



Cricket anyone?
The story behind the Rec



Gardening for all
Karen Watson takes up the golden spade



Quilts of many colours
Talented locals making pieces of history

inside eyke

ISSUE 7 WINTER 2011



A different kind of Warbler
There's singing aplenty this season

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NEWS & EVENTS

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PLUS What will the little ones be eating next year? **BOOMING BUSINESS FOR FETE HOSTS**
A golden anniversary **UP, UP AND AWAY**



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EDITOR'S letter



When it was suggested that we attend an evening of Victorian music I must confess to being filled with apprehension. After all I'm a more Simon & Garfunkel, Johnny Cash man! However come the evening of 1st October I was dragged off to All Saints church to hear the Savoy Singers and they were brilliant and in fact not only absolutely wonderful but incredibly professional, so much so that I was disappointed when it all came to an end! Those of you that thought like I did and chose not to go – you missed a fantastic evening. A big thank you is owed to Mike Fisher for organising this splendid event.

I would like to offer a big welcome to Karen Watson - who most of us will know. Karen, with her husband Peter, are gardening and landscaping experts and Karen will be providing the magazine with gardening tips and advice during the foreseeable future.

Crib Service

The Crib Service this year will be held in Eyke Church at 5.00pm on the 24th December. This is an event which for many is the proper start of Christmas. Please bring youngsters along so that they can hear the story of Christ's birth while putting all those who participated 2000 years ago into the stable.

A big welcome also to Janna McKendrick, who only came to the village in January. She has provided articles for this issue of Inside Eyke including one about Quilters Haven and another on Annie Whatling. We have discovered that there is a little gem in the village because Annie Whatling is the pre-eminent patchworker as well as quilter supremo! Read the article about Annie and all will be revealed.

Maria is to do another nosh at the school on 7 February 2012 at 12 noon everyone is invited but you must book tel: 01394 460 328. See Maria's recipe for more tasty morsels from her school recipe book.

Next year we not only have the Olympic Games being held in the UK but it will be the Queen's diamond jubilee – no mean occasion. So how about a village party? Naturally, we need volunteers to help organise such an event as well as others who would be happy to help make it a successful day. If you would be prepared to organise or help in a village event for next year please

let me know at Inside Eyke or telephone: 01394 460 775. ✨

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Next edition March
Final date for submissions
1 FEBRUARY 2011
Design Aardvark Multimedia
www.virtualaardvark.com
Printing Gipping Press

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Christmas events & services at All Saints, Eyke

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 2nd - 4th
 December, CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

- The great Christmas Tree Trail!
- Friday 2nd: 5pm: Songs of Praise at Rendlesham St. Felix'
- Saturday 3rd: 6.30pm: Taizé Service for Advent at Rendlesham St. Gregory's. 7.30pm: Concert by the Gyppeswyck Singers at Tunstall Church (separate ticket required—mulled wine served)
- Sunday 4th: 9am: Holy Communion at Eyke
 11am: Holy Communion at Tunstall



11am: Worship Together at Rendlesham St. Felix'
ALL FIVE CHURCHES OPEN ALL AFTERNOON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
EYKE AND RENDLESHAM CHURCHES ALSO OPEN ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON
 Musical interludes at Tunstall
 3pm: First Carol Service of the Season, by candlelight, at Wantisden.
Janice Leaver, Vicar

Olive Bread Maria Hassan



Having just received the new menu for school dinners, I thought the readers might like to know what children can expect during a typical week of school lunches.

Monday - Homemade cheese and ham slice or vegetable ravioli, mashed potato, broccoli and carrots -Victoria tray bake sponge with icing.

Tuesday - Suffolk brunch (local pork sausage or veggie sausage served with free range egg) Hash browns, baked beans and tomatoes. Local Marybelle yogurt with a slice of fruit

Wednesday - Homemade mega Italian meatball and tomato sauce or sweet and sour vegetables. Tagliatelle, peas and sweetcorn. Chocolate crunch with pink(!) sauce.

Thursday - Carved roast chicken with stuffing or shepherdess pie, roast potatoes, swede and broccoli. - Oaty fruit crunch with custard

Friday - Birds eye fish fingers or cheese and tomato enchiladas, chips, baked beans and peas. - Syrup and cornflake tart with custard. The children also have a salad bar and fresh bread every day. I wonder how much they have changed since you were at school?

This edition's recipe is for homemade bread with olives, the olives can easily be changed for your own favourites i.e. cheese, onions, garlic butter.....

Ingredients

Ingredients: 225g strong plain white flour. 1 x 6g sachet easy blend (micro-fine) yeast. 2 tablespoons olive oil. 150ml warm water. 5-10 olives, sliced. 1 teaspoon olive oil - for greasing tin, extra flour for dredging and kneading.

Equipment: Mixing bowl. Measuring jug. Teaspoon. Wooden spoon. Sharp knife. Flour dredger
 How to make it: Mix the flour and yeast in a mixing bowl. Make a 'well' in the centre. - Add all the warm water and add the oil. Mix to a soft dough with a wooden spoon. Additional water will be needed if the mixture is to dry. Add the sliced olives (or alternative) to the mixture.

Knead on a lightly floured surface for approximately 10 minutes until the dough is smooth and springy.

Place the dough (covered) in a warm place until risen twice it's size.

Re-knead ('knock-back') the dough and shape it as required. You can make one loaf or 6-8 rolls. Set aside to rise twice its size.

Heat the oven to 220C/Gas7. Bake the bread until golden brown and hollow sounding when tapped.

Eyke School Eyke School would like to invite members of the community to join them for school lunch at 12noon on 7th February 2012. The menu :- Homemade turkey and sweetcorn pie or Cheese and tomato enchiladas. Mashed potatoes, broccoli and carrots Chocolate and vanilla ice cream or fruit Salad bar and homemade bread After your lunch you are welcome to have a look around the school. Please book in advance 01394 460328. **Maria**



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not learn is what prompted this act of generosity: it would be fascinating to know.

The deed also allows for the trustees to transfer the management to other persons, corporation or public body with the consent of the Charity Commissioners for England. This happened in 1980, when the Parish Council assumed the role of trustee. Rev Patrick Ashton felt keenly that it was the end of an era, as, after prolonged dealings with the Charity Commission, the Church formally handed over responsibility to Eyke

Eyke Recreation Ground

In 1921, the Right Honourable Frederick Archibald Charles, Baron Rendlesham, conveyed to The Venerable James George Reginald Darling, Clerk in Holy Orders, of The Rectory, Eyke, and to Leslie Charles Fryer and Edward William Hatcher, Churchwardens, thereafter known as The Trustees, “ that piece or parcel of meadow ground situate at Eyke in the parish of Eyke in the County of Suffolk containing nine acres, one rood and thirty four perches more or less”. The Trustees and their successors were to manage this land for “the purposes authorised by the Recreation Ground Act, 1859 or some of them”

The Deed of Conveyance is a factual document: we also see that the signatures of the principal players were witnessed by Henry Brunswick, Lord Rendlesham’s butler, H. Tye, in domestic service at Eyke Rectory, A.H. Bush, butler at The Rookery, Eyke, and E. Larrett, of Rose Cottage, Eyke, a shop assistant. What we do



Parish Council.

He was probably quite relieved about it some years later, as in early 1994, the ground was occupied by a few travellers, and, having proved the legal entitlement of the parish to the land, by means of the Deed of Conveyance, the Parish Council was able to evict them with minimum trouble – but at a cost of £600 in solicitor’s fees. This led to the erection of the height barriers at either end of the track, in an effort to prevent this happening again.

For some years, Capt Robin Sheepshanks of The Rookery, farmed the rec, and paid a peppercorn rent for this. The ground had become very overgrown, and he supplied the

labour and machinery to clear it, then farmed most of it for some years. I have it on very good authority that one aggrieved small boy, kicking a ball around in Church Lane with his friends in the late 50s, took the vicar to task when the latter gently chided them for playing in the road. The boy told him they

wouldn't have to if “someone hadn't ploughed up our rec”, thus depriving him and his friends of a place to play. For the record, the recipient of this young boy's frustration was Rev Charles Darling, the son of the vicar who had signed the original conveyance. Some years after this, a deputation of boys, along with Mr Walter Johnson went to see Capt Sheepshanks, to negotiate the return of an area for playing football, and over the succeeding years the farmed area shrank, until in the late 1980s the Parish Council felt it would be more appropriate for the whole ground to be available to parishioners, and the arrangement ended.

In the 1960s play equipment consisting of a set of swings, a slide and a seesaw were placed there. These were the days before Health and Safety, Risk Assessments and the Blame Culture were much talked about. Several generations of children had great fun with the fiendishly long chains of the swings, the seesaw which had no buffer device, and would crash down with enough force to unseat you, and the slide, where, somehow, at the top you had to let go of the rails before you could sit down. Happy days!

Gradually, as rules and regulations were introduced, it became less and less viable to keep them. Bark chippings (to the regulation depth, of course) were placed around the equipment to make a soft landing, as required by the Parish Council's insurers, but it became increasingly obvious that the equipment would have to go, as it fell far short of current safety standards. In all this, there was a great dilemma for the Parish Council, which continues to this day. If it replaced the equipment, a very expensive operation, and one which would have to be funded by Eyke parishioners through the Council Tax, there would be supporters – but there would certainly be many who would think that to spend possibly several thousand pounds would be a waste of money, given the location outside the main

part of the village and sporadic vandalism which has occurred over the years.

The rec. is a much valued and integral part of the village: over the years, it has hosted many events, from regular football matches for youth and adult teams, to cricket matches, a donkey derby, car boot sales, barbecues, and in 1977 was a central part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. There are plenty of people in the village who will remember the bonfire night celebrations, held there for many years, perhaps generations. Over half term week, the young people of the village would spend the daylight hours hauling whatever wood they could find, or liberate from the hands of the Forestry Commission, to the middle of the rec., ready for November 5th. The burnt patch in the middle would be visible for most of the following year. Later, the bonfire moved into the pit, where the last one was lit in the late seventies.

Health and Safety requirements have gradually drawn quite a tight net around us, including the loss of a football pitch, as well as the play equipment – but look at what we are left with. We have a large, open space, away from the roar, fumes and danger of traffic, surrounded by trees, fields and footpaths which all are free to enjoy.

It's a marvellous space for informal games of football and cricket or rounders, for picnics, for just being in and enjoying the experience.

Dog walkers come from quite a wide area to walk on the rec. and the footpaths leading from it – and at this point I should like to correct an error in the last issue: there are currently two doggy bins on the rec, and the parish council is looking at the provision of a third.

Of course there is always room for change, and we must be open to that, but we have to be very sure that what we do is worth the cost, and does not destroy the essential heart of a 90 year old gift. ❁

Jackie Pooley

Feted for success



To the local community of Eyke village Oliver Brigginsshaw is most commonly associated with hosting the annual church garden fete along with his wife Nicola & children, Ellie & Milly. He moved to the village in 2008 having previously lived in the nearby village of Snape

Oliver is the Managing Director of Amaranth Ltd, which is based at Bentwaters Parks, Rendlesham. He formed the company with his business partner Steve Buckley in 2002 after both being made redundant from Girdlestone Pumps which was situated opposite the station at Melton. Girdlestone had been a significant employer in the locality having employed around 160 staff at its peak and it had been trading for over 100 years before manufacturing finally ceased there.

At the time it was a big risk, starting a company in the middle of a recession, but Oliver offered 10 key Girdlestone employees employment as he needed to cover all the key disciplines needed to design & manufacture industrial pumps & then started trading supplying mainly ex Girdlestone UK customers. He was unable to use the Girdlestone trading name for legal reasons so after some head scratching came up with the name Amaranth. Oliver asked various people to come up with a name that fitted certain criteria; it had to start with "A"

(so that it would always be top of any list), it had to mean nothing specific in relation to pumps (in case he wanted to use the brand for a totally different product or service later on) and it had to have a web domain available. Nicola was searching through flower books & came up with the name Amaranth, but unfortunately the web domain had already been taken, so Oliver changed an "a" to an "i" and the name Amaranth was created which ticked all the boxes!

Today Amaranth specialises in the design, engineering and manufacture of bespoke industrial pumps for global Oil and Gas markets with 80% of orders being exported. The company supplies many well known household names such as Shell, BP, British Sugar Glaxo SmithKline and Green King.

During the last 9 years Amaranth has grown significantly and now employs in excess of 40 staff. They are currently in the process of recruiting a further four employees to help manage the current orderbook which has grown threefold in the last year.

The company has continually re-invested annual profits back into the business & a new production facility was opened two years ago which more than doubled the available capacity. Additionally a major investment was made in its new state of the art test bay facility to increase capacity there too. Every pump has to pass rigorous tests



before being shipped.

Due to the hazardous nature of working in environments such as an offshore rig or a refinery (many of you will be familiar with disasters such as the Crazy Horse rig in the Gulf of Mexico, the Piper Alpha disaster & the recent Bunsfield explosion) all the pumps have to be checked & certified by inspection authorities such as Lloyds of London. Inspectors will witness the pump tests to ensure they conform to the customers exact specifications. Only when they are happy will the customer sign a release note and the pump can be shipped to its final destination.

The key to the company's success is customer focus, speed and agility. It generally delivers a bespoke pump around 10-15% faster than its competitors. 99.9% of the components are sourced from the UK which gives better control over the supply chain resulting in customers starting production sooner.

Oliver is now looking at new markets and new products to carry the company forward for the next 5 years which will continue to create more opportunities in the local economy. Next time you fill your car with fuel, put sugar on your cereal, or take a sip from a pint of beer, just consider that an Amaranth pump could well have been involved somewhere in the process!

To find out more about Amaranth or to keep up to date with their latest news visit www.amaranth.com

NEW NUMBER FOR POLICE

Suffolk Constabulary has introduced a new telephone number for people who want to talk to the police about non-urgent issues.

Instead of ringing the current switchboard number of 01473 613500, people should dial 101. The introduction of 101 in Suffolk is part of a nationwide initiative which will see all forces adopting the number by the end of the year. It is designed to offer one easy way to contact your local police force to report non-emergency crimes, disorder or anti-social behaviour or to speak to your local police officers.

The new number should be used to report issues which don't require an emergency response. For example, people should ring 101 if:

- their vehicle has been stolen;
- their property has been damaged;
- they suspect drug use or dealing;
- if they want to give the police information about crime in their area; or
- if they would like to speak to a local police officer.

101 will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When calling 101, the system determines the caller's location and connects them to the police force covering that area.

A recorded message announces which police force the caller is being connected to – and gives them a choice if they are on a boundary between two or more forces.

Police call handlers in the local force contact centre will then answer the call and respond appropriately.

There is also an option of speaking to an operator, if the caller wishes to contact another force.

Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or the duration of the call.

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can textphone 18001 101.

The new 101 service is not for emergencies. In an emergency, people should always ring 999 for immediate police assistance.



Quilt Magic

The ancient art of quilting is enjoying a worldwide resurgence, and Eyke residents are lucky to have one of the UK's leading patchwork and quilting shops just a few miles away. Wickham Market is home to Quilters Haven, writes Janna McKendrick

Owner Karin Hellaby, says 'sewing was in my blood', and reckons she inherits her talents from her Scandinavian forebears. These skills coupled with her background in home economics and teaching have stood her in good stead to build a successful business. The Wickham Market premises house the shop, a classroom and also her web-based mail-order business which serves thousands of customers worldwide.

What struck me immediately on entering Karin's shop, a beautiful 15th century building in the square, was the array of colours and the smiling faces of the staff. There were fabrics, kits, books, gifts, threads and plenty more to browse through, a

veritable Aladdin's cave of needlework treasures.

Quilting, the technique of sewing layers of fabric together, to obtain a thicker and warmer product, goes back thousands of years. The earliest known quilted garment is on the carved ivory figure of an Egyptian Pharaoh, from 3400 BC. In the middle ages, knights wore quilted garments under their armour for comfort. The earliest known surviving bed quilt is over six hundred years old, from Sicily and currently kept in the Victoria and Albert Museum. So Quilters Haven customers have a serious tradition to keep up.

Traditionally, quilts were made by hand, and took months to complete. There are still aficionados of this means of stitching, but Karin is a champion of machine-quilting, as she claims that this enables quilting to be simple, fun and quick to achieve results. She has published a series of books advocating her 'sew a row' technique.

Customers from all over the world bear witness to this approach. Many of them live in the US where Karin tells me there are 22 million quilters. And plenty too are Suffolk-based and attend her classes, workshops and clubs. As well as quilting and patchwork for all levels from beginners upwards, one of her most popular courses is 'Learn to sew' for novices in basic needlework.

So, having built up a successful web-based mail-order business and publishing company, would you believe it, she is



involved in quilting holidays too. Arena Travel, based in Martlesham, runs these holidays, and Karin advises, co-hosts and teaches on them. America, France and Scandinavia have all hosted parties of quilting enthusiasts. A combination of sight-seeing and quilting classes make for the ideal break.

One of Karin's valuable staff members is Eyke resident Annie Whatling, whose amazing handiwork can be seen in the Elephant and Castle in the form of a wall-hanging of the pub sign. From further afield is 22-year-old Canadian Kathleen Kerr. Kathleen arrived in September with a business degree and experience gained from her parents' quilting shop, to help Karin for a year. You can read her entertaining blog on the Quilters Haven website.

You can find out more by calling in at the shop, ringing 01728 746 275, or on the website at www.quilters-haven.co.uk. ❄️



Annie Whatling – Master Quilt Maker

The Elephant and Castle pub sign has long held an appeal for Annie Whatling, who has lived in Eyke for 45 years. Annie has a great aptitude with the needle and was keen to reproduce the interesting picture using her quilting and appliqué skills. 'The soldiers were a bit tricky' she says. The resultant wall-hanging is now in pride of place for pub customers to admire while supping their chosen beverage. 'It's attracted a lot of attention' says John the landlord.

Eyke certainly has good fortune to count Annie in its residents. She creates her many and varied quilting designs from many sources including her sister Linda's paintings sent all the way from her home in Ohio. Her quilts often feature as prizes for raffles, most recently at the village's Harvest Supper.

But it's not just Eyke that benefits from Annie's talents. Quilters Haven in Wickham Market is the ideal place for Annie to demonstrate her skills. Having always loved sewing, she was delighted to discover Karin's shop when it first opened in 1993 at Rendlesham - Quilters Haven moved to Wickham Market in 1996. She joined the quilting club and, when Karin offered her a job a few years later, happily accepted. 'I'm so lucky to get paid for what I love to do. It doesn't feel like real work,' she says. She advises and teaches all ages, including the younger generation for whom sewing is often a totally new skill. ❄️



The Savoy Singers

(or friends who love to sing)

It must be many a year since the church in Eyke resounded, not only to great singing but to resounding applause. On Saturday 1st October we were honoured to be entertained by a group of friends singing pieces from the Victorian era. Excellently led

by their Musical Director, Bernard Reader, who we are led to believe is something of a taskmaster, and accompanied, no less ably, by Andrew Burke we were introduced to a rich pattern of music. Much of this was known to us but, without Bernard's descriptive comment, we might not have been able to identify the source or the composer.

With ten singers making up the ensemble it is very difficult to pick out individual performances. However, I feel that mention should be made of tenor, Paul Bloomfield's, rendition of "The Holy City", not a dry eye in the house, Louise Bentley's "Loves Old Sweet Song" and Julian Illman's "Bunthorn's Song". I would like to thank Sara Bucknall for her introduction to the group and to Louise for guiding me through the whole operation. Finally, if we are fortunate to be offered a similar occasion book tickets early as we are likely to need a larger auditorium. **Mike Fisher** (Many thanks to Chris Carne who provided the photos, Ed) ❄️

Let's sing! Join a choir

Recently the number of community choirs in the UK has soared, partly due to a range of television programmes about choirs. Many who have aspired to no more than singing in the shower now want to share their singing pleasure with others.

Three Eyke residents are proud to be members of one such choir in Woodbridge, the OK Chorale. Jan Stangoe, Claudette Short and Janna McKendrick joined when it started in January this year. Choir-leader Chris Rowbury was amazed when seventy singers turned up to his first session, having expected no more than twenty. The numbers increased to 100 and he now has a waiting list. The choir sings songs with beautiful harmonies from all over the world - France, Eastern Europe, Africa, America, and beyond.

The ethos of many community choirs is that members do not take an audition to join, nor do they need to read music, it's the enthusiasm to sing that's important.

In September another community singing

group started at nearby Butley. Oyster Voices has been set up by Sarah Brown and is led by Clive Barker, a Natural Voice Practitioner, who is well known locally and nationally for his contributions to community choirs. Both Sarah and Clive are also members of the OK Chorale.

Oyster Voices meet on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at Butley Village Hall. Sarah says 'whether you sing regularly in a choir or just enjoy singing in the shower or even think you can't sing, come and join us to learn harmony songs from a range of traditions from around the world'. She emphasises:

No experience necessary. No auditions. No written music. No solos

The key to the group is learning together by listening and repeating, with the emphasis on having fun. If you fancy going along, the first session is free, and if you decide to join, it's £5 per session. Contact Sarah on 01394 450 743 or sarah.catherine.brown@gmail.com ❄️

Golden moments for Ann and Stewart Downing



It was a perfect autumn day on Saturday 17th September when Ann and Stewart Downing celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at The British Larder restaurant in Melton. They were surrounded by close friends and family for the special occasion.

For much of his life Stewart was a sea-faring man firstly serving in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, followed by the job of Purser on cruise liners. Stewart has many lasting memories of his times afloat and remembers with affection the days when passengers dressed in fine clothes to dance the night away.

While he was serving as purser on the Empress Windrush the ship caught fire in the Mediterranean and had to be abandoned; she then sunk. When escaping down a painter attached to a raft in the sea Stewart sustained rope burns to the palms of both hands and was in the sea clinging to the raft for four hours before being rescued. He received medical treatment on his hands at the Westminster Hospital after his return to England. He also remembers the murder at sea of the actress Gay Gibson who was shoved through a porthole on the Durban Castle in 1947. This event was an article in Inside Eyke last year.

In 1956 Ann started training as a nurse at the Westminster hospital and has shared many of her earlier nursing experiences with

us through Inside Eyke. In 1959 she started work with the New Zealand Shipping Company on board the vessel MV Rangitiki as Nursing Sister. It was there that she met Stewart who was Purser. The couple married in 1961.

Their life together has been varied and happy, moving to Woodbridge in 1975 and to Eyke in 1978. Their first home was Trinity Cottage, Low Road before relocating to Rustics in The Street. Despite Stewart's recent poor health – he is now 95! – the excellent food,

champagne and wines served on the day at The British Larder helped to make their day special. Ann and Stewart's son Julian and daughter Penny were at the celebrations as was Stewart's daughter from a previous marriage, Margot, and his granddaughter Fabienne, both of whom made the long trip from Moncrabeau, near Condom, in France. In fact, Stewart had two granddaughters at the celebration – Fabien who is 40 years old and Daisy who is 16 months. Both behaved impeccably!

A special celebratory cake was made for the occasion by Ann's great friend June Larter who topped the delicious confection with a delicate picture frame holding a photograph of Ann and Stewart.

Without doubt it was a joyous occasion, celebrating fifty happy years together for two delightful residents of our village. ❄️

Their life together has been varied and happy



Up, up and away

Tim Lancaster

By way of introduction, I hope some of you remember my parents who used to live in Eyke – Billie and David Lancaster. During their many years in the village I became acquainted with some of their friends and neighbours including Isabelle who has asked me to write a few words about an accident in which I was involved during my time as an airline pilot with British Airways. I have disposed of a lot of the material written about this incident so these words are from memory. Please remember that the events happened over 21 years ago and I was 'at best' semi-conscious!!

The flight was a scheduled service from Birmingham International Airport to Malaga and took place on Sunday June 10th 1990. With me the rest of the Crew comprised of Alastair, my co-pilot and four Cabin Crew, John, Nigel, Sue and Simon.

The Crew assembled at Birmingham, pre-flight formalities were completed and we went out to the aircraft, a BAC 1-11 registration G-BJRT. During the cockpit checks and departure preparation I read that the technical status of the aircraft indicated

a new left-hand windscreen had been installed during the previous night. Our procedures and checks were completed, passengers boarded and engines started in preparation for departure. We taxied out to the runway, completed the take-off and safely airborne settled back to enjoy the flight to Spain. Conditions for flying were pleasant, summer had arrived!

After take-off we headed south. The proposed route took us down to the UK south coast then across the channel to France, onwards towards the Pyrenees and eventually to our destination. Air Traffic Control issued a series of instructions as we climbed towards our proposed cruising level of 35,000'. Approaching 18,000' we were over south Oxfordshire, not far from where I live. I had just remarked about this to Alastair when the windscreen in front of me, the newly fitted one, detached from its frame immediately followed by a massive explosive decompression. The aircraft had been almost fully pressurised at that point and the pressurised air exited through the empty windscreen frame in the manner of a



pinned to the top of the aircraft, outside, held there by the high airspeed. On the way out my legs and feet thrashed about turning off a lot more equipment including the autopilot. The aircraft was rolling over onto its back and starting to dive. Alastair fought for control which he skilfully regained and then started a deliberate high speed emergency descent towards 10,000'. This is the generally accepted altitude for survival (mine) without oxygen.

All I knew at this moment was that I could not breathe. The pressure of the airflow was driving the air from my chest. I managed to turn my body around up on top of the cockpit roof and was able to breathe with my mouth facing the aircraft tail. I know this as I could see the tail and the engines – which I noticed were running!!

Stepping back a few seconds.....as the explosive decompression occurred one of the Stewards, Nigel, was sucked violently into the cockpit and into the back of my seat where he managed to grab hold of my lower legs and hang on to them, injuring his arm in the process.

Reaching 10,000' Alastair started to slow down to give himself time to make some sense of what had happened and to formulate a plan to land the damaged aircraft as quickly as possible. As the airspeed reduced I was not pinned as forcefully against the aircraft and literally started slipping completely out. John was

bursting balloon.

Chaos ensued!! I was pulled up and hit the cockpit roof inadvertently switching off all sorts of systems! I was then pulled through the windscreen aperture and

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now in the flight deck and saw that Nigel was losing the battle to hang on to my legs. Simon was brought up from the rear of the cabin and strapped into the spare flight deck seat, there he was able to relieve Nigel and keep hold of me. At this point only my lower legs were inside the window.

Alastair diverted to Southampton – we had reached the south coast by now. He landed with me mostly outside, hanging down on the left side of the cockpit with Simon still manfully hanging on with help from John. During the whole episode, Sue had been looking after and calming the passengers.

I was taken off to Southampton General Hospital in a fairly battered state. I won't go into the medical issues only to say that I was eventually declared fit and returned to flying about five and a half months later.

I do hope that this is of some interest. As I did say at the outset it is written from a hazy memory especially the part where I was outside! I was only semi-conscious during this part of the flight but I do remember those engines going round and also hanging there looking at streets, houses and cars. This must have been when we were low on the approach to land at Southampton. Once on the ground I was aware of big red and white things – ambulances and fire engines??

Finally, I am sure you have realised that the cause of the accident must have been related to the replacement of the windscreen during the previous night's engineering activities. This, in fact, is quite correct.

Again I won't go into the details. Many procedural, technical, engineering and human failings occurred during the work, little things in isolation but when combined as on this occasion resulted in the wrong sized bolts being fitted to the new screen, the bolts, about 80 of them were too thin, not by much but enough to strip the threads as the aircraft pressurised. ❄

Glorious Gardening: a winter wonderland

Karen Watson

The garden in winter does not have to be put to bed until spring has sprung – it can be an extremely beautiful place. Coloured stems and leaves, textured tree trunks and delicious winter scents underplanted with bulbs can bring any garden to life, especially when the low winter sunlight makes everything glow into life.

Cornus (dogwoods), willow and bramble can create striking features if planted in groups. Cornus alba 'Sibirica' (Westonbirt) has bright red stems, Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' has yellow stems at the base growing fiery orange towards the tip, while Cornus Stolonifera 'Flaviramea' has slender yellow stems. Salix (willow) is interesting too. Salix alba vitellina 'Britzensis' is grown for its

winter colour on young stems, these are bright orange to scarlet. Willows will need to be controlled and can be cut back hard in spring, as can the Cornus to keep the young stems coloured. If you have a slightly wilder area Rubus cockburnianus (white washed bramble) looks ghostly white and striking in winter months. One of my favourite trees for winter is Betula utilis jacquemontii (Himalayan birch), this has dazzling white bark can brighten up any garden in the dullest of winters. Plant as a focal point to draw the eye, or in small groups if you have a larger area.

Other trees with interesting bark include Acer griseum (Paperbark Maple) and Prunus serrula which has peeling mahogany rich polished bark which peels away in bands to leave a beautifully smooth surface.

The winter scent of some plants can be deliciously heady, try Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postill' or Daphne odora. Lonicera x purpusii and Lonicera fragrantissima have sweetly scented flowers. Winter flowering Viburnums can also be very fragrant. Viburnum x bodnantense or Viburnum 'Dawn' equally fragrant.

Other plants to try would be Mahonia x media 'Charity' or Mahonia 'Winter Sun' also Hamamelis. mollis (witch hazel) and Elaeagnus pungens 'Maculata'. All of these can be underplanted with large leaved Bergénias or Helleborus for contrast and a selection of bulbs.

Winter gardens worth a visit in East Anglia are Cambridge University Botanic Garden and Anglesey Abbey gardens.

Gardening jobs for the next couple of months.

- Keep lawns, borders and paths clear of fallen leaves
- Once deciduous plants and climbers have

cleared, repair garden structures.

- Dig over new borders.
- Plant evergreen shrubs if conditions are dry.
- Plant bare-root roses, trees and shrubs.
- Net your pond to keep the water clear of leaves.
- Order seed catalogues to enjoy over the festive break.
- Prune bush roses down by half to avoid root damage in winter winds.
- Clear the remains of old crops in vegetable patches.

Winter prune apple, pear and quince trees – burn any shoots that show signs of canker

Trees and hedges can continue to be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen.

Deciduous hedges can be pruned. Cut back the sunny side and top and trim the shady side next December.

Informal deciduous hedges that have grown leggy can be rejuvenated now with some radical pruning. Cut every second stem close to ground level. Next year, when new growth has sprouted from the base, the remaining stems can be cut down.

Winter prune apple, pear and quince trees – burn any shoots that show signs of canker.

Plan ahead your planting for the coming year and fill in your seed order.

Protect vulnerable plants - fleece is very effective but if you prefer something less obtrusive a circle of wire-netting fitted with branches of leaves will keep the cold at bay.

Cover empty vegetable beds with fleece or clear (not black) plastic which will warm the soil so it is easier to work.

Bring watering cans under cover. If they have to stay out turn them upside down to prevent frost damage.

When you have done all that you will deserve a Christmas break! ❄️



HARVEST SUPPER

The word Harvest drives from the Anglo-Saxon hærfest which long ago meant Autumn. Nowadays we associate Harvest with the happy outcome of the growing season. Harvest has been around since people planted crops and celebrating it with a community supper has long been a rural tradition.

Saturday 15 October saw a capacity gathering of locals inside Eyke Village Hall. The 2011 Harvest Supper was underway and the friendly hubbub in the Hall was testament to the popularity of this annual event.

Seventy people were there to enjoy the hearty meal which consisted of Eyke Red Poll beef with potatoes and peas or the veggie option of Quorn stew. All delicious by the evidence of the empty plates delivered back to the kitchen. Organised and catered by the members of Eyke Parochial Church Council a grand total of £468 was raised for Church funds.

As usual, a highlight was Mervyn Whitmore's ever popular raffle. Wines, chocolates and sweets were all on offer and there were many satisfied winners. How sweet tastes a Bassets Liquorice Allsort when liberated from one's neighbour's winnings.

Thanks to all who organised and helped. See you there next year and remember to register your interest for tickets with anyone on the PCC. Quite a few were unlucky this year and it needn't be you. **Simon ❄️**

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The Bible Aloud 2011 The King James Bible 1611-2011



Back in 1604 King James set a group of fifty scholars from the two main church groups of the day to work on a seven-year project to translate the Holy Bible, the scriptures of the Christian Church into the language of the people of his land. Previously, doing this warranted the death penalty! Thus was the King James Bible born.

To celebrate this momentous 400th anniversary, the whole Bible has been read aloud, in the King James version, in the five churches in this cluster: All Saints Eyke, St. Felix' and St. Gregory's, both of Rendlesham, St. Michael & All Angels Tunstall, and St. John the Baptist Wantisden.

The Bible is the World's best selling book, and has been translated into more languages than any other. Interestingly, it is also the book which is most frequently shoplifted. The Bible is the most amazing book! Stories of intrigue and deception, love and lust, epic successes and epic failures, but ultimately it is a book of love, the love of the Creator for His creation.

A huge "thank you" to the wonderful few who organised this event, and to the many amazing people who came and read over the "Bible Aloud" fortnight. *

Janice Leaver, Team Vicar -Eyke, Rendlesham, Tunstall and Wantisden



» **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

FOOT PROBLEM?

Treatment of corns, calluses, nails, verrucas etc

Home visits from a foot healthcare professional

Registered member of the British Association of Foot Health Professionals
Elizabeth Gallina
MCFHP MAFHP

07920 292 377

01394 460 270

josgallina08@aol.com

Linden Rise, Eyke Woodbridge



Ipswich Triathlon Club

Some of your readers may not be aware that every Wednesday evening the Ipswich Triathlon Club meets at Eyke Primary School.

Triathlon is, as the name suggests, a three part sport comprising swimming, cycling and running. Distances vary according to age. Every summer a number of local junior triathlons take place around East Anglia and further afield and attract children from Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The junior branch of the Ipswich Triathlon Club meets every Wednesday at Eyke Primary school from 5.45pm until 7pm with additional Saturday morning sessions once a month at Woolverstone. There is a £3 charge per session. Coaches are CRB checked.

Training is fun and varied covering the specific skills required for each element of the triathlon, fitness and strength conditioning. From November until spring training takes place in the school hall with

guest speakers, games and exercise sessions. From Easter onwards sessions use the school field, playground and pool to practice all three triathlon disciplines plus 'transition' (moving between each activity).

I have two sons, aged 9 and 10, who started training at Eyke last August. Since then they have competed in three junior triathlons and two competitive off-road cycle events with friends from the club and from school. They love the excitement, the exercise and the camaraderie. And I love watching them and helping out.

New members of all ages are very welcome. For further information or to arrange a trial session please contact Isabel at sport@sinkfarm.com *

Linda Phelan