



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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December 2024 – January 2025

Hello Readers

This issue seems to come around so quickly every year.

As always we like to report on the Remembrance Wreath laying at Lamble Close Memorial and the War graves at St John's Church, the memorial service in the church was well attended also. Members of the RAF and USAF laying wreaths at the Beck Row Memorial at Lamble Close on Remembrance Sunday. Sqdr Ldr Andy Bell was unable to attend the Beck Row Memorial, however we were fortunate that a local Beck Row boy CPL Keith French, stationed at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire came to lay the wreath on behalf of RAF Mildenhall – our thanks go to him for fulfilling this important role.

Our thanks also go to Cheenie Papinjeau for her annual trip from USA to play the Last Post on the bugle at Lamble Close and the War graves.



At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the guns fell silent on the Western Front, to bring to an end the First World War.

Our nations and commonwealth have recalled that moment through our Armistice and Remembrance events down the decades; decades during which the men and women of our armed services have continued to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

On Saturday 9th November, we paid tribute to our fallen at Kenny Hill War Memorial and then on Sunday 10th at Beck Row War Memorial and at the War Graves at St John's Church. This was followed by a service of Remembrance in St John's Church and at Holywell Row Methodist Church in the evening.

I believe it is ever more important in this current day that we take time to remember and give thanks to those brave men and women of our community and country who paid the ultimate sacrifice so we could live in peace.

It is quite chilling and humbling that buried in the War Graves at St John's Church is the body of a young boy who flew several missions into enemy territory. It was discovered on his death that he was only 17 years old - he had lied about his age so he could fight. There also lays the body of Pilot Officer Rawdon Middleton, 149 Squadron, Royal Air Force, who received the Victoria Cross, the highest medal awarded in the land. 78 brave souls lay at rest in the War Graves at St John's and it is important that we always remember and pay tribute to them.

Thursday 8th May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of VE day and there will be a service and events to mark this historic event including the lighting of the Beacon.

"We Will Remember Them"

Gary Peachey

What's Going On Locally...

St John's Church

Sunday Services 9.30am

- 1st Sunday – Lightwave Service
- 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

FREE

- Every Wednesday
- 9.15am to 11.30am

- at St. John's Church Hall
- All children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers welcome



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For any other information or if you would like me to call and see you for an informal chat please contact:-

Laura Prentice

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Finally all the scaffolding has been removed. The repaired Lych Gate is now useable, and the Hall has been insulated and rendered. A new sound system has been installed in the Church and we are pleased to report that it is working well. There are a few more small repairs to be completed, but generally everything is in good condition as we go into winter.

As has been our tradition, our Christmas Eve Service will be a Crib and Christingle Service, starting at 4pm. This is for all ages, and there will be an opportunity for the figures to be placed into the stable by the children present, signifying the arrival of Mary and Joseph at the Inn where Jesus was born. Christingles will then be made, signifying the arrival of the Light of the World. As the service takes place just as the sun goes down, it makes for a very exciting and memorable start to the Christmas period.

It will also be the last service taken by the Rev David and Rev Caroline Butcher at St John's, as they retire on 31st December 2024. This then begins an Interregnum, when we will be without a permanent vicar until a new one is appointed. We wish David and Caroline much love and happiness in their new home by the sea.

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

There will be no change in the Sunday 9.30am weekly pattern of services, they will be conducted by Rev Dan Mullins who has been the backbone of St John's for many years, as well as the Lightwave Team who host the Encounter and Breakfast Church services, to which everyone is most welcome.



CHRISTMAS BINGO

at

**Holywell Row Village Hall
on Friday, 6th December
at 7.30pm**

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Happy 90th Anniversary, RAF Mildenhall!

RAF Mildenhall has been a cornerstone of strength, collaboration and resilience for 90 years, serving as a crucial part of both the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force missions.

16th October, 2024, marked RAF Mildenhall's 90-year-anniversary as a Royal Air Force Station.

Since its founding, RAF Mildenhall has played a fundamental role in numerous historical events, from supporting the courageous efforts of Bomber Command in World War II, to playing a pivotal role as a joint operations base. Over the years, it has become a symbol of heritage and unity, connecting the shared commitment to security and freedom between the U.S. and the U.K.

Today, we honour the brave servicemen and women – past and present – who have served at RAF Mildenhall, protecting our skies and safeguarding our way of life. We look forward to seeing Team Mildenhall continue its legacy as the “Gateway to the U.K. and Europe.”

Happy Anniversary, RAF Mildenhall!



CHOCOLATE ROULADE

INGREDIENTS

- 6 oz of good quality chocolate
- 6 oz caster sugar
- 6 eggs
- 2 tbs cocoa powder (optional)
- 300 ml double cream



METHOD:

- 1 Break the chocolate up into small chunks and put in a basin over a saucepan of gently simmering water. It is best not to have the bottom of the basin in water but on a steamer plate. (It is important not to have boiling water as the chocolate won't melt into a good sauce-like state and will turn stiff and impossible to mix in the rest. Best to start this well before you start the rest).
- 2 Separate the yolks from the whites (be very careful no part of the yolks get in the whites).
- 3 In a large bowl whisk the egg yolks and the sugar until well beaten (leaves a trail when you lift the whisk).
- 4 In a separate basin whisk the egg whites until stiff. (If you feel they are stiff enough carefully turn the basin upside down and if they are stiff enough they will not drop out!)
- 5 When the chocolate has melted into a smooth sauce, add it to the egg yolks and sugar and mix thoroughly.
- 6 Using a large metal spoon cut the egg whites into the mixture and carefully incorporate without losing the air in the egg whites.
- 7 Sift the cocoa powder into the mixture if using.
- 8 On a swiss roll tin (13in by 9in) covered with a sheet of baking parchment, pour the mixture and gently make it even all over. Bake in an oven fan 160°C for 20-25 minutes. It will have a crusty skin but still be a bit soft in the middle. Cover immediately with a layer of baking parchment and put a fairly damp tea cloth on top - it will flatten it.
- 9 Leave overnight.
- 10 When ready, an hour or so before it is to be eaten, take off the tea cloth and paper layer, whisk the cream until it is stiff and very gently spread over the roulade leaving about an inch around all the edges.
- 11 Using the bottom layer of paper start to roll up the roulade, it may crack a bit - no worry. If it breaks up more than you like use the paper to mold it together. The cream will ooze out a bit. Roll it on to the serving dish, dust with icing sugar.
- 12 If you wish, instead of a chocolate log you can use this roulade instead. You can even dot raspberries on top of the cream. Put a sprig of holly on the top for Christmas.



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Mildenhall Flower Festival

During the weekend of 18th October – 20th October the ladies of the Mildenhall Flower Club put on the most beautiful display of flowers. The festival was part of the ongoing events this year to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Air Race from Mildenhall to Melbourne in Australia. Members were given a town or city that the planes stopped en route, and their ingenuity was most commendable. There was a crocodile, birds of paradise flowers, a peacock, flower displays in the shape of crowns and many more. Hanging from the balustrade over the chapel were two wreaths in memory of the two pilots who lost their lives. One was James Baines and the other was Harold Gilman flying a Fairey Fox plane both New Zealanders.



When the event finished the ladies decided they would like to put the two wreaths in two places in Beck Row. One they put at the grave of Australian Flt Sergeant Rawdon Hume Middleton the posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross. He is buried in the military section of St John's Church and was the first pilot of a Stirling Bomber of 149 Squadron and in November 1942 flew into Turin to bomb the Fiat works. Despite being wounded he brought his plane back to England so his crew could bale out. Five did but two stayed to help him. They baled but drowned. He went down with his plane.



The other wreath was laid at the War Memorial in Lambie Close.

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club had a really good shopping trip to Rushen Lakes.

Looking forward to our Christmas Lunch at Riverside Hotel in December, then we start again on 16th January 2025, with speakers, bingo and trips throughout the year.

Come along for a lovely cuppa and some tasty biscuits, this is a club for men and women over 50.

New members are always welcome.

Contact Maggie – 01638 715447

THE THURSDAY CLUB Beck Row

We meet every 3rd Thursday
at Beck Row Methodist Hall 2-4pm.

We have speakers, bingo, trips
and we have nice biscuits and a lovely cuppa.

Come along, this is a club for ladies and men over 50.

We'd be pleased to see you.

Beck Row New Ladies Club

The Ladies Club meets on the second Monday afternoon of each month in St John's Hall at 2pm. We have a variety of speakers, the cost is £4, and there is no membership. Everyone is very welcome to just come along and spend an afternoon with like-minded ladies who enjoy learning about new things. Speakers are very diverse, from nostalgia to flying helicopters over London.

Our October meeting was a visit to West Stow Hall, which many of us have driven past dozens of times and always wondered about it. What a fabulous afternoon! The owner met us outside, gave us a history of the hall as far as could be pieced

Holywell Row Methodist Church

Christmas Carol Service Sunday 22nd December 6:30pm

Followed by Refreshments

All Welcome!



together, followed by a tour inside pointing out all the quirky features, Victorian library, historical references, windows and doors that were no more, followed by afternoon tea in what had been part of the great hall. It was a truly memorable trip and on our doorstep.

If you are interested in joining us, please just come along to our next meeting on 9th December at 2pm which is a talk on the Nurses in World War 1.

We look forward to seeing you!

RSPB Lakenheath Fen – Now is the time for nestboxes!

Spring may seem a long way away but believe it or not - now is a really good time to think about putting up any extra nestboxes in your garden. This might sound surprising given that the days are getting shorter and colder still, but this is a clue as to why it is a great time. As well as using boxes for nesting in, many birds will use a well-placed, well-maintained box for shelter on colder nights. Some species of birds, like Long-tailed tits or Wrens, will roost communally for added efficiency in keeping warm (much like huddling penguins in the Arctic). The record for the highest known number of Wrens found together was 61 seen piling into one box in a Norfolk garden in 1969 - and they will stack on top of one another, tails out and heads in!



Another reason for mounting new boxes now is that many small birds like Blue tits and Robins spend quite a lot of time ahead of the nesting season scouting out a safe space to lay their eggs when the time is right. Once they have found a sheltered and suitable spot they will keep an eye on the area to see how often it is frequented by people, cats and other potential predators to see if it is likely to be quiet and safe enough to breed. They will also spend time in the box, perhaps overnight, to see if any egg thieves like squirrels or mice pop their heads in. If all goes well and the nest box seems safe, male birds may organise their territories in the new year (as soon as the days lengthen) to include the box, with the hope that they can attract a female and advertise the nest box to her as a suitable place for her eggs.

A good place to put a new box is facing anywhere between north-east and north-west on the compass - this avoids the heat of the midday sun on warm spring days. It's a good idea to site the box somewhere with a lot of clear space below and around it, so that ground predators like cats will find it difficult to sit under or above the box and wait for the occupants to come out. A nearby shrub - a few feet away - is popular though as the parent birds can safely land in it and survey the area to check if the coast is clear before flying to the box. There are boxes of different sizes for different species - wrens, robins and pied wagtails like an open-fronted box, whereas tits and house sparrows like a hole entry.

A question we are often asked at Lakenheath Fen is whether old nestboxes should be cleaned out between seasons. The answer is that the best thing to do is to empty out any old nesting material (a small brush can help with this) and let the winter frosts do the rest - these will kill off any lingering parasites. The less chemicals we use that can come into contact with wild birds, the better. So if your box is really grubby and you want to clean it, then immersing it in very hot water once it is empty and giving it a scrub is a good option.

I hope this article has been a useful read. As ever, if you have any questions or you wish to get in touch with us, you can call us on 01842 863400 or e-mail us at lakenheath@rspb.org.uk, or pop in and see us.

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



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Spotlight on a Craftsman – Peter Copeman

Peter Copeman, with an illustrious career in the Army taking him to many places and countries, retired to Beck Row with his wife Jill. They have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Peter went to the Silver Jubilee School in Bury St Edmunds, and in the woodwork department he made bookcases. He left school at 15, and after a job on a poultry farm followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army at the age of 17½.

When he left the Army, he had several jobs but the bulk of them were in the woodwork trade. He taught himself to do woodturning, which had always interested him and made tables, chairs and wooden gates amongst other objects.



People in the village soon learned of his craft and so in his shed at the bottom of the garden he made all types of furniture for them. He is a master craftsman and so we have featured him in this edition. Below are photographs of four of his master pieces.



The bar stools which match the wooden top of wooden kitchen island



Walnut bowl with hammer to crack nuts



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The season has restarted with the youngsters from Lakenheath Football Club using our pitch for their training and games which is good to see. This has been stated repeatedly but it is important that the people of this village and Parish feel they are included. There is always room for

more players and anyone in the youth age groups are welcome to arrive and join in. When matches are in progress refreshments are served by the chairman Graham Rose and his wife Josie and whether you are watching the game, walking your dog, visiting the children's play area nearby anyone is welcome to enjoy a coffee, tea or cold drinks. Please come along.

The decking around the clubhouse has been expertly cleaned and stained by Rob Cheseman for which we thank him, adding to the facility there which brings us on to the fact that as with all clubs and groups it takes people/volunteers to keep the place running. If you wish to get involved the contact details are below.

Our dip into the history of the club features an unpleasant incident from 2010. If you remember this or you were a player at the time please do get in touch as we would love to hear your story and perhaps an anecdote or two from that era.

Contact details are –
Philip Haylock:
philiphaylock@btinternet.com,
mobile 07860 316748
or Youth teams Richard Horrex:
richardhorrex@gmail.com,
mobile 07540 201223

Village soccer club hit by theft of kit

A FOOTBALL club faces a race against time to replace the team's kit which was snatched after a break-in at its headquarters.

Sixteen shirts and pairs of shorts were stolen from Beck Row FC clubhouse in Lamble Close between 1pm last Wednesday and 10.30am on Saturday.

Thieves also took three match balls and 10 to 15 training balls. The items were worth between £850 to £900. Club members paid for the kit themselves, partly through a sponsored walk.

Will Precious, vice-chairman of the club said: "We worked so hard to get it. This comes as a shock with the season just around the corner.

"The club has no official backing from local authorities and we have no firm sponsor for the next season. We are in need of help from the public." Mr Precious is appealing to anyone with details about the kit, which is an Adidas yellow shirt, black shorts and socks. The name of last year's sponsor, Assured Windows, is on the front. The club is also looking for a full sponsor or donations. He added: "We need to get something sorted for the start of the season." Email Mr Precious on: wrtprecious@hotmail.com or visit www.clubwebsite.co.uk/beckrowfc01

by Paul Derrick



Gardening Tips

During November and December roses can do with a good prune. This year growth of everything has been immense. Finally, this is coming to an end and a well-deserved dormant period is upon us.



Now is the time to dig out those persistent weeds that have somehow navigated up close to thorny stems of roses. Often simple hoeing is not sufficient to kill off weeds like nettles and ivy so roses require a hand. Prune now to three buds up from stems. Prune even more if you still can't get your spade where you need it to be to dislodge nettles by the root.

What is left of the rose should now be completely clear of the smallest weeds. It's no good in early summer trying to pull weeds out when your hands could get cut by thorns. For those who have promised their partner a rose garden, make sure you keep tending to it, you can't just rest on your laurels!



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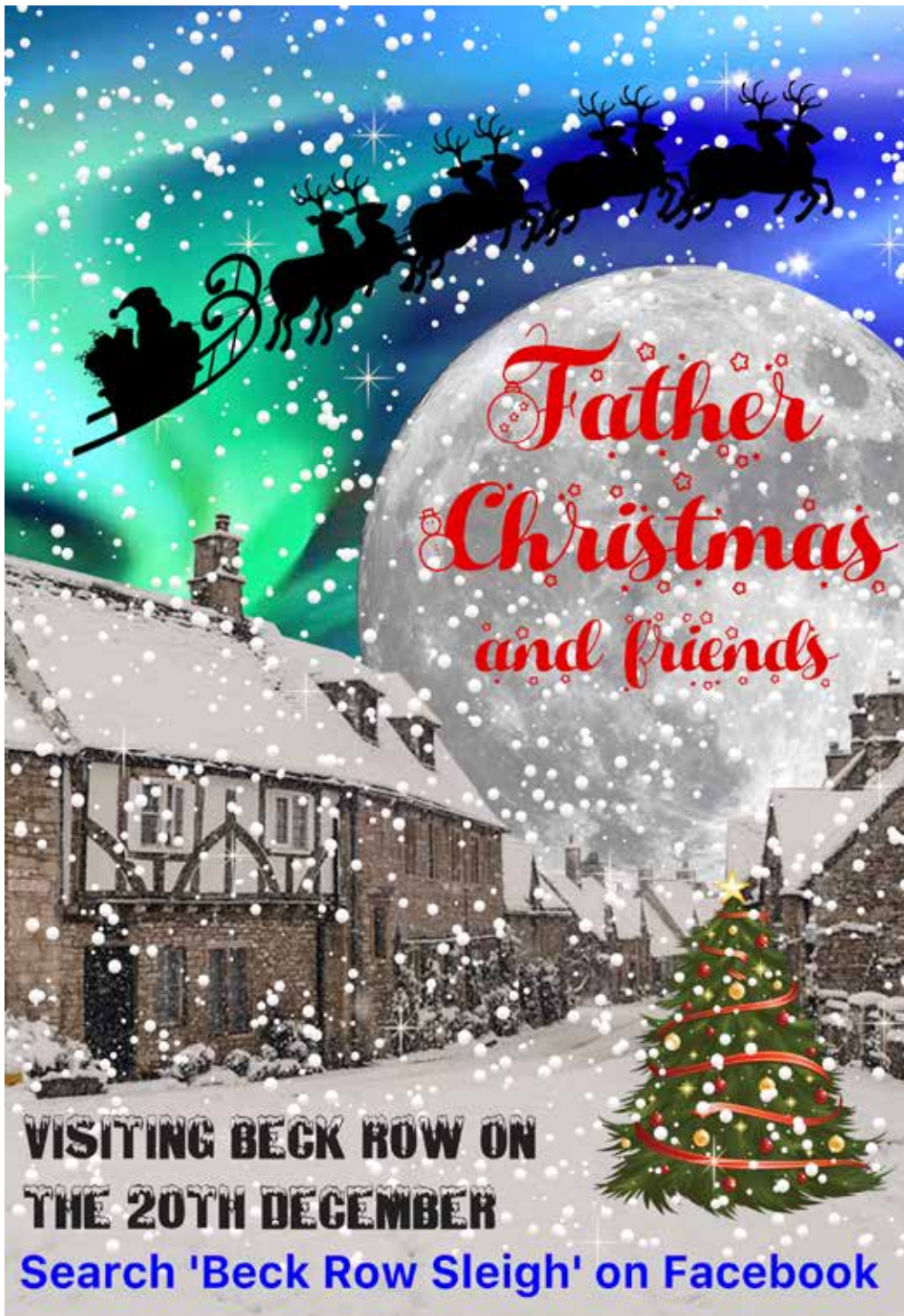
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SANTA'S SLEIGH JOURNEY



Santa's sleigh will be making its annual tour of the village on the evening of **Friday 20th December**.

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**
- Lamble Close, Clements Way**
- St John's Street**

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.

This edition includes a Christmas Story from our resident author David Taylor. We thank him for adding to our December edition of the magazine.

Lucy's Tree

Wow, I've just grown and grown and grown. I'm not exactly towering but I can now see over the distant hedges to the small hillside where I was raised. I better tell you something about myself. I'm standing proudly in the front garden of a bungalow where I've been for about sixty years and I'm a Christmas tree. There have been a number of occupants of the bungalow since I arrived but there's now hustle and bustle again as a removal van drives away and another one arrives. It's so exciting, wondering what the new people will be like and whether there are any children. I love it when there are children because they seem to appreciate me more around the Christmas period. Of course, I've always been a bit apprehensive about the owners having me chopped down especially when workmen arrive with chainsaws to tidy up other parts of the garden.

Wait a moment while I see who gets out of the car. There's a man and a lady and they're unbuckling the seatbelt of the back seat. 'We've arrived Lucy and here's your new home,' the lady says excitedly as the little girl jumps out of the car onto the garden. I couldn't believe that there was another Lucy coming to live here and memories flooded back. Anyway, to the here and now, I'm surprised because Lucy doesn't follow her mum and dad into the front door but comes across to me and dances around me. 'Mum, mum, it's a big Christmas tree, can I have some lights on it?' she gabbles. But mum and dad are already inside directing the removals men to the various rooms where they want their belongings placed. Lucy dances around me and then takes hold of one of my branches in a caring way. Wow, I'm so delighted that I could dance around the lawn with her if I hadn't been planted firmly in the ground. I feel loved again.

It's now a few weeks later and Lucy still comes to see me and hold onto my branches. She loves the smell on her hands after she's touched me. I've already heard that Lucy's dad has agreed to have me lit up for Christmas which is getting very close and I can feel the excitement in the air.

At last, the day arrives when dad brings a large box and starts to pull out a myriad of the most wonderful lights I have ever seen. Lucy can't contain herself and is jumping around me and insisting that she helps to dress me in my new display. I feel so special and so lucky that I have such caring owners. Whilst the wiring is being installed, Lucy's dad, whilst clearing away some of the debris of twigs and pine needles near my feet, exclaims, 'Look at this, Lucy', holding up a little plaque that must have been there for years. I can vaguely remember it being placed there but never knew what it said. Lucy couldn't believe her eyes when she read 'Lucy's Tree' after her dad had wiped away years of grime.

'How did anyone know that I was going to live here, dad?' Of course, there was no answer but I knew the answer. Lucy helps with the lower branches whilst dad climbs some step ladders to arrange my upper levels. He suddenly yells out, 'I've found the most beautiful metal star amongst the branches and it's still hanging from some wire

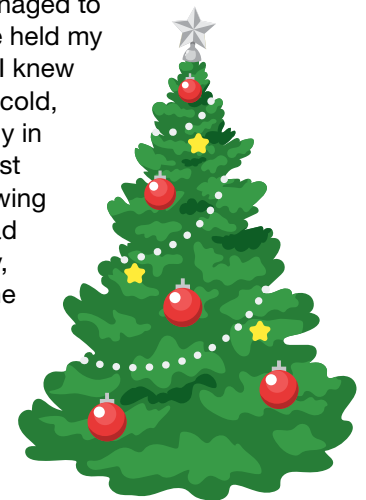
fasteners. He hurries away and when he returns, he excitedly proclaims, 'I've used special polish on the star and it shines like new', as he carefully clips it to the very top of my branches. I can't wait to see the result. Lucy has invited some of her new school friends for the grand switch-on and I feel so thrilled that I'm going to be the centre of attention. I'm going to say 'wow' again because the lights are magnificent, the star is sparkling, the cleaned plaque is now exposed by my feet and I suddenly feel so warm and glowing.

Well, I suppose it's time to tell you about my first owner; a lovely little girl called Lucy. I heard her at the farm shop long before she came close to my area where Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes were being sold. She was being pushed in a wheelchair by her mum and dad with her legs securely wrapped in a snuggly blanket. I was the smallest tree by far but I still had my roots. 'Please pick me, please pick me', I whispered. I can remember a rude boy pushing past them and shouting, 'I want a big tree not like that little one', pointing at me. I can remember thinking how pleased I was that he didn't want me. I wanted to be Lucy's special tree.

Lucy's mum bent down by my side and said, 'I think that little tree would be ideal, Lucy, because you'll be able to decorate it yourself from your chair'. Lucy was clapping her hands with excitement and proclaimed, 'It's the most beautiful tree in the world'. And so, I found myself being transported in a big car to Lucy's home and she couldn't wait for her mum and dad to take me inside. Lucy, with a little help from mum, decorated me in the most wonderful tasteful way. Lucy sat beside me in her chair and held onto one of my lower branches and even insisted on having her tea beside me. She also insisted that my lights were left on day and night. A little later, her eyes were drooping and I can remember Lucy's dad tenderly lifting her from her chair and carefully taking her to bed.

Over the following days, Lucy spent most of her time by my side and I was so happy until the terrible event. It was at night. Lucy had been taken to bed but seemed more tired than normal and her breathing was a bit laboured. During the night, I heard a bump and the next thing I knew, Lucy had slowly managed to pull herself across the parquet floor next to me. As she held my branch again, she gradually fell asleep. The next thing I knew was Lucy's mum by her side yelling, 'She's cold, she's cold, phone the doctor', as she gathered up Lucy's limp body in her arms and took her out of the room. That was the last time I saw Lucy. It was such a sad home over the following days. I thought I was going to die too because they had forgotten to water me and I was wilting. Then suddenly, my decorations were removed apart from the star at the top and I was planted in pride of place. I heard them saying how much joy I had given their dear Lucy and I felt so proud but deeply sad.

It's wonderful to know that Lucy's star has lived on and there's now another Lucy to share the magic of Christmas.



News from Beck Row Methodist Church

We are delighted to report yet another successful Chicken Foot evening at the Methodist Church Hall where the pleasing sum of £271 was raised for the upkeep of the buildings. We had people from surrounding villages and appreciate them travelling now that the dark nights are upon us.

There are several events coming up for the Christmas period so do come along and enjoy the fellowship that is offered from this church. An advent course has been running from November 19th at 7pm and the remaining ones are December 3rd, 10th and 17th if you wish to join them.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 3rd December – coffee morning 10am to 11.30am

Monday 9th December – Mead Singers with Stage Coach Pupils – at 7pm

Sunday 15th December – Carol Service at 6.30pm led by Rev Steve Oliver with the Revelation Music Group

Morning Service is at 11am each Sunday when all are welcome

St John's Church - Help Needed!

Do you like History? Have you got connections with Beck Row?

We need someone to update and maintain our Graveyard Plan and Records at St John's Church.

This is not a massive job, but it needs a little time and patience to produce an up-to-date record of the graves and who is buried there. It has been several years since anyone amended the records, and it is now quite important that this is done.

Because of the connection with RAF Mildenhall, family members often make contact from overseas to find graves, so to be able to provide the information they require would be invaluable.

To find out more, please contact Jane on 07776 184598 or j.parry888@btinternet.com

Thank you.



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Thanks to this Edition's deliverer - Roxanne Whitmore

My name is Roxanne. Yes, I am named after the Police song - cue the singing.

My husband and I moved to Beck Row almost 4 years ago with our (at the time) almost 1 year old daughter Aubrey. We have since welcomed our youngest daughter Taylor, who is now 2½ years old.

We attempt to quietly deliver the Beacon to Parkside and some nearby roads - although with small people around, this can be somewhat challenging!

We moved to Beck Row to give our daughter a better life in the countryside. After years of commuting and working in London, we wanted to move away from that lifestyle.

I believe in paying it forward and helping out where I can, but the kindness that my family and I have been shown since living here has been phenomenal and has restored my faith in humanity.

I spent 9 years working on an emergency response team as a police officer in south London, before going on maternity leave and then a career break - to raise our daughters. Whilst juggling our daughters, I now spend my free time happily sewing, which has always been one of my main passions.

Please see my Facebook or instagram page to see my creations! "Driftn N Stitchin".



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News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill

December 2024 – January 2025

Email: beckrowparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.beckrowparish.com

Summary of October 2024

The Parish Council will be moving the website to a gov.uk site following the Government recommendations for parish and town councils. The 'moat' area of Parkside was discussed, and a request has been made to West Suffolk Council to look into tidying this up and returning it to its previous maintained appearance. Concern has been raised regarding the safety of the junction in Holywell Row known as Hollands Corner when turning out on to the C602. There is an increase in traffic joining the road from Eldon Lane which must give way to all other traffic on the highway. The Clerk will speak to Suffolk Highways about potential signage.

The bus stop/shelter on Holmsey Green was on the agenda again and maintenance spending was approved. There is space limitation at this stop making certain changes difficult without decreasing the seated area. The Clerk and the Parish Keeper are discussing options.

Councillor Surgery feedback

Residents who attended the Councillor Surgery raised concerns over continued speeding through the villages within the Parish. It was requested that the Parish Council revisit the Speed Watch initiative. This requires volunteers. Please email the Clerk at the above address if you are willing to do this.

Summary of November 2024

Parish Christmas trees will be placed on Sat 30th Nov, an additional tree this year at Kenny Hill which you will see on your drive out of the Parish on the A1101 by the War Memorial and the newly placed noticeboard.

Further discussion was had regarding the newly acquired land at Holywell Row. Once the Parish Council have cleared the access to the land, consultation will take place with residents regarding what the land could be used for.

It was agreed to purchase a commemorative bench to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2025. The bench will be placed by the war memorial. Further talks are underway on a celebration to mark this occasion. It will of course include the lighting of the Beacon at 9.30pm.



It was also agreed to get the Beck Row village sign restored as it is now very faded, whilst also exploring the potential of planting up that area in Spring.

Please note: Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, will attend the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th Dec 2024 at 7.30pm at Beck Row Parish Hub. If you have any questions you would like to put forward, please contact the Clerk ahead of the meeting.

Dates for your diary:

Tue 10th Dec – Parish Council meeting including attendance of PCC Tim Passmore
Fri 20th Dec – Santa Sleigh
Thu 8th May 25 – VE Day
Fri 15th Aug 25 – VJ Day

PLANNING MATTERS

DC/24/1136/FUL – detached industrial building (class B2 – general industrial) on existing concrete hard standing. Kenny Hill Service Station Ltd, Burnt Fen Turnpike, Burnt Fen. Support with comment of – the Parish Council encourage all business development where there is a chance of creating local employment opportunities.

DC/24/0425/OUT – one dwelling (amended plans received). Land at, 3 Parkside, Beck Row. Object, previous objections still stand on the grounds of over development.

DC/24/1521/HH – Householder planning application – a. single storey front extension, b. single storey side extension. 4 Street Farm Close, Holywell Row, IP28 8PU. Support

DC/24/1583/TPO – TPO 048 (1963) tree preservation order – one Maple (indicated on plan, within area A2 on order) pollard to 3.5 metres above ground level. 86 Lamb Close, Beck Row, IP28 8DB. No comment



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Thursday 9th January 2025

AGM

followed by a talk by Kevin Boardman
The Kitchen, the most important room in the house?

Please note start time 2:00pm followed by refreshments.



Opening times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Friday 10:30am – 4:00pm

Please note the last day of opening before we close for the short winter break
will be 14th December 2024.



We have the UK's largest bat in our parish, the Noctule, located along Fen Lane in poplar trees.

The female has one pup and will congregate in a maternity colony, often in

a hole in the trunk created by a woodpecker. They can all leave the maternity colony one after the other on a summer's night.

Sometimes before sunset, in the enclosed space of Fen Lane, they can fly exceptionally close to your head never quite hitting you. As they fly so fast identification is difficult but a bat detector can confirm which species you are observing.



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Spotlight on this edition's Advertiser – Balmforth Estate Agents



Balmforth Estate Agents (Mildenhall) was founded by Robert Lewis in 2001. At that time, we occupied a small office in the Market Square and as the newest agent in the town, we were also the smallest. 23 years on, we now occupy a superb historic office, adjacent to St Mary's Church and the former Tiger's Head. The business employs over 20 staff, all of which are based locally and have lived in the area for many years.

As locals will probably remember, the offices were previously "Mr Shoes" and before that "Riddingtons Jewellers and repairers". The building still contains many interesting features, including a cellar, which suggests it was part of a tunnel network connecting the church and buildings in the High Street together.

During our day to day activities, selling and renting houses, we occasionally come across light hearted and humorous moments. A couple of years ago an elderly lady and her husband were on the opposite side of the High Street pointing at our office. Eventually, the lady crossed the road and came into our office. She then proceeded to explain and apologise, but she has had to report the owl on the roof to the RSPCA. When we queried why, she said it's hardly moving and doesn't look very well. Once we had all recovered our composure, we had to explain to her that it is a plastic owl with bobbing head on a gimble! We explained that it was there as a pigeon deterrent. She then headed out of our office with a rather embarrassed look and went across the street to explain it to her husband. You could tell the point when she explained it was plastic as he doubled over in fits of laughter. For those of you that think this is another example of an estate agent embellishing the facts, next time you're in the market square, glance up to the Balmforth roof and said owl is still there!

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FARMING DIARY

Last time I wrote about my attempt to become a duck farmer. Just a quick update. The ducks have settled in very nicely. They poo a lot, quack a lot, eat a lot and lay absolutely nothing. We continue to live in hope.



I am writing this article exactly one week after experiencing a fantastic day out at the magnificent Tottenham Hotspur stadium where my beloved Ipswich Town ended a wait of 22 years and finally won a Premier League fixture. The whole day was made sweeter as until kick off we were never sure we would be able to see the game. I had purchased tickets off the internet, and they came with a series of instructions as to what to do if the tickets' bar code wouldn't scan properly. It was quite alarming that more of these instructions involved visiting the ticket office or talking to a steward or seeking help from a police officer, in fact the instructions were to do quite the opposite. Anyhow imagine our horror when we arrived at the turnstile, inserted the tickets with the

bar code facing up and immediately a hideous noise screeches out and everything goes red. Along came one of the aforementioned stewards, a lovely young girl who obviously felt sorry for two poor old technologically useless old men who wouldn't dream of buying dodgy tickets, played with her phone at the turnstile and in we went. We celebrated with a beer and some of Tottenham's excellent catering, went to our seats and waited for someone else to come along and kick us out of their seats. The brilliant news was that those people never came.

We settled down, enjoyed a great view, great atmosphere and above all a fantastic performance. All in all, one of the most enjoyable days out in my history of watching well over 1000 professional football matches.

I went on this jolly with my friend Peter who I have watched pretty much all of those 1000 matches with.

Peter and I first met 56 years ago at school, had a fight, my watch (my pride and joy) got broken and we have been great friends ever since. When we were about 11 years old our class was told to wait behind after assembly when we were told that Peter's father had died suddenly and were to be nice to him for a few days because he was a bit upset. This was about all the pastoral care either he or we got. Can you imagine that happening now? Thank



God times have changed, and we live in a far more compassionate society. This was at the same time as I had problems sitting still. I still can't and my wife says sitting next to me on a sofa is like being in a boat on a very rocky ocean. The school's solution to this problem was to tie my legs together.

The point about me writing about Peter's Dad is that he committed suicide and he was a farmer. I know that depression, anxiety and the resultant consequences of this are very prevalent in the agricultural industry now as they were then. I am extremely fortunate that I have never suffered with depression, so I am in no way qualified to talk about mental illness, depression and anxiety so I won't. But I am able to say that there is for more help available now than there was 50 + years ago when Peter's Dad was struggling so.

Over the past couple of years my shop and market stall have grown in popularity so much (thank you everybody) that my own hens are not laying enough eggs to satisfy demand. I am currently close now to purchasing 2 new sheds to house an extra 1000 hens here, but I have also worked in with another egg producer at Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds who is producing eggs for me. In other words, she looks after the hens and I sell the eggs. About a year into our arrangement our relationship is growing very successfully and not only am I planning for more hens here we are planning an extra 1000 at hers too.

However, during her farming career Emma has consistently been treated with depression and anxiety. She is currently off medication and has formed a group for people to come together who are struggling in rural communities. It is called The Suffolk Farming Community Group and is aimed at bringing people together at social events who may be feeling lonely or isolate. The last one was on 23rd November, was free and included a live band food and a bar at The Grumpy Goat at Bardwell. It was extremely well attended. Well done Emma! *fb - Suffolk Farming Community Group - Instagram SUFFOLKFARMINGCOMMUNITYGROUP*

I know too little about mental health issues to write about very many, but I do know that farming by its very nature can be a very lonely occupation indeed. I am sure that farming was far more fun in the old days when the yards were full of men about to start work rather than one man about to start work in a huge shiny tractor.

By the time you read this there will have been a huge march by farmers in London complaining about the current government's recent proposals for inheritance tax reform and possible taxation on fertiliser. I will not be attending as I have little time for politicians of either party as in my profession, I think that most have a pitiful lack of knowledge or concern for a very important subject. Over the past 40 years that I have been a farmer, politicians have brought in countless unhelpful policies, but none have stopped me making a decent living and thoroughly enjoying my career and I don't think these proposals will either. I am far more concerned about what is going on in America at the moment and how that will impact on World peace and climate change.

Thank you all for reading my pieces and I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

It is sad to report the death of Mary Butcher from Holywell Row. Those who knew her will know how much she was respected in the community for her historical knowledge of the area and the people in it, for her kindness and how pleasurable it was to be in her company. It is a privilege to include her eulogy written by her daughter Kay. Mary so enjoyed reading the Parish Magazine and kept every copy!

Mary Butcher Tribute

Mary was born in West Row on 11th December, 1933, the second daughter of Arthur and Ella Frost and sister to Dorothy. All too quickly their happy family life sadly changed with the sudden death of her father, Arthur, when she was just over a year old. Mary started West Row school in 1939 where she would also meet her lifelong friends Sheila and Pam. She went on to pass her eleven plus exams and attended Newmarket Grammar School in 1944. After leaving the Grammar school in 1950, she started her first job working in administration at the Shire Hall in Bury St. Edmunds along with her friend Sheila, then in 1951 an opportunity came along for Mary to work for Lloyds Bank in Mildenhall. During the 1950s while happily enjoying her life of working, social activities and living with her Mum, Mary met her future husband Peter, a local farmer. After a traditional courtship they married on 5th July, 1958 at St. John's Church in Beck Row. After their marriage they settled down to life at Clovelly, Holywell Row and in September 1959 was joined by Kay, Helen born in 1962 and Stephen in 1965. By 1971 Sarah joined the family and Mary relished being a busy wife and mother to her family. Family life kept Mary occupied while supporting Peter with the farm and as the years happily rolled by there was a joyful family occasion in September 1980 when Kay married Alan, followed by the births of her three grandchildren Louise, Eleanor and Edward who she doted on.



It was during these times that sadly Stephen became unwell with an illness so hard to understand, and Mary was such a support to him. When in December 1992 Peter died suddenly, this was a tremendous shock for Mary and her family. Mary grieved and mourned the passing of Peter and somehow mustered the strength to find a way forward to carry on running the farm business and help her family through those dark days. Stephen did find happiness and married Joanne but very tragically and unexpectedly his life came to an end in November 2000. For Mary to lose her son this was a tough burden to bear, She knew life was at times very hard for him and she did what she could for him to lead a normal life, and for this she could be proud. Mary was a very strong woman who was always such a pillar of strength for her family. She so loved being active and socializing with her many friends. Many trips away to London, Eastbourne, the seaside and shopping were things she loved to do. At home she was always busy cooking, baking and spent a lot of time knitting many baby clothes and blankets for her friends and family to enjoy. Nights out to see Daniel O'Donnell, or to be a part of the quiz team or a game of bingo kept Mary entertained. Sadly, Mary passed away on 24 September 2024, aged 90 years old. She had many, many good friends and for them and all her family she will be very sadly missed.



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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 Saturday 11th January 2025 in the following ways:

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Doctor/Hospital: Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 111

Police: Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 101

Water: (including drains and sewers) 0345 717 1100

West Suffolk Hospital: 01284 713000

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