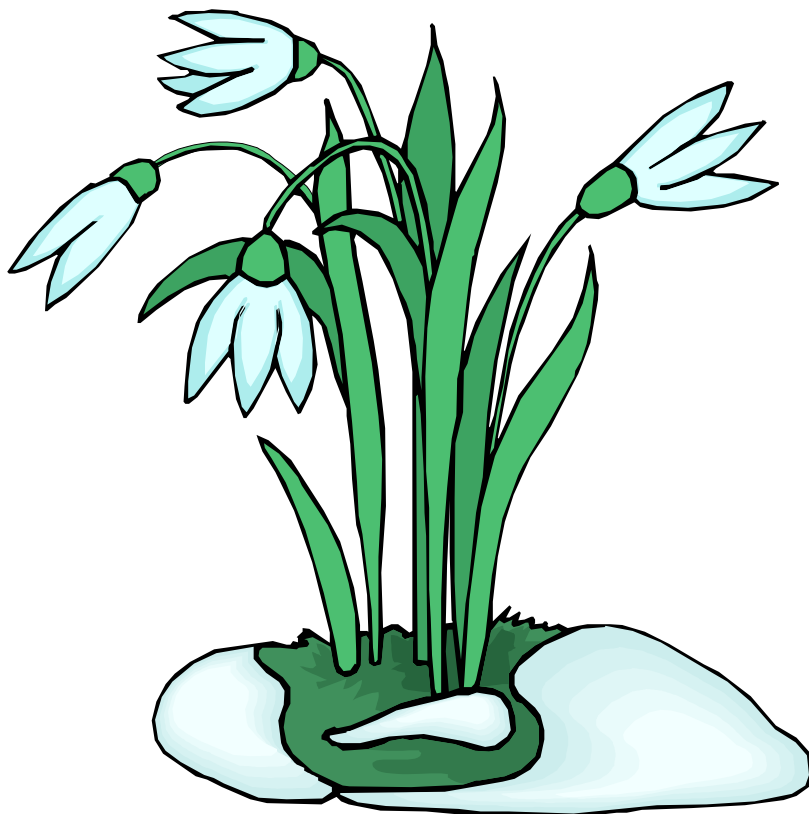


# HEPWORTH SOCIAL CLUB

## NEWSLETTER



Issue  
No 114

February  
2008

This Newsletter is available on the Internet at  
<http://www.johnbeales.co.uk/news.htm>



**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT  
CHARITY FUND RAISING DISCO**

9<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 til 11.30pm

**'BERTIE BASSETT'S DISCO'  
AT THE  
ROSE AND CROWN STANTON**



There will be a raffle on the night with all proceeds going to  
Macmillan Cancer Support

All donations for the raffle greatly appreciated.

Tickets £5 per person (accompanied children under 14 £2.00)

Tickets from Steve or Julie on 07775 626383 or 01359 252340

**TAI CHI**

Chinese health giving gentle exercise to maintain and  
improve your well being!

Suitable for all ages and abilities

Beginners welcome and you progress at your own pace

Improve your health levels

Feel relaxed

Sessions are fun, lots of smiling

It is an amazing energy producing Chinese movement technique  
that many doctors now recommend for relaxation, reducing stress  
and even helping the body with ailments.

Tai Chi combines simple gentle movements and balanced breathing  
in a controlled way.

It's simplicity makes it easy to learn and enjoy.

**BOTESDALE VILLAGE HALL**

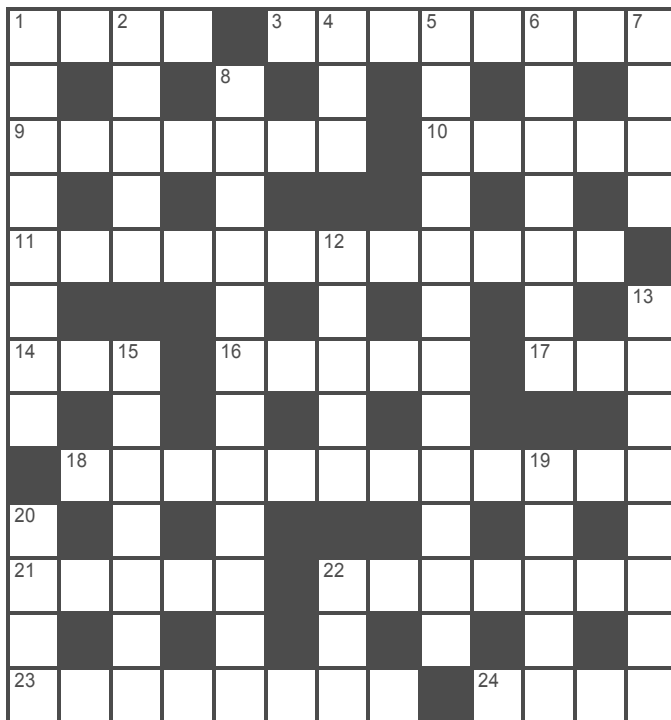
Mondays 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Only £3.00 per session

For more information call Andy 07891 397718

One to one personal tuition also available.

## Crossword No 115



### Across

- 1 Actors (4)
- 3 Not nice (8)
- 9 Otagia (7)
- 10 A separate part (5)
- 11 Changes for the better (12)
- 14 A large open vessel (3)
- 16 Wood smoothing tool (5)
- 17 Glide over snow (3)
- 18 Without advance planning (12)
- 21 Opposite to cry (5)
- 22 Check (7)
- 23 Changing location rapidly (8)
- 24 Visual organs (4)

### Down

- 1 Medicine shop (8)
- 2 Dispose of (5)
- 4 A single unit (3)
- 5 Standing for (12)
- 6 Signs of life (7)
- 7 Always, at any time (4)
- 8 Highly skilled (12)
- 12 Rub out (5)
- 13 Two wheeled vehicle (8)
- 15 On account of (7)
- 19 Motorised wagon (5)
- 20 Positive (4)
- 22 Metal container for food (3)

Answers on page 9

## "B.O.O.K"

Let me introduce the new Bio-optic Organized Knowing device trade named BOOK.

BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology. No wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. Its so easy to use, even a child can operate it.

Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere - even sitting in an armchair by the fire - yet it is so powerful it can hold as much information as a CD-Rom Disc.

Here's how it works:

BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence.

Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows the manufacturer to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density for now. BOOKS with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet.

BOOK may be taken up at any time and used by merely opening it.

BOOK never crashes or requires rebooting, though, like other devices it can become damaged if coffee is spilled on it and it becomes unusable if dropped too many times on hard surfaces.

The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and more forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an "index" feature which pin points the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional BOOKMARK accessory allows you to open BOOK to the nearest place you left it in previous session - even if the BOOK has been closed.

BOOKMARKS fit universal design standards, thus a single

BOOKMARK can be used in BOOKS by various manufacturers. Conversely, numerous BOOKMARKERS can be used in a single BOOK if the user wants to store numerous views at one time. The number is limited only by the number of pages in the BOOK.

You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries with optional programming tools. Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Styli. (PENCILS).

Portable and durable and affordable, BOOK is being hailed as a precursor of the new information and entertainment wave.

### Wordsearch - Girls Names

There are 40 - can you find them all.  
The word list is on the back page



## **HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

The scheduled meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 at the pavilion. The meeting was chaired by Mr Stannard. Amongst the matters discussed were:

**Report from County Councillor** The meeting with the Chief Constable will be held at Ixworth on the evening of Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Report from Borough Councillor** The Borough Councillor reported on an updated process for declaring interests at meetings and an updated booklet on speaking at Development Control meetings; he updated the meeting on Ipswich's bids for unitary status and the possibility of a West Suffolk local authority; he reported on SEBC's bid for £4-£6 million funding to set up housing infrastructures to meet the need for 530 new houses per year; on the new Rural Action Plan which will run from 2008 to 2010 to help rural areas, and will concentrate on people, places, and prosperity; and on the next Countryside Forum to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June which will concentrate on rights of way.

**Report from Community Police Officer** The CPO reported that from September to December, five crimes had been reported (three were linked to one person, one was an attempted burglary and one was a theft of fencing). Regarding concern about accidents on the A143, the CPO confirmed that, if the registration number of a dangerous driver is recorded, motorists can be booked on a witness statement. Speed camera checks can be carried out regularly within the village, and most foot patrols are made in the evenings to deal with youths in Barningham and Hopton.

**Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings** These included opening hours at the rubbish tip in Bury St Edmunds, ownership of the driveway to the village hall, an overgrown footpath, plan for Wood Lane corner, cleaning of telephone kiosk and grass-cutting and ditch clearance in this area, road maintenance, and the proposed bus shelter on the A143. It was noted that the planning permission for change of use to holiday let at Mill House, Bury Road, had been granted. It was noted that the mobile skate park will probably not be a viable option.

**Meadow Farm, North Common** The Parish Council had no

objection or observation in connection with a planning application for the erection of a building to be used for animal physiotherapy.

**Accounts for Payment** New rates were agreed for the Clerk's salary and mileage with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007, and payments of the Clerk's salary and expenses was agreed.

**Clerk's Report** The report included the external auditor's comments, removal of a tree behind bungalows 7-9 The Street and planting of new trees to the front, training for the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey in 2008, funding available from the Rural Economy Scheme, Neighbourhood Watch and Police Direct messaging issues, and the awaited provision of a bridge to Brockley Wood as well as the associated footpath being used by horses and signs which had been knocked down.

**Items of Expenditure** Expenditure on a fence around the play area on the recreation ground, and on bathroom fittings and broken and cracked tiling in the village hall, and further funding of the Hepworth Social Club Newsletter will all be considered at the next meeting.

## HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the pavilion. The meeting was chaired by Mr Stannard. Amongst the matters discussed were:

**Planning Application – Dormer Cottage, Beck Street** Application for change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage to facilitate the erection of a) one-and-a-half storey extension to west elevation; b) conservatory; and c) double garage (following the demolition of existing sun room and garage). The Parish Council had no objection or observation.

**Clearance of Accident Debris** The clerk will report car parts to be cleared, following the accident outside the Duke of Marlborough.

**Proposed Road Safety Improvement Works on A143** The detailed proposals were reviewed, and the Clerk will ask that a new bus-shelter and pull-in bus-stop be included in the planned safety works.

## Mean Mums

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate biscuits for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Mars Bar for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had, too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labour Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds. Then, life was really tough! Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 17.

Because of our mother we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did. Sundays were reserved for church, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays.

Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mum was. I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean mum's anymore.



## Innocent Question

There was this blonde city-girl who was out driving and found herself in a rural area. She noted a farm animal standing next to a farmer and stopped the car to ask the farmer a question.

"Sir," she inquired, "Why doesn't this cow have any horns?"

The farmer cocked his head for a moment, then began in a patient tone. "Well, ma'am, cattle can do a powerful lot of damage with horns. Sometimes we keep'em trimmed down with a hacksaw. Other times we can fix up the young 'uns by puttin' a couple drops of acid where their horns would grow in, and that stops 'em cold.

Still, there are some breeds of cattle that never grow horns. But the reason this cow don't have no horns, ma'am, is 'cause it's a horse."



Look at the chart and say the COLOUR not the word

**YELLOW BLUE ORANGE**  
**BLACK RED GREEN**  
**PURPLE YELLOW RED**  
**ORANGE GREEN BLACK**  
**BLUE RED PURPLE**  
**GREEN BLUE ORANGE**

### Left - Right Conflict

**Your right brain tries to say the colour but  
your left brain insists on reading the word.**

## Answers to Crossword 115

**Across:** 1 Cast, 3 Horrible, 9 Earache, 10 Piece, 11 Improvements, 14 Tub, 16 Plane, 17 Ski, 18 Accidentally, 21 Laugh, 22 Control, 23 Speeding, 24 Eyes.

**Down:** 1 Chemists, 2 Scrap, 4 One, 5 Representing, 6 Breaths, 7 Ever, 8 Accomplished, 12 Erase, 13 Bicycles, 15 Because, 19 Lorry, 20 Plus, 22 Can.

# Information



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A Policing Forum will be held at Ixworth Village Hall on Thursday 28th February at 7.30 pm.**

This will be an opportunity for all in the surrounding villages to hear from, and ask questions of, the local policing teams and the Deputy Chief Constable of Suffolk, Mrs Jacqui Cheer.

The Forum will be chaired by the local Suffolk Police Authority Member, Joanna Spicer, and the agenda will also include consultation with all about local community engagement and how best to access the police locally.

## **Recycle your old mobile phone for Suffolk charities**

Did you or a member of your family receive a new mobile phone for Christmas? Is the old phone now sitting in a drawer gathering dust? Your old phone can be turned into cash for **Operation Santa Claus**.

Suffolk Constabulary for a number of years has supported SGR FM's charity, Operation Santa Claus. All the money raised by Operation Santa Claus is used in helping charitable causes in Suffolk make a difference to our county; in the past 12 months Operation Santa Claus has helped over 150 local charities with grants of various sizes.

You can continue to help Operation Santa Claus by donating your old mobile phone. For every phone donated, £10 will go to the charity. Operation Santa Claus is working with Recycle Your Mobile, all you have to do is drop your unwanted mobile phone (minus the SIM card!) into a special Freepost envelope and into a postbox.

**WANT AN ENVELOPE?**

If you've got any mobile phones then e-mail [louise.gregory@gcapmedia.com](mailto:louise.gregory@gcapmedia.com) or give SGR FM's Charity Manager Louise Gregory a call (01473 467544) and a bag will be sent to you.

For more information about Operation Santa Claus, visit the [SGR FM](#) website

## **Battery recycling - a New Year resolution perhaps?**

According to the British Battery Manufacturers Association, over 200 million batteries are sold during the Christmas period. Sadly, unless they are recycled, they make up part of the 600 million UK batteries that go to landfill sites each year. 10 out of 12 of this year's predicted best selling toys are battery operated. Add to that electronic goods such as remote controls, mobile phones, battery-powered toothbrushes, cameras and games consoles, and the chances are you've already been back to the shops to stock up on more batteries.

Residents in St Edmundsbury can recycle all their used and unwanted batteries through the local kerbside collection, thanks to a trial being run in the borough. A special bag is left with the blue bin. All spent batteries, including AAA and AA, button batteries, size C and D and any laptop and mobile phone batteries, can be collected and put in the bag. On collection day, hang your bag hung on the hook on the bin handle or place it on top. So far over 40 tonnes have been saved from landfill.

For more information about battery recycling call St Edmundsbury Borough Council on 01284 757320, or visit [www.recyclenow.org.uk](http://www.recyclenow.org.uk)

## **Zero Waste Week 10 March 2008**

St Edmundsbury people are some of the best in the country at recycling. Now we are offering you a new challenge. For one week, we want to see by how much you can reduce the amount of household waste you produce. The week before, (3 March 2008), we will ask you to count the number of bags of household waste you normally produce. Then during Zero Waste Week, (10 March 2008), we will ask you to do everything you can to reduce that amount.

We are telling you now to give you plenty of time to register your interest and / or come up with an activity within your community. You can register as an individual, a group or an organisation and receive tips and advice about how you can aim for zero waste.

For more information contact Daniel Sage, 01284 757457  
[dan.sage@stedsbcb.gov.uk](mailto:dan.sage@stedsbcb.gov.uk)

Parish New Years Newsletter - North  
January 2008



**PRIORITIES :-**

**Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour at Ixworth Community Centre and Village Hall.**  
**Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in Stanton village.**  
**Speeding in local villages.**

First of all Happy New Year and we hope everyone enjoyed a good Christmas period. For residents of the parish who do not know me my name is Jonathan Burke the Community Support Officer for your parish, I am a member of the St Edmundsbury Rural North Safer Neighbourhood team and hopefully you will have seen me about and many of you would of spoken to me. If not please feel free to approach me, I don't bite, honestly!

We have recently seen a rise in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in Barningham, Ixworth and Stanton areas. We would like to reassure you that the team is actively targeting those thought to be responsible for this mindless damage. Where offenders have been identified action is being taken.

Anti social behaviour causes a lot of misery to everyone... Do you know where and with who your child is during the evenings and what they are doing? We ask people to remain vigilant and to phone in any suspicious activities happening when they happen.

We need your help to keep crime on the decrease. Please contact us on the usual non-emergency contact number **01284 774100**, or e-mail us at [stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk). Crime stoppers can also be contacted in confidence about crime in your area. The number is **0800 555111**. Alternatively **999 if it is immediate response needed**. However small you may think the issue is we would appreciate you reporting it to us so we can respond quickly and effectively.

**Police Direct** is also another great way to keep in touch with what is happening in your area. Please go to the website for more information ([www.suffolk.police.uk/Services/Police+Direct](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/Services/Police+Direct)) You can also check out current crime trends down to parish wards

which are available via the Suffolk County Council website in the crime statistics section.

Lets hope we can have a crime-free 2008!

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sgt Clare Mowson, Pc Sheena Tate, Pc Lindsey Whittaker and PCSO Jonathan Burke

St Edmundsbury Rural North, Ixworth Police Station, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HN

## **LOCAL CRIMES**

### **HEPWORTH**

Between 9.30pm Thursday 17th and 7.15am Friday 18th January a home was burgled on The Street, Hepworth.

Entry was via an insecure back door and items stolen include: A Nintendo Wii and games, Cash and a Vivitar Digital Camera.

A handbag stolen was discarded outside but keys found had been used to search the owner's car and a Tom Tom Sat Nav system was also stolen. The keys were later recovered from the boot of the car.

Were you in The Street overnight on Thursday and did you see or hear anything unusual or suspicious? Have you seen any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area? Do you know who may have been responsible for this crime?

Please be aware of this and ensure all doors and windows are locked even when you are at home. Suffolk is still one of the safest counties in England in which to live and with your ongoing help and support it shall remain so.

If you have any information that may help officers with their enquiries please contact Suffolk Police on 01284 774100 quoting reference BR/08/66.

### **WALSHAM LE WILLOWS**

Offenders broke into the sports club in Summer Road, Walsham-le-Willows, and stole cash from a gaming machine. This occurred

between the hours of 11pm on Friday 4th January and 8.30am on Saturday 5th January. Crime number ST/08/59 refers.

#### WATTISFIELD

Offenders entered an insecure vehicle parked in Bobby Hill, Wattisfield, between the hours of 3pm and 11.50pm on Friday 4th January, but nothing was stolen. Crime number ST/08/58 refers.

#### BARDWELL

Skinners Lane, Bardwell between 03/01/08 and 10/01/08 Heating oil has been stolen from a tank at a house.

People with oil-fired central heating are advised to keep their tanks secure, covering any exposed pipe work and use security lights where possible.

#### BARNINGHAM

A van was pushed over in Sandy Lane overnight of the 12th causing damage.

### **FARMWATCH AND HORSEWATCH MEMBERS (and potential members)**

The NFU are holding a farmers' meeting for all at The Cedars Hotel (opposite ICI paint factory) in Stowmarket at 3pm on the 19th February. The speaker will be Chief Superintendent Paul Marshall from Suffolk Constabulary to highlight the rural crimes and discuss ways of combating them. Nina and Di (the Police farm/horsewatch co-ordinators) will be in attendance, encouraging any interested parties to sign up to the free messaging service run by the Police and NFU, to inform and warn you of local related crimes. On that note – we need to collate email addresses to be able to send you the Police Direct messages rather than by voice mail.

Please email your address and farm to:-

nina.martin@suffolk.pnn.police.uk and I will put it on the system. If you are not a member and would like to be – again email above.

Those of you who will definitely attend the Farmwatch meeting in Stow – would you please email – david@theruralinsurer.co.uk as he needs catering numbers.

## ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION – BURY ST EDMUNDS NEW VEHICLE DESCRIPTION ISSUED

Suffolk Police have obtained a more detailed description of the vehicle involved in a fatal fail to stop road traffic collision in Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 19th December 2007.

81-year-old Thelma Driver, known as Joyce, died in hospital after being struck by the van on Out Northgate at 6.30pm three weeks ago today, Wednesday 9th January 2008. The van failed to stop, driving off towards the Mildenhall estate, and has yet to be located.

“We now believe that the dark coloured, small van which collided with Mrs Driver was a Combi-style van with double doors at the back rather than a boot which lifts upwards. Several companies produce this type of van, so we are unsure of the exact make, but this development does help eliminate other vehicles from our enquiries.

“Since the collision occurred we have checked with local garages to see if any vans matching this description have been brought in for repair. I am certain that the van will have sustained some damage to its front in the collision. I am continuing to appeal to anyone who may have seen a damaged van in the past three weeks, or who witnessed the collision itself, to call the investigation team.”

Checks have been carried out at the scene of the collision, just yards from Mrs Driver’s house, in the days following the collision and on its two week anniversary, by Suffolk Police’s Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) team. ANPR captures details of all vehicles driving past, and this data is being analysed by the investigation team.

If you have any information please contact Inspector Yaxley on 774100



**Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe**





## Pips Page

### Just a little more about after Christmas

27<sup>th</sup> December Got up in the morning, had a wee, a drink went to sleep, woke up had dinner, had a drink, had a wee, went back to sleep.

28<sup>th</sup> Got up in the morning, had a wee, a drink went to sleep, woke up had dinner, had a drink, had a wee, went back to sleep.

29<sup>th</sup> We're all suffering from Dog Lag (same as jet lag – after all Christmas has been 'long haul') and the only way to get over that is to sleep for a long, long time which is what we're doing – only us dogalogs you know, Marg and John still have to keep us in the manner to which we're accustomed and they have to stay alert so we can be let out when we want, have food when we want AND change TV channels when we want.

30<sup>th</sup> Out of hibernation now, and we're on the hunt for mischief. Billy's at last got the sellotape off Moll's legs and it's now stuck to his nose – no change with dumb and dumber then? Abbi's heard that 'tonsillitis' is going around and insists that she has it and has lost her voice (permanently I hope!). Missi I think is sleep walking – either that or she's been sniffing the wine corks again!!

31<sup>st</sup> December We're looking forward to New Year and we're going to have visitors to help see the New Year in. I think Marg has ideas about some 'games' involving pingee pongee balls, we'll just have to see if we can help and join in!! Abbi joined in when they had a musical game last year so I really do think that the pingee balls are a better idea!! Visitors have arrived, now.... whose got the smartest clothes on so we can sit on them!! Marg tells us off for making ourselves comfy, but why not – it is OUR house after all. Anyway a good time was had by all, the games went well because they meant people had to get up out of their seats and me and my pack had a great game of 'musical chairs' until they sat down again (judging by the size of Marg's bum, I'm glad I got out of her chair pretty quick!! Hee hee).

1<sup>st</sup> January and we've all made New Year Dogolutions. Abbi's going on a diet (HA!), Moll's going to do as she's told (Dream on!), Billy's going to stop sticking his nose in (what..... I wonder?), Missie's going to sleep more (MORE??) and I've not made any dogolutions 'cos I'M just perfect.

Now my pens run out, so I'll just have to borrow one of Margs new



## OUR AMY

### Taken for a ride

Lovely though it may be, Amy still loved Lowbrook Farm. The strength of her granny's love, made her feel happy and contented.

July was just a week away, and on the first day it would be Amy's thirteenth birthday. Apart from the lad Christopher who lived with his parents on Broad Acre Farm, there was no one else she could invite for tea.

But the surprise her granddad had in store, would surely make up for all that, and she couldn't wait to see what it was.

"Come away from that window my girl, you'll hear Chris long before he gets here, he's got a whistle like nobody I've ever heard" her granny said cheerfully. Amy wondered if Christ would be like the farmer boys she had read about in books, who wore corduroy trousers with braces and shirts with sleeves rolled up to their elbows, but when she saw Chris coming down the towpath by the river, she couldn't help but notice his smart appearance.

Meeting the lad at the door, it was him that spoke first "Hello" he said, I'm Chris, and you must be Amy – Happy Birthday to you". After shaking hands, he was invited into the house.

"As you can see Chris, there's just the two of us for tea, I haven't been living with my grandparents long enough for me to get to know many people that I could ask to come along". Chris replied "you'll soon pal up with somebody once you get to my school in Gaydon, which I believe is the beginning of next term". "I'm quite looking forward to going", said Amy in agreement. Bringing in a pot of tea Amy's gran stood it on the table and put a cosy over it. "Hello Chris" she said with a nod. "Pleased you could come along – now sit up both of you and help yourselves while I go and feed the fowls up in yonder meadow".

Once they had been left alone, they seemed to relax a bit more and conversation came freely. They were half way through the meal when Chris stated that he would have to leave early owing to the fact he had to take his pup 'Rags' to the vets, and the appointment

was for five thirty. “You can come along too if you wish” he invited “Dad will drive us there in the Land Rover”. “Yes please, I’d like that” Amy answered, realizing that travelling in a Land Rover was an opportunity not to be missed.

“It’s nothing too serious” Chris went on to say “unfortunately, ‘Rags’ trod on some broken glass, getting splinters in his paws”. The vets place is not too far along the turnpike road, just before you get into Gaydon. Talking with Chris, Amy found they had a lot in common. “Oh! I nearly forgot, here’s a little gift for you”. Producing an oblong box wrapped in pink paper, Amy immediately began opening it, and was thrilled with the tortoiseshell brush and comb set she found inside.

Having finished their tea, they were still chatting away when Amy’s granny returned. “Thanks for the tea Mrs Beddingfield, the sausage rolls were delicious” said Chris in appreciation. Promptly at five fifteen, Lenny Burrell arrived with the puppy in the Land Rover. “Amy’s coming too Dad” Chris told his father as he helped her into the front seat. The veterinary consulting rooms were in an old Georgian house, at the end of a long drive with lawn on either side, Lenny agreed to wait in the car while the two young people went inside the building. As they opened the door to go in there was a strong smell of disinfectant. The waiting room was empty except for an elderly lady sitting in a corner with her cat in a travelling basket, and the poor animal was wailing pitifully, choosing to sit on a long wooden bench. The teenagers made themselves comfortable. Thankfully, the spaniel puppy, who was at present quietly sitting between Chris’s legs, chose to ignore the cat.

Within ten minutes ‘Rags’ had been seen by the vet and booked in for a second appointment. Any by six o’clock, they were all on their way home again. After dropping Amy off at Lowbrook Farm, the Burrells and their dog, took the shortest route home along the towpath instead of the Turnpikes Road.

Excitedly, our Amy rushed indoors, to find her Granddad just finishing his evening meal. “Here comes the birthday girl” he pointed out “now I expect you would like to see the present your Gran and I have got for you”. Following her Granddad outside to the tractor shed, she was surprised to see, propped against the wall, a brand new bicycle. Amy just couldn’t believe her eyes – she had

dearly wanted bicycle ever since she came to live at the farm. After hugs and kisses all round, Amy rode around the farmyard until the evening shadows had turned to darkness. Leaving the bicycle where she found it Amy returned indoors.

With the promise of a fine day Amy was up and about earlier than usual. Before she had slept she had made up her mind to cycle into Gaydon. By going under her own steam, there would be more time to explore, and browse around the shops, because she wouldn't have to wait about for a bus.

With her Granny's approval Amy set off, but not before she was told to treat herself to a puncture outfit and some tyre levers. "You mark my words young lady, you're bound to get a puncture sooner or later in these lanes".

Once Amy had left Green Lane behind, the going was much more easier and pleasant. Along the three mile route she observed wild crab-apple trees interspersed with Rowan. Beyond the vets, she found the rest of the way was mostly downhill into the town itself and the market square.

One of the nicest places to visit in Gaydon was the lengthy avenue of horse-chestnut trees. Planted well over sixty years ago, these lofty trees now provided both shade and shelter. So that children may find amusement, the local council had recently erected a few swings and a slide on open ground. While not forgetting the elderly residents, wooden benches were conveniently sited along the way to the Ancient Methodist Chapel and its memorial ground.

Beyond the chapel, and onto 'Frogmore Bottom', one came to a huge dump, better known as 'Botany Bay' scrap yard. This isolated place had always attracted scroungers for its scrap metal, like car tyres, rusting exhaust pipes, car parts and junk from garden sheds, such as clapped out lawnmowers.

On Sunday mornings, when most parishioners were in Church singing their praises, and long before lunchtime, these cadgers began to arrive. Dressed in tatty old trousers and grubby jerkins, they seemed content just to browse amongst the heaps of rubbish.

Parked bumper to bumper along the grass verges, cars, vans, motor cycles and old prams were left at the roadside, as far back as 'Rooks Nest' riding stables and the football field.

Unless it was for something special, no money changed hands. Oh! Yes, there was money to be made from this surplus junk, which somehow found its way into many back yards. Later this would be sold over a pint or two in the smoky back room of 'The Malt Shovel' pub, one of the oldest buildings on Growers Green.

Even then, it was only a poultry sum, merely the cost of a tot of the 'hard stuff'. This diligent pastime kept people happy at weekends when they had nothing else better to do.

The shops in the little town of Gaydon, were not extensive but the walking was pleasant, if unexciting. The hotel 'Charalian' at the other end of the town, was very quiet in the daytime. Knowing it was a place of meetings and memories, more so than a place of new clientele with references, they were able to charge prices to suit themselves.

Seemingly, its peaceful gardens, with its ample seating arrangements, was mostly used in the cool of the evening after dinner was served. But for the young folk that went there, found sitting on the low wall around the lake, with its huge goldfish and waterlilies, much more to their liking.

Halfway down Middle-Row, Amy turned left into Cannon Street, and the first thing she came across was a row of council 'Communal Baths'. Open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, the baths had been purposely built for people that had no other means of bathing, or for those who had outgrown their bath tub. For soap and the use of a towel, there was a small fee to pay. But to have constant hot water in which to shower was so enjoyable, there was nearly always a queue.

Along a bit further was 'Letchmores' a furniture restorers corner shop, and crossing the road, Amy found 'Palants' the cycle shop. Leaving her bicycle propped against the shop wall, Amy went inside. "Yes Miss, what can I get you?" asked Mr Palant the owner. Soon as Amy had been served, the man tried to get her interested in a

saddlebag. And she ended up buying a second-hand one, which was duly fitted for her.

Deciding to treat herself to a coffee, Amy approached a café further up the street, when quite unexpectedly, who should she bump into but Christopher.

“Don’t bother getting something in there, I’ll treat you to some fish and chips he offered, pointing to the ‘Fish Plaice’, next to Days Greengrocers. Finding a vacant seat on the bowling green opposite the Post Office, Amy and Chris sat down to enjoy their repast, and then, as if to spoil things, it started to rain.

Sheltering best they could under the canvas awnings of the market stalls, they remained until the heavy rain moderated. “Pity you’ve got your bicycle, otherwise we could have given you a lift home” said Christopher with a glint in his eye, as he walked towards his fathers Land Rover parked outside the auction rooms.

It wasn’t as if Amy minded the rain, being out in all weathers, she took it all in her stride, but this was one time she wished she had come into town by bus.....

© Barbara Kerrison

**Sudoku** - (solutions on page 25)

	1			5		8		
	4							7
			3	9				
6						3		1
					2	5		
		2	7				9	
						6		3
7	6				5		8	
	9		1		8			

5						1		
							7	
	9	1	5		6			
		8	1					
2	4				9			6
6					4		3	
		7						
		3	7				2	
					8	9		4

## "THE OAK TREE"

A mighty wind  
Blew night and day  
It stole the oak tree's leaves away

Then snapped its boughs  
And pulled its bark  
Until the oak was tired and stark

But still the oak tree held its ground  
While other trees fell all around  
The weary wind gave up and spoke  
How can you still be standing Oak

The oak tree said, I know that you  
Can break each branch of mine in two  
Carry every leaf away  
Shake my limbs, and make me sway

But I have roots stretched in the earth  
Growing stronger since my birth  
You'll never touch them, for you see  
They are the deepest part of me

Until today, I wasn't sure  
Of just how much I could endure  
But now I've found, with thanks to you  
I'm stronger than I ever knew

--Author unknown

## A Not-So-Deserted Island

Ed finally decides to take a vacation. He books himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeds to have the time of his life, until the boat sinks. He finds himself swept up on the shore of an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing. Only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to him. In disbelief, he asks her, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

"I rowed from the other side of the island," she says. "I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he says. "You were really lucky to have a row boat wash up with you."

"Oh, this?" replies the woman. "I made the rowboat out of raw materials I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches, I wove the bottom from palm branches, and the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree."

"But-but, that's impossible," stutters Ed. "You had no tools or hardware. How did you manage?"

"Oh, that was no problem," replies the woman. "On the south side of the island, there is a very unusual strata of alluvial rock exposed. I found if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into forgeable ductile iron. I used that for tools and used the tools to make the hardware."

Ed is stunned.

"Let's row over to my place," she says.

After a few minutes of rowing, she docks the boat at a small wharf. As Ed looks onto shore, he nearly falls out of the boat. Before him is a stone walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. While the woman ties up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, he could only stare ahead, dumbstruck. As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Sit down please. Would you like to have a drink?"

"No, no thank you," he says, still dazed. "I can't take any more

coconut juice."

"It's not coconut juice," the woman replies. "I have a still. How about a Pina Colada?"

Trying to hide his continued amazement, he accepts, and they sit down on her couch to talk.

After they have exchanged their stories, the woman announces, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the cabinet in the bathroom."

No longer questioning anything, Ed goes into the bathroom. There, in the cabinet, is a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge are fastened onto its end inside of a swivel mechanism.

"Wow! This woman is amazing," he muses. "What next?"

When returns, she greets him wearing nothing but vines, strategically positioned, and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckons for him to sit down next to her.

"Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for a really long time. You've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for all these months. You know..."

She stares into his eyes. He can't believe what he's hearing: "You mean----", he swallows excitedly, "I can check my e-mail from here?"

### Sudoku Solutions (from page 22)

2	1	3	4	5	7	8	6	9
9	4	5	8	2	6	1	3	7
8	7	6	3	9	1	2	4	5
6	8	7	5	4	9	3	2	1
4	3	9	6	1	2	5	7	8
1	5	2	7	8	3	4	9	6
5	2	8	9	7	4	6	1	3
7	6	1	2	3	5	9	8	4
3	9	4	1	6	8	7	5	2

5	7	2	4	3	1	6	9	8
3	6	4	9	2	8	7	5	1
8	9	1	5	7	6	4	2	3
7	3	8	1	6	5	9	4	2
2	4	5	8	9	3	1	6	7
6	1	9	2	4	7	3	8	5
4	5	7	6	1	2	8	3	9
9	8	3	7	5	4	2	1	6
1	2	6	3	8	9	5	7	4

## **I Refuse To Be Discouraged**

I refuse to be discouraged,  
To be sad, or to cry;  
I refuse to be downhearted,  
And here's the reason why...

I have a God who's mighty,  
Who's sovereign and supreme;  
I have a God who loves me,  
And I am on His team.

He is all wise and powerful,  
Jesus is His name;  
Though everything is changeable,  
My God remains the same.

My God knows all that's happening;  
Beginning to the end,  
His presence is my comfort,  
He is my dearest friend.

When sickness comes to weaken me,  
To bring my head down low,  
I call upon my mighty God;  
Into His arms I go.

When circumstances threaten  
To rob me from my peace;  
He draws me close unto His breast,  
Where all my strivings cease.

And when my heart melts within me,  
And weakness takes control;  
He gathers me into His arms,  
He soothes my heart and soul.

The great "I AM" is with me,  
My life is in His hand,  
The "Son of the Lord" is my hope,  
It's in His strength I stand.

I refuse to be defeated,  
My eyes are on my God;  
He has promised to be with me,  
As through this life I trod.

I'm looking past all my circumstances,  
To Heaven's throne above;  
My prayers have reached the heart of God,  
I'm resting in His love.

I give God thanks in everything,  
My eyes are on His face;  
The battle's His, the victory is mine;  
He'll help me win the race.

~ Author Unknown

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A special message of Congratulations to Doris Hubbard on reaching her 90th birthday - with love from all the family.

### February Birthdays

10th Doris Hubbard  
14th John Hughes  
21st Kate Goldsmith

### March Birthdays

17th Lucy Palmer  
22nd Titch Fowler  
24th Beryl Lambert  
30th Diane Goldsmith



### QUESTION - answer overleaf

There's one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?

## AND FINALLY.....

Two Scots, Archie and Jock, are sitting in the pub discussing Jock's forthcoming wedding.....

"Ach, it's all going grand," says Jock. "I've got everything organised already: the flowers, the church, the cars, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night..."

Archie nods approvingly.

"Heavens, I've even bought a kilt to be married in!" continues Jock.

"A kilt?" exclaims Archie, "That's braw, you'll look pure smart in that! And what's the tartan?" Archie then enquires.

"Och," says Jock, "I'd imagine she'll be in white..."



### Girls Names Wordsearch Word List

Alison	Diane	Hazel	Lynn
Angela	Doreen	Jane	Margaret
Ann	Doris	Jean	Marion
Audrey	Elaine	Joan	Pamela
Barbara	Elizabeth	Joyce	Pat
Brenda	Emma	Julia	Rachael
Carla	Ethel	June	Sally
Carol	Gillian	Karen	Sharon
Clare	Glenda	Kate	Sheila
Deborah	Gwen	Lily	Susan

Crosswords, Sudoku and Wordsearch now available online at  
<http://www.johnbeales.co.uk/xwords.htm>

Answer to the Question is:- Boxing!

Please could you let me have letters or articles for the March edition of  
The Newsletter by the 20th of February - Many thanks

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