

Dennington News



Issue 26: October - December 2021

www.denningtonvillagehall.com

The Dennington Queen

After an incredibly busy summer we are now ordering our logs & having our chimneys swept in anticipation of those longer evenings! The pub takes on a whole different feel during the autumn & winter months with our lovely open fires, candle light and the aromas of mulled wine & winter stews wafting through the old, beamed building.

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Jon & Lorna Reeves



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

As we move towards the end of the year, and find ourselves in this strange hybrid world of both real and virtual meetings, social distancing and parties, I think we will all be glad to see the end of 2021!

Before then, though, this issue of the Dennington News includes lots of things to do this autumn, as well as reports on all the great stuff that's been going on over the past few months and a fascinating article about Women In War in Suffolk on page 27. The coffee mornings have recently been able to take advantage of the lovely September weather by being held outside, while lots of activities are now restarting in the village hall itself including Pilates, yoga and ballroom dancing. There's also an urgent need for bell ringers, cribbage players and poppy collectors - see pages 39 and 41 - so something for everyone!

The environmental challenge that we all face may seem overwhelming, but everyone can do their part. Over the next few issues I hope to highlight organisations and ways in which you can help. I do hope that this will be useful, and if anyone has any ideas for features they would like to see on this topic - or if you have something to say on the subject! - do please get in touch.

Jo Denton, Editor

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DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL

As we move into Autumn the leaves are turning and the hedgerows are full of berries and we finally have the sunshine we longed for during the summer months. Whilst the summer may not have been the best weather, we certainly made the best of it in Dennington.

As restrictions eased, the hall continued to see bookings rise and clubs back using the facilities. In July the Dennington Village Fete took place and was well attended by residents of Dennington and further afield. It gave everyone a fantastic chance to enjoy a day out in a safe environment. Thank you to Vashti at The Neathouse for her hard work in co-ordinating the event. We also saw the re-opening of the tennis courts and the return of the Art Show – both events further contributing to putting our village on the map.

The hall continues to be used for a variety of purposes for weekly clubs and events from the ever-popular coffee mornings to individual occasions such as the recent talk on Foraging by Vivian Bamford for the Horticultural Club. With a Fashion show coming up on 14th October and a performance from the well-known theatre group Eastern Angels on 27th October, there is something for everyone. Do take a look at the new interactive website (www.denningtonvillagehall.com) for up to date information on forthcoming events and to keep informed of what is going on in our thriving village.

Jo Cartwright, Chair of the Trustees



Dennington Hall Farms

Conservation is particularly important to our family, and the landscape on our farm has not changed greatly for at least 200 years. Of course, some hedges were taken out in the 1980s as the old hedges and ditches were from a pre-industrial era, a decision that was made easier by the dead trees and hedges from Dutch elm disease. But the vast majority of original hedging remains and Teresa takes great care of the conservation margins around them which provides habitat for so much wildlife.

We are also responsible for looking after over 100 ponds. Some of these were originally dug for the clay to make bricks and “clay lump” – a mixture of clay and straw that was made into block shapes and used for building. This mixture had an outside coat of tar to stop the clay melting, and we still have some buildings built of this material. Other ponds were for watering livestock, providing water for fire protection around the farmyards (we had the fire brigade out for a fire in our dryer this year and they were preparing to draw water from the moat), drinking water and some may have always been natural features.



The photos show an overgrown pond which is dry and stagnant, a recently cleaned pond and a restored pond one year after cleaning which will be alive with insects and newts

We have a rotation of cleaning out the ponds and recently this has been helped by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who receive money from developers to create great crested newt habitats. The





as well as providing water for birds and mammals. While a wood takes years to create, a pond quickly becomes a place of beauty and interest.

This year we have also been busy making sure that our old farm buildings are secure from the weather. These beautiful old barns have lost their original use as agricultural buildings but are now being used for a variety of small businesses. Treeincarnated making chairs at Lodge Farm is an example.



Although economic forces led to the closure of our dairy herd in 2004, we continue to run a small suckler herd of 20



cows and their calves. These graze some beautiful low meadows around the farm but will soon be coming home for housing through the winter. By not stocking too intensively we hope to encourage snipe to nest, but so far without success.

Robert Rous

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DENNINGTON ARTS EXHIBITION

*“... ..and gentlemen of England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here.....”*

Shakespeare – St Crispin's Day speech, Henry V before Agincourt

The Covid-deferred second Dennington Arts Exhibition took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend 2021. Widely publicised, the event drew in over 500 people from a very wide area, many of whom were visitors to East Suffolk, including from Canada! Cake and sausage rolls were consumed in vast quantities, and some 50 artworks were sold.

At the close of the weekend, a long list of artists interested in being considered for the next exhibition speak to the success of the event. Universally acclaimed for the quality of the venue and of the artwork, it was a triumph.



Wonderful art on display

When Dennington Village Hall emerged from extensive refurbishment work in 2019, the potential of the extraordinary space to be a venue for regular exhibitions of the work of local artists was recognised.

Dennington residents Rosie McKenzie and Maggie Archard, together with Kristina Tonev, a Saxmundham based artist and friend with an international reputation,

developed their ideas for a not for profit exhibition, designed to provide a showcase for local artists to display their work in a professional environment. The plan was to charge a modest fee and no commission, with the income from sales going direct to the artists themselves.

The first exhibition was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend 2019 and feedback from artists and public alike was universally favourable. This encouraged the development of plans for two further events over the Easter and August Bank Holiday weekends in 2020. Sadly, Covid 19 and the national lock-down prevented those proceeding, but not before significant financial commitment had been made in preparation.



Two of the organisers, Kristina and Rosie

Many of those visiting the exhibition, whilst supportive and impressed, may not have fully appreciated the many hours of work and energy needed to bring it about, nor, indeed, the considerable cost of doing so. Grateful thanks is due to the many who volunteered their time and skills in making the event so successful. In particular, a very big thank you to Maggie's sister who travelled down from Stourbridge to so ably take over the refreshments when Maggie became unable to continue as planned because of an injury. A really big thank you too for Trevor McKenzie's construction and assembly of the display panels and for 'after hours' erection of some very effective roadside notices.

With commitments made and detailed bookings well advanced, it became increasingly clear that the modest single fee being charged to displaying artists was barely adequate to cover the cost of hiring the village hall for three days. This had been set (and in some cases, paid) before the Covid cancellation. Options were very limited at that stage but the three organisers were determined that the exhibition should proceed with the same principles as the first without reducing the standards they had set themselves, both for

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the quality of the display environment and the facilities for people to meet and greet with ‘tea and cake’ – the event is as much a social one as it is cultural.

In order to try and meet this shortfall, members of the public were asked to consider making a sponsorship donation. The generosity of those who did so was hugely appreciated but, sadly, the level of support hardly approached the deficit. There are concerns, we know, about sponsorship



Enjoying tea and cakes...

benefitting an organisation that can be considered a business as opposed to, for example, benefitting the village hall itself. However, the village hall is a beneficiary through the hire fees and the promotional value of so large a public footfall. It bears repeating that the central ethos of the Dennington Art Exhibitions is to operate on a not for profit basis. The reality of the 2021 exhibition is that, far from generating a profit, and despite being generally regarded as a great success, the organisers have had to subsidise the event to the tune of several hundred pounds.

This position is not sustainable and with Spring 2022 in mind, the organisers are urgently re-considering the financing of the whole venture. Time is short if a Spring and/or Autumn 2022 exhibition is to happen. So, thank you to everyone for all the kind words and the enthusiasm which help sustain the efforts to ‘keep the show on the road’. Hopefully we will see you next year, Covid permitting, but, meanwhile we shall welcome any constructive suggestions for improving the exhibition arrangements.

Rosie, Kristina and Maggie, Exhibition Organisers

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Dennington Horticultural Club

We were delighted to be able to meet in September with lots of us there to hear guest speaker Vivia Bamford give a fascinating talk about foraging for food in our hedgerows. The next meeting is 17th November, when Frances Boscawen will be talking about growing flowers for cutting - do come along and join us!

The first ever Horticultural Show, part of the hugely successful village fete, got off to a good start, but we'd love more entries and visitors next year. The winners were:



A Summer Bonnet - Maggie Archard

A display of summer roses - Jo Denton



A small table decoration - Maggie Archard

Three perfect vegetables - joint winners
Adrian & Jane Neill and
Pam Turner & John Jarvie

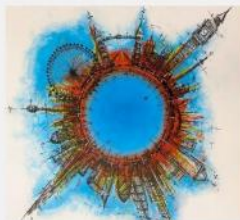


A display of wildflowers in a jam jar (11-16) - Scarlett Cartwright

A jar of home made jam, jelly or marmalade - Penny Evers. See her award winning recipe on page 32.

The new membership year has started. The annual subscription is £20 per person / £35 per couple or £5 per meeting, including a glass of wine. For more details contact me on jo.henry@hotmail.co.uk.

Jo Denton, DHC Secretary



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A PLAYSCHOOL FOR DENNINGTON?

Long-standing Badingham Playschool has been running for 47 years, with close links to Dennington and Dennington primary school. We are super excited to be working towards developing a purpose-built playschool on the charity land in Dennington. Planning permission was achieved April this year.

We have been grateful for the local support and excited to announce we have been successful in achieving CIL money. The funding for the project is currently being finalised, but achieving 75% from East Suffolk Council has been a great start and we look forward to being able to share more positive news with the village soon.

With this amount of money we are in a position to start actioning elements of the build and will continue to fundraise to achieve the grand total. Anyone who is able to offer expertise or assistance with bid writing, or would like to donate to the playschool, we welcome your contribution. We are working on detailed plans and 3D visuals that we hope to share with everyone so it is clear how the project will come together.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kirstie Gladwell, Chairperson, on kirstieshand@hotmail.com or Michele Cole, Playschool Manager, with any queries you may have. We welcome the opportunity of the community getting involved at grassroots level with the project.

Never before have children been so important to our community:
"We all have a part to play in building the right foundations for our children in the early years. By linking up all the amazing work, research, knowledge and passion that is already out there we can create a space where we can all explore the importance of early childhood and how it shapes the world around us."

– The Duchess of Cambridge

Kirstie Gladwell, Chairperson

VILLAGE PERSONALITY: ADRIAN NEILL



Adrian grew up on a mixed Bedfordshire farm, part of the Rothampsted Research Station, which studied cereal production and stocking. Schooled in Leighton Buzzard – which expanded from 200 to 1,100 pupils during his time there - his real interests were in science and engineering. Adrian was active in the Woburn Young Farmers, competing in stock judging, tractor handling and public speaking events, which taught valuable skills outside the formal curriculum.

Adrian followed his eldest brother to Harper Adams College to study Agriculture, a sandwich course with a year at a large pig unit in Chevington, near Bury St. Edmunds, under the eagle eye of an old school owner who used to ride the estate by horseback to prevent slacking. The foreman told Adrian to carry a broom so that he could instantly look as if he were tidying up if spotted! 1981/2 was a hard winter with 12-foot snow drifts and frozen pipes. Adrian found himself in charge of 400 pigs with his manager stuck in Norwich: it was very hard work.

In his first two years at Harpers he studied crop and animal production, with practical experience at Faccenda Farms near Stratford upon Avon. Adrian found himself rather out of his depth with the dairy side, but loved it nevertheless. As with all livestock, there was a natural rhythm to the days and seasons which couldn't be rushed. Early 4.00 am starts gave him time to think whilst the rest of the world slept! He fondly remembers knocking off for full cooked breakfasts on winter mornings just as the other workers were heading out into the fields. It was at this time that Adrian met his future wife Jane, on a Young Farmers' ski trip to Switzerland

where, in his words, ‘she kept falling at my feet’.

Graduating in 1985, Adrian fulfilled a long-standing ambition and travelled to Alberta, Canada, as part of an agricultural exchange programme to work on a 5,000 acre arable farm for 7 months with one other farmhand. It was minus 30c when he arrived in April. Jane joined him for part of that time to explore the Rockies. Adrian returned to England and a full-time position with the Potato Marketing Board in Bury St. Edmunds, living in Rougham. The couple were married in 1988. Adrian travelled widely around Suffolk and Cambridgeshire as a ‘potato policeman’, and in 1990 joined Anglian Produce Ltd, a potato co-operative, as a fieldsman. This began a 32 year career in potatoes with the same company called Greenvale AP. Now a fully qualified agronomist, Adrian became Tesco technical manager for the company in 1999 then moved to a position as seed sales manager. Adrian and Jane moved to Dennington where they had their two sons, Matthew and Alistair.

Many villagers will now know Adrian through his voluntary work for the village, initially either as Treasurer and Secretary for the Sports Club, or from his key role in helping in the considerable organisation of the Inter-Village Games, an annual event of Games spread over a fortnight. Jane helps in these activities, being particularly useful in counting up and banking all the money taken. When Adrian’s sons went to the local primary school, Adrian became a parent Governor and then Chairman, a role carrying much responsibility, with a lot of policy to draft in support of the children, staff and parents. He later joined the Dennington Allotments Association and helped persuade the Dennington Charities to set up the Allotments and get water laid on. That is where you will most likely find Adrian today, on his cornerstone plot, if not mowing the play area and sports field we all enjoy and sometimes too readily take for granted. The village owes much to Adrian Neill’s generosity of spirit, time and professional expertise.

As told to Mark Kendall



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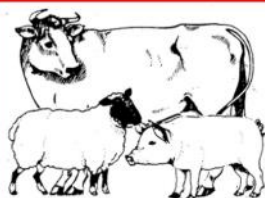
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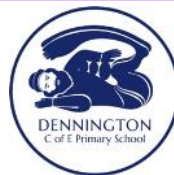
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– 3rd January 2022



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Tuesday 12th October 9:30-11:00

Friday 12th November 9:30-11:00



www.denningtonprimaryschool.org.uk

We have had a lovely start to the term at Dennington Primary School. The children have all settled into their new classes and we are really pleased to welcome 13 new children into our reception Chaffinches class.

We have an open day coming up in October (see above for details), where we are looking forward to showing new reception parents all that our school has to offer.

Jenny Turner, Teacher

Please send all stories or items to be included in the next issue, which covers January-March 2022, to the Editor no later than 10th December. Send via email to denningtonnews@gmail.com , or via post to Spring Farm House, The Street, Dennington IP13 8JF. Please send pictures and advertisements as jpeg attachments.



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LATE WINTER CROCUSES



Now is the time to plant species crocus to flower next February either in a cold greenhouse or sunny porch. The corms are best started off in clay pans and either placed in a cold frame or in a shady place in the garden covering the pans with wire mesh to keep out mice, this is

essential as mice will eat the corms if they can get to them. When in late winter the leaves and/or flower buds emerge, take the pans or pots into the greenhouse or put on a sunny window sill and enjoy watching the emergence of the flowers on a sunny day. The fragrance is delightful and just to be able to appreciate the flowers when it can be bleak outdoors and without having to bend down to ground level is a real joy.

Good varieties include those raised by E.A. Bowles, the famous plantsman of Myddelton House near Enfield: *Crocus chrysanthus* 'Cream Beauty', 'Blue Pearl' and 'Snow Bunting'. Other good cultivars are *Crocus c.* 'Lady Killer' and *Crocus sieberi* 'Tricolor'. All the above have the Royal Horticultural Society AGM (Award of Garden Merit) which essentially means they are 'good doers' and are available. Avon Bulbs in Somerset are good suppliers: www.avonbulbs.co.uk.

This is my last article for the magazine, so I hope you have enjoyed reading them and I look forward to reading about someone else's interests.

Andrew Stansfeld, Stansfeld Garden Design

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

At our last two meetings we have started thinking about ways the village can commemorate the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk is looking for Village Champions to liaise with The Festival of Suffolk organisers, helping to co-ordinate village events and reporting back to them.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a scheme to encourage as many people as possible to plant trees to commemorate the Jubilee and to create a lasting legacy from this landmark occasion. Each tree will be registered on a map of the UK and presented to the Queen. This is something the Parish Council is looking to join in with.

We are looking to form a committee to help co-ordinate the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and would be grateful if the various village charities and organisations could contact the Parish Council Clerk with the names of volunteers. If any villager, unaffiliated to any particular village organisation, wishes to help with the organisation you will also be very welcome to join.

We would like to thank Robert Wardley for refurbishing the two Parish Council noticeboards. We are sure you will agree that they look splendid and Robert has saved the Parish Council considerable money by working on our current boards rather than purchasing new ones.



We are sad to lose Tom Mountain as a Parish Councillor. Tom has moved out of the village but is hoping to join his new village's Parish Council. With



Tom's resignation we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Please contact the clerk or any Councillor if you are interested in finding out more about the role or if you would like to apply. We meet every other month and this is an interesting way you can help play your part in village life.

Thank you to our mowers who manage a large amount of the grass land in the village around their other commitments and do not charge for their hard work. We have been approached by residents asking about land management strategies and possibly leaving some of the land uncut or leaving longer periods between cutting to encourage more wildlife and help biodiversity. Most publicly accessible land in the village is owned or managed by different village charities. The Parish Council is hoping to produce a map showing which charities own and manage this land, in order to help residents direct enquiries or suggestions to the relevant trustees. Please do let the Parish Council know if you have an opinion on any of these suggestions. If we get sufficient interest, it can be discussed at our next meeting.

Badingham Playschool have been successful in their bid for funds to build on the Dennington Consolidated Charities land opposite the Village Hall - see article on page 15.

Following a request from a resident, we have now ordered two additional dog wastebins, to go on the allotments and the footpath towards Maypole Green. We hope having more bins will make it even easier for people to clear up after their dogs. One of these bins has been funded using our allowance of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money.

We next meet on **Monday 15th November**. Residents are very welcome to attend and raise matters during the Public Forum of the meeting.

Matt Lunn, Chair and Lydia Kirk, Clerk

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

As ever, the Ride & Stride, which this year took place on Saturday, 11th September, was a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about and visit the many historic churches in our area. This was the 40th annual sponsored cycling event, an idea that began in Suffolk before spreading across the country. On the same day there were 100 veteran and classic cars that took part in the sister event Pedal & Drive.



Cretingham Church

The day was perfect cycling weather and I covered roughly 38 miles and visited 21 churches. As always the countryside looked at its best, riding down lanes and viewing the golden fields that the farmers have worked hard on with the neatly stacked hay bales. It is a time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of

the country and have the treasure of wonderful old churches.

A BIG THANK YOU to the volunteers who gave up their time to sit in Dennington Church and register the cyclists. The funds are much needed to support Grant applications from churches and chapels across the country. If you would like to sponsor your local Ride & Stride people we would be most grateful, do please contact us.

Avril Palmer, co-organiser / 01728 638

We chose to walk this year for the first time, chiefly to discover villages near Bury St. Edmunds, none of which we had been to before. We first walked to our local church and had a very warm welcome there before driving west. Only in one other church were there recorders this year. We walked about 7 miles, guided by the trusty OS map, beginning at Beyton, then Hassett, Drinkwater and

finally Tostock (and the pub!) The route was stunning, rural lanes with little traffic and few people. Along the way we saw the magnificent Saxon round tower at Hassett, fortified against Norse incursion, a garage sale in Drinkwater, one or two future bed and breakfast possibilities for return, numerous roadside cabinets full of fruit and vegetables (we carried a marrow for three miles!) and some magnificent country properties. Last year the event raised nearly £200,000 in support of our churches. It is a worthy charity and a fantastic day out in the fresh air at no cost. Thanks to all our sponsors and those who gave up time to record participants coming through our beautiful village.

Mark and Angela Kendall, co-organisers / 01782 638568

ST MARY'S DENNINGTON

Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 10th October at 11.00 am - please note the change of time. As we are not having a Harvest Supper this year, we thought it would be nice to have our service in the morning and hopefully we can have some refreshments outside afterwards (weather permitting!) for those who wish to.

Remembrance Sunday is on 14th November and there will be a service starting at 10.55.

Christmas still seems a long way off, but please put 12th December in your diaries for our **Carol Service** at 5.00 pm, and all being well it will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. On **Christmas Day** there will be a Family Communion service at 11.00 am.

Otherwise, services are as follows:

First Sunday of the month - 8.00 am Holy Communion

Second Sunday of the month - 11.00 Elder-led Family Service or Mattins

Fourth Sunday of the month - 11.00 Holy Communion

Veronica Maberly



Lara Pepper

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WOMEN IN WAR

During the Second World War it would be true to say that many people in Suffolk lived within ten miles of a United States Army Air Force airfield. At Dennington the nearest US airfield would have been Parham, commonly referred to by the Americans as 'Framlingham'. There are countless books and films which tell the story of the so called 'Friendly Invasion' of East Anglia by the USAAF, the brave young American men flying dangerous missions deep into enemy territory, but what is little talked about is the fact that American women were also serving here during the war, working in various roles in support of both air and ground crews at airfields such as Parham, Horham, Leiston, Halesworth and Eye - there were at least 20 such bases in Suffolk alone.



These women were recruited in the US and trained as hospital nurses, flight nurses, or members of American Women's Army Corps. Another vitally important role was the one played by the American Red Cross (ARC) women, who were based at just about every US

airfield. ARC women tended to be in their mid-20's, slightly older than nurses and army recruits. They would also have been somewhat older than the men they worked with, as one of their most important roles was to counsel grieving and shocked young men who had lost comrades on missions, as well as comfort the homesick. GI's (General Intakes) were of course thousands of miles from their home in the States, and due to this part of their work the women were often described as 'older sister' figures.

Basic training for ARC women was completed at University in the States; it was mandatory to have received a college education.



Training would have involved learning a broad range of skills such as motor mechanics, map reading, first aid, keeping accounts, how to use a sub machine gun, and last, by no means least, how to make good coffee and donuts.

ARC recruits crossed the Atlantic with their male GI colleagues on ships such as the Queen Mary, and they didn't travel lightly! Not only would they carry their suitcases, but also knapsacks, pistol belts, canteens, first aid kits, helmets and heavy coats. Their journey would have been noisy and smelly. There would have been several hundred military personnel on board, all crammed together, tensions running high with the fear and anticipation of what dangers lay ahead in a land few of them had ever visited even in peace time. There were also present dangers - troop carrying ships were ideal targets for German U-Boats.

Most of the bases would have had an Aero Club, usually sited in the communal area close to mess halls and dining rooms, a place where male personnel could spend precious leisure time and escape the pressures and dangers of war. Once here, the ARC women were thrown in at the deep end, often setting up Aero Clubs from scratch, getting to grips with the smooth and efficient running of a constantly busy Aero Club, and putting those accounting skills to good use, not just for the club, but also as a banking service! Those typically American, ever popular donuts were made from a ready-made mixture imported from the States, but they weren't just served



at Aero Clubs, they were also taken out on to the airfields in vehicles known as 'Club mobiles' to serve to aircrews returning from missions.

The ARC were also ably assisted by the British Women's Volunteer Service, many of whom lived in local villages; women who were either fresh from school and too young to serve in the forces, or older women - members of the WI, Mothers Union and Church Army - who would bring their own skills to assist the ARC by mending uniforms, baking, even helping out with the laundry by taking it home to their own kitchens, which is what my own grandmother did, as our family lived beside a US base here in Suffolk – our own little 'band of sisters'.

I am currently producing an educational documentary to TV broadcast standard for a small film company which will be called the United States of East Anglia – Women in War. It will feature not just the American women but the British women who either worked with them, or worked in other occupations on the home front. Most of these ladies have now passed away, but if you have/had a mother, grandmother or aunt who worked in any of these capacities who may have passed their memories and stories (even funny ones!) on to you, and any relevant photos, I would love to hear from you! Contact me on maggie.aggiss@yahoo.com.

Maggie Aggiss

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

The Prevention Team at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are offering free home fire safety checks for certain groups such as those aged 65+ or disabled households, hard of hearing, cluttered homes, single parents etc. They offer a fire safety check in the home and fire safety advice and can provide free smoke alarms and fire-retardant bedding and throws if needed. **For more information please call Fire Business Support on 01473 260588.**



DANCEASY

Ballroom and Latin American Dance Classes/Lessons



When: Friday Evenings
Beginners Class: 7.30pm

Venue: Dennington Village Hall, Dennington Road,
Dennington, Suffolk IP13 8DD

Price: £7.00 per person

Graham: 07790 230651 Sharon: 07946 347167

Email: danceasy123@gmail.com

www.danceasy.co.uk

WANT TO LEARN TO CHA CHA CHA OR SAMBO...?

Like most sports, ballroom dancing can have a healthy impact on your life. It can slow your heart rate, lower your blood pressure, increase your metabolism, and help maintain a healthier, balanced level of cholesterol, as well as improve your suppleness, muscle-endurance and muscle-strength. Furthermore, just half an hour of dancing can burn up to 400 calories. So what are you waiting for?

There are many different styles of ballroom dancing:

Waltz: one of the most popular dances, with a 3/4 timing, it's characterized by its rise and fall action, with feet remaining in contact with the floor creating a smooth gliding action. A great dance for the absolute beginner.

Foxtrot: a smooth dance like the waltz with continuous flowing movements that glide across the dance floor.

Rumba: considered by many to be the sexist dance of the ballroom, it involves sensual movements to romantic music.

Jive: with a 4/4 timing this can be quick, and includes moves such as underarm turns, spins, swivels etc. Other popular dance styles include the quickstep, cha cha cha, samba and paso doble.

The Danceasy classes are for everyone from complete beginner to more advanced dancers. Couples can dance with their partner, while singles are very welcome too. In the beginners' class a dance is taught for several weeks before moving onto another style.

The biggest tip for beginners is to not worry about making mistakes, no dancer is perfect and stepping out of time (or on someone's toe!) is all part of the learning process.

See details on the ad opposite for new dance classes being held at Dennington village hall on Friday evenings at 7pm with fully qualified instructors **Graham & Sharon Skingley** (AISTD, NATD). Contact them on danceasy123@gmail.com, www.danceasy.co.uk or by telephone on 07946 347167.

COOKERY CORNER



Some top tips from the winner and judge of the jam making competition at this year's summer Horticultural Club show:

BLACKBERRY AND APPLE JELLY

This recipe depends on how many blackberries are available, so proportions can vary from year to year. Usually, I have twice the weight of apples to blackberries, using crab apples or Bramleys or a firm eating apple. Last year I used:

3.5 kg fruit washed (chop the apples roughly but no need to peel)

Juice of 3 lemons

2 litres of water

Sugar – see method

Place the fruit, juice and water in a preserving pan and simmer for about an hour until everything is soft. Stir frequently to avoid sticking. Spoon the pulp into a jelly bag and leave to strain for at least 12 hours. Measure the juice extract and return it to the pan with 575 g of sugar to each 1 litre of juice. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, then bring to the boil and boil rapidly for about 10 minutes. Adjust the sweetness if required. When setting point is reached, take the pan off the heat and remove any scum from the surface. Pot in sterilised jars. This quantity made 7 jars of jelly.

Penny Evers, winner of the jam making competition

The number of entries in the jam making class was very encouraging. Most of the entries were good but we had to choose the best. We did find some faults, which the following tips should help you to rectify in future. Happy cooking and good luck next time!

MOULD: This occurs due to moisture getting between the jam and

the cover. To avoid this make sure that the jam is covered immediately while it is still hot.

RUSTY LIDS: Choose lids which are coated on the inside. These can be recycled lids but remember to sterilise all lids before use. Bring them to the boil in a pan of water, drain and dry with a clean cloth.

JARS: Should also be sterilised before use. Fill them with boiling water, drain and dry then keep hot in a warm oven until the jam is ready. Always fill jars to the brim, cover quickly and screw lids down tightly.

FRUIT: Allow the jam to cool slightly then stir before potting it.

WAX DISCS: these are not necessary with coated lids but when used they must completely cover the surface of the jam to make a good seal or mould can occur.

Catherine Blakeley, judge

DENNINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS ARE BACK

After a long break, the village coffee mornings started again in July to a wonderful response!

*Future dates for the rest of the year are below.
We meet every other Thursday at 10.30am, and
serve coffee, tea and home made cakes.*



October 7th / 21st
November 4th / 18th
December 2nd / 16th



*Put the dates in your
diary and join us if you can; you'll be assured of
a very warm welcome!*

aaron nobbbs

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OUR WHITE SKODA 27TH OCTOBER

A heartfelt story of family life told with truth, humour and tabla rhythm, this moving play shines a light on the struggles of contemporary life as one family juggles bills, dreams and taxi-driving schemes.

Written by Shamser Sinha, and on in Dennington village hall for one night only (27th October) to a reduced capacity audience, book your tickets now at www.easternangles.co.uk.



www.easternangles.co.uk



An Eastern Angles production in association with Derby Theatre and Essex Cultural Diversity Project

Essex Cultural
Diversity Project

OUR WHITE SKODA OCTAVIA

by Shamser Sinha

A heartfelt story of family life
told with truth, humour and
tabla rhythm.

On
for one
night only
in Dennington,
27th October

DENNINGTON PARISH RECORDER

I have taken on the role of Parish Recorder for Dennington. This involves keeping a record of events as they happen in the village at the present time. It will give a picture of village life for future reference. A report is sent to Suffolk Local History Council at the end of each year and is lodged with Suffolk Archive. For further details see www.slhc.org.uk.



I would be grateful if Dennington residents would let me know of events taking place within the parish. This could cover a wide range of activities such as club events, building work, village socials, talks etc. Please contact me by email on pene.welham@btinternet.com. Many thanks for your help.

Pene Welham

DENNINGTON 100 CLUB

The 100 club has now restarted, and Pam Turner has very kindly agreed to organise it. The draw will take place at the Thursday coffee mornings in the village hall at the end of each month. If you haven't yet confirmed your membership this year, or are interested in joining, please email pstevensturner@gmail.com now. It only costs £12 and helps raise much needed funds for the village hall.

The results of the July and August draws are as follows; winnings will be distributed as soon as possible. The September draw will take place a little late, on 7th October.

	July draw	August draw
First place (£25)	D. Southern	C. Cullingford
Second place (£15)	B. Roberts	W. Ablett
Third place (£10)	M. Archard	C. Thomas
Fourth place (£2)	L. Dunnett	W. Roud

DENNINGTON VILLAGE FETE

The weather was glorious for the Dennington fete, which attracted stalls from all around the area and was spread across the allotments, village green, the sports field and the hall. There were displays, raffles, games for the children and a traditional Punch-and-Judy. One stall offered a lucky dip - wrapped bottles but were they full of wine or water? – while there was also a tombola and a raffle. The Rural Coffee Caravan was busy all afternoon - such a



Punch and Judy was very popular



The raffle table

great initiative - while the Hall bar was in full swing (even Jon from the Queen was spotted enjoying a beer there!) and the Neathouse was doing a roaring trade. The Horticulture Club had their competition entries on display in the hall, the allotments were open for visitors and the Deben Valley

Young Farmers had brought along some hefty machinery, while at the other end of the Green and the other end of the scale there was a display of classic and high-end cars and motor-cycles. There was something for everyone, with much fun and laughter. Congratulations to Vashti for her organisation.

Kate Viscardi

Deben Valley Farmers' stand



DENNINGTON CROQUET TOURNAMENT



The croquet tournament took place on the reasonably sunny afternoon of 24th July, with four teams competing for the honour of being the first ever Dennington Croquet Champions. Pimms, cider and beer was available from the hall bar for spectators and competitors alike to enjoy as the gentle click of croquet balls filled the air. The tournament

was eventually won by Tim FitzHigham and Joe Simpson, AKA The Randoms, who both hail from Framlingham. Much fun was had by all and unsuccessful participants are no doubt already plotting their revenge for next year.



Jo Denton

The winners

SECOND DENNINGTON VILLAGE CALENDAR

Building on this year's success we are producing a second Dennington calendar, this time with the theme of village organisations. Each month will be illustrated by one of the organisations in the village and there will be a directory at the back listing their contact details plus more. We are inviting advertisers in the Dennington News to sponsor a month, too, and so should be able to reduce the selling price.

We're aiming to have the calendar ready by the end of November, and so will need to finalise the content by the end of October. If you would like your organisation to be included, please email dennington.views@gmail.com. Advertisers will be contacted separately about whether they would like to sponsor a month.

Kate Viscardi

PROTECTING OUR FOOTPATHS



There are over 49,000 miles of footpaths that could be lost forever if they're not properly registered by 1st January 2026. This is the government deadline for all historic paths to be registered for inclusion on official

maps, all needing to be identified, found and mapped to be saved.

The Ramblers.org online mapping tool claims there are nearly 2,000 miles of paths at risk in Suffolk, needing our help to save them. To find out more, and to help, go to Don't Lose Your Way on their website: www.ramblers.org.uk.

ARE YOU FED UP DOING THE SAME OLD WALKS?

Then walking in Suffolk www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk may be the website for you! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

The man behind the website, John Harris, says: *'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Suffolk (part of the Walking in England suite of websites, one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.*

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So check out his website www.walkinginengland.co.uk and get walking!

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

The bell ringers of Dennington and Badingham are looking for new ringers to come along and help us out. We are sadly depleted this year as a few of our regular members have moved out of the area. If you have never rung before and would like to try then please contact me and we would be pleased to teach you how it's done. We practice on Thursday evenings at 7.30, either at Dennington or Badingham. Ring me to find out more.



Duncan Horrocks / 07515 136229

POPPY APPEAL: VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Thank you to everyone for all the help you have given me and the Poppy Appeal in both Dennington and Badingham in previous years. Once again, we can only continue to support the Poppy Appeal with your help and support. I am looking for volunteers to collect in the Clay Hills and Village

Square areas of Dennington, as well as more house-to-house collectors in Badingham. The period involved is the two weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday, which this year is Saturday 30th October till Saturday 13th November. If you are interested in finding out more information or can help, please contact me.

Sally Nobbs / 01728 638847



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DENNINGTON WI

The planters outside the village hall have been a welcome sight as events begin to take place again in the hall. We have begun to have normal activities with an outdoor meeting in July, but reluctantly were unable to take part in the fete.

In August we met in the large hall with half our members willing to attend and enjoyed an interesting talk on the role of a Wimbledon Championship line judge, while in September members were able to try their hand at quilling following instruction from Wendy Moad.

We look forward to seeing our members over the coming months. Future meetings are:

13th October - Suffolk Sandlings

10th November - Annual meeting

December - Christmas celebrations

Jenny Dyne

Suffolk sandlings



DENNINGTON QUEEN'S CRIBBAGE TEAM



After much debate the Mid Suffolk Cribbage league re-started on the 21st September, although unfortunately the number of teams has dropped from 16 to 13. The Dennington team has lost two players due to health problems and urgently needs new members to join the team. If you have not

played for a while or are new to the game, please contact us - we are more than willing to help you get involved in this intriguing game. **Please contact Allan Dyne on 638166 for more information.**

DENNINGTON ALLOTMENTS & GARDNERS' ASSOCIATION

The highlight of this summer on the Allotment was the Village Fete. The weather could not have been better and the number of visitors to the Allotment was beyond our expectations. The only disappointment was the number of entries to the Scarecrow competition – just one - but the sole entrant was magnificent and would probably have beaten all others!

Robert Rous presented the winning scarecrow creator, Ethan Snowden, with a Spiderman Activity Set. Ethan, who is looking forward to



starting at the primary school this term, loved his prize. We also had two very generous baskets of our produce to

be won with our raffle tickets, and sold forty eight strips on the day; one winner was from the village and one from Stradbroke.

It was a pleasure to chat with the visitors and to hear their comments and appreciation of the plots, especially after all of the hard work put in by our members.

The long and on-going dry spell (apart from one or two heavy but all too brief spells of rain) has certainly made growing and working conditions quite difficult. We can only hope for a warm but wet autumn so that we can prepare the soil for the forthcoming winter

months. The arid conditions have certainly been a challenge for many of our crops whereas the fruit this season has been abundant, due to a dry April and very wet May. Apples, plums, greengages, blackberries, raspberries and gooseberries have all flourished.

Please look out for any produce left outside the entrance gate which is there for your enjoyment, and not to waste!

Pamela Turner , Secretary

JEAN KING: 17.9.44 – 26.4.21

Jean was born Jean Miller in Hoo, near Charsfield, to George, a farm labourer, and Vera, who worked as a housekeeper and gardener to the local farmer.

She went to Grundsburgh Primary School and then to Framlingham County Modern School, now Thomas Mills High School. After leaving school, she started work at Framlingham Egg Packing Station, which supplied eggs to all the local supermarkets and shops.

Jean met Cecil King at Framlingham Dance Hall and they dated for 3 years before getting married at Saxmundham Registry Office. They moved to Dennington in 1970, where she had her son, Paul, in 1978, leaving work to look after him. When Paul left Dennington Primary School in 1990, she started work as a mid-day supervisor there, staying until she was 70 years old.

She joined Cecil, who was also retired by that time, and began to enjoy life at home, gardening, shopping and going to the seaside, until her sudden passing in hospital on 26th April this year. Jean will be missed by her family and everyone who knew her.



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WILLIAM ANTHONY VISCARDI: 6.2.1943 – 31.8.2021

Will Viscardi was born in what was then Madras, India. The youngest of a large family, he had happy memories of his childhood, including riding the horse of a Mysore Lancer and going on a police launch around Bombay harbour. He had his 17th birthday on the ship sailing from India to the UK, and by 24 he was living in North London, working and enjoying the night life. It was there he met the girl he was to marry and spend the next 50 years with.



Will and Kate lived in London for four years then moved to her native Hertfordshire after Will had a serious motorbike accident, where he had various jobs. His favourite was as a mobile truck-parts salesman, which combined his skill with his love of driving.

With Kate working as an academic, Will took the main responsibility for their son, Paolo, encouraging his love of nature and wildlife. At 49, Will had the first of his heart attacks. Eventually returning to work in a Royal Mail distribution centre, he had his second heart attack there, 13 years after the first.

With retirement beckoning for Kate, she and Will moved to Dennington. Will had always been keen on Suffolk having spent time there as a teen with a brother-in-law in the RAF. These years were among Will's happiest, despite his health. He and Kate found themselves among a wonderful bunch of neighbours, respectful of privacy but always quick to help and support. Will found the folk sessions at the Lowhouse in Laxfield a real highlight, reigniting his love of playing the harmonica. Remembered by friends as a kind, thoughtful man who loved cooking, photography, Arsenal, fast cars and cats, he is survived by his wife, Kate, and son Paolo.



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RECYCLING SOFT PLASTIC COURTESY OF THE CO-OP

The majority of us are aware of the importance of recycling and want to do our bit, but there are many factors that affect an item's recyclability, and understanding what can and cannot be recycled, and in what bin, is actually quite difficult.

The East of England Co-op has now joined Co-ops across the country in having collection bins for soft plastics (those which spring back when you scrunch them in your hand), alongside their existing collection points for used batteries and bags for life, so providing a simple, easy and convenient way to recycle something that would otherwise go to landfill.

Once sorted, the recycled wrapping is turned into plastic pellets which can be used to create new products such as bin liners, buckets and building materials, so it's important to make sure that everything is clean before it's placed in the plastic recycling bin.

The following items can now be recycled in most East of England Co-op Food stores, including Framlingham:

- Cereal box liners, bread bags, croissant, pancake, and crumpet wrappers
- Crisp packets and chocolate, cake, and biscuit wrappers
- Lids on yogurt, cream, desserts, cheese and ready meals
- Fruit and vegetable wrapping
- Bags from dried fruit, sugar, sweets, porridge, muesli, pulses, rice and pasta
- Fresh flower, gift wrap and gift tag wrapping
- Kitchen towel and toilet roll packaging
- Baby wipe packaging, and similar
- Carrier bags

So - please do your bit for the environment and make sure you use soft plastic recycling bins available in East of England Co-op Food stores across the region.

DIARY OF EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021

Date	Event	Location	Start time
07-Oct	Coffee morning & 100 Club draw	Village hall	10.30am
10-Oct	Harvest festival	Church	11am
12-Oct	School open morning	School	9.30-11am
13-Oct	WI meeting	Village hall	7.30pm
21-Oct	Coffee morning	Village hall	10.30am
25-29 Oct	Half Term		
27-Oct	Our White Skoda play	Village hall	7.30pm
30 Oct-12 Nov	Poppy appeal		
04-Nov	Coffee morning & 100 Club draw	Village hall	10.30am
10-Nov	WI meeting	Village hall	7.30pm
12-Nov	School open morning	School	9.30-11am
14-Nov	Remembrance day service	Church	10.55am
15-Nov	Parish Council meeting	Village hall	7.30pm
17-Nov	Horticultural Club	Village hall	7pm
18-Nov	Coffee morning	Village hall	10.30am
02-Dec	Coffee morning & 100 Club draw	Village hall	10.30am
08-Dec	WI meeting	Village hall	7.30pm
12-Dec	Carol service	Church	5pm
16-Dec	Coffee morning	Village hall	10.30am
17th Dec	End of term		
25-Dec	Family communion service	Church	11am