



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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June – July 2024

Hello Readers

Who can believe this is the summer edition of the Beacon!!!

Since the last edition, there was the Village Tidy Up/Litter Pick (Love Your Village) – although not many attended, there were some Police Cadet Volunteers and USAF Volunteers from both RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath.

Also a Parish Council Surgery was held, 3 Parish Councillors were available for the public to chat to in a less formal situation than that of a Parish Council meeting. Sadly this was poorly attended too, however not to be beaten there will be another ‘Surgery’ held later in the year, probably on a Saturday morning which may be more convenient for parishioners to attend.

Starting on 18th June, 2024 at the Parish Hub there will be a ‘Pop Up Library’ – which will be held every week from 1pm to 3pm with free refreshments available.

As 2024 is the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings on 6th June, there will be a lighting of our Beacon on Aspal Close along with the other 79 Official Beacons throughout the country.

8.00pm Will be the wreath laying at the War Memorial at Lamble Close

8.15pm Wreath laying at the War Graves – St John’s Church

8.30pm Church Service

9.00pm Leaving church to gather at the Beacon

9.15pm Lighting of the Beacon

Saturday 8th June, 2024 – the Village Fun Day starting off at 12 noon at the Toch H land, continuing through to 4pm there will be classic cars, tractors, bouncy castles, wall climbing, a food van – plenty for a good afternoon’s enjoyment followed by live music and a Cider and Beer Fest at the Kings Head – everyone welcome.

Sadly one of our Parish Council members has had to resign due to work and family commitments – therefore we have a vacancy should anyone wish to apply.

As usual it goes without saying a huge thank you to the volunteers who contribute to the Beacon and the delivering each time.

Sue French

What's Going On Locally...

St John's Church

Sunday Services 9.30am

2nd Sunday of the Month: Service of the Word

4th Sunday of the Month: Holy Communion

Refreshments served after every service.

3rd Sunday of the Month:

Lightwave Breakfast Church

- 9.30am. St John's Church Hall,

Community Events



1st Tuesday of the Month, Lunch

- 12 noon for 12.30pm. Booking required.

Contact Kathy 07963 958017

2nd Tuesday of the Month, Soup & Bingo

- Recommences October.

3rd Tuesday of the Month, Coffee Morning

- 10am. No booking required.

4th Tuesday of the Month, Soup & Chickenfoot

- Recommences October.

Revs David & Caroline Butcher 07747 816038

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

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Our aim is to recycle or re-use 100% of recovered materials (excluding hazardous waste)

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

Laura Prentice

Sutton Services Limited, Undley Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk, IP27 9BX

Phone: **01842 861231** or **07900 251007**

Email: laura@suttonservicesltd.co.uk or office@suttonservicesltd.co.uk

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Summer has arrived, with it the Swifts, which breed in the Church Bell Tower as they have done for many years. They are remarkable birds, forever in the air apart from the brief period when they lay their eggs and hatch out the new generation. We are truly blessed to have them at St John's, as not only are they an endangered species, but every year they make the perilous journey from Africa to be with us.

Our other new arrival is the Lightwave Service, on the first Sunday of each month. This is a modern, relaxed, all-aged worship, and everyone is most welcome. It now means that we have a service every Sunday, the first time since pre-Covid. Our thanks to Diane Grano and the Lightwave Team for being able to be with us. Service patterns are now:

1st Sunday	9.30 am	Lightwave Service
2nd Sunday	9.30 am	All Aged Service
3rd Sunday	9.30 am	Breakfast Church
4th Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion

All followed by refreshments in the hall.

Each May, we host the Mildenhall Register Service, an Old Comrades Association of those stationed at RAF Mildenhall in the past. For the first time, there were no original members of the association, just their families, who have continued to meet in memory of their parents and grandparents. It was a joyous occasion, and a pleasure to meet with many old faces.

The Warm Rooms have now finished for the summer months, but the Lunches and Coffee Mornings continue on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays as usual. There are also a few seats still available for the free trip to Felixstowe on 4th June, please contact Kathy Butcher if you would like to come.

Friends of Aspal Close

The next meeting of the Friends of Aspal Close will take place at St John's Church Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd July.

The last meeting discussed the removal of poplar trees. We hope to have a member of West Suffolk Council there to answer any questions regarding the management of The Close. If anyone has anything they wish to discuss regarding The Close please come along to the meeting.

Stella Wenko
(Chairperson)



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Spotlight on this edition's Advertiser

– The Thursday Club

We have chosen to highlight The Thursday Club this time. It has quite a history going right back to 1968. It was then our County Councillor Jack Haylock and the Rev. Christopher Hughes believed there was a need for a club for the Over 60s and a message went out to ask any who were interested to come to the Church Hall on 24th October. Those who needed transport would be given it. A huge show of support meant a committee was formed and Jack Haylock was invited to be the Club's first President. The first chairperson and treasurer was Miss Sanders M.B.E. who lived in Rozel Court. Other chairmen in the formative years were Mrs Dorricot, Mr Jenvey, J Peachey, Mrs Lamb and Mrs Fulham. At that time there were 60 members with 30 on the waiting list.

In 1974 the Church Hall was in disrepair so the club moved to the Village Hall in The Street, but that was not much better as an umbrella was needed in the kitchen if it was raining. The Club name, which was initially The Over 60s, was changed to The Thursday Club to enable those over 50 to join. On 19th October 1989 the 21st Anniversary Dinner was held in the Village Hall. At the time Mr Ward was the chairman and his wife Mary the Secretary.

After much fundraising by many in the parish a new Community Centre was added to Beck Row Primary School. Parishioners had a room, their own toilets and kitchen with the use at negotiable times of the School's big new hall half funded with Suffolk County Council and the Community. This hall holds 250 people and the Thursday Club met every other Thursday at 2pm. There was a very large number of activities, speakers and many outings arranged. In 2000 members designed and made a wall hanging representing all facets of the community. The School entertained the club every year with their Christmas Concert.

At the time of a revised constitution in 2007 Mrs Jean Butcher was chairman and Pat Barker Treasurer. The 40th Anniversary tea was held in October 2008. It is quite amazing the number of people who have held the more prominent positions on the Committee and their hard work and dedication to making the club such a success is to be applauded. There are far too many to mention here but if you want to know more names the Club has a very



detailed history, only some of which is mentioned here.

The School was taken over by an Academy and the Community moved out. Now the Club meets at the Methodist Church Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm til 4pm and all are welcome. Presently there are 52 members, but now room for more. Please make any enquiries to the Treasurer Maggie Walker on 01638 715447.

The present Chairperson is Barbara Atkins and the Vice Chairperson is Brendan Hughes, both from Beck Row.

We wish them continuing

success after so many years of providing welcome entertainment to so many.

Photos are of the 50th Anniversary Cake, the presentation of a cheque for a P A system which is used a lot and Beryl Rix who was a member for 50 years!

THE THURSDAY CLUB Beck Row

Thursday 11th July – Trip to Gt. Yarmouth – £15
Thursday 14th Nov – Trip to Rushton Lakes – £15
To book seats please phone Maggie – 01638 715447

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.



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Asparagus Tart

The asparagus season is in full swing until 21st June so this edition we are making use of this vegetable.

INGREDIENTS

- 375g/13oz ready rolled shortcrust or puff pastry
- 250g/9oz ricotta
- 2 eggs
- fresh basil or a little dried
- 2 garlic cloves
- 25g/1oz parmesan – grated or from tub (usually used to sprinkle over spaghetti)
- 12 small cherry tomatoes or similar
- 8/12 asparagus spears in 5cm lengths or snap where the soft ends and the harder stalks begin (discard any tough unchewable parts.)
- 6-8 slices of prosciutto

METHOD:

- 1 Heat oven to 200°C fan/180°C, line a baking tray with parchment paper, lay the pastry on it and curl up the edges to contain ingredients as they cook. Prick pastry with a fork.
- 2 Mix ricotta, egg, basil (handful fresh leaves shredded or light dusting of dried basil), garlic crushed, half the parmesan and put on pastry.
- 3 Arrange halved tomatoes and prosciutto on top and remainder of parmesan and drizzle a little olive oil over all.
- 4 Brush oil on the edges all round and bake for 25 minutes until pastry looks golden and middle almost set.
- 5 Serve with either salad or vegetables of your choice.



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80 BEACONS




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Dear Colleague

June 6th 2024 marks a very important date in history, the **80th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY**.

With the support of our great suppliers we would like to promote the event across schools throughout the UK. We have created a number of free resources for you to personalise and use for your event.

The **80 Beacons** celebrations will be one of the largest events in the UK this summer - visit www.d-day80beacons.co.uk/ for more information.

We know pupils benefit from a hot meal at lunchtime, and as an industry we know they impact so positively on so many lives – this is something to be celebrated. So why not add this into your promotional calendar for 2024.

There will be EVENTS being held all over the country:

- The lighting of beacons around the country
- Town Crier Proclamations
- Parades
- Celebrations across the world
- Fish and Chip days in restaurants
- Plus much more

Tips to run a great 80 BEACONS promotion

- Liaise with your school/local community to see if there are any events you can join in with
- Run a *fish and chip day* as this is always popular with children
- Or *celebrate the Best of British food*, either modern day or old favourites
- *Invite your local MP* and any war veterans to join your special day
- *Decorate the dining room* with Great British flags, bunting and balloons

(contact admin@laca.co.uk for help)

Welsh resources are available on request, please contact admin@laca.co.uk with your requirements

LACA would like to **THANK MEMBERS** in advance for the **continuing support** of the school meals industry.



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY



News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill

April and May 2024

Telephone: 01638 501623 – Email: beckrowparishcouncil@gmail.com

www.beckrowparish.com

On Tuesday 9th April 2024 the Annual Parish Meeting was held. Unfortunately, there was only one member of the electorate present. The Annual Parish meeting is for all clubs, local charities and associations to report on the past year. This was followed by the Parish Council meeting.

At April's meeting it was resolved to reinstate a notice board in the Lamble Close area at the request of residents. It was also resolved to move the board at Kenny Hill to a better location. This has been discussed and agreed with Kenny Hill Church.

At the Annual Parish Council meeting in May the council members nominated and elected Councillor Gary Peachey as Chair for the year ahead and Councillor Alan Vickerage as Vice-Chair. Regrettably Councillor Anna Petric resigned which leaves an opening on the council. The process to fill this vacancy is underway. Anna has been a valuable member of the council and her input into Parish events has been essential, thank you Anna for your input.

West Suffolk Council have provided an update regarding the Streetlight upgrade to LED which is being carried out under the Decarbonisation Grant Fund. Suffolk County Council's contractor will begin works across Suffolk at the end of June. There are over 800 lights to upgrade across the County so where this Parish falls in their schedule is currently unknown. Further timescales will be reported when advised.

The Youth Shelter purchased for placement on the Toc-H land will be installed by the time you read this.



THE PARISH HUB

The Parish Hub is looking forward to bringing you Suffolk Pop-Up Library service once a week starting Tuesday 18th June 2024. Refreshments will be provided every week from 1pm-3pm. The Hub is busy with bookings – there aren't many free weekends between now and September. The Parish Hub Café is switching to Afternoon Teas for the Summer months, these will be held on Saturday afternoons.

PLANNING MATTERS

DC/24/0448/HH – Installation of air source heat pump. 27 Aspal Lane, Beck Row. SUPPORT

DC/24/0425/OUT – Outline planning application (all matters reserved) – one dwelling. Land at 3 Parkside, Beck Row. OBJECT Members agreed that it is over development of a constrained site. Additional concerns regarding privacy and shared access.

SUFFOLK
LIBRARIES

WHERE
I BELONG

COME AND JOIN US!

Launching on 18th June 2024!

Your weekly pop-up library sessions at Beck Row Parish Hub

1pm to 3pm every Tuesday.

Browse, collect and reserve library books.



1:30 PM - 2 PM Tot Rock for 0-4 year olds

2 PM- 2:30 PM Free play and crafts

Browse and borrow books and collect reservations.
You can reserve any book from the entire Suffolk Libraries catalogue!

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. Contact your nearest library for help. Contact Suffolk Libraries Local at slocal@suffolklibraries.co.uk

For other news and updates find us on Facebook @SLLBeckRow



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: XT34476

The Beck Row Parish Hub

The Hub Café

Charity Afternoon Teas

- 15th June** **Supporting – SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service)**
We are so lucky to have two SARS clinicians in our area who give up their free time, unpaid, to support the ambulance service with pre-hospital treatment, often being first on the scene to give vital early treatment in an emergency.
- 13th July** **Supporting – Scotty's Little Soldiers**
A military charity for bereaved military children who have experienced the death of a parent while serving in the Armed Forces.
- 24th August** **Supporting – SARS Suffolk Accident Rescue Service**
- 28th September** **Supporting – Macmillan Cancer Support Charity**

Afternoon Tea
2pm to 4pm
£8 per person

No need to book, just come along, everyone is welcome.

We also have a raffle, so any prizes would be gratefully received.

We need to know dietary needs before the day, so please give me (Sandra) a ring on 07552 216915 if you have any.

The Hub Café

@ The Rose & Crown Parish Hub



It's with great pleasure that we recently presented Suffolk Accident Rescue Service's (SARS's) volunteer responder Paramedic Steve Murrow with a donation for the charity.

The money had been raised by running the monthly Hub Café over the last year. The profit we make from food sales has been shared between the Parish Hub and SARS with all the money from our raffles, tombolas and sale of jam going to the charity.

We'd like to thank everyone that has supported our fundraising efforts over the last few years.

Sandra, Jan, Carole, Heather, Sally, Emma and Michelle xx

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The joys of early Summer at RSPB Lakenheath Fen

At this time of year there is so much to see at Lakenheath Fen, no matter your level of interest. Many visitors come to see Hobbies – a very elegant bird of prey which migrates here each Spring from Africa. They feed on large flying insects such as Cockchafers and dragonflies and eat them in flight. It's not unusual to find a scattering of discarded insect wings on a path above where Hobbies have been hunting! Last year we recorded 22 different species of dragonflies here, including some more unusual species such as Variable damselfly, Norfolk Hawker and Scarce Chaser.

Bitterns are another species which are easier to see at the moment – in Spring, the males 'boom' throughout the reedbeds but as we move into early Summer they will pursue other males in territorial disputes, or a female will be chased by more than one male, all keen to mate with her. Whilst you are out in the reedbeds, it's hard to miss the Marsh harriers busy raising young families. Male harriers that have been successful in attracting a female (and sometimes more than one) to nest will now be rushed off their feet trying to find enough food to deliver to the nest(s). Female harriers that are incubating eggs or minding young chicks will often quickly fly up and meet the male in mid-air to collect the catch in what is known as a 'food pass'. When the chicks grow to a size where they can keep themselves warm, the female will also leave to hunt for food to help feed their growing appetites – eventually both adults will just drop food on the nest as they pass for the young to argue over!



Photo credited to Alfie Shadbolt, was taken in March and shows a Bittern swimming across the water at Mere Hide

All of this drama plays out to a backdrop of Reed, Sedge and Willow warblers, and plenty of singing Cuckoos too. It can be quite easy to see a Cuckoo as males often fly across their territory slowly and deliberately, calling as they go. One of the more unusual birds we get here is Grasshopper warbler. At the time of writing visitors have helped us to pin down the location of two – one near Mere Hide and one close to Joist Fen Viewpoint. The unique song of the male birds is unlike anything else – it is often likened to a freewheeling bicycle, or a fishing line being drawn out – a high-pitched and constant buzz whose source appears to move around as the bird turns its head as it delivers the call.

On the pools around the reserve and on the nearby Hockwold Washes, broods of ducklings can often be seen following their mothers around, and small clusters of Coot, Moorhen, Little grebe and Great Crested grebe chicks will be supported by both parents who bring them insects and plant matter. All of this lovely wildlife is here for everyone to enjoy, and we hope to welcome plenty of visitors to the reserve to enjoy it this Summer. If you plan to visit us and have any questions, please free to give us a call on 01842 863400.

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

rspb.org.uk   



Gardening Tips

Spring is a good time to plant wildflower seeds, perhaps just a small patch of ground dedicated to not only British wildflowers but wildflowers from other European countries. Not just seeds but also plants that have become less important to us over the years. These plants have been important to bees for centuries. One such plant is woad.



I have recently seen these plants along the roadside verge from Beck Row to Holywell Row.

Used by the ancient Britons as a dye that would be painted on their bodies The flowers themselves are yellow but the leaves are a blueish colour.

Also another plant particularly good for bees is borage. In this case the flower is blue and blue coloured flowers are sought after by bees.



The spring has been difficult for bees as they don't know whether they are coming or going with up and down temperatures and rain and sunshine in rapid succession. Let's hope the wild flowers are successful this summer after the abysmal early spring.



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The football season draws to a close for another year and although we do not have an adult team (we would love to have one if someone would like to organise it) the youngsters led by Richard Horrex are making full use of the pitch. Even they are finding changes as there are fewer youth teams in the league now.

Many thanks to Mary Crane who was our County Councillor for many years, well remembered for her dedication and hard work which resulted in an MBE richly deserved. She has read the magazine on line and has commented on the football team photo we published last time. It was not her father Reg Jaggard in the photo but Bill Jaggard. She remembers her father saying that Alec Clements (in the photo) was a really good player so presumes the photo was of the first team – one of three in Beck Row. How about that? Three teams when the Parish population then was so small everyone knew everyone else! Now we have a much bigger parish – we deliver approximately 2,400 magazines to households in Beck Row including Wilde Street and Beck Row Common, Holywell Row, Kenny Hill and Burnt Fen and we can't even muster one team. How times have changed!

The historical part of our report this time is a photo with the wives or ladies from their families included. Please note that on information from the late Percy Webb he told us that Jim Clements in the photo was put on the photo that day to make up the numbers but really it should have been Fred Nobbs who played for this team all the time. Percy knew this for a fact as he played with Jim in the Reserves.



FOOTBALLERS WIVES: In the 1946/47 season, Beck Row Football Club won the Fass Shield. Here they are with some of their "Wags"! The photograph comes from **Grace Farthing** of Mildenhall.
From left to right, back row: Eva Greenacre, Jim Clements, Dot Spraggins, Reg Spraggins, Dolly Bacon, Dorothy Clements, **Colin ALLEN** Greenacre, Linda Clements, Bert Carpenter, Emily Clements. Middle row: Wally Rolph, Percy Bacon, Cyril Clements, Don Locke, Austen Clements. Crouched at the front: Ken Smith and Chic Farthing, Grace's husband.

Meanwhile any Beck Row, Holywell Row or Kenny Hill youngsters who want to take the opportunity to join in with Lakenheath Youth teams you are more than welcome.

Contact details are –
Philip Haylock: philiphaylock@btinternet.com, mobile 07860 316748
or Youth teams Richard Horrex: richardhorrex@gmail.com, mobile 07540 201 223



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Saturday 8th June 2024



12:00 noon - 4:00pm at the play park
Lamble Close, Beck Row.

Then from 4:00pm a Beer festival
with live music at the Kings Head.

We look forward to seeing you all

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill Parish Council
Bringing the community together

Beck Row Family Fun Day



Saturday 8th June meeting at Beck
Row Football Club at 12:00 noon

Entertainment
Refreshments
Attractions



**If you have a classic or unusual vehicle
of any type, please come and join us.**

We will be driving the perimeter of the Air Base to
celebrate the 90th anniversary of both the air race and
the opening of RAF Mildenhall. We will then return and
show our vehicles at the fete.

To enter please contact Gary on 07796958720

A loving tribute to a beautiful soul we were fortunate to know

This article has been given to us by the Nightingale/Quinn family and it gives us great pleasure to print it. Lily, from our parishioners' point of view was held in great respect as a person and for the contribution she made to our villages especially Holywell Row.

The family writes...

There are some individuals who leave an indelible mark on our lives and Miss Lily Nightingale was one of them. She radiated joy and love, had a contagious sense of determination and a quiet strength and resilience that inspired us.

George and Hannah Nightingale welcomed Lily into the world on Saturday 9th June 1928. Lily was the middle child of 3 and the eldest daughter. The eldest child was her brother Ernie and the youngest, her sister, Hannah (mother of Leroy and Elaine). Most of you know one or all of them because the family have deep roots here never leaving Holywell Row.

Lily had a happy childhood, she went to local schools, and Sunday School and Chapel in Holywell Row, all of which shaped her character.

Aunt Lily's first job after leaving school was with Mr Gregory at the Pharmacy, in Mildenhall High Street (site of the present Barclay's Bank) later going to work for Mr and Mrs Arthur Woollard at their plant nursery in Mildenhall. Not frightened of a hard day's work, Lily chose to work for Mr Wallace at the Beck Row Post Office, not behind the counter but cycling a postal route! Most of us will remember her at her market stall working at various markets, selling flowers, bedding plants and vegetables. Her Saturday ritual was Swaffham Market. Leroy and Elaine remember wonderful days spent there with Aunt Lily working for pocket money and going to the small animal auction. Aunt Lily worked as a market trader for about 30 years, when she chose to take a well-deserved retirement in 2003. The portrait by Mrs Rosemary Jacobs of Brandon, was gifted by Lily's friends and colleagues at Brandon Market on the occasion of her retirement.

Lily's passing has left a hole in the lives of the family, but her legacy is carried forward by her devoted sister, Hannah, cherished in-laws, cousins, nephews and nieces. Additionally, Lily touched the lives of countless friends and acquaintances through her gracious and compassionate nature. Her presence will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege of knowing her. Although her passing brings grief to many, **WE FIND COMFORT IN CELEBRATING A LONG LIFE AND HER EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT OF JOY, GOODNESS AND KINDNESS.** Lily understood that a smile was the shortest distance between two people as it breaks down barriers, has no age limit and it's free!

Lily approached life with a boundless energy, faith in God, determination and sense of purpose. (Occasionally, that sense of determination may have seemed just a little like stubbornness, perhaps.) Lily put faith into action: radiating love and joy. She expressed love by her kindness, humbleness and faithfulness to all, often putting the interests of others above herself. **YOU COULD ALWAYS DEPEND ON LILY!** Despite her boundless energy, when you were around her you were in awe of and inspired by her tranquil nature and sense of contentment. **AND SHE HAD MORE PATIENCE THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT!**

Lily created countless hours of happiness for family, friends and people she didn't even know. The ripple effect of her random acts of kindness, from flowers, fruit, eggs or bakery goods left on your doorstep to driving people to appointments or to visits with other family and her hours of effort and their impact are immeasurable.

Her love for village life and her neighbours inspired her. She designed and decorated carnival floats resulting in her giving adults and children alike the opportunity (COERCED OR ENCOURAGED) to dress up in themed costume and ride on the float, such fun times in our memories. Lily had a way of making everyone feel seen and important. She helped plan and host Village Hall parties and fundraisers, loved going to the local Whist Drives, Bingo and Dominoes. Such events making her famous for her exceptional washing-up skills always earning her high praise!

During parties she would use her cheer and good humour to get us all up dancing, her Hokey Cokey and spirited Conga Line were enthusiastically executed.

Her number of days spent riding in a coach in support of Sunday School Outings, Women's Institute Mystery Tours and trips to the seaside are EPIC and she always came home glowing with a story, usually about paddling in the sea. She loved a paddle!

Some may even remember her skill on the "oche" as a playing member of the Beck Row Women's Institute Dart Team!

It REALLY was the simplest of pleasures Lily loved; gardening, decorating the Chapel for Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas, and while in her 80s she was still having fun bouncing with Joanne's daughter Lillie on her Bouncy Castle in the garden. Also, in recent months she spent significant hours of childish delight on the floor playing with Rachel's baby daughter Ella. They loved each other dearly she was so young at heart.

Lily enjoyed a long life and over the years she received support and care from a team of family, friends and professionals who rallied together providing support, love and understanding. Profound thanks and appreciation go to all who gave from THEIR HEART with compassion; to anticipate and provide everything Aunt Lily needed and more besides! Our unity was a testament to the impact this beautiful soul had on each of us. Now that she has gone let us honour her memory, not by tears of sorrow, but with gratitude for the inspirational life she lived. May the LIGHT OF HER MEMORY continue to uplift and inspire us.



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For many people the Holly Blue butterfly is a familiar species as it is one of the first butterflies seen in spring and increasingly found in gardens. This is because it frequents holly and ivy plants.

If you see a bright blue small butterfly in April and May the chances are it is a Holly Blue. The pale bluish white underwings are adorned with small black spots.

Holly Blues drink honeydew rather than nectar and while doing so they seem quite oblivious to onlookers. Excellent closeups can be obtained, something people with smart phones generally have difficulty with. Attempting to go in closer and closer and "oh dear, it's gone!" This butterfly however likes to pose and why not, with its vivid violet blue colour!



Holly Blue butterfly

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After the annual service at St John's Church on 12th May, Smiley Mildwater has kindly provided this history of the Mildenhall Register. We thank him for this.

The Life and Times of the Mildenhall Register

August 1979 and the Mildenhall Air Fête. A Mildenhall WW2 veteran manages to get a Tannoy message put out inviting any other veterans present to go to the beer tent (where else) for a natter and a beer (or several) and thus was the Mildenhall Register born. Initially formed to commemorate the three main squadrons that flew from Mildenhall and Lakenheath, 15, 149 and 622, in later years it grew with the inclusion of 90, 218 and The Friends of 75 (NZ) squadrons and so it is today.



The first reunion was held in 1980 with the initial objective of bringing together the veterans who shared a common bond with the squadrons and with their support staff. Over the intervening 40 years the Register has evolved to include the relatives and families of Squadron members and also supporters of the Register. Sadly, and inevitably, the

grim reaper has taken his toll to the extent that, of the hundreds of veterans at those first Reunions, only eight are known to be still with us.

The Register has, and still, publishes an annual newsletter in January with details of the Reunion to be held, normally, in May. The reunions took the form of a Friday base visit followed by dinner and the AGM. On Saturday a visit was organised to places of interest ranging from the Lancaster 'Just Jane' at East Kirkby, Madingley American Cemetery and this year the RAF Radar Museum at Neatishead. This is followed by a semi-formal dinner on Saturday evening. The final, and most important event is the Sunday morning church parade at St. John's Church, Beck Row.

Some years ago our then chairman was instrumental in arranging for us to place a plaque on the North wall of St. John's, overlooking the Commonwealth War Graves. On the Reunion Sunday, before the main service, a small service and wreath laying is held in front of the plaque and the War Graves. After the main service we repair to the Church Hall where the lovely Ladies of the Church

fortify us with a splendid buffet lunch before we all go our separate ways, some to the far South West, Exeter, Plymouth, Somerset, and some even further, to Switzerland and this year even the USA.

Over the years the events followed a similar pattern and were mainly, and superbly, hosted by RAF Mildenhall and the 100th ARW, however, with the advent of Covid and subsequent restrictions we have, for the past two years held the AGMs and dinners at the Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club who have looked after us, and fed us, exceptionally well.

Membership of the Register is free and open to all those who still serve, or have served at RAF Mildenhall or Lakenheath at any time, and our objective is to perpetuate the memory of those who died in service, to maintain the spirit of comradeship and interest among those with a common bond to, and genuine interest in, the Squadrons and to the bases, to gather information relating to the Squadrons and all personnel, both for historic purposes and for the interests of members, to hold Reunions for as long as the members wish and to maintain a good relationship with members of the present 622 (R) Squadron.



This is the second article from **David Taylor** and with the upcoming Anniversary of D Day in mind we thought it appropriate to publish his poem. He wrote it after returning from what he describes as a very moving trip to First World War graves in France and Belgium.

A Young Life Lost

As village agog with wonder
I keep in step, now a soldier
My cross upon an army form
Spells capers and a uniform.

Could blaring brass and cheering crowd
Be warning me of waiting shroud?
But no, my pals are with me too.
They'll cure my fears, they'll help me through.

Peaked caps, golden flashes
Generals with full moustaches
Behind the line with polished buckles
Planning war – no time for chuckles.

I dream of home. warmth and caring
Life that's peaceful not despairing.
But rotting duckboards, flooded trenches,
Yield rats in hordes and retching stench.

Whistles blowing, mortars spouting
Fire and shells amongst the shouting.
It's time to fight, it's time to go,
We forge towards the hidden foe.

It's slaughter as the bullets fly
To crucify – there's no reply.
I see no sun, I hear no sound,
I'm sinking fast in Flanders' ground.

Weak spindly stems from oozing mud
Enriched and mulched with fallen blood
Of soldiers, which the mire consumes
And there, a blood-red poppy blooms.

I sense the tears, I feel the tread
Of those that roam where once I bled.
Now regiments of white stones stand
Where once we fought to save our land.

My life was short, no kids or wife,
Just plucked from England's country life.
I want no honours, just a thought
About the lads who died for nought.

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News from Beck Row Methodist Church

Once again we are grateful for the historical information from one of our readers, Margaret Edwards, a member of the Bond/Clements family originally from Beck Row. She refers to Anniversary Sunday which was mentioned in the magazine in February and thought we would like to know how the Methodist Church here began.

In the early 1800s there were no churches at all in Beck Row, in fact there wasn't much at all, just farms and houses and definitely no school. There were just over 700 inhabitants living in the village of Beck Row and the only church was St Mary's, the Parish Church of Mildenhall.

The Wesleyan Methodist movement was formed in the 18th Century from religious societies founded by John Wesley and by the early 19th Century it was the largest non-conformist denomination in the country.

In Beck Row there was an old cottage. It was very old, had a thatched roof and from the deeds in 1740 states it as a Meeting Home. It was the only place in the village where people could meet and in the year 1819 Mr Richard Halls began a Methodist Sunday School there (see photo). It was at the entrance to Tithe Avenue almost opposite the Methodist Church which stands in The Street now.

Mildenhall was divided into four Hamlets or Watches as they were known, Beck Row, West Row, Holywell Row and High Town (Mildenhall) and the Methodist movement became so popular that it was clear people needed Methodist chapels to worship in. The people began to raise money and from the fund mostly from donations four Chapels were built. The first was this Methodist Chapel in Beck Row built in 1829 and a chapel built in Burnt Fen and in 1840 one was built in West Row. The total cost of these was £1000.

Mr Richard Halls moved his Sunday School from the old Meeting House into the new Beck Row Methodist Chapel where he continued to be the Superintendent for 27 years. There is a plaque erected in the vestry to his memory. Mr Halls was a trustee with others of the new chapel. It was large, built of chalk and plaster and had a thatched roof.

In 1893 our chapel was destroyed by fire and so it was rebuilt from brick with two storeys and 6 large sash windows and could hold a capacity of over 300 worshippers (see photo).

In 1932 the Wesleyan Methodists joined with the



Primitive Methodists and the United Methodists to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

Back in the 1830s, continues Margaret, when my great great great great grandparents arrived in Beck Row the chapel they knew built in 1829 would have been very new. They couldn't get married here though as they had to go to the Parish Church in Mildenhall to be married because in those days our chapel didn't have a licence to marry people.

As we celebrate the Church Anniversary it's nice to remember all the people who have worshipped there over the years. The plaques around the walls show names we may be familiar with and the war memorial has a list of names that will never be forgotten. This chapel holds many memories for our family and my daughter Claire is the seventh generation of our family to worship here becoming the Treasurer recently.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 18th May – An Evening with Brian Roy at 7.30pm

Saturday 1st June – Coffee Morning 10am-11.30am

Friday 14th June – Chicken Foot 7.30pm. Tickets £4 available from Wendy 01842 860 184 or Hazel 0163871 2195

Monday 15th July – The Mead Singers 7.30pm

 



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FARMING DIARY

I am writing this on the 10th consecutive dry day that we have had in May. This is the best we have managed this year and as well as being dry we have also been blessed with sun as well and with it has come warmth. This creates ideal growing conditions for asparagus and therefore after a slow start in April, May has seen bountiful supplies. In growing conditions like this you can definitely watch the spears grow and some people say they make a whistling noise as they grow. However, being long term hard of hearing unfortunately I can't testify to that. Henning, a German speedway man currently staying with my daughter and son in law, says that I must be a very clever man because I have learned how to grow money which keeps popping up out of the ground every day. I only wish it were true!

On 10th April I took delivery of 1000 point of lay pullets which have proceeded to settle in and lay very well indeed. Unfortunately, the eggs are rather small as yet but very tasty as the first egg a hen lays is always the best quality it ever lays.

Saturday 4th May was a fantastic day for me, one of the best days of my life actually. After 22 years of pain and mostly mediocrity Ipswich Town sealed promotion to the Premier League at the first attempt having been promoted from League One

last season. I have been a season ticket holder since 1970 when I used to go with my father and I could write several pages about this day but I won't. What I



can say that as a man of advanced years now I struggle to put my trousers on first thing in the morning; socks and boots are an even greater challenge, but on the final whistle I managed to leap over a 5 ft. advertising hoarding and end up on the pitch with 10,000 other mostly young fans without even

thinking about it. Just goes to show anything is possible. Whilst on the pitch I ended up next to our friendly Beck Row postman Scott who had approached from another part of the ground. I wonder what the chances of that happening would be. I also ended up being covered in awful blue stuff which came out of the flares. This remained stuck to the top of my head for 3 days - I just couldn't bring myself to wash it off.

In 1985 I bought a second-hand trailed sprayer from Thurlow Nunn. It was made by a company called Hardi who to the best of my knowledge is still going and so was that sprayer until 2 weeks ago. Alan the sprayer repair man from Agri-Spray has maintained that mine was the oldest still working sprayer of that model

in the country until now. Regrettably this fantastic loyal friend finally gave up the ghost just as I finished spraying one of my meadows. As you can see a somewhat undeserved undignified end. Seven years ago I had to take a sprayer proficiency test in order to carry on spraying. I passed the test but the examiner did make the observation that my sprayer was too old and needed replacing. Well it seems that 7 years and many many acres later looks like he might have got his wish.

If this was the high point of May for me the undoubtedly low point has been the admission of my granddaughters to Addenbrookes with viruses which have culminated in pneumonia. As I write both little girls (2½ and 3) are still in hospital. They are in an isolation ward and whilst both are very ill the youngest Lily is seriously ill. In my life I have always been able to fix most of the problems I have encountered either myself or I have known someone else who can. I cannot fix this, and we are all suffering from high levels of stress. I thought that stress was something that happened when it doesn't stop raining, or a vital piece of machinery breaks or chickens won't lay in the nest boxes but instead leave eggs all over the floor, or worst of all cattle break out and rampage down the C602 Eriswell Road crashing into cars. These are worries not stress. Stress is a nervous constant cough. Stress is being completely unable to sleep, only doze. Stress is when it is hard to breathe and when your heart sinks to your knees every time the phone rings. I hope by the time you read this all our prayers will have been answered and both girls are back home.



Easter Egg Hunt 2024

The Easter Egg Hunt this year was the most successful yet. The Parish Council purchased 200 Easter eggs and they were all collected. When all the eggs were gone, there were still people wishing to do just the trail regardless of receiving no eggs at the end.

The weather was definitely on our side this year and one dog walker commented that he had not seen the Aspal Close Nature Reserve being this busy for ages and it had been lovely to see so many children on the Reserve.

The craft tables were very popular inside the hub. Young and old all enjoyed the refreshments available and sat down to watch an Easter film.

Fantastic feedback from those completing the trail around the Aspal Close Nature Reserve. Two serving USAF military personnel from RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath attended on the day to volunteer their services, which was a great help.

Huge thank you to Angela and Katy for their help to keep the craft tables going and the refreshments.

We hope to see you all again next Easter.



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Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen June – August 2024

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

Treasures of the Moth Trap

28 June, 26 July, 30 August (10am to 11am)

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

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

Guided Pond Dipping

Saturdays 1 June, 6 July, 3 August (12-1:30pm)

Why not borrow a pond-dipping kit and a knowledgeable guide to see what beautiful and strange creatures live below the water?

RSPB members £6 (£3 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £7 (£4 for Under 18's)

Beginner's Photography Workshop

Saturday 22 June (10am-4pm)

Reserve Site Manager Dave Rogers will be giving an introductory talk covering the features of your camera, followed by a walking tour of the reserve to put your new knowledge and skills into practice. Suitable for budding photographers with a DSLR camera.

RSPB members £80 (£40 for Under 18's); non-RSPB members £100 (£50 for Under 18's)

Fascinating Flora Guided Walk

Saturday 20 July (10am-1pm)

The reserve holds a hidden world of plants with harmful or healing effects, some of which folk have made use of for centuries. Join us to learn more!

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

Summer Walking Safari

Sunday 21 July (2-7pm)

Our very popular annual longer walk, taking in the full range of habitats on offer. With luck, we may see Bittern, Common crane, Bearded tit, Hobbies and more!

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

Big Wild Sleepout

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4 August (1pm-1pm)

Join us for a night camping under the stars on the nature reserve, with a range of wildlife-themed activities on both days – including pond dipping, bug-hunting, wildlife arts & crafts, guided walks and bat detecting. The price below is all-inclusive, even for non-RSPB members.

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If you are interested, please look at the Recorders Pack by visiting www.slhc.org.uk, click on Recorders, then click on Recorders Pack in the text on the left hand side to acquaint yourself with the guidelines of the scheme. You do not need to be a historian; you do not need any qualifications other than an interest in your parish. In return you will receive a copy of the SLHC Newsletter and be invited to the annual conference specifically for Local Recorders. To volunteer to help in this important work, please contact recorders@alhc.org.uk

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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 Friday 12th July 2024 in the following ways:

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