



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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June – July 2025

Hello Readers

It is nearly officially summertime. The weather over the past few weeks has been glorious, but we really do need some rain, the ground is so dry and not very good for the farmers.

Over the last year, we have had some new councillors join the Parish Council. The full list of councillors is as follows:

Chairman – Gary Peachey, Vice Chair – Sue French, Alan Vickerage, Philip Haylock, Steve Murrow, James Bailey, Gary Harrison, Paul Stannard, Jamie Howard with Jane Spenser as Parish Clerk – contact details are on the back page of the Beacon.

Inside you will find write up reports from the Easter Egg Hunt, which was very well supported, the painting of the equipment in the play park at the Toch H area, the Love Your Village clear up, the VE day commemorations and lighting of the Beacon, the new bench installed at the Hub, the planters at the village sign (which is being painted) and a reminder regarding the Reunion 80s-90s disco at the Hub on 5th July.

As always, a very grateful thanks to all who help put the Beacon together. Here I would like to offer a special thanks to Bruce Gardener on his 'retirement' from the Beacon from the rest of the team, and thanks again to 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

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9.15am to 11.30am

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parents/carers welcome

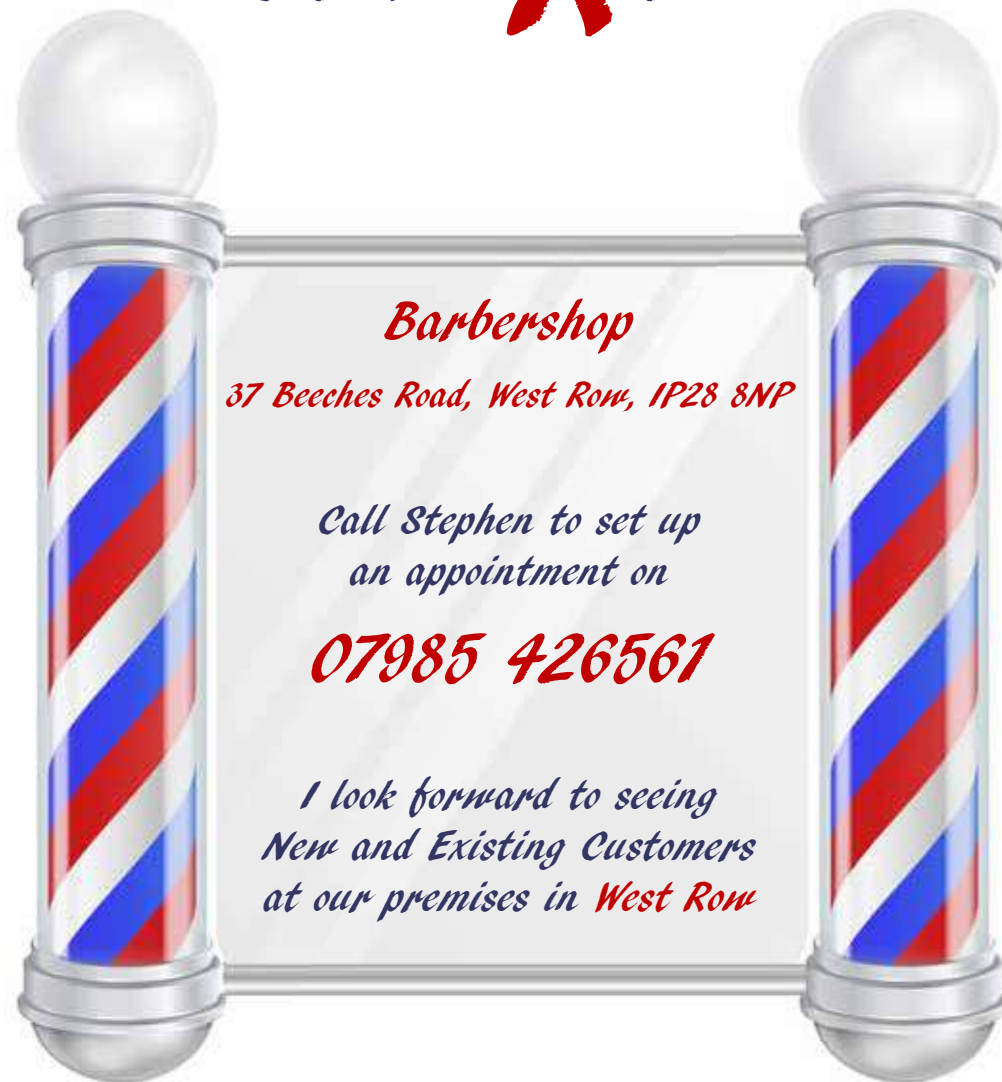


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Beck Row New Ladies Club

The Beck Row New Ladies Club have had some interesting speakers recently, including Jim Stebbings who created an afternoon of great nostalgia, with his talk on American Cultural Influences – lots of interesting facts about when different things appeared in the UK, especially after WW2. Movie stars, Coca Cola, sliced bread – all things that are part of our lives now but when they first appeared were amazing to us.

Another speaker who had us spellbound was Iestyn Edwards, who went to Afghanistan and Iraq to entertain the troops, in a Tutu! Needless to say, his reception was somewhat interesting, but he is a true performer, and had the audience of big strong squaddies in his hands. However, the flip side was that he experienced military life in a way he never would have expected, and it was quite an emotional experience for him.

During the summer, we have some outings planned, including a visit on 14th July to Porters Lodge Garden and Tea Room in Cavenham. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us to come along, the cost is £10 per person and there will be shared lifts available from St John's. Please contact Anne, annedaultrey@hotmail.co.uk or Jane 07776 184598 to reserve a slot. All are very welcome on this occasion, so bring a friend!

Next Meetings (2pm start at St John's Church Hall)

9th June	Jan Munt	Building Ely Cathedral
14th July	OUTING	Visit to Porters Lodge
11th August	Diane Drewry	The Shroud that Came to Light



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Despite not having a Vicar in post, services still continue at St John's as usual. During the Interregnum, a team of local ministers take turns to lead the services on the second and fourth Sundays, which enables everyone to enjoy different styles of worship. The job has now been advertised, so we look forward to welcoming a new vicar in due course.

Angie Finn from the Lightwave Team is responsible for the first and third Sundays, and her brief is to encourage younger people and their families to explore faith. Consequently, the atmosphere is more relaxed, with activities and refreshments, all taking place in the hall as opposed to the church. Angie also runs an after-school club as well as being heavily involved in the weekly Toddlers group.

The church was honoured to be asked by the Parish Council to host the only VE Day celebration in the village on 8th May. A patriotic cake was provided and cut jointly by Gary Peachey and SSgt Jose Ochoa from the 100th Air Refueling Wing. This was followed by a service led by Rev Dan Mullin. Wreaths were laid at the War Graves prior to the lighting of the Beacon.

On 25th May, the Mildenhall Register will be having their annual service, probably for the last time. Sadly, all the original members of the Register are no longer with us, and whilst the association will continue to exist through their friends and families, it is likely that the reunion weekend will not.

Now summer is upon us, the Warm Rooms Team are taking a break from the soup and games sessions that have run over the winter months. The lunch on the first Tuesday and coffee morning on the third will carry on as usual, and Warm Rooms will recommence in October. Further details will be in the next edition of The Beacon.

Having fewer activities during the summer will enable us to continue our programme of redecoration of the exterior of the Church, and the interior of the Hall. Many people comment on how nice and tidy everywhere is, and we have to thank Tim, David and Linda for their hard work in helping us keep it that way.

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Hurst Fen and Howlett Hills



Hurst Fen (11.437 acres) is an SSSI site (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and adjoins Howlett Hills which is in Mildenhall district. Hurst Fen is located in Holywell Row and can be accessed at the end of Eldon Lane. It is possible to link up with Howlett Hills, but also that can be accessed in the Forest area on the left as you leave the end of the runway.

Hurst Fen was brought into notoriety by Lady Briscoe who lived in Worlington. She was interested in all things historical and particularly archaeology. She was responsible for setting up excavations in 1954 by Cambridge University who provided the funding.

The custodian of both these sites now is the Ancient Parish of Mildenhall Charities. In 2009 these two parcels of land were rented out to Mildenhall Parish Council who sublet them to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. As you can imagine the upkeep on these two is beyond the financial scope of the charities and so it was for Suffolk Wildlife Trust that after a few years with them only keeping sites to the east of the county in an effort to cut costs, they were left unmanaged.

Lackford was retained as it generates enough money to make it viable. Since then, nothing has been done to maintain it. Anglian Water needs access to the land to monitor a flood drain and check the water levels. At one time the Leonard family did this monitoring on a volunteer basis. What was called the New Cut to the river in 1964 and the St Helena borehole along with climate change caused problems with the water level. That in turn altered the fauna and flora there. Prior to the drop in water level, it was planned to open up the central area to create an open fen habitat with tussock sedges, peat deposits and wet and boggy conditions.



There is a family called Howlett who in 1835 lived in Wymondham in Norfolk, who had married Caroline Clark from Mildenhall and a Riley Gipp from Burnt Fen was part of that family, but no reference was found as to whether they owned the land which was named after them.

Hurst Fen goes back to Neolithic times (400-3000 BC) and has revealed a Medieval occupation with flints and scrapers found. There is also evidence of grazing and turf cutting. There is a diverse range of habitat in the Breckland geographical area. The land is therefore sandy with complex geology, many different plants, fungi and animal species. Two outstanding ones are the White Admiral Butterfly and the Greater Water Parsnip, both very much protected species.

Going back many years the land was grazed and even today some of the villagers of Holywell Row are able to show you the paperwork allowing them to graze their cattle and collect wood for their fires. Of course, the land has not been grazed for years as the cost of fencing and access has made that prohibitive. If cattle had grazed it over the years with extreme care to the amount and the time frame during the year then a goodly lot of vegetation would have occurred. The two sites are linked and the water levels to both are paramount. The Forestry Commission is also involved in Howlett Hills and many years ago Forest Heath District Council developed this site to encourage visitors - the open area had cycle paths created.



The Charity Commission brought in a scheme which put the rights of these villagers going back to the 1800s into jeopardy, so an inquiry led by the Commons Commissioner was held - records show it was signed off on 12th June 1972.

Several witnesses led by Mr Jack Wells chose to present statements to verify their claims to the following - to have the right to graze cattle on the grass, collect wood, to cut turf or peat and to shoot and take game. They also wanted the land to be deemed Common Land, but this was turned down. A Yorkshire shooting syndicate who had rented the land in order to shoot game protested and at one point there were fears that they would purchase the site with a Barton Mills farmer offering a 10 acres field in return. Fortunately, this all came to nought!

At one point the villagers decided to remove their rights to shoot game. Comments in the survey mentioned how the land was called the Poor Lands as the rights allowed were for the very poor and those with just a little more. This ruling was crucial to enabling the villagers to access the land and retain their rights.

There were 31 reports in the Local Bury Free Press and other local papers at the time, one saying how the children set up a protest camp in their school holiday. They were given a party on site when the dispute was resolved.

Reading through all the information on the newspaper articles saved for posterity by the Nightingale family in Holywell Row, it was quite a big deal for the community and the protesters gave up much of their time and energy to fight for a cause they truly believed in. Nowadays many people benefit from their efforts to have the pleasure of walking on these sites and long may everyone enjoy such a great facility.



And an added note, many grown men from the village would be able to tell you how, when young, they fished in the trout pond there but probably won't tell you what other things they got up to sometimes!

Bourbon Biscuit Cheesecake

Ingredients:

- 300g bourbon biscuits (for the base) with 85g melted butter.

For the Cheese Cake:

- 15-20 bourbon biscuits
- 200g milk chocolate
- 500g full fat soft cheese (I used Philadelphia)
- 75g icing sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 300ml double cream

To decorate:

- 150ml double cream
- 2 tbs of icing sugar
- Leftover biscuit crumbs
- Chocolate curls/flakes



Method

- 1 Reduce the 300g of biscuits to crumbs (food processor/liquidizer or crush with rolling pin end).
- 2 Add butter and press on the bottom of cake tin.
- 3 Place the whole biscuits side by side vertically around 20cm spring form cake tin into the crumb base. (I found that baking paper put on the base was necessary otherwise you can't remove the biscuit base from the tin base when you cut the cake).
- 4 Melt the milk chocolate in a basin over simmering water - don't let the basin touch the water. You can microwave the chocolate, but I have burnt it in the past so use the first suggestion!
- 5 In a largish bowl whisk the soft cheese, icing sugar and vanilla together, whisk in the melted chocolate and finally the cream which has to be whisked until it thickens. (I whisked the cream separately and folded it in the mixture.)
- 6 Pour the mixture into the tin evenly and chill overnight.
- 7 Making sure it is set, remove it from the tin on to your serving plate.
- 8 Whip the cream and icing sugar and decorate the top. You can pipe the cream on or just smooth it over the top, finally adding left over crumbs and chocolate flakes/curls.



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Thanks to this edition's deliverer - Paula Olsen

This edition we feature Paula Olsen who is the deliverer for The Street. Paula has worked in the community for many years with the Community Association and also running a Youth Club in the past. Like all our deliverers of The Beacon, we appreciate her much needed help.

My name I Paula Olsen, I have been delivering the wonderful Beacon for a few months now. I've shown my copy to friends in other local villages, and they are amazed at how classy our booklet is.

I was born in Norwich, the last of 5 Army brats. Dad was a Major with the 7th Gurkha Rifles. Mum was a true Military wife, but it was a shock having a 16-year gap between me and the last one. My family were stationed in India, Nepal and many other places until 1968. I was known as Demob Paula, the late in life child born in Norwich England where mum and dad settled.

I always wanted to be a nurse from the age of 10. I made a hospital out of the Wendy house a friend built for me and lined up all my dollies in their beds, tucked in tight.

Academically I didn't do well enough for the RN training, so they put me forward for the old practical nurse EN training at Newmarket Hospital in 1987. I crossed the border of Norfolk into Suffolk. It felt like thousands of miles away from home as a 17-year-old.

In 1990 I met my husband. We both worked in the Cherry Tree pub for extra cash to run my car and Rick just wanted to immerse himself back into the British life again. Who knew I'd meet an American USAF man, who was born in Luton. Rick's mum was from Dunstable and married a serviceman. Looks like we kept it in the family.

After a tour to the USA with two lovely children from 1996-1999 we found our bungalow on the street in Beck Row – weirdly we threw the leaflet in the bin, thinking it was so ugly from the picture, until one day we were walking from our Temporary Living Facility (TLF) to base and passed it. We boldly knocked on the door and said hello to the Standards. They gave us the warmest welcome and showed us around. We fell in love, there and then. The pictures did not do it justice at all.

Our children grew and enjoyed both Beck Row Primary and Riverside Middle School between another tour back to the USA – always planning to return to Beck Row. Our final move was in 2004. My nursing career bloomed again at West Suffolk Hospital after gaining experiences everywhere I went. I received my BSc in nursing from Birmingham City university in 2017. I have continued to work as a Paediatric Specialist Nurse at West Suffolk Hospital. I've always loved my jobs – near and far, good and tricky. Rick retired from the USAF in 2007 after a deployment to Iraq. He now works on RAF Molesworth.

We love our home and Beck Row. I want to spend more time volunteering for the Parish Council, East of England Paediatric Diabetes Network events and West Suffolk Hospital when I retire in July 2025.



David Taylor has sent us two poems for this edition. One is about the life cycle of the river but as a human. The second is the result of his U3A meeting when the class was asked to write a poem entitled Reflections. It is quite an emotional one as it is to his late wife whom he lost 22 years ago.

The Life Cycle of the River, but as a human: Spirit Of The River

Beneath that thin crust of soil, I was conceived.
Globules of water gathering, growing, gurgling
From seeping rains and melted snows.
Pressures below, like labour pains, strengthen
My pulse and ejaculate the virginal waters of
My spirit, into the living world.
My birth from Mother Earth.

Clinging to mother's hillside breasts
I crawl – shuffling shallows moistening mosses.
Tottering first steps trickle downwards -
My destiny. Springs erupt and, joined
By siblings' gushing streams, I grow
And flow with great vitality.
Infancy has passed too soon.

I'm tumbling and thundering down, down, down,
Gushing and rushing, madcap galloping.
No time to spare, as free as the air
I splatter. O'er rocks and falls cascading
White, breaking the shackles in my flight
From mother's bonds. That energetic force
Of my adolescent life.

I'm slowing now and tiring as I reach
The lower lands. Wide, winding paths locked
In sinusoidal swirls, appear before me.
Branches and twigs, like rudderless ships,
Ride on my back, ponderously.
I'm scouring, depositing and losing my frivolity,
But gaining my maturity.

I'm spreading now, past middle age,
Meandering and mellow. As branches dip
Into my flow and cattle carefully swallow,
To ox-bow lakes, I curtsy, contentedly.
Memories are fading and my mind is slowing fast
As I taste some salty signs. The advent of salinity
Increasing my senility.

Misting eyes, clogging veins, congesting
From sand, silt and scum; stumbling.
Digressing, progressing, stopping in tidal turns;
Crippled. My life just ebbs away and,
Beneath the seagull's haughty cry, I fade and die.

Reflections

I'm reflecting in a mirror, my face now lined,
My white hair getting thinner but I'm sure you wouldn't mind.
The children are reminders of how I picture you,
Their expressions and their spirit are particularly true.

I'm inclined to reflect when I'm alone and feeling sad,
Trying to remember those many good times that we had.
When I look at our possessions and the life that I now lead,
I feel guilt that you can't share it; oh, time flies with such great speed.

I even speak out loud to you, just trying to faintly raise
A chuckle, a gasp, a giggle or even a word of praise
When I've cleaned the toilet or mowed the lawn,
But, I'm left in silence to secretly and privately mourn.

I know I should be happy with the family we raised;
Your strong influence and loving care that can never be erased
From our family's joyous memories; but you're no longer here,
And that's it, it will always be very hard to bear.

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As the season comes to an end shortly, we now begin to look forward to the youth from Lakenheath coming again. This next Autumn the plans are for two teams to come here for training and matches. We say this every time – youngsters from our Parish are more than welcome to join the training and perhaps play in the teams and the following contact details are here should you wish to contact Richard at Lakenheath.

Contact details are Youth teams Richard Horrex:
richardhorrex@gmail.com, mobile 07540 201 223.

We are also delighted to welcome Damon Croft of Croffit keep fit. He lives in Beck Row and holds classes in Mildenhall and Red Lodge as well. His contact details are d.r.croft89@gmail.com.

We dip back into the history of the club with the following photos. If you are in one of them or both please get in touch with your memories of that time. Email: m.j.sallis@btinternet.com or text 07484 107 694.



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It is a well-known fact that most of what nature lovers see across the UK goes unrecorded. This is possibly because thanks to modern life we don't have much free time, or perhaps it is because a lot of people aren't aware of how they can send in records of what they see. Even amongst visitors to RSPB Lakenheath Fen there is often a feeling that the rarer birds are the only ones we are interested in - visitors will tell us how many Bitterns or Hobbies they have seen, but not necessarily how many Goldfinches were on the feeders or how many Mute swans were swimming up the river. The reality is we want to record everything you see, as it is just as important to keep an eye on the population trends of more common species as it is the rarer ones. For example, thanks to the Big Garden Birdwatch, the RSPB now know that Starlings and House sparrows are declining, fast, and that there has been a sudden drop in Blackbird numbers. Noticing these changes means we can act faster to find out what's going wrong and any changes we make can have more of an impact.

However, when you see wildlife outside of a nature reserve, you can record what you see if you have time in many useful ways. For bird records, the easiest way is to download a spreadsheet from the following websites and to e-mail it to your relevant County Recorder:

For Suffolk: <https://www.suffolkbirdgroup.org/downloads> contains the spreadsheet, and then send it to bird-w@sns.org.uk for bird sightings in West Suffolk.

For Norfolk: <https://norfolkbirds.weebly.com/submitting-records.html> then sent it to norfolkbirdrecs@gmail.com.

For Cambridgeshire: <https://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk/records> then send it to recorder@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk.

You can clear the contents and re-use the spreadsheet for future records, and although the county recorders do prefer the records as soon as possible, you can send them up to 31 January of the year following the year you made the observations.

Other wildlife

For butterflies, including those you spot on walks or in your garden, Butterfly Conservation will be glad to receive any records you get through their website under the 'Record your sightings' section. Day-flying moths and any others you come across - like the well-known Cinnabar, are welcome too.

If you'd like a one-stop-shop for all wildlife records, and you have a smartphone, the iRecord app is brilliant. It's free to use and quite straightforward, and you can submit anything on there - be it bird, bug or wildflower, and everything in between.

I realise that for a lot of people, there just isn't the time to send in records of what you see - but if you ever find a moment to send in what you've seen, it will greatly help to build up a picture of how our wildlife is faring. This data also feeds into government policy and decision-making, too, so it is such a valuable asset.

If you have any questions about recording wildlife, please do get in touch with us at lakenheath@rspb.org.uk or on 01842 863400 and we will be glad to help if we can.

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

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Gardening Tips

Now is the time to get everything in place for the colourful border, a part of the garden that receives plenty of sunshine and that is easily accessible to give a quick watering when you have five minutes during the dry summer.

Plan for a variety of shapes. Generally, the taller the plant the bigger the effect. Have some bedding plants dotted about in three and seven combinations perhaps. Then the stars of the show: Foxglove Digitalis 'Lucas' and delphiniums, including a really dark delphinium called Paramo Black Velvet. When the delphiniums finish flowering in July be ruthless and cut to the ground, then sit back and receive a second flowering enhanced with a regular feed.

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For three years I had no joy looking for a common lizard. 30 years ago, in the springtime in every garden there would be a chance of seeing one rapidly moving through the grass and over a sandy patch of ground. The decline has been dramatic. But this spring being very dry has favoured them and I saw one recently, with a very long tail

that can be up to twice the body length, giving the impression of a snake when slithering through grass.

It is also called the viviparous lizard, meaning it bears live young. Many reptiles lay eggs, but in the case of viviparous lizards, the young develop in thin membranous eggs inside the female's body. Eggs laid during June-September hatch with immediate effect. The young lizards are black and look like a completely different species. Most surprisingly, they will then live for 12 years. So, if you see a lizard, remember the exact location, return the next year with similar weather conditions and you will most likely see it again.



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News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill

June–July 2025 edition

Email: clerk@beckrowparish.gov.uk

Website: beckrowparish.gov.uk

In April – the annual Easter Egg Hunt was held. It's always been a very successful



event, 220 out of the 240 eggs were collected. Thank you to our West Suffolk Councillor, Don Waldron for the grant funding towards this event which covered the purchase of the Easter Eggs. The Parish Hub served refreshments and provided craft activities and an Easter film after the trail of clues took you around the Aspal Close Nature Reserve and back to the Parish Hub to collect your Easter Egg! The Easter Bunny was escorted around the village by our Parish Council Chair, Cllr Gary Peachey - fortunately in an open top car to allow for his sizable



ears and posed for many photos under the most amazing backdrop of Easter balloons, provided for the event by Made by Mower who has donated balloon displays for these community events for several years. It really sets off an event perfectly, we thank you Sarah. This event wouldn't be possible without the work of former Parish Cllr Anna Petric, who each year still happily volunteers to work with the Clerk in putting this event together, Anna creates the map and this year decided on what would happen at each clue point. Thank you to the small but ever trusty group of helpers on the day. Without you, these events wouldn't be possible. Your time and effort is very much appreciated, Angela, Anna, Jane, Josh, Nicky and Sarah and of course the Easter Bunny for attending our Parish event.

The Parish Council approved budget funding to restore and repaint the play park equipment at the April meeting

and this has now been carried out. It has certainly brought some traditional, irreplaceable pieces back to life! It has



also been resolved to obtain quotes to replace the slide/climbing frame piece within the gated section of the park. As the Summer approaches there is unfortunately always an increase in the amount of litter discarded at the play area and round the Parish in general. Tim our Parish Keeper regularly attends throughout the week to 'clean up' and there are other residents that we're



aware do the same – thank you. Please encourage those using the park to use the bins provided or take rubbish home with them rather than just leaving it on the floor. This leads nicely into the most recent Love Your Village clean up that took place and a clear indication of how much rubbish is out there! Cllr Bailey, Cllr Howard and a willing group of



volunteers headed out around the Parish on Thursday 15th May, splitting into two groups tackling litter picking and sign cleaning. It is correct to perhaps say -



this is what we pay our council tax for, but, living in the times we currently are, if we want to live in a well looked after area we can be proud of – then as a community, we need to look after it ourselves or settle

for what our County authorities can provide as and when.

Thursday 8th May was VE Day 80. Refreshments were provided at St John's Church including a celebratory cake provided by the Parish Council.



A church service took place, followed wreath laying by a representative for the Commander of the 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall and the Parish

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Council. This was followed by the lighting of the Beacon at 9.30pm, an event that took place across the Nation. The Parish



Council purchased a commemorative bench in honour of the occasion. The bench is situated at the Parish Hub outside the garden area and is there for public use at anytime. The celebrations were concluded on Saturday 10th May by the Parish Hub Café team holding a VE Day themed Afternoon Tea which raised £500 for the Royal British Legion. The next Afternoon Tea will be held on Saturday 31st May and you can contact Sandra on 07552 216915 to make a booking. The Parish Hub Café make some wonderful food serving hot meals through the Winter months and Afternoon Tea through the Summer. In February 2025, £2700 was sent over to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) from the takings of the Café.

Whilst we await the return of the renovated Beck Row Village Sign, the



Parish Council have placed two planters, built by our Parish Keeper and very kindly filled with flowers by Aspal Lane Nursery at the location of the village sign. At the AGM of the Parish Council, Cllr Gary Peachey was nominated and elected as Chair for the 2025-2026 year with Cllr Sue French as Vice-Chair. The Parish Council accounts have been completed for the year of 2024-2025. The unaudited accounts will be published on the notice board outside the Parish Hub and on the Parish Council website to exercise the period of public rights between Tue 3rd Jun 25 and Mon 14th Jul 25. At the May meeting it was also resolved by the Council Members to finally get the K6 phone kiosk moved to the intended location inside the Hub grounds as soon as possible. Cllr Peachey and the Parish Keeper will make this happen - it's in print! Community engagement and participation in renovating the box and determining its future use will be invited.

The Council Members also resolved to purchase a further two speed indicator signs for placement on the A1101. There are still insufficient volunteers to organise Speedwatch. The data from the signs will be downloaded and sent to the authorities for them to consider if further interventions are necessary in the area. Please respect the 30mph speed limits within the Parish. Please remember to secure your tickets to the Rose & Crown Reunion event taking place on Sat 5th July 2025. You can contact Cllr Peachey or Cllr French for tickets, capacity will be 120 and over half of these have been reserved to date. A disco, bar and bbq are all set for the evening which will see the Parish Hub returned to its former use as the Rose & Crown Public House for one night only!

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Spotlight on this edition's Advertiser – Lock Doctor



I'm Matt the LockDoctor, I trained as a locksmith many years ago prior to leaving the military following 20 years service.

Living in Mildenhall, I'm local and well known to the area. As part of Shoe Doctor, a small, well established, family run business in Newmarket we

can offer a wide range of services including shoe repair, engraving, watch repairs, batteries and straps, key cutting and programming.

I believe that you should be able to have a locksmith at your door quickly, with the knowledge and skills to do what you need without having to pay over the top.

Whether you've locked yourself out, lost your keys, have a broken window or door mechanism or just moved home and would like the locks replacing for peace of mind, I can be with you to put it right professionally with the minimum of fuss, at the best price.

Most of my work keeps me around Beck Row and Mildenhall, Red Lodge and Newmarket and surrounding villages, so I'm never too far away. You'll also find me on the market on a Friday for all your key and watch requirements as well as a drop off and collection point for all your shoe repairs.

Getting locked out can be a stressful time and often people panic and call the top result on google without researching the company. This can result in a lengthy wait, (as they're rarely local) and a nasty shock when the bill comes. So, save my number in advance and call me if you need to, knowing help isn't far away and all jobs can be priced prior to arrival.

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FARMING DIARY

As I write this article, we are currently in the middle of the asparagus cutting season. So far, we are enjoying a bountiful season with a yield that is very high and the taste is quite exceptional. I would like to be able to tell you that this is due to me being an excellent farmer but I'm afraid that I think it's more due to having kind weather. The season formally runs from about 20th April to 21st June which is a total of 63 days. In that 63 days we normally cut for 45 days but because the crop was early to harvest as I write this on 17th May we have already cut for 37 days with potentially 30 days still to go. If we carry on like this, we would smash any records I have to smithereens – but we won't. Lack of rainfall is starting to have a debilitating effect, and yields are dropping off and spears are getting thinner. If we don't get some heavy rainfall soon the crop will frizzle out much earlier than the 21st June cut-off date.



I can't even think about asparagus without thinking about my mother and wiping away a tear. Mum sadly passed away on Monday 12th May after a comparatively short battle with bowel cancer. She was our asparagus queen. I planted the first asparagus on our land in 1982, and we started harvesting in 1984. From that day until the end of 2024 season, I reckon Mum packed 75% of the bunches that left this farm. She loved the job, never complained about doing it and set exacting meticulous quality standards whilst driving me round the twist with frustration. I just wanted it done quickly to get it on the market earlier, but she insisted on every spear being the right length and width and every bunch being perfect. I maintained this wasn't necessary so I went to Marks and Spencer's and Waitrose's and bought asparagus to show her what the competition looked like, but she wouldn't even look. These are my standards, and I won't compromise them for you or anyone else she would say. How it must have hurt her when bowel cancer took away her standards and dignity. Then there was her timekeeping. She was always late and just could not get up in the morning. I used to ask her to start and finish early on many occasions for the purposes of early marketing and she would readily agree to this but in reality, she would only ever turn up at 10.35am – just like every other day.

Mum was not only the asparagus queen she was also a fantastic cook. She would make seemingly mundane stuff like liver, bacon and onions or gammon, baked potato and pineapple taste like food from the Gods, but it was her cheesecake, quiche and sausage roll that really were her speciality. I have never tasted anything like them, and Mum was always in demand when the church, W I and other organisations needed catering. At her



best she would have found it easy catering for a big event like her own funeral.

In her own words Mum had a long and interesting life. She was in her 90th year when she died, didn't take pills regularly until January this year and was fortunate and proud to say she met the late Queen and the then Prince Charles. Soon after she was diagnosed with the cancer being terminal, we had a little family party at ours to celebrate her life, her birthday and Mother's Day. Most close family members turned up – about twenty in total and before people started to drift away Mum decided to make a little speech in which she spelt out her life and all the special things that she had done. Her life was so full and hectic that nothing to do with my sister or me featured in the top 30. At least the 3 grandchildren got a mention though.

Mum never shared my sense of humour but, despite the fact that I'm not funny we both loved each other very much indeed. It is nearly 30 years since Dad died and most days since, she would make sure I had a coffee but never before 10.35am and I would check on her every day unless I was on holiday or going out. I would look after her bills and any problems she had and as I write these five days after her passing, I can't tell you how much I miss her and how empty and sad I feel. I would have thought a retiring age Grandad would be a little bit tougher than this, but regrettably I'm not – time will help of course.

God Bless you Mum. R.I.P.

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News from Beck Row Methodist Church

It is very pleasing to report two very successful fund-raising events that took place in our hall. The Chicken Foot evening saw people from Beck Row and surrounding villages arrive to play the game that causes much merriment. £154 was raised.

The coffee morning saw the hall full again with £102 for teas and cakes, £70 from the tombola, £102 from the raffle and most of all £275 from the very full hampers. This is where you sign your name in a square and many squares were filled in many places, at the coffee morning and places where people work. The squares are separated, and one is pulled out per hamper for the lucky winner. The total was an amazing £549.

On the Wednesday before Easter as usual we had a group of 20 Pilgrims arrive at the hall for dinner at 6pm. The helpers cleared away the dinner things to leave the hall free for them all to sleep on the floor. They left after getting breakfast to head to their next destination before arriving at the Shrine of our Lady in Walsingham (Norfolk) on Good Friday. Much of the journey is on foot but in some cars where the road conditions are not conducive to walking safely and at Walsingham they are joined by other groups coming from different directions. It is always a pleasure to host them!

Our next event is a coffee morning on 7th June at 10am. We hope to see you there. **Bookings for the Hall – please call Wendy on 01842 860 184.**

This edition Claire our new Treasurer has introduced herself. We are very glad to have her!



Hi – my name is Claire Edwards and I am the new Treasurer for Beck Row Methodist Church. I took over last March. I currently work as a Cycle Mechanic at Centre Parcs, where I've been for 4 years now. My background though is not in bikes but in heritage. I worked in heritage conservation for 15 years after leaving university, working for English Heritage and then the National Trust, including a stint as Sub-Accountant at one of English Heritage's largest sites.

I was living and working in Buckinghamshire but had to move in with my parents in 2020 after the Covid pandemic

took hold and the heritage industry suffered redundancies. I only started attending Beck Row Methodist Church after moving in with my parents.

I was actually born in Essex and my parents retired up here about 12 years ago. Although, my maternal ancestors came from Beck Row and attended Beck Row Methodist Church 100+ years ago. In the early 1900s they moved down to London, were bombed out during the war to Essex, and that's where I was born. My brother met my now sister-in-law who was from West Row and moved up here, followed by my parents when they retired, and then me due to the Covid pandemic. It's funny how we've come full circle - back to worshipping in the same church as my ancestors!

Last year when Hazel retired as Treasurer, the church was looking for a replacement.

I hadn't gone to the church meeting expecting to come away as the new Treasurer but that's what happened! And so far, so good.

We may only be a small community at Beck Row Methodist Church, but I was so warmly welcomed when I started attending. We're a friendly and welcoming community, supportive of anyone who would like to come and join us, whoever you are, we always love to see new faces at our services. So, if you're interested in coming along, our services are every Sunday at 11am (followed by tea/coffee and usually biscuits!). Alternatively, please do come along to one of our coffee mornings, held in our church hall, we'd love to see you there.



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The Friends of Aspal Close (FOAC)

The Annual Meeting of FOAC took place on 1st April 2025 at St John's Church Hall. Stella Wenko was elected as Chairperson, Patrick Balls as Treasurer and Jane Spenser as Secretary.

Various updates regarding the work on Aspal Close were discussed including the treatment of the invasive Bamboo on the Homestead land behind Holmsey Green, removal of brambles behind Lambale Close and the treatment of the Poplar suckers that have emerged since the self sown trees were removed behind Clements Way.

Simon Collin represents West Suffolk Council at the FOAC meetings and is the Officer responsible for overseeing works on The Close.

The Constitution was updated and the accounts produced and signed.

As there was the Easter Egg Hunt trail around The Close planned for Easter Saturday, it was decided that members would do a litter pick (including dog poo) so the area would be clean to walk around. On the day, 6 volunteers filled a third of a bag each and less than 10 lots of dog poo were collected. That is very pleasing and would only need the small

number who leave mess and litter to play their part to avoid the need for organised collection days.

Please help us in this respect as this internationally known Nature Reserve is such a wonderful amenity for people who live here.

The next meeting of FOAC will be 1st July 2025 at St John's Church Hall. New members are very welcome. Please contact the Secretary on the below email if you are interested in getting involved.



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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 12th July 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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