



The Bradley Bugle

December 2011 & January 2012

Issue 159 www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk

**Merry Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year!**



Carol Service 3 pm 18 December



St Mary's Church, Great Bradley

Village Diary

All events take place at the Village Hall unless otherwise noted

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING	SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS	TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 7pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	Open Forum for villagers at beginning of meeting	WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 7.30pm
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Lively, light exercise and fun! Contact Ella on 710340 Introductory session 16 January – see inside	Mondays 2 – 4pm starts again 9 January
CARPET BOWLS	Contact Jill Rodwell 783371 or Carol Durrant 783307 for details	Mondays 7.30pm
FLEXIBLE FRIENDS	Gentle stretching exercises Contact Jacquie on 783354	Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon
ART CLASS	Contact Anne Pigden on 783175 for details	Tuesdays 2 – 4pm term starts 10 January
WEA	Will's Musical Legacy (Shakespeare's that is!) Lecturer: Peter Goodwin contact Geoffrey 783132 or Peter 783278	Wednesdays 10 am for 10.15start – 12 noon
WEA 2012	Ten Great Films of all Time Lecturer - Laurence Staig	THURSDAYS from 19 January 10 am for 10.15start – 12 noon
AFTERNOON CLUB	All welcome, all ages, all interests Come and meet friends and neighbours - Contact Gill Brown 01223 893012	Thursday 8 December 2.30pm Thursday 12 January 2.30pm
MOBILE LIBRARY	12.20 – 12.35pm Evergreen Lane	Mondays 12 December, 9 & 23 January
BLACK BIN	Fridays 9 & 23 December, Saturday 7 & Friday 20 January	PLEASE CHECK WITH
BLUE/BROWN BINS	Fridays 2 & 16, Saturday 31 December, Fridays 13 & 27 January	BIN SLIPS

St Mary's Church Great Bradley STOURHEAD BENEFICE

THE RECTOR writes:

What, for you, might be the non-negotiable elements of Christmas? What for you are those ingredients of Christmas without which you cannot envisage having to do? What could you not forgo? I rather imagine that there are as many ways of celebrating Christmas as there are families, and each family may well have its own ideas as to what they do or do not do on Christmas Day. Of course today is celebrated in slightly different ways in different countries of the world. I seem to recall that in Germany most of the celebration happened on Christmas Eve, and I believe that in Australia Christmas Day is often observed with a barbecue on the beach. In a certain house on the outskirts of Leicester a certain Mr. and Mrs. Hollis for many years ate pork pie for their breakfast. I don't know quite why, but for breakfast on Christmas Day and Boxing Day in the Hollis house there was grapefruit instead of cereal, and pork pie to follow, with toast and marmalade. Now I have to say that we didn't overdo things in our family over Christmas. Nor, to be fair, did we go without. But Christmas was a quiet time. Not for us the noisy parties. Not for us the mountains of food, not for us the alcohol. But if it was quiet we still enjoyed it.

So back to that question, what are those elements of Christmas which for you are non-negotiable? It may be the over indulging - the food and the drink. It may be the tree. Many households seem to favour having a real tree - as if Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a real tree. Maybe that's you. For many years all I had was a small artificial one - which was second hand when I got it a long time ago for 50p. in a jumble sale. One year I remember I was ill for a while before Christmas, and so busy that it never actually got put up at all. So for me the tree is not that important. For some people part of Christmas is about going away: they like to get away at Christmas.

For many people Christmas is about company, about togetherness, being among family or with friends. Richmal Crompton wrote about a certain William Brown: "William awoke and rubbed his eyes. It was Christmas Day - the day to which he had looked forward with mingled feelings for twelve months. It was a jolly day, of course - presents and turkey and staying up late. On the other hand, there were generally too many relations about, too much was often expected of one, the curious taste displayed by people who gave one presents often marred one's pleasure". I suspect that for William presents and turkey and staying up late were non-negotiable elements of the day, but that he would willingly have foregone the presence of the extra relations. That "curious taste" of the people giving presents is a thought taken up by Betjeman of course in his Christmas poem. "And girls in slacks remember dad, and oafish louts remember mum, and sleepless children's hearts are glad...." The family of a Vicar with whom I used to work in Leicester heard that poem on Christmas Day every year - that was part of their Christmas tradition. It goes on to talk of the "loving fingers tying strings, around those tissued fripperies, the sweet and silly Christmas things, bath salts and inexpensive scent, and hideous tie so kindly meant".

We must spare a thought for all those whose Christmas celebrations will be marred by the absence of one of their number. I am always conscious at this time of the year of those who have lost loved ones during the last twelve months and for whom Christmas holds loneliness and fear and dread. Last Christmas my mother had not long died; this year in August my father died. For some, togetherness and family are difficult words. And as we think today of the birth of the Prince of Peace we are so very conscious aren't we of the lack of peace in the world? We think of the war against terrorism, and of the ongoing conflicts around the world. We are very conscious too that peace and goodwill are not always manifested within our own church or community. The American poet Longfellow wrote a poem which speaks of Christmas in war-time, but which looks forward in hope to a time when right will prevail. He begins "I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat, of peace on earth, good will to men.... Then from each black accursed mouth the cannon thundered in the south, and with the sound the carols drowned of peace on earth, goodwill to men.... And in despair I bowed my head 'There is no peace on earth, I said, for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.'" But in his final verse he says "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep. 'God is not dead; nor doth He sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men!'" So amongst the conflict of this world we continue to proclaim peace on earth and goodwill among men. But back to those words of John Betjeman. "And is it true?" he asks "And is it true, this most tremendous tale of all, seen in a stained glass window's hue, a baby in an ox's stall, the maker of the stars and sea become a child on earth for me? For if it is no love that in a family dwells, no carolling in frosty air, nor all the steeple-shaking bells can with this single truth compare - that God was man in Palestine and lives today in bread and wine."

There is what for us as Christians is the non-negotiable ingredient of Christmas: that we take time to reflect on the incarnation, the birth of that baby over two thousand years ago. For without that birth Christmas wouldn't be Christmas for me, or for you, or for any of us. One Christian minister wrote this "One of those very cold days, a strange thing came to our house. It was a bundle of clothes; at least that is what it looked like. So we began to take it apart. First of all there was a waterproof. Underneath that there was a woolly coat. There was a beret too and a scarf and one or two cardigans and a pair of long trousers. Underneath everything, quite hidden by all the clothes, was a little boy. Christmas is a bit like that. It comes to us, all wrapped up in so many things, crackers and presents and turkey and holly, Christmas cards and Christmas cake. All very nice wrappings, but only the wrappings. What matters at Christmas time is that little boy - sometimes quite hidden under the wrappings - the little boy Jesus, who came to this world to be the friend of us all." Let's not lose the baby amongst all the trimmings and wrapping paper. I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Rev Derek Hollis - Kedington Rectory Tel 01440 763066

CHURCH SERVICES - December 2011 & January 2012

For further details see Benefice News

11 December	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
18 December	10 am	Benefice Service	Great Wrating
	3 pm	Carol Service	Great Bradley
24 December	Christmas Eve		
	6 pm	Carol Service	Little Bradley
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Kedington
25 December	Christmas Day		
	10 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
1 January	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Bradley
8 January	11 am	Holy Communion	Little Thurlow
15 January	10 am	Benefice Communion	Little Wrating
22 January	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
29 January	10 am	Benefice Communion	Little Bradley
5 February	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Bradley

Month	Church cleaning	Flowers
December	Ken and Sue Ireland	All helpers welcome to decorate church and Christmas tree. Meet at church at 10 am Saturday 17 December
January	Geoffrey and Arline Vollam	

Carol Service – Sunday 18 December 3pm

The Carol service will follow the traditional format of readings and carols. Requests for favourite carols and offers to read will be welcome. Warming refreshments will be served after the service. Contact Sue (783595) or Geoffrey (783132)

Village Carol Singing – Tuesday 20 December 7pm

Come and join in carol singing round the village collecting for the Children's Society. This Christian charity is committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, including safeguarding children in care and young runaways. They give a voice to disabled children, help young refugees to rebuild their lives and provide relief for young carers.

Carol Singers will foregather at the village hall at 6.50pm, leaving at 7pm sharp. We go out around the village whatever the weather but look forward to our last carol at Antonia & Simon Kiddy's home where warming drinks and nibbles await!

Please do join us – we need lots of singers, every voice, even ones that are a little rusty, are very welcome, or come along and wield the collecting tins. And if you decide to stay at home please be generous when we knock upon your door.

Geoffrey Vollam (783132)

Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of last month's coffee morning. As well as having a very sociable time, we raised £184, which has been split between church funds and famine relief in the Horn of Africa.

Great Bradley WEA: 10 Great Films of all time

Our new course will be on **Thursday** mornings next term, starting at 10.00 for 10.15am on **19 January** at the Village Hall. Our tutor will be Laurence Staig and his selection of films will probably include 'Gone with the Wind', 'Sunset Boulevard' and.....well, we shall see!

Cinema has been a major part of popular entertainment culture for over 100 years and will remain so for some time to come. We shall have an opportunity to sit back and consider some of the reasons for the success of these 10 great productions, looking at the background in which the films were made, their stars and also of course the film makers.

Cost of the 10 sessions will be £46 but anyone who is interested can sample the first day as a free taster before enrolling for the course, so don't hesitate to come along and find out what it's all about!

We look forward to meeting old friends and new on Thursday 19 January - please make a note of the date and new day of the week now.

Further information is available from Peter Smith (783278) or Geoffrey Vollam (783132).

Cyril and Joyce Potter

A Special thanks to all our friends and neighbours for all their kindness and support during our sixty-one years of married life in Great Bradley and for all the cards and good wishes for our future in Haverhill. Please don't lose contact, you are welcome to come and see us.

Love to you all.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

Joyce and Cyril & Whisky

Popular local residents Cyril and Joyce Potter

have left the village after over 60 years to be nearer their children Colin and Janet in Haverhill. During this time they have lived in Hall Road, Evergreen Lane and then in St Osyth House. They were very popular members of the Village Carpet Bowls Club - it won't be the same without them! They were also regulars at the Afternoon Club, enjoying a good old gossip over a cup of tea and cake!

Cyril moved to Bradley in 1934 and went to the local school (now the Village Hall). In 1942 he started work on the farm and recalls at that time there were no combines so it was harvesting by binder, then shocking (putting the sheaves into heaps standing). When dried out it was carted, and put in corn stacks. After the war, in 1950, the farm changed hands and Mr Ryder took over and began to mechanise, bringing in combines, sprayers, mechanical hedge cutters and ditchers, transforming Cyril's way of life.

Cyril's father used to work in the Hall garden and then worked on the farm, the same as Cyril, and where Colin, his son, now works.

After going to school in Thurlow Joyce went into service at Norley Moat, Little Bradley, and worked at the laundry in Haverhill too. She also did general duties at Great Bradley Hall where her mother Mrs Mott had been the Ryder family's resident housekeeper for many years. She married Cyril in 1950 in Thurlow and Mrs Ryder fondly recalls attending the wedding.

Cyril and Joyce celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September 2010 and received a telegram from the Queen.

They will be greatly missed by all their friends in Great Bradley but will hopefully be regular visitors.

Anne Bunyan



QUIZ NIGHT! Saturday 26 November

What a great evening that was – **many thanks** to all the village hall team and especially to Les our brilliant quiz master!

Parish Council Information

Village Archive

We have a large number of historic maps, photos and other documents about the village. We would like to make these more accessible to members of the village and others interested in local history. The documents need careful indexing and filing so people know what's there and how to find it, and also where possible digitising so the information can be made available on the internet. Charles Ryder has kindly made available a room in which this work can be done. If anyone is interested in helping with this, or leading it, or if you have any knowledge or expertise in librarianship, indexing or archiving please contact either Rowan Sylvester-Bradley or John Barnett.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event

We are hoping to organise a village celebration event for the Jubilee weekend of 2-5 June 2012 and we're looking for ideas and wishes from you to guide us before we firm up on what form this event will take, and exactly when it should be. If you have any ideas for a good village event for this occasion, or if you would be prepared to help organise this, or if you have preferences about when the event should be, or if you are going to be away or think the whole thing is a bad idea, please let Rowan Sylvester-Bradley, Anne Smith or John Barnett know. The following ideas have come up so far:

- a Big Lunch (see www.thebiglunch.com)
- a hog roast
- a village coach trip to the sea side

If you want to stop us planning one of these ideas (by suggesting something better) please let us know!

Annual Village Meeting - Advance Notice

The Annual Village Meeting will be held earlier than usual next year, on **Wednesday 18 April** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please put the date in your diary.

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley

Great Bradley Hedgerow Survey 2009 - 2011

Did you know that more than 80% of our farmland birds rely on hedges for protection and food. In addition, species rich hedgerows provide shelter for crops, are a feature in the landscape and an important wildlife habitat in their own right, as well as providing invaluable corridors for wildlife between other habitats such as ponds and copses. It is this connectivity that helps to make Suffolk the Greenest County and enhances the Living Landscape.

Over the past 3 years Great Bradley has been taking part in a county-wide survey of the species richness of our hedgerows under the aegis of the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey (part of a country-wide project). I would like to thank the team of volunteers that have helped make the whole thing happen here. Firstly and most importantly Charles Ryder, without whose wholehearted enthusiasm and support it would have been difficult to get the project off the ground in the first place. We consisted of 2 teams in the main with Charles Ryder, Anne Smith (who had the really important knowledge of the more difficult species to identify), Maureen and John Barnett. This team mainly surveyed Charles's land and also some hedges of Colin Clifton-Brown and Ron Davison (who also deserve thanks for allowing us to do this) which lie more on the periphery of the Parish. The second team was Anne & Les Bunyan who undertook all the hedges that were publicly available along the footpaths and roads.

The Suffolk Hedgerow Survey has been coordinated from the start in 2000 by a remarkable character, Guy Ackers. Guy came over to the Parish in 2009 to give us all training in the correct methods for surveying the hedgerows. This is the final year of the overall project and by the end of October, 274 parish surveys had been completed in Suffolk providing data on over 34,000 hedgerows. That data, following an audit by Guy, is sent to the Suffolk Biological Records Centre at Ipswich Museum.

In Great Bradley, we surveyed some 172 hedges shown on our master map and on completion of the surveys in October it was necessary to ensure the paperwork for each one was correctly completed and each hedge given an Ordnance Survey reference to ensure it could be mapped correctly. Then a large scale map was coloured in to show the 'species richness' of the Parish's hedges. After that it was off to Guy in Woodbridge to deliver the map and all the paperwork as we didn't want to risk the possibility of 3 years' work disappearing in the postal system.

We received a very nice letter from Guy Ackers a few days later which gives all sorts of information which may be of interest so I shall reproduce some of it here. Guy was extremely impressed with Charles Ryder's total commitment to the project and as such he produced a separate summary of all his hedges specifically for him. Guy wrote to us:

'The work done is in really good shape and the master maps are clearly showing the status and distribution of the landscape hedgerows at a single glance and illustrate several corridors and connectivity on the east to west axis and more importantly one very strong corridor on the north to south axis, starting at Great Widgham Wood, right through the village to the southern parish boundary at and beyond Matthew's Farm. Potentially, there is another one east of the village which could develop very nicely.

The surveying started in August 2009 when you took on the survey and concluded after 159 landscape hedgerows and a further 13 field boundaries without a hedge thus making a total of 172 boundaries.

It was good to see records for the high counts of species rich hedgerows for which I note usually in my reports those with 14 species or more. In this matter Great Bradley has excelled itself with the following counts:

14 species - 7, 15 species - 7, 16 species - 4, 17 species - 2, 18 species - 1, 19 species - 1

This is a remarkable testament for the parish and the very satisfactory status of the wildlife that use the hedgerows for habitat, feeding, nesting, refuge and as a corridor for moving between habitats.

The 4 veteran Oak trees also illustrate that there are some ancient hedgerows in the parish and may also act as boundary markers from historical times. If that is not already a full account of the status of the parish, it also needs recording that Buckthorn were recorded in 5 hedgerows, together with 7 records for Midland Hawthorn (which often get overlooked), Copper Beech, Grey Poplar, Wayfaring Tree and Small Leaved Lime. I have made a statistical analysis for species richness (which is what the survey is mostly concerned with), against a theoretical "average parish" calculated from surveys throughout Suffolk. It would appear that Great Bradley is a bit different (to say the least!) from the 'average Parish' in that there are far less low and medium ratio hedgerows (4 species and less and 5,6 and 7) making way for higher counts of the species rich ratio (8 and more). The species rich hedgerows (8 and more) are 32.3% above the 'average' and just show what an important parish Great Bradley is for a wide variety of fauna.

Finally, on a more personal level, I really must give you my thanks for such a great survey. It obviously has been very successful for you and you have made a good job, done well, for which the community, landowners and the Parish Council will be indebted and grateful, as indeed I am also. Would you also please pass on my appreciation and congratulations to Charles Ryder, Les and Anne Bunyan, Anne Smith and Maureen Barnett for their invaluable work. Your efforts have been a huge contribution to the environment, heritage and inheritance for future generations of the landscape hedgerows in the parish. The important thing is that every one of your surveys is part of a huge county-wide exercise and all will be entered into the scheme of data collection for ultimate use by our client at Ipswich Museum. This is a massive investment in our Living Landscape and the community and the parish will surely benefit over the years to come and

confirm that Suffolk is the Greenest County. You may be interested to know that your parish is the 274th to complete in the county and the 27th in St Edmundsbury.'

At the end of all this I think we were all rather sad that our three year survey had actually finished. We had enjoyed it so much and Charles is a most convivial host so that on our survey team to conclude each year we would sometimes have his children and Anne's and Maureen's grandchildren along to get a taste of the fun and to see the more serious side of the surveying.

Naturally this was followed by a little 'celebration!'

Should anyone want to see the full results of our survey then please let me know.

John Barnett

Charles and Ned Ryder, Maureen and grandson Bradley, Anne Smith and John with Maureen's elder grandson, Harrison.



British Legion Poppy Appeal

The money raised for the Royal British Legion in the period running up to Remembrance Sunday just proved how close this charity is to the hearts of people living in the Bradleys and Thurlows.

House-to-house collections raised £484.23, whilst static collection points brought in £182.84. Donations, wreaths, and the Remembrance Sunday collection at All Saints, Great Thurlow added a further £274.60 making a grand total of £941.67.

Heartfelt thanks to every person who helped collect funds, and to those who gave so generously.

It is all so very much appreciated.

Sam Sheppard

Great Bradley Scottish Country Dance Class

invite you to an introductory afternoon of Scottish Dancing

Come and join try this friendly group at Great Bradley Village Hall

on **Monday 16 January 2012** at 2-4pm

For more information call Ella on 01440 710340 or email: ellamhollins@btinternet.com

St Edmundsbury Rural South-

Extract from Safer Neighbourhoods Newsletter December 2011

The new telephone number to contact your local police is 101.

You can use this number for any calls that are less urgent than 999. For example;

- If your car has been stolen
- If your property has been damaged
- When you suspect drug use or dealing
- To report a minor traffic collision
- To give information about crime in your area; or If you'd like to speak to a local police officer

REMEMBER to use 999 in an emergency.

Recently burglaries have occurred in the villages where the offenders have simply walked in during the night where doors had been left unlocked. Night time patrols have led to four males being detained for going equipped to steal and a further male arrested as a result of a fingerprint at a crime scene.

To contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Clare you can write to

Clare Police Station, Eastfield Barn, Cavendish Road, Clare, Sudbury CO10 8PH

Telephone 01473 613500 Email: stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.uk

PC 18 Trish Sinclair, PC 704 Ruth Horton, PCSO 3071 Ryan Wilson, PCSO 3219 Kayla Packman

Thefts from Outbuildings

There have been two further thefts of equipment from outbuildings in the parish in the last two or three months. Please review the security arrangements on your garages, sheds and barns, and make sure that you have good quality non-croppable locks fitted, and preferably other security measures such as alarms and security lights. It's worth marking your equipment and taking photos of it, so it can be identified if it is stolen and later recovered.

1st Burrough Green Brownies – for girls aged seven to ten

We have weekly meetings during school terms full of lots of different activities. Arts and crafts, energetic games and Brownie interest badges.

The Brownies have just finished working on the Culture interest badge. The girls traced their family history making some brilliant family trees.

We stepped back in time to find out the history of the unit that started nearly 30 years ago. We looked at some great pictures of brownies that wore very different uniform to the uniform that Brownies wear today. Volcanoes are being constructed from papier maché and plastic bottles, and they are soon to erupt using bicarbonate of soda & vinegar!

We are really pleased that this term our unit is full but we do have a waiting list, so if anyone would like to register a girl who is not yet 7 or would like more information, please contact:

Margaret Whalley 01638 716939

THANK YOU

Christine Charters-Young (The Healing House for Health and Well-Being) writes:

Thank you to villagers for helping to raise money for the SMILE fund
Your support with the recent Waitrose campaign has been fantastic and I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all of you who took the trouble to visit the Newmarket store in September.

We had a great response and I am delighted to tell you that we raised an amazing £476.00 which will help more local children suffering with chronic health problems, including stress and anxiety.

The SMILE Fund raises money to provide complementary therapies which can improve the lives of local children. See Christine's ad and website for more information.

FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE BUGLE:

Please tell us your news – We'll be delighted to hear from you!

In order that your Bugle reaches you early in the month all copy must be received in good time.

N.B. Deadline for the February edition is 15 January 2012.

The Editorial team

Anne Pigden 01440 783175 jaspegp@sky.com

Helen Smith 01440 783278 helen@foxgreen.plus.com

Sue Sylvester-Bradley 01440 783157 sue@sylvester-bradley.org

We thank our advertisers who help to fund this village newsletter

contact Anne (see above) if you would like to place an ad.

Please note that the advertisements in this magazine are accepted in good faith but are not personal recommendations of the editorial team.

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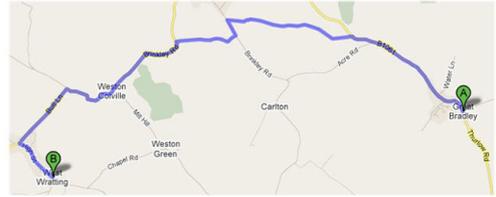
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