



Remember when...

Fond memories of the village shop



Been to Spratt Street?

You have, but you might not know it



The key to the village

It's the DaVinci Code (but more interesting)

inside eyke

ISSUE 3 WINTER 2010



Artist-in-residence A visit to Stuart Atkinson's studio

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REALLY, HOW DID I END UP HERE?



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EDITOR's letter

On 31 August

Isabelle Abu-Hejleh and I, as parish councillors, attended the presentation of the new Master Plan for Bentwaters Parks held by The Landscape Partnership, agents for the developers/owners. It was not possible to compare the new Master Plan with the old or to compare the new proposals with what is existing. I feel that it is essential that the former Master Plan and existing buildings in use be presented for comparison. Further, there was no traffic assessment available.

However, the Landscape Partnership's agent showed us the proposed new employment area, which would appear to be a four-fold increase on the existing. Clearly, there is an intention to industrialise the entire area – bearing in mind that all this development is within the AONB! If approved in the proposed form Bentwaters Parks could become one of the largest industrial sites in Suffolk. What does this mean for Eyke?

Disaster.

Due to the failure of Suffolk Coastal District Council to take enforcement action over non-compliance with the Section 106 Agreements and many other planning irregularities over the past ten years, the developers are now claiming Lawful Use of all buildings and operations due to the time lapse, together with further proposed development areas. Should a fourfold increase in business, commercial and industrial use happen Eyke can expect a fourfold increase in traffic.

Further, Phase 2 of the new Master Plan will see the implementation of 16 hectares of solar panning producing 10MW of electricity to be sold to the national grid. How much is 16 hectares you may ask – well, think about 26 football pitches. Indeed, are solar panels a solution for energy, considering the UK climate? All this within an AONB!

More employment and jobs is always the cry but let us look at the statistics. From Jan to Dec 2009 UK unemployment was 7.6%, for the Woodbridge area 4.5%!

In August 2010 the national average was 7.9%, Woodbridge area 6.3%. The number claiming unemployment benefits was 1,152. The number of job vacancies at the Job Centre was 650. However not all companies log their vacancies with the Job Centre so that is the minimum number of jobs available. So, is a lack of jobs a major issue within this area?

SCDC's officers stated that the owners/developers purchased the site cheaply because of the intended environmental improvements that should have been implemented (as far as I am aware not one tree has been planted) so the rental costs on the site are probably very enticing. However, companies that elect to move to Bentwaters Parks will usually bring their own staff with them. Of course, there will be some new employment opportunities but in today's age of computer technology and automation most of the jobs will be menial.

There are many who already consider the existing infrastructure to be inadequate for the present operations on site, to add a possible fourfold increase in traffic would bring about a deterioration and loss of quality of life for everyone in Eyke. Is Eyke to be completely sacrificed to Bentwaters?

People choose to move to as well as visit Suffolk because of its rural and tranquil countryside. It is one of the few counties that has an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty yet the pressure to urbanise and industrialise is great. At a Town and Parish planning forum (21st October 2010) Mr Ridley – chief planning officer – stated that Suffolk was a great place for a planning officer to be because of all the potential development that Suffolk offers. So there is pressure by planning officers who want to add to their C/Vs. When it comes to making money and profits it would seem the AONB and countryside cannot win. Maybe we should think about what we are leaving for future generations because when it's gone, it's gone! ❁

By-gone days

I would like to share with you memories of my childhood in Eyke. Summer holidays were always hot. My sister Joan, brother Neville, Dot and Gladys Plant and myself would take lemonade and sandwiches to the river at Black Bridge. We did not have a watch but when Fred Pinner came for the cows to milk we knew it was three o'clock. When he brought them back we knew it was five o'clock and time to pack up to go home.

Our yearly school holiday was a day at Felixstowe. Lorries were supplied by Arthur Lyon, Joe Kingseller and my father. Three forms were placed in each lorry for us to sit on and a teacher kept an eye on us (no safety belts in those days). The teachers supplied the food and drink.

We had a lovely day paddling in the sea and on the pier. Harvest fields were also a great attraction as well as fruit picking, where we could earn pocket money. In the winter our pastimes were whips and tops as well as bowling hoops in The Street – no traffic to worry about. During the dark evenings we played Ludo and Snakes and Ladders – no television or computers, but they were happy days. We still keep in touch with Doris Whatling and Gladys McGuinness (nee Plant) and often chat on the phone to recall those happy days.

Mona Jack (nee Cook)

News from Eyke CEVC Primary School

This autumn term is going by very quickly and children continue to enjoy lots of special lessons and activities. The children in classes 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a special Mexicolore Day when they learnt lots about the Aztecs from a visiting group with loads of amazing artefacts.

Class 2 visited Aldeburgh Lifeboat Station to learn about saving lives at sea and are learning about Grace Darling this term. Classes 1A and 1B are learning all about themselves and their homes and families.

During the week of 22 November we had a theme week, which we have each term, this time focussing on Poetry. In the run up to Christmas children in KS1 will be preparing a special Christmas Production about the Nativity and KS2 will prepare a separate performance too.

There will be acting, singing and dancing to celebrate this very important time of year. The performances will be on Tuesday 14 December at 1.30pm and Wednesday 15 December also at 1.30pm. If you would like to come and watch one of the shows please contact the school so we can have a rough idea of numbers!

In addition we will have our annual Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 1 December at 5pm to 7pm. There will be lots of stalls to find those special Christmas gifts and a raffle and lots more. Santa will be visiting too! Do come and join us!

Wendy Kelway, Headteacher

Road Junctions

Eyke Parish Council has received several complaints over a prolonged period regarding the parking of private vehicles on The Street close to the junctions with Castle Hill, Creasey's Hill, Church Lane and also in the cul de sac in Church Lane. This includes vehicles parking partly, or wholly on the footpath.

This presents a serious danger both to motorists trying to access The Street from a side road, and to pedestrians as well. The Parish Council is aware that many properties in the area have very limited, or no, parking, which has contributed to this problem, and would like to make residents aware that close, free parking is available in the car park next to the school. This parking area is owned and maintained by the parish, and available for all to use.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Eyke Parish Council. Clerk:

Mrs J Pooley



A big thank you to John and Karena of the Elephant and Castle. They have hardly been open eight weeks and they have raised £40 for the village hall fund, and £255 for the Eyke pre-school. How fantastic is that! » NEWS FROM THE E&C – page 18 for what's next



Letter from India Crettenden, aged 8

I am a pupil at Eyke School. I am the fourth generation of my family that has attended this school: my great grandmother Mrs Gladys McGennis...my grandmother Mrs Dianne Richardson...my mother Mrs Benita Crittenden...and myself India Crittenden.

An afternoon of light music and words

I am arranging an afternoon of light music & readings performed by local people on Sunday 9 January 2011 in aid of Cystic Fibrosis, which my twin granddaughters suffer from, in the Abbey School, Woodbridge, (including David Ashton on his piano accordion who used to play in the family band at Eyke fetes) at 3pm with afternoon tea & homemade cakes. Admission by ticket only, £10, from Anna Ashton 01394 384 299.

Oaty Fruit Crunch Maria Hassan



It is a real treat when then children first eat this pudding convincing themselves that they won't like it (after all it has fruit and oats!), sometimes takes a bit of persuasion just to get them to even taste a mouthful. I do allow myself a little smile however when the next time its on the menu they tell the child next to them it's delicious and they really should try it!

Ingredients

200g margarine or butter

200g plain flour

200g sugar (brown if preferred)

200g oats

250g fruit pie filling

Condensed milk

Combine all ingredients except fruit pie filling together. With 2/3 the oaty mixture line a flan type dish, then cover with the fruit pie filling. Use remaining oaty mixture to cover. Cook at 190°C for 30 minutes. Serve with custard, delicious.

Next time Sticky and Sweet Chicken Noodles

Eyke Street in 1920



In the early 1920s Eyke Street was grey and dusty; the traffic, which was mostly connected directly or indirectly with the village itself, moved at the speed of a walking horse. A few people rode bicycles and an occasional car made its appearance. Later the road was tarred and the Eastern Counties began a regular bus service. It was possible for people to stand in the street and exchange news and views without the danger of being knocked down or deafened. Children played in the street with marbles, tops, skipping ropes and hoops; they kicked or threw balls and played hopscotch.

Many horsedrawn carts and delivery vans passed along the street as it was possible to have everything delivered except milk. The regular appearance of the brewer's dray with its load of barrels, drawn by two shire horses, was of consuming interest to some members of the community. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings a carrier's cart passed through the village on its way to Woodbridge, returning in the late afternoon. Waggon, carts, tumbrils, as well as agricultural

machinery such as ploughs, drills, harrows, reapers and binders passed to and fro between farm and field according to the season.

From autumn onwards the occasional traction engine, pulling a threshing machine, would proceed ponderously towards one of the farms, belching smoke and its firebox glowing menacingly, a somewhat terrifying sight in the fading light of a late afternoon.

There was much activity in the latter part of the afternoon. It was then that people, chiefly children, could be seen making their way to Church Farm to collect milk in cans, twopence a pint in summer, twopence ha'penny in winter. Sometimes children loitered on the way and some would demonstrate their skills by swinging a can containing milk round and round overhead; usually the milk remained in the can – but sometimes it did not. From May until October, at this time of the day and also in the morning, two herds of cows would meander along the street on their way to and from the common and the meadows. These were leisurely though somewhat dusty





processions, but a little later a much more exciting moment took place when the farm horses went to the meadows. The usual procedure was for the horseman to ride on one horse, while the rest ran free; these animals, though tired after a long day's work were happy to be heading towards the meadows and didn't exactly dawdle on the way, a somewhat daunting sight for a young child who happened to meet them.

Sink Farm was a stud farm for Suffolk Punches and one of the magnificent sights to be seen in the street was the groom walking the stallion, a powerful mettlesome animal who would prance and sidestep on any pretext, real or imaginary. In contrast to this grand sight a sad, shivering, muddied, bedraggled animal could sometimes be seen followed by men with ropes. This poor creature had been rescued from a ditch in which it had got stuck in the mud. According to the men most concerned, this always happened on a Sunday.

Every Saturday the roadman appeared in the street with his barrow, brooms and shovels. Throughout the week he had worked on other roads and lanes but every Saturday he tidied the street ready for Sunday. * **Extract from *Suffolk Within Living Memory* compiled by Suffolk Federations of Women's Institutes and published in 1994 by Countryside Books**

Age UK gets set for Christmas Spectacular

Age UK Suffolk has been chosen to be the beneficiary of the next production of a Christmas Spectacular on Saturday 4th December, by the long established theatre group 4Seasons. The matinee and evening performance of the Christmas Spectacular will bring together many pro-am performers for a variety concert showpiece at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge.

4Seasons theatre group is the brainchild of founder, producer and director Edward Colthorpe who has created a string of hit shows throughout East Anglia including musicals, pantomimes and Gang shows. The theatre group has always supported charities and worthy causes with its productions and this year it will be the turn of Age UK Suffolk – the recently renamed Age Concern Suffolk – which is a charity dedicated to providing services for local older people and helping people enjoy later life to the full.

Edward has pulled together an impressive cast of talent for the Christmas Spectacular including Robert Castellani, Anna Panacaldi, The Bam Bam Boogies, Rebecca Newman, and the Julian Ochwat Quartet will perform an excerpt from *La Boheme*. Musical Director Matt Randall will lead the orchestra with a blend of solo and group acts, and extracts from modern musicals and modern dance performances.

Tickets cost £12.50 (£11 concessions) and can be booked through the Wolsey Theatre Box Office online or by calling directly on 01473 295900. Shows are on Saturday, 4th December at 2.30 & 7.30pm. Age UK Suffolk is the new name for Age Concern Suffolk which is a local independent charity with a range of services all around the county for older people and their family carers, including information and help centres, benefits advisors, befriending services, independence advisors, support for people with dementia and day centres. *

MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS

Stuart Downing

In October 1947 I was assistant purser on the MV *Durban Castle* bound from Cape Town to Southampton. Travelling on board was the 21-year-old South African actress Gay Gibson, hoping to find fame and fortune on the London stage.

One morning while sailing in the South Atlantic her cabin steward went to wake her with her usual morning tea, only to find the cabin empty. A thorough search of the ship was made and the captain ordered the *Durban Castle* to be turned round and a search of the ocean to be made in case she had fallen overboard.

The ship's crew and those passengers familiar with Gay Gibson were questioned. It transpired that she was last seen at 1am leaning against the ship's rail smoking a cigarette. Also, that she was known to be

friendly with the smoke-room steward 31 year old James Camb who had been seen the previous night in her cabin. When Camb was examined by the ship's surgeon he was found to have scratches on his wrist and shoulder.

Having already been alerted, the police came aboard on the *Durban Castle's* arrival at Southampton to question crew and passengers. Despite the evidence against him James Camb vehemently denied having been in Gay Gibson's cabin or having murdered her. He was arrested on suspicion of murder and during his trial confessed to having murdered the actress.

"I confess it sounds very foolish but I hoped to give the impression that she had fallen overboard and deny all knowledge of having been in that cabin in the hope that the captain's further inquiries would not be too severe."

The porthole was just short of 16 inches in diameter (41cm), but right above the bed.

"I lifted her up to a sitting position and then lifted her with my hands just above her hips to the porthole and pushed her arms through and then her head," he explained.

Next, he pushed her body and legs through. She hit the water, some 25 feet (eight metres) below, with a loud splash.

"I was sure nobody could have heard the splash. The ship's motion gives a certain amount of backwash and the initial wave of the bow cutting through the sea washes back past the ship and creates a suction noise," he said.

Gay Gibson's body was never found. James Camb was sentenced to hang but cheated the gallows as a non-hanging bill was being discussed in parliament. His sentence was commuted to life. ❁



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Glorious gardening!

Clive Boot

Short days and long nights not only curtail the activity of plants but of gardeners, and even then work out of doors is subject to the weather!

December is often a time for thinking rather than doing – an ideal time to reflect on the previous growing year, but also to make plans for improvement in the year ahead. One of my aims is to sow more seed variety (I use seed catalogues usually Plant World Seeds, whose web site and catalogue has a huge range and variety of plants and vegetables.) I also need to be patient, for whilst some seedlings appear in a few days others may take several months or even a year or more! So DO NOT throw the seed tray away!

As the day lengthens, the cold strengthens and we can expect frosts in January and February. But frost is an excellent soil conditioner, pushing soil particles apart in clods on freezing so that they break up into smaller crumbs, which can be more easily worked after thawing into a fine surface tilth for sowing.

However check on over-wintering biennials such as wallflowers, stocks and sweet Williams that may have lifted during frosty weather. We do have occasional milder, sunny weather at this time of year so make good use of any congenial days to finish winter pruning, dig and work in organic manure in new flower borders and shrub planting stations and as I suggested in the last edition spread a blood, fish and bone or plain bone-meal fertiliser under the mulch on herbaceous borders

Few flowers will be in bloom over the winter

although the first flowers of the large snowdrop *Galanthus elwesii* will begin to show in sheltered spots and other bulbs and corms will be breaking the soil.

Protect the growing tips from slugs and snails with bait pellets in mild, damp spells of weather. Clear peony crowns and hardy fuchsias of dead stems and foliage and cover with a handful of peat through which the new growth will break clean in spring.

If the weather remains open new roses may be planted proving the soil is friable and well prepared and I encourage winter pruning of bush roses especially if your plants suffers from blackspot and mildew. Prune growths carrying late buds or hips cutting back by one-half their length, remembering to rake up all fallen foliage, detach old, off colour leaves on the plants and burn if possible.

Only very severe frost or snowfall need stop you planting deciduous shrubs and trees and if you need further encouragement look into next-door's garden and admire the witch hazel, hybrid bush honeysuckle and winter jasmine amongst others that will likely be in full bloom and sloshing perfume about when the thermometer is yo-yoing at an alarming rate and most insects are sound asleep.

Viburnum x bodnantense is a mainstay of many winter gardens and one of my favourites is *Prunus um e*, in its variety 'Benichidori' a February flowering tree so little known in this country.

Hedges can also be planted in milder weather and don't forget to rake out the bottoms of established hedges to expose over wintering insect grubs and parasites to birds. Finally, despite its reputation, February generally has more dry days than wet, so pick your moment to get out and enjoy the winter garden. ❄️ **Old Adam**



December is often a time for thinking rather than doing



World of Art

I seem to have been painting all my life. I grew up in (what was then) West Yorkshire, painting only in watercolours during those early days, moving to Guernsey in the late 1960s where I lived and painted for nearly thirty years during which time I painted in France, Germany and Greece. During this time my work included pen and ink, oils, watercolours and pastels.

It was in Guernsey that I met and married Canda, who had moved to the island following her parents who had retired back there in the early 1980s.

Although both Guernsey born, they had lived for many years in Suffolk where Canda was born and where she and her brother

were both brought up.

Following my early retirement, we moved to Suffolk in 1995 and good fortune saw to it that we settled in Low Road, Eyke. This

proved to be the best move we ever made.

Canda was happy to be reunited with her roots and childhood friends I had a whole new world to explore!

I now paint almost exclusively in oils and I never tire of the inspiring Suffolk landscape.

I work from my studio in Bruisyard where I also teach painting (currently on three mornings a week) and hold a number of painting workshops through the summer months. Each year I put on a major exhibition at various venues, the next one being in Aldeburgh next August. I also

I love what I do and I love where we live with our three cars, two Labradors and two horses



undertake the occasional commission.

Over the years my work has found its way all over the world – America, New Zealand, Germany, France and the Channel Islands, where my work was commissioned by some international companies. Now, however, most, if not all, of my recent work has been collected by people living in Suffolk or with Suffolk connections.

I love what I do and I love where we live with our three cats (one with one eye and one with three legs) two Labradors and two horses. When the mood takes me (and if I

have earned enough brownie points at home) I do sometimes take off in my red 2CV and camping trailer to paint elsewhere in England – and take in a little fly fishing for trout.

So, you see, an artist's life is to be thoroughly recommended! ❄️

Stuart Atkinson

Stuart runs a 10-week art course (£120 per student) at his studio. For more details contact Stuart on 01394 460 721, mobile 07787 862 659 or go to his website www.atkinsonpaintings.co.uk

How did I end up here? Part 3

I just want to correct the Editor's [actually the designer's!] error in Issue 2. My wife is not a Suffolk lass; she was born in Scotland and spent her formative years in Norfolk & Essex (how sad), albeit only just across the border in Mistley near Manningtree. She wanted me to clarify that before I continued my story.

RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge was a unique place. It was the largest tactical fighter wing in Europe and was home in the 60s and 70s to four fighter squadrons. The 78th (based at RAF Woodbridge), 91st and 92nd squadrons were assigned to the host unit, the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, while the 79th squadron (flying F100s) based at RAF Woodbridge was actually assigned to the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing based at RAF Wethersfield near Braintree in Essex. Why? I don't know, something to do with NATO deployment at the time.

During my first tour at Bentwaters I was in charge of the Air Police Investigations Branch and worked closely with the Eyke village constable Laurie Betts and the then East Suffolk Constabulary. The Elephant & Castle was a thriving public house at that time under the management/ ownership, if memory serves me correctly, of Les Wallace. It was a great pub and frequented by the lads from the base. Of course back then our on-base clubs seemed to be a magnet to some of the young ladies in the area.

As a military policeman I had to deal with many incidents, both on and off base, where USAF personnel were involved. Some were quite humorous. One local lady was concerned that her daughter was being led astray by an airman because she was going to the club on base on weekends and sometimes did not get home until the following day. She was worried about where she had stayed the night!! What she thought

I, as a policeman could do about this, I have no idea. In the interests of Anglo-American relations of course I was obliged to visit her and listen to her complaint, but did not offer any suggestions as to her daughter's possible 'sleeping arrangements'. Many Saturday/ Sunday mornings you could see young ladies walking along the road from the base, high heel shoes in hand, trying to thumb a lift to wherever they happened to be going.

Hardly a weekend passed that the Airmen's Club did not have a good British rock group playing and there was always plenty of lively activity. I suppose the girls thought that was a better bet than trying to get into the few night clubs there were in Ipswich at the time. Generally, most weekend entertainment on base passed without any trouble. As a Law Enforcement Officer one of my major civilian complaints was the traffic through local villages, (as discussed in my last article), mainly Eyke & Tunstall.

The Base Commander implemented 'staggered' duty hours so the volume of traffic was decreased when personnel were reporting for duty and when their shift ended. This helped, but the problem of speeding through the villages, even with the help of the local constabulary, continued. So, you see nothing has changed really – we still have this traffic problem today even though the Americans are gone. So, what is the answer? Warning signs, GATSOS, police presence every day (you'll be lucky) – these are only effective for about the first ten minutes - then after all the 'light-flashing', thumbs down gestures by other motorists the traffic suddenly becomes funeral procession speed. This is true – ask any police officer – he/she will tell you the same! I'm afraid it is a sign of the times and we have to learn to live with it. ❄️

Ken Cook

SPRATT STREET

Ian Morrisson

Spratt Street seems to be the forgotten part of Eyke – few residents of Eyke are even aware of its existence. Spratt Street is a place and not the name of a road



IMAGE GOOGLE MAPS

It lies in the Parish of Eyke and is a small hamlet comprising a few houses in the area of Hollesley Road and the B.1084 Orford Road.

The area around Spratt Street was originally owned by Baron Rendlesham and the Rendlesham Estate. This accounts for the fact that some of the houses have numbers 164 - 170 plus. The numbers referred to properties on Rendlesham Estate and not numbered as on a road. They have no significance today.

On 31st March 1925, a large parcel of land and houses was sold by The Right Honourable Frederick Archibald Charles Baron Rendlesham to the Forestry Commissioners at a cost of £10,500, this included what appears to be £5,100 for the houses in Spratt Street and Friday Street.

Most of the village of Eyke was part of the Rendlesham Estate until it was sold in the 1920s. There were six distinct farms and several small holdings.

In the 1970s the houses were purchased from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and are now privately owned.

The name Spratt Street is somewhat obscure. There are two possible theories for the name. The first being that a man called Spratt lived in the area. He later moved to Lowestoft. The other being that a smoke house existed in the area of Spratt's End. The traders would bring sprats from Butley Creek for smoking prior to going to market.

There is a clay pond in the area where clay was apparently obtained for pottery, the only reminder is the names of three properties, Claypond Bungalows 1 & 2 and Claypond Cottage.

In the 1920s there was a Spratt Street Mission Room where Archdeacon Darling used to conduct services for people of Spratt Street who found it difficult to get to Church. The house is now called Whispering Pines.

Spratt's End and Spratt Cottage date back to the early 1600s. ❄

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Ann's Corner: the Westminster years



Ann continues her tales of nursing, which began in 1951...

Having completed three years of children's nursing training my friend Mildred Beech and I decided to go to the

Westminster Hospital in London to do our two years general training. We applied to the matron and were accepted.

We were to be billeted in a mansion in Ashley Gardens, not far from Westminster cathedral and it was a day in June when we entered our accommodation for the first time. My bedroom was just like a horsebox. I know exactly how small it was because I had my long, black umbrella with me at the time – ideal for measuring! The room was two umbrellas wide (including the bed) and three umbrellas long. It was so small that there was insufficient space for an opening door so a sliding door had been installed instead – a sliding door that made a hell of a noise when opened and shut. Breakfast was always early then at 7.30am a coach arrived to take us to Westminster hospital – invariably with a piece of toast hanging from our mouths. Our uniform was a pink dress, black stockings (steady boys!), a black cape and a bonnet that looked just like the one Salvation Army ladies wear.



At the hospital in Horseferry Road we all assembled in the main hall where night sister stood with the register of nurses who should be on duty that morning – God help you if you were late! We then walked up the main staircase to a corridor with wards off to the right hand side. Duty number one was to pull out all the beds so that the cleaners could mop behind (a far cry from today). After the night staff left day staff would be given the report. Discipline was strict and if a nurse had entered something on a chart sloppily – a blood pressure reading for

example – sister would make her do the whole chart again. You never argued.

After six months in the horse box I was allowed to move out of the nurse's home to find my own accommodation. My friend Mildred Beech and I found just the right place in Pimlico.

There were many odd incidents at Westminster hospital – for example, I always smiled when I saw

the sign DEAD SLOW outside the back of the hospital, close to the mortuary.

On another occasion I was on duty alone in Casualty when sister phoned me from the canteen and asked me to take fish and chips to the Whaler in the mortuary. I had visions of a man in yellow oilies and a sou'wester, what could he be doing? It turned out to be a Jewish gentleman wailing his prayers! ❄️

Ann Downing



» **EVENTS** Meetings of the Parish Council are held at the Village Hall and all are welcome to come along. You can read minutes from previous meetings and future agendas by visiting the Eyke village web site at www.eykevillage.co.uk – just click Parish News

Peggy and Jim Pearce's memories of Eyke

Peggy and Jim Pearce moved into 198, The Street when they married in 1962. At that time there were two cottages and the blacksmith's forge. In 1970 they converted the two cottages into one family home. Peggy began working full time at Eyke Stores in 1968 and remained there until 1971 when she started her family. She went back part time until the shop changed hands in 1997.

Peggy remembers Eyke when it had two village stores, the other being Kemp's, situated to one side of Two Gates.

"Mr. and Mrs. Kemp had a thriving business,' she told me. 'It was really convenient because you could give them your weekly grocery order in the morning and it would be ready for you later that day. We also had a fish van that called, as well as a butcher and baker.'" Kemp's stores closed in the 1970s.

Peggy remembers that in those days newspapers were delivered from Campsey Ash to the Magennis family home in The Street. The Magennis boys cycled as far out as Rendlesham to deliver them.

Ted and Sue Allum took on Eyke Stores in the late 50s after marrying later in life. Mrs Allum was a strong lady – both physically and mentally. She had previously worked with cattle on a farm so did most of the heavy lifting. The shop sold everything – food, candles even children's underclothes. It was central to village life – the place to meet as well as buy your everyday requirements. Ted Allum was keen to retire at 65 and take it easy but Mrs Allum would not hear of it, the shop was her life. Sadly, Mr Allum died only a year or two later.



"That was the start of Mrs Allum going downhill," Peggy says. "Then she was attacked in the shop while asleep over the counter. Thieves came in and hit her across the back of her head and stole money from the post office and till. Mrs Allum was dangerously ill in hospital for some time. She had a huge scar on her head and was never the same again. She often forgot to lock the shop so the police would knock in the middle of



the night reminding her to do so.

Clearly, Mrs Allum was quite a character in the village as she organised bingo in the village hall on Saturday nights, with people coming from as far as Martlesham to take part. She was a keen table tennis player and rounded up the local lads to play in tournaments and the local league. When the US base closed she began delivering the newspapers herself, driving all over Eyke and further afield. When she became less able it was suggested that she gave up the paper round but she refused saying it was the only way she could check on the old people.

Sue Allum passed away in 1997 and the shop was taken over by Janis and Colin Davis. "It's very different from Mrs Allum's day," Peggy says. "But it's a wonderful shop, you can get anything you want, Janis and Colin have done wonders with it."

I think we all agree with that! ❁

Building blocks of Society

Rev. Janice Leaver

“Most people are part of a family. Families may all look and act very differently from one another. They may have different sizes, structures, cultures, lifestyles and ways of interacting. Family members may not all live under one roof and some may get on better with each other than others. Yet all families have one thing in common: they are perhaps the smallest, but most important, building blocks of society.” (www.themothersunion.org) There is a worldwide organisation which promotes the well-being of families, locally, nationally and internationally. The Christian faith underpins everything it sets out to do through a diverse range of programmes to meet the needs of the local

community, and through policy-making at every level. Whilst ‘the Church’ aims to fulfil these goals amongst many others, Mothers’ Union sole aim and purpose is “to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms”. Is there any community anywhere which would not benefit from more nurturing of the family? What about this community? Yes, the name is off-putting and out of date, but here are the facts: men and women of any age, married or not, parent or not; anyone who is baptised and believes in the importance of family life (is there anyone who doesn’t?) is welcome to be part of Mothers’ Union. It doesn’t matter if you don’t currently attend church. An information session for anyone interested will take place early in the New Year – watch this space. Look out for the MU contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival, 3-5 December, taking place in the five churches of the cluster. And in the run-up to Christmas, which can be a prime-time for family stress, let’s be mindful that our own families are the building blocks of this society.



dates for the church



Fri 3-Sun 5 Dec
Christmas Tree Festival. All five churches open days

from 1pm- 5pm. £2 entry (accompanied children free)
Sun 5 Dec, 9am Holy Communion among the trees
Sun 19 Dec, 9am Holy Communion
Friday 24 Dec, Christmas Eve, 5pm Crib Service
Sat 25 Dec, Christmas Day, 9am Holy Communion
Sun 26 Dec, Boxing Day, 10am United Cluster Service at St. George’s Rendlesham

The Revd. Janice Leaver, The Vicarage, 11 Walnut Tree Avenue, Rendlesham IP12 2GG. Tel: 01394 460 547; revdjlleaver@googlemail.com

Useful numbers

SCDC
 General enquiries 383789
 Refuse and recycling 444000
 Planning enquiries 444403
 Council tax enquiries 444855
Rhona Sturrock
 District councillor 411082
Rosemary Clarke
 County councillor 412178
Suffolk County Council
 08456 066 067
Suffolk Police - non-urgent
 01473 613 500

Community Police Officer
 Andy Warne
 01473 613 500
Gas emergencies
 0800 111 999
Village hall bookings Mike Fisher
 01394 460 494
Eyke school 460328
Pre-school enquiries
 01394 420 654
Rev. Janice Leaver 01394 460 547
Church warden
 Mike Fisher
 01394 460 494
Mobile library 07736 007 604

Look again at Eyke Church

Roy Tricker, retired head of RE at Copleston High School and a keen historian, visited Eyke Church on 3 October this year to provide some fascinating insight into All Saints. Roy has been described as a crusading church crawler and those fortunate enough to hear his talk were treated to a vivid hour of history, architectural pedigree and marvellous snippets of information that left the audience feeling much the wiser



As you know, Eyke is fortunate to have a school, shop, pub and church and All Saints is by far the oldest building in the village.

Originating in the 1100s, it was built by hand as a classic Norman cruciform structure – the layout of the building being in the shape of the cross.

Norman life was rich in the use of symbolism and in those times when few could read or write it was entirely appropriate that the design of a place where “heaven and earth meet” should, in outline, be so cruciform.

This use of symbolism followed through with the Church Key being designed so that it spells IKE (Eyke) when viewed side on. The original key now resides in the British Museum but a copy hangs on the wall of the church.

By the 1300s the church building of All Saints, no doubt following extensive deliberations with Suffolk Coastal District Council Planning Department, had grown somewhat. The nave had grown bigger and a rood loft been built. A classic feature of churches of the time, the rood would be a life size (or bigger) figure of Jesus Christ and the rood loft would be resplendent with many candles. They all needed lighting and if you look to the right of the central of the church you will see where the steps were installed to access the loft.

The 1400s saw the installation of the

structure that is still the current roof. With an agility many would envy, Roy Tricker lay down in front of the font, gazed up at the roof beams and waxed lyrical about the design and shape.

Fashioned in the same style as the hull of a medieval ship, the beams are a testament to the craftsmanship that went into so many aspects of the church building and are beautiful.

The Reformation came and went, All Saints retained its rood loft – there are less than a dozen left now, out of 10,000 churches.

The Victorians did much for the windows and Archdeacon Darling who lived in the village

and was a master woodcarver toiled equally hard to enhance and embellish the interior of the building. His carvings are visible throughout All Saints and his skills widely acknowledged.

Come and have a look at All Saints. There are many gems but how about.....

- The Mass sundial at the smaller priest’s door, further along from the main church door. Place a stick in the hole and you will swiftly understand how the priest knew when it was time to hold Mass; sunshine permitting of course.

- The roof. Lie down and enjoy.

- Archdeacon Darling’s carvings. The font canopy and figurines on the pews are lovely.

Do go and have a look. All Saints is open every day. ❄️ **Simon Sutch**



Image by kind permission of Adrian S Pye

News from the Elephant & Castle



Well here we are three months down the line and things are starting to take shape. It's great to see people using and enjoying the pub, it makes all the hard work worthwhile. As you may be aware we haven't started serving food yet as we have come across a few small problems in the kitchen which have to be put right to bring it up to commercial standards. However, we are hoping to start offering meals ASAP and hope you will all join us to enjoy some good home-cooked food. We will be serving traditional dishes such as beef stew, liver and bacon, fish and chips and Sunday roasts as well as other great favourites – so keep your eyes on the boards outside the pub for further details.

Many of you will already know that we ran a pub card to raffle off a bottle of wine and pate gift set. Thanks to all who took part we managed to raise £40 for the village hall.

Thanks as well to all that came to the Psychic night as, alongside the staff of the pre-school, we managed to raise £255 for them. Looking forward to next year – we will be holding more fundraising events as well as celebrating occasions like St Georges day, Valentines day, St Patrick's day, etc. We look forward to seeing you.

Over the Christmas period we will be open



as usual except for Christmas day when we will open from 12pm until 2pm for drinks only – then back to normal. We will put our opening times on the board outside for all to see. Also, watch the board for New Years Eve plans! We are also really delighted at the success of our coffee mornings, so much so that we are now opening on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 12.00 noon for coffee, tea and hot chocolate, along with some yummy cake. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that you are all enjoying the village pub as much as we are enjoying being here. ❄️

John, Karena, Jake and Tifny



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All Saint's Church Harvest Supper & Gift Day Saturday 2nd October



The PCC works like a well-oiled machine when it comes to the Harvest Celebrations. Sixty-four people packed into the village hall to enjoy our traditional supper which was as always a great success raising £434 towards Church funds. Many thanks to Mike Fisher for printing tickets and flyers, Jean Magennis and Lynda Foster for delicious jacket

potatoes and apple pies, Gerry Fisher veggie option and peas. Sandy Sutch for the beef casserole, the PCC and non PCC members who also provided delicious apple pies and Mervyn for a very professional and enjoyable raffle. The Annual Gift Day raised £376 which will be put to good use keeping the Church and Churchyard in good order for all to enjoy. A very big thank-you to you all. **Sandy Sutch, Hon Treasurer Eyke PCC**

Volunteers and contributions to
Ron Cushing, 195 The Street,
Eyke 01394 460 775
insideeyke@hotmail.co.uk
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Printing Gipping Press

Any Old Iron

Mervyn Whitmore, one of the elders of the village, is looking for any disused washing machines, spin dryers tumble dryers etc. He will collect from you, free of charge and then he takes them apart and recycles them, with the proceeds going to charity: Each Treehouse Appeal, East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Contact Mervyn at No 6 Church Lane or telephone 01394 460 491

