

'Spring'

What does the word 'Spring' mean to you?

To me – it means more day-light, lambs in the fields, buds on the bushes and trees, snowdrops and crocus' stirring from their winter beds and, the start of the grass-cutting season!

Here are some other ideas of what the word means.....

According to Wikipedia – 'Spring, is one of the four conventional temperate seasons, following winter and preceding summer. There are various technical definitions of spring, but local usage of the term varies according to local climate, cultures and customs. When it is spring in the northern hemisphere, it will be autumn in the southern hemisphere. At the spring equinox, days are close to 12 hours long with day length increasing as the season progresses. Spring and "springtime" refer to the season, and also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection, and regrowth.....

The beginning of spring is not always determined by fixed calendar dates. The phenological or ecological definition of spring relates to biological indicators; the blossoming of a range of plant species, and the activities of animals, or the special smell of soil that has reached the temperature for micro flora to flourish. It therefore varies according to the climate and according to the specific weather of a particular year. Most ecologists divide the year into six seasons that have no fixed dates. In addition to spring, ecological reckoning identifies an earlier separate pre-vernal (early or pre-spring) season between the hibernal (winter) and vernal (spring) seasons. This is a time when only the hardiest flowers like the crocus are in bloom, sometimes while there is still some snow-cover on the ground.....

In spring, the axis of the Earth is increasing its tilt relative to the Sun, and the length of daylight rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to "spring forth," giving the season its name. Snow, if a normal part of winter, begins to melt and streams swell with run-off. Frosts, if a normal part of winter, become less severe. In climates that have no snow and rare frosts, the air and ground temperatures increase more rapidly. Many flowering plants bloom this time of year, in a long succession sometimes beginning when snow is still on the ground, continuing into early summer. In normally snowless areas "spring" may begin as early as February (Northern Hemisphere) heralded by the blooming of deciduous magnolias, cherries, and quince...

Spring is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life (both plant and animal) being born. The term is also used more generally as a metaphor for the start of better times.....'

According to another source – Spring will be on the 20th March 2014 – well, I hope it lasts longer than a day!!

And so.....may I wish you all a very happy Spring and, look forward to seeing you around the village.

And....Here are a few 'words' that have been written about Spring...
(perhaps you are already familiar with them?)

Daffodils

by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

OR..

Daffodowndilly

by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."





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Suffolk Walking Festival 2014 – 10th May to 1st June

Now in its seventh year, the Suffolk Walking Festival is bigger and better than ever before, with nearly 80 guided walks planned, covering the whole of the county. We have a lovely mix of short strolls around medieval villages and market towns and longer rambles through the gentle landscapes of Suffolk, through Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and along the glorious Suffolk coast.

The Discover Suffolk Challenge Walk this year follows The Angles Way, which meanders for 90 miles along the Suffolk/Norfolk border, through the picturesque Waveney Valley and the sandy landscape of The Brecks. Do one day, two days or all six, the choice is yours, but as always, there will be treats and prizes for those completing the whole route.

Our themed, guided walks throughout the three week festival have some wonderful titles such as: 'Across the Marshes to the Castle', 'A Point to my Ramblings', 'Tiptoe Through the Heather' and 'Prickles' Story Walk'. You can Walk the Burma Road, learn about the Maritime Heritage of the Ipswich Waterfront, walk through Rolling Fields and a Cutting Garden and even try a free taster session of Nordic Walking.

Some include refreshments – a cream tea perhaps, or a glass of local wine and all of them are a fun and sociable way to learn about the lovely county of Suffolk. We will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Stour Valley Path with a series of walks covering the length of the path over six days, with the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project.

We invite you to make the most of what Suffolk has to offer in abundance: pretty countryside, lovely villages, warm hospitality and a fascinating history.

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We invite you to make the most of what Suffolk has to offer in abundance: pretty countryside, lovely villages, warm hospitality and a fascinating history.

Visit <http://suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk/> for further information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Although the weather this winter has been all about wind, rain and floods, there is still a chance that we might have some icy conditions.....!

Suffolk County Council provides grit heaps in the village at the end of Church Lane, on the corner of Redlingfield Road and The Street/Bulls Hall Road, outside the flats in Redlingfield Road and at the junction of Church Street with the B1077.

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to be responsible for monitoring these, *ideally one person for each heap*. They would be responsible for spreading grit when it is needed and, letting us know when the grit supply is getting low.

Such volunteers are covered by the County Council's insurance, as long as they have given their name to the Parish Council and follow a few simple guidelines when carrying out this work.

If you feel that you would be able to help out the local community in this way, please contact the Clerk, Sue Hubner, on 01379 678360 or by email at

parishcouncil@occold.com or speak to any of your parish councillors



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ORAC Update.....



Hall Matters.....

The hall has seen another very active 'Winter' and, we thank everyone for their continued support of this village facility.

At long last, the persistent 'leak' in the kitchen – has been fixed! A new large hot-cupboard has been purchased, which will be a real boon for all those who cater in the hall and, we are just about to order a new cooker! If anyone is interested in purchasing the current cooker which is a dual-fuel range oven, please contact any committee member by the end of March. There's nothing really wrong with it – we just needed to update and provide more 'fanned' oven space.

New crockery has also been purchased, in order to top up 'breakages' and to provide additional mugs for hall users.

If you are a regular hall user and, would like to put forward a suggestion for other equipment, we are always pleased to receive your thoughts!

One major issue at present – is the lack of storage facilities! We built the hall with two storage rooms but, thanks to all the various groups that use the hall, these are now 'bursting at the seams'! Please be assured that your committee is researching this matter urgently and, hope to have further storage in place in the not too distant future. In the meantime, please may we ask all hall-users to return any items removed from the store rooms, back into the room that they got it from. At the moment, the items are all fitted into the rooms like a giant 'jigsaw puzzle' and therefore, it only takes for one piece of equipment to be put back into the wrong room – and everything goes to pot!! We thank you for your continued patience in this.

Events.....

Early December, saw 90 people enjoy another very successful Christmas Dinner! A good time was had by all and we were all very well fed! Thank you to everyone that supported us in this.

By the time you are reading this, we will have held another of our very popular themed evenings – the Caribbean Theme Nite. I will be able to report more fully on this in the next issue.

Dates for your Diaries.....

Saturday 26th April

ORAC Annual Village Quiz

Teams of up to 6 people - £8.00 per person, to include fish & chip supper

Wednesday 14th May

ORAC AGM

8.00pm in the hall

Saturday 5th July

Village Fete

2.00pm to 6.00pm

Luncheon Club.....

Occold Luncheon Club is now in its fourth year and, is a great place to meet up with friends over a good value meal and, to catch up on local news and events. Meet on alternate Monday lunchtimes at 12.30pm, for a two course lunch with fruit juice and coffee for just £5 per head, in Occold Village Hall. Many thanks to those who responded to the Lunch Club's call for some extra help, in the last edition of Oracle - helping to keep this service going fortnightly for everyone.

The volunteer team at Luncheon Club would also like to extend their thanks to <http://www.stowmarketcaravans.co.uk> for their donation of some brand new bowls, to bring a little bit of colour to the Lunch Club tables xx

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AMNESTY APPEAL!!!!

The profits from Lunch Club, are used to keep the village hall kitchen stocked with all kinds of catering equipment for the benefit of all hall hirers and, we appreciate that it is sometimes necessary to borrow an item to transport left over food items etc home from the hall. If **any** hirer has borrowed an item from the kitchen over the past 6 months or so – could we ask that you please check your cupboards to make sure you have returned it??

We are currently missing:

- A number of clear pyrex-type glass casserole bowls with lids
- A number of large saucepan lids
- Aluminium catering baking trays
- Large plastic mixing bowls

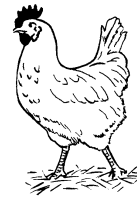
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Today's peaceful North Suffolk farmland wasn't always like this.

For two years at the height of hostilities during World War Two, Horham was home to an American airbase.

An extract from the **95th Bomb Group Heritage Association's** museum web-site, reads thus....

"The aim of the museum is to keep the legacy and memory alive of the 95th Bomb Group who flew and served at Horham airfield from May 1943 to May 1945.

"There were **2,800** American servicemen at the site at any one time. They were part of the 8th Air Force Bomb Group which provided heavy bombardment from around **70** airfields across Norfolk and Suffolk. It was part of the strategic bombing campaign of German-occupied Europe and, Germany itself.

The 95th flew **334** missions between May 14, 1943 and May 25, 1945 and was the first bomb group to perform a daylight raid on Berlin. It claimed **425** enemy aircraft destroyed - the highest number by any USAAF bomb group in the Second World War.

Once there were **800** buildings on the 500-acre site, today just **15** remain, including the NCO club used by the ground crew. Today, what was once an area for relaxing and eating is a museum – known as The Red Feather Club – operated and managed by the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association.

The former kitchen, which is now the entrance, houses a massive diorama of the airfield as it was during WW2 and, the roll of honour listing all those lost.

The mural room houses original artwork painted by US servicemen and, preserved in place by the association. The bar is a faithful recreation of the bar as it was used by NCOs during WW2. The museum itself used to be the Beer Hall. The most recently opened part of the complex is the former Dry Lounge – which is now called the Blue Lounge and is used extensively for '40s style dances and events of all types.

The museum contains a host of artefacts telling many personal stories of the men and women who served at the airfield.

A total of **620** airmen were killed in action flying from this airfield alone and **900** became prisoners of war. It is their memory and experiences we are preserving. Today there are **130** servicemen from the US 95th Bomb Group, still alive and living in America."

The Red Feather Club is also the home to the 1285th Military Police Company re-enactors.

Open on Sundays to the public from April to October, the museum hosts a programme of re-enactment events.

One local resident remembers the effect of the airfield coming to Horham – "I lived on the edge of the perimeter track. I remember the night Glen Miller performed. I was taken by an American serviceman who was a friend of my brother. He took me on my shoulders so I could see Glen Miller, it was very crowded. Suffolk had been very quiet until the Americans came. But then it became scary too, as it turned the area into a military target. I remember our house being damaged when a Dornier dropped its bombs. The airfields were an important part of Suffolk's history. We had never seen anything like it before they came. They built so much in such a short space of time. It changed life in Suffolk."

If you would like to join the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association or want more information. visit www.95thbg-horham.com or contact our membership secretary Helen Krawczynszyn on 01728 628138. Members receive four newsletters a year packed with information about the 95th then and now and, get discounts to some events at the Red Feather Club.

Some future dates for your diaries are.....

Wed March 19: Archive film show. Members £3, non-members £4.

Sat March 22: Swing Dance with Skyliner & Django Man (tickets £12, on sale now).

Sat April 5: Old Time Musical Show – see separate advert

Sat July 5: Americana Dance.

Sun July 6: Americana Day.

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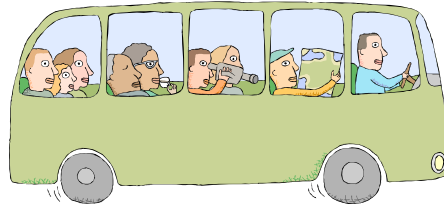


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Our new outings list for 2014/15 will be available shortly and will feature all your favourite seaside towns, shopping trips, garden centres etc. This year we've added a third date for the Waveney Stardust boat trip, a trip to Sandringham House and some other new ones to get you out and about.

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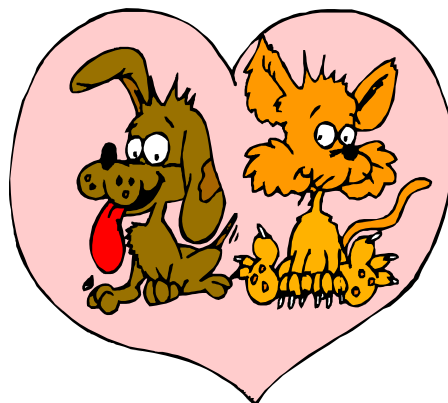


You'd be Amazed At What Your Dog Can Do!!

I am fortunate enough to be able to go into our school here in Occold, to listen to the children read – however, I wonder if they'd rather be reading to a 'faithful friend' instead!!

Heathcliff the reading dog, who volunteers at Nacton Church of England Primary School in Ipswich, has been nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award, under Suffolk County Councils' Education Champion Awards Scheme. The eight year old Shih Tzu, described by his nominator as a 'forward thinker', goes into Nacton Primary once a week, so that five to seven year old children can practice reading to him. His owner and head teacher, Joanna Kidby, got the idea from a successful project in the USA. "We have had the most fantastic results," said Joanna. "One child moved up 27 reading months in just two terms." Because Heathcliff just sits and listens to the stories, the children gain confidence and reading fluency. "He also makes reading fun for the children, as the children see it as a fun activity, rather than work," continued Joanna. "I have had parents tell me that their children go home and read to the family pet. Suffolk head teachers are always looking for innovative and inspiring ways to engage our pupils and promote a love of learning. Other Suffolk schools are now using this idea."

Do you think it would have the same effect, if I took one of my cats along instead?



Suffolk: Extra £5 million to extend broadband coverage to Haughley Green and other communities

Suffolk has been given nearly £5 million to extend its broadband coverage to more of the county. That should mean, communities like Haughley Green in Mid Suffolk, which had looked as if they could miss out on the technology, should be included in the roll-out by the end of 2017.

The funding comes from the Government's Superfast Extension Programme – designed to give 95% of the UK access to superfast broadband by 2017. Suffolk has been allocated £4.82 million.

Welcoming the news, Suffolk County Council leader Mark Bee said: "This additional funding is excellent news and means we can start work on significantly extending the commitments we have made under the current Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

"In particular, we're going to be able to make high speed broadband available to more of Suffolk's hardest to reach rural communities."

Communities like those in Mid Suffolk, looked as if they could miss out, because they were originally due to have broadband installed as a commercial programme from BT, but this then became uneconomic – but by that time, it was too late to include them in the initial government-backed scheme. The new money should enable them to be included – as well as some properties that were beyond the reach of the initial programme.

Mr Bee said: "We're only half a year into the delivery of the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme and we're already looking at how we can take it to the next level.

Our current commitment to making superfast speeds available to 85% of Suffolk homes and businesses is only the beginning. We want to push forward so that even more people are able to benefit."

In January 2014, Suffolk County Council announced that it was inviting potential suppliers to discuss how they could deliver the additional work.

A 'mini-competition' – separate to the current Better Broadband for Suffolk contract with BT – is now underway to identify a suitable supplier.

Officials aim to complete the tendering process by the summer of 2014, and for works to start by the end of 2014 – in parallel with the on-going Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

Culture secretary, Maria Miller MP, said: "Superfast Broadband will benefit everyone in Suffolk - whether they need it for work, to do homework or simply to download music or films.

Thousands of homes and businesses now have access and, it is helping people with their everyday tasks. We want to make sure that Britain is one of the best countries in the world for broadband, and the extra £250 million we are investing, will help ensure communities around the UK are not left behind in the digital slow lane."

*(**Editor's Comment – "You will excuse me, if I don't hold my breath – won't you!!")*





Wanted – Foster Carers for Suffolk Siblings

There are currently around **750** children in care in Suffolk, the majority of these are in foster care, and placed with registered foster carers.

Suffolk County Council wants **all** children in its care, to have a permanent, safe home in which they will be loved, nurtured and thrive. For some, this will be with members of their family, while for others the best option will be for them to be adopted or, be with a permanent fostering family.

People who foster/adopt can...

- Be any age over 21
- Be married, single, divorced, or in a civil partnership
- Be gay/lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual
- Rent or own their home
- Be disabled
- Be of any ethnicity, race, religion or culture
- Already have children or not

We know that many people can be hesitant to come forward and take the next step to either foster or adopt, and need some encouragement or re-assurance that they will receive a quick and sensitive response, with answers to any initial questions they may have.

Suffolk Fostering Service needs carers for children of all ages, but is particularly interested in hearing from people able to care for sibling groups or, children over the age of 11.

Foster carers receive ongoing and regular supervision, support and training.

Foster carers can provide care on a short-term basis whilst permanent plans are made for children to return home to birth family or, to an adoptive family. Alternatively, they can provide care on a long-term or permanent basis where the child will become a part of the carer's family until they are ready to leave home, but hopefully throughout their adult life too.

There are also specialised schemes such as the MTFC Zipwire programme for children over the age of seven who have more complex and challenging needs. MTFC Zipwire offers carers structured support and a fee, which represents the complexity of the task of caring for children with additional needs.

Alternatively, there is the LINK service which supports children and young people with learning, physical or sensory disability, and their families by providing regular short breaks.

Foster carer Jackie says ' Being a foster carer gives me a huge sense of pride in what I am doing – to make such a difference, and to be part of, and share, a child's life is so gratifying'

Please contact the Fostering Service on: 0800 328 2148 or visit www.suffolkfostering.com

Suffolk Adoption Agency is also currently looking for families, particularly for brothers and sisters, to grow up together in pairs or groups of three; and for children over three years and disabled children of all ages. Support is available to adoptive families throughout childhood and beyond if needed.

Building a family through adoption is rewarding, and is an opportunity to make a very significant difference to someone's life.

Please contact the Adoption Agency on: 0800 389 9417 or visit www.suffolkadoption.com



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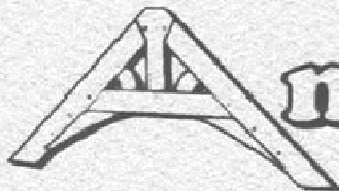
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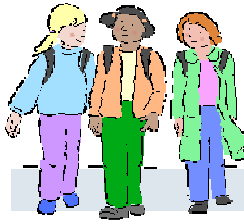


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Youth Club

Who are we?

Occold Youth Club is run by the volunteer Youth Team from Jubilee Baptist Church and has been active in Occold since 1998. Currently the team includes Andrew & Dawn Crisp, Robert & Paula Powell, Greg Noller, James Crisp & Andrew Mills.

Youth Club is open on alternate Friday evenings all year round (except during the summer holiday break) in Occold Village Hall and, is open to all young people and their friends aged 9 and upwards.

Session times are:

7.30pm – 9.00pm for those aged 9 – 11 and

7.30pm – 10pm for everyone aged 12 and upwards

Each session usually includes informal games around the pool table, table tennis, table top football, tuck shop and games consoles with other activities from time to time. In the Summer, more activities take place outside on the playing field – burning off some steam!

Child Protection Policy

Jubilee Baptist Church is a registered member of SAFEchild and undertakes an annual Child Protection Risk Assessment. All members of the regular youth team have up-to-date CRB checks.

First Aiders

The Youth Team also includes two with emergency first aid training

Parental Support

The Youth Team kindly ask that all parents or guardians complete and sign Parental Consent & Photo permission forms, so that we are aware of any special requirements and, can contact you if necessary.

For more information, please call Andrew or Dawn on 01379 678160

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PRE-SCHOOL

is a fun, friendly and nurturing environment for children from 2 to 5 years. We have fully qualified staff and high staff-to-child ratios.

We provide high quality care and education for children primarily below statutory school age. We work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop. We offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity.

Occold Pre School is situated within Occold Village Hall, with purpose built facilities for our young children.

Sessions are available term time Monday to Friday (8.30am - 3.30pm) at very competitive prices.

For more information contact Linda Jay at the address, phone number, or email address below.

Occold Pre School, The Village Hall,

Occold, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7PL Tel: 07790 605219

Email: occoldpreschool@aol.com

or check us out at www.occoldpreschool.co.uk

OCCOLD MARKET

Market Stalls

Over the 9 months of the Markets from March to November 2013, we hosted some 260 stalls from 52 different stallholders. Plus, around 20 car boots, together with the Flower Guild Annual Plant Sale and the Pre School Sports Day.

Foot-fall varied widely through the year but we continue to advertise via local press, Twitter, Facebook, craft fair web sites and roadside signs.

Over the course of the Markets, stallholders and visitors have donated generously. The raffle at the 30 November market raised £97 - our grateful thanks to all the stallholders who donated prizes and in particular, to Christine Howard for donation of the Star Prize.

From the above and donations received each month, we have sent a cheque to East Anglian Air Ambulance for £341.78 plus £30 in ticket sales for the EAAA Christmas Raffle, making a grand total of £371.78.

Pre-School Coffee Shop

Linda writes "Occold Pre-school would like to thank everyone who has supported the Café at the Market. It has been a fantastic fundraiser for us. And I have enjoyed meeting you all. I think you will all agree that special thanks must go to Barry and Pat for all the organising of the market. It's not an easy job juggling those tables around!

The pre-school café has raised just over £300, and we have spent over £100 on some lovely books for the children's Christmas presents. The rest will go to providing transport to various events in 2014. We are planning a trip to Stradbroke bakery and hope to visit Thornham walks as well.

Without your support these things would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you all during 2014."



Please do come along and support your market – if only for a cuppa and a chat!

News from St Michael and All Angels

We enjoyed a good celebration of Christmas despite lacking a Rector, and were pleased to see so many people attending the annual Carol Service. More recently the Flower Guild held their annual dinner and members of the PCC were pleased to be invited, and to attend, a convivial evening with good food, even if the drawing of raffle prizes called for debate! Thank you to the members of the Guild for all your work behind the scenes and for your continued support.

By the time that you read this we should have conducted interviews (as a second attempt) to appoint a new Rector of Eye, Occold and Bedingfield – we have had many applications this time and interviews take (or took) place on 13/14 March. We hope that we will this time have an offer to a candidate accepted and see a new Rector in place by late summer.

Meanwhile, services have continued almost every Sunday, and we owe a huge debt to Angie Baldwin who has kept everything running, either being present to conduct services or cajoling “retired” clergy to step in. Tom and Nick have continued to play the organ (and usually overcome any limitations in the congregations uncertainty over the appropriate tune) and we thank them too for their continued support.

You may have noticed that we have arranged fairly substantial tree surgery in the churchyard and cemetery. Apologies for any inconvenience while the works were carried out, but we hope that the end result will mean the overgrown areas are once more accessible, and there is no danger of storms bringing down large trees or parts of them.

The PCC will have to hold an annual meeting soon, and this will be advertised as it is open to all parishioners – come along if you are curious, would like to be involved, or want to exercise your right to vote!

We will give you an update on the appointment of a Rector as soon as we can, but if you want to know anything in the meantime please do contact:-

Stephen Hubner – 01379 678360

Gill Richardson – 01728 627916

St Michaels' Flower Guild

The Guild Annual Dinner was held in February 2014, attended by over 40 members and guests, who enjoyed a convivial evening together with good food and beverages.


Meetings throughout the year have been varied in their content and, have included visits to a Conservation Farm, Furze Farm at Rushall, an Evening Walk, a garden Party, an Evening of Fashion at Thorndon, a visit from Sarah's Hair Design, a Coffee morning involving 'The Pampered Chef' at Grove Farm and, a demonstration by Julia at the Church with some super Christmas Decorations.

The next meeting at the Church is on Wednesday 19th March with a visit from Garden Enclosure and in April, we have Round the World cyclist Richard Dunnett with us.

Advance notice May 24th 2014. Plant Sale at the Church.

Any plants you may have to spare for this event, would be most welcome.

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Tim Bloomfield



Painter and Decorator

2 Ash Tree Close
Occold, Eye
IP23 7LD

01379 678638 Mobile 07708644135

HLS ADS.

A New Village Recorder for Occold!



At the behest of Occold Parish Council, I have agreed to take on the role of Village Recorder for Occold, on behalf of the Suffolk Local History Council. The role of the Recorder is to ensure the survival of valuable material for future local historians by:

- Seeing that the present is adequately recorded at local level
- Being on the look-out for items of historical interest which might be overlooked or lost for ever.

But I cannot do this on my own! I need the help of local organisations and individuals, to tell me about what goes on. Whilst I get a lot of this already as material for www.occold.com, I don't see everything! Here are some suggestions as to what you could tell me about:

- **Primary School, Pre School and Youth Club** – Foreign exchange visits, field trips, participation in regional or national events for e.g. sport, dance, theatre etc. Significant changes to school curriculum.
- **Parish Council** – Major changes within the parish including roads, boundaries, footpaths and changes to existing buildings
- **St Michaels Church, Jubilee Baptist Church**– Any major changes to buildings or noteworthy events
- **ORAC** – Major events together with the posters, significant changes to Village Hall, Playing Field, Play Area and Village Green, updates on Village Fete, Craft Fair and Luncheon Club
- **WI, Football Club, Carpet Bowls** etc – Any major events or achievements e.g. trophies, programme of speakers etc
- **Village Hall Classes** – Any major event, exhibition or participation in national or regional events
- **Individuals** – Any significant achievement or representation in sport, theatre, dance etc – **don't be modest!** or - tell me about someone you know! Keep on the lookout for any material, photos etc that may have recorded Occold's past – its people, places and events, particularly if you find old newspaper articles.

SLHC do request a one page report annually in October from Recorders to summarise their parish. I will be retaining all this material in digital form and, will produce an annual disk which will be made available to Suffolk Records Office and anyone else who would like a copy.

I will also be making much of the material available on Occold website through a Village Recorder page – coming soon. I look forward to everyone helping me to preserve our history, for the future.

Barry Woods, villagerecorder@occold.com

Gislingham Variety Club

Presents:



A Musical Fable of Broadway

Based on a story and characters of

Damon Runyon

Gislingham Village Hall

Wed 2nd to Sat 5th April

Tickets: Adult £8 Child £6

Box office - 01379 788411

Music and Lyrics by

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Book by JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS

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with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. on behalf of
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Home-Start Volunteers Needed

We need people in your area to become Home-Start volunteers. Volunteers, usually parents themselves, use their life experiences to support other parents understanding that parenting can be tough.

If you have 2-3 hours a week to spare, you could visit families to offer support and encouragement in all sorts of circumstances.

- ▣ Train – Full training and support provided with option to receive an OCN qualification
- ▣ Develop – Your skills and confidence
- ▣ Help – Others using your experiences and knowledge
- ▣ Become – Part of a friendly team

Courses run in spring and autumn

For a volunteering pack or for more information please contact Maria Price, Scheme Co-ordinator, on 01379 678552 or email: office@homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk

Visit our website at www.homestartmidsuffolk.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

Please also get in touch if you have at least one child who is under 5 and feel the Home-Start service could help your family and, we can give you more information.

Home-Start in Mid Suffolk

Charity No. 1127760



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Stradbroke & District Branch,
The Royal British Legion:

Present a concert to commemorate 70th Anniversary of the D. Day Landings,
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At Stradbroke High School (IP21 5JN), 7-30pm
Saturday 31st May 2014 - Admission £5
Doors Open 7pm for
Bar and Draw Tickets

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Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP13 8EE—with a SAE (01986 798 414)

Cheques payable to: Royal British Legion (Stradbroke Branch)

Or from:
Post Office Stores, Horham
Rolfe Butchers, Stradbroke



Another Profile from your Parish Council!



Kevin Chittock

Born and bred in Ipswich, with a lot of family ties in and around Debenham, I married Monica in 1971 and moved to Debenham for a more affordable property.

We lived there for 14 years where Katie and Adam were born, also born around the same time as Katie, was Debenham Garage!

Looking for a larger property, with very little we could afford in Debenham, we moved to Occold. I soon became involved with the school. Keeping it open was the first priority - with only 33 children on the roll and rumours of small village schools being closed! Monica was treasurer and I was chairman of Friends of the School for quite a time. I also served on ORAC for some years, before becoming vice chairman.

I was elected to the board of governors of the school and became chairman after 4 years, serving in this role for 9 years, seeing 3 extensions and 4 head teachers during that period. I was elected to Occold Parish Council whilst chair of governors. With all of our three children having been educated at the school and moved on to Hartismere High, I decided it was time to retire from the board of governors, to make way for new parents.

Around this time I was elected to be chairman of the Parish Council and held that post for 9 years.



OCCOLD MARKET 2014

The Market will take place at Occold Village Hall, from 9:30am till 12 noon on the following Saturdays in 2014:

26 April, 31 May, 28 June, 27 September, 25 October and 29 November

Stalls will vary each week but will be selling a range of household items, bric-a-brac, DVDs, videos, games, catalogue companies, toys etc. You can download the Stallholder Bookings on the village website, to see what is on offer each month.

Whilst visiting the Market, why not enjoy fresh brewed coffee, bacon sarnies, juices etc at the Occold Coffee Shop, with all proceeds going to Occold Pre School.

In parallel with the Market, there will also be a Craft Fair in the Main Hall.

Any queries, please email market@occold.com or call 01379 67 88 44

News from the School **(extracts from newsletters written by Mr Williams)**

I greatly enjoyed my first term as Headteacher of this wonderful village school, which is made so very special by the dedicated support of the whole community. I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and, for all the different ways in which you contribute towards making our school such a warm and friendly place.

The Autumn Term was typically a very busy period for all primary schools and Occold has been no exception. It began with children and teachers spending time getting to know each other and adjusting to new routines and ended with a series of exciting festive events.

At the end of September, each class baked their own tasty treats which were sold at school during the 'Macmillan coffee morning'. The event, which took place on Friday 27th September, was well supported and raised £85.11. Children from Class 1 also baked for the Coffee Morning that took place on the last Friday before half-term.

On the 7th October, Class 1 visited the dinosaur park. The trip was very successful and well supported by parents. The children enjoyed being able to take part in a range of activities linked to their class topic on dinosaurs. Children not only learned all about dinosaurs, they also gained much from the outdoor and adventurous play opportunities, particularly the children in Reception. The cost of the trip was brought down significantly by financial support from the Friends. The excellent behaviour of Occold children was commented on by other guests at the park.

Class 3 continued to work with Dance East. The dance instructors have been impressed with the quality of work produced by our children. There has been a strong link between the writing and dance elements with children's compositions being used to inspire movement.

Class 2 and 3 attended the annual Cross-Country Competition on Mellis Common. All children raced, despite some early wobbles and foreboding smoke rising from the woods! Occold children ran well and secured two places in the final. We were unlucky not to achieve more with many children just finishing outside of qualifying positions. On Friday 15th November, two children from Occold represented the school in the area final of the Cross Country competition. They both ran well with one of them finishing in the top ten.

Year 6 attended the Aylmerton Field Study Centre from Monday 4th to Friday 7th November as part of a Pyramid residential. The children were accompanied by myself and Mrs Prentice. The trip was very successful and challenged the children academically, socially and physically, giving them the opportunities to develop character and get to know other children they are likely to be attending High School with. They also learned much about the geography and the history of the North Norfolk coast.

The children performed their Christmas Production at the Village Hall on Friday 13th December. All the children, volunteers and staff worked hard to ensure the play was of a high standard and enjoyed by all who watched it.

The Occold Ball that took place on the 19th September was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. My wife and I particularly enjoyed the occasion and I am looking forward to the next one (Mrs Williams is looking forward to another new dress!!).

Members of local faith groups have continued to contribute to school assemblies. I would like to thank Dawn, Paula, Stacey and Sam in particular, for their support.

On Monday 16th December, Brian and Chris from the local Rotary Club, led a fascinating assembly about the Philippines disaster and, how the school's contribution raised during the non-uniform day, would go towards a survival box (which they bought in for children to look at).

All parents are invited to attend our class assemblies – one for each class per term. This is when children present to the rest of the school, what they have learnt during the term. All assemblies usually start at 9.00am and last for approximately half-an-hour.

Oracle Produced by ORAC for everyone in Occold

School Website

The website has been moved to a new platform so that it can be more closely integrated with other applications used in the school. We hope that you find it useful as a source of information about our school. We have added some recent pictures of events in school so please take a look and let us know what you think. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see on the site we would be delighted to hear from you. You can find the website at www.occold.suffolk.sch.uk. Please note that the office email address is office@occoldprimaryschool.org.

We have started a 'gold book' to showcase examples of outstanding work produced by our children. It can be found on the shelf outside Mrs Pickard's office. Please take a look at the fantastic work in there when you are in school.

On the afternoon of Friday 24th January 2014, local Member of Parliament Dr Dan Poulter visited Occold Primary. He was shown around the school and visited each of the classes to watch lessons. After the tour he faced a 'grilling' question and answer session from the whole school. We would like to thank Dr Dan for visiting and giving us insights into the world of politics.

Year 6 have enjoyed a trip to Hartismere High School where they made their own popcorn. Judging by the rather interesting combinations of flavours they brought back with them, it appears that they were given lots of choice in terms of the ingredients they could use!

PE

All classes have enjoyed additional expert support this half term. Class 1 and 2 have been working with sports teaching assistant Mr Abbott whilst Class 3 have been working with both Dance East and teachers from Hartismere High School.

Some of the children from Class 3 had a super time at the basket ball tournament held at Debenham Leisure Centre on Thursday 6th February. We were up against some very skilful (and tall) opposition, but held our own and scored some fantastic baskets. I would like to thank our children for the excellent sportsmanship they displayed.

Just in case you were wondering, the current School Governors are:

Mrs Michelle Grange (Chair)
Mrs Samantha Warnes (Vice-Chair)
Parent Governor Vacancy
Parent Governor Vacancy
Mrs Janet Erhorn
Mrs Amanda Hull
Mr Steve Brewin
Mrs Vic Fiebelkorn
Miss Katie Pearse (Teacher representative)
Mr Paul Parslow-Williams (Head Teacher)
Mr Allan Williams is the Clerk to the Governing Body

And current Officers of Friends are:

Chair: Tanya Regan
Vice Chair: Lianne Selwood
Treasurer: Dave Griffiths
Secretary: Janet Erhorn

“How we poor live” at Occold!”
(an extract from your Village Recorders’ Files)

From: *The Ipswich Journal*, Friday, June 28, 1889; Issue 9189:

“HOW WE POOR LIVE” AT OCCOLD.

The Rev. T. Lee French, Thos. H. Tacon, E-q., and the Rev. S. B. Reynolds, attended the Hartismere Bench on Monday, but with the exception of allowing a few rates, the only business of a judicial character for them to transact was the hearing of three School Board cases from Occold. The defendants were *James Fulcher*, *Syer Hammond*, and *James Cook*, who were each and all represented by their wives, and thanks to Mrs. Cook, who, although rather deaf has a most voluble tongue, which she used incessantly, there was considerable amusement in Court. The Chairman being in one of his most humorous moods, and having something of an “original” before him, he made the most of it, the result being a good deal of laughter by all in Court. Mrs. Cook, however, had after all a doleful tale to tell, and being deaf, had prepared her defence in writing, which she handed to the Chairman, who read it as follows:—“Gentlemen,—I do not wish to disobey the school Board, but the saying is, that hunger tames the lion, so poverty makes one desprat i have got thirteen children, i have never troubled the parish for eny thing only when i have been rite down ferst and dont wish, this last winter i had 8 children at home and only my husband 11s. 6d. a week to look to. that was a penny 3 farthings a day a head. that had to bye every-thing i should have had ten only mother and sister have one each. that is a great help but they mite be sent home at any time as my parents are g’ting old. Gentlemen. i kindly ask you how you would feel if you had to turn out at 4 in the morn till 7 at night with a peace of dry bread and a little hot water. my husband have done that a plenty this winter i had three children had the wooping cough all winter, the baby had bronchits as well. i have the boy at home lattily (the boy for which Cook was summoned) more then i ought i knew i am glad to orn a few half pance the boy is eleven next munday. he could ern 2s. or 2-6 a week that would be ah’lp. my children are nearly naked. i now whaut 3 pounds i dont see much chanch cf heven o them. i am not afraid to work. i cannot blame the Borard. they dont make the law, those that make the laws have no idcar how we poor live what have grate family. i had 8 under 12 up till christmas 7 now, this the plain truth. Mrs. Cook. i hope you will be as lieant as you can with me this is my childrens ages. Alice 20. home in winter not wol; Mary 18 out; Thones 17 to day, dont live at home; James 15 at home doin nothing all winter; Esther 14 out 6 a week; harry 12 at home doin nothing all winter; Arther 11 next sunday (this is the boy for which Cook was summoned); fanny 9 at mother; George 7 at sisters; Millie 6 at home; Sarah 5 at home; Charlis 2 at home; Stanley 11 months; James and harry earn a little now when its fine.”—In reply to the Chairman, Mrs. Cook said this was all true, and she and the other women having made promises for the future, the cases were all dismissed with due caution, the Bench manifesting practical sympathy with Mrs. Cook.

Would you like a translation!!.....

Here goes:

“The Revd T Lee French, Thos H Tacon Esq., and the Revd S B Reynolds attended the Hartismere Bench on Monday, but with the exception of allowing a few rates, the only business of a judicial character for them to transact, was the hearing of 3 School Board cases from Occold.

The defendants were James Fulcher, Syer Hammond and James Cook, who were each and all, represented by their wives! And, thanks to Mrs Cook, who although rather deaf, has a most voluble tongue – which she used incessantly, there was considerable amusement in court! The Chairman, being in one of his humorous moods, and having something of an ‘original’ before him, made the most of it and the result being a good deal of laughter in court!

Mrs Cook had, after all, a doleful tale to tell and, being deaf, had prepared her defence in writing, which she handed to the Chairman, who read it as follows –

‘Gentlemen, I do not wish to disobey the School Board, but, the saying is ‘that hunger tames the Lions – so poverty makes one desperate!’ I have got 13 children, I have never troubled the Parish for anything, only when I have been right down first, and don’t wish. This last winter I had 8 children at home and, only my husband’s 11 shillings and sixpence a week to look to – that was a penny three farthings a day a head, that had to buy everything. I should have had ten, only mother and sister had one each, which is a great help only, they might be sent home any time as my parents are getting old. Gentlemen I kindly ask you how you would feel, if you had to turn out from 4 in the morning till 7 at night, with only a dry piece of bread and a little hot water? My husband has done that a-plenty this winter and, I had 3 children who had the whooping cough all winter! The baby had bronchitis as well.

I had the boy at home lately (the boy for whom Cook was summoned), more than I ought I know, I am glad to earn a few half-pennies, the boy is eleven next Monday. He could earn 2 shillings or 2 and sixpence a week, that would be a help. My children are nearly naked. I now want 3 pounds – but I don’t see much chance of having them! I am not afraid to work and I cannot blame the Board, they don’t make the law – those that make the law have no idea how the poor live and what great big families we have! I had 8 under 12 up to Christmas, 7 now. This is the plain truth. Mrs Cook. – I hope you will be as lenient as you can with me. This is my children’s ages: Alice 20, home in winter not well. Mary 18 out. Thomas 17 today and don’t live at home. James 15 at home doing nothing all winter. Esther 14 out 6 days a week. Harry 12 at home doing nothing all winter. Arthur 11 next Sunday (this is the boy for which Cook was summoned). Fanny 9 at mother’s. George 7 at sister’s. Millie 6 at home. Sarah 5 at home. Charlie 2 at home. Stanley 11 months. James and Harry earn a little now, when it’s fine.’

In reply to the Chairman, Mrs Cook said that this was all true and, she and the other women, having made promises for the future, the cases were all dismissed with due caution, the Bench, manifesting Practical Sympathy with Mrs Cook.”

(Editor - I think that’s what it said!)



RECTORS OF OCCOLD

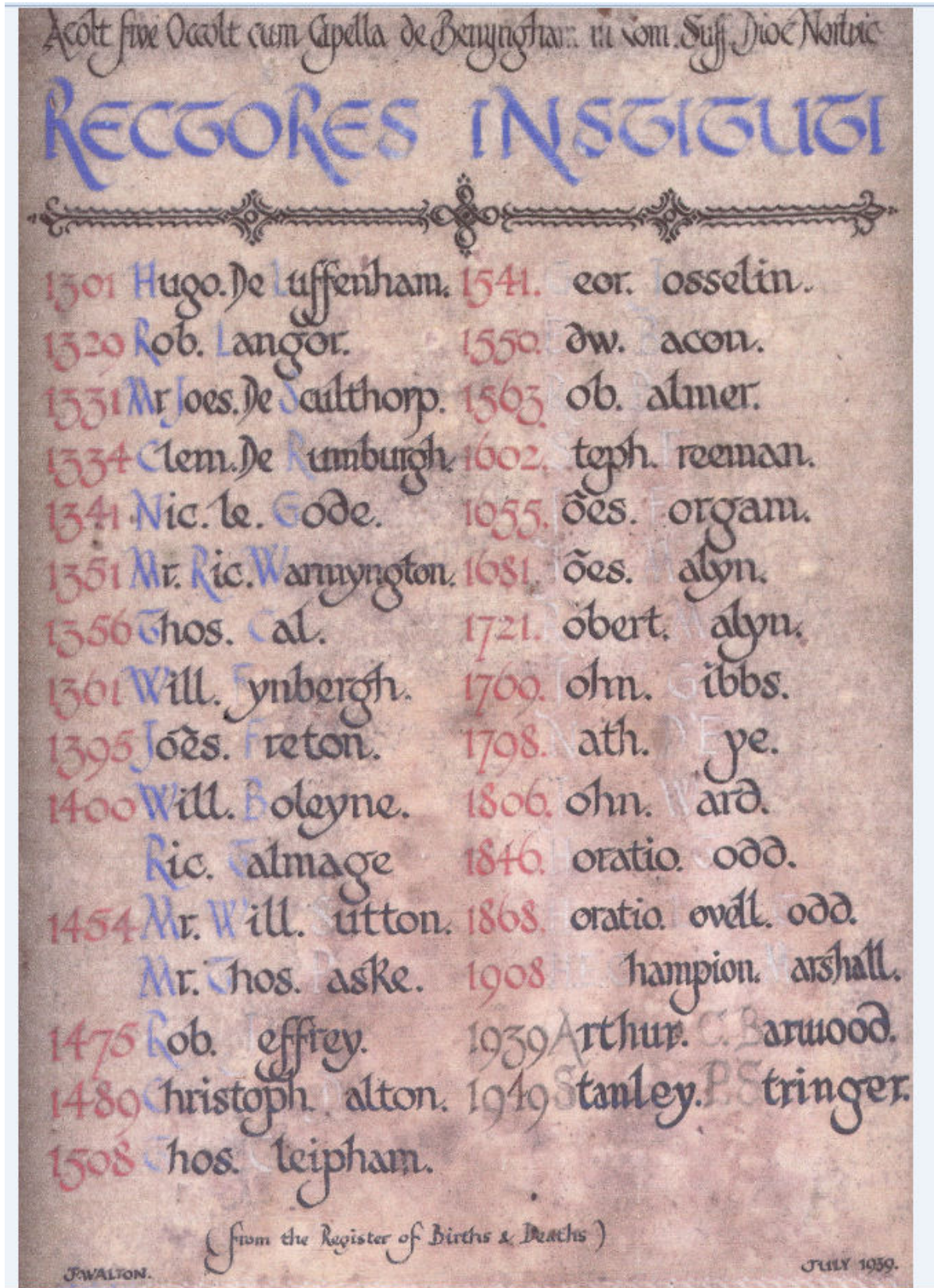
Over the period August -November 2013, Pat and Barry Woods traced the ancestors and descendants of some of our Rectors.

All the raw data – names, dates, places, additional notes etc – are listed on the website – visit www.occold.com and select the 'People' tab at the top.

We have uncovered some interesting facts about some of those researched. We plan to document these in future articles to be published in ORACLE. These articles will, of course, also be published on the website and, included in the Village Recorder pack.

1301	Hugo De Luffenham
1329	Robert Langor
1331	Mr Joes De Sculthorp
1334	Clement De Rumburgh
1341	Nicholas le Gode
1351	Mr Richard Warmyngton
1356	Thomas Cal
1361	William Fynbergh
1395	Joseph Freton
1400	William Boleyn
	Richard Talmage
1454	Mr William Sutton
	Mr Thomas Paske
1475	Robert Jeffrey
1489	Christopher Dalton
1508	Thomas Cleipham
1541	George Josselin
1550	Edward Bacon
1563	Robert Palmer
1602	Stephen Freeman
1655	Joseph Forgam
1681	Joseph Halyn
1721	Robert Halyn
1769	John Gibbs
1798	Nathaniel D'Eye
1806	John Ward
1846	Horatio Todd
1868	Horatio Lovell Todd
1908	Herbert Edward Champion Marshall
1939	Arthur Alfred Charles Barwood
1946	Vacancy (Rev Donald Rea officiating)
1949	Stanley Padbury Stringer
1980	John W Larter
1985	Richard H Smith
1999	Christopher J Atkinson
2004	Andrew Mitcham

And, some of the original records.....



What is Lent?

For those in the Christian faith, the Season of Lent is typically considered to be the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday and, is often characterized by abstention from certain kinds of food or activities. The period is most commonly thought of as a symbol of the 40 days and nights Jesus spent struggling with the devil in the wilderness. The practice of Lent likely has its origins in practical reasons. In agricultural societies (as most Christian cultures were, in the fourth and fifth centuries, when Lent is first mentioned in historical context), winter crops were often scarce. Correspondingly, a period of fasting *may* have been a spiritual response to a physical need. The excesses and revels of Shrove Tuesday (also known as Mardi Gras), the day before Ash Wednesday, were, in all likelihood, a response to the same phenomenon, as people wanted to consume perishable goods (like meats, eggs, dairy products, and sweets) before they spoiled. As the practice of Lent evolved, it began to take on the added significance of a preparation of new church members for baptism on Easter Sunday. This period of fasting and preparation was eventually embraced by all Church members. Additionally, Lent was once referred to as 'quadregesima', which is Latin for the fortieth day before Easter. The word "Lent" itself is thought to come from a Germanic root, 'lenct', which initially meant "spring" and, later, "fast." Lent's duration is actually 46 days. However, as Sundays represent Christ's resurrection, they are not commonly counted in the tally between Ash Wednesday and the Easter Sunday. The primary meaning of the fast, is considered to be a way of identifying with the suffering of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospels, and, of acknowledging his death for the sins of mankind.

Fasting in other religions

Different religions fast for different reasons. Sometimes people fast because they believe that suffering makes them closer to God. Fasting is believed to concentrate the mind on holy thoughts. There are some religions such as Buddhism and Sikhism, that don't encourage fasting, because they don't believe it helps deepen religious strength.

Jews

Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement when Jews believe they are punished for past sins and can pray for the future. It is a solemn time when Jews feel they have to show they want forgiveness for their sins by practising self-discipline. They do this by fasting and praying.

Muslims

Ramadan is the month when Muslims fast from before sunrise to sunset. It remembers the time when the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelation of the Qur'an, the Muslim holy book, from the Angel Jibril.

Hindus

Hindus fast at festivals and at other times to show devotion to the Hindu deities (gods). They fast on certain days of the month such as Purnima (full moon) and Ekadasi (the 11th day of the fortnight) and also on certain days of the week, depending on their favourite God and its special day.

Jubilee Baptist Church

Warmly invites You

To Join with us

At our Easter Celebrations

On

Sunday 20th April

At 10.45am in the Village Hall

And

At 6.00pm in the Chapel



Who's Who?

Occold Recreational & Amenities Council (ORAC)

Chairman:	Rob Richardson orac.chairman@occold.com	01728 627 916
Vice Chairman:	Scott Regan	678 537
Secretary:	Martin Shelley orac.secretary@occold.com	678 634
Treasurer: (ORACLE , paper bank emptying & hall hire payments):		
	Di Noller orac.treasurer@occold.com/oracle@occold.com	678 198
Hall Bookings/Website:	Barry Woods	678 844
	www.occold.onesuffolk.net	

Other Committee members: Lindsay Alexander, Gordon Erhorn, Angela Hall, Linda Jay, Linda St Pier, Anne Stainsby, Dee Stephenson, Donald Turner and Nigel Woodhouse

<u>Jubilee Baptist Church:</u>	Church Secretary: Robert Powell	01449 774609
Youth Club:	Andrew & Dawn Crisp	678 160
Friends & Neighbours:	Pauline Harvey	678 764
<u>Neighbourhood Watch:</u>	Betsy Self/Brian Hull	678 228

Occold Parish Council:

Chair:	Brian Hull	678 228
Vice Chair:	Colin Cripps	672 945
Clerk:	Sue Hubner parishcouncil@occold.com	678 360
Councillors:	Kevin Chittock, Michelle Grange, Stephen Hubner, Di Noller, Richard Owen, Patric Stanford	

Occold Pre-School: Leader: Linda Jay 07790605219

Redlingfield & Occold Women's Institute:

President: Pam Cripps pammyc@sky.com 672 945

St. Michael & All Angels Church:

Churchwarden: Stephen Hubner, The Beeches, Occold 678 360
Churchwarden: Gill Richardson, Moat Farm, Southolt 01728 627 916
Flower Guild: Elly Rivett, Coppings, Redlingfield Road, Occold 678 244

Village Charities: Trustees: Stephen Hubner 678 360 Lynette Bulley 678 123

Organisations and Regular Events

Oracle Produced by ORAC for everyone in Occold

Ballroom Dancing Classes: Occold Village Hall - Mondays 6.45pm to 7.45pm

Bellycise & Bollyfitness: Occold Village Hall Thursdays 11.00 am and 7.30pm

Fitness Sessions: Occold Village Hall Wednesdays 5.45pm to 6.45pm

Jubilee Baptist Church:

Regular Sunday Services:

At Occold Village Hall - at 10.45am

AND at the **Baptist Chapel** - at 6.00pm

Prayer & Bible Study: Thursdays 7.30pm at the Baptist Chapel

Friends & Neighbours: on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Chapel

Youth Club: two groups meet on alternate Friday evenings in Occold village hall.
9-11's: 7.30pm – 9.00pm 12's+: 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Line Dancing: Occold Village Hall – Tuesdays 7.30pm

Occold Carpet Bowls Club: Occold Village Hall – Wednesdays 7.00pm

Occold Crafts/Market: Occold Village Hall – last Saturday of month 9.30am

Occold Lunch Club: Occold Village Hall – alternate Mondays 12.30pm

Occold Parish Council: Occold Village Hall – usually 2nd Monday of month 8.00pm

Occold Pre-School: (School Term time only) 5 days a week and lunch clubs in Occold Village Hall for children from 2 - 5 years. **(See advertisement for details)**

Redlingfield & Occold Women's Institute: Occold village hall

1st Wednesday of month 7.45pm (except January when it's the 2nd Wednesday)

St Michael & All Angels: meet on most Sundays of the year at 9:30am for Morning Prayer or Eucharist or, at 6.30pm for Evensong. Service details can be found on the Church Notice Board, in the Eye Magazine or, on the Occold web site.

St Michael's Flower Guild: Meets at 7.30pm on third Wednesday of each month

Watercolour Painting Classes: Occold Village Hall – fortnightly Thursdays 1.00pm

Staying Safe – On Line
(as advised by the Safer Neighbourhood Team)

Online purchasing and banking is becoming increasingly popular. It is important, therefore, to ensure that you have appropriate firewall settings and security software installed on your computers. In addition to this, it is important to look for security indicators on the webpage that you intend to visit. For example, look for 'https' in the address bar or the padlock symbol in the browser. You can increase your safety further by not using your banking password for any other website.

Social networking is another popular activity. Stay safe online by limiting the amount of information you disclose about yourself and your family, use a 'nickname' and increase your security settings e.g. on Facebook, only allow your friends and family to see your posts and, filter what posts are displayed on your profile page.

Keeping your children safe online is also vitally important. There are many steps that can be taken in order to reduce the potential risks that certain sites and internet users can pose to them and vulnerable adults. These include:

- Take an interest in what your child does online, learn their habits, the sites they access and, the people they 'speak' to.

- Keep the computer they use, in a family room where you can monitor what is going on.

- Use a general family email address when signing up to websites, not the child's specific name

- Provide essential safety advice such as –

 - Advise children to ONLY 'speak' to and webcam those they know offline (in person), encouraging them to raise concerns if they are asked to do something they are uncomfortable with.

 - Help your child understand the reasons why they should not give out personal details to online 'friends', explaining how people can hide their true identities.

 - Remind children that when photographs are uploaded to the internet, they can never be completely erased and, can be tampered with by others.

If you believe a child or young person might be in imminent danger, dial 999 in order to contact the police or dial 101 in a non-emergency situation, if you suspect a crime has been committed.



Memories from 'Dark Days'

Oracle Produced by ORAC for everyone in Occold

As the world commemorates the outbreak of the First World War, this year, so it might be timely to include some extracts from a booklet written by Alan Moore (more details of which are on the village website).

'Nothing could have prepared the village for the maelstrom that was to engulf their young men following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in a remote corner of the Balkans in 1914. One needs to try to look through their eyes to see why they queued up to enlist in Eye or, wherever they happened to be. Within four weeks of the assassination, the UK had tried to convene an international conference to settle the dispute but Germany opposed it. As the armies facing each other started to mobilise, Germany declared war on Russia and then France.

A day later Germany invaded neutral Belgium in a long prepared plan to outflank the French. Immediately Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Many local lads may not have travelled far but they knew that Belgium was just the other side of the German Ocean (as the North Sea was called at that time) and felt the threat of German expansionism personally as well as patriotically.

On the day war broke out, on 4th August 1914, Lord Kitchener called for 100,000 men to join the army. They enlisted into the Service Battalions (signed for three years or the duration of the war, whichever was the lesser).

The K1 Battalion which most Occold men joined, was the 7th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment.

Frederick ELLIOT, Charles Robert MULLENGER and George Frederick MULLENGER from Occold all enlisted on the same day in Eye. They joined the Suffolks - and never returned.

Within a few weeks the quota of 100,000 had been found and K2 and K3 Battalions for Kitchener's New Army were initiated. The war that would "be over by Christmas" dragged on to the next Christmas (1915), when conscription was introduced.

At first a war of moving battles, as has been seen before, ensued, even including cavalry charges, but by the end of 1914 it had settled into the bloody attrition of trench warfare which was to typify this new kind of war.

The first Occold man to die was twenty one year old Private Charles Robert MULLENGER who having fought in France and Flanders, died of his wounds after repatriation to England. As he lay dying, in January 1915, the first Zeppelin bombs were falling on Kings Lynn.

As the first tank was being demonstrated to British military leaders in early September 1915, George HAMMOND was travelling to Flesselles in France. But his stay in France was to be very short and, by October he was moved by train to Marseilles and embarked for Salonika in northern Greece, where he was to spend the final year of his life.

The 1914-1918 War saw the raising of twenty-five battalions of the Suffolk Regiment.

The Regular Army formed the British Expeditionary Force to France in 1914, which included the 2nd Battalion.

The Regular Army was virtually destroyed following the Battles of Mons and The Marne and to replace it, Kitchener's New Army was formed.

These new units - the 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions - followed the Regulars into the war: six battalions of the regiment were engaged on the Somme in 1916 and five in the battles at Arras in 1917.

During the war years, apart from France and Flanders, battalions of the regiment fought at Gallipoli, Salonika and in the Middle East.

The Regimental Chapel situated in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, commemorates the 360 officers and 6,513 other ranks of the Suffolk Regiment who did not return.'

'Nicholas Herbert Todd – was the son of the Rector of Occold. He became a poet, playwright and teacher. He enlisted in the army in 1916.

Oracle Produced by ORAC for everyone in Occold

Below is one of the poems written by him:

Now I am a Tommy, a soldier of the King,
I find my muse, my rhythmic muse, most disinclined to sing,
It doesn't foster poetry, this everlasting drill,
Nor can I write a single line when doubling up a hill.

If you've slept between rough blankets in an army "bungalow"
And hear each morn at 6 O'clock the beastly bugles blow
And get ticked off on parade for spots upon your belt,
You certainly enjoy some things the poets never felt.

I cannot well Imagine Old Homer forming fours,
Nor Vergil at his post all night Guarding, the O.S. stores,
Nor Tennyson or Swinburne writing a pretty trifle
Upon the various beauties of the new Service Rifle.

If Hood had cleaned a boiler out or spent three hours in scrubbing
Or Shakespeare had to do his boots with special army dubbing,
I know that they'd have found their muse exceedingly retiring
Horace had never made a name for verse at rapid firing!

There is no Inspiration in the peeling onion "stunt",
Nor can you feel poetic when "looking to your front"
A heavy pack, a dusty road, a burning summer sun
Suggest my course to Helicon is very nearly run.

But if at last the day will dawn, when I can wear a tie,
And in the dust of memory my jagged putties lie,
When I return to civil things and have a decent meal
Perhaps I shall be able to write down all the things I feel.

Signed
NHT August 1916'





Report from Dr Dan Poulter MP

Over the last few months, I have been busy in Parliament helping to guide the Care Bill through Parliament. The Bill, is the Coalition Government's key piece of legislation dealing with how we are cared for in the UK. It fundamentally reforms how the law works, prioritising people's well-being, needs and goals.

In the wake of the failings in care at Stafford Hospital it will allow for Ofsted-style ratings for hospitals and care homes, that will allow patients and the public to compare organisations or services in a fair and balanced way. The bill will give the Chief Inspector of Hospitals the power to instigate a process to tackle unresolved problems with the quality of care, more effectively than before. It will also make it a criminal offence for providers to supply or publish fake or misleading information.

Finally, the bill establishes Health Education England as a statutory body, which will assist local healthcare providers and professionals to take responsibility for educating and training their staff.

I recently visited Permastore on the Eye Airfield Industrial Estate. It is one of the top 100 companies in Suffolk and, a significant local employer with 217 employees. Permastore are specialist manufacturers of modular bolted liquid and dry bulk storage tanks and silos. I was taken on a tour of the factory and shown the manufacturing process and, was able to see the new £500,000 CNC laser cutting machine. I was also able to meet some of the skilled staff as they worked on the production lines.

I then paid a visit to BLT Circuit Services, also based on the Industrial Estate. They are a specialist manufacturing company and, are one of the largest UK manufacturers of nitrogen cast solders. Here, I was shown around by the Managing Director and learned how the company operates and about their growth plans for the future.

I hold regular constituency surgeries locally to help people who have problems. If you think that I may be able to help you, please contact me on 01728 685148 or, email me at drdanielpoulter.com.

A Poem For Easter

JESUS LOVES US ALL SO MUCH

Jesus loves us all so much
That He would bleed and die,
He took upon His beaten back
The cross that saw Him crucified

Yes, He loved us all so much
That He was scorned and scoffed,
He took it all upon Himself
For it was the will of God

God knew it was the only way,
The final sacrifice
Jesus Christ, a sinless man,
Would need to give His life

And even in the gift He gave
We still have not yet known,
The fullness of His mighty love
And the grace so freely shown

All He asks is that we all
Repent and follow Him,
For He has made the way for us,
Free from hurt and sin

Yes, God loved us all so much
And yes, He loves us still,
He longs for us to trust in Him
And do the Father's will.

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And Finally..... Some Easter Trivia

- The name Easter derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eastre, which symbolizes a hare and an egg.
 - Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.
 - Easter is however now celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, which happens on, or after March 21, the Spring Equinox.
 - Since time immemorial, the egg has been considered as the symbol of re-birth.
 - Easter eggs in a nest. The first Easter baskets were designed as such so as to give it an appearance of a bird's nest.
 - The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back to Egyptians, Gauls, Persians, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life.
 - During the medieval times, a festival of egg throwing was held in church, during which the priest would throw a hard-boiled egg to one of the choirboys. It would then be tossed from one choirboy to the next and, whoever held the egg when the clock struck 12 was surely the winner and will retain the egg!
 - Americans however, celebrated Easter with a large Easter egg hunt on the White House Lawn.
 - Pysanka is the term used for the practice of Easter egg painting.
 - Each year nearly 90 million chocolate bunnies are made.
 - When it comes to eating chocolate bunnies, the ears are preferred to be eaten first by as many as 76% of people.
 - Easter Bonnets are a throwback to the days when the people denied themselves the pleasure of wearing fine garments for the duration of Lent.
 - Hot cross buns, made by European monks, are counted amongst the earliest Easter treats. They were given to the poor people, during the month of Lent.
- The tallest and heaviest Easter egg ever made was just over 25 feet high and weighed 8,968 pounds.
The Easter Bunny originates from Germany.

A Very Happy Easter To You All!

