



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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February – March 2025

Hello Readers

January has flown by as usual, with plenty of varied temperatures. On the bright side, the nights have started to slowly draw out.



Although the night of the Santa Sleigh procession around the village was very wet and cold, (20th December, 2024) as usual the event was very well supported and enjoyed by those who took part.

In this issue I would like to point your interest to a couple of articles within the Beacon – the Suffolk Library visit to the hub every Tuesday afternoon. Free refreshments are available – tea, coffee and biscuits and an opportunity to meet people.

Also, the information regarding volunteers needed for the Speed Watch campaign – the Parish Council are forever being asked what can be done about the speeding in the village, without help from volunteers no progress can be made. The information is all within this issue.

Another piece of information – the Parish Council website is up and running – details inside, and on the back page is the new email address for the Clerk.

The Beacon will be available to read on the website as well as continuing to be delivered as a hard copy.

As always, a very grateful thanks to all who help putting the Beacon together and the volunteers who deliver around the village.

Sue French

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

Every Wednesday
9.15am to 11.30am

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at St. John's Church Hall
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parents/carers welcome

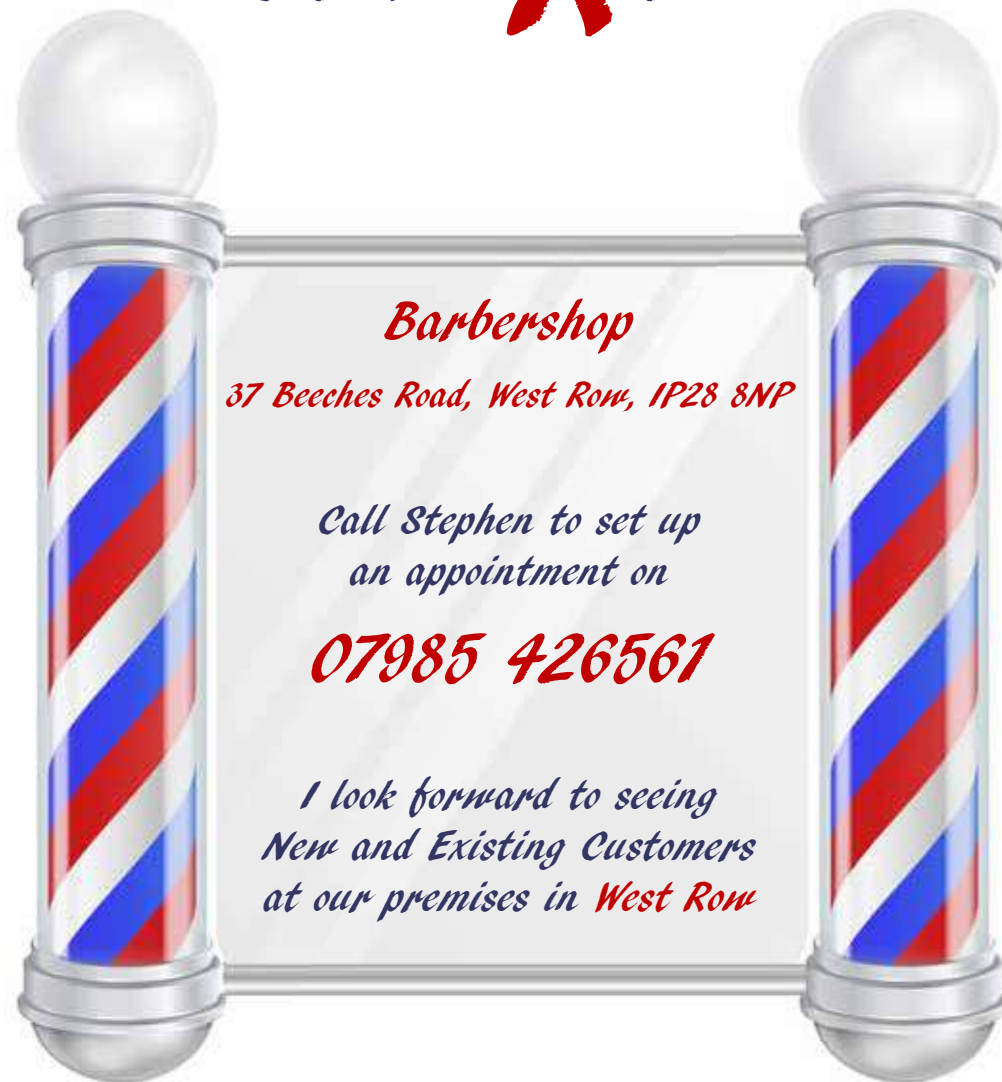


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Beck Row New Ladies Club

The Club continues to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2pm, at St John's Hall. All Ladies welcome, there is no membership fee and at just £4 per meeting, including a speaker, raffle and superb refreshments, represents great value for money!

Recent speakers have included the role of nurses in WW1, and Cyber Security, and all the scams that we should be aware of that are taking place on an ever increasing scale.

Our future programme includes a Trailer Safari to Watatunga (12 May) (near Downham Market), which is a very interesting experience, and a Barge Trip on the River Cam (8 Sept). Both these have limited numbers, so please contact Anne (07973 520678) as soon as possible to book your spot. Shared transport will be available from Beck Row.

There is also a private afternoon garden visit (14 July) to The Porters Lodge at Cavenham, including Coffee and Cakes. This is open to all family and friends, so please invite someone new along to join us.

We look forward to seeing you!



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2025 has brought with it an Interregnum, when the Church is without a resident Vicar, after the retirement of David Butcher at the end of December. We wish him and Caroline health and happiness in the next stage of their lives. A Scotsdales voucher was given to them as a token of our appreciation, and we hope they have fun in finding some pieces for their new home by the sea.

In the meantime, Chris Childs who is the Rural Dean, is the point of contact for all

Church matters and his information is inside the front cover of the Beacon. All Function information is posted regularly on the Beck Row FB page, as well as in the Beacon, and for Hall hire enquiries please contact Maggie on 07938 846801.

The Christingle Service was very well attended, and the children enjoyed placing the figures into the Crib scene, as well as making the Christingles afterwards. Over £175 was sent to the Children's Society as a result, which will help towards their work with vulnerable young people.

All the external works have now been completed to the Lych Gate and the Hall, and the removal of the scaffolding and barriers was very welcome. More grant aid has been secured to paint the inside of the hall, which should complete all the renovations for the time being.

There is now a service every Sunday at 9.30am, and each week has a different format. The Lightwave team host the first and third Sundays which take place in the Hall and are very relaxed and family friendly. Service of the Word takes place on the second Sunday, with a more formal Communion Service on the fourth week. Coffee and cake is always included, and we would love to see some new (and old!) faces. Everyone is most welcome.

Tuesday Warm Rooms continues to be a great success, and a much needed opportunity to get out of the house. The monthly Saturday Bingo has also been well attended.

This is your Church, your Hall and your Opportunity to be part of the Church Family. Please do come and join us.



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: 8th February 8th March 12th April

Beck Row Methodist Church

Thursday
5.30pm & 7pm

Friday
7am & 9am

With Terri 07725 761922



Beck Row Primary News

What a wonderful term it has been at Beck Row Primary! A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Fete. Your generosity and support helped us raise over £1,000, which will go a long way in supporting our school and its activities.

We are still on the look-out for some wellies for our OPAL project, so if you have any pairs, you no longer need, we would be so grateful for your donations.

Beck Row is a truly lovely village, and our primary school is full of promise and potential. We are excited for what lies ahead as we move into the rest of the year together. Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our school community!

Warmest regards,
Charley Minter, Principal

t: 01638 713001, e: charley.minter@attrust.org.uk

w: www.beckrow.attrust.org.uk

The Street, Beck Row, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 8AE



Holywell Row Village Hall – BINGO SESSIONS

Bingo sessions are going to be held on the 4th Friday of each month in the Village Hall – 28th February and 28th March.

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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Eulogy for Ronald Murkin

We are publishing this eulogy in memory of Ron, always known as Mo, with thanks for the time he spent serving the community on Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill Council. The words have been written by his wife Rita to whom he was married for 52 years.



Ronald Geoffrey Murkin, known as Mo to his friends, started life living on an ex-WW2 Army camp in Freckenham until the age of four. He had his first taste of beer at the local pub to celebrate the Queen's Coronation and was sick afterwards! From Freckenham the family went on to live in Fleming Avenue in Mildenhall until he was 22 years old. In his youth he was great friends with Peter Bonas and they used to get into all sorts of boyish pranks but fortunately nothing serious. He used to work in Mr Williams' green grocery shop, (the shop is now Martin's furniture shop in Mildenhall High

Street.) His job was to weigh out goods then deliver them on a trades bicycle all over the town.

At this time he became interested in the Boy Scouts, probably because Mr Williams the scout master encouraged him, or did he listen to all the activities they did and wanted to join in? As it turned out he thoroughly enjoyed this experience being outdoors, having fun with his friends and learning a lot of new skills including camping.

Mo was interested in cars and motorbikes from an early age playing and tinkering about at Ponsford's garage, now under new ownership at Fiveways roundabout Barton Mills. He later went on to train at Mann Egerton's garage in Barton Mills and while in their employ going to Bury Tech in between work days to get his qualifications. His other interests varied from fishing to darts and stockcar driving in Ipswich, Wisbech and Yarmouth for Spedworth Racing. He often worked late in the night repairing the cars so they would be ready for the next race. He played snooker and ten pin bowling on Mildenhall Air Base.

He could turn his hand to most things, lorry driving, plastering, fencing, making sheds and spraying cars.

Mo helped organize charity events in the community and with friends which raised a lot of money.

Later in life he joined the Parish Council when Beck Row split from Mildenhall Parish Council to form its own council and did so until he was too unwell to carry on. This activity takes a lot of one's private time and credit must go to him and fellow councillors for that. He enjoyed taking an interest in village life. His last job was working on Mildenhall Air Base as a groundsman, which he enjoyed and was trained to enjoy more new skills.

He was looking forward to retirement, but started to have a lot of health issues. He ended up having emergency surgery – a matter of life or death at the time and after for five years on and off spent time under the care of Addenbrookes hospital in Cambridge. At the end his health deteriorated quite quickly and his life ended on 1st December 2024 in Addenbrookes.

Rest in Peace Mo

RED ONION PASTIES

INGREDIENTS serving 4 people

- One large potato and 2 carrots chopped into 1cm squares
- 300g caramelised onion chutney
- 1 tbsp thyme leaves, chopped
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 140g mature cheddar, grated
- 500g block of short crust pastry rolled as thinly as you can
- Beaten egg
- Poppy seeds - optional

METHOD

- 1 Heat oven to 190 / fan 170°C. Line baking tray with baking parchment.
- 2 Boil carrots and potatoes for 5 minutes. Drain well and put in large bowl. Add chutney, thyme, mustard, cheese and salt and pepper.
- 3 Carefully mix so as not to break up potatoes and carrots.
- 4 Cut pastry into about 13cm /7in squares and brush edges with egg.
- 5 Place mixture on each square and bring all four corners to the middle and press edges together.
- 6 Brush all over with egg and sprinkle poppy seeds if using. Bake for 30 minutes until golden.
- 7 Serve warm or cold with a green salad.

If reheating do this gently in the oven rather than microwave. I did find that putting too much mixture in made the edges come apart, however carefully I brushed the edges, but I like that rather than too much pastry and not enough middle!

A good lunchtime snack or with vegetables as a main meal.




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SCAN ME

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David Taylor who writes stories which he allows us to publish has sent this one written in the style of Alan Bennett's monologues. It does put a smile on your face.

David, a retired senior meteorologist, joined the Open University and a creative writing group after he obtained a degree in creative writing. It would seem he is multitalented, and we thank him for his contribution to The Beacon.

The Key To Loneliness

This is a 'Talking Heads' story with all apologies to Alan Bennett.

Mavis Monkstone is sitting on a floral-patterned settee clutching a box of tissues. The background wallpaper has large red roses with gold stems which dominate the scene. Mavis has a long face dwarfed by her gold and pink fancy glasses.

I bumped into that Cynthia Glastonbury a couple of days ago. She's ginger and lives in one of those big double-fronted houses in Portland Street. I can't make her out. Whenever we meet, she always asks me lots of questions about my Julian. (Mavis starts to sniff and wipe her eyes.) I told her all about him many years ago and it's now her favourite topic of conversation. I suppose it's nice she takes an interest. 'How old is he now?' she asked with an amused look on her face. I didn't really want to talk about him since what happened last week, but I muttered, 'Just turned forty-two and he's now living in his own house two streets away.' I got a feeling that she knew about the recent circumstances because she suddenly had a smirk on her face. I walked quickly away wishing her all the best, but I didn't mean it.

When I look back at how happy we all were in the past, I felt then that I'd made something of my life. I met Malcolm at a church prayer meeting, and we didn't have much to say to each other than, 'God bless', at the end of each meeting. I suppose we were both shy and didn't want any tongues wagging or criticism, especially at the vicarage. I didn't like the vicar who I felt ogled the young girls and I always made sure I wore a long skirt. Malcolm didn't seem to mind how I looked and would peep at me with side-long glances. It was so exciting when he asked me out for a walk but his choice of a stroll in the cemetery was not what I had expected. Anyway, to cut a long story short, our meetings progressed to a visit to the pictures. But, here again, he didn't deal in romance and took me to see a war story. He didn't even buy me an ice cream or hold my hand when the hero was killed. Oh, I was wanting to swoon with some sort of passion but all he seemed to do was play with his pipe; you know, keep tamping it down and cleaning it out when he wasn't smothering me in a cloud of Balkan Sobranie. Well, a year or two later, and after much prodding by me, he proposed, and we married. It was then that we went for the first time to Mrs Monday's boarding house for our honeymoon in Morecambe.

From then on, we always had our annual holidays at Mrs Monday's. In later years, Malcolm said she should have been called Mrs Wednesday because she was always full of woe. But he loved her steak and kidney puddings, and she always kept a full range of breakfast cereals on her large shiny sideboard. Anyway, enough of that because my Julian entered our lives. He was such an adorable baby and just loved being with his mummy. Malcolm didn't seem to take the same interest and was perfectly content just to sit in the house after work or potter out in the garden, sucking on his pipe whether it was dead or alive. Well, I just had to tell him, it had been building up for a number of weeks, 'Malcolm, I don't think it is healthy for my Julian to be inhaling all of your noxious fumes'. He didn't seem to mind too much because he spent longer periods in the garden and his shed. My Julian grew up so quickly and he was such an intelligent boy.

Of course, we took my Julian to Mrs. Mondays from an early age and, as Julian got older, Mrs Monday increased Julian's bed sizes. She was always thoughtful like that. And so, it continued; even up to Malcolm's sad demise, Julian continued to share our bedroom. We were a really close family. Oh, I haven't told you about poor Malcolm's passing. He said he was going to dig up some new potatoes for dinner and he seem to have gone for ages. I really wanted to get the potatoes boiling and went outside to hurry him along. I couldn't see any smoke and I found him face down in the newly dug earth with his pipe still firmly clamped in his mouth. I was surprised that his false teeth hadn't been dislodged. Those potatoes were the tastiest and best he had ever grown. Anyway, after I called the doctor, it was that Dr Fogarty who I never liked, he said in an offhand way, 'You'd better call the undertaker, there's nothing I can do. He's had heart failure and smoking didn't help'.

Naturally, I rang Mr Bellowes, who I always found very polite and sympathetic. As he took Malcolm away, he said, 'Don't worry about the soil on Malcolm's face and suit, I'll tidy him up.' Well, I said to my Julian, 'It's just the two of us now and we'll have to help each other.'

I was surprised that he refused to dig up the rest of the potatoes because, he explained, he didn't like to get earth under his fingernails, which I fully understood. 'I know it is such a shock and a loss for you as it is for mummy', I managed to utter with tears rolling down my cheeks. He went straight back to his computer whilst I managed, with some pain from my rheumatic knees, to get down and pick up the unearthed potatoes.

I was surprised when Julian started to go out in the evenings, and I was so pleased. He had become poor company just sitting at his computer for hours on end; but then, he was never a boy who spent much time

downstairs, except for his meals. I never knew what he was looking at because he quickly turned his computer off when I went to dust or make his bed. Now I think of it, I hadn't told you that Julian was off work with stress. He was always such a sensitive boy, and he always had his mummy's support and comfort. Something else I have to tell you – there were a number of strange calls for my Julian from gentlemen who never gave their names and were often abrupt when I asked. He never told me where he had been, but I did hear the word 'club' when he was talking to one of his friends.

He came home one evening and, surprisingly, wanted to talk. Of course, I always stayed up until he was home and safely snuggled down in his bed. It was often the early hours, but I didn't mind. Anyway, this particular evening, he was much much happier than normal and quite excited. He told me he had met a special friend named Leslie. I immediately jumped in there and told him I hoped she was as pretty as Leslie Caron who starred in 'Gigi'. He just said he would be going up to bed muttering that he had never seen the film or play or whatever it was. I suppose he had chosen somebody with a bit of flesh on her bones like his mummy.

Mavis starts to dab her eyes before she can continue.

The next morning as he sat eating his cornflakes, I always buy him Kellogg's rather than those cheap German supermarkets' own brands, and he always has full-fat milk, he came out with it. He was going to leave home and live with Leslie. I just didn't know what to say. It was such a shock, and I hadn't even met Leslie. How could I be sure that she was the right girl for my Julian? And, then he didn't really want to talk about her. All I could think was to ask him where she lived. I felt so much better about things when he explained that Leslie lived in that very respectable area of Gladstone Mews and only a stone's throw away from his mummy. He then said that I was invited to Leslie's for dinner on Friday and I was so excited because I hadn't been out for anything special since Malcolm's funeral.

I put on my best dress and a dab behind the ears of a perfume from Paris; both must have been thirty years old, and I must admit that the dress was a bit of a squeeze and the perfume a bit musty. Julian had already left; I suppose he wanted to greet me at the door with his new partner. He had seemed fidgety and uncomfortable all week, but I put it down to excitement. The big day arrived and armed with a massive bouquet, I made my way to Gladstone Mews. I rang the bell of the tastefully decorated front door which had inset prised glass. The door was opened by a bearded man wearing a floral pinny. Before I had time to say I was at the wrong house, this man shook my hand and told me he was Leslie. I just stood there staring and nearly collapsed. I had to use my extra strong inhaler telling him that I must have been allergic to the flowers as I handed them over. My mind was going thirty to the dozen and all I could think was that we must keep this quiet from Aunt Monica and the vicar. Leslie told me how kind I was bringing him flowers and took them from my shaking hand as he led me indoors.

Well, you can imagine, I didn't know what to say or expect. Julian just sat there in silence whilst Leslie looked for a vase for the flowers.

'Make yourself at home; why don't you have a wander around,' Leslie said as he busied himself in the kitchen. Naturally, I was inquisitive and did follow him into his very well-appointed kitchen. It had one of those islands in the middle, full of gadgets, and shiny marble tops. It was immaculate. The meal was very tasty and served with red wine although I didn't have much appetite. I was still in shock because I could still envisage that beautiful Leslie Caron. I just sat there in some sort of trance trying not to believe how close my Julian and this bearded man appeared to be. Soon after the meal, I made my apologies but not before I had promised to feed Leslie's cat whilst the two of them were away for a few days. Julian moved out of our house the following day and I helped him pack his clothes, using fine tissue paper, of course.

I suppose I was somewhat pleased that Leslie had entrusted me with the key to his house and I kept looking at it in my handbag. I can't say I felt too lonely either because I saw little of Julian except at mealtimes. I left it for an hour or two after their departure time for their trip to Edinburgh before I walked to the house. It was all clean and tidy and the cat seemed pleased to see me. I know I shouldn't have but I wandered upstairs. I wanted to see my Julian's bedroom. I was knocked back on my heels. There was a computer room, a study library and a double bedroom with a very large bed in it. There was no other bedroom, and I just kept staring at the only bed in the house. Well, I can tell you, I was close to collapse and my inhaler was in my handbag downstairs. I felt like crumpling on the bed, but I didn't want to go anywhere near it. After putting some food in the cat bowl and replenishing the cat's milk, I went home. But it was like a magnetic attraction that kept drawing me back to their house. Even after their holiday, I still let myself in after they'd left for work. That is until Leslie found me there one morning. He was very angry and demanded the return of his key. Julian refuses to speak to me.

Mavis weeps into an already saturated tissue.

It was my birthday yesterday. I was hoping for a birthday card from Julian and so delighted when I heard the letterbox. I snatched the envelope from the doormat and ripped it open. It was a card from that ginger woman, Cynthia Gladstone. It read, Thinking of you. Cynthia (Leslie's mother). Perhaps she's not so bad after all.

I lost my Julian and, I suppose, my whole life. You could say that Leslie's key was the key to my loneliness.





There has been a break over the Christmas period but in January we were pleased to have the youngsters from Lakenheath Youth team returning and with the possible prospect of the U16s also coming for training sessions. It is heartening to see the improvement with age and the training given to the youngsters. It is also commendable to see the commitment from the youth teams and the coaches who give so much of their time so freely.

Peter Hayes has kindly loaned us a photograph (undated so if anyone can date this please get in touch.) It is likely that some siblings of those shown or children or grandchildren will be able to recognise members of their family. If you do we would love to hear from you about them. We know that the football pitch at the time was off Lock's Lane near the Air Ministry Road which leads to Skelton's Drove one of many sites it had in the village. (Please text or call 07484 107694 / 01638 715686.)



*Back Row L-R: Fred Nobbs, Reg Spraggins, George Goodwin, Ken Aggett, Austin Clements, Charlie Heffer
Front Row: Roger Tuckwell, Les Goodwin, Roy Bacon, Don Lock Wally Rolfe*

We know that Ken Aggett was the goalie and married to Linda, nee Clements. He was a meteorologist. Austin Clements was his brother in law. They also played when the football site was situated on Whitings Farm on a field near the corner of Aspal Lane and the start of Holywell Row.

Roger Tuckwell was married to Eva, nee Morley whose family lived next to the Methodist Church in Beck Row.

Contact details are –

Philip Haylock: philiphaylock@btinternet.com, mobile 07860 316748
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Changing fortunes for the birds of RSPB Lakenheath Fen

Now we are into 2025 and in the depths of winter, Lakenheath Fen looks and feels much as it should for this time of year. Last night we had a sharp frost and the reserve's trails are decorated as if they have been dusted with icing sugar. Along with the cold weather, several species of birds we expect to see in winter are here in good numbers - Siskins, Redpolls and Whooper swans, for example. Many migrant birds just move westwards in Autumn - not necessarily heading south - as for our latitude, the UK is very mild - thanks to the Gulf Stream which comes up from South America and warms our western coasts.

However, against this backdrop of 'usual' visitors, times are changing. We see certain bird species more and more often each year, and they make our 'year list' of birds sooner than they used to. On 2nd January, our first working day in 2025, we recorded both Cattle egret and Chiffchaff! Cattle egrets used to be a real rarity in the UK - until the winter of 2007/8 when a large influx from the continent meant that a couple of pairs stayed to breed, in Somerset, in the Spring of 2008. Since then, their population has grown rapidly, and they are now a fairly common sight across the southern half of the UK.



They look a bit like their commoner cousins the little egret, but they have a shorter yellow bill (rather than black) and are a bit smaller. They also have a habit of closely following cattle, sheep and horses around, looking for grubs and worms they stir up with their hooves and parasites like flies and ticks on the animals themselves. Our wardens Henry and Haydn spotted two on Cowles Drove following some ponies on the second day of 2025! We've had another record since, and its only mid-January at the time of writing.

Chiffchaffs are a little different - they have been here since prehistory. However, they used to be scarce in winter - just the odd, brave bird risked staying here all year round. Nowadays, our milder winters tempt many more to remain where they are at the end of summer - whilst their other warbler relatives like Whitethroats and Sedge warblers hotfoot it to Africa and southern Europe. All of these warblers feed on insects and spiders, so it is telling that a bird that does is now able to routinely find enough food daily to make it through our winter. Chiffchaffs are now a common sight - there are thousands in our gardens, parks and green spaces right now.

As well as changes in our climate causing the bird scene to adapt, we are also seeing certain species like Red kite, Peregrine and Raven more often as they continue their gradual recovery after decades of persecution in the UK. In the first half of the 1900s these species suffered greatly due to egg collecting, illegal hunting and post-WWII mass usage of pesticides in the UK countryside, which thinned the eggshells of birds of prey so much they couldn't incubate their eggs. Thankfully, times have changed for these species and they enjoy a safer environment and better survival - and we have recorded all three at Lakenheath Fen already in 2025!

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

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FREE PLAY AND CRAFTS 2–2.30pm

Come along and get creative with your children!

If health or mobility problems are preventing you or someone you know from visiting a library branch or mobile library, our Home Library Service volunteers can help by bringing books to your home. Email HLS@suffolklibraries.co.uk

For Suffolk Libraries Local Beck Row enquiries email slocal@suffolklibraries.co.uk

For other news and updates find us on Facebook @SLLBeckRow

The Parish Hub offers free refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits.

The Parish Clerk will be in the office during this time should any residents wish to speak on matters relating to the Parish or the Parish Hub.



By donating to Suffolk Libraries you can help us fund crucial additional services that reduce social, digital and rural isolation in our communities. For details visit www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/donate

HMRC charity number: 9734475



Gardening Tips

The winter period is the best time for pruning. Consider how you require the shrubbery to look later in the year. Any branches that extend out over pathways or over fences can be pruned now. It gives the cut branches a chance to seal and heal. For best results, cut close to large branch or trunk, then look for a way to allow more light and air into the centre of small trees. This can be done during this period for apple and fig trees and also deciduous trees.

Make sure your pruners are sharp and use a small hand saw for minor branches.

Tree pruning sealer can be put on areas where larger limbs have been cut off to make extra sure disease cannot enter.

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A Little Something To Brighten Your Day

- ~ I have just finished reading a book called The World's Greatest Basement – It was a best seller.
- ~ It's my first week working at the bicycle factory and they already made me a spokesperson.
- ~ Horses have lower divorce rates. It's because they are in stable relationships.
- ~ My laptop caught pneumonia apparently because I left Windows open.
- ~ I thought swimming with dolphins was expensive until I went swimming with sharks – it cost me an arm and a leg.
- ~ The main function of your little toe is to make sure all the furniture in the house is in the right place.
- ~ It's pretty obvious that if I run in front of a car I will get tired but if I run behind a car I will get exhausted.
- ~ My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them, "You just wait!"
- ~ 90% of bald people still own a comb – they just can't part with it.
- ~ Every morning, I get hit by the same bicycle. It's a vicious cycle.

BOOM BOOM!

I Bet You Didn't Know This



In the 17th century personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men developed acne scars by adulthood.

The women would spread beeswax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexion. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was

told "Mind your own beeswax!" Should the woman smile the wax would crack hence the term "Crack a smile". In addition when they sat too close to the fire the wax would melt – therefore comes the expression "Losing face".

Ladies wore corsets then which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman was called "Straight laced". That was when she wore a tightly tied lace.

At the time common entertainment included playing cards. However a tax was levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the Ace of Spades. To avoid paying tax people would buy 51 cards instead. Yet since most games require 52 cards these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "Playing with a full deck."



A Few More Paraprosdokians For You

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech where the latter half causes the reader to reinterpret the first part. It is often used by comedians.

- ~ Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen!
- ~ What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter!
- ~ Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu - you get what you deserve!
- ~ I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday but couldn't find any!
- ~ What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A may be.
- ~ I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case!

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News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill

February – March 2025 edition

Email: clerk@beckrowparish.gov.uk

Website: beckrowparish.gov.uk

Please note:

The Parish website has moved to...

beckrowparish.gov.uk

There is a new email address for the Clerk shown above.

Summary of December 24 meeting

Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, Tim Passmore attended the meeting to report to council members and residents about matters relating to the local area and Suffolk. The council members approved the quote to renovate the Beck Row village sign and this will be done during February. An increasing number of residents have contacted the Parish Council with concerns over speeding in the Parish. Speed Watch will be explored again as it is something the Parish Council can do to get involved with speed reduction. Volunteers are needed to get this initiative going.

This year the Parish Council placed an additional Christmas tree at Kenny Hill on the A1101, Kenny Hill Baptist Church lit the tree.

Dates for your diary:

- Sat 19th Apr 25 – Easter Egg Hunt
- Thu 8th May 25 – VE Day
- Fri 15th Aug 25 – VJ Day

Summary of January 25 meeting

The council members approved the decision to proceed with the addition

of solar panels and batteries for the Parish Hub. This will be a funded project through West Suffolk Council using the 2nd phase of the Decarbonisation Grant Fund. The 1st phase of this grant saw the Parish streetlights upgraded to LED units which will see a reduction in electricity and running costs. An additional matter was discussed regarding the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the Parish Hub carpark. This is once again a funded initiative. The council members approved this decision.



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



On the coldest day we have experienced this winter, with a strong gusty wind and a minus level wind chill factor, I spotted a group of green sandpipers on a recently ploughed field. Their call is very high pitched, like they were disturbed by the excess cold. If one of them decided to fly they would all fly in a ballet in the sky as if choreographed earlier to correspond to the vagaries of the gusts.

Some leave for Africa and Southern Europe but others stay and tough it out. They were searching for worms on the ploughed field. They can also eat small crustaceans. When you flush up a small group of green sandpipers, if you wait a matter of minutes they will return right back to where they took off from. This is by no means a guarantee with most birds but it's worth waiting for as these are birds with a most beautiful plumage, only properly visible when settled on the ground.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to join the Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill Speed Watch Group. We are looking for people to commit to a couple of times a year.



Information can be found here - <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/>

What is Community Speed Watch?

The Community Speed Watch programme empowers communities to play an active role alongside the Safety Camera Partnership in tackling the problems of speeding in their neighbourhood. As part of the Community Speed Watch programme, trained volunteers verify and record the registration number of vehicles seen breaking the speed limit.

How does Community Speed Watch work?

Community Speed Watch volunteers monitor vehicles from designated sites which have been risk-assessed and approved by the police. Our volunteers use a police approved hand-held speed detection device to check the speed of vehicles and any vehicles recorded driving 24+ mph in 20mph (Suffolk only) zone, 35+ mph in 30mph zone and 46+ mph in 40mph (Norfolk only) zone are written down on a monitoring sheet. The details recorded are time, date, site, make, model, colour, registration and speed. These details are sent to the CSW Administrator for processing. A PNC (Police National Computer) check is run on the vehicle and the registered keeper's information is obtained and a letter is sent.

First offence – letter is sent to the registered keeper advising details of the offence and a reminder of the effects of their action. Second offence – follow-up letter is sent to registered keeper with stronger wording. Persistent offenders and high speeders will be added to a tasking list and circulated for targeted police intervention.

I have a speeding problem in my neighbourhood. What can I do?

If you and other members of the community think that speeding traffic has a dangerous or negative social impact on your area, then involve your local Parish Council as their support will be vital. If it appears that there are others who would like to volunteer to take an active role in speed monitoring, then forming a group is a good next step.

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Parish Clerk - beckrowparishcouncil@gmail.com

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Spotlight on this edition's Advertiser – Town and Country Cars

This time we feature the couple behind Town and Country Cars in Beck Row.

They are Gayle, nee Alecock (daughter of Val and Jimmy Alecock well known in Mildenhall but particularly for the cake making and fundraising for Macmillan Coffee morning year after year) and Darren Scarrow. They both came into the world in Newmarket and both of them grew up in Mildenhall. Darren spent a lot of time in West Row where many of his family lived.

They both went to Great Heath Primary School, on to College Heath Middle School and finally Mildenhall Upper School (which has moved from Bury Road to the Mildenhall Hub and changed its name to Mildenhall College Academy). Gayle will openly admit to caring little for the life of academia and both she and Darren left school as soon as they could.

The only member of staff she recalls in all three schools was Mrs Pat Barker who was deputy head of Great Heath while she was a pupil there. Instead, her passion was acting with the Bunbury Players and being a member of Mrs Felicity Goode's dance school from the age of 3 until she was 16 years old. Her first acting part for the Bunbury Players was at the age of 9 when she was a Babe in Babes in the Wood. This was the first of 5 pantomimes in which she took part. With her dancing she went to the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds and featured in Oliver and Carousel amongst others.

Meanwhile Darren, while growing up, was mad keen on Banger Racing at the home of Mildenhall Speedway in West Row where his Uncle Robert Henry was a rider for the Fen Tigers. When he left school he went to work for David Ballard, then to Silverline Office Equipment where he got his Class 2 driving licence enabling him to drive the lorries. At one time Gayle worked there as well scheduling the lorries off on their routes, often for the ones Darren was driving. He then went on to work for MPM Windows all on the industrial estates in Mildenhall ending up working for Phoenix taxis. That gave him a taste for career improvement when he decided to start up Town and Country Cars in 2017.

He and Gayle, who had been together since they were 17 and 18, were married in 2001 and had four children, Ella (24), Lily (20), Charlie (18) and Jimmy (16) with two being named after their maternal grandparents and 2 after their paternal grandparents. Ella has since made them grandparents themselves with the arrival of Ronnie.

Gayle left school and worked for Greene and Greene Solicitors in Bury St Edmunds before being an assistant at Beck Row Pre School led by Topsy Bacon. There she gained her Level 3 in nursery childcare and while she found this job fitted in so well in bringing up the family, putting them all to bed, doing housework then studying from 10pm til often 2am made life very busy at the time. From there she went to work for New Horizons, a playgroup on Mildenhall Industrial Site where she did the administrative work.

By 2018 their business became so busy that Gayle was asked by Darren to leave her job and take on the scheduling of taxis to help him. They started with his one car 7 years ago and at the time with Gayle working she used her administrative skills to manage the household finances telling Darren how much between them they needed to earn to cover their family's needs. All through their working lives up to this point they gathered skills and experience in their various occupations which has helped them to get where they are today. They have gone from one taxi to 15 now in their fleet. They have some married couples who work for them and often when asked, one of the couple will decide which of them is more convenient to do a particular journey. Gayle says she is quite flexible in this respect and feels keeping their drivers



happy is the most important thing,

Gayle and Darren are now helped by their son Charlie and the scheduling shared between Gayle and him. His shift is from 8.30am to 5pm and then she takes over til the morning answering calls throughout the night. They have many calls from Americans in their homeland with the time difference hence the need for a 24 answering service seven days a week.

When you read through this story you cannot help but admire the hard work they have put in and we wish them continued richly deserved success in the future.



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FARMING DIARY

In the previous episode I wrote about my failed attempts to become a serious duck farmer bemoaning the fact that these new additions to my farm were thriving in all facets except the most important one of laying eggs.

Well whether these ducks read my article or whether they just felt sorry for me I don't know but something has triggered some action and last week I was astounded to enter the shed and find 2 eggs. I looked at them twice to make sure a stray chicken had not entered the shed, but yes, they were definitely duck eggs. Since then, 2 every day and up to 5 recently.



Bearing in mind there are 38 ducks in the shed this is not a brilliant return but at least we're on the right road so to speak. It is interesting to note in comparison that a commercial laying hen lays at least 300 eggs per year.

All the hens and ducks are currently shut up due to government restrictions in order to limit the spread of bird flu. Bird flu is transmitted to commercial flocks by mixing with wild birds and thus shutting the commercial flocks away means that they are unlikely to associate with wild birds and therefore limit the risk. I think that at this stage the government was right to order a housing order as the flu was spreading quickly throughout East Anglia and also since the housing order was issued on 23rd December the weather has been so cold and unpleasant that not many birds would have ventured out anyway. Most farmers have experienced a drop off in production, of about 7% in my case, as this always happens when circumstances change, but I am forever happy to report that in my last few days production has returned to normal and even a little better than I would expect.

I feel the future for laying hen farming is very bright. In my case I sell all my own eggs direct to the public either through my market stall at Bury St. Edmunds or my own self service shed on the farm. I am forever grateful at how many people use me and I have been lucky to tap into a trend particularly amongst young people of buying local produce. I think it is very important to keep investing in the business even though I am getting on a bit, and I am conscious that if my daughter and son in law take over from me, they will need to have hens housed in the best possible conditions.



Also, many of the high protein low carb diets that are popular at the moment feature multiple use of eggs, and it is not uncommon for some people to eat half a dozen eggs or more a day. Great news for me, but it has meant that I am often struggling to produce enough eggs, and it is for that reason that I am in the process of purchasing two purpose built wooden sheds with all mod cons housing a further 500 birds each. I will take delivery in early summer and hopefully I will be in full production for Autumn 2025.

Farming has become a much more specialised business now than it was when I started in 1982. Once I established myself by 1985/1986, I was growing 7 different crops and was keeping hens, turkeys, sheep and cattle - no wonder I ended up losing all my hair! Today we have just hens and grow asparagus, potatoes and grass. The specialist arable operations are carried out by Derrick Palmer and Sons, most impressively I might add.

Finally on our nightly dog walk with my son in law James, we discussed the imminent replacement of the radiator on my teleporter. James has ordered a new one and said, "I don't think I'll have it refurbished, we'll just put it on the scrap pile. I don't want to be like you and fill the yard with Just in Case stuff. I bristled. "Just in case stuff, we might need that stuff, and we have in the past." However, when I stopped to think about it my yard is full of stuff, most of which will never be used. Most farmers do I guess because the one thing we all have in common is space - the space to store Just in Case stuff!



News from Beck Row Methodist Church

The Mead Singers including Stage Coach pupils entertained us on 9th December with some wonderful singing and music, especially the church organ played by one of the members. The church was more than half full, which in this day and age is something of which to be proud. If you have not heard the organ with its wonderful tone, you have missed much. The sum of £149 was raised for church funds.

More enjoyment occurred when Rev Steve Oliver, who was our minister a few years ago, took the Carol Service accompanied by the Revelation Music Group. His personality and obvious true dedication to his ministry provides a smile on your face as he speaks. The local musicians had much talent!



The coffee morning was very successful bringing in an amazing £681 and thanks must be due to members of the Bacon family and the stewards of the church for their efforts before and during the occasion. Perhaps it was the presence of Father Christmas that attracted us all. The prizes available were quite luxurious. The main hamper was won by someone from Cheltenham, so we are known to people from afar!

Do come along and join us at these events as the social atmosphere is one of welcome and amusement!

Sunday morning services at 11am; would be events to attend too.



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Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen February - May 2025

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

Winter Walking Safari

Sunday 9 February 2025 (9:30am-3pm)

This behind-the-scenes tour provides a great opportunity to see the wildlife hiding out in parts of the reserve that aren't usually open to the public.

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


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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 13th March 2025 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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