



# The Bradley Bugle

## December 2009

Issue 137 [www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk)

***A Very  
Happy Christmas  
to one and all!***

### ***Village Diary***

*All events take place in the Village Hall  
unless otherwise noted*

**St Mary's Church in the snow – January 2003  
see Christmas service times inside**



<b>QUIZ NIGHT</b>	<b>Christmas Quiz</b> with quiz master Les Bunyan (see inside)	<b>Saturday 12 December 7.30pm</b>
<b>VILLAGE CAROL SINGING</b>	<b>Come and join the motley band who sing carols around the village for The Children's Society</b>	<b>Monday 21 December from 6.30pm (see inside)</b>
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Lively, light exercise and fun! Contact Ella on 710340	Mondays 2 – 4pm (to 7 Dec, restarts in January)
CARPET BOWLS	Come and join us – first session free Every Monday (except Bank Holidays)	Mondays 7.30pm
FLEXIBLE FRIENDS	Gentle stretching exercises Contact Jacquie on 783354	Tuesdays 10.30am – 12.30pm
ART CLASS	Contact Anne on 783175 for details new members welcome	Tuesdays 2 – 4pm (to 8 Dec restarts 5 January)
WEA	The English Music Scene – from Elizabeth to Elizabeth	Wednesdays 10am-12noon
AFTERNOON CLUB	All welcome, all ages, all interests Come and meet friends and neighbours	Thursday 10 December 2.30pm
MOBILE LIBRARY	12.05 – 12.20pm Evergreen Lane 12.25 – 12.40pm Thurlow Road	Monday 14 December
BLACK BIN	Wednesday 9 and <b>Tuesday</b> 22 December	
BLUE/BROWN BINS	Wednesdays 2 & 16 and <b>Thursday</b> 31 December	



## St Mary's Church Great Bradley STOURHEAD BENEFICE

### CHURCH SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6 December</b>	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Great Bradley</b>
Sunday	13 December	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
Sunday	20 December	10 am	Benefice Service	Great Wrattling
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20 December</b>	<b>3 pm</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>	<b>Great Bradley</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>24 December</b>	<b>9.30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</b>	<b>Great Bradley</b>

For other services see the Benefice News.

**Church cleaning** for December:  
Ken & Sue Ireland

**Flowers** for Christmas:  
See note below

### Christmas Services

Everyone is welcome at the **Crib Service** at 3 pm on the Sunday before Christmas. We need as many children as possible to come and help set up the crib and join in singing some favourite carols. If there's a special Christmas carol you'd like to hear, please let Sue (783595) or Maria (783010) know.

At 9.30 pm on **Christmas Eve** we will be holding our regular Christmas Communion Service, where we join friends and neighbours to celebrate the birth of Christ.

### Christmas Flowers

There are no flowers in church during Advent but the decorations for the Christmas services will be done on Saturday 19 December, from 10am. If you would like to help or contribute some white flowers and/or greenery (with berries if possible) please join us.



### VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

**Monday 21 December meet at 6.30pm or join in at 6.50pm**

Come and join in the singing of well known carols around the village and collect for The Children's Society. For those who can start early we will meet at the Village hall at 6.15pm and cover some of the 'village extremities'.

We'll return to the Village Hall by 6.50pm and then set off again to sing around the village centre.

Please help to keep this village tradition alive - come and sing or offer to be a collector.

We're delighted that Antonia & Simon Kiddy have again invited us to their home for refreshments afterwards.

Please let us know you're coming -

**Helen Smith (783278) & Sue S-B (783157)**





# Christmas Quiz

Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm

Les "Santa " Bunyan

returns with another bag of unbelievable questions!

Lots of fun - with fierce competition between the teams

Raffle and Many Prizes Licensed Bar Fish/Chicken & Chips Supper

Tickets £6.00 (Entrance + Supper) £2.00 (Entrance only)

tickets from, and payment to Gill Dunn 783362 or Pamela Bradberry 783450

**First come first served so don't miss the fun - get those tickets now!**

## Thank you!

I would like to thank you all for the many kind messages, cards and beautiful flowers that I have received during my convalescence. I am now feeling a lot stronger and look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Marion Smith

## Thurlow School Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 12th December 12 noon – 2pm **FREE ENTRY**

Crafts – Raffle – Refreshments – Cake Stall – Games

Santa's Grotto

And much much more ...

## The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Every week we see or hear details from the media that another brave member of our armed forces has been killed in action. It was therefore very apt that much larger than normal numbers of the general public turned out at the Cenotaph and other innumerable churches and locations throughout the United Kingdom **to Honour and Remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

The Royal British Legion, who provide invaluable support to all service personnel from both past and present conflicts, can only continue this essential and admirable work with financial support from us the public.

Once again the residents of Gt Bradley have shown their continuing support with their generous donations of **£252.25.**

Many Many Thanks to Pamela Bradberry who, despite the awful weather, made the collection and of course to all the residents of Great Bradley who made donations.

## GREAT BRADLEY VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2009

	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
First	Julie Theobald	Evergreen Lane	Mike Brophy	Fox Green
Second	Robert Scarfe	Evergreen Lane	Charles Ryder	The Hall
Third	Jacquie Dixon	Evergreen Lane	Alice Ryder	The Hall
Fourth	Kristopher Bareham	Evergreen Lane	Margo Ashton	Fox Green

## Great Bradley Fireworks And Bonfire Night

As you will know if you were there, the village bonfire night on 6<sup>th</sup> November was an outstanding success, despite the atrocious weather. As I stood under a dripping gazebo that was threatening to blow away, cooking sausages in torrential rain at 6.30pm I thought “what are we doing here – no-one will come”, but as we approached 7pm the rain eased off (slightly) and you all came! We watched a great bonfire, built by Simon Kiddy and Stephen Steward and helpers, which was ignited (I haven't asked with what chemical aids) despite the sodden weather, and a superb firework display planned and presented by Paul Dickens with his able helpers. We collected enough money from donations and food and drink sales to cover the cost of the evening, which is very satisfactory, and have put the small surplus aside to go towards next year's fireworks.



The whole event was an excellent example of village collaboration, with very many people all contributing and working together. There are too many to thank here by name, but worthy of special mention are: Paul Dickens for planning the firework display, buying the fireworks at a very cost effective price, and running the evening with his helpers Stephen Dickens and Alex Flood; Stephen Steward for organising the trailer and collecting garden combustibles, organising the bonfire building and helping in many other practical ways; Simon Kiddy, Stuart Wilson and John Barnett for assisting Stephen with the bonfire building; Mike and Alex Parsons and Pete Smith for cooking and serving hot-dogs and soup; Richard Bradberry for organising and serving drinks; Mike Parsons

for organising the Guy competition, all the children who built guys (and congratulations to Alex and Lauren Young from 2 St John's Cottages who won!) and John Eley for judging the competition; Gill Brown and Helen Smith for collecting donations; Sue Sylvester-Bradley for standing at the gate and guiding people in through the mud; Vron Lewis for being on first aid duty; Charles Ryder for making The Park available to us for this event, for the water bowser and help in many other ways; Charles and John for providing generators, and all those who provided rubbish bins, gazebos, barbecues, saucepans, gas rings, fire extinguishing materials, lights, prizes for the guy competition etc.; the many people who helped set the event up and cleared up afterwards; all those who contributed material to burn on the bonfire.

But most of all thanks to all of you who came out with your families, risked getting wet and cold, watched the display, donated your money and bought food and drink. Without you it could not have been the great success it was. I suspect that there will be moves to repeat the event next year!

## Play Facilities Official Opening

On Saturday 7 November our MP Richard Spring visited us to declare our new children's play area and football pitch on the recreation ground officially open. In front of a good crowd of villagers including a pleasing number of children, he made a short speech thanking all those who had helped to organise this project and the organisations that have given grants towards it, and made some supportive remarks about the importance of village life. He then had a trial swing on one of the swings, being far surpassed though by some of the village



children! We then adjourned to the Village Hall where some excellent refreshments had been organised by Anne Smith, Gill Brown and John Barnett (thanks for doing this!). It made a very satisfactory conclusion to this successful project, which continues to be welcomed and enjoyed by large numbers of village children and visiting grandchildren, including my own. The new goals for the football pitch have now been delivered and are in the process of being installed (thanks to Mike and

Alex Parsons and friend Matthew for doing this). The last step in the project is the addition of a litter bin for the play area. This is on order, and should be delivered shortly.

Of course such a facility needs ongoing inspection and maintenance and we are very grateful for those who have joined a rota of volunteers who go round every week and check the facilities are safe. Anyone who wants to add their name to this rota (the more the merrier and easier for everyone of course) please contact John Barnett.



### Parish Council Budget

The annual process of preparing and agreeing a Parish Council budget concluded this year at the meeting on 18 November, where a budget was approved for next year starting April 2010. The budget is based on a precept (the amount of money we request from St. Edmundsbury, on which the parish portion of the council tax is based) of £9,000, which is the same as this year, so the Parish council tax for next year should be very similar to this.

The principal items in the budget are:

#### *Regular Expenditure*

Grass cutting and maintenance of the Recreation Ground	£1,500
Grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard	£935
Village garden maintenance, bulb planting etc.	£420
Footpaths maintenance and grass cutting	£282
Community Speedwatch	£100
Printing costs for the Bugle	£1,030
Grant to the Village Hall	£500
Parish Council administration	£3,155

#### *Projects*

Initial contribution towards fund to pay for a bus shelter (this is just the start of this, and is not a definite decision to do it)	£1,000
A village facelift or tidy-up	£200
New village footpaths map	£200
Support for community events	£200
Flags for the planned Village Hall flagpole	£100
One additional litter bin	£150

All of these are gross figures before deduction of about 40% grant from St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, contributions from Great Bradley Farms towards maintenance of the recreation ground etc. This means that although we plan to spend £10,837 next year, only about £6,091 needs to be raised from council tax.

Note that the inclusion or omission of something from the budget is not a decision to do something or not to do it. It's a plan, on which the precept and hence the parish part of the council tax is based. Everything that the Parish Council spends money on has to be approved at the time by a vote at a meeting, and it may be that councillors decide not to do something that is in the budget, or to do something that is not in the budget, or to spend different amounts than budgeted. The annual budgeting process is a very useful opportunity though to stand back from day-to-day activities and take a slightly longer view of what the village most needs, and to plan ahead. More information on the new projects will be available at the annual Village Meeting next May, and there will be an opportunity for you to give us your views on them.

If you are interested in seeing the full detail of the budget, it will be available for public viewing following approval of the minutes on 20 January – contact John Barnett (Fox Cottage, 783903, john.barnett@dsl.pipex.com).

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley

## 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 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

**N.B. Deadline for the January edition 2010 is 10 December.**

### The Editorial team

Anne Pigden	01440 783175	jaspepp@sky.com
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We thank our advertisers who help to fund this village newsletter – contact Anne, Helen or Sue (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.*

### Great Bradley Village Hall

**Gardener** wanted for the Village Hall from Spring 2010.

An hour or so per week, by arrangement, to look after the Village Hall garden.

£10 per hour

**Cleaner** needed for the Village Hall.

One hour a week, starting in the New Year

£8 per hour.

Are you are a student?

Are you just looking to earn a few pounds without the hassle of travelling to work?  
Then this could be for you and would help maintain a great resource for our village.

Please contact Richard Bradbury (783450) or Gill Dunn (783362) if you are interested.

### Les and Anne's Nature Notes

Neighbours, every body needs good neighbours.

So as most of you know Anne and I are keen bird watchers, not in the twitchers serious league like those who travelled from all over the country to see a small far eastern warbler that turned up in



Northumberland recently, but we like to keep an eye open for anything slightly out of the ordinary, so we were pleasantly surprised by a phone call from Carole our next door neighbour asking what was the bird sitting on our fence at the end of the garden. A quick look and it was identified as a male Sparrowhawk. Now these are pretty common but you don't often get a good sighting, more usually it's a flash of grey as it swoops on some unfortunate sparrow or tit. As is usual my telephoto lens was at hand and this is just one of a number of pictures I took. It flew off after a few minutes but returned about 30 minutes later and watched a small flock of Starlings before it moved on again. Anne and Carole saw it again the following day in the gardens at the back of Clarendale so it may be around for a while. Many thanks to Carole for without her phone call you wouldn't be looking at this photo.

It seems the Buzzard population is booming in this area, at the end of October we saw 10 in the space of an hour, two of these were sitting out in the open on the ground in a field in Brinkley and I have seen them again in the same place so keep your eyes open!

## I THOUGHT I SAW A PUSSY CAT

Many people in the past have asked Anne and I about our trips to the USA and this story goes some way to explain our fascination with the place

This year saw us travel through Arizona and Utah, two states we have visited on many occasions. One of the main reasons is the stunning scenery, The Grand Canyon, Arches and Canyonlands National parks etc. Usually the birds and animals are a secondary attraction, unlike Yellowstone where wildlife abounds around every corner. With this in mind we didn't expect to see anything out of the ordinary but little did we know that this holiday would be very special.

We were staying in a town called Page in northern Arizona, primarily to photograph the slot canyons. At about 6am I was up to photograph the sunrise over the mountains. We had a small balcony with fantastic views when something caught my eye walking through the bushes, it was the briefest of glimpses but we were sure that what we had seen was a large cat.



After breakfast we went for a walk to look for hummingbirds that seemed to be everywhere so imagine my surprise when Anne, who was about 20 yards behind me called out "Les look what's behind me!" There not 20 feet from her was a Bobcat. Anne slowly walked away from it and the cat sat and watched her before heading off for a spot of rabbit hunting. Finally after nearly 20 years of travelling around the USA I had seen my first wild Cat! Those few minutes made the holiday. The short bit of video and the 5 still photos that I took will always be very special to us. That's the reason we go each year, because you never know what you might see next.

*Les & Anne Bunyan*

If you would like to see these and other new photos please visit Les' updated website at

[www.lesbunyanphotography.co.uk](http://www.lesbunyanphotography.co.uk)

Anne and he would love to hear of any unusual bird sighting in the area, please email them to [annebunyanatno12@aol.com](mailto:annebunyanatno12@aol.com)

## DEDHAM VALE AONB STOUR VALLEY PROJECT

Numbers limited. Bookings taken one calendar month before each event.

For further details, please contact us on: 01473 264263 [www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org](http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org)

## FESTIVE FROLICS IN CLARE

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 12.30pm**

Get in the festive spirit as we follow Rudolph's clues to find the treasure, try your hand at making natural Christmas decorations and traditional tree dressing. One for all the family to enjoy, and not a walk this time!

Family Event – includes mulled wine and mince pies.



Christine Charters-Young  
MFHT MIGHT CIBT  
2 St John's Cottage  
Great Bradley CB8 9LG  
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## \* H B Cakes \*

Home baked cakes just right for Sunday tea  
Victoria sponges, cherry & coconut loaf,  
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Cakes may be simply decorated if desired  
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