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CHICKEN CHAT - Week 64 in the Chicken House – Dancing on ice

Chickens make superb pets. They are very hardy creatures, are easily pleased, rarely answer back and are always pleased to see you. Their fascination with all things new, as well as anything that they haven't seen during the last five minutes, never ceases to amuse. They never get bored and live side by side with their human counterparts in harmony. It is often very easy to compare their talents and skills with other species and sometimes even with humans.

It was during a chat with a friend that I unfortunately started to compare the 'girlies' personality traits to that of my husband and children. The girlies are always 'happy'. They won't 'argue'. They keep themselves clean, always eat their food up and never complain as to what they are given (always eating their veg!). They go to bed promptly and don't get up in the night. They're also very happy with their immediate surroundings, and do not need the service of 'mum's taxi'.

This route of thinking and comparison led me to imagine who was indeed the better species: a human or the humble chicken? Would it ever be possible for the chicken to triumph?

The first 'test' centred on the weather and on who was the best at dealing with all that mother nature can throw at us.

It was during one 'icy' Saturday morning that this was well and truly put to the test. One of the girlies, the black nera, decided to attempt a sprinting race with our 20-week-old German Shepherd puppy across the width of the garden. All was going well until both animals came across an 'immovable' obstacle, a pond which runs the length of our garden. The pond, being about 1½ metres in width, proved just a little too much for both the competitors. The dog came to a speedy halt at the water's edge. Unfortunately for the girly, it did not ... It seemed momentarily to walk on water. On closer inspection of this remarkable sight it became clear that the girly had hopped over and onto several small pieces of floating ice. It was now literally 'dancing on ice' on the last available sheet in the centre of the pond. Even the dog appeared impressed (or maybe just bemused).

The chicken then having found its skating legs appeared to freeze to the spot. Fearing that the poor hen's thinly scaled claws might stick to the ice, rapid action was required. With a quick swoop of a landing net the poor bird was returned back to terra firma. Amazingly it seemed none the worse for its moment on the ice.

I compared this to a recent family visit to an ice-rink whilst away on a holiday. I am saddened to say that I will never be 'dancing on ice' - or even standing still on it. After several ungainly slips to the floor and numerous bruises I have admitted defeat. So, on this one occasion victory goes to the girly.

Another 'test' was that of flying. During the recent snowfall the girlies certainly demonstrated their dislike for the white stuff. When, one early morning from their warm straw laid coop, they saw the first smattering of New Year snow, all was not happy. The girls didn't come out until 11am, very late that morning. Not only were *they* affected but so too was their egg laying! Once the girlies had experienced yet more snow they well and truly decided they didn't like it. It was at this point that 'snow flying' came about. Once the hardened snow had begun to thaw leaving a white spotted effect in the garden the girlies began to fly over the snowy, cold patches. They didn't fly in a very streamlined manner, but fly they did.

Having never developed wings of any form myself, it was definitely another win for the girlies. Rather worryingly as the competition score stands it is now chickens 2 – humans 0!

Egg tally: 2523

Maria Stableford

RESTAURANT REVIEW – The Red Lion, Hinxton

We booked a table for two to celebrate our anniversary last month and enjoyed a very pleasant, relaxed evening at the Red Lion. We decided to share a starter – and then rather wished we'd had one each! The gratin of smoked haddock and spring onions topped with just the right flavoured cheese was completely delicious! It certainly got the taste buds going. A confit of belly pork proved to have a good helping of lean meat and combined well with dauphinoise potatoes and green beans but the rib eye steak and trimmings, whilst still enjoyable, were less good and a little disappointing for the price – and the embellishing pat of garlic butter was so chilled it refused to melt!

For dessert we chose pannacotta with black pepper, garnished with strawberry coulis, which was very interesting and would have been marked excellent if the consistency had been just a little softer. The chocolate and honeycomb bombe with nuts and dried fruits was a perfect choice for a sweet-toothed chocoholic!

There's a good wine list, but wine was also available by the glass, as was water in a jug. There were lots of coffees to choose from and throughout the evening the service was friendly and unobtrusively attentive.

An easy 25 minutes drive from our village this 16th century inn is definitely one to keep on your list of worthwhile local restaurants.

Sample menus can be seen on their website.

The Red Lion at Hinxton: reservations: 01799 530601 website: www.redlionhinxton.co.uk

The inn has recently added eight guest rooms and now also offers attractive B&B facilities.
Sue SB

Please tell us about a meal you've enjoyed and pass on your recommendations.



Snowy village landscape

Photo SI

COTTAGE ON EXMOOR

A three-bedroomed cottage, sleeping five
in the picturesque village of Dulverton, the 'Gateway to Exmoor'.
A perfect base for bird watching, walking, riding, fishing, kayaking etc.
High spec. home, conveniently located near an award-winning gastro-pub.

Book through agent www.cottages4you.co.uk - cottage reference ESU
Then call the owners, Conrad and Molly Hawkins,
for 10% "friends" discount on 01440 783259

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 15th of the previous month. **Deadline for April 2009 is 15 March please.**

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.

CB8 Magazine

The first delivery of this magazine should be with you now. Once you've had a chance to read it we'll be very pleased to hear what you think of it. Helen Smith

From ST EDMUNDSBURY RURAL SOUTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

With February upon us it has brought the worst weather for some time. Here is hoping that all vulnerable residents, especially the elderly are being closely monitored by family and more importantly, neighbours. If you have elderly neighbours don't presume they have had visitors. Make the effort to pop in and make sure they are warm and have enough food in if they cannot get out due to the inclement weather. If you do visit someone and feel they need further assistance from other agencies we have a Home Shield scheme which is very useful.

With the heating on constantly, please monitor your fuel consumption as rural is still experiencing heating fuel thefts and no fuel would not be good with current freeze.

Hopefully on a lighter note we are getting out and about with the new Mobile Police Station. Please watch your village notice board, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and Parish Councillor for advertising when it is in your village. Please do not hesitate to contact your team if you have any queries or need advice.

Your team is: Sgt 1352 Neil Ireland, Pc 18 Trish Sinclair, Pc 704 Ruth Horton
Pcso 3140 Alex Foster, Pcso 3141 Debs Carroll- Beer

The Police non emergency is 01284 774100, or you can e-mail us at stedsruralsouth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk and please dial 999 if immediate response needed.

MUSIC NEWS

Saffron Walden Choral Society is to perform **Bach's St John Passion** on 21 March in St Mary's Church Saffron Walden. This most moving and spiritual work, depicting Christ's betrayal, capture and crucifixion, is – together with Bach's *St Matthew Passion* – the nearest Bach came to writing an opera. The part of the Evangelist who tells the story will be taken by tenor James Atherton, who brings a wealth of experience to this role. Soprano Ann-Helen Moen is an internationally renowned Norwegian soprano. Mezzo-soprano Diana Moore and bass Edward Price will be making a welcome return to Saffron Walden, where they have both given spell-binding performances in the past.

The music for the choir demands that it steps in and out of character to fit the story, sometimes being the angry crowd baying for Jesus's life, and at other times taking on a more contemplative role, as for example when singing Bach's glorious settings of Lutheran chorales.

In these days of easy-access music, you may wonder what a live performance has to offer over CDs and mp3s. St Mary's Church provides an optimal setting for this piece both visually with its fine 15th century architecture and aurally, with an acoustic that is both warm and all-enveloping and places the listener right in the middle of the music's drama and emotion. SWCS, accompanied by the Chameleon Arts Orchestra, looks forward to sharing this wonderful work with a wide audience.

Tickets are £15 (£12 concessions and £1 for accompanied under 18s) available from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, from 01279 812849, from choir members or on the door. For more details see the SWCS website www.swchoral.org.uk or ask Helen Smith or Sue S-B.

Cambridge Cantat 800

This festival of choral music takes place in Cambridge 11th-19th April in celebration of Cambridge University's 800th anniversary (www.800.cam.ac.uk/cantat800).

With its great concentration of choral performances of outstanding quality, Cambridge Cantat 800 will be a wonderful and extraordinary event in a city already famous for the brilliance of its choral music.

The festival will include concerts by the choirs of King's, John's, Trinity, Clare and Caius colleges, together with solo vocal and organ recitals, evensongs, and workshop events including a Come and Sing day with John Rutter and a family singing day.

A Festival brochure can be obtained from Matthew Ross, Festival Manager
Cambridge Cantat 800 E: matthew.ross@cantab.net mobile: 07984 093004

A WIZARD VISITS GREAT BRADLEY

Well it's February already and wow what a start! Woke on Monday the 2nd to find 5 inches of snow, so the decision not to struggle into work took about 2 nanoseconds. Instead went for a walk with Anne in the morning but it was very slippery so headed home.

However at lunchtime I took my long lens on the camera to see what birds were about. Great to see the Little Egret is still about, and while I was stalking it I came across a couple of Snipe. It was at this point that a small flock of mostly Chaffinches caught my eye. I turned just in time to see a very small bird of prey dive, seemingly from nowhere, and try to catch one of them. It missed and flew off at high speed towards the ford in Water Lane, where it again dived at something. I had just enough time to get one photo but was unable to see clearly what it was, so would have to wait till I got home.

After that excitement I headed up Hall Lane and in the orchard there were about 100 Fieldfares, I decided to creep up on them, this entailed getting down on my tummy and wriggling towards the hedge where I managed to get some good close ups, the following being one of the best.

On getting home I looked at the photos on the computer and with the aid of Photoshop enlarged the bird of prey. From this I consulted some of our bird books and 'Hey Presto!' without a doubt what we had was a MERLIN (so now you understand the title). To my knowledge this is the first sighting in the village environs and although the picture is not good enough for publication we will be on the look out for it now. This is the UK's smallest bird of prey and a first for us.



Happy Spotting – Les & Anne Bunyan

LITTER PICK

The village litter pick is back! Make a date in your diary for Saturday 28 March at 10am.

- We get a little gentle exercise, lots of fresh air and a good chat.
- We finish up at the village hall for relaxation with free food and drink.
- Children love joining in too and learn about keeping our community clean and tidy.



... and as a result of all our efforts we are able to see the village spruced up and ready for Spring. We have grabbers, gloves, rubbish bags and even hi-vis tabards (all courtesy of St Edmundsbury Borough Council).

Saturday 28 March at 10am at the Village Hall – hope to see you there!

John Barnett

...and a timely word from a Bradley resident

Well, its spring again, almost, I am writing this in February so I have no idea what the weather will be doing by the time this appears.

I have been out and about a bit over the last year and I am very sad to see the litter problem that Clarendale seems to have.

There are sweet wrappers, crisp packets and soft drink cans/bottles in hedges, on the green and even in people's front gardens. I have seen wrappers dropped from cycles and children coming down garden paths. I often pick up rubbish round about and this just isn't acceptable. There is no excuse for this, PLEASE take your rubbish HOME.

Parents, please make sure that children are aware that this behaviour is antisocial and bad for the environment, the village is pretty and on the whole well kept, let's keep it that way. Rubbish is also a danger to wildlife and an attraction to rats, these are on the increase and food discarded will encourage them. On that subject please make sure all bird food is in feeders that are off the ground as "leftovers" strewn on the green and paths will certainly attract vermin.

I am aware that a village "litter pick" is planned, very commendable but even better not to have the litter in the first place.

Please Be RESPONSIBLE

Jan Hall

Children's Play Area

Several different proposals from different suppliers were on show, mostly of wooden-style equipment which most people think is more suited to our rural environment. Villagers including young people were positive about the type of equipment proposed. We are hoping to cover the majority of the cost of this equipment from grants, and the exact complement of equipment will depend on how successful we are with the applications that we are now putting in. It's likely to take 2 or 3 months to complete this process, and only then can final decisions be made and orders placed. One useful suggestion was to add a bench to the area for parents to sit on while watching their children enjoy the equipment.

Young People's Shelter

The young people of the village had been doing some thinking, and had prepared and submitted a petition with 16 signatures saying that they would prefer proper facilities for playing football rather than a shelter. This is exactly the sort of feedback that we needed!



We have therefore decided to investigate what's involved in providing a marked out football pitch with goals in preference to a shelter. Of course there are many issues to be resolved before this plan can go ahead, not least that if the village is to enter an official league and play organised games a substantial amount of adult organisation and supervision will be required. If you might be interested in helping in this way, please contact David Beckett (783953) or any other member of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who came to the public meeting and others who have given us your views and opinions on these projects. Only by getting this sort of feedback can we be sure that we are planning projects which will be of benefit to and are supported by the majority of villagers.

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley

NATS Stop Press

Following their consultation last year, NATS have just announced that they are preparing amended proposals for changes to air traffic routes and hold (stacking) locations in our area, and that they will hold another public consultation later this year (not before July). They say that the use of "precision navigation technology" means that new options for some routes can be considered, and that they are looking at the "precise positions" of the holds to see whether alternatives can be offered.

They also say "people were concerned that the [previous] proposal was 'a done deal' and that NATS would not listen to feedback ... This second consultation demonstrates that we did listen and we have taken note and where possible options will be included for consideration. However we are also very clear that doing nothing is not an option – and that the number of options available to us is extremely limited in this airspace, which is some of the most complex and congested in the world".

It sounds as if taking part in the previous consultation was worthwhile, although reading between the lines I doubt that we can expect any dramatic changes from what was proposed then.

Keep your eyes open for the new consultation, and please take part if you have views on this!

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley

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

ADULT £3.00 – CHILDREN Free

SPRINGTIME STROLL IN LANGHAM

Sunday 29th March 10am – 1pm

Join us on a springtime walk (with primroses we hope!) around Langham – recent winner of a 2008 Village of the Year award – and Hornestreet. The walk takes in views along the valley, part of the Essex Way and Primrose Wood before reaching Hornestreet Field, a nature conservation area. Approx. 5 miles – **Moderate** (country walking may include some rougher ground/stiles.)

St Mary's Church Great Bradley
STOURHEAD BENEFICE
Church services for March

Sunday	1 March	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Bradley
Sunday	8 March	11 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow
Sunday	15 March	10 am	Benefice Service	Little Thurlow
Sunday	22 March	Mothing Sunday		
		9.30 am	Holy Communion	Little Bradley
		9.30 am	Family Service	Kedington
Sunday	29 March	10 am	Benefice Service	Great Thurlow
Sunday	5 April	Palm Sunday		
		11 am	Holy Communion	Great Bradley
Sunday	11 April	Easter Day		
		9.30 am	Holy Communion	Kedington
		11 am	Holy Communion	Great Thurlow

For other services see the Benefice News.

Church cleaning for March
 Gill Brown & Anne Smith

Flowers for March:
 (no flowers during Lent, Ash Wednesday to Easter)

Lent Lunch

There will be a Lent lunch on **Wednesday 4 March** in Great Bradley Village Hall from 12.15 pm, following the WEA class. This will be simple lunch of home-made soup and bread and donations will go to the international aid charity World Vision. Everyone is welcome. Please come along to meet your friends and support this worthy cause.

Sue Ireland

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council arranged a successful public meeting on 31 January in the Village Hall. The main purpose of this was to display plans that the council has been drawing up in recent months, and to give villagers a chance to comment and make suggestions. Three projects were on show:

1. The children's play area, first suggested in 2006
2. A young people's shelter
3. A replacement for the existing Village Sign which has reached the end of its life.

The meeting was attended by about 40 people. It was particularly pleasing to see a good number of children and young people present, since two of the projects are being planned with them in mind.



Village Sign

The Parish Council has selected a type of sign that's made of self-coloured fibreglass. This should last for a number of decades without significant maintenance. Two different designs were on display, and visitors were asked for their preferences as well as any other suggestions. Of those who chose to give their views 24 preferred "design 1" which has a silhouette outline, and 13 chose "design 2" which is more rectangular in style. Some other minor improvements were suggested too. There were no major objections, so the PC has now given the go-ahead for "design 1" with improvements as suggested by villagers. The sign will take several

months to make but it should be installed by the summer.



The Bradley Bugle

March 2009

Issue 129 www.great-bradley.suffolk.gov.uk

*A big
Thank You
to all our
deliverers ...*



*... who get the
Bugle out to
us whatever
the weather!*

Photo SI

Village Diary

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise noted

LENT LUNCH	Simple lunch in Village Hall – everyone welcome <i>details inside</i>	Wednesday 4 March 12.15pm
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	Open Forum for villagers followed by Parish Council meeting	Wednesday 18 March 7.30pm
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Lively, light exercise and fun! Contact Ella on 710340	Mondays 2 – 4pm
CARPET BOWLS	Every Monday (except Bank Holidays)	Mondays 7.30pm
GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS	Gentle stretching exercises Contact Jacquie on 783354	Tuesdays 10.30am – 12.30pm
ART CLASS	Contact Anne on 783175 for details	Tuesdays 2 – 4pm
WEA	The Development of the English Parish Church Speaker Dr Lynne Broughton Contact Geoffrey Vollam on 783132	Wednesdays 10am – 12 noon
EDUCATIONAL CLASSES	SPANISH Improvers contact Gill on 783362 or Pam on 783450	Thursdays 7.30 – 9.30pm
AFTERNOON CLUB	All welcome, all ages, all interests Come and meet friends and neighbours	Thursday 12 March 2.30pm
BOOK CLUB	If there is a book you have particularly enjoyed reading and think others may also enjoy it then why not give either Anne Pigden (783175) or Anne Smith (783648) a ring.	
MOBILE LIBRARY	12.05 – 12.20pm Evergreen 12.25 – 12.40pm Thurlow Road	Mondays 9 & 23 March
BLACK BIN	Wednesdays 4 & 18 March and 1 April	
BLUE/BROWN BINS	Wednesdays 11 & 25 March	