

The

# Reeve's Tale

News | Events | Local Services Magazine

February

2026

\*\*\*\*\*

**FREE**

Bawdeswell & Foxley

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## SPRING PROGRAMME

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

### FOUR MOTHERS



**Starring: James McArdle, Fionnula Flanagan**

Loosely based on Gianni Di Gregorio's hit Italian comedy-drama *Mid-August Lunch* (2008). Edward, an anxiety-ridden gay man in his thirties, is scheduled for a tour of the US to promote his breakout novel. But his elderly mum Alma is recovering from a stroke, and Edward is her primary carer. To compound his difficulties, his three friends decide to take a weekend break to Gran Canaria for Maspalomas Pride, and dump their own mothers on the doorstep of the small Dublin semi that Edward shares with Alma.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

### THE ROSES



**Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Olivia Colman**

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy and Theo: successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. *The Roses* is a reimagining of the 1989 classic film *The War of the Roses*, based on the novel by Warren Adler.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

### THE CHORAL (TBC)



**Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam**

Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr. Guthrie, the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.

**Cinema:- Doors, Bar/Cafe open 6.30pm, Film starts at 7.30pm**  
**Adults £5, Under 18 £3, Family (2A+2C) £14 + £2 each extra child**  
Tickets on sale in Reception. There will be the opportunity to pay by cash and card.

Tel: 01362 688887 or 01362 688944.

Email: [jporterbvh@gmail.com](mailto:jporterbvh@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/BawdeswellVillageCinema/>

<https://twitter.com/BawdeswellFilm1>

# WELCOME

A very warm welcome back to the Reeves Tale for a brand New Year!  
Our very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2026.  
At this time of the year with the coldest months expected, do take extra special care as you go out and about, and if you are able, keep an eye out for any vulnerable friends and neighbours who might appreciate a helping hand.

For those of you who are familiar with the words

“January brings the snow, makes your feet and fingers glow,

February's ice and sleet, freeze the toes right off your feet!

Welcome March with wintry wind, wish you were not so unkind”.

Despite what the weather might throw at us let's hope that we are all able to keep fit, healthy and warm throughout these first three months. Wrap up warm, beware of slippery roads and pavements, and eat lots of lovely sustaining food; porridge, soups, stews and casseroles, jacket potatoes, hot chocolate, leafy and root vegetables and don't forget vitamins C and D!

Do look after yourselves and one another.

With best wishes,

Anne and the Team

## Next copy deadline

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Please email

**reevestale.magazine@gmail.com**

Send your stories, letters and ideas to

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or call us on 01362 685308.

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If you would like to advertise your business within The Reeve's Tale, please contact us via email

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*Front image:*

**SNOWDROPS, Walsingham**

*by Rob Auckland*

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Helen Mears

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Email : [helenmears@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:helenmears@pobroadband.co.uk)

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TACTICS**

# WHAT'S ON

## February Events

Event	Date	Location/Time
Mobile Library	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell from 11.10am @ village hall onwards, see page 35 for details
Café Philosophique	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Foxley Coffee Morning	Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Foxley Village Hall 10am
Bawdeswell Parish Council Meeting	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7pm
Knit and Natter	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 2-4pm
Book Group	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7.30pm
Bawdeswell Village Cinema	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 6.30 for 7.30pm
Soup n Pud	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 12-2pm
Knit and Natter	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bawdeswell Village Hall 2-4pm
Mobile Library	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Bawdeswell from 11.10am @ village hall onwards, see page 35 for details
Bawdeswell Parish Council Meeting	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bawdeswell Village Hall 7pm

## OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

Event	Date	Location/Time
Reepham Gardening Club	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm Reepham Town Hall, see page 11 for details
Reepham WI Meeting	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm St Michaels Church Hall, Reepham see page 11 for details
Celebration of the life of John Mallen	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12noon at Bawdeswell Church, see page 13 for details, rsvp needed



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FITTE**



## WHAT'S ON

Regular Events	Time/Date	Location
Zumba Fitness	Mon 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Mon 2 – 4pm	Foxley Village Hall
Hub Cafe	Tues 10 – 12pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Bridge Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 7pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Move it or Lose it	Wed 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Move it or Lose it	Wed 11.30 – 12.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
FitSteps	Thurs 7 – 8pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Move it or Lose it	Fri 10 – 11am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Bridge Club	Fri 1.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Fri 2 – 4pm	Foxley Village Hall
Hatha Yoga	Sat 8.45 – 9.45am	Bawdeswell Village Hall
Games Afternoon	Sat 1.30 – 4.30pm	Bawdeswell Village Hall

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# EVENTS INFORMATION

## REEPHAM GARDENING CLUB

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm**

**Jim Paine**

**Retired Nurseryman**

***'Gardening in the Shade'***

The title speaks for itself.

**Meetings held at Town Hall, Church St, Reepham NR10 4JW**

**New members and visitors always welcome.**

**Members: £2.00, non-members: £3.00 (inc. tea/coffee and cake).**

**For more information call Jeff Johnson on 01362 680066 or visit our website:**

**[www.Reephamgardenclub.org.uk](http://www.Reephamgardenclub.org.uk) or email [jeffandcaroljohnson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeffandcaroljohnson@yahoo.co.uk).**

## REEPHAM WI

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm**

**Ivan Fisher – Independent Funeral Director - “A Life in the Funeral Profession – With a Light-Hearted Touch”**

Ivan will talk about the importance of his role, the compassion and professionalism it demands, and the meaningful impact it has on families during some of life's most challenging moments. Blending sensitivity with gentle humour, he will offer a warm and honest behind-the-scenes glimpse into a profession often spoken about only in whispers, but rarely explored in such an open and approachable way.

Join us for an engaging, uplifting, and thought-provoking evening, filled with warmth, honesty, and a few smiles along the way.

As a Women's Institute event, this meeting is for women, and new members are always warmly welcomed! Come along for a fascinating talk and a wonderful opportunity to connect with others in our community.

For more details or if anyone is interested in becoming a member of the WI, please contact Christine Smith, Reepham WI Secretary at [williamsmith110@btinternet.com](mailto:williamsmith110@btinternet.com)

**Location: St Michael's Church Hall, Reepham**



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**12.00**

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Lunches normally on last Thursday each month excluding August & December



## LETTERS

### John Mallen, May 1940 to December 2025

John and I bought our first home together in October, 1972 and it's from there that we measured the start of our relationship.

It's been a full and fruitful time together – the Arts, Travel, socialising with our friends...

We've owned and renovated four houses in the U.K. and one in Umbria.

Fifty-three years together is a long time and I'm so grateful that it happened.

Although unresponsive to me on his last day, he was physically animated and when I went to leave, he firmly grasped my hand in both of his. He became tranquil in the afternoon, and as the Hospice nurse said to me when she rang to tell me he'd passed away, he just slipped away.

I loved him dearly and I miss him deeply.

I have been overwhelmed by the great number of letters and cards I have received with remembrances of John – it's been a great comfort.

Thank you all

Roger

Bylaugh, December, 2025

### Celebrating the life of John Mallen 1940 - 2025

A service to celebrate the life of John Mallen will be held at 12 o'clock on 28 February 2026, at All Saints Church Bawdeswell, followed by lunch at Bawdeswell Village Hall.

To help us plan, if you will be attending please **RSVP** by scanning the QR code with your phone, or visit <https://tinyurl.com/3wftwrwr>



Alternatively, email us at: [jmcol.thirteen567@passmail.net](mailto:jmcol.thirteen567@passmail.net) or call us on 0788 326 0858

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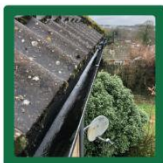
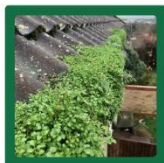
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# LETTERS

## JOHN MALLEN RIP

Before retiring to Norfolk, John pursued a full and varied career in education, leading to the point when he became the Director of Education in Harrow. Once he, and his partner Roger, moved to Norfolk, John became closely involved in local politics, and I stress the word 'local'! Having been a very successful district councillor, he was very narrowly defeated by our current councillor, Gordon Bambridge, and John and I often laughed at my conviction that I would have voted for John to save the day had I been around at the time, despite his claim to be a 'champagne socialist' while I was slightly to the right of Genghis Khan! But the point of the tale is not to highlight political differences, but simply to stress that John was dedicated to local issues rather than party politics. His whole *raison d'être* seemed to be local issues, affecting local people and for the benefit of the local community.

During my 20 years in Bawdeswell, John Mallen was always 'there', at the forefront of everything 'community'! I managed 2 brief stints on the parish council, but John was there for 20+ years, either Vice-Chair or, more recently and right up to his death, as Chair of Bawdeswell Parish Council; continually doing his level best to ensure that the people of Bawdeswell not only received the best support from higher authority but also that their concerns were duly represented to that authority.

But his forte didn't stop at the local council; John brought his influence to bear everywhere in the village. He was one of the mainstays in organising the new village hall project, and, for the last ten years, he has been one of the stalwart volunteers, both in making and keeping the Village Hall at the centre of community life, be it organising events or just serving coffee and cakes; John was always at the heart of it all! When we found out that Bawdeswell, coupled with Foxley and Bylaugh, could benefit from a community car service for medical transport assistance etc. John, again, was at the forefront of organising what has since become the envy of many in Breckland!

John's philanthropy did not stop at just offering his service and many talents either. When the new village hall and children's play area projects became a financial reality, you can guess who was at the forefront of digging deep into his own pocket!

John, you will be sadly missed by everyone; not only for your dedication and commitment to our community, but also for your sparkling wit, good nature and friendly attitude to all. God keep you safe until we meet again.

Sadly, my friend there are not too many people of your calibre around! I feel privileged to have known you!

Anon

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# LETTERS

## THE JOHN LEEDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

After falling into abeyance for a couple of years the Trust is now firmly re-established due to the hard work of our Secretary, Mary Derbyshire.

The Trust owns land in Foxley originally donated by John Leeds in 1728, with the purpose of distributing the income from the rent of the land by way of grants to the children of residents of Bawdeswell and Foxley leaving Primary School in Year Six to assist them with the purchase of uniforms for starting Secondary Education.

There are 5 Trustees;

The Chair of Bawdeswell Parish Council

The Chair of Foxley Parish Council

The Vicar of Bawdeswell and Foxley

A member of the NCC Education Authority

Mary Derbyshire - Secretary

Applications are now invited for 2026 School Leavers (Year 6). Children must be resident in Bawdeswell or Foxley but can attend other schools, not just Bawdeswell.

To apply please forward the following details by e-mail.

Parents/Guardians names.

Childs Name

Address

Bank Account Sort Code and Account Number.

Please apply to Nick Mears – e-mail – [nickandhelen@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:nickandhelen@mypostoffice.co.uk) by April 30th 2026.

Grants for 2025 were £500 per child but this may alter depending on the number of applicants and availability of funds.

If there are any queries, please telephone 07947860922.

Nick Mears

Trustee

# LETTERS

## **Fakenham Choral Society to perform Louis Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* and Matthew Coleridge's *Requiem* at its Spring Concert**

At its Spring 2026 concert Fakenham Choral Society will be performing Louis Vierne's ***Messe Solennelle*** and Matthew Coleridge's ***Requiem***.

Vierne's *Messe solennelle*, composed in 1899, was scored for choir and two organs. It was published in 1900, before it was first performed at Saint-Sulpice in Paris in December 1901. It was later adapted for a single organ, as most churches could not provide two such instruments.

Matthew Coleridge is a UK-based choral composer whose music is regularly performed by amateur and professional choirs around the world.

His *Requiem* has become one of the UK's most popular new choral works and is a regular fixture in the upper reaches of Classic FM's annual Hall of Fame.

Rosemary Dear, Chair of Fakenham Choral Society, says: 'We really like the idea of complementing a new work with something older and more traditional and chose these particular pieces of music as both require an organ accompaniment rather than our usual use of an orchestra. We are hiring an organ for the concert and the organist will be a previous FCS accompanist, James Mooney Dutton.'

'The Coleridge has become very popular on Classic FM so, although it is a relatively new work, many people will have heard some snatches of it already. The Vierne is a big and bold work that will fill the church with the sound of both voices and organ.'

The concert will take place at Fakenham Parish Church on Saturday 21 March at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £18 tickets with an early bird price of £15 before 7th March, see <https://www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/>

During the interval there will be wine and soft drinks to purchase.

### **Details**

Date: Saturday 21 March

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Fakenham Parish Church

Tickets: <https://www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org/forthcoming-1>

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## VILLAGE VIEWS

Sid for once was feeling content. Ermentrude, since Christmas, appeared to be happy too. Maybe, he thought fondly it was perhaps, not only had he gone along with her suggestion of purchasing the totality of the Elly Griffiths Norfolk murder mysteries when he had accompanied her into town, but also he had treated her to lunch in the Wine Bar in Jarrold. Then, also, ('unheard of', he had overheard her discussing it with their daughter, Gaynor) he had arranged for them to go to an Elly Griffiths book launch one evening at the Cathedral. He had surprised himself too, as one day, confined to the house with the after effects of his flu vaccination, bored with the telly, he had picked up the first book and found himself absorbed. He had never been a great reader, but before he knew it, he was now on his third!

Are you going to get dressed today, came the voice from the kitchen. I know you love those pyjamas I got you for Christmas but I do need to put them in the wash occasionally! On their trip into Norwich, Ermentrude had 'popped' into M&S, the result being MATCHING tartan P.J.'s! Mind you, he wasn't complaining, they were very comfortable and although he had thought it a bit 'naff', it had brought them closer together. The only problem being, as they were matching, occasionally he found he was pulling on ones which were definitely a bit on the tight side, they both hadn't laughed so much for yinks and one thing seemed to have led to another...so no complaints there!

Do you fancy coming to the Book Group with me tomorrow? You could just sit and listen - we're a nice group and you'll know everyone. And the first two sessions are free so if you don't like it, you won't have lost anything. We're trying to get more men to come along and share their views. Have a word with your mates next time you're out tidying up the village. You like Robert Harris, we've dissected him, and sometimes the book we get is a bit what my mother would call 'on the warm side'. Go on give it a try! Sweetheart, he said, I love you. You've got me reading; into matching pyjamas; we're booked to go the Ballet next month; but Thursday evenings is either darts or bowls and this season we know we have a good chance of coming top of the league in both. I would if I could but I can't. However, I've been thinking, there's a special day this month. Ermentrude who had been all of 39 for the past 20+ years, thought, well, it's not my birthday, it's not any of the kids or grandkids birthdays, not our wedding anniversary what is he on about? Thinking back to her youth and being a keen Girl Guide, she thought, surely not the 22nd, which was celebrated as Thinking Day. Was it a Leap Year, but even if it was, they were married, weren't they? It's Valentine's on the 14th, the day we met! I thought it was a special day for us, but obviously not... She looked at him, he was smiling at her, his eyes twinkling, oh Ermentrude, I know I'm not the best husband but we are OK aren't we? Oh yes, she said, and you know that ruby ring you keep threatening to buy me, well perhaps this year?

*Maide of Bawdeswelle*



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# VILLAGE NEWS

## Bawdeswell Village Hall Update

A very successful bring and share lunch was held for all the volunteers at the village hall in December. It was well attended and a wide variety of dishes was on offer, enjoyed by all.

Carolyn thanked everyone who had contributed to ensuring our village hall offers a wide variety of activities, and events and a comfortable, warm and inviting environment for all those societies, organisations, individuals and families who continue to meet up at the venue.

We received a great deal of very positive feedback throughout 2025 and without the support and the willingness of the volunteers to turn their hand to anything we would not have been able to accommodate the various requests we get! A special mention was made of the increase in the parking availability which is a real bonus at Bawdeswell as so many other village halls have very limited parking.

The solar panels continue to contribute to savings on our energy bills so all the hard work put into achieving them is certainly paying dividends.

Thank you to the various individuals amongst the volunteers who carry out regular specific duties and tasks - you know who you are! Your talents, knowledge, expertise and commitment are very much appreciated.

And a very special thank you to acknowledge the sterling work of Mona and Malcolm who undertake keeping the village hall so clean and spotless. Nothing is too much for them; they are efficient, friendly and willing to tackle whatever is asked.

Also, you may well have noticed that the floors have undergone a refurbishment during our Christmas break, with the Hall floor having undergone a good clean and re polished and all the carpets cleaned. Thank you to Luke Ford of BM Cleaning services for arranging this and to his operatives who also on occasion have to harness and rescue the odd balloon or two which escape to the rafters!

### **Contacts:**

Chair: Carolyn Good – 01362 688 944

Bookings: Jo Porter – 01362 688 887



# VILLAGE NEWS

## Foxley News

### Foxley Coffee Mornings

The date of the next coffee morning will be **Wednesday, 4th February, 10:00 – 12 noon**. In March the coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4th March.

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# CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



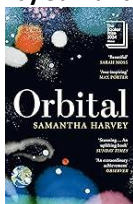
## Book Group

The Book Group meets in the Village Hall. We meet on the **second Thursday** of each month, starting at **7:30pm**. Each member pays an annual Group Subscription Fee of £25 to cover our room hire and library charges.

New members are welcome and are invited to attend for two meetings before deciding to join the group and pay their subscription.

---

### ***"Orbital" by Samantha Harvey***



Although only a slim volume, it certainly packs a punch and is unlike any other work of fiction. This is our (as readers), opportunity to understand what 24 hours on the Space Station is like. Samantha Harvey has clearly undertaken a great deal of research and immersed herself into the world of astronauts and space. Whilst she does not have personal experience, I can only marvel at the time and energy she must have put into her research. She describes what it is like to be launched into space, to see and feel the various wonders of earth and beyond. She portrays this experience vividly through the differing aspects of the individual astronauts. I found the book very poetical, and in a way got from it the same feeling that I sometimes experience when reading from the Book of Psalms or Book of Revelations in the Bible or one of Shakespeare's sonnets.

One important theme I got from the book was the spirit of co-operation between the Astronauts. The views described from space, their effect on each individual and how it impacted on them personally are well and sympathetically described. They were allotted specific tasks and different areas to be in, but, in reality, they ignored these. Barriers between cultures and one another were broken down. If only this could happen in our world today. We concluded it was a very well deserved winner of the Booker prize!

During January we had our Christmas Reads to enjoy, which we shared with each other at our January Meeting.

---

We are currently reading ***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by ***Shelby Van Pelt*** for discussion at our next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Enquiries: Carolyn 01362 688944**

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*Poppy*



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



### Bawdeswell Festival Choir

The choir is an all-female group who meet at All Saints Church for an hour on a Wednesday evening and Saturday morning. They were fully launched as a regular concert performing choir earlier last year and gave a sellout performance back in June and again in September.

The music repertoire is broadly 'Bach to Broadway'. We strive to perform at the highest possible level. If you like the sound of what we do, have some singing experience, and can commit, we have vacancies in all departments.

Please contact the MD, **James Lilwall on 01362 688499** or [pjlilwall@hotmail.com](mailto:pjlilwall@hotmail.com) for an initial conversation - you would be most welcome!



### Bawdeswell Bowls Club

With the weather being very cold there is not much we can do on the green so we have been very busy arranging fixtures for the coming season. Bintree are in the Cawston league and the Age Concern league. Lakeside are in two leagues E B A league and the Whisonsett league, Baweswell are in three leagues Country league and the Cawston league plus the Dereham league. So, if anyone is interested in having a go we start the 2026 season in late April, just call **Paul on 07796964574 email [paul.digby5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paul.digby5@hotmail.co.uk)**



### Bridge Club

The JayCee Bridge Club meets in the Village Hall on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm and on Friday afternoons at 1.30pm. Whilst we aspire to play well, our range of bridge abilities means that it's really bridge for fun. No regular partners are needed. If you think you might like to start playing bridge then you are welcome to come along and watch to begin with.

Please contact Patsy for information, or to confirm a session is to take place.

Contact: **Patsy Catchpole 01362 688352**



### Bawdeswell Knit and Natter

**February dates are 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

2 - 4 pm at the Village Hall. Come along and join us. Refreshments will be available.

**Our Numbers are dwindling and we are in danger of closing.**

**Use It Or Lose It.**

Enquiries: **Josie Beach 01362 688869.**

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



### Short Mat Bowls

Foxley Village Hall      Every Monday and Friday **2 - 4pm**

New members welcome.

To find out more, call **Frank** on **01362 688089** or **Carole** on **01362 688567**.



### Cafe Philosophique

*Finding good reasons for everyday beliefs*

We meet in Bawdeswell Village Hall, every first Tuesday at 7:30. Everyone coming is asked to contribute to the cost of our room hire fee.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

***What impact and influence do key events and happenings, over the years, have on the way we develop?*** Part Four – The Seventies

Contact: **Peter: 01362 688944**



### Foxley Village Hall Coffee Morning

The date of the next coffee morning will be **Wednesday, 4th February, 10:00 – 12 noon**. If you need transport, please contact Jo 688981 or for any other enquiries please contact **Linda 688488** or **Gillian 688955**.



### Games Afternoon

We meet in Bawdeswell Village Hall, every Saturday 1.30 – 4.30pm. Games played:- Uno, Mexican Train, Scrabble. Other suggestions welcome. 1st visit free, normal price £5. Contact: **Anne 01362 685308**.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



### Lakeside Pilgrims Bowls Club

A Happy New Year to all. By the time you read this we will have had our annual Club Dinner which is being held at The Railway Tavern in Elmham. We are looking forward to the new season and the better weather. New players are always welcome. **If you would like to know more, please contact Sue Purse 07765 446907 or [Sue.purse@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.purse@gmail.com)**



### North Elmham Countrysiders Club

Meet at The Memorial Hall, Holt Road, North Elmham. Every other Monday evening 7pm - 8.30pm (term time only). Open to ages 10-16 yrs. We are part of the Norfolk Young Farmers clubs and are actively involved in all areas within the organisation. Please note - sessions usually cost £4/child, annual subscription applies. For more information, please email: [north\\_elmham\\_cs@norfolkyfc.co.uk](mailto:north_elmham_cs@norfolkyfc.co.uk) Or find us on Facebook (North Elmham Countrysiders) or by calling the Norfolk County office: 01603 748931



### Dereham Walkers are Welcome

Dereham Walkers are Welcome is a not-for-profit organisation.



**Please come and join us for a walk in the local area.**

We have two regular walks each month.

Our shortest, easiest walk of around two miles is on the second Tuesday of the month and a slightly longer one of around four miles is on the first Friday of the month. Our next longer walk is in May and begins as a bus journey.

For up-to-date information, please check our website

<http://www.derehamwaw.org.uk/>,

email Ken Hawkins: [ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk) or call him on 07505 426750.



### Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society

Indoor meetings at Great Witchingham Village Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome but there is a small charge for non-members.

**INDOOR - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**, – Raptors with Steve Cale.

**OUTDOOR – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** – WWT Welney

Full details on the website - [WVBS.co.uk](http://WVBS.co.uk) or email [wvbs.publicity@gmail.com](mailto:wvbs.publicity@gmail.com)

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## SERVICES



### **Community Car Scheme: Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Foxley**

2025 has been another busy year for the Community Car Scheme, thanks to the incredible giving efforts of our volunteer drivers. We have managed to assist patients with 83 journeys to hospital, doctor's surgeries, and to dental and eye appointments, thereby avoiding costly taxi charges or tricky bus journeys.

The love and care shown by our volunteer drivers transcends merely driving a neighbour from A to B and back again, but often extends to a 'helping hand' or arm into the hospital and to the appropriate ward. The friendly engagement on the journey makes it a pleasant and enjoyable experience to what could be quite a frightening medical appointment.

We are hoping and praying that the service can continue into 2026.

#### **Can you Help?**

Can you spare an hour or two? We are looking for volunteers to keep the service going.

**Are you able to drive your car to the hospital or local surgery?** The scheme enables reimbursement of 45p per mile. We do not carry wheelchair users. There is a DBS check and medical form which is signed by your GP. The joining process is simple.

**You will make a difference in your local community.**

David Wheeler, Volunteer Coordinator  
07909 901015  
davidawheeler@sky.com



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- **Nursing Care** - Professional clinical support from qualified nurses.



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## Half day closures for staff training

The surgeries will close at 12:00 until 14:00 on the following dates for staff training:

February 5 <sup>th</sup> 2026	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 2026	March 17 <sup>th</sup> 2026 Swanton Morley	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2026
May 7 <sup>th</sup> 2026	June 4 <sup>th</sup> 2026	July 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2026	August 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2026	October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026	November 5 <sup>th</sup> 2026	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2026

## Andi

We are delighted that we now have Andi, our new virtual care navigator.

Andi is helping patients who prefer to submit their Anima requests over the phone rather than complete an online form themselves. This means that if you call the practice and need help submitting an Anima online request, Andi will ask you questions, just like the online form and will take down your answers. This will then be automatically submitted to our Triage team, and they will respond just as they would do if you submitted online.

How does it work and what this means for you

- If you would prefer to submit your request using the telephone, you will now be able to select the option and it will put you through to Andi, who will help complete the Anima request on your behalf.
- You can still submit your own request online through Anima as usual, this is our preference as we gain more information which is important to help triage your request.
- Your request will then be sent straight to the Triage team, ensuring it is handled quickly and efficiently.

## Benefits for our patients

- Reduced phone queues – less time waiting to speak to someone as Andi can handle multiple calls at the same time.
- Easier to submit a request by phone – no need to go online if that is not convenient or you struggle with the internet/ forms.

## Benefits for the practice

- Frees up staff time to focus on patient care.
- Improves efficiency in managing patient requests.
- Reduces waiting times and eases pressure on phone lines.

## Summary

Whilst Andi is AI, he sounds quite natural so much so you may think you are speaking to a real person. As a Practice we are committed to making it easier for all patients to access our services whether online or over the phone.

Thank you for your patience and support as we pilot this new system.

## Appointment Statistics

- In the month of December, a total of 131 patients failed to attend their appointments which could have been offered to other patients.
- This has cost the NHS £5,240 so far this year in missed appointments.
- You can cancel appointments on the NHS app, using SystmOne or by telephoning the surgery.



# **GALA BINGO NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 21st MARCH**

**Bawdeswell Village Hall**

**Doors open 7pm**

**Eyes down 7.30pm**

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**Friends of Bawdeswell Church**

# SERVICES



## MOBILE LIBRARY

3<sup>rd</sup> February

BAWDESWELL	VILLAGE HALL	11:10 - 11.35
BAWDESWELL	PARADISE ROAD	11:40 – 11.50
BAWDESWELL	CHAUCER CLOSE	11.55 – 12.10
FOXLEY	VILLAGE HALL	12:20 – 12.35

Can't get to the Mobile Library, but have access to the internet, then why not try 'Libby'?



### Current Opening Hours and Locations

Tuesday	Bawdeswell Church	9.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	Bawdeswell Church	9.00am - 12.00pm

# PARISH COUNCIL

**MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00pm**

**Present: D. Shannon (Acting Chair), A. Hartley-Walder, C. Good, M. Bailey, R. Hannent and P. Craven, Mrs. J Boxall (Clerk) Members of the public – 6**

**It is with great sadness that the Parish Council has to report that our wonderful Chairman, John Mallen, passed away peacefully just before Christmas. He will be sadly missed, not only within the confines of the Parish Council, where he served with distinction over many years, but also throughout the whole community of Bawdeswell where he was so widely treasured.**

## **Breckland Local Plan**

Concern was raised by residents over the proposed development on land North of Foxley Road. Cllr Shannon gave a brief update and confirmed the Council had submitted their objections to Breckland. Cllr Shannon attended the 'drop-in session' to push the PC's views. Breckland has suggested that there will be many changes in the final draft plan. The Managing Director from Bayfield Homes gave an update on proposed plans for development on land at Reephams Road and confirmed that they will be making representations, asking Breckland to reconsider proposals for the site with two options, one for 28 new homes and a commercial unit (with flexibility for use) and an additional proposal with no commercial unit but additional houses. The Parish Council were grateful that previous concerns regarding screening for existing houses had been taken into account and welcomed the addition of the commercial unit/s. The junction remained a concern although it was reported that it would meet the visual splay required. There was an option of further traffic calming measures to mitigate risk. Management of public open space remains a concern for the Parish Council in terms of future maintenance costs. The Developer confirmed that their intentions are flexible, it's possible to make a planning application but that would run alongside the local plan. It may have a positive impact on reducing / removing larger allocation.

## **Bawdeswell Heath**

Cllr Shannon attended the Trustee meeting and gave a brief update. The Trustees are now contemplating two choices; taking advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) on a future management plan (which may be outside the initial remit of the charity) or seek permission from the Charity Commission to sell the Heath on the open market irrespective of what it becomes. Due to the Charity Commission's objections, the proposal to sell the Heath to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust is not an option as it would not be for full market value.

## **Planning**

No planning applications were received.

# PARISH COUNCIL

## Bawdeswell continued....

### **Recreation Ground – PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG AWAY FROM THE CHILDRENS PLAY AREA!**

Sadly, despite the Council putting up numerous notices asking dog owners to keep their dogs away from the children's play area and to clear up after their dogs, it has been noted that some dog owners are just not listening, dogs are continuing to be allowed in the children's play area and dog mess continues to be an issue!

The Council is making a final plea to the inconsiderate dog owner/s who think that it is acceptable to allow their dog/s to poop on the recreation ground, especially around the children's play equipment, and not clear it up. There is a dog bin and the Council has provided easily accessible litter bins into which you can place bagged dog poo. Dog poo bags are usually available in case you've forgotten your own. There is a risk to health from dog mess which should not be underestimated! Children really want to play on the park. It's an amazing facility and they just want to run around, play and have fun. Nobody wants to have to watch where they are putting their feet all the time, to have to check the area before letting little ones play. Nobody wants to have to clean dog mess from little one's hands or wash their clothes and scrape shoes because some dog owners are irresponsible, therefore **PLEASE** keep an eye on your dog at all times when they are on the recreation ground, keep them away from the children's play area and clear up when they do their business!

### **IT IS ILLEGAL NOT TO CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG AND THERE IS NO EXCUSE NOT TO!**

The Parish Council do not want to have to take stronger measures to control the issue but if the situation doesn't improve, further measures will need to be considered.

### **Finance**

The balance of the Community account as at 30th November 2025 was confirmed as £30,128.36, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £38,843.75. Budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration and can be viewed on the Council's website. An internal control check was carried out; no concerns were raised.

**Precept requirements for 2026/27** – The Clerk circulated budget figures for consideration along with predicted end of year general and earmarked reserves.

Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that in order to build a reserve for the future maintenance of the play area and include £500 for the future maintenance of Adams Pit, it would be necessary to increase the precept to £34250.

**The next Parish Council Meetings will be held on Thursday 5th February 2026 and Thursday 5th March 2026. These meetings will be held at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. The Council usually meet on the first Thursday of every month except for January & August. Please check the website or noticeboard for any changes.**

**If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Clerk Jo Boxall, White House, Pettywell, Reepham, NR10 4RN, Tel: 01603 879480, Email: [clerk@bawdeswell.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bawdeswell.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)**  
**Full draft minutes from this meeting and minutes from previous meetings, including financial / audit information and policies can be found on the Parish Council website**

**<http://bawdeswell.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>**

## The Momentum of Spring

An enlightening demonstration of Ikebana floristry capturing the unique skills and artistry of

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01362 688499 or [pjlilwall@hotmail.com](mailto:pjlilwall@hotmail.com)

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# PARISH COUNCIL

**THE FOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025 AT 7pm**

**Present;** Cllr N. Mears (Chair), Cllr G. Blyth, Cllr L. Rose, Cllr G. Blatchford and Cllr M. Watson, Mrs. J. Boxall (Clerk) **Members of the public – 13**

**District Cllr G. Bambridge & County Cllr B. Borrett were not in attendance.**

## **Planning**

PL/2025/1215/FMIN - Proposed residential development comprising of 4 new build dwellings and 1 barn conversion (5 new dwellings total). Proposal also to includes access, parking to highways standards and private gardens for each plot at Street Farm The Street, Foxley, NR20 4QP – Application refused by Breckland

**Parish Partnership Funding application for pedestrian signage.** – an application was submitted to Norfolk County Council, no update yet received.

## **Finance**

The balance of the main account as at 31st December 2025 was £5884.37, the balance of the savings account was £2577.20.

Budget Figures were circulated for consideration ahead of the January meeting where the Council set the precept for 2026/27 (the precept is the amount of money the Parish Council requires from Council Tax payers in Foxley) Following discussion it was agreed to increase the precept by 4% to £7778 as it was acknowledged that there was a need to build reserves for future maintenance to the village sign and war memorial. The reserves policy was reviewed and approved and can be viewed on the Council's website.

**The Annual Parish meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm. These meetings will be held at the Village Hall. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend. The Council usually meet four times per year. Please check the website or noticeboard for any changes.**

**If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Clerk Jo Boxall, White House, Pettywell, Reepham, NR10 4RN, Tel: 01603 879480, Email: [clerk@foxleyparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@foxleyparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)**

**Full draft minutes from this meeting and minutes from previous meetings, including financial / audit information and policies can be found on the Parish Council website <https://foxleyparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>**



# CHURCH NEWS

## Bawdeswell Church News



Thank you everybody who attended the Carol Service, with a special thanks to those who had parts to play. The turnout was great and the Festival Choir were in top form. Several people who don't attend church regularly stopped to say how much they had enjoyed the service and we appreciate that because a lot of work goes into preparing these special services.

Thank you for the donations to the St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich. We were able to send them a cheque for £153.

We had another special service, our Christmas Day Service. We missed quite a few people who usually turn up on this occasion but nevertheless a good turnout and usual celebration afterwards.

*RT, Churchwarden*

# CHURCH NEWS

**The Friends of Bawdeswell Church**  
**‘protecting & enhancing this unique building**  
**for the future’**



Many thanks to everyone who was able to support our last two events of the year. Once again, the Wreath Fair was a great success and such a lovely occasion. Many thanks to Julie Smith and all those who helped make the wreaths, the quality was again superb. It's the one event of the year that we use the church in this way and attract many visitors who for the first time see what an architectural gem we have to look after. The event again raised £1400, so a big thank you to everyone who contributed and to those who came along to support.

The following Thursday we then had, for the first time, a Christmas Gala concert and reception with the Festival Choir in the ballroom of Bylaugh Hall. Over 135 tickets had been sold in advance and there was a splendid raffle with many beautiful prizes being donated. The profit was £2400 split equally between our two Friends organisations.

The year kicked off with our annual 100 club members drinks party on the 17<sup>th</sup> January at Church View, over 50 members attended who enjoyed delicious food and wine supplied by the Friends.

The 100 club remains one of our most successful fundraisers, thank you to all those of you who are members.

Planning is well ahead now for our 2026 events, see below and within the magazine for further details, we hope to welcome you to these during the year.

## **2026 events:**

March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gala Bingo with Supper	Village Hall, doors open at 7pm
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	‘The Momentum of Spring’	Bylaugh Hall, doors open at 10am
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	‘Sheringham Little Theatre’	Bylaugh Hall, gates open at 12pm
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Wreath Fair’	Church, 9am – 1pm
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gala Christmas Concert & Reception	Bylaugh Hall 7pm

All ticket information and further enquiries from 01362 688499 or [pililwall@hotmail.com](mailto:pililwall@hotmail.com) James Lilwall – Chairman David Shannon – Treasurer Peter Jervis – 100 Club Secretary. Committee Members – Robin Taylor, Sandi Taylor, Angela Shannon, Jamie Duncan, Melanie Pratt, Jo Porter, Anne Toomey and Josie Beach.

# **CHURCH NEWS**

## **Reverend Richard Reflects**

February starts with the feast known as Candlemas, when the church remembers the occasion on which Christ was recognised in the temple by Simeon and Anna. Both people meet the infant Jesus, and see something in him that appears to be hidden from others. They have a vision for the future, in which Jesus plays the central role. The beginning of February this year also marks the first anniversary of my taking on the role of curate-in-charge in the eight parishes of the Bawdeswell Group. The combination of those two things made me think that perhaps now was a good time to look ahead.

It is often quite tricky in rural ministry to think about planning ahead with a vision in mind. We're usually a small group of people in each individual church, trying our hardest to raise enough money to pay the utility bills, pay for ministry (for my job!), and to keep the roof on and the walls standing upright. And to be sure, there are some big tasks ahead of us this year in that respect: Foxley needs a major fundraising effort for essential building works to make it safe; Themelthorpe has significant issues with drainage, that seriously affects access at certain times; many of our churches need more routine repairs to roofing, guttering, and flooring, not to mention the items we would say we would love to have in an ideal world - heating, upgraded electrics, plumbing, and facilities for hospitality.

Our church buildings have been at the centre of their communities for hundreds of years, but the national picture is that many are now at risk. Few people realise that the costs of maintaining and improving them rest entirely on the efforts of the local community. With that weight on our shoulders, it's no wonder we find it hard to have a wider vision.

But that's what I've been thinking about at the start of this new year. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a shared vision about how to share the love of Christ in all of our communities? Wouldn't it be great to know that we were in a position to think about more than maintenance, and to minister beyond our walls? I know, as do many of you, that the folk from our churches are deeply embedded in village life at all levels. For this, I want to thank them. And I want to encourage more of you, whether you attend worship regularly or not, to have an input into the vision of our churches. Of your churches. What could we be doing, and how could we do it? But more than that, I want to encourage you to share with us in the work that will need to happen if the local churches are to thrive and not just survive. Because I believe that a thriving, healthy church can contribute to a thriving, healthy community.

If any of this has struck a chord with you, I would be delighted to chat about it with you sometime.

Revd Richard Turk

Curate-in-Charge of the parishes of Foxley, Foulsham, Lyng, Elsing, Bawdeswell,  
Bylaugh, Sparham, and Themelthorpe

# BAWDESWELL GROUP CHURCH SERVICES

## February 2026

<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	HC	Elsing
	10.30am	OASIS	Sparham
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Words &amp; Praise</b>	<b>BAWDESWELL</b>
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	HC	Foulsham
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	9am	BCP HC	Bylaugh
	10.30am	HC	Foulsham
	10.30am	Words & Praise	Lyng
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>BAWDESWELL</b>
<b>Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Foulsham
<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	HC	Lyng
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>BAWDESWELL</b>
<b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	HC with Imposition of Ashes	Foulsham
	7pm	HC with Imposition of Ashes	Elsing
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	9am	Matins	Bylaugh
	9am	BCP HC	Sparham
	10.30am	Service of the Word	Foulsham
	10.30am	Words & Praise	Elsing
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>BAWDESWELL</b>
<b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.30am	HC	Foulsham

**A reminder that you can join us on Zoom for the Bawdeswell service any Sunday – Meeting ID: 656 174 6525    Passcode: TwKH7n**

Morning Prayer is said at 9am in St Margaret's Lyng on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All are welcome. A midweek communion service is held at Holy Innocents, Foulsham on Wednesdays at 10:30am.

Other information for our new group of churches can be found in our weekly News in the Pews sheets, available at each service.

The Rev'd Richard Turk, 07721 035009 Email: [revdrichardrww@gmail.com](mailto:revdrichardrww@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook at 'The Bawdeswell Group of Churches'

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