

REEPHAM TOWN NEWS



News and information for Reepham and surrounding villages

Issue 12

Lest we forget



As you may know, the Scout Section of 2nd Reepham Scouts decided to make a wreath this year for Remembrance Day.

A beautiful lasting tribute to those no longer with us having sacrificed everything, and created by our young people in Reepham.



Photo: John Tym Photography

It was made out of recycled copper pipe donated by Richard Neate, a previous Scout leader, and the project was led by a current leader, Tony Mitchell. The wreath will be on display in the church, then it will be displayed in various shops and venues around Reepham until January.

Tom Crisp (Scout leader) wrote: 'The kids put immense effort & creativity into cutting, shaping and hammering old copper pipe into this unique and lasting tribute. It was a chance to reflect while learning new skills and engaging in a different way. They are so proud of what they achieved and wanted to share it with you!'

The Royal British Legion provides assistance to our veterans and their families, and our Scouts

want to raise money for their cause. Please help them by sharing with as many people as you can.

It is poignant to think that many of those listed on the memorials were little older when their lives were cut short, than our older scouts are today.

The Scouts have created a justgiving page to raise funds for the Royal British Legion and would be delighted if you could donate to this cause. The link is <https://bit.ly/46pnBzq>

Alternatively there is a QR code for those of you with smartphones:



Reepham Town News is published by Reepham Town Council with the welcome support of Reepham and District Rotary Club. We hope to be able to address the cost issues by keeping print runs to a minimum, making copies available for collection in local shops/venues, and encouraging readers to go on line wherever possible.

To achieve our aims we ask for your help, only taking printed copies as necessary so that those of us that are less IT familiar can access the news.

There will always be an up to date online copy available at <https://adobe.ly/3LxGzuT> or by scanning this QR code with a smartphone.



Do you need a copy of Reepham Town News delivered to your door?

If so please ring 01603 879269 to give your name and address (or leave a message).

COPY DEADLINE

for the February 2024 issue (No 13) is 16th January 2024. Please send all copy to reephamnews@gmail.com

Reepham and District
Rotary
supporting
our community



COUNCIL MATTERS, HELEN'S THOUGHTS

Meeting Dates

Dates of future Town Council and Stimpson's Piece Charity meetings:

Wednesday 13th December 7.30pm Stimpson's Piece

Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm Stimpson's Piece

Members of the public are welcome to attend Town Council meetings as observers and are given the opportunity to comment briefly on any agenda item.

Notes from the Town Council meeting on 8th November 2023

Full minutes can be found on the Town Council website at www.reephamtowncouncil.org.uk/agendas-minutes

Three vacancies remain on the Town Council. Anyone interested can email the address below, or call the Clerk for an informal chat about the role.

The consultation for the Greater Norwich Local Plan was discussed. The Town Council are concerned that the Reepham allocations and sites are based on out-of-date information from 2018, not taking into account the approved plans for the Broomhill Lane development.

An update was given on the work taking place at Stimpson's Piece.

A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to Norfolk County Council, to ascertain permissions for the parking restrictions in the Market Place.

A quote has been accepted to remove the large prunus tree, which recently fell down in Whitwell Road Cemetery in bad weather.

The Clerk and Councillor Mitchell recently met with County Councillor Peck and Norfolk County Council's Highways Engineer for Reepham, to discuss the feasibility study which was carried out in the summer.

The County Council are proposing improved signage both to the 20mph areas, and to deter HGVs from travelling through Reepham. The Council has again requested a pedestrian crossing or similar for outside the primary school, stressing the danger to pedestrians at certain times of the day.

The Town Council are supporting Resilient Pathways and the Youth Action Board with their youth engagement sessions. Sessions were carried out at the High School recently, with another soon at the Bircham Centre. A number of things have been identified in the children's wish list, which can hopefully be taken forward.

The next Town Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th December, at 7:30pm at Stimpson's Piece.

The Town Hall and Stimpson's Piece are available to hire. Please contact the Town Clerk on 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamtowncouncil.org.uk for availability and prices.

Helen's thoughts

from Revd Helen Rengert MA, Team Rector Reepham and Wensum Valley Team Churches

Advent is a time of waiting, quicker for me now.

When I was a child Christmas always seemed so far away (will it ever come?). It was such an excitement and not just for the presents. It was exciting because of the parties too. We didn't have loads and the food was always more yummy at parties so I found it hard to wait.

I think perhaps I have always been impatient and wanted things to happen more quickly. Waiting has been a theme throughout my life (probably because I needed the gift of patience). Firstly waiting for my siblings to arrive. We were all born two and a half years apart so my younger brother is exactly five years more youthful than me. I waited for Christmas.

I waited for exam results. I waited for a boyfriend. I waited for a job. I waited for a promotion at work. I waited to get married. I waited to have children (one of the hardest waits). I waited for my vocation as a priest. I waited for test results. I waited for the job I currently do. I have waited for numerous buses too...

I also wait to see all my loved ones no longer here (very hard waiting for this).

Waiting is what we all do and it is the key feature of Advent waiting for God to be born, waiting for Jesus to come again and waiting for our lives to join in deeper with the hope of Love. Whatever you are waiting for, may your time of waiting be filled with creativity, love, peace and hope.

As we all wait for the birth of the one who comes to rescue us from all the hatred, savagery and destruction in our world. May above all we see the Prince of Peace in our world and life, this Advent and then Christmas (25th-6th January). Enjoy all the parties in Advent too.

'God bless us one and all.'

Tiny Tim, Christmas Carol *by Charles Dickens*

Blessings

Helen

CHURCH SERVICES, METHODIST NEWS/ACTIVITIES

Church Services

Morning Prayer - Wednesday at 8.00 am and Zoom on Thursday 8.00 am

Evening Prayer - Tuesday and Wednesday at 6.00 pm and Zoom on Thursday 6pm.

These services are held in Reepham in addition to the services stated below.

All Reepham services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise stated. (* denotes St Michael's)

Further details about [events in local churches](#) can be found on line.

Sunday 3rd December

10.30am	Reepham	Morning Worship
7.00pm	Salle	Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10th December

10.30am	*Reepham	Holy Communion
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Sunday 17th December

10.00am	*Reepham	Café Church (Service starts at 10.30am)
3.00pm	Salle	Carol Service
7.00pm	Reepham	Carol Service

Monday 18th December

6.30pm	Wood Dalling	Carol Service
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Sunday 24th December

2.00pm	Reepham	Christingle
4.00pm	Reepham	Christingle
11.30 pm	Reepham	Holy Communion

Christmas Day

9.00am	Salle	Holy Communion
10.30am	Reepham	Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December

10.30am	*Reepham	Holy Communion
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Sunday 7th January

9.00 am	Salle	Holy Communion
10.30am	*Reepham	Morning Worship

Sunday 14th January

10.30am	Methodist Church	Joint Covenant Service
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Sunday 21st January

10.00am	*Reepham	Café Church (Service starts at 10.30am)
6pm	Salle	Evening Prayer

Sunday 28th January

10.30am	*Reepham	Holy Communion
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Reepham Methodist Chapel

Methodist Chapel Renovations Completed

We are delighted to be returning to the Chapel now that all the building work has been completed.

Sunday services began again on 19th November followed by refreshments. While the work was in progress we have been worshipping on Sundays at Stimpson's Piece Pavilion and joined with the Parish Church for their Cafe Church once a month where we had a warm welcome.

The other weekly groups will be resuming shortly, including Tots Spot which will start again at 9am on Wednesday 29th November.

We are looking forward to using the newly fitted kitchen.



Photo supplied

The toilets have been renovated and one is now fully accessible. There is also a utility room. The schoolroom is to be decorated soon.

The new facilities at Reepham Methodist Church are available for hire. For further details please contact Candy Rogers 01603 872466, candy@bootonkh.co.uk

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Minister: Revd. Chris Sharp 01263 733535

Every Sunday 10.30am Worship Service
11.30am. Coffee morning

All Age Worship; first Sunday of the month

TOTS SPOT/WARM SPACE Every Wednesday 9 - 11.30am (term time) see facebook page or just drop in. No charge. Contact Candy Rogers for details 01603 872466

Bible study house group run in the style of a book club. Fortnightly in term time. Contact Michael Price for details 01603 871831

Church Steward Frances Price 01603 871831

More information on the Circuit Website
www.northnorfolkmethodist.org.uk

BIRCHAM CENTRE, ROVER TRIPS, LUNCH CLUB

Bircham Centre



Celebrations and Our Bat

The Bircham Centre took time out to celebrate the successful completion of the work to the roof and attics. The Raise the Roof campaign, which started in March 2023, raised its £10,000 target which, with contributions from other donors and grant funding, allowed the £40,000 project to proceed.

On Friday 17 November, the Centre opened its doors to Reepham residents and supporters for an open afternoon with a chance for everyone to explore what the Centre has on offer. There were opportunities to learn more about



the bat who visits the attics, and to hear what plans are in place to encourage swifts, for example.

During the campaign, supporters were invited to suggest a name for the brown long-eared bat that frequents the attics. The name chosen by the panel was "Atticus", which was

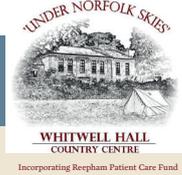
suggested by Judith Sweetman. Other suggestions for the name varied from the prosaic (Bob, Bertie, Brownie) to the more sophisticated and complex (Bairstow, Wingston, Batty McBat Face).

Young people under 16 were also invited to create a picture inspired by the Bircham Centre Bat. Members of the Bircham Centre team selected the winner, which was created by Alfie B, age seven. Alfie's picture has the bat reading three fairy tales, two of which are not quite the traditional stories: Jim and the Beanstalk and Red Hiding Hood...



Both Judith and Alfie received a fun prize for their efforts – a furry bat toy.

The Reepham Rovers



We have set out the proposed trips with the Reepham Rovers for November and December.

If you fancy joining them please get in touch on on 07765 321458 or e-mail:

reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk.

	Dec	Jan	Cost exc food
Aylsham Tesco	14 th	18 th	£4.00
Sheringham	2 nd	-	£6.50
Wells fish'n chips	x	23 rd	£7.00
Kings Lynn shopping	5 th	-	£7.50
Dereham Tesco	7 th	4 th	£4.50
Wroxham shopping	16 th	27 th	£6.50
Wednesday Lunch Club			£2.00
Monthly mystery trip	x	-	£variable

The Reepham Rover offers a door to door service 'to relieve those in need by reason of their youth, age, ill health, disability or financial hardship' by offering these trips.

Passengers will be charged a fare to help cover the vehicle's operating costs.

To book your seat on any of these trips (or for further details) please call Reepham Rover on 07765 321458 or e-mail: reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk.

Wednesday Lunch Club

Everyone is welcome irrespective of age, or gender to join our group but **booking is essential**. Call **07765 321458** to **book a place**.

We would like to thank the Kings Arms for hosting us during those times when Whitwell Hall were busy with children on their residential holidays, and all the volunteers for their help and support throughout the year.

Thanks also to Raptors Motor Cycle Club, and Reepham Station Cafe quiz for their recent donations. We must also thank Whitwell Station for the loan of their minibus whilst the Rover has been off the road.

Finally we look forward to meeting with everyone at the Festival Of Light. Donations of bottles and raffle prizes for our stall would be really welcomed.

Don't forget to come along and see us at the Festival of Light on 3rd December

REGULAR EVENTS

Adult Exercise Class (over 50's) in Stimpson's Piece every Wednesday at 10am followed by coffee/tea. All exercises can be done standing or seated. Cost £6/session. For more details contact Sam on 07925 602862

Baby Play sessions (suitable from birth to 2 years) Baby play session with the opportunity to meet other parents while your little ones enjoy some sensory play based around development. Tuesdays, 11:45-12:45 at Stimpson's Piece Pavillion. Contact Katie Brown Squidgeandme@outlook.com

Reepham Knit and Natter Group (one of 130 groups belonging to Norfolk Knitters and Stitches). We knit for many National and International charities. 2-4 p.m. at the Bircham Centre on the 1st Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays). No joining fee, just £2 each meeting to cover refreshments and a raffle ticket. Contact Gwenda Dove 01603 870598

Kurling, Tuesdays 2.00-4.00pm, Town Hall. First session no charge but if you do decide to join us it will only cost £2.00 per session with tea/coffee/biscuits included. Equipment provided. Kurling is easy to learn, non strenuous for all ages and abilities and is adaptable for the disabled.
Details— Maria Jones 01603 871751

Line Dance with the Wednesday Weavers Town Hall, Wednesday. Beginners 2-3.45pm All ages, easy paced. Mainly country/ rock /50s/60s/golden oldies/pop. Sing along encouraged. £5.00 per session, first taster free. Tel: Sandra 01603 872102 sandradancer65@gmail.com

Reepham and District Gardening Club. Meetings are held in Reepham Town Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. New Members and Visitors always welcome.

Reepham & District Photographic Club Meets 7.30 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Sidings Marquee, Whitwell Station. Contact the club by email: photoclubofreepham@gmail.com Website: www.reephamphotoclub.org.uk

Reepham Badminton Club Meets at Reepham High School Sports Hall every Thursday evening from 8 - 10 pm. Sessions are friendly and informal. Experienced, new players welcome. Please call Diana 01603 873244 or David 01263 584221 for further details.

Reepham Country Market every Wednesday 8am-11am, Bircham Centre. Homemade cakes, pies, biscuits, savoury dishes, vegetables, fruit in season, free range eggs, jams, jellies, chutneys etc

Reepham Golf Society meets monthly at various courses around Norfolk & Suffolk. New members welcome. For information contact Mark Smith on 07824 849397 or Dean Mears on 07825 299634, daytime 01603 870814

Reepham Library: Mon 2-7, Wed 9.30-1 and then 2-5, Friday 10.00- 1 and then 2-5, Saturday 9.30 - 12.30

Reepham Lions Club Meets at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month at St Michael's, Reepham. Come along from 7 pm for a cup of tea before the meeting starts. For more information, visit the website www.reephamlions.co.uk or email reephamlions@gmail.com

Reepham WI – 7.30pm, St Michael's, on 3rd Thursday in the month. New members always welcome

Rotary Club of Reepham & District 7.00pm for 7.15pm every Monday, in St. Michael's. For information call Arthur Hawes, President on pres@reephamrotary.org.uk or Richard Cooke email: publicity@reephamrotary.org.uk

Sunshine Café in St Michael's on 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month 10.00 to 12.00. No charge, just turn up. Peter Williams 01362 686860

Table Tennis Wednesday afternoons fortnightly at Reepham Methodist Chapel. 2.30 - 4pm. Contact Rob Holman 01603 870740

Tai Chi class Mondays 11.15 am – 12.15pm, St Michael's, Reepham. For further information contact: Dr Ian Kenvyn 07769 348231 or ian.evexia@gmail.com

The Bircham Centre Charity Shop, Market Place, Shop opening hours Mon, Wed, Fri and Saturday 9-1pm

The Reepham Archive, upstairs in the Bircham Centre, is open on the first Wednesday and Saturday of each month from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon and at other times by arrangement. Contact reephamarchive@gmail.com or 01603 870334

Tots Spot at Reepham Methodist Church 9.00 - 11.30 on Wednesdays for parents and toddlers. Croissants, coffee and singing - all free
Contact: Candy Rogers (01603 872466)

Welcome Café: In St Michael's weekly on Tuesdays from 11.30 -1pm. Contact Revd Helen Rengert for details 01603 879275

W.I Crafters at the Bircham every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 2.30-4.30pm

Reepham Town News

can accept no responsibility for the accuracy of these details. If you organise a regular activity in Reepham please let us know at reephamnews@gmail.com.

Please inform us of any changes to any of these activities.

Thank you.

CONTACTING OUR SURGERIES

**Right care,
Right person,
Right time.**



At Reepham and Aylsham Medical Practice we understand that contacting the practice is different for everybody and that whilst one method may work for some, it might not be suitable for others.

We have therefore published this information to help you navigate the different ways to contact us. We aim to give more details on the following contact options:

- Online communications via PATCHS, Airmid and SystemOne online
- Leaving messages via our automated telephone system—Patient Partner
- Speaking to a receptionist
- Visiting the surgery in person
- In writing by letter/ email/ other



You will find useful tips in this guide on each of these options and our recommendations on which ones to use and when.

You may also find it helpful to remove the centre section from this issue of Reepham Town News and retain them for future reference.



Compliments, Complaints and Feedback

We want to hear about your experience. We are committed to providing the best possible services and we welcome all your feedback, whether it is a compliment, comment or complaint. We are happy to receive your feedback in any of the following ways:

- Speaking to a member of the team
- In writing – we have a leaflet you can use or we would be happy to receive in your own words online via PATCHS and/or email to nwicb.reephamandaylshammedicalpractice@nhs.net
- By responding to requests from our Friends and Family Test

If you need any support to submit the above, please speak to a member of the team. We will always acknowledge any concerns within three working days and respond as appropriate within 28 days.



Online

PATCHS: <https://www.patchs.ai/login>



Q: What is PATCHS?

A: PATCHS is a consultation service that links to our clinical system and allows you to quickly and easily access GP services online.

Set-up your account and answer a few simple questions to get started and PATCHS will communicate your query directly to us.



Benefits for you:

8-10am book a Triage response (same day)

24/7 access to your GP practice (routine queries)

Quick responses, Convenience, Easy to use

You may prefer communicating in writing

Support for vulnerable patients using registration as a carer for registered patients

Can translate in different languages

Medication can be requested on PATCHS, we advise referring to other options (SystemOnline/Airmid or Patient Partner) within this guide.

PATCHS app is currently only supported by iOS (Apple iPhone), for all other devices, Google web browser can be used.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to use PATCHS?

No. PATCHS is the latest addition to our online availability. We are keen for this to be tried before contacting us by telephone or in person as we may be able to assist quicker and more efficiently.

Q: Does an account have to be created?

Yes. PATCHS is designed to be used on an individual basis and security and data protection is based around this.

Q: Can more than one person use the same email address?

No. See above but note the same email address can be used when setting up a 'carer' account where we have authorised written consent to speak on a registered patient's behalf e.g. relative and/ or friend.

Q: Can I use on behalf of a child?

Yes, if the child is under 12yr a 'carer' account can be created and will automatically be authorised. If your child is over 12yr, we are required by data protection law to give an opportunity to the child to dissent from sharing their information and therefore, written consent will be required. It may also be necessary to determine the competency of a child over 12yr to make this decision.

Q: How will I receive response?

Responses from the practice will most likely be via text and/or email however, staff may make the decision to call you if this would be more appropriate.

Q: What are the benefits to us as a practice?

In addition to all of the above, the future of PATCHS will further improve patient care with advantages including campaign text messaging, appointment booking and video consultations.



Online



SystemOnline: <https://www.aylshamandreepham.nhs.uk/online-services/> (account required)



Q: What is SystemOnline?

A: SystemOnline is a website which is interfaced with our clinical system which allows you to order medication, manage appointments and view your electronic medical record.

Set-up your account by visiting the practice with some photographic identification e.g., Passport, Driving Licence. We will then provide you with all the account/login details needed



Benefits for you:

- 24/7 access to your GP practice
- Order repeat medication
- View vaccination history, test results/coded medical record*
- Appointment management
- Control data sharing preferences
- Update personal details
- *Additional to basic access



Unique to you



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to use SystemOnline/Airmid?

No. SystemOnline/Airmid have been designed by the providers of our clinical system and therefore offers the most compatibility to your medical record. There are other apps available however as an external supplier we are unable to provide any technical support.

Q: Does an account have to be created?

Yes. SystemOnline/Airmid is designed to be used on an individual basis and security and data protection is based around this.

Q: Can I access on behalf of my child, a relative or as a carer?

Yes, SystemOnline accounts can be linked. This follows a strict consent practice policy, for more information or to request this, please contact the practice using your preferred method.

Q: How do I request medication?

Repeat medication can be requested by selecting from the list presented. You are also able to request non-repeat/custom items using 'recent medication' or freetext option. Please note, all requests are reviewed by a prescriber, and will take three working days before being available to collect.

Q: Why are there not more appointments available to book?

We currently offer blood tests (make sure this has been requested by a clinician), routine telephone calls with GP or NP and specialist clinics where able e.g., COVID vaccines

What are the benefits to us as a practice?

SystemOnline links directly with your medical record and has administrative advantages, particularly when requesting medication and processing test results. Airmid as an app is likely to be developed in similar keeping with that provided by NHS.



Telephone

Aylsham: 01263 733694 or Reepham: 01603 870271 (options below)

Q: What happens when I call the practice?

A: You will be presented with the following options:

1. Practice information
2. Automated Answering Service
3. Dispensary
 - 1 Voicemail 2 Automated Answering Service ^{*1}
4. To speak to a member of the administration team ^{*2}

^{*1} PIN required to order medication only - Request from the Dispensary Team

^{*2} Opening hours only

Q: What is an automated answering service?

A: An automated reception service integrated with our clinical system.



Benefits for you:

- 24/7 access to your GP practice
- 8-10am book a Triage response (same day)
- Convenience, Easy to use
- You may prefer leaving a message
- Avoid long waits on telephone
- Request repeat medication



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to use the automated answering service?

No. The automated answering service is in place to support you to reduce your waiting time in the queue to speak to our administration team. We are keen for this to be tried before speaking with us on option 4.

Q: Why do I need to have a PIN number?

The automated answering service is directly linked to your medical record and a PIN number is required to identify you and for security purposes when ordering medication.

Q: Why does the automated answering service ask me to leave a message?

Messages left support our staff in directing your query to the most appropriate person. We ask that you try to give as much detail as possible.

Q: Can I use on behalf of a third party?

Yes, you will need to input the personal details of the (registered) third party for the automated answering service to work. You will be given the option to leave a different contact number after identification has taken place.

Q: How will I receive response?

Responses from the practice will be by call back on the number you provided by either clinical or administrative staff.

Q: What are the benefits to us as a practice?

Patient Partner allows us to efficiently manage the inbound demand and prioritise all patient telephone contact.



In Person

Reepham: Smugglers Lane, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4QT

Aylsham: 60 Hungate Street, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6AA

We are open for patients to visit the practice from 8:30am – 1pm & 2pm— 6pm, Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays)



Benefits for you:

Attending for appointments

Dispensary services

Document collection

Specimen drop off and collection of sample pot

Face to face contact

Support for vulnerable patients

Patient self service check in screens are located just past the entrance door at both sites. To avoid waiting at reception please register your attendance for your appointment using this service.

Technical Support

The practice will always try to answer your technical queries. Please note there are some occasions where you will need to consult alternative providers for support e.g., NHS App

Zero Tolerance

Which ever way you choose to contact us we ask you do so in a kind and respectful manner. We will not tolerate abusive behaviour or aggression of any kind.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What time can I drop off a specimen ?

Specimens need to be with us no later than 3.00pm.

Q: When the practice open/closed?

We are open for patients to visit the practice from 8:30 – 1pm & 2pm— 6pm, Monday-Friday. This excludes weekends, bank holidays and the last Tuesday afternoon of every month for (staff training)

Q: Is a receptionist always available?

Yes, please consider that they may be supporting other patients for any short periods the receptionist is away from the desk.

Q: When can I collect my prescription?

Repeat prescriptions can be collected three working days after being requested. Prescriptions following triage or clinician contact may need to be ordered in, you will be advised should there be any delay.

Please note our dispensary team have additional training to deal with medication queries and the administrators will direct you to them as the most appropriate team to deal with your query.

Q: What are the benefits to us as a practice?

We know sometimes there is nothing to replace in person contact. If you feel this is the best way for you to contact us, please continue to do so.

We are always happy to support you in person with your query. We politely ask that other contact choices are considered before attending to assist us with managing all our patient contacts.

Reepham Lions



A Busy and Successful Year

The year 2023 has been a busy one for Reepham Lions, with the Christmas Tree Festival bringing it to a memorable close. This will run from Wednesday 29th November to Sunday 3rd December. Twenty-six decorated trees are to be displayed in St Mary's Church during the Festival and proceeds from the event will be divided equally between Reepham Lions and the church.

The 2023 raffle, which was drawn at the Lions' annual Charter lunch at the end of October, raised in excess of £1,000.

These fundraising efforts, together with other events during 2023, have enabled the Lions to give money to a number of good causes in and around the town. Recently, grants have been made to support the Community First Responders, the Co-Op's Christmas Toy appeal and the North Norfolk Foodbank.

Any groups or causes looking to source funding within the local area should contact the Lions via their website at www.reephamlions.org.uk or email them at reephamlions2@gmail.com.

The Club will not meet in December, but will start the new year with a meeting in St Michael's Church Hall on Thursday 4th January. Prospective new members are welcome to come along for a cuppa after 7.00 pm and the meeting will start at 7.30pm.

Reepham Church News

Since mid-October the parish church has been busy with events such as a confirmation and memory service both of which were followed by hospitality in St. Michael's provided by the church community's group of caterers.

November was a time of remembrance for us individually at the In Memory Service and as a community on the weekend of 11th and 12th of November as we remembered those who gave their lives for us during conflict.

At the end of the month, we will host the Lions Christmas Tree Festival when the artistic skills and imagination of the community will be illustrated by decorations on the Christmas trees.

The coming month of December will also be busy starting with our mulled wine and childrens' tombola stall at the Festival Of Light on December 3rd followed by a variety of events to be hosted in St Mary's.

The first of which will be the High School's Carol service. On December the 10th there will be a jazz concert with DixieMix organised by Simon Nelson. Then on December 17th will be our Carol service. After both events mulled wine and Christmas nibbles will be served.

**Candlelit
Christmas Jazz**
with
DixieMix
ST MARY'S CHURCH REEPHAM



at 6.30pm
Sunday 10th December

TICKETS
Adults £12.50
Under 16's £5
available from the
Kings Arms Reepham

or Simon Nelson
10 Mill Road Reepham
NR10 4JX
Mob: 07515674682

Includes mulled wine and festive nibbles

Christmas weekend begins on Saturday December 23rd between 2 and 3pm with a fun time for making Christingles when anyone will be welcome to come and help. Again, there will be refreshments. The Christingle services will be on Sunday the 24th December at 3pm and 5pm followed by midnight mass at 11:30pm when we celebrate Jesus's birth.

There will also be a service at 10.30am on Christmas Day. The four weeks leading up to Christmas can be a difficult time for rest and recreation for everybody but we hope you can find that space.

Reepham Memorial Fund

Memorial Fund Off to a Wonderful Start

The campaign to raise money for a memorial in Reepham to honour those who have given their lives in the service of their country was relaunched during the weekend of Remembrance services in November. The Armistice Day service on 11th November was held at the site of the proposed memorial, which is just to the side of the door to St Mary's Church in the Churchyard.

REEPHAM WI, BIRCHAM XMAS OPENING

After the service, donations were presented to Trevor Bevan, who is leading the campaign, by Reepham Festival and the Raptors Motorcycle Club. Other donations were made either



Photos: John Tym
Photography & Framing



direct to the Stonemason, Nick Hindle Stonemasons Ltd, or via the campaign's JustGiving crowdfunding page.

The fundraising group had generated some funding during 2021, to enable the preliminary design and specification work to be carried out. A further £7,000 is now being sought to cover the cost of the stone, engraving, and installation.

After the first week of its relaunch, the campaign total stood at around £3,000.

To donate to the fund by cash, cheque or bank transfer, please contact Mr Bevan on 01603 870231 for the appropriate details. The JustGiving page can be accessed by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com> and typing "Reepham Community Memorial" in the search box. Please note that JustGiving charge a card transaction fee for donations made through their portal, which is deducted from donations.

Reepham WI



In October our members were transported by a real life "Shirley Valentine" from wet Reepham to a magical place time has forgotten.

This was Jenny Gibbs' second visit, continuing her story of how in 1993 she went to Turkey on holiday and fell in love - with a man and the country!

Jenny detailed traditional Turkish village life. How, on her first evening in Mustafa's family home, they had prepared a feast to be enjoyed by sitting crossed legged on beautiful rugs.



Photo: Jenny Gibbs (wearing traditional headdress, still worn today)

Multiple dishes on copper salvers kept coming - Jenny was provided with a bowl and spoon, others used fingers and bread to scoop up delicious sauces.

A particular memory of Jenny's was to hear, in the early hours, the approaching sound of music, stopping by their window before the troupe moved to the next house. Jenny explained that during Ramadan, musicians travel around before dawn to wake folk for breakfast, before observing strict fasting during daylight hours. During this month-long period the high protein diet must include a stone or pip, dates are a favourite staple.

To this day meals are cooked outside over an open fire. More complex dishes, such as flaky Baklava, are taken to communal ovens. Ladies transport their baking on trays perched on top of their heads, with kindling for the ovens tied to their backs.

Keeping livestock for the family's own use is the norm, with cows, goats and sheep supplying milk, hens for eggs and the odd cockerel for the pot. In summer the ritual of "Transhumance" takes place, where families, with their livestock, migrate to "Yalyas", mountainside terraces where grass is plentiful and air cooler.

These fertile areas are also used for growing grains: wheat, rye, chickpeas, couscous as well as every conceivable vegetable and fruits such as pomegranates and oranges. The ground is tilled by donkeys pulling a simple plough.

Jenny's first experience of a summer decampment was a culture shock to discover everyone slept and lived in a basic, one room stone dwelling, where at bedtime mattresses, piled in a corner during the day, are laid out dormitory style at night. Similar simple houses are also found scattered throughout olive groves, where families stay between November to March, harvesting olives.

We hope Jenny will return in future, to talk about Turkish crafts and culture - a very informative and entertaining speaker.

Reepham WI meets at St Michael's on the third Thursday of each month. On November 16th Georgette Vale will be giving a presentation on "Nativity Sets".

Bircham Centre Winter Opening Times

The Charity shop will close for Christmas at 4pm on Fri 22nd December, re-opening Wednesday 3rd January.

- ▶ The Country Market will have their last day on Wed 20th December and then return Wed 6th March.
- ▶ The Charity Shop will accept the last clothing/bric-a-brac donations on Tues 12th December 10-12 and thank all those who have supported us this year. They will be taking donations again on Tues 9th January 2024 10-12.
- ▶ The jumble sales continue on the first Saturday of the month so Dec 2nd and Jan 6th - and on Sat 13th January 2024 we will hold another Vintage Sale - so people should get that date firmly in their new diaries.

All at the Bircham Centre send out wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

SKATE PARK PROJECT, MESSAGE FROM EDITOR



Resilient Pathways has been working with Broadland Youth Advisory Board (part of a Norwich based charity, called MAP), to start engaging with the young people of Reepham. In October they spent 3 lunchtimes at Reepham High School and College, asking young people what they would like to see happening in Reepham.

They spoke with about 250 young people over the 3 days who shared lots of ideas with them. These ideas included more access to a range of leisure and sport activities, improvement of provisions at Stimpson's Piece and other activity ideas.

More than 20 young people expressed an interest in being involved in further youth sessions to explore some

of these ideas.

The first of these sessions has happened. Sam (Resilient Pathways) and Mel (YAB) met with a group of young people to start thinking about the possibility of a new skate park and other ideas for Stimpson's Piece. They are going to continue to meet as a group of young people to develop this project, and initially plan to meet monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th December 4.15pm – 5.45pm at The Bircham Centre.



Comments from the young people

There are other sessions planned in collaboration with Reepham High School, to continue to work with the young people.

If you are interested in supporting these projects or finding out more please get in touch with Sam (sam@resilientpathways.org.uk or 07736325189).



Message from the Editor

We are rapidly approaching the end of the year which has seen the coronation of our new monarch, the continuation of the conflicts in Ukraine, and the Middle East, and natural disasters including flooding, earthquakes and volcanoes. We have experienced some severe weather but this has been minor when compared to other areas.

Our community has pulled together cohesively with most groups continuing to develop and a good example of this has been the way the Bircham Centre launched it's Raise the Roof appeal and has managed not only to complete the fundraising but also the execution of the work - Hats off to them, and everyone for their support!

During this past month or so we have received numerous

requests to attend presentations, too many to list here but it is patently clear that Reepham, as a whole, values and supports it's community. Each one of us make up our community which is the sum of the whole.

The work being undertaken with young people to establish their needs is also encouraging and will hopefully result in better long term results rather than a quick fix approach which may prove flawed in the long term.

One tends to forget those members of the Town Council who freely give of their time to listen to and provide the services that we value so much. Sometimes we may not agree with the ways that things are done, but this should remind us of the opportunity for us to volunteer to fill one of those vacant positions on our council.

We are proud to report your activities and send you our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, ROVER APPEAL

Reepham Festival of Light – celebrating our 10th year

Sunday 3rd December 2.30 to 5pm

We'll be filling the Market Place once again with Christmas trees, music, activities, and a wide range of stalls selling all sorts of goodies including Christmas gift ideas and festive food.

Santa will be joining us and looking forward to chatting to the children in his grotto where he'll be handing out presents – but only if they've been good!

Children's entertainment is throughout the afternoon from our favourite entertainer Graham Andrew of Funforce

Other events also taking place on the same day include:

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's from Wednesday 29th November to Sunday 3rd December.

The church will be filled with more than 20 Christmas trees, sponsored and decorated by local businesses, individuals and groups.

Reepham Artists & Makers Craft Event

St Michael's Reepham, Sunday 3rd December from 11 am - 4 pm.

Gifts in fair isle knitting, mixed media, wood craft, textiles, watercolours, jewellery, glass, wood and sculpture, all made by local artists & makers. Tea, coffee and cakes on sale.

Charity Christmas Fayre

Reepham Town Hall, Sunday 1.30 to 5.30pm.

Face & Glitter bar, children's crafting, gifts and more. All proceeds will be split between Giraffe's on Tour (in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital) and Leukaemia UK Organised by Heart to Heart Home Care Agency
Contact: carolyn@h2hreepham.co.uk

ATMs can be found at the Spar and Co-op

And finally, please keep dogs on a short lead to save people tripping over them.

Enquiries to: Judy Holland. Tel: 01603 308158 Email: jholland@reephamlife.co.uk

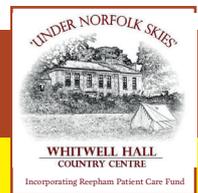
FESTIVAL OF LIGHT
Christmas in Reepham
Market Place
2023

SUNDAY 3rd DEC 2.30-5.00 pm

Christmas Trees For sale
Stalls
Food
Music
Late shopping
Crafts
Santa
Community Spirit
FUNFORCE Entertainment

Merry Christmas Everyone

The Reepham Rover



Urgently require volunteer drivers

Regular readers will be aware of the valuable contribution that the Reepham Rovers (and the former Reepham Patient Care Fund) have made to the lives and wellbeing of local residents in reducing feelings of isolation and providing companionship.

They are however urgently in need of some additional drivers who can be of any age between 25 and 75 but need Class D1 on their driving licence.

Do you have some time available?

Would you like to help those in our local community no longer able to drive for various reasons?

**Please call John or Cathy for a chat today
on 07765 321458 or
email: reephamrover@whitwellhall.org.uk**

REEPHAM ROTARY, POLICE, NURSERY

Reepham Rotary Club



The Club looks forward to a busy Christmas with the tree being erected in the Town Square and our presence at the Festival of Light. We will be collecting to help the people of Ukraine - with established local connections that makes sure that money gets swiftly to the right place. You can contribute at www.justgiving.com/campaign/rrc23ukraine

Share your warmth



While we have extra heating allowances, people will again be freezing in Ukraine this winter. Many homes have been destroyed, people killed and many are away at war. Russia will again be bombing power stations and generating equipment.

Can we help? Many Reepham Rotary members are planning to donate some or all of their additional fuel payment for the coming winter.

Last winter, Reepham Rotary bought generators to help and sent funds directly to an old people's home in Kiev that was struggling. There's more we want to do.

We look back on a fruitful year with many activities. We have planted trees, worked a lot with our schools, held a major raffle and arranged a successful choral concert. The Sunshine Cafe for people with memory loss has continued to be enjoyed. We have held another well attended food festival and helped with the car festival. Overseas we have also supported a charity in Tanzania that looks after street children and provided water treatment to disaster areas.

We look forward to doing more of the same and working with local organisations to benefit our community, including our support of the Town Council with Reepham Town News. As well as keeping busy, we have enjoyed ourselves with talks, walks and interesting visits.

You can see more of what we do, make a contribution if you wish or consider joining us at www.reephamrotary.org.uk

YOUR BEAT MANAGERS

Your safer neighbourhood team

What is a Beat Manager?

The Beat Manager is a local police officer whose aim is to keep your neighbourhood safe to live, work in and visit.

Your Beat Manager PC is here to engage with local communities and work to solve local issues and priorities within your neighbourhood.

Email us at SNTReepham@norfolk.police.uk

Your Beat Manager



PC 1095 Colin Bailey

I am the Beat Manager for the following parishes: -

Alderford, Attlebridge, Booton, Brandiston, Caston, Felthorpe, Foulsham, Great Witchingham, Guestwick, Haverlingland, Heydon, Lenwade, Little Witchingham, Morton on the Hill, Reepham, Salle, Swannington, Themelthorpe, Weston Longville, Wood Dalling.

Did you know?

You can report any non-emergency crime or incident online at norfolk.police.uk or via the QR code here. Just scan it with your mobile phone camera or QR code reader.

Always call **999** in an emergency.



Suspicious activity? Call us on **101**.
Emergency? Always use **999**.

f Broadland Police
@BroadlandPolice
@norfolkpolice



REEPHAM NURSERY SCHOOL



Reepham Nursery School



- expert early years staff
- a seamless transition to school
- Weekly Forest School sessions
- free flow inside and out with high quality environments
- personalised programme of settling in

Open Daily in term time

Morning session	Lunch session	Afternoon session
8.30am - 11.30 am	11.30 - 12noon	12-3pm

Full days available with flexible combinations
15- and 30-hour funding accepted

Call us to check spaces available

Contact the School Office
01603 870321
office@reephamprimary.org.uk

QUIZ, CAROLS, STIMPSON'S PIECE, RGNS



The Station Cafe
REEPHAM

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER

Food served from 6.30pm
Quiz start at 7.30pm
Entry £2 per person
or
£10 per person with food
50% to winners
50% to charity

REEPHAM PATIENT CARE FUND
Cakes and Drinks as usual
Booking Highly Recommended
01603 920707

DID YOU KNOW THAT, AS WELL AS HOSTING LOTS OF REGULAR GROUPS,



Stimpson's Piece is available for private hire?

This large, open plan hall has excellent facilities, including a kitchen, bar area, ample parking and wi-fi.

For more information and availability contact the Town Council Clerk on 01603 873355 or clerk@reephamtowncouncil.org.uk



Church of
St Michael the Archangel, Booton

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

*All welcome.
Wrap up warm and bring a torch!*

Friday 22
December 2023
6.30pm

Mulled wine & mince pies etc.
Cash collection for Churches
Conservation Trust and a local
charity.

Reepham Good Neighbour Scheme



Help for residents who are unable to get out and about with:

- lifts to medical appointments
- Collecting prescriptions
- picking up groceries



To request help, or to volunteer

07936 576 684

Come & join us Carol singing in the Market Place



Saturday 14th December from 10 to 11am

Reepham Methodist Church

Everyone welcome