the season. We hope to see you soon!

By Heidi Jones - Visitor Experience Officer,
RSPB Lakenheath Fen,
Station Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9AD

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Bacon and Cabbage Pie

Don't be put off by the word cabbage if it is not the family favourite because this is a good way of serving it up to the children, especially if it is a lovely dark green!!!

Ingredients

- 600g raw (shredded) or cooked cabbage
- 90g butter
- 1 medium onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- 60g plain flour
- 500ml chicken/vegetable stock
- 600g cooked bacon or ham or chicken in small pieces
- Handful fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 100ml cream
- Pack of filo pastry
- 100g melted butter



Method

1. If using bacon fry in a little butter and set aside. Melt 30g butter (medium heat) in a large pan/frying pan, when foaming add chopped onion and cook 5 minutes until soft.
2. Add garlic (chopped/minced) and cook 3 minutes. Remove to a plate.
3. Add the remaining 60g butter and melt. When foaming add the flour and cook for 1 minute.
4. Stir in the stock a little at a time stirring all the time and reduce the heat.
5. Add raw cabbage now. Simmer for 5 minutes still stirring to stop any sticking to the pan.
6. Add cooked onion, garlic, bacon, cream, parsley and now cooked cabbage if using.
7. Add salt and pepper to your choice, but not that much if using a salty stock. Best to add at the end.
8. Mix well and pour into a 25cm pie dish. Cool completely.
9. Heat oven to 200°C/fan 180°C. Lay out a sheet of filo one at a time and using the 100g butter melted, brush well.
10. Scrunch each sheet gently and cover a part of the pie. (I bought a pack of 10 sheets, but only used 3 or 4, so froze the rest for future use.
11. Cover the top of the pie completely in scrunched filo to seal in the contents.
12. Bake for 40 minutes until pastry golden and pie bubbling.
This may be an opportunity to empty the fridge of left overs! Chicken and mushroom is good with a little tarragon added.
13. Serve with new/mashed potatoes and more vegetables if you wish.



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Winter Crime Prevention: Keeping Our Community Safe

PC 503 Scott Cameron, Community Police Officer

As nights grow longer and the festive season approaches, certain crimes tend to rise. Here's what to watch for - and how to protect yourself, your family, and your property.

Seasonal Crime Trends

- **Burglary:** Peaks in Nov & Jan. Gifts visible through windows attract thieves.
- **Vehicle Crime:** "Frosting" thefts occur when cars are left running to defrost.
- **Fraud & Scams:** Online shopping scams, fake delivery texts, and phishing emails increase.
- **Shed Theft:** Tools and bikes are targeted in poorly secured sheds and garages.

What To Watch For

- Suspicious behaviour near homes or vehicles, especially at dusk.
- Unfamiliar vehicles repeatedly driving through residential areas.
- Unexpected callers asking odd questions or offering unsolicited services.

Winter Prevention Tips

- **Home:** Use light timers, keep valuables out of sight, lock up, and dispose of packaging discreetly.
- **Vehicles:** Don't leave cars running. Remove valuables and consider steering locks or trackers.
- **Online:** Be cautious with payment requests. Use strong passwords and shop from trusted sites.
- **Community:** Let neighbours know if you're away. Report any concerns around suspicious behaviour on your street.

Road Safety

- Drive to the conditions of the road – slow down on icy or wet roads.
- Check tyres, lights and antifreeze.
- Keep a torch, blanket, snacks and charger in your car.
- Cyclists: Ensure you are visible at all times. Lights, reflectors and helmets should be a minimum.

Final Word

Crime prevention works best when we look out for each other. Stay alert, stay safe and don't hesitate to reach out if you need advice or support.

Local Man awarded Long Service Medal

Local Man – Mark Lucas pictured here receiving his ISM (Imperial Service Medal) after working for the MOD at RAF Mildenhall for 38 years.

The medal was pinned on by Lt Col Charles H Hale at Kilgore College in Texas.

Lt Col Hale was based at RAF Mildenhall and is a good friend and respected USAF member.



An Honest Look at the Property Market

by Brad Jaggard, Beatrice Carter Property

Let's skip the sales pitch. I know what you're really wondering: "Have house prices dropped, or is that just what someone at the Beck Row car boot said?"

The latest figures from Bricks & Logic show 12-month price changes across East Anglia. Most of the region, from Norwich to Bury St Edmunds, and **yes, even Beck Row** is shaded in blue, which signals that prices have come down slightly, in some areas by as much as 4% to 6%. But before you panic-sell and retreat deep into the Fens to live among the reeds, let's keep perspective.

Zooming in on Beck Row and the IP28 area: the average sale price is £292,000, with a 2.6% decrease over the past year. The average time on market is 62 days. Three-bed semis remain the most popular, and there have been 154 completions in the past 12 months. In short: yes, the market's cooled a bit but it hasn't fallen apart. If you bought more than 3-5 years ago, you're almost certainly still ahead.

So what does that mean for you? First, you haven't "missed the market", you've just missed the frenzy. Homes that are priced well and presented properly are still selling. Second, it's a needs-based market. People are still moving for jobs, schools and lifestyle but the speculative browsers are gone.

It could still be a good time to move, especially if you're buying and selling in the same market. A small dip on your sale price might be balanced out on your purchase. Plus, there's less chaos. No bidding wars, no overnight decisions, just serious buyers and less stress.

If you're wondering what this all means for your home, I'm happy to chat. No pressure. No sales pitch. Just honest advice from someone who knows the market or if you don't want to talk to anyone, here my QR CODE.

QR CODE
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Beatrice Carter

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The season has started with a full weekend of 3 matches of Lakenheath Youth, U11s and U9s on the Saturday and Sunday. Some Beck Row youngsters are now playing for the Lakenheath teams and any more interested contact details are below. You can also come to the club when a match is being played and speak to the Lakenheath coach or Graham Rose the Chairman who will be in the clubhouse kitchen along with his wife Josie serving refreshments. This particular weekend saw record takings for these to which Graham says is very welcome for club funds. Any other visitors in the area during matches are very welcome to partake as well.



This BFP article from 2002 has the report of a friendly organised by Tony Malloy who ran the newspaper shop (where the Sushi restaurant is now) between RAF Mildenhall (coach Eve Anderson) and Beck Row FC. It raised £400 back then for St Nicholas Hospice and was an ideal way to bring the two communities together.

A few years ago Rob Walker, who has recently moved to live in West Row, was a great help to the club and on one particular occasion cooked (he is a chef) for a hall full of people attending a race night in aid of club funds. Congratulations are in order as he and his mother-in-law Wendy appeared on the quiz show Pointless in October, got the Pointless Trophy but very narrowly missed getting the jackpot.



We complete this report with the sad news of the death of Ray Flatt. He was a member of the Football Club committee for many years and when we built the new clubhouse, which replaced the old builder's hut with no running water or electricity, it was Ray who went every day to supervise the work that was going on. He even, in immaculate handwriting, wrote a daily diary which will add to the archives for ever. He worked for the MOD on RAF Lakenheath from 1971 retiring in 2001 where he had been a project manager for building works. At his retirement party the room was full of colleagues, present and past who came to pay their respects for a man whom they admired for his knowledge, experience and diligence. After that he went back to do some work for the MOD and some directly with contractors when finally completely retiring at the age of 69 years.

He spent the end of his life in Mabbs Hall in Mildenhall and is a much missed and revered member of the community.

Rest in Peace Ray.

Contact details are as follows:- Chairman: Graham Rose 01638 714968
Youth Coach: Richard Horrex, richardhorrex@gmail.com, 07540 201 223



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We now have 40% of the world's population of Chinese Water deer and they all live here in East Anglia. They originated from

Whipsnade Zoo. They can now be found in water meadows along the banks of rivers and in reed beds. I now come across them frequently.

They have longer ears than Muntjac deer and a teddy bear-like face. They are a light grey colour in winter and brown and gray in summer. Their bark is very much like a Muntjac deer. They are also known as the vampire deer because of their sabre teeth that can retract or extend out of their mouths.

They are somewhat more timid than the ubiquitous Muntjacs that now frequent Fiveways Roundabout! The Chinese Water deer population has expanded well and as they are becoming extinct in some Chinese provinces it is thought some will be reintroduced from here back to China. Talk about 'coal to Newcastle'!



Gardening Tips

As we go into winter it is important to prepare for late winter and early spring. Probably the best plant to put in for this time period in terms of easy to grow and being great value is the wallflower. They will come in a bag ready to plant. They can be put in a bucket overnight just to hydrate them and then be planted in any soil without fertilizer during November and December. Some may look rather wilted when you plant them but don't be discouraged. Take off any dead leaves, then plant in bunches or singly. Wallflowers come in all colours and could well be the first plants in bloom in the new year.

Later on, seeds can be taken off plants when they turn brown. Also cuttings can be taken in early summer. Take a green stem and cut off the flowers and most of the foliage, then plant in compost. The name 'wallflower' is a bit of a misnomer as they will grow in any flower bed. But they probably flower fastest up close to a wall. Wallflowers are a simple, economical way to cover a relatively large area with early spring splashes of colour.



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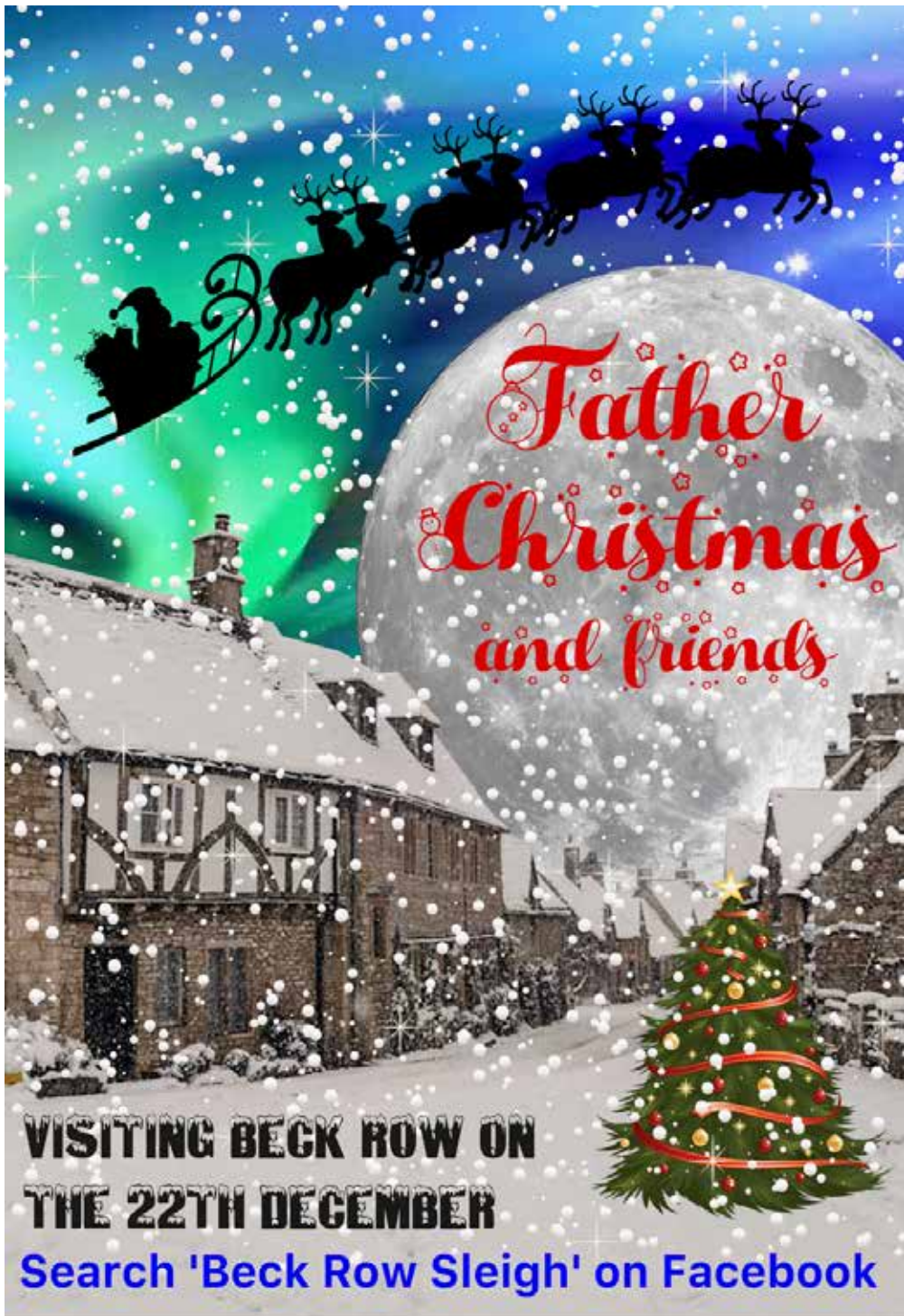
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SANTA'S SLEIGH JOURNEY



Santa's sleigh will be making its annual tour of the village on the evening **Monday 22nd December, 2025**.

Listen out for the music and come outside and give Father Christmas and friends a wave.

The proposed route is listed below, but we will also have the online Santa Tracker up and running so you can track the sleigh's GPS position in real time. The link will be posted on the "Beck Row Sleigh" Facebook page on the day along with progress updates. The route will be subject to change if parked cars make roads inaccessible so, please park considerately (especially at the ends of roads and in turning areas).

The sleigh, tractors and other support vehicles will leave Aspal Lane Nursery around 4pm following the same route as last year:

- Holywell Row**
- Aspal Lane, Parkside**
- Hicfield Road, Lizards Way**
- Aspal Lane**
- Girling Way**
- Holmsey Green (stopping at Beck Row Parish Hub)**
- Oak Drive**
- Farmers View, Smokehouse View, Harrow Drive**
- A1101 to Sycamore Drive, Linden Walk, Harvester Lane, Barleycorn Way, Pasture Way**
- Tolly Cobbold Estate**
- Rookery Drove, Blackbird Road, Falcon Way, Willow Park**
- A1101 past The Grove, Louis Drive and Orchard Meadows**
- A1101/The Street past Tithe Avenue**
- Vickers Road, Clements Way, Lambie Close**
- A1101 to St John's Street past Queens Close**

We have tried to include as many roads as possible. The sleigh is a large vehicle so is sadly unable to negotiate the smaller roads and cul de sacs, but with most roads we drive up and back to give you time to come outside.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at this community event.

Summer and Jasmine

At the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 14th October, a very spirited young lady came to address the meeting (her mum actually read the speech).

My name is Summer Moxom, I'm 13 years old, and I live in Beck Row.

I have a twin sister called Jasmine, who has Cerebral Palsy, which means she uses a wheelchair to access outside.

This speech is based on the inclusion for wheelchair users, as there are things they want to be able to do, but unfortunately are not able to. A small but effective topic is a public/local park.

You don't see a lot of wheelchair friendly equipment in our local park. This is what needs to change. You will hear arguments that there are already accessible parks, but there are not enough. The travel time to reach one can be over 30 minutes! This is why inclusion for all is important. This is why I'm talking about this! When I say, "inclusion for all", I mean everyone.

Children who can walk and who can't, sensory issues or none. We all deserve something to do even if we can't use the things others can. A disabled swing, roundabout, or even sensory area could make someone feel included and seen.

In terms of expense, everything disabled-friendly is expensive.

However, a child would rather have 5 things they could use than 10 things they could only use 2 of. 28.9% of the West Suffolk population has a disabled person registered at their house. Although our area may have a much smaller number, particularly children, I am speaking on behalf of this minority.

On a sunny day, a common place for a young child to want to go would be the local park. Most of the children in West Suffolk would be able to go and play at their local play park. But what about the small percentage of children that can't go there, simply because they are unable to do so.



A couple of examples of adapted equipment

When I was younger, I couldn't go to the park as much as I wanted to. This is because the parks were not suitable for my twin sister, Jasmine. Jasmine is in a wheelchair, so she would have to have wheelchair-friendly equipment to be able to have something to do. To get to a park that was inclusive for me and my sister, we would have to travel quite far. Therefore, we missed a lot of opportunities to go there.

Beck Row Park is our local park, which we have seen lots of investment in, such as the pirate ship and multiple zip wire repairs. It has cost thousands. It has been improved, but it has never been made inclusive. This is what I'm trying to change. This is what the small minority want to change. Inclusion may not be too important to all, but is very important to some, and I'm speaking for that some. I'm speaking for those few children who don't get the opportunity to go to their local park and play, for the few siblings who can't go to the park because their brother or sister are unable to.

Everyone should feel included everywhere, even at their small local park.

Thank you.



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The Trustees have approved the distribution of £10 to men and women residents of the Parish, either married or single, **WHO RECEIVE AN OLD AGE PENSION** or are 60, female, or 65, male, (widows/widowers of any age are also eligible). To obtain this gift please **note carefully** the following conditions.

Payment will be made **to persons living in the village of the venues shown below when EVIDENCE OF AGE AND ADDRESS IS PRODUCED. THIS CAN BE A PASSPORT, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, D.H.S.S. LETTER, HEATING GRANT LETTER, BANK STATEMENT OR COMBINATIONS TO CONFIRM AGE AND ADDRESS.**

Anyone applying for payment on behalf of someone eligible who is unable to attend in person **MUST PRODUCE TO THE TRUSTEES PRESENT A LETTER WRITTEN TO AUTHORISE THE COLLECTION OF THE MONEY, SIGNED BY THAT PERSON), AND EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY AS ABOVE.**

VERY IMPORTANT: The distribution will take place **ONLY** at the places and on the dates and times shown below:

WEST ROW - The New Village Hall, on Tuesday, 2nd December 2025 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm

BECK ROW - Church Room, St. Johns Street, on Wednesday, 3rd December 2025 between 2.15pm and 3.30pm

MILDENHALL - St John The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, St. Johns Close, on Thursday, 4th December 2025 between 10.30am and 12.00pm

&

- Jubilee Centre, Recreation Way, on Thursday 4th December 2025 between 2.15pm and 3.30pm

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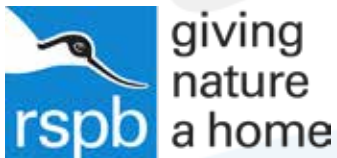


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Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen Nov 2025 - Feb 2026

Places for all events need to be booked online - please visit <https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents> to read more and book tickets.

Wild Wetland Winter Guided Walks – Sundays 23 November, 11 January (9:30am-12:30pm)
Wrap up warm and join us to see the best that winter has to offer - we will be looking for seasonal highlights with our knowledgeable guides on this beautiful reserve!

RSPB members £12 (£6 for Under 18s); non-RSPB members £15 (£7.50 for Under 18s).

Raptors in the Reedbed – Sunday 25 Jan, Saturday 14 Feb 2026

Watch the reserve come to light as darkness falls, and birds of prey gather to hunt or roost in the reedbeds.

RSPB members £12 (£6 for Under 18s); non-RSPB members £15 (£7.50 for Under 18s).

Winter Walking Safari – Sunday 8 February 2026 (9:30am-3:30pm)

Many parts of the reserve aren't usually open to the public, and this behind the scenes tour provides a great opportunity to see the wildlife hiding out in pools and reedbeds which aren't visible from the current visitor trails. This walk is just over six miles long and will include a visit to Botany Bay SSSI.

RSPB members £20 (£10 for Under 18s); non-RSPB members £25 (£12.50 for Under 18s).

Moth Mornings – 27 February (10am-11am)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths - join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

RSPB members £5 (£2.50 for Under 18s); non-RSPB members £6 (£3 for Under 18s).

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FARMING DIARY

The whole country is currently in the grip of the dreaded bird flu and as a result no birds are allowed out of their sheds in order to make sure they don't encounter any wild birds that may be carrying the virus.



This is an extraordinarily worrying time for all poultry farmers because if the virus is found on the farm all birds have to be destroyed by the Ministry and mostly restocking can't take place for 12 months. This would be a savage blow to me as I wrote about last time that I have just invested in 3 new sheds which need hens in to generate the money to pay for themselves. Coupled with that my late father and me have spent over 50 years between us building up a large portfolio of commercial customers as well as the hundreds of people who use my market stall and shop every week. All of them would have to find a new supplier for more than a year because it takes about 8 weeks after a hen is housed to

lay eggs of a viable size. This means that if I were to restock, I would effectively have to build up my business all over again. In view of my age, I would be drawing the Old Age Pension whilst rebuilding a business - a truly daunting prospect!

So, what are we doing to try and minimise the risk as best as we can? We have to make sure that all the sheds are wild bird proof. Believe me wild birds will get in through any small hole. This time I had only locked my birds up for a few hours, went in to check their welfare and blow me spotted a pigeon resting nicely on the rafters of one of my sheds. I was furious and gave him very short shrift catching and removing him with the help of a fishing net on the end of a telescopic pole. It then took my son in law James and me a couple of hours to locate a tiny hole in the netting at the top of the shed and then find a ladder long enough to put him high enough to affect a repair. I always undertake the extremely important skilful task of holding the ladder in these situations.

Biosecurity is extremely important at this time. We have disinfectant foot dips at the entrance of every shed and there are 10 sheds housing birds and one foot dip at the entrance of the packing shed, bearing in mind I change the solution twice a week this is no quick task. It is absolutely crucial as we can transport the virus into the shed by importing wild bird mucus on the soles of our boots - the disinfectant neutralises this. We also wear different disposable overalls for different tasks and different sheds to ensure we don't transport any foreign objects in via our clothes. Nothing that we use in the shed can be stored outside, Straw and shavings for the floor and replacement drinking feeders, chains, anything all have to come out of my big barn so that I can be confident they have not come into contact with wild birds.



Rodents are a problem on many fronts, but in particular now because they are unfortunately not dipping their feet when entering sheds or indeed putting on fancy disposable overalls. Rats are a constant problem on free range poultry farms particularly now as we have been having a series of mild winters creating what has been described as a national epidemic. Apparently, we are all never far away from a rat and that certainly applies here although



a monthly pest control programme with local firm 999 Pest Control (a legal requirement for an egg packing station) keeps the numbers manageable. I am also indebted to two elderly men I met on Bury Market who come with air rifles once a week and commit mass murder. One of them is Malcolm Smith the brother of well-known Beck Row character Barry Smith who many of you will know. They really are excellent shots and whilst they have not eradicated rats from my farm they do ensure they are under control.

I also think that you cannot underestimate the importance of keeping birds in the optimum physical condition throughout their lives in order to keep all

diseases and viruses at bay. I am lucky that Harry is fastidious in ensuring that the hens are never hungry or thirsty and are kept in the very best possible conditions whilst they are shut away.

All of the measures I have mentioned above are exceptionally important in trying to keep bird flu off your farm but the most important thing you need is good luck. We all need a bit of good luck in our lives and I'm hoping, praying, touching wood, wearing lucky clothes and all the other stuff in the hope that despite being as close to me as Lakenheath bird flu won't reach us.

I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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News from Beck Row Methodist Church

We must begin with the news this time of a highly successful Coffee Morning for Macmillan organised and run by David Bacon and his family. They raised £1000! Congratulations and thank you to them all and the people who came to support this great cause.



The usual coffee morning in August was very well attended and with the usual cakes and refreshments as well as the various stalls and raffle raised £290 for our funds. These events always provide such a convivial morning for people to get together and catch up with news from around the villages. Money raised has gone towards a new fence for the enclosed area for cremation memorials.

The Harvest Supper on 13th September saw the hall full of people enjoying a meal while being entertained by Brian Roy and his music. After the meal saw many dancing to familiar tunes and a fun time was had by all. Again, thanks to the members of the church who put on the whole evening including a delicious meal.

The next day was the Harvest Festival service in the morning giving Rev Steve Oliver perhaps one of the last services before he moves to his next position in Yarmouth. We shall all be sad to see him go but hope he may treat us to his presence and his amusing sermons not far into the future as a visiting minister. Talking of amusing sermons, he started by asking for volunteers to come to stand in the front. He then talked about God's Creation which of course gave rise to bountiful harvests. The first person in the row was representing the darkness of the Earth in the beginning, and she was given a bar of dark chocolate. The first day of the creation saw light and that person was given a bar of milk chocolate. The next day God provided the plants and the trees, and he picked out a potato from the harvest display. Next came the sun, the moon and the stars - of course a Milky Way was given. On day 5 sea creatures and birds were created and a Penguin appeared. Day 6 saw animals (a Lion Bar) then people (jelly babies). On the last day God rested - he took a break - you guessed it - a Kit Kat. By this time everyone was focused on his words and still with a smile on their faces.

Next came his joke! The cat on Noah's Ark died and went to Heaven where he was greeted by God asking what the thing was it wanted most of all. The cat told him that having laid on the bare boards of the Ark it would love a soft cushion. Not long after the mice died and they too went to Heaven. They were asked the same question, and they complained of having very sore feet after scampering over the bare boards of the Ark and they would love to have roller skates. So the cat was reclining on a lovely soft cushion, and the mice were gliding happily on their skates. Eventually God came to the cat and asked if it was enjoying its comfortable bed to which it replied, "My pillow is absolutely perfect but beyond my wildest dreams are the meals on wheels!"



The moral of the story is come to the Methodist Church and especially when Rev Steve Oliver is taking the service if you want some time smiling or laughing.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday December 6th at 10am to 11.30am.
The entertaining Mead Singers will be performing on Wednesday 10th at 7.30pm.
Our Carol Service is on Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm.
Looking ahead to the new year - our coffee morning on Saturday February 3rd at 10.00am.

The hall next to our church is available to book. If you wish to book, please call Wendy on 01842 860184.

Spotlight on this edition's Deliverer – Jane Parry

I deliver The Beacon to the farms and houses that are on the edge of the distribution area, from Stock Corner up to Kenny Hill. Unfortunately, as my patch is quite large, I have to deliver by car which means I do not get the opportunity to stop and chat to my neighbours.



I know quite a lot of people know me, but for those that don't, I would like to introduce myself. I have always been involved in agriculture, and trained as a farm secretary many years ago, skills I am still using today as I am involved in our family business The Joshua Tree, as well as helping with grandchildren, dogs and ponies.

I was born in London, grew up in Yorkshire and got my first proper job as a Racehorse Trainers Secretary in Newmarket in 1979. That involved doing anything and everything, which sums my life up perfectly, and really set me up for future challenges.

On returning to work after having children, one of the first jobs I got was teaching typing at the Adult Education Centre in Mildenhall, which I did for 18 years. In the meantime, my husband became a yard manager in Kennett, and used to board horses that were being shipped overseas to Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia and America. In 2011 we moved to our forever home here in Kenny Hill.


I am actively involved in St John's Church, especially the pre-school group and the weekly Warm Rooms initiative.

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News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill
December 2025 - January 2026 edition

Email: clerk@beckrowparish.gov.uk
Website: beckrowparish.gov.uk

Summary of October 2025 meeting –

A further update on the **phone box** restoration project. Councillor Peachey has nearly finished making the door. West Suffolk Councillors Don Waldron and Mick Bradshaw have awarded Locality Grant Funding towards the project of £800.00. This will most certainly get the **phone box** restored and ready to provide a new resource for the Parish residents. Ideas for its use are welcome... **toy bank? Baby bank?** I will be in contact with those that have come forward to volunteer with this project – thank you.

Despite the sums already spent repairing the pirate ship and the zip wire, there are more repairs required to keep the equipment fit for use and conforming with weekly and monthly inspections that take place. These pieces of equipment are so popular that the Parish Council really have no choice other than to maintain them and keep them going. They are certainly one-off purchases; the pirate ship is a landmark! These repairs will go ahead.



Sadly, potentially one of the oldest pieces of equipment in the park has reached the

end of its life and was removed from the play park last week. Thank you to The Joshua Tree for lending the manpower and equipment to dismantle this. (Strangely taken down by someone who spent their childhood playing on it.) Rest assured, it will be replaced.

The Parish Council will be considering accessibility friendly equipment options as part of the new piece that will replace the climbing frame and slide that has been removed. Thank you to Summer for your informative speech highlighting the need for such equipment due to your experience growing up visiting parks with your sister Jasmine.

Solar panels will be fitted to the **Parish Hub** in the early part of 2026, made possible by the remaining Decarbonisation Grant Funding from West Suffolk Council who will fund up to £8,333 (or 50%) of the project with the Parish Council funding the remainder.

Speedwatch volunteers have come forward, thank you to those people! It's not too late to get involved, speeding is the most repeated topic that is brought to the attention of the Parish Council. You can still take part, please email the above address and ask for a Community Speedwatch Application form. PC Scott Cameron of the Community Policing Team is very keen to support this initiative.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 9th December 2025. Parish residents are always most welcome to attend.

Minutes of meetings can be found on the website: beckrowparish.gov.uk

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Historically, the 48th FW has been the foundation of USAF's combat capability and remains so today. The Liberty Wing led the El Dorado Canyon raids into Libya in 1986 and was the first F-111 fighter unit to deploy to the Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Liberty Wing also anchored NATO forces during Operations Deliberate Force and Allied Force. Since September 11, 2001, the 48th FW has played a key role in antiterrorism operations, and providing combat support in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



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A Busy and Exciting First Half Term at Beck Row Primary

It has been a busy and exciting first half term here at Beck Row Primary School! Our children and staff have been working hard and making the most of every opportunity to learn, grow and come together as a school community.

As we paused for Remembrance, we were proud to lay our poppy wreath in honour of those who have served. The children showed great respect and understanding during this important moment of reflection.

Looking ahead, Christmas is always a magical time at Beck Row Primary, especially for our younger pupils. We are looking forward to decorating the school, spreading festive cheer, and hosting our annual Christmas Fayre – a much-loved event in our calendar.

If any members of our community would like to donate a raffle prize, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Every contribution helps make our fayre a success and raises valuable funds for our school.

We would like to thank all our families and friends for their continued encouragement and enthusiasm. With so much to look forward to, we're excited for what the rest of the term will bring!

Charley Minter, Principal

e: Charley.Minter@atrust.org.uk

w: <http://www.academytransformationtrust.co.uk>



Holywell Row Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Lighting Sunday 30th November 6:30pm

Christmas Carol Service Sunday 21st December 6:30pm

Followed by Refreshments

All Welcome!



Holywell Row Village Hall – Bingo Sessions 2026

Bingo sessions are going to be held on the 4th Friday of each month in the Village Hall.

2026 dates - 23rd January, 27th February, 27th March and 24th April.

Bingo starts at 7.30pm:
10 games for £5. There is a prize for 1 line and a prize for a full house in each game.

*The Hall is available to hire at reasonable rates.
Please contact Pauline on 07714 063190.*



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We would like to thank all those who contributed to this parish magazine, as well as all those who have helped to deliver it. Should you wish to get in touch regarding anything in this magazine or if you wish to contribute something towards the next issue you may contact us by 14th January 2026 in the following ways:

If your household does not receive a magazine please let us know.

Cllr Sue French: sjfrenchpc4@hotmail.com • 07727 329796

Cllr Philip Haylock: 6 The Street, Holywell Row, Suffolk IP28 8LS • 07860 316748

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West Suffolk Councillors:

Don Waldron: 07939 626634

don.waldron@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Mick Bradshaw: 07788 234522

Suffolk County Council: 03456 066067

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