



THE BEACON

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill



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April – May 2024

Hello Readers

This edition of the Beacon covers April and May, which means when the next Beacon is published, we will be halfway through the year.

What a thought!!

The clocks have gone forward so we have lighter evenings, but darker mornings for a little while for the early risers.

For those readers who like to catch up online, the Beacon is now available approximately a week after the hard copies have been delivered. To find it just type in the search bar – beckrowparish.com – and the Beacon should appear.

Please let me remind you that if you have any celebrations coming up or want to write in to air your views, please use the contact details on the back page of the Beacon – we have one emailed letter this time which you will find inside.

As always a massive thank you to all involved with putting the Beacon together and the wonderful volunteers who deliver no matter what the weather.

Sue French

What's Going On Locally...

St John's Church

Sunday Services 9.30am

2nd Sunday of the Month: Service of the Word

4th Sunday of the Month: Holy Communion

Refreshments served after every service.

2nd Monday of the Month:

Ladies Bible Study - 10am

3rd Sunday of the Month:

Lightwave Breakfast Church - 9.30am

St John's Church Hall, Community Events

1st Tuesday of the Month, Lunch

- 12 noon for 12.30pm. Booking required.

Contact Kathy 07963 958017

2nd Tuesday of the Month, Soup & Bingo

- 12 noon. No booking required.

3rd Tuesday of the Month, Coffee Morning

- 10am. No booking required.

4th Tuesday of the Month, Soup & Chickenfoot

- 12 noon. No booking required.

Revs David & Caroline Butcher 07747 816038



The Methodist Church

Sunday Services

Beck Row Methodist Church 11am

Holywell Row Methodist Church 6.30pm

Rev. David McAloon - 01842 753819

The Mildenhall Scale Model Club

now meets in St. John's Church Hall

7pm - 10pm

every 1st and 3rd

Wednesday

Gary Wenko • T: 01638 714543



THURSDAY CLUB

2pm - 4pm

3rd Thursday of the month
(over 50s)

at Beck Row Methodist Church

For further details please
contact Maggie Walker
on 01638 715447



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For any other information or if you would like me to call and see you for an informal chat please contact:-

Laura Prentice

Sutton Services Limited, Undley Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk, IP27 9BX

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Email: **laura@suttonservicesltd.co.uk** or **office@suttonservicesltd.co.uk**

“Let us help you reduce the stress and worry”

Beck Row Ladies Club

The Club has been well attended over the winter, and there have been some interesting speakers. Meetings take place on the 2nd Monday of each month at St John’s Hall at 2pm, and the cost is just £4. This includes refreshments, raffle and an opportunity to chat, so very good value!

Lynda, our secretary, has been responsible for making some very delicious cakes which have been appreciated by all!

We are also continuing to collect small change for the charity ‘Smalls for All’, so please bring any along to the meeting. Just £3 buys 4 pairs of girls’ pants for those in need.

Anyone is very welcome to attend. There are going to be some self-driven outings over the summer, so if you would like to come, then join us at the next meeting on 8th April and put your name down. We will sort out car-shares for anyone not wishing to drive.

Our upcoming Programme is:

- 8th April The Work of the War Graves Commission – Mac MacDonald, ex RAF Honington
- 13th May Cousins – Elizabeth I & Mary Queen of Scots – Kevin Boardman
- 10th June Oxburgh Hall – Renovations & Discoveries – Anne Gymer, National Trust
- 8th July Netherhall Manor, Soham, Garden Visit (£15) – Historic Houses Association

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After several differing opinions regarding the repairs needed to make the Lytch Gate usable again, the PCC went back to scratch and commissioned a Structural Engineer's report to ensure that the necessary work was undertaken properly, and to enable like-for-like quotations to be prepared for the Insurance Company.

These have now all be done and submitted to our Insurers, so we are hoping that the

repairs will commence in the not too distant future.

The PCC appreciate how distressing this has been for families at funerals, but unfortunately the Lytch Gate is too unsafe to be opened until repaired. Instead, the entrance from the car park is being used, or the gate by the hall entrance.

We have also secured funding to enable the Community Lunch, Warm Rooms, Coffee Morning and Toddler Group to carry on for the next 12 months. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us on Tuesdays for the Lunches etc., and Wednesdays for Toddlers.

Warm Rooms will continue until the end of May, and for our June Lunch we have received further funding for a free coach trip to Felixstowe. The Hut has been booked, and pre-ordered Fish and Chips will be delivered there. A few seats are still available, please contact Kathy Butcher if you would like to come, or to attend any other lunch (1st Tuesday of the month).

The Saturday afternoon Bingo was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The next one will be on 13th April at 2pm in the Hall. Books are £5, including refreshments, and there is also a raffle.

As last year the **Love Your Village tidy up** was very popular, a date for this year is:

**Saturday 27th April
2 to 4 pm**

setting out from the Hub. Many hands make light work, so it will be great to see as many of you as possible.



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Spotlight on this edition's Advertiser

– C&L Motortech Ltd

In this edition of our magazine, we highlight the business of C&L Motortech Ltd based at the industrial site at Kenny Hill. Once again it is gratifying to tell how the business started and how successful it has become.

This business is run by Carl Winkworth and his father Les. But let us go back to Carl's infancy where his story began. He was born in Newmarket hospital and then taken to his family home in West Row where he grew up. He attended West Row Primary School as it was called then, moving on to Riverside Middle School followed by Mildenhall Upper School, the former name of Mildenhall College Academy. When asked who his most memorable teacher was throughout his education he named Mrs Rolfe, the deputy head at West Row School. He thought her excellent at teaching, organised and the kind of person who set him up for life. There was only one kind of discipline in Mrs Rolfe's class and the word that described it was good! He took his GCSEs and achieved 7 passes which took him on to West Suffolk College in Bury St Edmunds, to the qualification of NVQ3 in vehicle maintenance. This was while he was apprenticed to Mildenhall Auto Centre. When asked why he wanted to mend cars he said that he grew up watching his father do that and he helped him in an effort to further his learning of the trade.

He and his father set up their own firm in 2008 which unfortunately turned out to be a very bad time for the global economy. As a result of the mortgage crisis particularly in the United States, falling house prices in our country with borrowers unable to pay their mortgages, coupled with the fact it was a time of one of the worst financial crisis the world had ever experienced. Banks were bailed out and the money in people's pockets had taken a big hit. Not a good time to start up a new business. Carl said they both felt they were venturing into the unknown. It meant that at times it was hard. There was a decision to make as to whether they needed to buy three lifts – Dad somewhat cautious of the outlay. Not all three was Dad's opinion, but Carl being young and adventurous wanted all three. These they bought and one had to go in storage as they had no room for it at the time.

Now with the business expanded from those times they have 6 vehicle ramps and he expressed his delight at the success they have had. His father has worked full time for the most part, but this year a bout of ill health has meant he has cut down his hours. However, they now have three vehicle technicians working for them, Andy, Luke and Liam, apart from themselves plus Sadie the face/voice of the business on reception. It is a bit of a family thing on the forecourt of the garage as next door his brother runs Fusion Graphics which we featured some time ago.

The aim of father and son is to continue to build their business with the emphasis on providing a service for local residents at a reasonable cost. Recommendations are passed by word of mouth he is pleased to say, and he thinks that if he does a good job there is talk and if a bad job there is also talk. He endeavours to do the former! Like everything in life not all work goes to plan and sometimes it can be

quite testing, but locals know them and trust them to do a successful job. Some customers come from RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath as well. Carl did say he wished it to be recorded that he has such a great team at C&L!

Carl is married and has two daughters and they live in Mildenhall now while his parents remain in the family home at West Row. Unsurprisingly he enjoys Motorsport and when last year he was working on a McLaren Artura race car in the European GT4 series – he was in his element! Another interest is football and he is a keen Chelsea supporter! His other pleasure is going out for nice meals.

Isn't it great that we have tradesmen on our doorstep that we can not only rely on but trust as well? We wish them both continued success and father restored to perfect health!



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- 4 large eggs
- 200g / 7oz caster sugar
- 200g / 7oz self raising flour
- 175g / 6oz raspberries or blueberries or strawberries – your choice

Topping

- 200g / 7oz white chocolate chopped
- 250ml / 9fl oz double cream
- Fruit of your choice to decorate

METHOD:

- 1 Heat oven to 180°C / 160°C fan / gas 4.
- 2 Grease and line with baking paper a 30cm x 20cm / 12in by 8in tin.
- 3 Put the butter and chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water and allow to melt slowly. Stir now and then. Remove from heat when melted and cool for 2 mins.
- 4 Beat eggs and sugar in the chocolate mixture.
- 5 Fold in flour and raspberries.
- 6 Pour into tin and bake for 20-25 minutes and test with skewer in the middle. It should come out clean but may have a little raspberry on it. Cool in tin before turning out.

Topping

- 1 Again over simmering water put 100ml of cream plus chocolate and stir until you have a smooth mixture.
- 2 Cool well, but not too cool and beat in the remaining cream.
- 3 Put on topping when cold just before serving – to prevent it being too runny.
- 4 A hot knife will smooth it over and decorate with your chosen fruit.



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News from the Parish Council

Beck Row, Holywell Row & Kenny Hill
February and March 2024

Telephone: 01638 501623 – Email: beckrowparishcouncil@gmail.com
www.beckrowparish.com

At the February meeting, council members resolved that the Parish Council meets the conditions of eligibility set out in the Schedule to The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, thereby enabling it to use the General Power of Competence.

Following discussion, the council resolved to not proceed with installation of CCTV. It will be reviewed again later in the year following the installation of the youth shelter. Many factors were considered and discussed around the need for CCTV including consulting local crime statistics before reaching this decision.

It was resolved to introduce councillor surgeries at the Parish Hub to provide an informal platform for residents to speak to parish councillors, out of an official meeting environment, about matters they would like considered at council meetings or ideas they may have for parish projects.

It was also resolved to approach County Councillor Noble regarding the locality budget funding available for Highways projects to request funding towards 'village gateways' for the entrance to the village of Beck Row along the A1101 with a view to speed reduction measures.

PLANNING MATTERS

DC/23/2092/OUT - Outline planning application (means of access to be considered) - eight dwellings. Land South of Queens Close, Beck Row Suffolk. SUPPORT

DC/24/0134/HH - Householder planning application - detached two bay cart lodge. 31 Holmsey Green, Beck Row. SUPPORT

DC/24/0253/TPO - TPO 048 (1963) Tree preservation order - one Oak (T1 on plan with A2 on order) crown reduction by up to three metres to lateral limbs and two metres on vertical limbs. 56 Lamble Close Beck Row Suffolk IP28 8DB. SUPPORT

DC/24/0151/HYB - Hybrid planning application - a. Outline application with all matters reserved (means of access to be considered) - residential development of up to 1000 dwellings (C3) and up to 80 bed care units (C2), up to 5 hectares of commercial (within Class E g, Class B2 and Class B8), local centre, land for primary school and 2 no. early years facilities (D1), public open space (including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace), landscaping, associated infrastructure and demolition b. Full planning application - means of access to northern parcel of the site, reconfiguration of James Carter Road and Fred Dannatt Road, alterations to Safe Pac site and construction of new yard. Land West Of Mildenhall West Row Road Mildenhall Suffolk. OBJECT

Council members have concern over the access and infrastructure regarding the application. The existing roads around the proposed application are already struggling and at capacity. There is also concern over the RAF Mildenhall gate access being affected on the West Row road pushing further problems over to the Beck Row gate entrance. The area cannot sustain further developments of this size.



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The seemingly incessant rain has even had difficulty in draining through sand which is highly unusual. Nevertheless, some home games with the youngsters have gone ahead. This is such a wonderful facility for the village and as always, we regret the lack of an adult team to enjoy the amenities. There must be some adults in the village who would like to kick a football about surely. Walking football did start but sadly has petered out too. If anyone would like to step forward to organise either football or walking

football feel free to contact us with details below.

We are publishing another photo from the archives and if anyone can name the date, or the people we have no name for, please get in touch. If anyone has any memories of any of these people we would be grateful for the information.

Continued thanks to Richard Horrex who runs the youth teams on our pitch. His father has done a brilliant job keeping the pitch in pristine condition, not forgetting Graham and Josie Rose, without who nothing would be happening in the club and ground.

Meanwhile any Beck Row, Holywell Row or Kenny Hill youngsters who want to take the opportunity to join in with Lakenheath Youth teams you are more than welcome.

Contact details are –

Philip Haylock: philiphaylock@btinternet.com, mobile 07860 316748

or Youth Teams, Richard Horrex: richardhorrex@gmail.com, mobile 07540 201223



Back Row: Hepbard (School Head), Reg Jagard, Coe, Russell Powell, Charles Clements
Middle Row: ???, Fred Canning, Walter Martin (Beck Row Shop), Alex Clements, Boreham
Front Row: Jack Webb, Harold Clements (no relation), ???



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Egrets in our countryside – a sign of changing times

25 years ago, I wouldn't have been able to write this article – as there had been very few records of any of our three, now common, egret species in the UK. The first species to make landfall on a regular basis was the Little Egret – which turned up in significant numbers in 1989 and began to breed shortly after. This small, very elegant visitor was a novelty – with its pure white plumage, black bill, black legs and yellow feet. It looked – and still looks – rather exotic. Like Grey Herons, they could be found in wet places – ditches, pools and marshy areas, shining bright against a backdrop of browns and greens.

Lakenheath Fen's first record of a Little Egret came on 25 April 2002 – as part of their rapid northwards expansion from its breeding colonies in the south-west of the UK. Two years later, we hosted its much larger cousin, the Great White Egret, for the first time on 25 January 2004. This species turned up for the first time in the UK in 1988, but it was a very rare sight until a large influx in 2007-2008 resulted in there being enough here at one time to persuade them to breed, in Somerset in 2008. Like the Little Egret, it then expanded its range naturally and both species can today be seen every day on the reserve in good numbers. In Autumn 2023 for many weeks, it was possible to see 40+ Little Egret and 20+ Great White Egret all enjoying a feast of large fish that had made their way into the Hockwold Washes through the inlet from the river Little Ouse. Most days, single figures of both species is more usual, but the high counts of last year really show us how many there now are in the local area.

Much more recently, in 2020, the first Cattle Egret was spotted on the reserve – on 15 August. The following winter saw a few more records of up to four birds following some sheep around in the paddock in Brandon Fen. In recent months we've had almost daily sightings of this species and 21 were spotted during a winter wetland bird count on 12 February this year. Cattle Egrets are quite different in habits and behaviour from other egrets and herons, as they mostly associate with cattle and sheep - they feed on worms and other bugs turned over by their hooves, and also on ticks, flies and other pests attracted to the animals themselves. They are also the smallest species we have – smaller than a Little Egret but with a yellow bill like a Great White Egret.

The arrival of these three species of egret in the UK in the past 25 years is thought to be a result of a warming climate – as the birds find the year-round temperatures more tolerable than they used to be and can now survive and breed here. Now, in our local area, it is quite possible to see all four species, including Grey Heron, in one day if we keep an eye on ditches and pools and livestock grazing in wet places.

With best wishes for the weeks ahead,
Heidi Jones, Visitor Experience Officer
RSPB Lakenheath Fen,
Station Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9AD



*Cattle Egret photo
by Sharon Caws
on 12 February 2024*



Gardening Tips

As we start to spend more time outside on a sunny spring day, with a slight breeze we get a chance to breathe in the smell of spring. Often the first cut of fresh green grass has a big effect on our olfactory senses. But the exceptional smell of conifers can be beneficial to us. Just a light trim of all types of conifers at this time of the year, where they have protruded onto the lawn from a border, can be left and then cut over with the mower. This creates a smell that can permeate the whole of a small confined back garden. Lawson Cypress and cedars have a particularly strong fragrance.



It has been proved that conifer forests are very clean. The levels of airborne bacteria in conifer forests are shown to be low and the Victorians deliberately positioned sanatoriums next to forests for the good air. Today we have pine fresh sprays for the indoor environment and with some trimming and cutting created again outside.



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This year we celebrate the 90th anniversary of RAF Mildenhall and the Mildenhall to Melbourne Air Race.



But, did you know...?

RAF Mildenhall can trace its history back to the late 1920s when the British government were establishing airfields in East Anglia from which aircraft could, in the event of war, undertake raids on enemy shipping in the North Sea. The airfield didn't start out as RAF Mildenhall, it was in fact, **RAF Beck Row** then becoming RAF Station Mildenhall in 1933.

The decision to build an

Aerodrome at Beck Row to house two bomber squadrons was made in October 1929 and construction work on the station was started in spring 1930. Initial construction took three years and many of the original buildings from that period remain today. Notably the then Officers' Mess, now Middleton Hall and the two original A-Type aircraft sheds, now Buildings 550 and 528.

The first known flight into the airfield, staying on the ground for only a few minutes, happened on 19th March 1931. It was followed by light aircraft on 1st May 1931 and another on 12th August 1932.

RAF Mildenhall formally opened on 19th Oct 1934 for the start of a landmark in aviation history – the great England to Australia Air Race, Mildenhall to Melbourne and the station's history now spans 90 years, during which time, aviation has advanced enormously.

The winners of the air race took just under 71 hours to fly from Mildenhall to Melbourne, at an average speed of 176 mph. Only 40 years later, the SR-

71 Blackbird made the 3488 mile journey from New York to London, on route to RAF Mildenhall, in just 1 hour and 55 minutes at an average speed of 1806mph.

During World War II bomber crews flying Wellingtons, Stirlings and Lancasters from Mildenhall played a significant part in the success of the RAF strategic bombing offensive against Germany.

Many local celebrations will take place, the logo shown here will be used collectively by all events participating in the celebrations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary.

Save the date!

Beck Row will be starting things off with a Family Fun Day on **Saturday 8th June 2024 from 12pm-4pm**. As activities are now booked, please save the date! This is a funded event for families to enjoy together, more information will follow online.

The option of evening entertainment and food will take place at The Kings Head.

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Many bird species have declined considerably over the last 38 years but one large bird has increased by as much as 40 percent. That bird is the cormorant and many people may have observed two cormorants flying around the outskirts of Holywell Row.

With a wingspan of five feet, a very dark silhouette somewhat similar to a gull when flying, it is easy to pick out from other birds. It is one of the few birds that work together to catch fish and even works with man to catch fish in China as displayed in a BBC documentary. Their webbed feet give them excellent speed underwater to catch their prey.

For some unknown reason the cormorants in Britain started moving inland after 1940. You could say we had a very slow invasion of cormorants and no invasion by Hitler! Before this period only six colonies breed inland, preferring to hunt for sea fish from coastal cliff tops. Now they can be found in colonies in trees and bushes around fishing lakes.



Cormorant

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He writes – *A little about myself. I had a long career in the Met Office (yes a professional liar) and worked mainly with the RAF and the Army. I worked in many parts of the world including Libya, Germany, USA, Midway Island in the middle of the Pacific, Malta, Gibraltar and Kuwait. I had a reserve commission in the RAF as a Squadron Leader and spent over two years in uniform mainly in the Falkland Islands and Ascension Island. I worked in many parts of the UK too and in Shropshire taught meteorology to helicopter pilots and air traffic controllers. You could say my fairly frequent moves were due to my employers trying to find me a job that I could do! My dear wife stated that she thought she could go in for removals because she was so well qualified.*

After my wife died just over twenty years ago I felt I had to find a new life. I looked at volunteering for something completely different from my career so I did nearly 15 years as a volunteer adviser for Citizens Advice Bureau in Lincolnshire. I had also decided to start some Open University modules in literature which included two years of creative writing. The modules just continued and I suddenly found that I'd qualified for a BA (Hons) degree at the age of 73!

After moving back to my roots in Norfolk in 2018 I volunteered to help teach local youngsters some history in the King's Lynn area at one of the museums. Of course I had to keep moving in case I was mistaken for an exhibit!

David Taylor has kindly allowed us to publish some of his writings.

The first is a story he wrote for his first great granddaughter.

There it was again, that same voice, 'Come and look over here'. Izzie had never been to the library before, and it was all rather puzzling and exciting.

Mum had told her, 'We're going to the library to pick a book. Mrs Archer has told me that you are a bit behind with your reading and that you need some extra help at home. You can choose your own book whilst I look for some books for myself down the other end of the library'. It was in the children's section that Izzie had heard the voice.

She started to look at books with lots of colourful pictures and not too many words! She didn't know why she wasn't very good at reading because she loved sums and all the other subjects at school. Anyway, Izzie was so startled by the strange voice that she was frightened to even look behind the bookshelves and she just took a quick peep to try to see who had spoken.

She also wanted to make sure that mum was still around. There was nobody else there. The voice repeated, 'Come and look over here please'. The voice was coming from a bookshelf and Izzie felt a bit frightened, but the voice sounded friendly enough. She put her ear to a row of books and the voice which said, 'Please open me' was coming from a rather dull-looking book.

'Please don't be scared, I have spoken to lots of other children before you, but you are the only person who has ever heard me and I do want to talk. Please take me off the shelf, I seem to have been here so long with nobody interested in a plain book like me.'

Izzie gingerly put her hand on the book and took it off the shelf, turned some pages and exclaimed, 'It's all words, don't you have any pictures?' The book replied, 'You don't really need pictures because the pictures will be in your own mind when you read my story. It's a lovely story and nobody from here has ever read it'. The book continued, 'I've never been taken out of this library and apart from the odd dusting from one of the ladies here, I've seen nothing. You see, when you read my story, it tells of a lovely family with children and a dog and it talks about bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen and garden and I've never seen anything like that. All I have seen is the inside of a packing case, then these bookshelves and the backs of other children looking at other books. Please, please take me home and I promise that I will help you with your reading. I'm sure your mum won't be able to hear my voice and I can gradually go through all the words with you.'

'Who are you talking to, Izzie?', said mum as she wandered across the with a pile of books. Izzie mumbled something about trying to read but was still holding the book. 'Is that the book you want to take home? It doesn't look like a book that you would choose. I really expected you to pick a book with lots of pictures'.

'Thank you, thank you', said the book. 'It's okay', replied Izzie.

'What's that?', said mum, 'You mustn't start talking to yourself'.

Izzie realised that she would have to be careful not to talk to the book when anybody was around. But she was excited about going home and being able to talk to this new friend. She clutched the book tightly as she took it around the house. The dog growled as if he was aware that the book was extra special.

'Don't be silly, Monty, this is my new reading book. Monty followed Izzie around the house suspiciously.

'This is my bedroom, Book', as she pointed out

her princess-printed, pink duvet and pillows. Look at my proper reading lamp too.' The book had been very quiet but loved the tour around the house. It's lovely, was all he could say which caused Monty to bark.

Izzie took Book everywhere around the house including the garage and garden and Izzie could feel how much Book was loving it.

'Where's your dad?', whispered the book.

'He's still at work but you'll see him at 6 o'clock'. Monty was growling again and jumped up at the book trying to bite it. 'Stop it or I'll make you lay in your bed'.

'Are you talking to yourself again, Izzie, said mum crossly as she came up the stairs and took the book from Izzie. 'I think you ought to get changed before supper'. Izzie could hear the book talking to her mother, but her mum couldn't hear a thing. As mum flicked through the pages, mum said, 'After supper, we'll do some reading, but why you picked this book, I'll never know.'

'That's a rather a rude thing to say', muttered book'. Izzie giggled but book continued 'I will only help you with your reading up to a point, I'm not going to do all the reading'.

After her dad arrived home, Izzie kept looking at the book on the sideboard as she tucked into her supper and chatted, 'I'll show you my library book, dad', and she reached across and 'I like your dad, Izzie', the book blurted out. Luckily dad couldn't hear the book either and Izzie smiled.

That night, mum took Izzie to bed to do some reading. 'You're clutching that book as if it is a life-long friend, Izzie, so let's see what the story is all about.' Izzie sat propped up by her pillows and started to read to her mum who was sitting on the bed looking over her shoulder. Izzie found it very difficult at first because there were some big words, but Book started to help. The first sentence began, 'A little cottage.....' Of course, Izzie could read 'A' but then it became more difficult. Book started to help, 'I' 'I' 't' 't'. 'Little' yelled Izzie, feeling more confident and gradually, very gradually, Izzie managed to read the first two pages with Book's help. 'That's it for the first night, it's time for some shuteye', said mum giving her a kiss, 'Well done Izzie, night, night'. Izzie snuggled down after she had put Book under her pillow. 'That was the best day of my life', said Book, but I'm not going to talk any more tonight'. Izzie fell asleep straight away, so happy with her new friend.

Before Izzie went to school the next morning, she put the book on a high shelf because Monty had rushed up the stairs into the bedroom and stared and barked at Book. Izzie couldn't wait to get home even though Mrs Archer had praised

her enthusiasm for reading that afternoon. 'I'm so glad to see you', said Book as Izzie took him down from the shelf. 'Monty came in a few times after you'd gone to school and just stared up at me growling.' Izzie's reading came on in leaps and bounds because she felt she had extra special help. Many days later, mum said, 'Izzie, we'll have to go back to the library after school tomorrow and return the book because your time is running out'.

Izzie burst into tears, 'I want to keep the book until I can read every single word clearly without having to stop'. She didn't tell mum that she wanted to keep her Book for ever because he was her extra special friend. Izzie was so upset that she forgot to put Book onto a high shelf before she went to school that day.

When she got home Monty had a guilty look and ran into the garden as soon as the back door was opened. Izzie dashed upstairs and Book was lying beside the bed and making moaning sounds. Izzie picked him up, 'Oh Book, what has he done to you?' Izzie hugged Book and cried. Book said, 'I was very frightened when Monty started to bite into my cover. Be was growling as he chewed me and I didn't know what to do, I thought he was going to eat me all up. Then, suddenly I told him very fiercely to go into his bed, just like you do. He stopped biting me, stared at me and then went downstairs. I was so relieved.'

'Mum, mum, please come and see what Monty has done,' Izzie sobbed. Mum was very angry when she saw the damage but tried to calm Izzie by hugging her tightly. She then examined the book, 'Let's see, the hard cover has been chewed away and I think Monty must have eaten the hard bits but luckily the pages appear to be intact, although a bit sticky. 'What will the lady in the library say? I still want to keep the book'.

Mum didn't like to see Izzie in this state, 'We'll go and see the nice librarian and explain what happened and pay the costs'.

Izzie cheered up, 'Will I still be able to keep the book?'

'I don't think the library will want it back in that state and, anyway, we will have paid for the book'.

Izzie hugged book even closer before mum put the book in the airing cupboard to dry.

Many years later, a very famous author named Isabelle Taylor came across a battered and chewed old book. She hugged it and said, 'If only you could still talk Book, I owe you so much. You have always been my favourite book and special friend. I hope you can still hear me'.

David Taylor

Message from a Reader



Please could you write a piece in the Beacon to remind dog walkers to pick up after their dog's poo.

I walked up Oak Drive and found three piles on the pavement and on the grass verge.

It is everywhere on the common and people even let their dogs run loose in the children's playground.

I have found one woman with her dog in the playground four times, and, when I told her dogs were not allowed in the playground she just ignored me and carried on.

Please can you remind potential offenders that it is an offence not to pick up after their dogs and this could result in a £100 fine.

Many thanks,
Concerned Reader



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News from Beck Row Methodist Church

Last time we mentioned times from the past, namely Sunday School Outings. We are very appreciative of Miriam (Clements) Fidom who has always had the magazine sent to her and on reading the last news has sent us some photos of those events (see below). Do make note of the fashions needed for such an outing. How times have changed!



Anyone who can supply the missing names of those with question marks please let us know.

L-R: Albert Newman, Ian Wiseman, John Carpenter, Ken Jaggard, Melvin Bacon, Arthur Carpenter, ???, ???, Teddy Goodwin



L-R: Veronica (Wiseman) Postle, Arthur Carpenter, Rev. Parsons, Ian Wiseman, Muriel (Jaggard) Coe



L-R: ???, Mrs Fincham, Mrs Beard, Veronica (Wiseman) Postle, Mrs Wiseman

By the time this gets to our readers we will have once again hosted the Pilgrims that walk from the London area to the Shrine of our Lady in Walsingham (Norfolk) for the Easter celebrations. They stay at various places including barns and village halls. Usually, they arrive at our church for lunch the Wednesday before Good Friday having stayed at Isleham Village Hall overnight. As this is being written we expect twenty pilgrims and a baby – a first for us, not that the little one is doing much walking I can guess. They carry a huge heavy cross all the way to symbolize the cross on which Jesus was crucified, singing hymns on their way – quite a moving spectacle to watch.

This is also a good time to inform those who do not know – possibly new to the

parish, that the hall in the grounds of the Methodist Church is available for hire. It is £10 per hour and £12 for businesses. Contact for this is Wendy Brown 01842 860 184.

Forthcoming Events

Saturdays April 6th & 1st June –
Coffee Morning 10am-11.30am

Friday 12th April –
Chicken Foot 7.30pm – Entry £4

This is a regular article in the magazine and it is about time that we acknowledged the debt we owe to David Bacon and his friend Chris who are responsible for keeping the grounds and graveyard in pristine condition. His brother Peter is always at hand to help out, including other jobs that need attention. Grateful thanks are due to them.

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FARMING DIARY

Since I last wrote we have completed the big Farmland Bird Count which is put together by the Game and Conservancy Wildlife Trust and has to take place on any day in the first 3 weeks of February. You have to select an area of your farm and monitor the birds you can see there. In the past I have gone to the old wild life meadows which I have, but this year I decided to have a change and monitor the 17 acres (6.8 hectares) behind the farmyard. The land is used mostly to house my hens, but I also grow some grass or hay, asparagus, potatoes and some vegetables there. We chose a nice sunny day (bit of a rarity this year) on 16th February and the count was carried out by my friend and neighbour Ski who is an expert on wild British birds. A full list of birds Ski recognised and recorded appear at the end of this article, but I think 11 different species in the allotted half hour (10.15-10.45) is quite impressive. The results of the Nationwide Bird Count have now been correlated and there have been 130 different species recorded, three more than last year, so we are moving in the right direction.

On the farm two poultry houses have been depopulated, mucked out and are being washed out in preparation for 1000 new brown point of lay pullets to be housed the week commencing 1st April.



Trade continues to be very buoyant, and I need the eggs quite badly so the quicker they start laying the better. On the subject of trade, it is interesting to note that on a Saturday at the market I am averaging around 300 customers and there has been £11 difference in my takings over four weeks. I think that is quite remarkable, but it does show how regular my customers are.

I have grown some asparagus plants (crowns) from seed and should be planting them out now ready for the new season, normally starting in early May, but the wet weather has stopped this happening. Rain has stopped play on almost every agricultural activity now and is rapidly ruining crops already planted and in the ground. There will be high prices and shortages later in the year as well as other problems. Anyone wishing to travel from Beck Row to West Row would currently be better taking a canoe and Holywell Row where I live is currently awash with water tinged with a hint of sewage. All of us who live here are truly grateful that after nearly a month Anglian Water are not able to solve the problem but have magnanimously provided us with traffic lights. Thank you very much!

Water really has been at the forefront of problems during the past month. As well as those already listed, a fortnight ago while having a wee at home somehow my phone managed to leave the pocket of my hoodie and torpedoed itself straight down the toilet. I got it out straight away and dried it thoroughly, but it was completely useless. I am told sensible people - those who are tech savvy - are able to back up all the data, contacts and information on their mobile phones, but regretfully I am not one of them. If you are expecting a call from me don't hold your breath, I've probably lost your number.



I have 14 geese. They roam about the farmyard doing their own thing with few boundaries. Geese only lay between late February and July and sure enough about a week ago I found a carefully hidden nest with 10 lovely eggs in it.

I sold them on the market for £3.50 each and looked forward to many more. Unfortunately, they abandoned that nest, and can I find the new nest? I've been everywhere - no luck. They must be laying somewhere, but they don't want me to find where, obviously. They think they're being clever messing me about, but no eggs may mean a visit to the butchers at Christmas time!

The Bird Count Results

8 Skylarks, 1 Magpie, 9 Crows, 4 Pied Wagtails, 2 Blackbirds, 8 Goldfinches, 2 Bluetits, 3 Great Tits, 4 Green Finches, 2 Robins and 2 Wood Pigeons.

THE THURSDAY CLUB

The Thursday Club are looking for new members (over 50s for both ladies and gents) to join our local friendly club, we have been going for over 50 years, so we must be doing something right.
Help us to keep going for many more years.

We have a variety of speakers, quiz/games afternoons and trips out throughout the year. We do have a great cuppa and biscuits at meetings and a raffle. So please come along for a couple of hours and meet new friendly people.

We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Methodist Hall, Beck Row and there is plenty of parking available.

For any further information please telephone Maggie Walker on 01638 715447.

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Places for all events need to be booked online – please visit <https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents> to read more and book tickets.

Treasures of the Moth Trap

26 April, 31 May (10am to 11am)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths – join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

RSPB members £15 (£2 for Under 18's);
non-RSPB members £6 (£3 for Under 18's)

Guided Pond Dipping

Saturdays 6 April, 4 May, 1 June (12-1:30pm)

Why not borrow a pond-dipping kit and a knowledgeable guide to see what beautiful and strange creatures live below the water?

RSPB members £6 (£3 for Under 18's);
non-RSPB members £7 (£4 for Under 18's)

Spring Wildlife Walks

28 April, also 1, 12 & 26 May (9:30am-12:30pm)

Join us to look and listen for Bitterns, Common Cranes, Bearded Tits and the first migrant Warblers and Cuckoo.

RSPB members £15 (£7.50 for Under 18's);
non-RSPB members £18 (£9 for Under 18's)




VIP Bittern & Harrier nest watches

Tuesdays 14 & 28 May, also 11 June (7:30am-12:30pm)

Join a warden or Site Manager for the morning, atop high seats with superb views across the reedbeds. We'll be carrying out surveys to record nesting Bittern and Marsh Harrier and to plot how many nests we have. Ask questions. You can bring your camera and breakfast is provided!

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Thanks to this Edition's deliverer - Paul Canham

I grew up in West Row and lived in Mildenhall for a few years with my wife Louise before moving to Beck Row when I relocated my nursery to Aspal Lane in 2003.

Tom was a toddler when we moved here, and Bob was born shortly after. Both boys are now grown adults and no longer living at home, so we're adjusting to life as slightly redundant parents.

As well as from the Nursery, some of you may know me as Santa's Chauffeur on the Beck Row Sleigh, which I have towed around the village for the past 7 years.

I feel a bit of a fraud writing this as a "deliverer of the Beacon" as I only deliver a few now. But when the Beacon was first published, I was a Parish Councillor and at that time my allocation was over 300 copies to deliver along the entire length of Aspal Lane and all of the roads leading off it. I used to start one end, Louise would head off in a different direction and we would send the boys off together doing some of the smaller offshoot roads. I remember one evening a very young Bob getting confused as to which houses he was supposed to be delivering to and knocking door to door to find out which houses already had a copy!



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We would like to thank all those who contributed to this parish magazine, as well as all those who have helped to deliver it. Should you wish to get in touch regarding anything in this magazine or if you wish to contribute something towards the next issue you may contact us by Friday 12th May 2024 in the following ways:

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