The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield



# Green Links Copy Deadline!

Please note all copy for the March issue must be with me by 15th February please

Janne Cutting-Keyton, Newholme, Smithwood Green, Cockfield. IP30 0JQ 01284 828264 or janne@twerbs.co.uk

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# Green Links



The Monthly Village Magazine of Cockfield Edition 4– No 188 February 2023

Chairman and Distribution Editor Secretary Advertising Manager David Simpson Janne Cutting-Keyton Morag Kelly Sue Harrison

I always think of February like November cold and wet although as we can see from the weather report for the past year February was bright and quite sunny but I did get the wet bit right. It never ceases to amaze me that we have so much rain fall, this past year it was 22.25 inches, which was the driest for a few years, in 2019 we had 39.28 inches!

We all need rain and I am very happy to say Kate is back with her Gardening Tips this month, lets hope for enough rain for a good growing season.

The Community Councils programme for 2023 started on 1st January with the Hangover Hike which was very well attended, in February they have a Bingo evening and in March a Quiz, hopefully you will get to one of them or to the monthly Cinema screenings . And there are the WI's Coffee Mornings and Winter Warmer lunches, everyone is welcome to all these events and it's a great way to get to know more people.

There is a lovely letter this month from new residents saying how welcome they have been made to feel since moving in a few weeks ago. A while ago everyone would have known immediately when someone moved in but as the village is growing that is becoming more difficult so its down to immediate neighbours to welcome newcomers and that seems to be working well done Cockfield.

Janne

www.cockfield.org.uk

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# Bingo night!

Friday 17th
February
Cockfield Village
Hall
Doors open 7pm
for a 7.30 start

Tea, coffee, bar and bar snacks, cakes Cash only

Families welcome Free entry Cash prizes

### Hangover Hike 1.1.2023

The morning was fair although there had been a lot of rain overnight. About fifty-five people and assorted dogs turned up at the village hall (it's not easy to get an accurate head count as people don't stand still to be

counted:)).

We set off via Perrydown Lane, to Bruff's Line and Earl's Meadow, then over the road past Clipt Bushes and onto the airfield, and once on the airfield, the breeze was moderately strong but with such a kindly temperature that it made the stroll even more pleasant. We crossed the airfield and returned via New Barn Farm then back to the village hall where we were refreshed with hot drinks, bacon butties and cake and it was a real pleasure to be able to sit outside the village hall on a lovely winter's morning and greet the New Year.



Thanks to Julie and her team of helpers for a perfect end to a lovely walk.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for 2023.

RW



A big thank you must go to Rodney for leading up the walk.





# Winter Warmers Saturday 18th February 12.00- 2pm

Cockfield residents come and enjoy a bowl of homemade soup.

At our second soup lunch in February . Why not bring a friend,

partner or the whole family. Join us at the village hall

It's a donation of £1.00.

### Lighten Our Darkness

Once again the community council put a Christmas Tree on the green a 20-foot Norden Spruce. The weather was kind to us when we came to put it up, the team of volunteers all turned up and thanks to David Hodge for supply labour and a tractor with a fore end loader without which we would have still be trying to put the tree up by Twelfth Night when it was time to take it down.

The machine also helped us to avoid damaging the surface of the green.

It's amazing how many sets of lights you need for such a "small" big tree, six sets of lights wired up and checked over my our friendly post office electrician Ralph Turner.

Thank you for the comments we have had about the tree, a lovely thing to do and a lovely thing to see lighting up the long December nights.

The tree came down more easily than it went up and I wish to thank everybody who took part in putting it up and taking it down, to light our way into yet another year.

RW



#### Cockfield Weather Review 2022

#### January

Overnight frosts, above average sunshine and below average rainfall at 8mm or 0.32ins. Exceptionally beautiful sunrises, often followed by a gradual clouding over for the rest of the day. Rainfall amounts recorded mostly in the first 10 days. 23rd, 24th & 25th buck the trend staying grey, overcast and dull all day.

#### February

A very mixed array of weather. Mostly memorable for the storms - Dudley, Eunice & Franklin. Very windy and numerous trees felled. Fewer frosts than January and very mild on 8th at 13 degrees Celsius. Many days of lengthy spells of sunshine often accompanied by a cool breeze. Above average rainfall at 79.5mm or 3.13ins. More beautiful sunrises but often cloudy skies developing.

#### March

Another mixed variety of weather. Below average rainfall at 34mm or 1.34ins. A persistent cool breeze emanating from the east, north-east. A change in wind direction brings Sahara dusts falling with rain on 16th coating cars and dirtying windows. A few frosts. Week 3 unseasonably mild/warm (especially out of the breeze). The final week much colder with a covering of snow on 31st.

#### April

Frosty chilly start. Below average rainfall at 16mm or 0.63ins. Constant cool winds. Scattered April showers falling in the first half of the month then predominantly sunny and very warm when once again in shelter from the breeze. Late frosts and cloudier conditions end the month.

#### May

Below average rainfall at 39mm or 1.54ins falling mostly during the middle of the month. Temperatures rising, increased humidity resulting in scattered thunderstorms with localised and isolated high levels of precipitation. The cool breeze did take the edge of the day's warm on occasions.

#### June

Average rainfall at 46.5mm or 1.83ins. Heavy rain overnight 4th/5th approx. 22mm or 0.87ins. Month starts sunny with a brief interlude comprising cloudy skies before summer started in earnest on 9th. (Mon 6th, miserable cool, damp and drizzle greeted the Ladies Cycle Tour as it zipped through the Village). 17th recorded as the hottest day of the year so far at 32degress Celsius in Santon Downham. Mixed weather during the last week.

#### July

Barely a measurable amount of rain. Just 7mm or 0.28ins. Warm start with sunny

periods, some cloudy cloud days. Temperatures start climbing from 13th with sun and scorching sunshine. Mercury levels top 40 degrees Celsius. Especially pleasant by the coast.

#### August

Well below average rainfall at 17mm or 0.67ins. A month split into two halves. Sunny and warm followed by more mixed weather but still warm. Some very light drizzle apart from 25th when isolated thunderstorms with torrential rain hit the County. Extremes encountered within a few miles e.g., Cockfield recorded 17mm, BSE 72mm and Hawkedon 55mm.

#### September

Average rainfall at 43mm or 1.69ins. Assorted weather throughout. Started warm with frequent spells of thundery rain, again very scattered and isolated very often followed by bright warm sunshine. Cooler starts to the days and strong blustery winds towards the end.

#### October

Above average rainfall at 58mm or 2.28ins. Breezy start, cooler nights with some beautiful sunrises, especially 12th. Mild mid-month, a theme that continued with the closing week. 23rd the wettest day with 20mm and a very windy late evening.

#### November

Umbrella time! Well above average rainfall at 140mm or 5.55ins, equivalent to approx. 2.5 moths rainfall. Wet, mixed start, windy. A very mild second week becoming unsettled with wind and rain.

#### December

Average rainfall at 66mm or 2.60ins. Proper winter starts here. Less sunshine, frosty mornings with a light covering of snow 11th/12th that lingers with subzero daily temperatures for over a week. Exceptionally sharp frosts and very low temperatures, minus 12 degrees Celsius recorded in the county then all change. On 19th a day time temperature reaches 13 degrees Celsius. Mixed towards end of the month.

#### Summary (what I will remember about 2022)

A mild Winter, a dry Spring, warm when out of a persistent cool easterly breeze. A very warm dry Summer, a mild Autumn and a wet November. Nothing unusual about typical British weather, certainly plenty to keep us talking.

#### Paul Heather

2015 January 1.85 February 1.40 March 0.96 April 0.73 May 2.19 June 0.51							
lary h	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
T L	3.03	2.46	2.6	1.00	2.52	5.12	0.71
_	18.0	2.32	1.63	1.02	4.13	2.30	3.13
	3.07	1.50	2.99	2.32	1.38	1.65	1.34
	3.68	0.41	2.56	0.30	1.10	0.08	0.63
	3.07	2.48	1.54	2.15	0.40	3.18	1.54
	90'9	2.85	80.0	4.37	5.93	2.82	1.83
July 3.43	1.34	2.46	1.02	1.71	2.62	6.10	0.28
August 2.85	1.32	3.37	3.17	1.46	5.72	0.87	29.0
September 2.17	1.89	1.89	1.34	2.72	1.56	2.66	1.69
October 1.48	29.0	0.63	1.75	5.59	6.01	4.66	2.28
November 2.91	3.78	1.54	1.81	4.76	2.22	1.87	5.55
December 2.28	1.12	4.04	2.93	4.31	5.69	3.21	2.60
		10.10	00 00	27.20	00.00	34.53	22.25
Month total 22.76	28.84	75.95	23.42	31./1	07'66	76.40	EEIEV

Cockfield Rain recor	ds and co	тра	records and comparions year on year 2015 - 2022	(in inches)
Previous High's & Low's	& Low's by month		(excluding current year)	
(year attained in brackets)				
	Low		High	2022
January	1.00	(19)		0.71
February	0.81	(46)	4.13 (20)	3.13
March	96.0	(15)	3.07 (16)	1.34
April	80.0	(21)	3.68 (16)	0.63
May	0.40	(20)		1.54
June	80.0	(18)	5.93 (20)	1.83
July	1.02	(18)		0.28
August	0.87	(21)		29.0
September	1.34	(18)		1.69
October	0.63	(17)		2.28
November	1.54	(17)		5:55
December	1.12	(16)	5.69 (20)	2.60

#### **Garden Tips for February 2023**

#### Flowers & Grasses

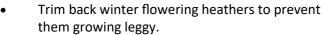
- Herbaceous Perennials Weather permitting take the opportunity to clear last year's dead flower heads and foliage. New growth should be visible at the base of the plant. You can also divide congested clumps to improve vigour and make new plants for free.
- Top dress established borders with proprietary fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone or well-rotted manure.
- Remove old foliage from Epimedium's before the spring flowers start to develop.
- Divide large clumps of bulbs such as snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering then re-plant to establish new colonies.



 Cut back deciduous grasses (e.g. Pennisetum, Miscanthus) which were left uncut over the winter. With regard to evergreen grasses (e.g. Carex, Stipa) you just need

to remove the dead grass.

 Continue removing faded flowers from winter pansies and violas to prevent the plants setting seed. This will encourage the plants to produce fresh flushes of flower when the weather warms up.



 Remove leaves with brown/blackish spots on Hellebores (Christmas rose) by doing this you will reveal the true beauty of these early winter flowers. Do not add the leaves to the compost heap as this will spread disease.



- Trim back Ivy, Virginia creeper if they have outgrown their space and most importantly before the birds have started nesting.
- Sweet peas seeds can now be sown in deep pots/ root trainers. Keep
  them in a frost-free greenhouse or a sunny windowsill. If you have autumn sown Sweet peas now is the time to pot on and pinch out. This will
  encourage side shoots to form.

#### **Fruit and Vegetables**

- Clear weeds from vegetable seed beds and fork in compost or wellrotted manure. Sow some vegetable seeds in greenhouse borders, cold frames or under cloches. Try sowing Aubergine, salad leaves,
  - tomatoes, leeks, celeriac and onions.
- Broad beans can be sown outside providing the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Chit first early potato tubers by arranging the tubers in shallow trays or egg boxes with the eyes (young shoots) uppermost. Put in a light frost proof shed or room to encourage the tubers to sprout.
- Cut autumn fruiting raspberry canes down to the ground.
- Prune back blackcurrant, redcurrants and gooseberries to a good open framework. Top dress fruit bushes with a slow release fertiliser (potassium-rich) to feed plants during the new growing season.
- Put fleece or cloches over strawberry plants to start them into growth. This will encourage early cropping.
- Last chance to winter prune apple and pear trees while they are still dormant. You should aim to take out a bit of old wood each winter to stimulate new growth. Avoid the haircut approach and try to stagger the pruning cuts throughout the canopy. Your aim should be to create an open centre to the tree which will allow more light to ripen shoots and produce fruit. It will also allow good air movement which help prevent disease.
- Plant Rhubarb into enriched soil (well rotted manure added) or split and divide established crowns.

#### **Trees, Shrubs & Climbers**

- Prune winter flowering shrubs (Mahonia, Forsythia and winter flowering Jasmine) once they have finished flowering.
- Prune Buddleias back hard to keep this vigorous shrub to a reasonable size. This will ensure that the flowers and scent can be fully enjoyed.
- Complete winter pruning of Wisteria by cutting summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- Prune hardy evergreen hedges and tidy deciduous hedges towards the end February and early March before birds start nesting.

Prune back clematis which flower in summer (July onwards) to 12 inches from the ground. Do not prune Clematis Montana or any of the early flowering (Jan – May) Alpina, Armandii species. These should only be are immediately after they have finished flowering.



- Roses Complete planting of new roses but not if the ground is wet and sticky or if there is frost or snow on the surface of the ground. If conditions unsuitable then just heel the plants into a nursery bed as a temporary measure.
- Prune Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses mid Feb to early March before growth restarts. Remember the 3 D'S – Remove dead, damaged and diseased growth.
- Sprinkle slow-release fertiliser around the base of roses and flowering shrubs.

#### General Maintenance and planning

Check your garden tools are clean and sharp. Check and service garden machinery so that you are fully prepared for the forthcoming season.

Wash greenhouse glazing inside and out to allow as much light in as pos-

sible.

- Think about, plan and order any plug plants.
- Create a box with dividers for each month. Sort out seed packets and arrange in sowing date order.
- Clean empty pots with mild washing up liquid. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry.
- Get on top of perennial weeds whilst easier to control.
- Make sure you have a good supply of horticultural fleece to protect vulnerable plants when frost is forecast. For example protect new buds on Hydrangeas by using clothes pegs to attach fleece to branches.

Happy Gardening Kate Ransom



7pm

Thorpe Morieux Village Hall

Tickets available from the pre-school office by phone 01284 827274 or email info@catey-preschool.co.uk



- £8per person
- Cold Buffet (incl in ticKet)
- Bar
- Teams of up to 6 people
- All proceeds going to Catey Pre-School (Cockfield and Thorpe Morieux Early Years)

Thanks for supporting our charity

## Cockfield W.I.

January's Meeting

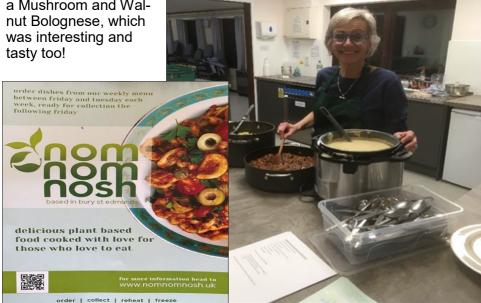


Welcome everyone to the New Year 2023! We have already enjoyed our first meeting with a speaker, Jenny Smith from Veganuary based in Bury St Edmunds! Jenny provides her products currently ready frozen, runs a regular monthly supper club and is available to cater for private functions

Jenny's talk and demonstration was very interesting and thought provoking! Jenny has always been interested in food and in more recent years in cooking but has been increasingly less interested in meat dishes and has questioned how the dairy industry operates. She used a course called 'The Happy Eater' and found that, for her, having a no meat and dairy diet resulted in improved health! She feels she has been on a vegan journey for the last six years, which may suit others! Anyone concerned about the environment and animal welfare may consider a plant based diet or a reduction in the amount of meat eaten in the future! We had the opportunity to taste some of Jenny's food, which she pre-

pared in our kitchen. She made a delicious Creamy Cauliflower

and Cashew Soup and a Mushroom and Walnut Bolognese, which was interesting and



In February our speaker is Jenny Easton a member of our WI, who is a weaver and spinner! Apparently 'It all started with a donkey' (when her son was given a sheep)! Jenny started in 1993 and has continued to make clothes from mostly sheep wool ever since! She belongs to the local Spinners Guild who meet monthly in Lavenham and highly recommends spinning as a very sociable hobby



and, of course, it has always been eco-friendly!

In March, which is an open meeting, we celebrate our local WI birthday with our speaker Charles Garland, a local Suffolk lad, born in Bury St Edmunds, who will be telling us about the enormously successful and popu-

lar Dads' Army programme. Indeed the Nations favourite comedy! Charles Garland has been an actor, writer, composer, television director, producer and author.

He re-edited most of the classic comedy archive for the BBC, including Dads Army, Steptoe & Son, Are You Being Served?, Porridge, The Good Life and many others.



In April. We will be joined by some very experienced gardeners from Thorpe Morieux Gardening Club. It will be organised on the basis of Gardeners Question Time! Questions should be submitted as soon as possible to enable time for research, if needed! Lots of questions please!

We will also be finalising arrangements for a few visits during 2023. At the moment we are arranging to visit Chippenham Park near Newmarket in February to see the snowdrops. It is a lovely garden and their season extends to the beginning of April when there will be a 'host' of daffodils to see!



In April we are planning to visit the refurbished Gainsborough House in Sudbury with further visits to include Fullers Mill garden at Bury St Edmunds, a living museum at Stowmarket and possibly a trip on the River Stour from Sudbury with a pub visit included.

The village coffee morning we hold in the village hall each month is great place to meet and have a



chat! It is open to everyone and everyone is very welcome to share some lovely homemade cakes and biscuits, as well as tea and coffee. The next two Thursday coffee mornings are from 10.30 am until 12 noon and are on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 in the Village Hall

We would like to say welcome to you if you have recently moved into the village and would love to meet you! Visitors are always very welcome to WI meetings and if you would like to come along, please contact Michelle wi@cockfield.org.uk

## **Cockfield Community Coffee**

4th Thursday of the month

Hope to see you there



Cockfield Village Hall - Committee Room 10.30am - 12 noon

No Charge but donations are welcome



Cockfield CEVCP School

Cockfield Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0LA

Tel & Fax 01284 828287 E-mail: admin@cockfield.suffolk.sch.uk www.cockfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Trudie Harkin

We share, care and learn together

Dear Readers.

First of all, a thank you to whoever dropped off a large bag of used stamps over Christmas for our collection on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This was a nice surprise. If anyone else has any stamps please pop them through the letter box, thank you.

I have started the year announcing my departure this summer. This is my tenth year at Cockfield and it is time for a new challenge. It is a privilege to work with children, seeing them grow academically and emotionally. I will miss the excitement of new learning, special days, trips and entertaining conversations with the children. During my time I've been through Ofsted and SIAMS (Church inspection) COVID/lockdowns, seen the school get a new roof and improvement's internally, new teachers, Forest School, taken the children to the National Space Centre and London, several residential trips in Norfolk, taught all age groups either full time or part time, welcomed families from the Ukraine, took on a second school as a Head teacher for a short while, raised lots of money for different charities and all with the help of a great team at Cockfield, staff and Governors. My aim has always been to ensure children flourish at Cockfield and I know of many who have gone to enjoy great success at High School. I feel we have equipped them with the skills to reach their full potential. I'm not sure what I will be doing next but I'll keep you posted.

I am looking to fill two positions for Mid-Day Supervisor on a Friday, I have a position available now and another that will be coming up in the summer term, after Easter. Please do get in touch if you would like further information. The hours are 12-1.15pm, Friday only.

Best wishes.

Mrs Harkin Head teacher







#### **Tips and Tricks**

Saving money, or at least not wasting it, is more important than ever especially as the winter approaches and we all have to cope with increased energy bills. This new page will feature a monthly tips.

#### **How to Store & Use Left-over Rice Safely!**

Rice can be kept and used but please follow some simple 'rules'.

Use within 1 or 2 days!

#### Storing cooked rice in the fridge!

Cool it quickly (should be kept for less than 2 hours at room temperature). Store in an airtight container.

Reheat thoroughly with a little water. When reheating, sprinkle with a teaspoon of water to help loosen stuck grains. Reheat in the microwave on medium power until the rice is hot – stirring every 30 seconds or reheat in a pot on the hob. Stir to keep the grains moving but don't mash them! Make sure it is thoroughly reheated!

#### Storing cooked rice in the freezer!

Cool it quickly (as above).

Store in a freezer bag.

Thaw (or don't thaw). Frozen grains can be added directly to hot dishes like soup, stir fries, casseroles and stews. If thawing follow the suggestion in 3 above.

#### **Recipes**

#### **Easy One Pan Chicken Fried Rice**

Leftover chicken and rice with vegetables. Amounts can vary according to taste or what you have left. Many other veg. would work well too!

1 tablespoon cooking oil

1 teaspoon sesame oil for extra flavour or add another teaspoon of your usual oil.

1/2 cup diced carrots

 $\mbox{\em 4}$  cup sliced or finely diced onion or spring onions

½ teaspoon garlic powder or chopped fresh garlic

½ teaspoon ground ginger

3 cups cooked rice, cooled

1 teaspoon salt

 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground black pepper

1 cup shredded cooked chicken or pork, beef, prawns or meat substitute

½ cup frozen peas

2 tablespoons butter

2 large beaten eggs

2 tablespoons soy sauce

2 teaspoons rice vinegar

1 tablespoon spring onion tops (optional)

Heat oils in a large non- stick pan or wok over medium heat. Add carrot and onion — cook stirring constantly for 2 mins. Stir in spices and cook for a further 2mins. Stir in rice, salt/pepper. Cook stirring once or twice until rice is lightly browned (5mins). Stir in chicken & peas & cook for 2mins.

Push the mixture to the sides of the pan. Add the butter to the centre & when melted pour in the eggs. Cook eggs, stirring often until almost set (about 3min). Stir the eggs into the rice mixture. Stir in soy sauce & rice vinegar & cook for further 2mins. Top with the spring onion tops. Serve immediately.

#### Winter Vegetable & Lentil Soup

85g dried red lentils

- 2 carrots, diced
- 3 sticks of celery sliced
- 2 small leeks sliced
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves (or dried)
- 3 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tablespoon vegetable bouillon powder or similar veg. stock cube
- 1 heaped teaspoon ground coriander

Tip all the ingredients into a large pan. Pour over 1½ litres boiling water – stir well! Cover and leave to simmer for 30 mins until the vegetables and lentils are tender. Ladle into bowls and serve straightaway with crusty bread. For a thicker texture blitz a third of the soup with a blender/food processor.

I would be interested to hear of any tips for drying washing indoors during the winter and if anyone has had any luck with bottling fruits, vegetables, eggs, etc., people say use your freezer but they do cost money to run and they soon get full so any tips for preserving without using the freezer please. Of course jam is the obvious one but we don't all have a supply of fruit and good quality jam is abundantly available and relatively inexpensive but a recipe for a good chutney would be useful.

#### The Americans in Suffolk

2022 had a distinctly American theme at IWM Duxford. We commemorated a number of key events in the story of the American 'friendly' invasion of the counties of East Anglia. In January 1942 the American Eighth Air Force was stood up in Savannah Georgia, and in February General Ira Eaker and a handful of staff officers arrived in the U.K with the not inconsiderable task of establishing a strategic bomber force in England. One of these officers was a certain Capt Beirne Lay Jr. We'll hear more about him later. This event, barely noticed at the time, was commemorated eighty years later in January 2022 with a flypast of USAF and RAF aircraft that took in RAF stations Marham, Mildenhall and Lakenheath as well as IWM Duxford and the American Cemetery at Madingley. This explains why I came to be standing in a muddy field between the A14 and Tuddenham last January. Exactly on time, at 11.57 a formation of aircraft passed overhead en route for Duxford. The formation consisted of a B1-B Lancer from Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) in South Dakota, representing the current Eighth Air Force, which was accompanied by two F-15E Eagles from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk representing the United States Air Forces in Europe, and an F-35B of 617 'Dambusters' squadron representing the RAF.



At this point I need to point out that during World War 2 the Air Force of the United States was still part of the Army and was not an independent air arm, unlike the RAF, which is the oldest independent Air Force in the world. At this stage

it was called the United States Army Air Force (USAAF). This brings me to the second event we commemorated at Duxford in 2022. This was the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Air Force (USAF) on 18 September 1947. Captain Chuck Yeager, who earlier was based at Leiston in Suffolk with the 357th Fighter Group in 1944, had barely drawn his new blue USAF uniform from the stores at Edwards AFB when he became the first man to break the sound barrier in October 1947. By all accounts Yeager was one American serviceman who did not enjoy his spell in England, calling the English "arrogant and nasty".

General Eaker and his handful of officers did an incredible job getting the nascent US Eighth Air Force up and running. Luckily Eaker knew Arthur Harris from when Harris was in America and the two got on well. This was around the time that Arthur Harris took over as Commander-in-Chief of RAF Bomber Command. There was tremendous cooperation between the two Air Forces, which presaged the start of the 'Special Relationship', and which still exists today. The impact of the Americans in Eastern England cannot be overstated. By the end of the war, over 200 airfields were occupied or newly built by the USAAF, which could call on 2800 heavy bombers and 1400 escort fighters. Eighteen of these airfields were in Suffolk. Each bomber airfield was home to 2500 officers and enlisted men, far outnumbering the populations of the local towns and villages. It is estimated that by 1944, one in seven of the Suffolk population was American! Their presence still resonates in the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, as witnessed by all the memorials and museums which are meticulously maintained and staffed by dedicated volunteers.

A mile and a half south of where I live is the former airfield of Lavenham. To the Americans it was known as Station 137 and was home to the 487th Bomb Group (Heavy). The Group's first Commanding Officer was Lt Col Beirne Lay, mentioned earlier. You can find a picture of him in the Airman's Bar at the Swan Hotel in Lavenham. He co-wrote the novel 'Twelve O'Clock High' and the screenplay for the film of the same name. This is the definitive film of the Eighth Air Force's difficult early days and has rightly become a classic. It is a magnificent study of leadership which I believe is still used at West Point Military Academy in the USA.

Next month I'll say more about the 487th Bomb Group and the other American Bomb Groups that were stationed in the vicinity of Cockfield within a ten mile radius, these being the Heavy Bomb Groups located at Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Great Ashfield (Elmswell) and Rattlesden. I'll also mention the two other events that we commemorated at Duxford in 2020. Until then!

#### Cockfield United Football Club

This month the spotlight is on Tom O'Leary, the First Team coach, and I caught up with him early in the new year to put a few questions to him.

Here's what I discovered.

#### JG. How long have you been involved with CUFC, and how did that start?

TO. I took over the reins for the 2013/14 season so we are now in the midst of my 10<sup>th</sup> season as manager at the club. Before that I was running a youth side, Bury Rangers. I'd already hosted a session which integrated both Cockfield and Bury Rangers into a mass session and had good relations with a lot of the 'old boys' being a former player. Cockfield came to the end of the season where they'd just been relegated after a difficult few seasons and the management chose to step aside. Conveniently Bury Rangers was in its last year of under 18s so the time was right for me to move to something new and fortunately the committee approached me and the rest as they say is history!

# JG. Good history! Apart from managing and coaching the First Team, what other roles do you fill at the Club?

TO. I think it's fair to say I am a very active part of the wonderful committee we have and I guess you could say amongst other things I'm also Bar Manager for the Pavilion. I could go on forever (as usual) as there is so much to do behind the scenes each & every week but we are always looking for volunteers to spread the responsibilities - so come get involved!

# JG. And you taught me how to clean the beer lines! You were a pretty accomplished sportsman at school I bet. Which sport did you first shine at?

TO. I loved my sport at school and tried my hand at pretty much everything. I don't think there was a team I wasn't a part of, from basketball to rounders, but football has always been my obsession, closely followed by rugby.

# JG. Okay, pretty much as I suspected. I'm sure we'd all love to see you playing, but your playing days are over. Can you tell us about that?

TO. I stopped playing quite early really, 23. I had a pretty bad knee injury which kept me out for 2 years or so and I'd always been doing my coaching from the age of 17 anyway with youth football so that sustained me through my inactivity. By the time it came to returning to football, my work meant I would have to drop coaching in order to get back playing and I loved what I was a part of at the time too much to make that sacrifice and I've carried on coaching ever since.

#### JG. That experience really shows. Have you put yourself through the coaching badges?

TO. I did the FA Level 1 many, many moons ago when I was 17. I'd love to be 'more qualified' but the cost is pretty prohibitive, especially as this is a passion rather than a work requirement. There are loads of great resources online these days and I have a lot of practical experience now which I hope counters my lack of badges!



TJG. Badges are just part of it for sure. You can't beat hard won experience on the coaching ground. What motivates you to give up so much time for our local football club?

O. I love football and I love the feeling of winning - there's nothing more satisfying than that post-match beer after a win - but more than that I really enjoy the sense of community being part of a football club gives you. No matter the week you've had, good or bad, you can come to football forget your worries and enjoy yourself which is what life is all about! Helping create that community is hugely rewarding as I think it's really important to have clubs, societies, etc for people to come together and enjoy themselves.

# JG. I couldn't agree more. It's well known that sport and exercise brings both physical and mental benefits. What are your guiding principles when it comes to training?

TO. Enjoyment! We are at a level where all the lads pay to play rather than get paid so it's really important we cater for that. All our sessions are about solving problems individually and as a group with the ball at their feet rather than standing around and being talked at or being made to stop and start continually. I hope this then translates to the pitch and the way we play.

#### JG. I'm certain that it does! Where would you like to see the Club in five years time?

TO. I think the Saturday sides are in a good place at the moment, numbers have never been better and both teams are winning consistently but I'd love for the 1<sup>st</sup> team to be established in the SIL Senior Division (currently we are Div 1) and the Reserves a division or two higher. It would then be really good if we could reprise the Sundays and Vets side and see them thriving again on Sundays. I'd also like for us to have a youth link up with one of the neighbouring villages to give young players in and around the village a pathway into adult football. With only two pitches in the village it's really difficult to facilitate a youth setup as they require lots of space and lots of pitches so I'm hoping we can come up with a plan to work together as we are the only adult side in the area really.

# JG. You're right about pathways into adult football. It's really key. If Gareth Southgate came to the Green on a match day, what positive things would he take away?

TO. More than anything, the fact the lads are enjoying themselves! I like to think we play good football but we have a little way to go before meeting international standards so as long as he sees people enjoying themselves and being a team I would take that as a win!

#### JG. I'll get on to the FA then! Any pet hates? Players take note!

TO. What's the word limit? No, I'm joking! There's probably two that really get my goat. The first is lateness for no particular reason - I am "über OCD" and as a result I'm always trying to be early for everything so seeing people do the opposite - I just can't get my head round it. I also think it can put the team on the backfoot from the off and as a manager you want everything to go smoothly to give yourself the best chance of success! The second is bright boots. I can handle a blue or grey leather pair but some of these neon yellow or pink plastic things are an abomination to me! There has been a move back towards the classic black boots recently which I am very happy about! You've made me sound like a grumpy old man there!

# JG. I'll set my watch 15 minutes early! It's no secret you're a Cobblers (Northampton Town) fan. What's that all about?

TO. I was born in Northampton. As a child I was brought up to be a Man Utd fan by my dad but as time has passed I've felt more affinity with my hometown club. Despite the relegations down the years they just feel more accessible and relatable to me!

# JG. Absolutely! Support your hometown or local club! Finally, time to put you on the spot. The Cruyff turn or the Bergkamp spin for you?

TO. Difficult one. One of the first real bits of 'flair' I learned as a kid was the Cruyff turn and it was probably my favourite piece of skill to do going through the youth ranks so I'd have to go with that! Also the Bergkamp spin, as good as it was, I'm not 100% convinced he definitely meant it...I'll probably get pelters for that statement!

# JG. No I agree. It was purely intuitive, but it came off spectacularly! For me the Cruyff turn has become a bit of a football cliché. Thanks for your time Tom, and good luck with the rest of the season!

#### Carols by candlelight.

On a very cold December evening a week before Christmas, residents, family and friends gathered at the village hall car park for Carols by Candlelight, a new event by Cockfield Community Council and St.Peters church. The day had been dull with lingering fog and extremely cold with temperatures expected to fall considerably overnight, so as the trustees gathered ready to give out candles and song sheets it is fair to say they were a little anxious as to just how many would want to venture out from the warmth of their homes. They need not have stressed as cars started to arrive and approximately 65 - 70 people braved the cold night air ready to get into the festive spirit. With candles and song sheets distributed to everyone present the Rev. Sharon Potter and Norman Kelly lead the procession from the car park to the church whilst singing "The twelve days of Christmas ". As the candles glowed in the darkness and singing voices could be heard as the procession moved along it was the start of what was to be a very enjoyable evening. For those of us at the front of the procession the recorded music prompted what came where, for those a little further back that got confused with the order and unsure how many maids were milking or lords leaping it just added to the amusement. Arriving at the church decorated for Christmas with holly and Angels kindly made by the children of Cockfield school, and simply lit by candlelight the atmosphere was truly magical. With everyone safely inside the church, Rev. Sharon Potter started the service. A selection of traditional Christmas carols that people remember such as "Away in a manger" and Christmas songs which included "Jingle bells" and "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer ". It was at this point that many were seen having a little dance on the spot! The enjoyment was enhanced when a couple of times verses didn't go quite to plan with the music and you could hear the faint "giggle" amongst the smiling faces and turning of song sheets! After the last song had finished a warming hot festive punch was served in delightful elf cups along with mice pies and a small selection of sweet bites. People mingled and conversation flowed as others admired the children's angels which decorated the church. A lovely evening that seemed to be enjoyed by all that attended and one which will hopefully be on the list for next year. JP



# Advice Column

As the weather has turned colder, I've noticed mould and damp in our flat. It's mainly in our bedroom, including some black mould on the carpet. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord. I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for eight months, what can I do?

It's good that you've already raised the issue with your letting agency. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to work out the cause of mould or damp This can make it difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible, unless there's an obvious cause, like a leaking roof.

There are many causes of damp that properties can get. The most common are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website <a href="https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a> there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Check your tenancy agreement too for mentions of repairs and damp and reach out to Citizens Advice on anything you're unsure about.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they'll likely have to cover the cost of repairs. One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. To prevent this, it's important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated, but for a lot of people this will be trickier to do given the colder weather and higher heating costs. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home and should visit our website to find out more.

On our website we also have advice on things that can make damp worse and may impact the landlord taking responsibility for repairs. These include drying clothes on heaters or blocking air vents.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn't act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you're in social housing, you might also be able to use the landlord's formal complaints procedure. There is more information about this on our website.

If it reaches the point where you want to get out of a fixed term tenancy agreement early, do speak to an adviser first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue.

For information and advice on this or anything else, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call Sudbury and District Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website, https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact

We are providing advice by telephone and email Monday – Thursday, 10am – 3pm.

#### Letter to the Editor

We have recently moved into Etna Cottage in the village and would like to express our thanks for the heart-warming reception we have received.

Although we have not moved far, (Newmarket), it is always a little bit daunting to move somewhere where you are a stranger except we have not felt like strangers. We have felt very warmly welcomed not only from our extremely helpful immediate neighbours, Barbara and Ralph but also from those who have put a card through our door, those who have stopped to chat and supplied us with useful information ,those who have invited us to join in the many social activities here in the village and those who have helped in the initial stages of making our lovely cottage feel like home.

From our experience it seems Cockfield has a wonderful community feel with people supporting each other and we both look forward to playing our part in that.

Best wishes,

# Cockfield Community Council News

January 1st saw the first Community Council event of 2023. A very successful Hangover Hike along the footpaths of Cockfield.

**Friday February 17th** is the date of the next Community Council event. This will be a family cash bingo night in the village hall following the success of our first bingo night in October 2022.

Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. There is no entry fee or need to book for this event.

**Saturday March 25th** will be a **Quiz Night** again in the village hall, so plenty of time to get your team organised!

**Saturday April 8th (Easter Saturday)** family fun at the annual **Duck Race** held at Earls Meadow.

**Saturday May 6th** is the **Kings Coronation** and it is hoped to organise an event but is still in the planning phase.

**Saturday May 27th - Monday May 29th Cockfield Art Show** in the village hall.

**Saturday June 24th** to celebrate the summer solstice join us for a guided walk around the village followed by a **Summer Social** in the village hall.

A Village Fete is being planned for July.

Dig out your gingham ready for a Barn Dance in September.

Another chance to win with Family Cash Bingo in October

Test your knowledge with a **Quiz Evening** in **November.** 

Cinema screenings will continue on the evening of the 4th Friday of each month in the village hall. But the **May Cinema Screening** will be a week earlier on **Friday 19th May** and the **December Screening on Friday 15th**.

More details for each event will be advertised in Green Links, on village notice boards, on posters around the village and on the community broadcasts as the date gets closer.

If you would like to help out at events but not commit to being a trustee you can register on the helpers list by email - <a href="mailto:community.communit

Community broadcasts can be received by visiting <a href="www.cockfield.org.uk">www.cockfield.org.uk</a> and following the link in the footer of any page. The broadcasts provide general information for residents including reminders of upcoming events and any last minute changes.

#### Report JP



# **Cockfield Community Council Presents**

# Quiz Night Spring 2023

Cockfield Village Hall
Saturday 25th March

Doors open 7 pm, Quiz Starts 7.30

Teams of up to 6, advanced booking only please

If you need others to make up a team, contact me

Bar

Fish n' chips, sausage & chips or vegetarian option for supper

Team entry forms £10 per person (including supper) from Post Office, via the calendar entry on the website, or on request to quiz@cockfield.org.uk

Any queries please contact Neil on 07900 880 888 or email quiz@cockfield.org.uk

# THE LOST KING (12A)

# Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Cockfield Village Hall** 

Doors Open: 7pm - Film starts: 7:30pm

Tickets on the door

Adults: £4.50 / Under 16s: £3.00

Raffle, Refreshments & Licensed Bar available from 7pm



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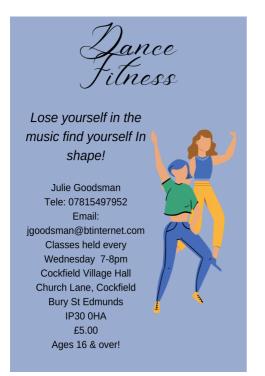
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## We have two Defibrillators in the village.

This one which is outside the front door of the Village Hall the other is outside of the Pavilion on Great Green located to the left of the entrance doors on the veranda.



Lets hope no one ever has the need to use them but its good to know they are available should the need arise.

## Would you like to grow your own?

Since the acquisition by the Parish Council of Cockfield's former Glebeland, located between Mill Corner and Jeffreys' Green, work has been taking place to create a new village allotment. It is expected that 10 allotment plots will be available, hopefully by the end of the year, or early in 2023 at the latest, which will enable plot holders to prepare for next years growing season.

If you are a village resident and would like to register your interest for a plot, please do so by emailing <a href="mark.cfield21@btinternet.com">mark.cfield21@btinternet.com</a> by 30th November. Further information will be provided to applicants in the coming weeks, but if you have any initial questions please include them in your email - thank you.

Mark Webster, on behalf of Cockfield Parish Council

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## Children's Page February 2023

Well the snow came and the snow went, I have no idea if we will see any more this winter but if so I hope you get to play in it at least for a little while.

How many words can you make out of the letters in Cold Fingers and Toes

#### Valentines Day is in February, how about making one of these jewelled hearts for your parents, carers or other family member

You will need a sheet of card, glue, tissue paper, a small length of ribbon or string, seissors

Cut or tear the tissue into pieces about 2cm square

Spread a thin layer of glue on the card and stick the tissue onto it , when dry do

another layer filling in any white bits When dry cut out a heart shape

through.

Ask an adult to make a hole near the top and tread the ribbon or string

37



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Dear Friends,

Gosh it's February already! I can't wait for the avalanche of Valentine's Day cards that will drop through my letter box!

Seriously though, I have been reading some surprising facts about St Valentine, one of them being that he is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and travelling!

The story of Valentine is very sad. He was a Christian priest in the 3rd Century in Rome and was martyred for his faith. At the time, Christians were being persecuted under the Emperor Claudius II who was trying to get more men into his armies. Claudius believed that men did not want to sign up because of their wives and girlfriends and so he banned all engagements and marriages in Rome. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to conduct marriages in secret.

When this was discovered, Claudius ordered that Valentine be put to death. Valentine was arrested and beaten to death, with his head being cut off on February 14 around the year 270. It is good to remember St Valentine on 14th February, even if we have not received flowers or chocolates!

Love is a powerful emotion, but it's hard to imagine our lives without it. St Paul spoke eloquently about love in his first letter to the Church in Corinth. He said:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

May the love that you feel for those special people in your life continue to bring you joy and happiness.

Yours in Christ, Sharon Rev Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com 01284-828599 or 0782508

## Cockfield Benefice Services & Events February 2023

Sunday 5th February 3rd before Lent	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Six-to-Seven - Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 12 February 2nd before Lent	9.30am Said Communion BCP – Cockfield 11am Communion CW – Bradfield St George 4pm Praise and Worship – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 19 February Sunday next before Lent	9.30am Communion CW – Stanningfield 10am Family@Church – Felsham 11am Communion CW – Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare
Wednesday 22 Feb- ruary Ash Wednesday	11am Communion & Ashing - Felsham
Sunday 26 February Lent 1	9.30am Communion CW – Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George 10am Communion BCP - Gedding

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at <u>www.cockfieldbenefice.com</u>

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom For more details contact Canon Sharon at <a href="revsharon2@gmail.com">revsharon2@gmail.com</a> tel: 01284 828599 or 078250 086063

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Saturday 10.00 – 2.00 Sunday & Wednesday - CLOSED



#### ALL ABOARD!

The Lego Train will be calling at Lavenham Library on **Thursday 16**<sup>th</sup> **February,** so hop aboard between **2.30pm-4.00pm.** For children of all ages.

Lego Club will also be available so come along and get creative!



If you or someone you know can't make it to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver titles to homes and care homes. Our friendly volunteers will visit you in your home to discuss which books you are interested in, including audiobooks. Tell us about your favourite authors, genres or non-fiction subjects, and our volunteers will choose a selection of books and order them from the

library on your behalf. They then collect the books from the library and deliver them to your door and return any books you've finished.

#### **Other Regular Activities**

Every Saturday: 11am-12pm Lego Club – drop-in sessions for children of all ages.

Every Friday: 2.30-4.00pm Indoor Kurling - group for adults Fortnightly Tuesdays: 2.30-4.00pm Top Time – social group for adults



#### **Contact Details**

Lavenham Library, Lavenham Village Hall, Church St, Lavenham CO10 9QT Tel No: 01787 247729 www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

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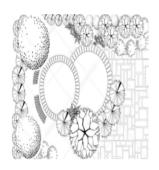
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#### Help is Available

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The United Charities can give small grants for fuel, clothing and food to people living within Cockfield parish and can also help with some medical, educational and job seeking support. In addition, there is a limited supply of logs from Earl's Meadow available for those who have wood burners or open fires.

The trustees have had no recent requests for any sort of help. There are limitations on who may benefit from the Charities, but we shall consider any requests **in the utmost confidence**. Please contact the trustees if you need help or if you are aware of any individual or family living in Cockfield who could benefit from some assistance.

#### **Trustees**

Tony Box, Chairman, United Charities of Cockfield (01284 828309) Dick Bayes (01284 828569) Barbara Ruffell (01284 828262) Robin Morley (01284 828023) Rev Canon Sharon Potter (01284 828599)

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#### **Congregational Church Corner**

Like many others I was wondering at the beginning of the year what life had in store for us in the coming days. I thought of various options that may or may not transpire, but one thing that I did not anticipate was the death of our Pastor – Gordon Hold. But, sadly, he was taken from us in the very first week of the year, suddenly and unexpectedly.

Gordon was one of those people that I thought was practically indestructible and would go on for many, many years to come; as he was always so full of life, energy and vitality. However, nothing is certain in life, and Gordon's death came out of left field (to use one of his oft used expressions), without any prior warning of health issues, serious or otherwise, and so his death was a complete shock to all of us.

It is sad to think that I will no longer receive that cheery greeting from him every time we met, nor be able to discuss with him church business matters to resolve practical issues that needed attention, nor discuss spiritual matters with him that arose from time to time that required clarification or amplification; on which he readily gave his authoritative guidance, that was always, but always, firmly based on and backed up by the scriptures.

We as Christians believe that on his death, Gordon would have been ushered immediately into the presence of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ in Heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8), which is a far happier place to be than in this world with all its cares and woes (Philippians 1:23), but notwithstanding this, his presence here with us will be sadly missed by us all, as will be his valuable contribution to the life of the church generally.

When speaking, Gordon often quoted from The Shorter Westminster Catechism saying: "What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and to enjoy Him for all eternity". Well Gordon glorified God in his lifetime and will now enjoy His God for all eternity. Also, having packed some fifty years of Christian service into his life Gordon will receive from the Lord Jesus, Himself the commendation of: "Well done thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21), and thereafter he will be given the glorious invitation that will be given to all those who know and love the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour: "Come you blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

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#### **Announcements**

#### Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council Planning

Residents may be aware that the Planning Application Loft Corner "Land To The East Of Sudbury Road Cockfield" Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0LN. For the erection of a new workshop building with the existing access to the site from the A1141 was refused by Babergh Mid-Suffolk District Council back in April 2022.

By way of an update the Applicant has instigated a planning appeal procedure against the decision.

As such the Government Planning Inspector will determine the outcome via an informal public hearing. The Inspector has arranged the hearing to take place at 10:00 am on 15 February 2023 - the location, at the time of writing, is to be confirmed, please refer to the Parish Clerk for confirmation.

Parish Council

There will be traffic management in place, involving 3 way traffic lights and single flow system, on the A1141 at the junction with MacKenzie Place between Monday 30th January and Friday 10th February 2023, to enable the new Bus Shelter to be constructed.

The Parish Council apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Do you have an announcement you would like included here?
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Cockfield Carpet Bowls Club	June Pettit	828616
Cockfield Cemetery	Ralph Turner	828201
Cockfield Charities	Tony Box	828309
Cockfield Congregational Church	Pastor Gordon Hold	762663
Cockfield Football Club	Joe Brinkley	828070
Cockfield Netball Club Cockfield Post Office	Lindsee Summers Barbara Turner	07849 666505
	Trudie Harkin	828201
Cockfield Primary School		828287 ockfield.suffolk.sch.uk
Community Council Secretary	Janne Cutting-Keyton	828264
Computer Support	Neil Ashton	827238
Village website		neilka@btinternet.com
CommunityBroadcasts	1	iciika@biiiiciiici.com
County Council - Local Member	Robert Lindsay	07738 264087
County Council Local Welliber		indsay@suffolk.gov.uk
Dentist	Lavenham Dental Practice	
Defition	Paul Rolph & Associates	01787 247046
District Council	Babergh offices	0300 1234000
Local Member	Clive Arthey	01787 211316
20000 1110111201		rthey@babergh.gov.uk
Local Member	Margaret Maybury	
		01787 404338
		01787 464358 bury@babergh.gov.uk
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		bury@babergh.gov.uk
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