



An Christmas Invitation To All In
Brookville, Methwold Hythe & Methwold

Carols Around The Christmas Tree

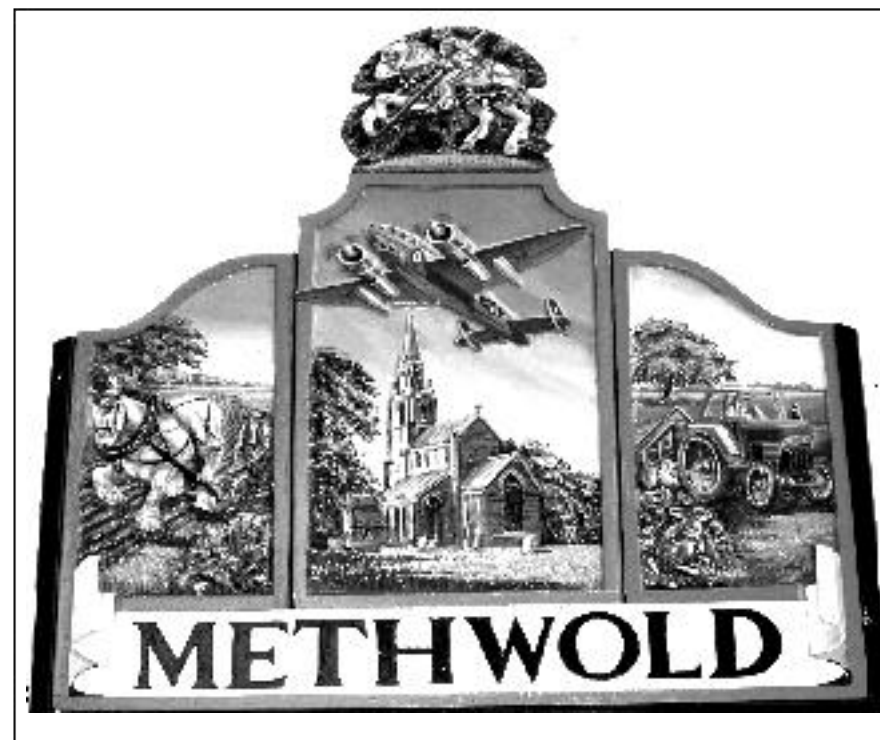
**Tuesday, December 21st, 6 -
7.30pm. Methwold Village Hall**

Father Christmas is coming to Methwold again. He was so impressed with the singing last year that he would like to hear a few more carols and meet all our local children. He would also like to invite all the children to give him a present which his helpers will take to the Norfolk "Leeway Charity" which runs women's refuges in our area. Presents (good seconds or new) can be for either children or their mums . Could you wrap your gifts and marked with the details of the expected recipient eg. Girl 2-4yrs, Boy 10yrs, Adult etc. Many thanks. Father Christmas would like to make it clear that he wants to see all the children of Methwold whether or not they are able to bring a present.

Methwold Community Action Group would like to invite everyone attending to join them in the hall afterwards for mulled wine (coffee, tea or fruit juice) and minced pies (sausage rolls, cakes, crisps etc) There is no charge for this but donations for coffee would be welcome.

Hope to see you there.

Should it rain we will move into St. Georges Hall and meet Father Christmas in there!



Methwold Times

Serving the villages of
**Brookville, Methwold
& Methwold Hythe**


**Issue 328
December 2010**



Diary of Events

December

4th	Christmas Fair/Santa Claus/Raffle	St George's Church	5pm
4th	Talent show	St George's Church	7pm
18th	M'wold Social Club Xmas Bingo	Methwold Social Club	6.30 pm for 7.30pm
21st	Carols around the Christmas Tree	Village Hall	6.00pm
31st	New Year Family Disco	Social Club	7.30pm

THE POST OFFICE		
Methwold Branch St. George's Hall, High Street, Methwold IP26 4NT		
Opening times		
Mon:	08:30 - 16:30	
Tue: & Thur:	08:30 - 13:00	
Wed:	08:30 - 12:30	

This is your publication so why not let us know what you think.
 Written contributions to the Methwold Times,
 by the **14th of every month** may be sent to the editor:
 Mo Truss, 46 Globe St, Methwold
 Thetford, Norfolk, IP26 4PQ
 Phone 01366 727462
 or E-mail: methwoldtimes@mtruss.co.uk
 or can be left at
 Gary Boyce Butchers

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from the Editor.....

Again, we have come to the last issue of another year. I would like to thank all those involved in getting the Methwold Times to you. They do a great job which is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank a small group of our advertisers in their patience with our printing problems this year. Hopefully this is now at an end and any adverts that had bits missing, such as addresses or phone numbers will be recompensed with free adverts. Again we apologise.

I am still looking for someone (or two people even) to deliver the Methwold Times to the people who deliver to your doors. This would involve 22 drops (or eleven each for two people) in Methwold, Brookville and the Hythe, once a month. Please call me if you can help.

Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year. See you all in February

the Editor

~~~~~

### THANKS

Les would like to thank all at the Busy Bees for their kind gift following his recent short stay in hospital, it is much appreciated.

*Les Curr.*

~~~~~

THANKS

I would like to say a big thank you to family and friends who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday with a party. Donations were given on the night and a total amount of £350 was given to the Air Ambulance

Jean Rutterford

~~~~~

### THANKS

We would like to thank everyone who attended John's funeral; he would have felt so touched by the messages of sympathy and all your thoughts about him as a person. Donations raised in John's memory was approximately £321.21 which will go to the East Anglia Air Ambulance. We would like to thank the Fire Service for the guard of honour and Marie for the beautiful flowers in the church. I know John may be gone but his heart will always be in his beloved Methwold.

Thank you.

Shiela Younge, Jackie & Liz

*Apologies for the lateness but the email failed to arrive!*

## THANKS

Bob would like to thank every single person who sent him a total of 59 cards for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also for donations of money which has been banked (amount £126) and will be divided between Q.E. Breast Cancer Care Unit and Gt Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children - this was his wish instead of presents. Thank-you to all who came and enjoyed birthday cake etc and also the helpers.

We would also like to thank all who came to the Macmillan Coffee Morning and for all the help we received. £238.50 has been banked and sent to the Macmillan Fund.

Thank you all

*Madge & Bob Watts*

## THANKS

I would like to say a big thank my friends and neighbours for the many cards and presents I received on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Also to the Busy Bees for the lovely basket of fruit, cake and floral arrangements. It was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who made my birthday so special

*Peggy Wallace*

I'm having a stall in the **Church on 4th December** selling some Jewellery at very reasonable prices and Christmas gifts, also very reasonable prices (ie candles, gift sets, Christmas Balloons and some Avon products)

Thank you

*Cathy Downs*

## **Methwold Methodist Church**

It is with great sadness that I have to tell the village, that Methwold Methodist Church is closing its doors after 179 years of prayer, praise and worship within its walls.

The final service will be on **Sunday 5th December at 2.30pm.**

Everyone will be welcome, do come along and join in our final service. The preacher will be Rev. Arthur Windridge who was the Methodist Minister living in the village during the 1960's.

*Mary Cumbers*

(Local preacher)

## **Christmas Quiz Answers**

- 1 George the Fifth (in 1932)
- 2 I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus
- 3 Oliver Cromwell
- 4 6th January
- 5 Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to Come, and Jacob Marley
- 6 Advocaat
- 7 Silent Night
- 8 24th December
- 9 Oklahoma
- 10 Nativity scene (literally meaning crib)
- 11 Pigs in blankets
- 12 Melchior
- 13 VistaVision
- 14 Delaware
- 15 The calendar (the English adoption of the Gregorian calendar, replacing the Julian calendar, shifted Christmas day back 12 days - and all the other days too of course - 11 days were skipped in 1752 and a further day in 1800.)
- 16 Cake
- 17 2004
- 18 Christmas Fair on a frozen River Thames (known as a Frost Fair)
- 19 364
- 20 We Three Kings of Orient Are (composed by Rev John Henry Hopkins, 1857)

Did you hear about the stupid plastic surgeon?  
**Yes. He stood in front of the fire and melted!**  
Doctor, Doctor! Everyone thinks I'm a liar!  
**Doctor: I don't believe you!**  
Father Christmas lost his umbrella but he didn't get wet! Why not?  
**Because it wasn't raining!**  
How can you get your name in lights the world over?  
**Change your name to Emergency Exit!**  
How do monkeys make toast?  
**Stick some bread under the gorilla!**  
How do witches tell the time?  
**With a witch-watch!**

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, METHWOLD**

|                |                   |              |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Rector:        | Revd Joan Horan   | 01842-828034 |
| Curate:        | Revd Ken Waters   | 01366-727220 |
| Churchwardens: | Mr Nick Guyer     | 01366-727293 |
|                | Dr Ian Nisbet     | 01842-828956 |
| Church Elders: | Bob & Madge Watts | 01366-728211 |
| PCC Secretary: | Colin Marsland    | 01366-728170 |

**DECEMBER 2010 & JANUARY 2011**

**December 5th - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

10.00am - "Together at Ten" Combined Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's, Weeting - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters

**December 12th - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

9.15am - Holy Communion - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: J Markham Reader: D Mantle Prayers: J Griffen

**December 19th - 4th Sunday of Advent**

9.15am - Joint Service with Methodists - Methodist Preacher  
Sidesman: J Watts Reader: A Brand Prayers: E Douglass

**December 20th - Readings and Carols**

6.30pm - Methwold Carol Service - Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: F Walker Readers: Various Prayers: D Mantle

**December 24th - Christmas Eve**

4.00pm - Christingle - Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesmen: D & C Hunt Reader: J Griffen Prayers: S Harrison-Stone  
11.00pm - Midnight Holy Communion - Revd Samuel Marsden  
Sidesman: W Waters Reader: K Markham Prayers: I Nisbet

**December 25th - Christmas Day**

9.15am - Holy Communion - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: S Freeman Reader: S Harrison-Stone Prayers: J Griffen

**December 26th - 1st Sunday of Christmas**

9.15am - Service of the Word - Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: M Browne reader: D Mantle Prayers: E Douglass

**January 2nd - 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany**

10.00am - "Together at Ten" Combined Benefice Holy Communion at St George's, Methwold - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters

**January 9th - 1st Sunday of Epiphany/The Baptism of Christ**

9.15am - Holy Communion - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: J Watts Reader N Guyer Prayers: S Harrison-Stone

**January 16th - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

9.15am - Holy Communion - Revd Christine Worsley  
Sidesman: F Walker Reader: J Griffen Prayers: I Nisbet

**January 23rd - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

9.15am - Combined service with Methodists - Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesmen: D & C Hunt Reader: K Markham Prayers: J Griffen

**January 30th - 4th Sunday of Epiphany**

9.15am - Holy Communion - Revd Joan Horan/Revd Ken Waters  
Sidesman: W Waters Reader: S Harrison-Stone Prayers: E Douglass

*If the church is locked the keys are available from Bob & Madge Watts, Brumblebarn Farm, 10 Hythe Road, Methwold, 01366-728211.*

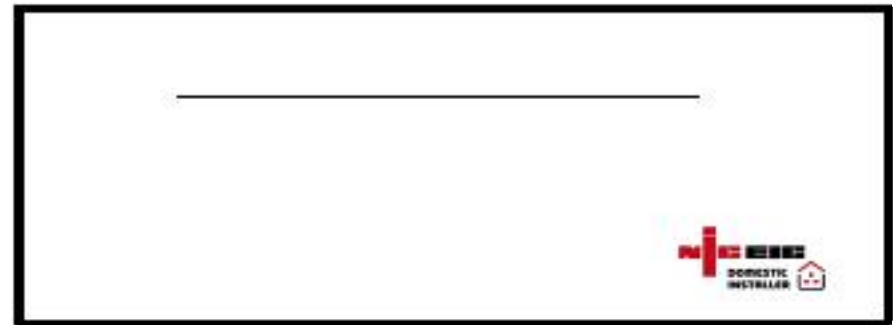
As I walk to and from the village listening to music I enjoy the fresh air and the opportunity to think. I am often waved at by passing cars; forgive me if I don't wave back sometimes as I'm probably deep in thought about some earth-shattering decision I have to make like; should I shuffle to the next track on my playlist? Or, should I cook tonight? Anyway, enough of this, let's get down to what is creeping up on us fast - Christmas. By the time you are reading this it's only a matter of a few short weeks and we are there. Wow!! It only seems a few short weeks since it was Christmas and the '%^&\$%£' thing is upon us again.

Not that I mind, because those of you who know me will know that I love Christmas and all that goes with it. Even the extra 'work' for us vicars. It is just a great time of year to reflect and rejoice. I know life throws a few awful times at us on occasions; but hey, when you've got carols being sung, all of Santa's little helpers running around and the look of excitement on the kids faces (and mine) who cannot be moved by it all.

**The God Spot.**

Do I need to say it? But I will anyway. Thank God for the birth of Jesus and the hope that it gives us all when we accept him. That's it - plain and simple.

You know what would be good? Why not this Christmas give something to someone who is worse off than you. Why not donate something to Jimmy's Homeless Shelter in Cambridge ([www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk](http://www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk)) or to the Shoebox appeal ([www.smileinternational.org/christmas-shoeboxes.htm](http://www.smileinternational.org/christmas-shoeboxes.htm)) or contact me for further details.



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Hope to see you at my favourite service - Christingle 4.00pm Christmas Eve -  
Don't forget it's for the young and old young at heart

God Bless.  
*Ken Waters*

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR & METHWOLD HAS (EVEN MORE) TALENT CONCERT**

Details are:

Saturday 4th December 2010

5pm Christmas Fair & Games/Santa Claus/Raffle/Refreshments

7pm Concert starts

Anyone who wants to take part in the show should either contact David Thomas  
on 01366-728871 or Ken Waters on 01366-727220. Start ringing as there are  
some slots still left to fill.

### **LIGHT UP THE CHURCH**

As we have done for the last few years, we would like to light up the Church  
with floodlights for the whole of December. Would you like to sponsor a night?  
The cost would be £2 (or more if you want) and we thought it would be nice to  
make it in remembrance of someone. We would put a sign up in the notice board  
to show who it was in memory of. Please contact Ken Waters on 01366-727220  
to book a night.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

We will be decorating the Church with Christmas Trees again this year, and  
letters have been sent out to our usual contributors, however, if you feel that you  
would like to put in a decorated tree then contact Madge Watts on 01366-  
728211 as soon as possible. We will be putting the trees up on Saturday 11th  
December.

### **METHWOLD ON THE NET**

[www.btininternet.com/~methwold.homepage](http://www.btininternet.com/~methwold.homepage)

Please help me keep this website up-to-date with local news and events  
Colin Marsland [colin.marsland@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.marsland@btinternet.com)  
24a High Street, Methwold Phone 728 170

What squeaks and is scary? **The Ghost of Christmouse Past!**  
What did Santa get when he crossed a woodpecker with kleenex?  
**Rapping paper!**  
Did Rudolph go to a regular school? **No, he was "elf"-taught!**

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### Christmas & New Year Opening Times

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 20th Dec .....   | 8.30am.....4.00pm        |
| Tuesday 21st Dec.....   | Closed To Prepare Orders |
| Wednesday 22nd Dec..... | Closed To Prepare Orders |
| Thursday 23rd Dec ..... | 7.30am.....5.30pm        |
| Friday 24th .....       | 7.30am .....1.30pm       |
| Saturday 25th Dec.....  | Closed                   |
| Sunday 26th Dec.....    | Closed                   |
| Monday 27th Dec.....    | Closed                   |
| Tuesday 28th Dec.....   | Closed                   |
| Wednesday 29th Dec..... | Closed                   |
| Thursday 30th Dec.....  | 7.30am.....5.30pm        |
| Friday 31st Dec.....    | 7.30am.....1.00          |
| Sat 1st Jan.....        | Closed                   |
| Sun 2nd Jan.....        | Closed                   |
| Mon 3rd Jan.....        | Closed                   |
| Tuesday 4th Jan .....   | Opening Times As Normal  |

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## RSPB Lakenheath Fen

### Cetti, Cetti bang bang!

One of the most frustrating things about birdwatching is that with a lot of species of birds, you can hear them, but despite your best efforts, you can't see them! The bird that I will be writing about this month certainly fits this stereotype; it is the Cetti's warbler; (pronounced chetti's) a wetland dwelling bird with a lot of character.

You probably haven't heard of this bird, but if you go to a place where it lives at the right time of year, you will almost certainly hear it, even if you don't know what it is. "Cetti's", as they are known probably have the loudest song of any British bird.

This song has been described in many ways. The best mnemonic I have heard is: "Me, Cetti? If you don't like it, shove off!" This neatly describes the attitude with which this song is usually delivered, loud and in your face.

You would have thought that with a song this loud and obvious, these birds would be pretty easy to see. However, they are notorious skulkers, and usually deliver their song unseen from thick cover. If you do manage to catch a glimpse of one, it looks like a large wren, with warm brown upper parts and a habit of cocking its tail when it is nervous.

You may wonder where they get their name from. They are named after Francesco Cetti, an eighteenth century Italian Jesuit priest and zoologist, who first identified this species in his native Sardinia. They were confined to continental Europe until the early 1960s when the British invasion began.....

The first British record was in 1961, in Hampshire. They bred for the first time on our shores in 1971 at Stodmarsh in Kent. Since then, they have colonised most of southern Britain. At the turn of the millennium, there were around 700 pairs, with 143 pairs in Norfolk alone! Ten years down the line, there are now over 1000 pairs in Britain!

They have even spread to Lakenheath Fen. They were first recorded on the reserve in 2004, and first nested in 2007. There are now at least four "shouting" males present, and they certainly add a lot of noise to the dawn chorus during spring and summer! I hope you have a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

David White  
Information Officer  
RSPB Lakenheath Fen.



**Lakenheath Fen nature reserve  
DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Talk: Redgrave and Lopham Fen** Wednesday 1st December; 12 noon - 1pm  
The warden of this Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve, Andrew Excell, will be telling us the success story of how they have restored the largest remaining river valley fen in England, from a dried out and barren landscape into a wetland haven for wildlife. Water voles, snipe, fen raft spiders and plants such as round leaved sun dew, are thriving here again.

**Christmas crafts!** Saturday 4th December, 2-4pm  
Help us to decorate our Lakenheath Fen Christmas tree, learn how to make animal Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, decorations and much more. Children £3, Wildlife Explorer members half price, accompanying adults free.



**Yuletide ramble** Sunday 12th December; 1.30-4pm  
Come for a brisk stroll around the reserve to invigorate mind, body and soul. Mulled wine, or a warm drink, and mince pies are included. Adults £6; children £2, RSPB/Wildlife Explorer members half price.

**Booking essential**  
For all enquiries and bookings, please contact David White, Information Officer. Tel: 01842 863400. Email: [Lakenheath@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Lakenheath@rspb.org.uk)  
RSPB Lakenheath Fen nature reserve, Station Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, IP27 9AD.

**Costs**  
Unless otherwise stated, events are £4 for adults, £2 for children. Events are half-price for RSPB members.

Other Information: Most events have outdoor components so please dress appropriately. Stout-footwear and warm, waterproof clothing are strongly recommended. We suggest you bring a torch to evening events.  
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## METHWOLD HISTORY GROUP

**THE NEXT MEETING** of our group will be held on Thursday, December 16th at 7,30pm in the Spencer Room of the village hall. We are a friendly group and everyone is welcome. The evening will be used to discuss next year's programme of events and to begin looking at John Younge's collection of pictures on Methwold's past.

**METHWOLD AIRFIELD** .... We only have a few copies of our booklet left (Price £4). If anyone would like one to give as a Christmas present please get in touch asap to avoid disappointment. Thanks for the suggestions concerning the upgrading of the RAF monument at Cock Corner. I am afraid that the bronze Ventura Aircraft that was suggested has been costed at around £8000 and is way out of our price range. We are going to have to come up with something simpler.

**ARCHIVE NEWS** ..... We would like to say a really big "thank you" to the Younge family for passing on to us John's collection of artifacts and documents relating to the history of Methwold Parish. The collection covers many historical periods and in particular reflects the enormous amount of field-walking that John did over the last few decades.

Our thanks also to John Watt for the copy of "Granta" by Jason Cowley which includes an interview with Eric Wortley on his life in Methwold Hythe.

Our local archive is now well established and we always welcome new additions to it. Old pictures, family trees, photos and documents of Methwold's past will be carefully stored and available to village people for generations to come.

**OUR THANKS** to Phillip Barnes for improving security arrangements to the archive.

**AT OUR LAST MEETING** members agreed to name the archive -  
**"The John Younge Archive Of The History Of Methwold"** ,  
in recognition of John's achievement in documenting the history of our village.

Chris Stone chris.stone27@btinternet.com 01366 728478 5 Globe Street

## METHWOLD PRIDE DAY

...was a bit of a wash out this year as the weather was dreadful. Despite this we did manage to cut the trees back which were overhanging the footpath along the Rec and remove nearly 50 bags of leaves and conkers from in front of the

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bungalows at Cock Corner. In the words of one delighted elderly resident "I've lived here for over 40 years and no-one has ever done this before!" A litter sweep was also carried out by a local resident around all the trees in the Rec, complementing the work of Brian Nixon who does this on a regular basis. We have also received promises from local residents to paint the seats in Methwold Hythe & Brookville but this will now have to wait until the Spring! Another group took a bag of bulbs to plant in the Hythe. Our grateful thanks to the small band who turned up on such an awful day.

In future we intend to run this event in a different way. We will keep a list of any local resident who offers their help to the village and simply ask for their help when there are jobs to be done. This way jobs can be done when they are most needed. We will ask for everyone to sign up in the next edition of Methwold Times. Thank you for your continued support.

## SPORT

"Shuttlers" Badminton Club meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm at Methwold High School. (£3 per evening / £2 for those still at school) All abilities welcome.

Have you tried out the new gym yet at Methwold High School? It is really good and much better than travelling some distance to more crowded and expensive venues. Open most evenings. Everyone welcome.

We would like to point out that all events and activities organised by Methwold Action Group are participated in at an individuals own risk. We hold Public Liability Insurance and it is at the discretion of individuals as to whether they take out Personal Accident Insurance.

## METHWOLD LADIES GROUP

Our own Police Community Support Officer, Claire Law, came to speak to us about her job and the work of the PCSO's at this months meeting. Next month, being Christmas, we will be sharing ideas on decorations, gifts and recipes. We will also be learning how to make bath bombs. Two outings have been planned for December - one to Oxborough Hall for the Dickens evening and the other to Westacre Theatre for their performance of Wind in the Willows. In January we will be welcoming Keith Alderton who is talking on the Inland Waterways. New members always welcome or come and meet us at Christmas Carol round the Tree on 21st December.

## A Historical "Who Is It ?"

He was born in Cambridge in 1863. He won the East Of France Cycling Championship in 1882. He held an honorary MA (Cantab) degree. He was a member of the Council of The National Skating Assoc. (1885 - 1910). He was President Of The Cambridge Cricket Association. In The Boer War he was mentioned in dispatches by Lord Roberts and became a Major. He travelled in Germany, France & South Africa. He was the first patentee of a Petrol Vapour Light. He owned The Glebe Wood in Methwold where he enjoyed hunting & shooting ....and grew something very unusual in local fields!

Answer in next months issue of The Methwold Times!!



**Methwold High School**

### Community Fitness Club

The Community Fitness Club at Methwold High School will commence from **Monday 15th November** on weekdays (Mondays to Thursdays) between **6:30pm and 9:30pm.**

A fully qualified instructor will be available for inductions, fitness assessments and guidance about personal training programmes.

**Annual membership costs £15 and each visit costs £3. Concession rates of £10 for the annual membership and £2.50 for each visit is available to students, OAP's, unemployed and Methwold High School staff.** A loyalty card will also be available which entitles you to ten visits for £20 (no concession available). Current members of the Methwold High School Staff Fitness Club will be entitled to free membership of the Community Fitness Club.

Please contact **Miss Sara Clark at Methwold High School** on **01366 728333** for an application form.



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## Safer Neighbourhood & Home Watch Project

Reading through the statistics on the Norfolk SNT website I came across a statement that said Norfolk has one of the lowest crime rates in the UK. Well that might be true but it is hard to believe after the spate of crimes we have suffered in the parish in the last few weeks. Which is really the key point, we all know about the events that have affected our little part of the country and it is not so hard to feel that crime has gone up - in a sense it has; but only emotionally not statistically. It's a bit like lightning striking twice the odds against are high but when it happens it's very hard not to feel much more vulnerable.

Consequently it is the fear of crime that creates the greatest effect and why it is important for neighbours to look out for each other to help restore confidence.

A week or so ago I received a telephone call from one of our older residents who wanted to talk about the bogus caller who had turned up pretending to be a sales person from a double glazing manufacturer. Fortunately the would be con-man did not fool anyone. The caller had no appointment and their attitude left a lot to be desired for a sales person trying to get an order, rude, aggressive and clearly not trying to impress. In other words the image did not fit the story and so gave the lie to their motives. True not all con-men are so easy to spot and they can be very clever but they are not telling the truth and we can all spot that if we are looking for it.

Trust your instincts, if it feels wrong in any way even in the slightest degree or the caller is unexpected or you do not like the caller's attitude for some reason you can't quite put your finger on don't trust them. Any legitimate caller will either have an appointment made in advance or they will have identity and be very happy to show it clearly, directly and in a way that can easily be checked. Be aware that these people are willing to take advantage of your good nature; they know that most people are reluctant to cause offence or be distrustful. Rogue callers exist in other forms, for example, that of the "something for nothing" approach. Trading Standards have received information regarding a company telephoning residents in Northamptonshire offering free home security checks (playing on the fear of crime). If an appointment is agreed the security check will take two hours and will be primarily a sales pitch for a security system with the sales person being very persistent. Those residents who do require goods or services are advised to ask family or friends for recommendations and obtain at least three written quotes to compare the cost of the work before committing to anything.

With the advent of the "era of austerity" it is reasonable to assume that doorstep crime is likely to increase and we would all benefit from a advanced warning of any criminal activity in our area. That is why the Home Watch system through the website and by other means is offering residents the chance to register and receive regular information about trends and the latest scams. This is very

useful information and will enable householders to prepare themselves against doorstep criminals.

**Homewatch online registration**

<http://policedirect.norfolk.police.uk/registration/>

**Police non emergency and Safer Neighbourhood Team - 0845 456 4567**

**Email - [sntdownhammarket@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sntdownhammarket@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)**

**Our assigned Police Community Support Officer - Claire Law**

**Local Home Watch coordinator - Phill Barnes 01366 727535**



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## Methwold Day Centre

Our Christmas Coffee morning held on 2nd November 2010 raised £69, we were very pleased to see a few new faces attend from the village, so thank-you to those people who came. We hold coffee mornings every few months as a way of raising funds for the charity so we hope to see even more faces from the village in 2011 !

Thank-you to everybody who has donated money to the centre this year, it is very much appreciated by service users and staff, every penny we raise is spent at Methwold to make our elderly service users day with us as enjoyable as we can.

2nd December – musical entertainment by Brian Roy  
7th December – Vintage Christmas Reminiscence afternoon  
Both are at 1.30pm – 3.00pm, all are welcome to come. Tea and coffee supplied, no charge just a small donation please.

The day centre at Methwold has a limited number of places available to the elderly, but if you have a family member or friend who would benefit from a day or so a week within our care please contact Day Service Co-ordinator, Denise Lakey on 01366 728880 who can explain the procedure for application. We are fully trained in the provision of care of the elderly, all staff are employed by Age UK and can provide individual support to meet the needs of our service users. Maybe you are a carer and could benefit from a little free time and would like to see your loved one make some new friends ?

*All staff at Methwold Day Centre would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

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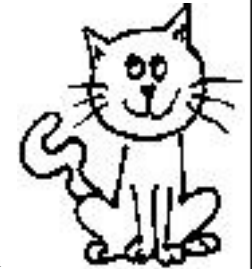
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## WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR THINK THIS MONTH?

December 2010.

**KIDS' TECHNOLOGY** - The intransigent pushchair and its mates, the kiddie car seats!

When our kids were small, they rode up and down the length of the country in what were effectively cardboard boxes, bundled into the car between all the luggage. The oblong body of the pushchair was either placed in the oblong metal frame on four wheels or lifted out of the frame and stashed somewhere in the car. Calum once travelled from Birkenhead to Sussex, lying in his "box" on top of a chest of drawers, his nose only inches from the roof of the car. When a child became old enough, he graduated to a car seat. Ours was a square of canvas attached to a couple of metal hooks which hooked over the rear of the bench car seat. There were no restraining straps but the seat, when carried into the lunchtime café, doubled as a high chair when hooked over the back of a wooden chair. Once again, our kids travelled thousands of miles in this precarious arrangement, happily without incident. Later, when we had estate cars, it was not unusual to carry four kids in the back seat with another three sitting in the rear of the vehicle. These days, such behaviour would be totally unacceptable and, of course, extremely dangerous. The kids would be at risk and there would be so many exploding social workers vapourising by the roadside that they would become an endangered species (mmm).

How times have changed was demonstrated forcefully to Management and me when, last weekend, we travelled to look after Oliver (Grandchild aged 3, about whom you have read before) and his twin brothers, aged eighteen months, who are genetically programmed to go in opposite directions at any opportunity. Son and daughter-in-law welcomed us enthusiastically, handed us three car seats and a twin pushchair and pushed off for their long weekend at a wedding on the South coast. Head Office took the children indoors and I thought I would pop the car seats into my Renault Espace and put the folded pushchair in the boot. Well!!! The three car seats were different makes and none carried instructions. None of the seats was "Isofix" but it was obvious that each had to be placed on the car seat and fixed using the car seat belts. Each car seat belt had to wind in and out of the child seat, under tensioners, behind red plastic clips and so forth, before being clicked into its socket, after which the tensioners were put under tension and, with mighty heaving and feeding of the seat belt through a variety of slots, the child seat would be safely affixed to the car seat. And we haven't even started on the child belt buckle yet! A long, long time passed and, eventually, I managed to fix the child seats securely and I even managed to work out the seat buckles. (We once missed a train at Ely because, using a borrowed car seat to transport a grandchild, it took us nearly an hour to work out how to strap her in).

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <b>BEAVERS</b> Age 6 - 8<br>Contact: Jean Dennett   01366 728209<br>or 07798 860293    | <b>TESTING ALL VEHICLES<br/>DIESEL   PETROL<br/>CATALYSTS</b>                                                            |
| <b>CUBS</b> Age 8-10½<br>Contact: Jean Dennett   01366 728209<br>or 07798 860293       |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>SCOUTS</b> Age 10½ - 14½<br>Contact: Jean Dennett   01366 728209<br>or 07798 860293 | <b>For prompt efficient service<br/>with satisfaction guaranteed<br/>call 01366 728 426</b>                              |

Flushed with success, I set about collapsing the twin pushchair. I have to confess that we were unable to take the pushchair in the car during the entire weekend because all the strenuous combined efforts of Management and me to work out how to collapse the pushchair completely and utterly failed! So, instead of pushing the twins in their buggy, we put reins on them and tore about in opposite directions!

I read yesterday that there is a £60 million black market for stolen prams (Halifax Home Insurance) some of which cost £400. They could have had another one as far as I was concerned.

**The Old House Union Flag:** As many of you will know, I have been flying the Union flag (often and incorrectly called the Union Jack) outside our Feltwell house in memory of our troops dying abroad. We had gales last week and the flag tore. Before I could order a new one, Clive Dalby popped one through my door on November 11th, a highly appropriate day. I rang to thank him and he told me that, as an ex military man, he salutes my flag whenever he passes the house. So, immense thanks to Clive for his generosity - I hope you all enjoy seeing the flag.

**The Renault Zoe:** This is a true story, not a joke. I heard on radio Cambridge that Renault are developing a new car and they will call it the Renault Zoe. They are being taken to task by two gentlemen whose surname is Renault and who have young daughters called Zoe, because they fear that, when they are older, the girls will suffer abuse such as "Hey, darlin', show us yer airbags".

Two Chinese men, Paddy and Mick, looked in a shop window and saw a sign saying "Suits £5, Shirts £2, Trousers £2.50". Seeking to make a quick profit, they enter the shop and ask for 50 suits at £5, 100 shirts at £2 and 50 pairs of trousers at £2.50. They would take them home to sell at a profit, they were disappointed to discover that they were in a dry cleaners!

Two drunk old men visited a brothel and the owner fobbed them off with a blow-up rubber doll each. "They are so old and drunk they won't know the difference". Comparing notes later, one old boy said "I think my girl was dead, she never moved once". The other old boy said "I think mine was a witch. When I gave her a little love-bite, she broke wind and flew out of the window, taking my teeth with her!"

Deannie joins me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

*Jan G. Nisbet*

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How do you describe a rich elf? Welfy  
How long should an elf's legs be?  
Just long enough to reach the ground!  
How many elves does it take to change a light bulb?  
Ten! One to change the light bulb and nine to stand on each other's shoulders!  
If athletes get athlete's foot, what do elves get? Mistle-toes!



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## METHWOLD POST OFFICE



Methwold Post Office is doing very well and definatly here to stay!

I would like to say a big thank you to all customers, regular or not, as every transaction counts, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas ans Healthy New Year.

I also hope Brian Nixon won't mind if I say how lovely the outside is thanks to his continuing hard work. He quietly goes about planting and nurturing the flower beds etc. making it a very pleasant area indeed! Thank you.

Very Best Wishes

*Carol*



### **Thetford Voices Carolling and Christmas Workshop**

For the third year running, young singers from 6-16 are invited to take part in a Carol Workshop in Thetford at the beginning of the school holidays - on Tuesday **21st December (1.30 - 4.30) & Wednesday 22nd December (1.45 - 6.30).**

The group will meet in Thetford Grammar School on Tuesday to learn and practice repertoire and give its first performance. Then on Wednesday, we shall be supported by Coach Services whose buses will take us to several Residential Homes in the town. After tea we are off to the Elveden Estate, having been invited to sing from 5.30 - 6.30 at their Late Night Shopping Event.

Over the two days we shall be collecting for EACH, the East Anglian Children's Hospices.

The Workshop has proved an enjoyable and worthwhile activity in the past which to celebrate the season. We look forward to meeting returning and many new singers in December.

To book a workshop place, email [johnweeks@masafish.com](mailto:johnweeks@masafish.com) or telephone 01842 820060 by 12th December.

*Thetford Voices is sponsored by the D'Oyly Carte Trust & Coach Services Ltd*

**METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL  
ST. GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX  
RULES FOR HIRE/HIRE AGREEMENT**

Application for hire must be made to the Caretaker - Telephone 01366 728722 or Parish Clerk - 01366 727150. ALL HIRE AGREEMENTS MUST BE SIGNED AND APPROVED BY THE HALL COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL PRIOR TO HIRE DATE.

A deposit of 50% of the hiring fee is required for all single bookings (with the application) to secure the booking, together with a damage deposit of £50. For multi bookings a deposit of 25% is required, with a damage deposit of £100. NB Damage liability is not limited to the deposit amount.

**Hire Charges:**

|                                       | <u>Non Profit making activity (local social organisation or charity event)</u> | <u>Organisation or Commercial enterprise for profit</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Main Hall</b>                      |                                                                                |                                                         |
| • Morning session 8am -12.30pm        | £10.00                                                                         | £15.00                                                  |
| • Afternoon session 1pm - 5.30pm      | £10.00                                                                         | £20.00                                                  |
| • Evening session 6pm - Midnight      | £12.50                                                                         | £25.00                                                  |
| <b>Fenton Room</b>                    |                                                                                |                                                         |
| • Morning session 8am - 12.30pm       | £10.00                                                                         | £15.00                                                  |
| • Afternoon session 1pm - 5.30pm      | £10.00                                                                         | £18.00                                                  |
| • Evening session 6pm - Midnight      | £12.50                                                                         | £24.00                                                  |
| • <b>Use of Kitchen</b> (per session) | £10.00                                                                         | £16.00                                                  |

ONLY TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HALL OR ROOM RENTAL

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| • <b>Use of Car Park for car boot sale</b> (if not hiring building) | £15.00 | £30.00  |
| • <b>Whole Complex</b> 8am - Midnight NB                            | £70.00 | £125.00 |

EXTRA CHARGE AFTER MIDNIGHT of £20.00 per additional hour

The Hall can be hired for meetings, classes, private parties and wedding receptions.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS with regard to Fire Regulations: - For fuller details see plan in Foyer

|                   |                  |                     |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| St. George's Hall | Closely seated   | 250 persons maximum |
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| Fenton Room       | Closely seated   | 120 persons maximum |

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## DECEMBER EVENTS

(all prices available on application or on our website)

### Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Meet the Head Gardener

Meet in the Orchard for a guided tour of the gardens.

**Festive Foliage Workshop** - Thu 2nd Dec - £29.50 Booking essential

**Wreath Making Workshop** - Fri 3rd & Sat 4th Dec - £29.50 Booking essential

**A Medieval Christmas** - Wed 15th Dec - £10 (£12 with mulled wine)

**A Dickens of a Christmas** - Thu 16th Dec - £10 (£12 with mulled wine & Mince pie)

**Christmas at Oxborough** Sat 11, Sun 12, Sat 18, Sun 19, 11am-6pm  
Adult £5, child £2 (inc members) Free admission to garden & estate.

**Meet Santa** 11am child £3 (includes present)

Traditional Turke Dinner 12noon - 2pm

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## NORTHWOLD SPIRITUALIST GROUP SERVICE CALENDAR 2010

### Northwold Village Hall

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec David McEntee-Taylor

17<sup>th</sup> Dec Shirley Cimelli

*Enquires & Further information Tel: Eileen - 01366 727174*

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"Do I have to eat my Brussel sprouts?"

What do you call a gigantic polar bear?

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**For more information telephone 01553 760671.**

## METHWOLD PARISH COUNCIL HIRE OF ST. GEORGE'S HALL COMPLEX

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**Hire Charges and terms for hire of Whole Complex, Main Hall, Fenton Rooms or Car Park available on request**

**Dear Editor,**

I have been reading an interesting article which makes reference to come September 2011 our High School will be offering courses which will lead to University Degrees.

Elizabeth Truss, Member of Parliament for this area, describes it as "very exciting" and our High School Head Teacher, Denise Walker, is quoted as saying, "If we can pull this off it is going to be massive for this area, which is socially, culturally, and economically, deprived".

Well do we live in a deprived area? Am I correct when I say that the average wage in this part of the world is one of the lowest in this Country, and at the heart of it is Education, or to be more precise, the lack of it.

I have always been someone who places a great deal of emphasis on Education which is something which shouldn't stop when we leave school but should be on-going, whether you are 21 or 91 we are never too old to learn.

I am sure Denise Walker in her job as Head Teacher has many problems but I wish she had just one more, how to cope with the constant demand for Adult Education with-in her School, but as far as *I'm* aware there isn't this demand and that is something I just don't understand.

If I'm not interested in Education, yes even at my age, then what am I interested in? As Paul Daniels would say, "not a lot".

Les Lawrence  
Methwold

**Methwold Investment Club**

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## Thomas Batchcroft Trust and other Charities.

The Trust's primary objective is to provide assistance to Methwold's parishioners.

- Do you know someone who has been temporarily hospitalised? There may be serious strains on already stretched finances - reduced wages, fuel expense and hospital parking charges: a small grant might help.
- An accident, sickness, or just getting older may necessitate the use of equipment to help someone manage at home... in this case a grant and/or loan may help to provide the necessary equipment.

**Assistance needed?:** In order to make a difference, the Trustees need to know! If someone in your family, a friend, or a neighbour may be eligible for assistance, please encourage them to apply: all applications will be considered by the Trustees.

**Allotments:** The allotment area off the Brandon Road adjacent to Cock Corner is the private property of the Trust, for the use of Trustees and allotment tenants only. There are no public footpaths or public right of way, and the use of the area to exercise dogs is strictly forbidden. Also note that shooting rights have been approved over the whole area of the allotments. The Trustees disclaim responsibility for any accident or injury to unauthorized persons.

**Applications** are invited from residents who would like to manage an allotment. Terms & Conditions are available on request.

St George's Church is the lead organisation selected by Thomas Batchcroft and Others to administer his legacy providing three Ex-Officio Trustees. Parish Council Trustees and Co-optative Trustees meet regularly to administer the Trust's affairs.

Enquiries regarding matters related to the Trust may be directed to any Trustee or through the former Clerk to the Trustees:-

**Mr Roy North, 40 Old Feltwell Rd. Methwold, Norfolk IP26 4PW**  
e.mail - roysten-icd@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01366 727797 Mobile 07768 056285

### Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service



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#### Outdoor fires can easily spread to property

- Keep bins away from passers-by or in a locked enclosure or consider attaching a locking device to the lid to deter arsonists
- Avoid the build up of rubbish and combustibles near to property as these can be easily ignited and spread fast
- Keep bonfires well away from buildings, fencing and other property
- Fit locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings to deter opportunists
- To report suspicious behaviour or if you have information on a crime ring Norfolk Constabulary on **0845 456 4567** or alternatively The Crimestoppers Charity on **0800 555111**

Response times for real emergencies may be slowed down when the fire service is dealing with rubbish fires and petty arson

---

#### Are you safe from fire in your home?

Do you have a working smoke alarm?  
Are you over the age of 65 or consider yourself to be vulnerable?  
To find out if you qualify for our free smoke alarms with fitting  
Including alarms for the deaf call the number below



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## Hospital Happenings December 2010 Monthly Ramblings about West Suffolk Hospital

### Leaflets:

Just for information, the hospital produces various information leaflets about services and treatments not only in English but also in Russian, Chinese, Turkish, Polish and Portuguese amongst others. Leaflets may be downloaded from the hospital website or by telephone for printed copies.

### Home From Home Birthing:

A new unit offering mothers the chance to give birth in a "home from home" has opened at the Hospital. The £470,000 midwifery-led birthing unit (MLBU) opened on 1st November, and welcomed its first baby at 10.08am.

The MLBU has been designed to provide mothers with a comfortable and "homely" environment in which to give birth. Colour, soft furnishings, music, pictures and soft lighting have all been used in the four individual rooms, while visible medical equipment has been kept to a minimum.

Various items to aid normal delivery, such as birthing balls and floor mattresses, are available in the unit, along with aromatherapy and massage. Emergency medical equipment is also easily accessible in case of any complications; while the hospital's wider medical team can also give extra support if necessary.

The unit has been specially designed to be as relaxing and calming as possible, providing a safe, sensitive and supportive environment in which to give birth. We hope that the number of women who need medical interventions will be reduced as a result, in turn ensuring as many as possible can enjoy a normal labour and birth. It is suitable for women who need midwifery care only, whilst those with more complex needs will continue to receive specialist individualised care from the obstetrics team.

The MLBU has been co-located with the central delivery suite, so that any women who develop complications can be quickly transferred into the care of a consultant.

### Case of the Month:

This month I was informed of a case with a successful outcome against the odds. Apparently a local woman phoned 999 to say her husband had stopped breathing and could she have an ambulance please. The nearest ambulance was not likely to get to her rural location immediately and so she was asked if she had any cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills. Upon the answer, "No, none" the call was transferred to paramedics who guided the woman through the whole procedure over her speaker phone. She carried out CPR for some 15 minutes until the ambulance arrived and the team took over. To my surprise and delight

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# **“CEREMONY OF CAROLS”**

MUSIC BY

**BRITTEN AND VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

CAROLS WITH AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION!



WITH LOCAL HARPIST:  
**MARY BARCLAY**

**SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010**  
**GUILDHALL, THETFORD**

TICKETS: £6/£5 CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING REFRESHMENT.

UNDER 16s FREE.

BOX OFFICE: TOURIST INFORMATION, MARKET PLACE,

THETFORD 01842 731975

PERFORMANCE STARTS 7.30PM.



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she had provided enough circulatory support to keep her husband's brain not only alive but well perfused. He spent a while in hospital and made a full recovery from his major heart attack.

*Tony Bennett*

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation?
2. Child star Jimmy Boyd sang which hugely popular 1950's Christmas song, which was initially banned by the Catholic Church in Boston because it supposedly mixed sex and Christmas?
3. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
4. On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar?
5. Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
6. What liqueur goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail?
7. What is the English title of the carol written in 1818 by Austrian priest Josef Mohr originally called Stille Nacht?
8. The Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway notably) tend to celebrate Christmas chiefly on which date?
9. Which US state in 1907 was the last to declare Christmas a legal holiday?
10. Presepe in Italy refers to what Christmas tradition?
11. What is the popular name for little baked sausages wrapped in rashers of streaky bacon?
12. Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus?
13. The 1954 movie White Christmas was the first to be made using what new Paramount film format?
14. Which river did George Washington cross on Christmas night in 1776 in the American Revolutionary War?
15. What changed in 1752 which caused England to have a White Christmas less frequently thereafter?
16. Traditional in Germany at Christmas, what sort of food is stollen?
17. According to the UK National Meteorological Office what year (prior to 2007) was the last White Christmas in Britain?
18. The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London?
19. How many gifts are given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas?
20. The words "Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes of life, of gathering gloom..." come from which Christmas carol?

*Answers on page 61*

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH (& January) IN METHWOLD

| Date | Event                  | Run by              | Where & Time        |
|------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 4th  | Christmas Fayre        | St Georges Church   | Church 5pm          |
| 4th  | Methwold has Talent    | St Georges Church   | Church 7pm          |
| 8th  | M'wold Ladies Group    |                     | Fenton Rms 7.30pm   |
| 9th  | Parish Council Meeting |                     | Fenton Rms 7.30pm   |
| 11th | Kenny Barnard          | The George          | The George          |
| 16th | History Group          |                     | Village Hall 7.30pm |
| 18th | Christmas Bingo        | Social Club         | Social Club 7.30pm  |
| 21st | Carols Round the Tree  | MCAG                | Village Hall 6pm    |
| 31st | New Year Disco         | Social Club         | Social Club 7.30pm  |
| 12/1 | Inland Waterways       | M'wold Ladies Group | Fenton Rms 7.30pm   |
| 9/1  | Parish Council Meeting |                     | Fenton Rms 7.30pm   |
| 16/1 | History Group          |                     | Village Hall 7.30pm |




## Magdalen House

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B and B</b></p> <p>A comfortable and secluded Bed and Breakfast in the village of <b>METHWOLD</b>.</p> <p>Run by Keith and Lorna Cootes.</p> <p>Set at the end of a Private Lane we offer a tranquil escape and well thought of comfort</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Next Door'</b></p> <p>Next Door is an apartment designed to accommodate couples or two singles sharing a room.</p> <p>It has ramped wheelchair access, parking plus storage for wheelchairs etc and private patio and garden</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

[www.magdalenhouse.co.uk](http://www.magdalenhouse.co.uk)  
**Tel. 01366 727255**  
**email [k.cootes@btconnect.com](mailto:k.cootes@btconnect.com)**

The following events are held weekly at Methwold High School

| DAY              | EVENT                                  | TIME        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Yoga                                   | 6:30-8:00   |
|                  | Drama Club                             | 7:00 - 9:00 |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Gym session                            | 6:30-9:30   |
|                  | Art Club - Adults & students           | 3.15- 4.15  |
|                  | Staff & Community Choir                | 1pm         |
|                  | Street Dance 11yrs +                   | 3:30-4:15   |
|                  | Street Dance up to 11 yrs              | 4:15-5:00   |
|                  | Table tennis 11 yrs +                  | 6:00-7:00   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Football 11yrs +                       | 5:00-7:00   |
|                  | Art Club                               | 3.15-4.15   |
|                  | Gym session                            | 6:30-9:30   |
|                  | Tennis Adults                          | 6:00-8:00   |
|                  | Badminton 11 yrs +                     | 7:00-9:00   |
|                  | Football-Methwold Rovers               | 7:00-8:30   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Netball                                | 6:30-8:00   |
|                  | Ipswich Town Football in the Community | 4.00-5.00   |
|                  | Ballroom, Latin American Dance         | 7:00-10:00  |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Tennis School years 1-9                | 10:00- 1:00 |



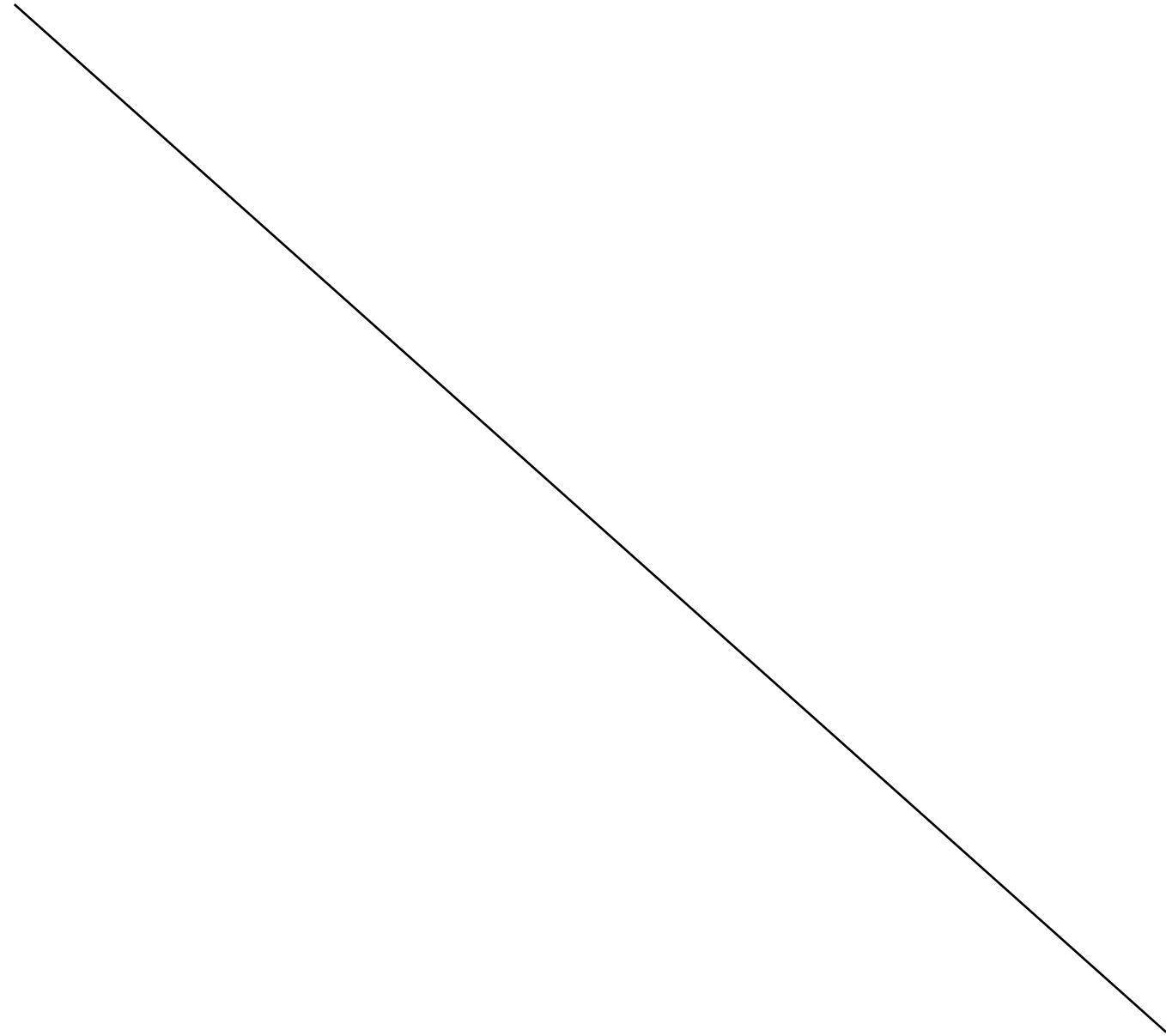
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