



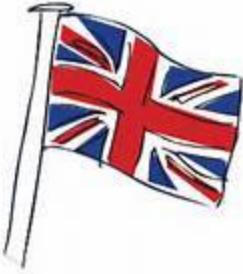
www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk

The Bradley Bugle

April 2015

Issue 192

A SUCCESSFUL DAY ON THE LITTER PICK



21st April – Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen

23rd April – St. George's Day



15th April
- Annual Village Meeting
7:00pm
Village Hall

In this month's Bugle

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Village Diary

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Coming up This Month ...		
Annual Village Meeting	Wednesday 15 th April	Details on attached sheet.
Bluebell Walk	Saturday 25 th April	Details p. 5
Weekly Events		
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Lively, light exercise and fun! Contact Ella Hollins on 710340	Mondays 2 – 4pm
NEW YOGA & TONE CLASS	An Eclectic Yoga Class with exercises that tone the body, rejuvenate the senses and relax. Mixed Ability. Contact Lisa Lovell 07406 55556	Mondays 6:30pm – 7:30pm commencing April 13 th (school terms)
AEROBICS	Mixed ability, back to basics fun workout. Please Book in advance. Contact Birgit 07972 108491	Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:15am (school terms)
FLEXIBLE FRIENDS	Gentle stretching exercises. Contact Jaquie on 783354	Tuesdays 10:30am – 12 noon
ART CLASS	The group currently have some spaces, please contact Anne Pigden for details 783175	Tuesdays 2 – 4pm
PILATES	Contact Helen Axon mob: 07843 097671	Tuesdays 7:30 – 8:30pm
WEA 2014	Started 15 th January 2015 New members are very welcome to come along for a free taster week. Contact Peter Smith for more info. on 783278	Wednesdays at 10:15am
MOBILE LIBRARY	Evergreen Lane 12:20 – 12:35pm (Route 18 – stop E)	Weds. 1st & 29th April (Every 4 weeks)
AFTERNOON CLUB	All welcome, all ages, all interests. Come and meet friends and neighbours. Contact Gill Dunn on 783362	Wednesday 8th April
AEROBICS	Mixed ability, '80s Flashback' fun workout. Please book in advance. Contact Birgit 07972 108491	Fridays 10:15 – 11:00am Note: New time (school terms)
BLUE BIN ONLY	Fridays 3 rd & 17 th April	Note: New Schedules
BLACK & BROWN BINS	Saturday 11th & Friday 24th April	
Further Ahead ...		
Parish Council Meetings	20 th May, 24 th June & 16 th September	7:30pm
Farm Walk	Saturday 6 th June	Details p. 7
Further Afield ...		
THURLOW WI	Come and join us for a games evening with wooden toymaker Malcolm Crowe. Contact Arline (783132) or Karen (783022) for more details.	Tuesday 14 th April, Thurlow Village Hall

Local News & Notices

Great Bradley Litter Pick 2015

Grateful thanks to everybody who turned out on the dull morning of Saturday 28th March to collect rubbish from the verges and hedges of the B1061, Hall Road to East Green, and also from Clarendale, Ever Green and Fox Green.

There seemed a slight reduction in the litter compared with last year – no discarded wheel discs for example – but there was still sufficient to spoil the appearance of our village and to degrade the countryside: mainly broken bottles, torn drink cans and plastic of all sorts. Perhaps the driving test should include a session on the proper disposal of unwanted items from a vehicle.

We should also say thank you for the delicious refreshments John and Maureen Barnett kindly provided through the Parish Council, and acknowledge John's help in making available the equipment we used and for arranging the final disposal of the litter sacks by the Borough Council.

There will be another blitz on litter in due course but meanwhile we hope that everyone will continue to help to keep our village free of such stuff and looking its best.

Geoffrey Vollam

Afternoon Club

The afternoon club met on Wednesday 11th March for an English Afternoon Tea.

Pink bubbly to start then sandwiches, a variety of cakes, mini trifles washed down with tea/coffee.

There was a raffle and book exchange, and lots of chatter. Lovely jubbly!

Next one second Wednesday of April. All welcome.

Gill Dunn



Great Bradley Village Hall Lottery Draw

At the Draw that took place on **Tuesday 10th March**, the winners were:

1st Prize £14.00 – **Tara Steward, Hall Road**

2nd Prize £10.00 – **Grace Holcombe, Clarendale**

3rd Prize £6.00 – **Colin Potter, Haverhill**

4th Prize £4.00 – **David Dolby, Clarendale**

5th Prize £3.00 – **Gill Andrews, Pond House**

It's never too late to enter! Just ring George Hendry on 01440-783415 to be in with a chance from May to October inclusive for just £6.00 per name.

Registered with St Edmundsbury Borough Council as a Small Society Lottery for the Gambling Act 2005, Registration Number SL3204.

Go on, you know you want to ...

Parish Council Update

A meeting of the Great Bradley Parish Council (GBPC) was held on 18th March 2015 at the Village Hall.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 21st January 2015 were approved and signed.

- Garden area. Two replacement plants still being sought for those stolen.
- No replies to the Bugle article asking for someone to maintain the garden, this will be put in April Bugle.
- Living Willow structure. This has been planted and the lower stems have had to have protective collars put on as deer were already nibbling at them.
- Letter of thanks be sent to Mr Russo for the excellent new seat in the glade.
- Post and bracket to be ordered for village sign.
- New VAS (Vehicular Activated Sign). The 3 posts positions have been marked out by Highways and installation awaited.
- Coffee Caravan visit. June 18th which coincides with the bi-centenary of the battle of Waterloo. Possibility of having a further day of celebration on Saturday 20th (similar to the way the WW1/2 event was run last year) which would give more people/families the chance to attend. This could be run as part of the 'Big Lunch'.
- St. Edmundsbury Borough Council 'Outreach' programme for young people with the possibility of a 'youth club bus'. There were concerns as to whether there were sufficient youngsters of an age suitable for this. Clerk was asked to obtain more information about the activities and targeted ages.
- Magpas have asked for donations towards their services. After discussion it was agreed to send £25 to Magpas.
- New Allotments Clerk said that he had now put in a grant application to Havebury for £1,000 to assist with the purchase of the shed and lockers for the allotments. There had been a reasonably good period of dry weather so the power-harrowing of the area should be able to get underway. The water is being connected and there will be 3 tanks for use. The latest date for availability of the allotments is

around Mid April.

- Clerk reported that he had now put in a grant application to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council for £1,600 contribution for the new basket swing.
- Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the recreation area. Clerk to purchase some fluorescent spray tins and mark out the offending patches.
- Councillors discussed broadband supply to the Village Hall and there was agreement that it was a worthwhile service to the village. The Village Hall would lose valuable income should the service be terminated. Councillors decided that the new BT contract should go ahead and that discussions should continue with the Village Hall concerning the possible sharing of the cost.
- Clerk gave all Councillors their nomination forms which must be filled in and be at St. Edmundsbury Borough Council by 4pm 9th April latest.

Suffolk Police:

Police report received which states 'theft of a freezer which was insecure in a rear garden over 21/22 February'. Also there have been thefts from motor vehicles in Thurlow and Withersfield.

Suffolk County Council:

County Councillor Mary Evans said there is now a new person in charge of the VAS. She will chase the order to see when delivery is due. At the forthcoming Parish Conference the new VAS unit will be there for demonstration.

Council Tax at Suffolk County Council has been frozen for a further year.

The next meeting dates are 15th April (Annual Village Meeting), 20th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting - first meeting of the new Council after the elections) 24th June (last legal date before 30th June to approve 2014/15 accounts) and 16th September.

Bluebell Walk

Saturday, 25th April 2015

For the last few years we have held a tour of Hart Wood to look at the bluebells which have reappeared in good numbers as a result of our long term regeneration work in the Wood.

This year's Bluebell Walk will take place on Saturday, 25th April.

Timing for the Bluebell Walk is never easy as it depends on weather conditions bringing out the bluebells! Some years there is a cold winter and spring (like last year!) and the bluebells are late. In other years we have a mild winter and a well advanced spring.

This year, as things currently stand, it looks as if it is an average year! Hence the choice of 25th April. However, it is just possible we may have to move the date backwards if the bluebells are not flowering by then, in which case we would notify, by email or text, all those who reserve a place on the tour.

We will meet at 10.00am in the Covered Yard just above the Church and return by about 12.30pm.

If you are interested in coming on the Bluebell Walk, please kindly email me on charles@gbfco.com or text/call my mobile - 07831 318019.

Charles Ryder



WEA Trip to Sandringham

WEA are running a coach to Sandringham House and Gardens on 13th May 2015 leaving the village at approx. 9.00am. Cost for concessions £25 and non concessions £27 to include coach, with toilet, admission to the house, garden and museum. If you are interested in joining us please contact **Peter Smith on 783278**. We have approximately 25 seats available at present.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Situations Wanted

Village Garden Maintenance Required

The Village Garden has been recently completely redesigned and replanted. The Garden will require ongoing maintenance and the Parish Council is looking for someone who would be happy to take on this task. There is a budget for remuneration for this so it's not just voluntary for a change! Please contact John Barnett 783903 or john.barnett@dsl.pipex.com.

Burrough Green Primary School

Burrough Green Church of England Primary School

Foundation Governor Vacancies

We have a vacancy for up to two Foundation Governors and encourage applicants from any walk of life that would like to support us in upholding the religious character of the school and the very special nurturing environment and values from which our pupils benefit:

Respect ~ Aspiration ~ Courage ~ Forgiveness ~ Determination

Patience ~ Nurture ~ Teamwork ~ Confidence ~ Love

The role requires input at strategic level, policy review and development, working within committee structures and attending meetings to help the school develop. You do not have to hold a formal church-related position but ideally you will be a church-goer and keen to support the school in its development and on matters of faith.

Any previous managerial experience or committee involvement would be a great asset as we look to expand our skills and knowledge base in anticipation of Governance changes in Autumn 2015.

If you have some time to spare and would like to use it in support of this valuable community role, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office and ask for an application form:

office@burroughgreen.cambs.sch.uk or 01638 507236

Further information about the role of a Foundation Governor can be found at
www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/governors.

Forthcoming Events

St. Mary's Church, Great Bradley



Month	Church cleaning	Flowers
April	Ken and Sue Ireland	Marion Smith
May	Geoffrey and Arline Vollam	Arline Vollam

Church Services – April 2015

5 April	Easter Day	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		11 am	Holy Communion
12 April	11 am		Holy Communion
19 April		10 am	Benefice Communion
26 April		9.30 am	Holy Communion

See Benefice News for details of services at other churches in the Benefice.

Save the date!!

The Fete this year will be Sunday 5th July in the gardens of Great Bradley Hall.

Plans are starting to shape up for this popular annual event. The band is booked and the Farm Hamper Draw will take place again this year. If you have ideas for stalls and sideshows, or if you can offer help in any way please contact Sue (783595), Keith (783607) or Geoffrey (783132).

Farm/Woodland Tour

Saturday, 6th June, 2015

The annual Farm/Woodland Tour will start from the Covered Yard (just above the Church) at 4.00pm on Saturday, 6th June. As usual, the tour will be undertaken on foot and will last for approximately 2–2½ hours, followed by a discussion, with refreshments, either in the garden at The Hall or in the Covered Yard (depending on weather conditions – so far each year we have been lucky!) The proceedings will draw to a close by about 7.30pm.

The idea of the tour continues to be to provide an overall perspective on modern agriculture, including the types and uses of crops grown on the farm, woodland and hedgerow management, conservation and environment issues and, in particular, how we are handling them on the Estate here at Great Bradley. Although the format broadly remains the same, each year we take a new route and look at different features and themes. Things are constantly evolving!

We would be grateful if those coming on the tour do not bring dogs or other pets, not least to avoid disturbing nesting birds. If you are interested in coming on the tour, I would be very grateful if you would kindly reserve a place by emailing me at charles@gbfco.com or by texting or calling me on my mobile (07831 318 019).

Charles Ryder



What's On - Out And About

News from the Ellesmere Centre April 2015



Easter Activities will run from the 30th March through to 10th April.

For details visit our website or email the office.



FOOTBALL

Little Kickers - for children aged 18 months to 4.5 years is held here on Monday mornings.

For details or to book call Ashley on 07928765121

Football Classes - for children aged 4-11 years the Centre runs two football classes on Monday evenings. Call the Centre for details of these.

Astro Turf Hire with floodlights for teams of all ages. Suitable for 5/6 -A -Side football or team coaching.

A few slots still available.



Pudding Club will be held on Saturday April 25th. Tickets are £10 which includes home-made soup to start with, a sample of 10 puddings and a glass of wine.



Open Mic - next date for your diaries is Saturday 9th May.

The Comic Relief Coffee Morning raised a grand total of £325... thank you to all those who attended and helped make this such a success.

The Ellesmere Centre, Ley Road, Stetchworth, CB8 9TS.

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk

Tel: 01638 508212. Email office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk.



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Saturday 25th July

Saturday 19th December

Saturday 29th August

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Suffolk Walking Festival

9th - 31st May 2015

We are fast approaching that time of year again when the air will start warming up, the bluebells will be blooming and the Suffolk countryside will be enticing us to dig out our walking boots and start exploring. What better way to do this than to join in the annual Suffolk Walking Festival which takes place 9th - 31st May. The programme is packed with over 90 guided walks around medieval villages, market towns, along the coast and through gentle landscapes across the county.



The eclectic mix of walks includes Sketch Book Strolls for children (there's also one for adults) with a local artist around Brandon Country Park; a seven mile hike called Food Glorious Food through Thetford Forest to the award-winning restaurant at the Elvedon Hall Estate for lunch; A Scottish Visionary and His Fairytale Village, starting from Thorpeness along the coast as well as Beachcombing for Beginners on Felixstowe beach.

You can follow in Benjamin Britten's footsteps along 'Curlew River' and learn about the composer, his music and the wildlife that inspired him; walk the Horseshoe Trail and learn about horse racing in Newmarket; explore the Ponds of Helmingham Hall, walk in the footsteps of Thomas Gainsborough around Sudbury or learn about John Constable as you amble through 'Constable Country'.

There are far too many walks to list here, so please visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk to look at the programme and to book your tickets. You can also pick up a brochure from your local tourist information centre.

We hope you will be inspired to join in this fun and sociable festival to enjoy Suffolk at its very best.

Articles & Information

Spring.....Lots Of Activity!

After the relative dormancy of the winter months, the last few weeks has been a hive of activity with a whole range of Estate and Farm works, some of which you may have noticed. These are a few of the highlights!

Allotments. We have been very busy preparing for the new Allotments which will be in the field along Matthews Lane. The field has been named Paxmans after an old Bradley family who lived and farmed in that area. There remains more to be done, including completing a connection to the water main, but the Allotments should be ready by mid-April.

Hedge Maintenance. This was carried out in February especially on roadside and track hedges. We tend to maintain fieldside hedges in September.

Hedge Planting/Gapping Up. We have done some 'gapping up' of hedges here at Bradley and also planted 2,500 metres of hedges at Broxted (the old airfield at Stradishall). The mix of hedge plants was chosen on the basis of the invaluable work of Great Bradley's Hedgerow Survey team.

Woodland Work. February and March are the months for woodland work. We have carried out extensive thinning in three woods – and improvement to two others – which will be of great benefit in terms of the remaining trees and developing the understorey. Ash Dieback remains a great concern and we are planting up some particularly vulnerable areas with oak, hornbeam and other indigenous species.

Undergrounding Cables. At last UKPN have started the undergrounding of the Low Voltage lines from the Village Sign/Village Garden to Mill Farm House. Currently you may have seen workmen trenching/laying new cables along the fields between the Village Sign and Mill Farm. This work will soon be finished but there will be a lull before final works are completed, hopefully in June. This is because some undergrounding is required along a length of pavement and also across the main road; these works need a temporary road closure. I hope to have news soon about the timing of the other Low Voltage undergrounding scheme from Spring Barn to the Old Kennels.

Spring Crops. Over the coming years you will see more Spring Cropping for a variety of agronomic reasons including the suppression of the Arable Farmer's worst enemy, blackgrass! We are now drilling Spring Barley and Sugar Beet. Some of you, particularly regular walkers, may have noticed that two fields (First and Second Meadow) by the river have turned a yellow colour. We drilled these two fields with oats in September to suppress the blackgrass. The oats and emerging blackgrass were then deliberately sprayed off in January (hence the yellow effect) and have now been drilled with Spring Barley. We are likely to repeat the process over the next two years. Drilling the oats in September not only suppresses the blackgrass but also benefits the soil structure.

Pigeon Patrols. We have to be vigilant to protect the Oilseed Rape from pigeons; so far (and soon the Oilseed Rape will shoot away) we have succeeded! I hope that the bangers did not cause you any disturbance.

Ongoing Arable Work. With the crops emerging from winter dormancy, fertiliser and spray applications are now key for the crops. These will be a feature of the next three months.

Broxted. The Permissive Footpath is now open with entrances at the Stradishall and Hundon ends. In addition, we are organising a Broxted Tour/Walk for the Summer; the date will be in the next edition of the Bugle.

The above is a snapshot! There is much else going on, not least all the necessary property repairs and improvements. More on all this and more – and a perspective on Harvest prospects – in July's edition.

If you have any observations or questions, please contact me on charles@gbfco.com. Hopefully I may see some of you at the Bluebell Walk on Saturday, 25th April or the Farm/Woodland Tour on Saturday, 6th June.

Charles Ryder

March 2015

Weather Review - Rainfall 2014

Rainfall in 2014 was a 'game of two halves'. Total rainfall was 738.90mm (29.09ins) but it divided as follows:-

January – June: 317.90mm (12.52ins)

July – December: 421.00mm (16.57ins)

In terms of comparison, 2014 was a wet one:-

2014 Rainfall – 738.90mm (29.09ins)

10 year Rolling Average – 658.11mm (25.91ins)

50 year Average – 637.28mm (25.09ins)

2014 was a wonderful 'growing' year – a combination of a mild winter, a warm and early spring, rainfall at the right time and a temperate summer! – for crops, gardens and woodland alike.

And, despite the wet autumn, the crops for Harvest 2014 were established in very good conditions.

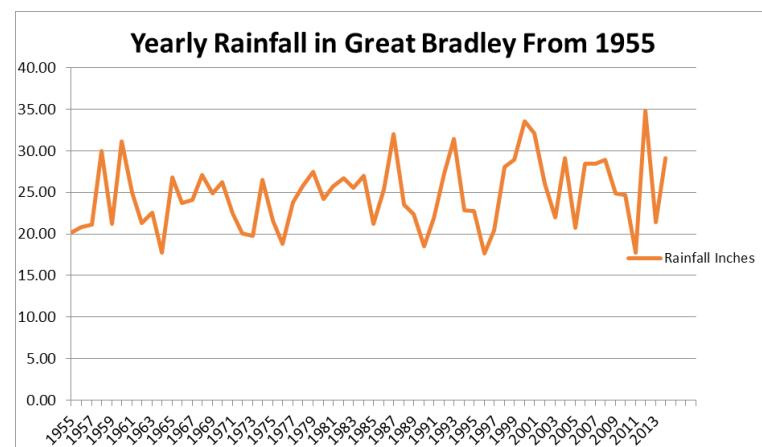
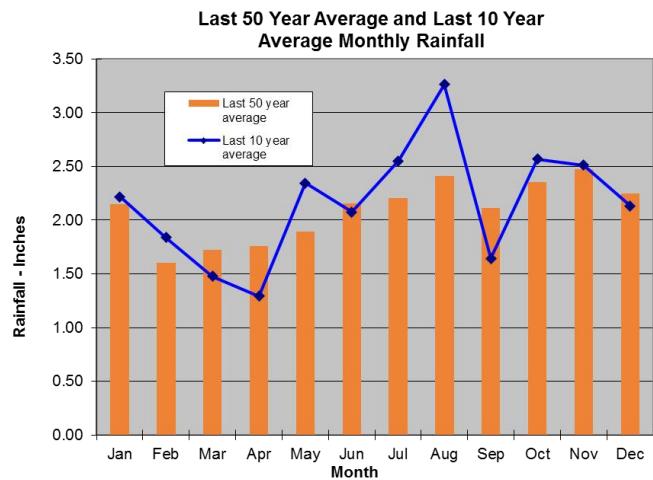
Last March, I wrote that after the dry 2013 (554.80mm – 21.45ins) we might be returning to the more settled, lower rainfall pattern which persisted from about 1960 – 1985. In the case of 2014, I was wrong but I still believe that (notwithstanding the comments of many climate change experts) this will be the case. We shall see!

This year has started with fairly 'average' rainfall amounts – 65.70mm (2.58ins) in January against the 10 year average of 90.70mm (2.22ins) and 39.00mm (1.53ins) in February against the 10 year average of 46.73mm (1.84ins). However, at the time of writing, March has, like last year, been very dry – only 9.40mm (0.37ins) to date against the 10 year average for the month of 37.59mm (1.48ins).

We have had another benign winter – albeit not quite as mild as last year – with few frosts so crops and gardens should be in a good position as Spring takes hold! Let us hope that this trend continues to the Summer!

Charles Ryder

March 2015



FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE BUGLE!

Please tell us your news or send an article or photograph – We'll be delighted to hear from you!

We are also looking to extend the range of articles and information we publish so if you have any ideas for things to cover or are willing to put together something for inclusion, please let us know.

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

N.B. Deadline for the next issue is the 15th of the month.

The Editorial team

Stuart Wilson – Articles and content etc. ☎ 783099 ✉ stuartandkarina@dsl.pipex.com

John Barnett – Advertising ☎ 783903 ✉ john.barnett@dsl.pipex.com

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