



India calling

Eyke reaches out to an truly inspirational school



Look Hoo has come alive

Time to visit the ancient site



Squish those beetles

Gardening without the fuss

inside eyke

ISSUE 5 SUMMER 2011



Revved up

A blast from the past

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EDITOR'S letter

Planning No. C10/3239 for 'Change of use of buildings and moving a section of fence' may sound fairly innocuous but with documents of some 1000 pages this is a very serious application that will have irrevocable effects on the village of Eyke.

A meeting was held on the 20 April at Suffolk Coastal District Council Chambers to discuss some of the issues. Four of your Parish Councillors attended the meeting – Canda Atkinson, Isabelle Abu-Hejleh, Mervin Whitmore and me. The meeting was well chaired and appeared to be constructive. We were pleasantly surprised that SCDC planners seemed to be listening to us – but listening is one thing, doing is another!

What became very clear was that the Traffic Assessment, which is an integral part of the Bentwaters Master Plan, is woefully inadequate and is not fit for purpose.

The planning statement states that a planning application is soon to be made for a Waste Transfer Station. However no traffic generation factors have been included in the Traffic Assessment for a Waste Transfer Station.

No traffic generation factors have been included for the Cold War Museum for which the owners have planning permission to operate seven days per week – not forgetting that the Cold War Museum is continuing to develop and expand with a view to increasing tourism in the area.

There are no traffic figures for the Power Station which will generate some 54,000 tonnes of materials going into and out of Bentwaters.

Furthermore there is no mention of traffic generation figures for Phase 2 of Bentwaters Parks.

The Bentwaters Parks Traffic Assessment is

little more than a traffic statement based on assumptions and two days of observations. This is not acceptable. Whether to deliberately mislead or by simple forgetfulness vital traffic figures have been left out. Questions must be asked of Suffolk County Council Highways and SCDC who do not seem to be picking up on these important issues.

Such is the concern over this 'traffic assessment' that Eyke Parish Council have appointed TMS Consultancy to carry out an independent traffic assessment on the Bentwaters Parks application so that open and honest facts

of the realities of this application can be appreciated.

Hours of operations at Bentwaters are to be considered however these must be sensible for both the village and the operators at the site. We are not against reasonable development at Bentwaters but it has to be balanced, taking into account the limitations of the existing infrastructure, the effects of traffic on the village, the difficulty of exiting Castle Hill and Creasy Hill, plus the very real fact that in part of the village pedestrians have to walk in the road with the traffic!

Elsewhere...

Inside Eyke is one year old and has been a great success, and for this thanks must go to a small band of dedicated folk which includes Isabelle Abu-Hejleh, Katy Bell, Judy Clements, Clive Boot and those who have contributed articles with little or no arm twisting – Ann Downing, Ken Cook, Simon Sutch and others without whom there would be no magazine.

But we do need people to give us their ideas, suggestions, articles and stories if the magazine is to continue so please help us to keep it going.

Send articles to 195 The Street, Eyke or email to insideeyke@hotmail.co.uk ✨

Dear Editor

Firstly, may I congratulate you and your team on the production *Inside Eyke*. I hope everyone in the village enjoys it as much as we do. As relative newcomers, we find all the articles on Eyke's past extremely interesting.

I have recently been pondering the future of the recreation ground. I was wondering if, through the magazine, we could promote a debate in the village over its use. I have heard several suggestions including: an adventure playground, allotments, an obstacle course for dogs, BMX track, reinstatement of the annual cricket match (some levelling would have to be done to prevent twisted ankles!), and mini football pitch. Is there any interest in this subject? What does the Parish Council feel is the future for that area?

I think *Inside Eyke* might be a useful medium for villagers to air their opinions on various topics.

So come on Eykians – use your magazine!

Jenny Groom

David Houchell

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Eyke Primary School Community Lunch 16 June 2011



Following the success of Mother's Day and Easter lunches, which saw Maria Hassan serving over 250 lunches over two days, Eyke Primary school and Maria would now like to invite members of the community to join them for lunch on Thursday 16 June at 12 noon. The menu is as follows:

Roast Lamb with Yorkshire pudding or Vegetable bake
Roast potatoes, cauliflower and carrots.
Salad selection
Vanilla and chocolate marbled sponge served with chocolate sauce or fruit

The cost of the meal is £3.17 and can be booked by calling 01394 460 328 or popping into the school (please book by 13 June). They would really love to see as many of people as possible so go along and have a fantastic nosh.

Eyke CEVC Primary School: Dinner Lady required

Do you enjoy working inside and outside? Do you have 3 hours spare a week? Do you enjoy working with children? We need a 'dinner lady', MDSA to join our team on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime. Lunchtime is a very important time for our children as it is the time when they can relax and play with friends. Good supervision and help is vital for success, when children have a good lunch break they are able to learn better in the afternoon, so we really value the work our MDSAs do for our children. If this sounds like something you would like to do to support your local primary school please contact me on 01394 460328 or drop in to school to pick up an application pack. All posts where adults have access to children are subject to pre-employment CRB checks.

Mrs Wendy Kelway, Headteacher

Save the date! Village Fete 17 July 2011



The Fete this year will be held on the 17 July and thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Brigginsshaw family will, once again, be held in the Old Rectory Garden at 2.30pm.

All the old favourites will be there including, Cake, Produce and White Elephant stalls, Teas, a Barbecue, Tombola and other games of skill and chance. There will be Live Music and a Bouncy Castle for the smaller children.

Mervyn Whitmore will be looking after the Grand Summer Draw, tickets for which will be available in late May. If you can sell some of these away from the village it would be a great way of boosting funds which, again this year, will be shared between the Village Hall and the Church.

If any one has any fresh ideas please let me know and we will do our best to incorporate them. **Mike Fisher 01394 460 494**



» **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

Have you checked out Eyke and the surrounding areas on the BBC's Domesday Reloaded project? In 1986 the BBC published the Domesday Project with over one million people contributing to a digital snapshot of the country, which is now online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday>

Syrup and Cornflake Tart

Maria Hassan



After an absence of several years this delicious pudding is back on the menu in Suffolk schools,

It was on the menu yesterday served with strawberry sauce, smiles and requests for seconds confirmed it is as popular as ever.

Ingredients

150g butter or margarine
300g self raising flour
Cold water approx 40ml
150g golden syrup
100g cornflakes
50g margarine or butter
150g raspberry jam

Make up the pastry and line a tart tin. Prick pastry and bake cases blind for approx 20 minutes on gas 6 or 180c. Melt the butter and syrup and stir in the cornflakes. Spread a thin layer of jam over the pastry case and place cornflake mixture on top Return the tarts to the oven for 5 mins to allow mixture to set. Serve warm with custard or ice cream.



Jim Pearce's '59 Chevy

What other car can be recognised as quickly as the '59 Chevy?

Batwings, cat-eye tail lights and brows over the headlights are all part of the last car designed for GM by Harley Earl.

One thing about the '59 Chevy is that it demands attention. Chevrolets are loved the world over – indeed songs have been written about them to prove it, such as Billy Jo Spears '57 Chevrolet.

Many of us living in Eyke will have seen Jim Pearce driving his pillar-box red, 4-door 1959 Chevrolet Impala sedan along The Street, so it is no surprise to hear that Jim is very proud of his too.

The Chevrolet Impala has a V8 4.6 litre engine with 283 cubic inches and a rating of 185-290hp. It weighs 3,620 pounds and has a top speed of 130 mph. There were 65,800 Impalas built, costing US\$2,693 at the time.

They are now a collector's item and very much sought after, commanding high prices.

Jim talked about his car saying "the car was imported from the USA as a wreck and fully restored by Eric Kinnard from Sudbury. It took him four years to complete. Two years ago I purchased the car from Eric as seen.

"Since having the car Peggy and I have been to several car shows around the counties and the car always gets lots of attention from the public and the photos taken are very popular. The Chevy is also available for different occasions such as weddings and other events. I get great enjoyment from driving such a great car, every ride is a pleasure."*

Should you be interested in hiring Jim's Chevrolet, you can call him on 01394 460 700.



The Saxmundham Dance

We went to a dance at Saxmundham last week
In the rain, the hail, the snow and the sleet.
The dancing was good and we laughed a lot too
When my packet of Fybogel fell down the loo.
I plucked up courage and with calm dexterity
Retrieved the package from out of the lavatory.

We danced some more round and round the hall,
There were quicksteps and waltzes and that's not all.

Mary our caller was clear with instructions,
But we didn't listen and that caused ructions.
Some going this way and others that,
It's all very simple if you know what you're at.

At nine o'clock we stopped to rest,
John the quiz master put us to the test.
A couple of quizzes are fun for sure,
We'll win maybe next time when we know a bit more.

Time to dine, each took a plate,
Sandwiches, cakes, pies and biscuits we ate.
Whoops, there goes my New Year resolution,
Must take better care of my constitution.
Some kindly folk made the coffee and tea,
Cheers for them all one, two, three.

Won a good raffle prize, could hardly believe our eyes,
Two well used mugs and some tea out of date
That should have been ditched in 2008!

Back to the dancing, it's not serious stuff,
By then end of the evening we were all out of puff.

Mary said "I hope you're all pooped"
Claudette said "not quite, someone dropped their Fybogel down the loo.
We wished a safe journey home and said our good nights
And on the drive back put the world to rights.
Dave drove carefully through the snow
And got us all safely home you know.

Janette Stangoe, Williams Close



Tranmer House has also proved hugely popular with visitors of all ages since it was opened up last season. With the gramophone playing, magazines to read and furniture to relax on, everyone is made to feel welcome. If you haven't yet had the chance to make yourself at home in Mrs Pretty's beautiful residence then there are some exclusive opportunities this season to do so.

On May 22 you can be transported back in time to the 1930s and enjoy high tea and dancing in the drawing room. Or if you want to revel in the nostalgia of the 1940s why not come to our Wartime Weekend, Sat 11 – Sun 12 June and discover life on the home front

Experience Sutton Hoo in a different light

This year another exciting chapter in the story of the Sutton Hoo ship burial is unfolding – visitors will be taken on a journey back to the night of the great king's entombment. Since the Sutton Hoo exhibition first opened in 2001 visitors have been spectators to this fascinating phenomenon, viewing the spectacular recreation ship - and its fascinating contents - from afar.

Yet now, for the first time, visitors to Sutton Hoo will be able to experience the sights, sounds and smells of that fateful night as they pass through the impressive burial chamber by candlelight to pay their last respects to the king. With the crackling of the bonfire and the smell of wood-smoke in the air visitors will be transported back to AD 625.

The king, surrounded by his most prized possessions, is laid in state. Now you can be one of the privileged few to witness the mighty king before his incarceration and experience the atmosphere as he is laid to rest.



with live music, vintage cars, dancing, village games and tastings of wartime food.

Experience Sutton Hoo in a whole new way this year!

Call 01394 389 700 for general enquiries or 01394 389 714 if you are interested in upcoming events.

❖ **Martin Atkinson & Toria Morris**



Glorious gardening!

Clive Boot

A year has passed since we walked into the garden together and I hope you've enjoyed your garden as much as I have mine over the past 12 months. Perhaps you have been encouraged to introduce new plants and ideas though this is not easy in a drought!

It appears April in our region has been the driest and warmest since records began and at Wisley, Headquarters of The Royal Horticultural Society they've had the driest spring for over 40 years. The consequence is that everything is flowering about two weeks earlier than usual.

But let's take a look at clueless watering! where water, that precious commodity is often misused by many gardeners who kill new plants by either drowning them or letting them dry out too much, too often.

Over watering is one of the biggest mistakes in the garden. Obviously those who have already planted up tubs, pots with summer bedding (hopefully fully hardened off) will need to continually water – the East wind combined with sunshine has been very drying. Where bushes and shrubs are concerned, concentrate water on those planted within the last couple of years. Hopefully most of the others will survive the drought.

I mentioned in the Spring Edition how the climate affects our plants, but sometimes it's a simple question of wrong plant – wrong

place! Make sure you buy plants that fit the conditions in your garden and knowing whether they need sun or shade, dry or moist soil – and then providing those conditions will go a long way towards success.

One plant that detests dry sandy soil is Agapanthus, so they make good subjects for pots and tubs. Contrary to gardening folk law for optimum flowering they should not be pot-bound but they do like lashings of water (sorry!) and if brought into a heated porch or conservatory will continue growing through the winter

I have previously mentioned the damage of Scarlet Lily beetle, so it's reassuring that recent research suggests these beetles do have selective tastes. Not reassuring for me when I discovered damage to my garden lilies. However seven Scarlets were destroyed in a night-time raid! (The Editor's offering a prize for any claim exceeding this number!)



As the wisterias and camelias start to fade (haven't they been stunning this year!) they, along with the early flowering clematis can be trimmed to tidy.

If not already done so, it's time to cut down Penstemon and cutting back Choisya should enable a second flush of flower later in the year. I've already divided my Hosta into several pots (complete with copper strip to deter the slugs) and planted out some new Dahlias with masses of organic fertiliser and some really strong support.

I'm also a fan of Cosmos which comes in so many different types and sizes, flowers all summer and adds height and interest to the borders. It's also great as a cut flower! Go on buy a pack of seeds and sprinkle them in your favourite sunny spot. You could be amazed!

Finally, if the water butts are replenished give the Penstemon, Agapanthus and yet to flower Clematis a dose of Tomato fertiliser every two weeks. They'll love it! Happy summer gardening. ❖ **Old Adam**



Eyke Primary links with school in India

Ron (Cushing) and I recently returned from a four week trip to India, inspired by John Sargeant’s television series on the Indian railways. We also visited a charity school at the small town of Kalimpong in North East India which Ron’s sister Dorothy had championed along with her friend Annie Harris. A considerable sum of money was raised by them through St. Thomas’s Catholic Church in Woodbridge, allowing the school to come into existence. Sadly, Dorothy died four years ago so we wanted the opportunity of seeing the fruits of her labour.

Kalimpong is an old colonial town that lies in the state of West Bengal and is renowned for its educational institutions, children from all over India, as well as abroad, come to study there. However, in India education has to be paid for meaning that countless children do not have the opportunity to go to school. Many poor families don’t want their

children to be educated, considering them to be of more value working in the fields or caring for the family cows.

Fifteen years ago a young teacher called Praveena Agrawal (above left) met an English gap-year student from Woodbridge called Martin Punaks to whom she revealed her dream of opening a small charity school for the very poor children of Kalimpong. As the years passed the two kept in touch until one day Praveena contacted Martin to ask whether he knew anyone who might sponsor her school. Martin’s mother Angie approached members of St. Thomas’s Catholic Church, Woodbridge and the charity school started from there.

Initially Praveena held classes for four to six-year-olds in a room at her home but that proved unsatisfactory so she now rents three rooms in a small building just around the corner from her house, but this is only a temporary measure. All the students are

from very poor families – Praveena vets the families to ensure that the free places only go to deserving children. She encourages parents to put some money aside for their children’s future schooling as well as to appreciate how vital an education will be to their lives. At the school she employs three teachers and a helper, with lessons being taught in English. Uniforms are supplied where possible, being passed on to others as a child leaves. Books and writing materials are provided free of charge as well as a snack for each child before they start the long trek home at 12.30 pm. Some live many miles away, they come on foot with an adult who waits outside the school for the duration of lessons.

All this costs money, with the majority funding coming from the kind hearts of the parishioners of St. Thomas’s. It is a happy atmosphere in the school, with the children enjoying their time there. At the end of three years of basic education Praveena has the difficult job of weeding out the really bright kids for whom she looks for sponsors. Most sponsors come from the Woodbridge area. Each child requires around £200 each year to cover their school fees, uniforms, books and writing materials. Praveena already has the plans approved for three classrooms, toilets plus two guest rooms to be built in the grounds of her home. The guest rooms will be for gap-year students, donors, or for sponsors to be able to visit their children. They will be free of charge. She hopes that work on the permanent school will start later this year.

We spent five days living with the Agrawal family, all of whom are teachers and most

definitely philanthropists. You will always find a child sitting in their kitchen poring over homework or being helped by Praveena and her brother Peuwsch. Praveena puts much of her monthly salary into the charity school and all the family members sponsor children.

The good news is that, after discussions with the head teacher, Ann and Dorothy’s Charity School is to be linked with Eyke Primary School in an effort to bring better understanding between children in India and those in Eyke. Government policy is eager for schools to have links with schools in other countries.

Wendy Kelway, Headmistress of Eyke School, tells me that her Year 5 group will be starting this project off and then working on it next year when they are Year 6. She says “in terms of benefits for our children it extends their understanding of communities beyond their own. It helps them to appreciate the schooling they have and often take for granted. In addition it helps them to help others in a way that is not just about raising money – very often charity means only money raising to them - making links and learning about others is very important and costs very little.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to enhance our school and our learning”.

So it will be interesting to see how this project progresses – both in Eyke and in India. Should anyone be interested in sponsoring a child or even making a small donation to the project please ring me on 01394 460775 – I would love to talk to you. ❄️

Judy Clements

Eyke House Nazi plane mystery



story of how she was found hanging from the ceiling!

Margaret Darling reported how lucky it was that the plane hadn't landed in the village street. As it was, most homes suffered some damage with windows imploded.

What of the crew? Only one of them was found alive when villagers rushed to investigate. He was taken to Two Barns, the local Red Cross post, but died on the way to hospital.

At the time the whereabouts of the crash was kept secret – the papers simply said it was in a village with two rectories. It was not until recently when I read the newly published *Darlings of Eyke and Nimmos of Falkirk* (in which the image, left, appears) by a relative of the Darling family that I came across a fascinating footnote to the above. It was found in a newspaper cutting of 1958.

The incident was, at least for a time, one of the war's greatest mysteries, for it was discovered that the seaplane had been sent out on a mine-laying expedition and when it dropped into the vicarage garden it was over 200 miles off course. Royal Air Force officers examined the plane, but were completely baffled – quite unable to find the reason for the plane having gone so far astray in its mission, or any cause of the crash.

But a local police doctor at last solved the mystery, when he made a second examination of the dead pilot's body – if he had been content with his first examination the mystery would never have been solved. He found that the pilot had been shot in the back of the head with a .32 Walther pistol. His identity and that of the navigator were at last established and the significance of the shot became apparent when, in each man's pocket, an identical photograph of the same girl was found. ❀ **Isabelle Abu-Hejleh**

A very interesting message was recently sent to our village website. A Mr Frank Barlow had emailed to say that he had been billeted to a rectory in Eyke at the beginning of WW2. He recalled that a German plane had crashed in the garden next to where his pram usually stood. Luckily he and his mother had left two days earlier!

Many people in this village know the story of the Eyke plane crash. For those who don't – here it is. It is particularly interesting to me because I now live in the Old Rectory now called Eyke House

One night, at about 11.30 pm on 7 June, 1940, a German seaplane, possibly thinking it was over the sea on account of the mist on the meadows, bumped on the field below the garden and finally crashed at the bottom of the Old Rectory garden. A new rectory had just been built next door. The magnetic mine it was carrying exploded and blew the plane back over the hedge again.

The impact caused all the windows and some of the frames to be blown in and practically every door to be blown out. One of the late Rector's sons, Tom, was propelled down the corridor. The maid rushed into his mother, Nora Darling's room and said "Oh Mam" and put her leg through a hole in the floor, later to be extricated by Tom. Hence the

Focus on nature

I have long been a fan of Mark Twain who had a wonderful ability to impart wisdom into a very few words. There was one occasion when he elected to defend a land purchase policy by using advice reported to have been given to a nephew. He counselled the youth to "buy land young man, they've stopped making it." I wonder if Suffolk Coastal were listening?

A few years back, we were introduced to 'global warming' which quickly evolved into the arguably more accurate "climate change". Sadly, recent reports appeared to discredit all of that, through leaked e-mails, sceptics, forecasts of barbeque

summers/mild winters and the usual media frenzy when they sense the opportunity to criticise scientists or experts.

Although a recent BBC weather summary has stated April was the hottest for 350 years, the great risk is that a creeping apathy starts to develop. This must now be a concern when opinion polls tell us that up to 35% of people no longer think that the climate is changing.

The British Wildlife magazine had an article highlighting the activity of the UK Phenology Network which collates records

of the timing of more than 150 spring and autumn events. Some of these are as simple as the first leafing of Pedunculate Oak but when linked to other information, such as average temperatures, we can look back over many years and see trends that are important.

Weather varies enormously from year to year and that may be sufficient for those who wish to deny climate change.

The evidence, however, is overwhelmingly the other way when we are able to take a longer term view.

A one per cent increase in temperature can see our Oak leaf appear some eight or nine days earlier

days earlier, whilst temperature records for the last decade show average springtime temperatures to be almost one and half degrees warmer than 20 years ago with a definite upward trend involved.

Our wildlife is undoubtedly being affected but there are both winners as well as losers.

There are a mass of detailed long-term records that would take pages to communicate but I think that Mark Twain summed it up a long time ago by telling us that "climate is what we expect, but weather is what we get". ❀ **Branta**



Swarm collection

If you happen to come across any swarms of honey bees (here is a picture of one) please call local beekeeper Sandy Sutch on 01394 460 648 or 0773 310 5224. The end product, lovely Suffolk Honey, is also available.



Now & Then: Ufford Road Cottages

Tim & Ana Marr

I should start by coming clean: for years, I was never really that keen on Suffolk. I grew up in West Yorkshire, but my maternal grandparents lived near Beccles, and three or four times a year our family would go and stay with them.

Later my uncle and his family settled near Bungay, so I became even more familiar with the county, or at least that part of it. The trouble, of course, was that with typical teenage truculence I put up determined resistance to the subtle charms of East Anglia. I didn't know any anyone. I missed my friends, my electric guitar (I wasn't allowed to take it with me, of course) and a cultural and social life that revolved around such delights as punk and reggae gigs in Leeds and subterranean curry houses in Bradford. To me, Suffolk was the place where

Nothing Happened. In short, it was entirely wasted on me.

It was to be the best part of three decades before I realised the folly of my youthful ways, and then it was pretty much accidental. In the meantime, after studying languages and linguistics at university, I had started off what turned out to be a highly peripatetic period by going off to teach in Lima, Peru in the 1980s.

The upside to this is that I thereby met Ana, who is a native of Lima and was working as an economist at the Peruvian Central Bank (we got married in 1988). The downside was that through a failure of research – or rather, a failure to do any research at all – I had neglected to acquaint myself with the fact that Peru was at that moment struggling with the murderous Maoist rebels known as

the Shining Path and an annual inflation rate of 20,000%. It was a lively few years, to say the least: we put up with curfew, bombs, blackouts and food queues, but when it got to the point of mortars being fired at Ana's office building from neighbouring rooftops, we thought maybe it was time to leave.

Over the next few years we continued to work and study all over the UK and abroad. A good chunk of this was spent in Bangkok, where I worked for the British Council and Ana was an economic researcher.

We then both managed to win scholarships to do PhDs (note to younger readers: there was a time when the government would give you money to go to university).

Mine actually entailed another couple of years doing fieldwork in Peru, where things had, mercifully, quietened down a little. And so we made the move into academia, both getting university posts in London (Ana's in development economics, mine in linguistics) and settled down in east London.

Time passed, and then, unexpectedly, the Suffolk bug bit. We had been looking to buy a house somewhere in order to spend at least half of our time away from the inner city,

Left Tim & Ana Marr Right The Patston family have been the proud owners of the Warren since March 2008. After extensive renovations they are finally getting to enjoy the setting
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which was beginning to fray our nerves.

The home counties didn't appeal. Yorkshire was too far away. But out on repeated drives into the countryside, we found ourselves returning again and again up the A12, each time with more seriousness of intent.

My 16-year-old self would have snorted with derision, but we had fallen in love with the landscapes, the big skies, the water meadows, the laid-back approach to life, the churches, the pastel-shaded cottages. It was going to be Suffolk.

We knew we were going to live in this house as soon as we laid eyes on it – there was never a second of doubt. What we didn't expect, though, was how welcoming and friendly Eyke would be as a community: we have been here nearly five years now, and have made so many lovely friends.

We still have to travel for work – so far this year, Ana has been to India, Tanzania, Peru, France, South Africa and Holland – but every time we get back to Eyke, it feels a little harder to leave. In fact, it just feels like home.

Pity it took me so long to realise that this was the place. ❄️

Mind your fingers!

Simon Sutch

Simon, or Dr Dolittle as he perhaps should be called, is on the trail of some furry friends



You'll have to look quite carefully at the below picture to see what is in the trapping cage.

The brown shape within is a water vole. I must say I regret not putting Young Ratty into an all white, cage free environment. Then we could have indulged in a proper photo session before releasing him to slip silently back into the water. Next time.....

I found him in a mink trap on Easter Sunday afternoon and don't think he had been there very long. Excluding the length of



his tail, he was about 7" (18cm) long and he weighed in at 242g - about 9oz. That marks him as being a young adult and hopefully he'll have a good couple of years ahead of him, doing what he likes, in Eyke.

His presence in the trap is extremely good news as the water vole has been in serious decline since the 60s - in fact it is the most rapidly declining mammal in the whole of the UK. Although they look like rats and indeed are often referred to as water rats, water voles are peace loving, vegetarian hippies. They eat grass, sedge and rushes and are live and let-live, long term residents of these 'ere parts.

They became severely marginalised with

the arrival of the North American Mink. These aggressive interlopers won the turf wars and just about obliterated Ratty from our waterways. This occurred over three decades.

Mink were imported into the and quite intensively farmed during the '60s and '70s. The fur was valuable as the Mink Coat was a desirable fashion item for some. Mink escaped from the farms; Animal Rights Activists liberated mink. Tough and hardy mammals, they soon spread their way



through our waterway habitats.

I make less apologies for the caged aspect of the photo above as putting a mink into an all white, cage free environment to indulge in a proper photo session would be as sensible as using a chain saw to trim your nails. The mink is about twice the size of a water vole, weighs about the same and is one tough hombre.

Suffolk Wildlife has been coordinating a project for some years now to encourage the return of the Water Vole to our streams and rivers. In that time over 2000 mink have been trapped and if you are lucky you'll see a Water Vole or two around here. Keep your eyes open!

Pettistree Region Oil Purchasing Syndicate: PROPS

PROPS (Pettistree Region Oil Purchasing Syndicate) has been set up to buy oil, at bulk prices, on behalf of the residents of all the villages in the wider area around Pettistree and Wickham Market.

Principal benefits:

- Lower prices
- Stabilised deliveries
- Less impact on local roads
- Less Hassle - we do the phoning

The service is FREE to join and is operated by PROPS on behalf of the residents of our villages with the assurance that the syndicate has absolutely no connection with the oil industry and is carried out on an entirely voluntary basis.

The scheme operates on 5 simple steps:

- Members advise their requirements to the PROPS syndicate by e-mail. **
- PROPS aggregate the individual requirements to achieve a total bulk figure.
- A number of suitable suppliers are contacted for the best possible price and delivery.
- Members requirements are forwarded to the chosen supplier for delivery.
- Member makes their payment directly to the supplier.

Orders will be placed six times a year at a frequency to coincide with average usage. Currently the cutoff dates are:

- 5 July 2011
- 13 September 2011
- 22 November 2011
- 10 January 2012
- 14 February 2012
- 27 March 2012

Dates may be subject to change according to supply and market conditions.

The current members are achieving

significant savings on the lowest 'individual order' prices. The more people joining this scheme, the stronger the bargaining power, the better the terms price that can be achieved.

To join, fill out and return the registration form which can be downloaded here: <http://www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk/PROPS.html> - click Registration Form (Word format).

This is a local community initiative. If you do not use heating oil please pass this onto a friend, relative or neighbour in the spirit it is intended so they may enjoy the benefits. *



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Parish Council update Election results



Following election day on May 5th, Eyke has a group of seven parish councillors elected for a four-year term.

The 'new' Parish Council consists of six councillors who were on the last Council, and one new member, Chris Mutten, who has lived in Eyke for many years where, with his wife, he has raised his family. Richard Adams, who has lived in the village since 1982, and was a councillor for 12 years, much of the time as vice-chairman, decided not to stand for re-election.

Grateful thanks are due to him for the time and energy he has given to the work of the council, and best wishes for the future.

Only about a sixth of the 369 Suffolk local councils needed to hold an election because more candidates stood than there were seats to be filled. Some did not have enough candidates to fill all the available places: these vacant seats will be filled by the new councillors co-opting volunteers, once they are in office. Luckily, in Eyke, there were the requisite number of candidates to fill the seats.

The lack of candidates standing for election is a concern across the country. Certainly 20 or more years ago Eyke expected to hold an election, and the results were eagerly

awaited afterwards. People seem to have busier lives today, and the focus of much of their interest and their work lies outside the village. Many people think there is no point: the parish council has no teeth, and decisions are made by higher and more potent levels of local and national government.

However, the parish council is itself a level of that government, and has certain important powers, and anyone reading the papers and listening to the news in recent months will know of the current drive by government to empower the man in the street through the Localism Bill.

So, the councillors who have taken up the challenge for the next four years are:

Isabelle Abu-Hejleh, Eyke House, Eyke
01394 460 263
iahejleh@aol.co.uk

Canda Atkinson, Trinity Cottage, Eyke
01394 460 721
canda123@btinternet.com

Ron Cushing, 195 The Street, Eyke
01394 460 775
roncushing@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman: John Fleming, Low Farm, Eyke
01394 460 510

Chris Mutten Manor Cottage, Eyke
01394 460 297
muttenc@globalnet.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: Sandy Sutch, Reeves Hall, Eyke 01394 460 648
sandysutch@hotmail.com

Mervyn Whitmore, 6 Church Lane, Eyke
01394 460491

We wish them all good luck, and thank them for their public spiritedness..*
Jackie Pooley, Clerk to Eyke Parish Council.

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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

Volunteers and contributions to
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