



# THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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**October – November 2024**

Hello Readers

Summer finally gone, Autumn is with us, nights drawing in rapidly – please note the following dates for the coming months:

## **Remembrance Day**

Wreath laying will take place on Sunday 10th November 2024.

It will begin as usual at the Memorial at Lambale Close at 10am, moving onto the War Graves at St John's Church for 10.45am.

The Service will be held in the church starting at 11.00am with Rev Caroline Butcher.

## **Christmas Trees and Switching on of lights**

Provisionally pencilled in for week ending 30th November 2024 – watch this space!

## **Annual Payout from the Ancient Parish of Mildenhall Charities:**

Tuesday 3rd December – West Row Village Hall – 3.30 to 4.30pm

Wednesday 4th December – St John's Church Hall, Beck Row – 2.15 to 3.30pm

Thursday 5th December – St John's Catholic Church, Mildenhall – 10.00 to 11.30am

Thursday 5th December – Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall – 2.15 to 3.30pm

The next issue of the Beacon will have the date and the route of Santa's Sleigh journey through the village.

## **Love Our Village**

Suffolk County Council are no longer going to maintain the grass verges outside our homes due to lack of funds. Therefore, that falls on the householders to do this – if you choose to participate in keeping your area lovely and tidy, why not take a before and after photo and send it into the Beacon. You can remain anonymous, and we can show how villagers are keeping the area neat and tidy.

As usual – huge thank you to the volunteers who contribute to the Beacon and the delivering each time – Many thanks!!!

*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

at St. John's Church Hall

All children aged 0-5 and their  
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**For any other information or if you would like me to call and see you for an informal chat please contact:-**

**Laura Prentice**

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

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

Email: [laura@suttonservicesltd.co.uk](mailto:laura@suttonservicesltd.co.uk) or [office@suttonservicesltd.co.uk](mailto:office@suttonservicesltd.co.uk)

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Finally we have good news about the Lychgate repairs. If you recall, an Asda van reversed into it in July 2023, resulting in it being too unstable to use so has been dolled off since then. It has resulted in both weddings and funerals having to use the car park entrance which has caused distress to some bereaved families. The Insurance Company has just given the go ahead for the repairs which are being undertaken by Valiants of Barrow and will be started in October. It is a major project and will take a few weeks to complete, but hopefully by the Remembrance Day Service on 10th November, it will be complete.

The exterior insulation of the hall is underway and should be completed by the time you read this. A new low-level front door will be fitted at the same time, to enable those using wheelchairs and mobility aids to get into the building more easily. It will also make the hall much warmer and cheaper to heat. This has been funded 100% by the National Lottery, for which we are very grateful.

The sound system in the Church stopped working a few months ago, but thanks to a recent generous legacy, a new, modern system will be installed in the near future. The legacy will also fund the new hall door, as well as some external painting of the Church. Needless to say, with dwindling congregations, these financial boosts are very much appreciated.

Warm Rooms re-commences from 1st of October, with the Tuesday pattern of events being:

1st Tuesday	12 noon	Lunch (booking required)
2nd Tuesday	12 noon	Soup and Chickenfoot
3rd Tuesday	10.00am	Coffee Morning
4th Tuesday	12 noon	Soup and Bingo

All are by donation, with a raffle, proceeds go towards running the Church and Hall.

Service Patterns are now:

1st Sunday	9.30am	Lightwave
2nd Sunday	9.30am	Service of the Word
3rd Sunday	9.30am	Breakfast Church and discussion
4th Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion

Everyone is most welcome, and coffee and biscuits are served afterward in the hall.

The exception being Remembrance Sunday, when the commemoration begins at 10.30am at the War Memorial by the school, then 10.45am at the War Graves followed by an 11.00am Service.



## SATURDAY AFTERNOON BINGO

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

£5 per book to play, refreshments and raffle

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024:	12th October	9th November	14th December	
2025:	11th January	8th February	8th March	12th April

**Beck Row Methodist Church**

**Thursday**  
**5.30pm & 7pm**

**Friday**  
**7am & 9am**

**With Terri 07725 761922**

## Who has seen the Plaque on the Bungalow in The Street?

If you have walked along The Street in Beck Row, have you noticed the white walled bungalow next to the garage that sells cars? Probably not but on its walls is a very important plaque.

The story of the plaque goes right back to WW2 and 1941. At the time Ellis and Irene Titmarsh were living not in that bungalow, but in another one which had been built on a plot slightly behind it next door to the Beck Row Garage run by Clarry Clements. They were a young couple who had only been married 18 months. Ellis had an insurance agency and did business around the local area.



*Ellis and Irene Titmarsh*

This particular night of 17th/18th March, 11 Wellingtons of B Flight had left on a raid to Bremen. The night before, one of their planes was unserviceable so a plane from A Flight was loaned to them. The pilot learned that this plane was M for Mother R 1474 and was so terrified he had gone to the pilot who had loaned him it and expressed his fears. The problem was every one of the previous eleven M for Mother Wellingtons had crashed so it was felt this name was jinxed. The pilot of the plane that was being loaned assured him it would bring them home. They all returned home and 10 landed safely leaving the last M for Mother to land so it did get home! The landing lights came on and a

lone previously unseen German J U 88c was waiting above the clouds. The first Mr and Mrs Titmarsh knew about this was when they heard machine gun fire. Ellis got them both under their bed and the next thing they heard was the crash of a plane right on their bungalow. It had been hit by the machine gun fire, gone out of control, taken the tops off trees, missing a garage and landed on the bungalow. It took 6 men to remove the debris off the couple, but they were unhurt despite Irene becoming unconscious for a time. The entire crew on top of them were killed but not the dog in its kennel outside.

The German pilot was 21 year old Lieutenant Rudolf Pfeiffer, but his life was short lived as he died with his crew five months later. On 26th August a Royal Navy vessel picked up one German airman in the North Sea, but Pfeiffer and his flight engineer were never found.

Almost 50 years later Celia Savage, the daughter of Sgt Lown one of the six crew of M for Mother, felt the need



*The aftermath of the bungalow*

to look into the death of her father as she was born 5 months after he died. Peggy Haylock tells us that Celia contacted Mildenhall Museum and they put her in contact with our local district and County Councillor Jack Haylock for help, and as Jack was a member of the Anglo American Committee and had served on RAF Mildenhall, as it was known then, he suggested she come to the reunion of 149 Squadron that year. He hoped there would be members of the squadron who would remember her father. It was a wonderful weekend she said, staying at The Smoke House Hotel, being entertained to a dinner at the Galaxy Club and other activities.



Celia decided that she would like a plaque (with all the names of the crew of M for Mother) put on the newly built bungalow which had been built almost in the place of the old one next to the garage. Jack made all the arrangements remembering all the details of the crash although he was only 14 years old.

He got Irene Titmarsh (her husband had died by then), her two daughters, Annette Marston and Elizabeth Clayton-Smith, and they met at the home of Annette in Icklingham. Irene was able to tell Celia and her husband about that night in great detail and she also gave her a piston from the plane which she had kept all those years. Friends and relatives of Celia were present when the plaque was unveiled and afterwards – in Celia's words – they were invited to a sumptuous homemade tea in Jack and Peggy's home, but not before they had taken them to St John's Church and its military graveyard and Mildenhall Museum where archives of WW2 are available. Later on, Celia went to the Hendon Air Museum to see the only whole Wellington left. She found the conditions for the crew so cramped!

For several years Celia and her husband Frank came back to the reunion and always had a meal with Jack and Peggy until Frank died. Sadly, Peggy has not heard from her for the last 2 years.

Apparently around that time a film was made centered around RAF Mildenhall entitled Target for Tonight.

If anyone reading this knows of its whereabouts, please let us know.



The names on the plaque are:

Sgt. Ronald Warren (21), Sgt Evan Cooke (20), Sgt Harold Chapman (25), Sgt Douglas Capel (21), Sgt William Greaves and Sgt Ernest Lown (30) Celia's father.

## Lemon & Raisin Bars

### INGREDIENTS

#### Part 1 -

- 3oz/85g S.R. flour
- 3oz/85g porridge oats
- 2oz/ 50g light muscovado sugar
- 3oz/85g butter

#### Part 2 -

- 1oz/25g butter
- 3 eggs
- 6oz/175g light muscovado sugar
- 5oz/140g raisins
- 3oz/85g desiccated coconut
- grated zest of 1 lemon and 2 tbs juice.

#### Part 3 -

- 2oz/50g icing sugar
- grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2-3 tsp lemon juice

### METHOD:

#### Part 1 -

- 1 Heat the oven to 180°C/ fan 160°C
- 2 Rub in butter to flour, oats, and sugar.
- 3 Line a 26cm x18cm tin with baking parchment and tip all these in the tin and press down evenly.

- 4 Bake for 10-15 mins until pale golden.

#### Part 2 -

- 1 Melt the butter and cool.
- 2 In another bowl beat the eggs and add sugar, raisins, coconut and lemon zest and juice.
- 3 Pour over base and spread out evenly.
- 4 Bake for 20-25 mins until top is set and golden.
- 5 Mark into the size squares you would like.
- 6 Cut through when cool.

#### Part 3 -

- 1 Mix lemon zest with icing sugar in a small bowl.
- 2 Use just enough juice to make a smooth icing.
- 3 Drizzle over each bar.



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# CUTSRUS BARBERSHOP... THE MOVE!

So here we are, we are very pleased to say CUTS R US is now open in West Row and has been trading in new premises since Monday 5th August, next to the fish and chip shop. We've had a very busy start and a great reaction from the village, plus existing customers have had no problems finding us. We would like to take this opportunity to mention some people and pass on some thank you's!

First, we would like to thank Lydia at Amelia Charlotte in Beck Row, who offered me a chair on a chair rental basis and for the next few days this was the answer, as we hadn't found suitable premises to continue to trade. Shortly after this, it was brought to our attention that a premises in West Row was vacant and we immediately contacted the landlords and an agreement was made quickly to move and open as a barbershop. So thank you, Richard and Kirsty Blair for making our move into the premises a seamless transition to continue in West Row.

Next I need to thank my brother Richard for his carpentry skills, and father-in-law, who both did an amazing job installing fixtures and fittings on Saturday 27th July! If it wasn't for a miss calculation on my part the installation would have gone even more smoothly!! 😊😊😊 I think at one point I was worried they'd incorporate me into the fixtures and fittings!!!!

Thank you to Gordon, Karen and Hazel at IMPRESS EXPRESS in Mildenhall for the signage, great work from start to finish. Next I'd like to thank a very good friend of mine, Chris Bond aka Baz and gigging partner, for his electrical work in fitting some sockets. Great work indeed and completed after his own work day. Also Marc Hollier aka Mez, another good friend for giving up his Saturday and helping me move equipment in and providing

his own van. Jason Root for hanging the mirrors and Shayne Carter of Carter's Flooring for a repair to the flooring, great work Shayne, thank you!!!

Last, and by no means least, David Weston and his employees at Mildenhire. Thank you for loaning me a van (not just on this occasion) to move equipment over. I know sometimes things don't last forever, but it is sad our two businesses are having to move from Beck Row and I do hope you find a suitable location to continue. We all had many laughs and survived as businesses through the many manager changes at the Bird In Hand pub, various planning rumours, the possible closure of RAF Mildenhall and let's not forget COVID!

We look forward to seeing new and existing customers in our barbershop in West Row.

**Call Stephen on  
07985 426561** to make an appointment – see you soon.

**LONG LIVE CUTSRUS** 🍷



Once again we are indebted to Len Rix for submitting one of his poems for our publication. Thank you Len.

## The Farm Sale

Clouds floating in a warm September sky  
and shadows disappear as they go by.

Tom would soon be hitching up his plough  
but sadly things will be different now.

Tomorrow it's the farm sale,  
the meadow strewn with bygones of his life.

A box of nuts and bolts, an old stack knife the use of which is now a dying art  
As hitching up a double horse and cart.

A tear drop falls and mingles with the dew,  
the Dolly collar with a cast off shoe.

The elevator for stacking corn and straw,  
a relic that's not needed any more.

On the day the auctioneer attends  
so will local farmers, mostly friends.

A day of mixed emotions passes by  
amongst a crowd beneath a sunny Autumn sky.

Busy people taking things away,  
for them of course it's just another day.

His goods and chattels mostly now have gone,  
the sun is down and quietly night draws on.

The moon upon the cloud tops seems to glide  
as Mary waiting welcomes him inside.

For her it's the bird song at summer dawn  
and dewy meadow where a new calf has been born.

The ancient buildings where the barn will smell of hay,  
the blooming barley on a perfect summer day.

How the farm is silenced by a heavy fall of snow,  
quiet evenings by the kitchen fire's glow.

Jolly Christmases with tables full of Christmas fare  
when cousins, Aunts and Uncles are all there.

To a cottage in the village with a yard  
and just a garden where the work is not so hard.

Where there's no mud, no frozen fingers, no cold feet  
but the same old moon and a lamppost in the street!



## Holywell Row Village Hall



**The AGM will be held on  
Wednesday, 16th October 2024  
at 7pm.**

All residents of the village  
are invited to attend.

The hall has been refurbished  
so do come along  
to have a look.

We're hoping to organise  
some events in the future,  
so we'd love some ideas.

The hall will be available for hire  
at a reasonable rate.

## Beck Row Ladies Club

The summer has been a mixture of  
outings and speakers, which have been  
very successful and well attended.  
The Club meets at 2pm on the second  
Monday of the month, and the speakers  
for the next few months are:

**11th November** - Anthony Gardiner  
from G's Fresh - the largest vegetable  
grower in the UK

**9th December** - Elaine Brown -  
Nursing through Air Raids and  
Gunshot in WW1

**13th January** - Nigel Sutton -  
Fraud and Security Advisor  
Cambridgeshire Police

All very welcome, the cost is £4  
per meeting, including raffle and  
refreshments.

## Councillor Surgery

This is a chance to come along for  
an informal chat and raise any  
concerns or ask any questions you  
may have regarding our Parish.

Come and have a coffee and a chat  
with Councillors

Gary Peachey &  
James Bailey



**Thursday 24th October**  
**7:00-8:30pm**  
**At the Parish Hub Beck Row**  
Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill  
Parish Council

Whilst summer in astronomical terms may have now finished weeks ago, at the end of August, on the reserve and in the wider countryside the transition into autumn and towards winter is much more gradual and gentle - thankfully for us! In October, on fair weather days there will still be dragonflies to see - these will mostly be the smaller Common Darters - where the male is bright red and the female a sandy-brown. There will also be a few of the very elegant Willow Emerald Damselflies too - as their name suggests they are a beautiful metallic green and look impossibly slender, with fully transparent wings. They have a weak, fluttering flight and are easy to miss as they float past you. But they rest often and are quite confiding, especially if you approach slowly - so you can often get a really good look at them.

We'll still have a few butterflies too, especially larger species like Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Peacock. As well as Comma butterflies, these will keep breeding so long as the weather is mild enough, so keep an eye on sunny nettle patches for their spiky caterpillars, and on late-flowering plants such as Asters, Buddleia and Sedum in gardens and parks. On the reserve they will be enjoying Buddleia and the fluffy pink heads of Hemp Agrimony. Comma caterpillars feed on either hops or nettles and are fantastic bird-dropping mimics - which means they often go unnoticed!

Autumn can be the best time to look for some spectacular species of moth too - like Hummingbird or Broad-Bordered Bee Hawkmoth, both of which fly by day and are big fans of Buddleia, Salvias, Delphiniums and Lavender. And if you grow any Tobacco Plant (Nicotiana) at home, it's well worth a look on a warm, calm night for the huge and beautiful Convolvulus Hawkmoth, which migrates here from Africa, sometimes as late as November. They have a very long tongue ideal for sipping nectar - whilst hovering - from Nicotiana's long tubular flowers and are quite a sight.

It also won't be too late to spot some summer-visiting birds, either. Unlike the Cuckoos and Swifts which leave the UK pretty soon after breeding, Hobbies and warblers like Whitethroat and Chiffchaff can often still be seen in the autumn. They are all likely to stick around for as long as the weather holds - because they rely on an abundance of flying insects - larger ones like dragonflies for the Hobbies and smaller ones for the warblers, as well as spiders. Talking of spiders - our special colour form of the Marbled Orb Weaver is looking at its best now - the females grow steadily throughout the warmer months but in late summer and in autumn their abdomens really swell with developing eggs. The more usual yellow colour-form is pretty striking but the rarer 'marmoreus' is quite common here, and in other fenland sites like Wicken Fen, so a visit at this time of year to see it is usually rewarded.

The wildlife and natural spectacles of summer are not quite over yet - even if it is October. So hold fire from grabbing the hat and gloves and why not pop down to see us and enjoy getting close to nature? Whether it is birds, butterflies, dragonflies, spiders or even just the fresh air, space and peace you like, we hope you can find it here at Lakenheath Fen this autumn.

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



Male Common Dart



Female Common Dart



Willow Emerald Damselfly

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Someone new to the village posted on the local Community Facebook page a question asking how to get the goal posts unlocked on the football pitch so he and his friends could play football there. Just to clarify the situation an explanation is due. After almost 50 years of an adult football team playing at the club Covid took its toll and since then there has not been an adult team representing the village. We are very fortunate that Lakenheath Youth teams make use of the clubhouse and the pitch, so have adapted it so maximum use can be made of the ground. The pitch is divided width-wise to accommodate two games and they have provided their own suitably sized goal posts for the youngsters. Naturally because of insurance regulations these may only be used by Lakenheath so although we are sure the person inquiring was disappointed, we do hope he understands.

Thanks are due to Mark Thompson who has sent in a photo from around 1975. It is the triumphant team from Beck Row Football Club showing the Tuddenham Cup they won on Tuddenham's ground. The names of the team are shown but having talked to Colin Greenacre, Peter Bowers, Mark Thompson and Graham Rose some players require a mention. Ian Thompson in the front row is the father of Mark and had a long career with Forest Heath District Council. He started as a 17-year-old collecting sewage in buckets on a wagon commonly known as the "Honey Cart" before progressing up the ladder and finishing his career as Waste Services Manager. A 44-year long career that saw him awarded an MBE for his services to the Public Sector. How many people will have a career of that expanse with one employer nowadays are few and far between? What an achievement!

The boys on the back row played for Shippea Hill / Kenny Hill and then joined Beck Row. Gerald Pearce was the son of the late man who ran the Railway Tavern for many years known as Biff to all around. Peter Bowers was the secretary at the time and the two men on the ends Lol Houghton and Wally Ward were stalwart supporters of the club. The Houghton and Bowers families were very well supported as you can see.

Adults may not be able to play on the pitch, but youngsters can if they wish. You do not have to live in Lakenheath to join in so 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 07860316748  
or Youth teams Richard Horrex: richardhorrex@gmail.com, mobile 07540 201 223

*Back Row – L to R  
Lol Houghton, Robert Palmer,  
Gerald Pearce, Tom Smith,  
Charlie Bowers, Peter Bowers,  
Mick Bowers, Glen Houghton,  
Wally Ward*

*Front Row – L to R  
Colin Greenacre, Ian Thompson,  
Ian Houghton, Neil Houghton,  
Trevor Westley.*



## Gardening Tips

During September you can plan for the spring.

Any areas where plants and shrubs haven't been that successful, they can be replaced with bulbs. Sometimes during hot, dry periods as we have just had it sorts out the plants that just simply can't come back despite watering. Dig these out and concentrate on starting anew.



Bulbs become available in shops by late August and can be planted in September, right up until December. Planted in borders or in pots, always plant more than you originally expect. There is nothing better than a pot crammed full of daffodils. It will brighten up everyone's day. I find Narcissus Jetfire to be the best. You could be lucky and have them out as early as late January or February in the right spot. Daffodils change people's mood. Who knows? By February it could even lighten up Keir Starmer!



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**Once again we acknowledge the input from David Taylor for this edition's story. We hope you enjoy it.**

## Mabel is Missing

'This is the last will and testament of Mabel Maltby', the young solicitor stated in quite an unexpected cheery voice. I'd been requested to attend the reading in my old home village and I didn't really understand the reason, so I was all ears. Well, it was quite a revelation. I'd been left all of Mabel's property and possessions apart from some monies for local charities. I was utterly gobsmacked and spluttered my thanks as the solicitor handed me an old-looking, handwritten envelope marked 'Personal and Confidential' which I placed carefully in my jacket pocket. Of course, my thoughts returned to my first memories of Mabel as I walked out in a daze of surprise and, I suppose, joy.

I'd known Mabel since I was a young child. She just always wanted to be called Mabel and not Auntie Mabel even though she was like an aunt to me and my two sisters. From the odd snippet of conversation between mum and dad, she was looked upon as a bit eccentric in the village, living alone in a large house down the end of our road. She had looked after her sickly parents until they died at a relatively young age. I can particularly remember her father who was always carefully wrapped in a blanket and spent all his daytimes in one of those old wicker bath chairs. He never said much apart from calling Mabel to attend his every need. Even though she had the burden of her parents in those early days, she also looked after us when we came home from school and during the school holidays. Both of our parents had jobs so Mabel was a godsend. Even in those early days, Mabel always appeared to be old-fashioned and I don't think she had many changes of clothes. Don't get me wrong she was always clean and she ran a tidy house. She was just like most people's idea of a great aunt. A bit dumpy, brown lisle stockings, woolly dress and sensible shoes but she was remarkably agile and was always performing three tasks at once. I can remember one of my sisters asking her whether she was going to die and she retorted, 'I haven't got time to die'.

I used to spend a lot of time in her large garden; I say garden but it would be better described as grounds. It was very wild with overgrown orchards and lots of tall flowers, brambles and large shady trees. I can remember running and climbing in my play as Biggles, Roy Rogers and 'Just William' whilst my sisters preferred to play indoors or on the one small patch of tidy lawn with their dolls. It was by accident that I first discovered Mabel picking her way to the very edge of the property to what I came to call Mabel's secret garden. I just thought it would be fun to quietly follow her and imagine myself as a secret agent. She manoeuvred a narrow, virtually invisible path through thick brambles to what I found was a beautiful small, cultivated area. She had taken a trowel and was doing a bit of weeding. I just lay in the undergrowth watching her and was very surprised when she started to cry. Mabel always seemed too happy to ever cry. I'm sorry to admit that my secret agent duties led me to secretly follow her on many more occasions and I always wondered what was so special but never asked. The visits always upset her.

The family had always treated Mabel as part of the family and we loved her dearly. A

month ago, my youngest sister had telephoned and tearfully stated, 'Mabel is missing'. The police had searched the house, garden and neighbourhood but never found a thing. Her breakfast dishes were still in the sink. I drove over and joined the search but all along I just knew where she would be. My sister came with me and the path, even more narrow and overgrown, led us to Mabel. She was clutching her trowel and laying on her small but tidy, cultivated plot. She seemed completely at peace.

From the solicitor's, I slowly walked to Mabel's house and the wonderful memories of my childhood flooded back. I sat on the ground in Mabel's secret garden and slowly opened her handwritten letter and read,

*My Dear Boy (she'd always called me her dear boy), I just know you will be reading this letter in my little garden. I knew you used to follow me and watch me and I always appreciated the fact that you never asked me any questions even when you became a man. I'll now answer those unsaid questions and you will be the only person who knows. During the war I fell in love with a local lad who was called up for the army. We used to secretly meet on this very spot out of the prying eyes of the villagers and, especially, my parents. My lover was already married. After he was posted to North Africa, I found I was pregnant and then, a few months later, he was killed in action. The shock caused a miscarriage and I buried my dead son in the ground where you used to see me weeping and where you are probably now sitting. Please keep this patch of ground as a little sanctuary. I think I loved you as much as my long-lost son. With Love, Mabel.*

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## Beck Row Academy

Hello there!

My name is Charley Minter and I am the newly appointed Principal of Beck Row Primary Academy. I have been overwhelmed by the friendly welcome I have received from the staff, children and community. Having worked in Essex for the past 13 years, Suffolk has been a breath of fresh air - literally.

I think it's vital that the local community know how hard the school staff work to educate the young and inquisitive minds of Beck Row Primary. Not only that, but to let you know of certain events that will be occurring throughout the term. I hear chatter about a Christmas and Summer Fayre, fun and exciting fundraising evenings (including a Race Night) and open afternoons for you to bring new and prospective students to visit our wonderful academy. As you will surely know, raising money for local schools has become even more paramount than in the past.

I will end on explaining a wonderful initiative the academy has embedded into their day called OPAL (outdoor play and learning), this enriched scheme runs from Reception-Y6. It encourages children to be children! To play in the mud, to roll in the sandpit, to cartwheel on the grass and to swing on the monkey bars. It is an incredible experience to observe their lunch times. But what it does entail, for the Winter period, is to have the appropriate footwear. I am asking that if you find yourselves with a pair of children's wellington boots that you no longer need to kindly donate to our OPAL scheme, allowing children to play outdoors all year round.

Warmest regards, and we hope to see you soon.

Once again, thanks so much!

**Charley Minter**  
Principal

e: Charley.Minter@atrust.org.uk



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in the Methodist Church

*Free admission*  
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**ALSO**

**THERE WILL BE A SERVICE  
CONDUCTED BY THE REV. PAUL MELLOR**

**Sunday 20th October at 10.30am**  
In the Methodist Church

## The Story of the Bench at Wilde Street Pond

The residents of Rozel Court off Aspal Lane are a little community of their own, looking out and helping each other and have done so over many years.

Prior to 2007 one of their residents, Pat Savage was diagnosed with cancer so Carol Terry started to take her for a walk around the village in her wheel chair. Then another friend joined them and not long after a group of friends joined in calling themselves The Rozel Ramblers. Pat died and the friends clubbed together and bought a bench in her memory. So on 6th March 2007, the group assembled around the bench which had been put near the pond in Wilde Street. It was a memorable occasion. The photo shows them all with 3 councilors representing the Parish Council at that time.

Sylvia Willey (far right) is seated at one end of the bench, but was not a resident of Rozel Court. So why was she there? The answer was revealed by her daughter Dorothy Ashton. The group walked in a circle from Rozel Court to Wilde Street past the pond, and then turned right on to Wildmere Lane. At the corner past A & S Topsoils, is a bungalow where Sylvia lived, so they used to call in at hers before going the rest of the way, joining The Street in Holywell Row and turning right into Aspal Lane to bring them back to Rozel Court. Jill Lusty told me Sylvia looked forward to seeing them and if she thought them late would stand on a chair to see if they were coming along the road. At Christmas Jill would make them all a coffee in Sylvia's kitchen - a great honour. After Pat died, Beryl Horner told me they raised money for Cancer Research. Pat left a widower Bryan who has now also died.

Over the years the bench has suffered from age and the weather, so recently the family living opposite has done something about it. Bev and his son Christopher



**Back Row L to R**  
Gina Knight, Jackie,  
Beryl Horner,  
Diane Cirket, Jill Lusty,  
Lynn Palmer,  
Cllr Shelagh Herbert  
**Middle Row**  
Carol Terry, Carol, Paula,  
Rita Carpenter,  
Maureen Richardson,  
Joan Johnson,  
Cllrs K Sallis  
and Sheila Bonnett  
**Bench**  
Gwen Ike,  
Margaret Coleman,  
Sylvia Willey

Norman provided the wood and repaired one section, and Christopher and Louise's sons Edward aged 11 and his brother Isaac aged 7 have been busy during their summer holidays. They have sanded the bench and using wire brushes have cleaned up the concrete arms. They have spent a lot of time, and it now looks virtually brand new. It has helped that Bev has cleared away the undergrowth at the



back of it, strimmed where necessary and Edward has cut the grass. Many thanks are due to them all.

Unfortunately, they discovered the original plaque was missing, so thanks to the Parish Council a new plaque has been made and is now in place.

Congratulations are due to them all for caring for their community and making the area so pleasant to behold.

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## News from Beck Row Methodist Church

The Harvest Supper was very successful with 50 people sitting down to delicious food prepared by the ladies of the Church. A grand selection of prizes provided gave the raffle its usual success. In all a total of £500 was raised for church funds.

After the meal Brian Roy provided music which led to much fun with singing and dancing bringing the community together described by one attendee as fun, food and fellowship.

### Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 5th October** – Coffee Morning 10am to 11.30am

**Saturday 7th December** – Coffee Morning 10am to 11.30am

**Morning Service** is at 11am each Sunday with the exception of November 10th, a united service for Remembrance Sunday at St John's Church led by Rev Caroline Butcher

**Friday 25th October** – Chicken Foot. Tickets are £4 including light refreshments and can be ordered from Wendy 01842 860184 or Hazel 01638 712975

WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE REV. MCALOON FOR THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE TELLING US ABOUT HIS WORK AND HIS LIFE IN THE MINISTRY.

## Methodist Autumn Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I am Rev'd David McAloon and I am the Minister in the western section of the area that we call the 'Thetford Diss and Mildenhall Methodist Circuit'. That means that I serve in the six Methodist Churches that sit between Thetford in the East and Beck Row in the West. I have been minister here now for exactly three years. Looking through my diary I have just been reminded of one of the first services in this area that I led which was a Harvest Festival service at Beck Row Methodist Church. Previous to my working here I was minister at Bingley and at Haworth and before that in Birmingham as a Ministerial Student. I originate in the north east of England from a small town called Bishop Auckland, whose claim to fame is that it has the residence of the Bishop of Durham and close by, one of the earliest of railway systems that served the coal mines and iron industry, all of which has now gone and the area is much more picturesque if somewhat poorer. Previous to ministry I worked for many years in the NHS as a Hospital Porter and then as a Nursing Auxiliary and Health Care Assistant as we came to be called, with all that time working in the operating theatre.

My wife Carol lives with me here, she is a keen volunteer teaching Sunday School



and doing various pieces of youth work along with training as a worship leader and taking some responsibility in the Methodist region that includes Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire that we call 'the District', for equality diversity and inclusion issues. She also works part time as a Lunchtime Supervisor in one of the schools in Thetford where we live.

We have one daughter, Grace who is a Drama Teacher and Specialist Teaching Assistant with special needs children who lives with her husband in Leeds.

My hobbies away from work involve playing guitar and singing, riding my old motorcycle and connecting with other motorcyclists, and driving, mostly to be honest, to visit family.

My interests are in ministry in rural areas and drawing attention to the issues and challenges of living and working in the rural environment and I have responsibility



in the District for Rural Affairs. I believe that the Rural Church has a great future as long as people are prepared to come and see.

Yes we are a small congregation at Beck Row but we have a loving heart for our community and the potential to use our unique set of buildings and outdoor areas to work together with all the community to do something inclusive and special. Why not pop in and join us sometime?



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Everyone has probably heard of The Fen Tigers being from this area. But we now have Jersey Tigers, possibly our most beautiful moth. Moths have some most unusual names such as the Frigid Owlet moth, the Once-married Underwing, the Horrid Zale and the Sordid Underwing. Not only are their names strange but also their national status categories.

We set up a moth trap in our garden and found a 'suspected immigrant' lurking in our shrubbery and at that moment my wife was hit in the head by an Old Lady! Sounds like a headline from a tabloid but the suspected immigrant (official term) was a Jersey Tiger and the Old Lady one of our largest moths of up to 36mm.

Up until very recently Jersey Tigers were found in Devon and London, but now also in Cambridge, Suffolk and other areas in the south of England. It has reached the British Isles believed to be by natural means. If it had reached here by human assistance by importation of goods it would simply be called an 'import'. Ultimately, we had a good end to the summer, and this benefited the moths in this area.

With our moth trap we had 35 moth species. There are over 3,000; some way to go then, I will have to ensure I make copious notes!



The Jersey Tiger Moth



The Old Lady Moth

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# FARMING DIARY

In the last article of The Beacon, I wrote about the popularity of duck eggs and I informed you that I had the first 100 of a 250 bird order coming on to the farm in mid-August. Well after I wrote the article the breeder contacted me to say that he was behind schedule, and they would be ready for collection in early September. Early September came and sure enough he called to say they were ready, and we could go and collect. As soon as we had rounded up our chicken crates my son-in-law set off to pick them up. He only had to go to Needham Market, so I was not expecting much of a problem, and so when I got a phone call about an hour after he left I was quite surprised. I was even more surprised when he explained that he had called to say that of the 100 ducks he was picking up 70 of them were male! Worse, the breeder was expecting me to take them all! I explained that male ducks don't lay eggs so James brought just the 30 females home. They have settled in well, but the quest for finding decent numbers of duck eggs goes on. This is in fact the second time I have tried to establish a flock of laying ducks and failed miserably. The first time, a few years ago I bought an incubator and 50 fertile eggs and hatched my own. This worked really well and I had a brilliant hatch, reared them and brought them up to laying age (about 16 weeks) and then it came time to let them out (our farm is free range). We built an excellent compound with Harras fencing and I was proud of my achievement as I opened the door, but these ducks had no intention of laying eggs for me. They waddled out, looked at what I had to offer and to a duck soared off into the air and over towards the fresh water of the cut off canal never to be seen again. They might have at least said Goodbye!

In writing last time, I had planted a mix of wildflowers and plants which would provide winter feed for birds. This has established beautifully and never mind the birds in winter, I have never seen so many butterflies in my life and the constant buzz of insects in the bottom of the crop is a joy to behold.

As I have decided to invest in Nature schemes (DEFRA do pay farmers to do this) this is the first time since I started farming in 1982 that I have not had a cereal harvest. I missed very much not sitting on the combine, but I have found that modern farming requires specialisation, and I have specialised in eggs, potatoes and asparagus selling direct to the public. This has, however, allowed me to have a bit more time off in the Summer than I have previously been used to and by the time you read this I am hoping that I will have been on holiday to the Isle of Wight.

Up until now however, the highlight has been watching Ipswich Town perform in the Premier League for the first time for 22 years. They have had some really hard fixtures to start with, but have acquitted themselves really well, and anyone

attending the first fixture back at home to Liverpool won't ever forget the spine chilling atmosphere in a hurry. Other sporting highlights include a trip to the 20:20 Vitality Blast cricket finals, a day at Edgbaston in Birmingham. Four of us had a fantastic day in a 26,000-crowd watching with assorted cartoon characters, the Pope, a Nun, Spiderman, some Butchers accompanied by 2 large pigs, but most hilariously Donald Trump with an assortment of security guards who re-inacted the Trump shooting at regular intervals. All of these people were very entertaining, and they couldn't half drink a lot of beer! Unfortunately, the cricket wasn't very good – a bit one sided.

I have played bowls for West Row for 38 years and we have just completed a very good season finishing runners-up in the League and finalists in a County Cup. Loads of good young players have taken up the game and joined us in the last 2 years. They have been coached really well and the future looks bright. On a personal level I have just won the Club Singles 35 years after I won my first Singles Title. There have been numerous in between, but I am proud that I am still just about able to hold off the challenges of some very good new players. I am getting worse and they are getting better quickly so I fear my championship winning days may be numbered.

I have been at a lot of music shows – I love music. Huge stars like Bryan Adams, Sting, Bruce Springsteen along with yesterday's stars like Gary Newman and brilliant young local bands singing their own music. The undoubted highlight however was the Country Music Experience in Ely Cathedral. What an awesome sound that magnificent building is able to generate.

Despite taking time off I have also been very busy too. Before Covid when the students were away during the summer holidays the Universities where I do most of my business in Cambridge were always packed in the summertime with conferences and foreign language students. Covid put paid to that for three years until this year when they have come back with a vengeance and Cambridge had been packed. This has caused egg sales to be phenomenal, so I have had to buy from numerous other local farmers and, for the first time ever, I have had a college waiting on the substitute bench for me to have enough eggs to supply them. My market stall outside M and S in Bury remains really busy with customer numbers increasing all the time as does my shop here at home. It is interesting to note that currently I estimate that 40% of my customers are American at both places. However, wherever you come from please be aware that I am eternally grateful for all the support I receive.

**PS: The Butterfly Society has today produced a report stating that butterflies are now an endangered species. I am very proud than in my small part I have tried to redress the situation!**



### Mildenhall Museum Society Talks

Thursday 3rd October      Oludah                      Donna Martin

Thursday 7th November      Welcome Lord Christmas      Sarah Doig

*Talks are held at the Museum 7.30pm refreshments available.  
Members £2 non-members £4 Annual Membership £10*

### MILDENHALL FLOWER CLUB

are holding a

## FLOWER FESTIVAL

18th, 19th, 20th October, 2024

Friday and Saturday 11.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 12.00pm to 4.00pm

in

the Methodist Church Mildenhall, IP28 7EJ

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Friday 10:30am – 4:00pm



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## Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen September - November 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

27 Sept, 24 Oct, 29 Nov (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)

### Race for Wildlife 2024

Sunday 20 Oct (11am to 2pm)

Join us as dozens of other runners come together to raise money to support wildlife.

Choose from 5k or 10k routes through RSPB Lakenheath Fen reserve. All profits from ticket sales supports conservation work by the RSPB.

Adults £15 (Under 18's £7.50)

### Amazing Autumn Guided Walks

Wednesday 2 October 2024 (9:30am to 12:30pm)

Sunday 27 October 2024 (9:30am to 12:30pm)

Join us to celebrate the arrival of Autumn – we'll be looking for seasonal wildlife on a friendly tour with a couple of our knowledgeable volunteers.

Adults: £18 non-RSPB members, £15 RSPB members

Under 18's: £9 non-RSPB members, £7.50 RSPB members

### Accessible Reserve Guided Tour

Friday 18 October 2024 (10am to 1pm)

To celebrate several improvements to Lakenheath Fen's accessibility in recent years, we will be hosting a tour aimed at helping the less physically-able visitor to enjoy the reserve. We will remain on firm and level footpaths during this event to enjoy the sights and sounds of Autumn nature.

Adults: £18 non-RSPB members, £15 RSPB members

Under 18's: £9 non-RSPB members, £7.50 RSPB members

### Wild Wetland Winter Guided Walk




Sunday 17 November (9:30am to 12:30pm)

Wrap up warm and join us to see the best that winter has to offer – we will be looking for seasonal highlights with our knowledgeable guides on this beautiful reserve!

Adults: £18 non-RSPB members, £15 RSPB members

Under 18's: £9 non-RSPB members, £7.50 RSPB members

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The 48th Fighter Wing – also known as the *Liberty Wing* – is located at RAF Lakenheath and RAF Feltwell. Consisting of more than 5,000 U.S. military members, over 1,500 British and U.S. civilians, and around 8,500 dependents, it is the largest U.S.-operated Air Force base in the United Kingdom and home to both F-15E and F-35A fighter jets. Current priorities for the 48th Fighter Wing include doubling our F-35A fleet by 2024 and providing balance for our people.



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



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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 Thursday 14th November 2024 in the following ways:

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

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

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