

# Redgrave Parish Plan 2005



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## How to get more information

The Redgrave Parish plan is also available as a CD which additionally contains all of the data and comments from the questionnaires and the totalled results for each question. All of the data sheets and results are in Excel format. A copy of the CD is available on request by phoning 01379 898 726 or 01379 890 974. Copies of the CD will be kept in the Redgrave Parish Council files, at the Suffolk Record Office, and by the local historian.

# MP's Letter

Community Spirit Is Alive And Well...



**DAVID RUFFLEY MP**  
BURY ST. EDMUNDS

House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 - 7219 2880

10<sup>th</sup> December 2004

Mr Bob Hayward  
Red House  
Redgrave  
Diss  
IP22 1RY

Dear Mr Hayward,

Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> December.

If I may say so, you have received a response rate of which many pollsters would be proud! I am only too happy to add a couple of sentences to your foreword to the report:

*"Congratulations on achieving such a high response rate to the Redgrave Parish Plan survey. It confirms the commitment and loyalty your parishioners have to the future of the village. Community spirit is alive and well locally and should ensure a bright future for Redgrave."*

Do let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist.

With kind regards,

Website: [www.davidruffleymp.com](http://www.davidruffleymp.com)

# Messages of Support



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Redgrave once again for all their interest and involvement in their historic village. It does not surprise me that so many replied to the survey. Good luck with the result: may it bring great benefit to all.

*Charles Michell,  
Suffolk County Councillor*

## Redgrave: a pioneer in the use of IT.

Redgrave was first with the use of IT at Parish Council meetings. A great pioneering job and a prime example to other parish councils. I wish the Parish Plan every success and I am proud to represent Redgrave on Mid Suffolk District Council.

*Sara Michell,  
Mid-Suffolk District Councillor*

## From the Parish Council

I would like to thank everyone for their most valuable input to the parish plan and particularly the 35 volunteers for their time and effort. Redgrave is one of the first to put technology into place making parish council meetings faster, more informative and interesting. Our clubs and organisations are flourishing and new ones are being formed. We have a winning football team and a fine recreation field and activities centre.

There are wonderful views and walks across the fields. The loss of the shop is hopefully just a temporary set-back and the redundancy of St Mary's church can open it to a wider range of community use. We may not get everything we want, but we will try our best to make the proposed actions arising from the plan happen.

*Joyce Orves,  
Chair, Redgrave Parish Council*



## An Excellent Response!

My ancestors have been Lords of the Manor of Redgrave since 1702. Nowadays, however, the title is not much more than an interesting link with Redgrave's long history and boxes of historic papers. There are a few rights on minerals but nobody in their right mind thinks that we will strike oil in Redgrave. So I am really writing as one of the longer residents of Redgrave to say how impressive it is that 80% of all of the people in Redgrave gave their time to produce such excellent responses to the questionnaires.

Congratulations to all of the team, who compiled the questionnaires, distributed and collected them, analysed the data, and produced the report. May I wish you every success in the projects which will follow from this very real picture of our village today and what we would all like for the future.

*Peter Holt-Wilson,  
Lord of the Manor of Redgrave*



# A Historic Village

## A historic village evolving in a modern world...

Redgrave is a historic village of 220 dwellings located on the Suffolk side of the Norfolk/Suffolk border on the B1113 at the source of the rivers Waveney and Little Ouse.

It has a Grade 1 listed Church, a total of 50 listed buildings, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Redgrave Fen, home of the rare raft spider.

Over the years Redgrave has seen the usual decline in village facilities caused mainly by the increase in availability and use of cars and pressure on time. 50 years ago it had 2 bakeries, butcher, mill, undertaker, 3 pubs, dairy, petrol station and bicycle shop, 3 grocery shops, post office, 2 hairdressers, 2 churches, mission room, and a school.

Today its historic Church will no longer be used for regular services, and only the Mission Room and one pub remain. The sole facility created against the trend is the Activities Centre, which started as a sports' facility in 1998 and now doubles as a village hall.

The dwellings and residents have increased by 60% in 50 years. The population has gone from new arrivals being infrequent, to those who have lived in Redgrave for many years now being the minority.

Against this background it is essential to understand the priorities and wishes of the village, as it exists today. With such a radical evolution it would have been most unwise for anyone to guess or just think that they knew the answers. Redgrave Parish Council needed a consultation process in order to better reflect the opinions of the majority of residents in its decisions and has overall responsibility for implementation of the plan.

The parish plan, which was funded by the Countryside Agency and benefits from advice from Suffolk Acre, gives the results of a survey of the opinions of all the residents.

In March 2004 a village meeting was held in the Activities Centre, facilitated by Annette Gray of Suffolk Acre. She gave guidance on the issues which needed to be addressed and the meeting decided to support a survey and a plan.

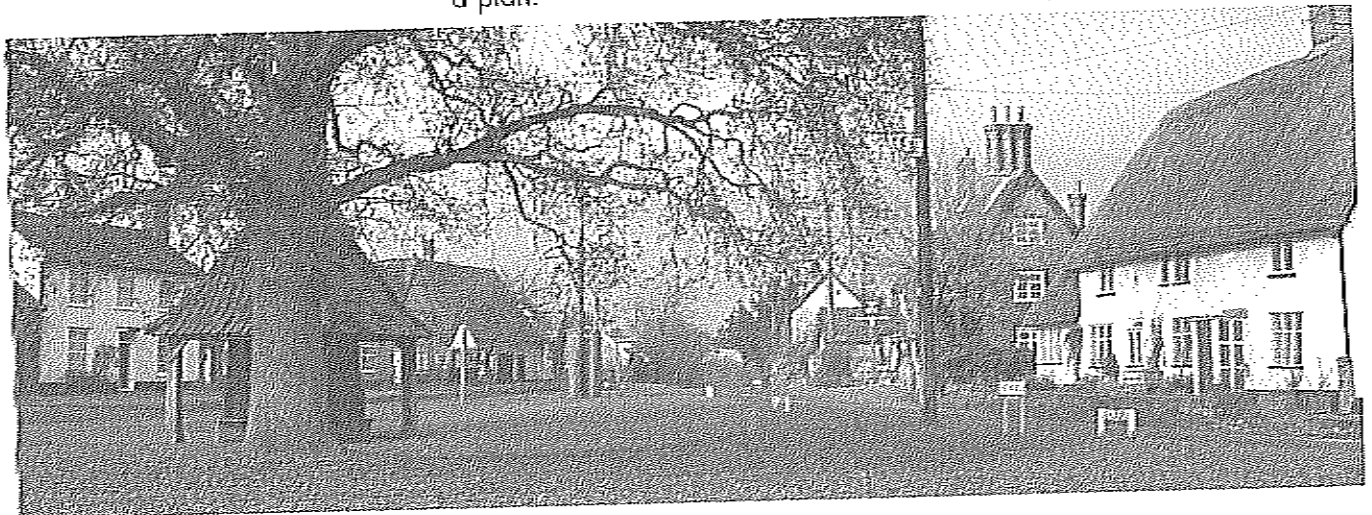
There were 59 who attended the meeting from the village. An 11 strong steering group managed the questionnaire and plan process. Over 30 people were involved in distributing and collecting the questionnaires, inputting and analysing the data. With a response rate of 80% the survey results are the most accurate local opinions available on the subjects covered and will therefore be used as the basis for future decisions.

The first stages of the action plans arising are included. Thanks to all who made this plan possible and for the messages of support from our local MP, our County Councillor, our District Councillor and the Lord of the Manor. Particular thanks also needs to go to the residents who gave so much time and thought to completing the questionnaires.

The follow pages give a short history of the evolution of the village over the 8000 years since its first known inhabitants written by local historian, Jean Sheehan.

It forms the heritage background to what we learned from the survey in 2004 and the action plan for 2005 and onwards.

*Your Steering Group*



# 8000 Years of History

The name Redgrave is derived from the Anglo Saxon language meaning Reed Ditch. The village is bounded by rivulets. On the northern boundary springs form the source of two rivers, the Little Ouse flowing west and the Waveney flowing east forming the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk.

The earliest evidence of man in Redgrave is Mesolithic. Waste flints were found by fieldwalkers between the present Fen Street and the Fen, which could date back to 6000 BC. Neolithic scrapers have also been found; probably dating from the time men first settled here and began farming.

Shards of pottery from the Bronze and Iron Ages, Roman and Saxon periods have also been found. An Anglo Saxon Cinerary Urn was discovered in the nineteenth century and Basil Brown, the local archaeologist who discovered the Sutton Hoo treasure found evidence of two Iron Age huts. The manor of Redgrave was given to the Abbot of Bury circa. 1005 by Ulfketel, known as Earl of East Anglia, probably as a thanks offering for victory over the Vikings in the Battle of Thetford.

The site of the Church probably dates back to the Anglo Saxon period as the Domesday Book of 1086 mentions a church with 30



St Mary's Church

acres of free land. The present church was built mid fourteenth century in the Decorated style, apart from the south aisle which is Perpendicular. The church is situated about one mile outside the village nucleus. There is no evidence of a medieval village being situated close to the church, but the site is situated between Fen Street, where there were many medieval homes, and the site of the hunting lodge built by Abbot Samson. Thomas Wolsey, later to become Cardinal, was Rector of Redgrave for a few months in 1506. Before the reformation the Church was dedicated to All Saints, but was later changed to St. Mary the Virgin.

The Church contains two very fine monuments. The tomb of Sir Nicholas Bacon, the son of Queen Elizabeth's Lord Keeper, is situated in the north aisle. He lies next to his wife Anne on a black marble altar tomb, which was erected on her death in 1616.



The Bacon Tomb

The white marble figures were added later by his son, Sir Edmund Bacon and were carved by Nicholas Stone for £200. The sanctuary contains the magnificent monument in white marble of Sir John Holt, Lord Chief Justice, who died in 1709. It is believed to be the finest monument carved by Thomas Green of Camberwell at a cost of

£1500, erected by his brother Rowland Holt.

In the floor of the sanctuary is one of the best post-reformation brasses in England. It depicts Anne Butts, the mother-in-law of Sir Nicholas Bacon who died in 1609 and would have originally been on the top of a table tomb. The sanctuary also contains a very ornate fourteenth century sedillia and a piscina, with another fourteenth century piscina and sedillia in the south aisle, and a font in the north aisle of a similar period.

The tower of the Church was originally built in brick, but collapsed in the sixteenth century. In the late eighteenth century it was encased in white Woolpit brick, probably to be in keeping with Redgrave Hall, which had recently been re-built. The tower contains six bells, three of which date from before 1553 and the sixth one made by John Munns and John Goldsmith, the latter resided in Redgrave and was buried in the churchyard in 1714.

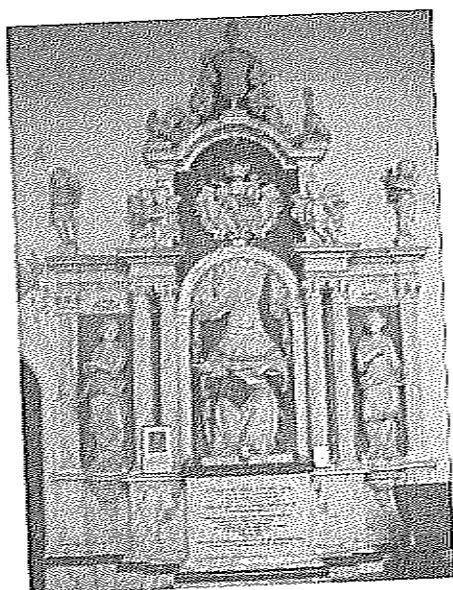
At the time of writing the Church is in the process of being made redundant and it is hoped the Churches Conservation Trust will accept it.

Abbot Samson, who died in 1211, built a hunting lodge in Redgrave Deer Park. It was built of stone and had many rooms and outbuildings. The manor was bought by Nicholas Bacon after the dissolution of the monasteries. The hunting lodge was in a ruinous condition and Nicholas began building a red brick house in 1545, completing it in 1554, at a cost of £1253.2s.5 3/4 d. The house had two wings and a hall approximately forty feet long

# 8000 Years of History

with a minstrel's gallery. Over the door was a stone tablet with the family motto of 'Mediocre Firma', which means moderate things are most lasting.

Redgrave Hall remained in the possession of the Bacon Family for nearly one hundred and fifty years. During which time extra cross wings were added. It was then bought by Sir John Holt in



The Holt Memorial

1702.

Sir John's great nephew, Rowland Holt inherited the manor in 1739, and later rebuilt the house in the Palladian style in white Woolpit Brick around four sides of the original courtyard, retaining the old Tudor Hall at the back as the kitchens of the new house.

The house and park were designed by Capability Brown. Building was started in 1765 and completed by 1770. The stream running through the park, forming the boundary between Redgrave and Botesdale, was widened to form a serpentine lake.

The manor eventually passed into the hands of Lucinda Holt who

was married to Thomas Wilson. The Wilson family lived in Redgrave Hall until 1895, after which it was let to tenants, one of whom was Lord Playfair.

The records of the manor, dating back to the thirteenth century were stored in the muniment room at Redgrave Hall. These documents were sold in 1921 at auction, with over four and a half thousand documents, including the court rolls, eventually being purchased by the University of Chicago. Students from all over the world use these to build a picture of life on a medieval manor in England during the medieval period.

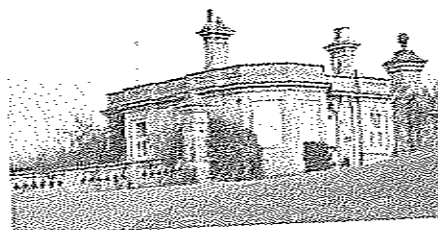
The furniture from Redgrave Hall was sold at another auction in 1936. Between the years 1936 and 1938 the house was used as a country club, with a golf course in the park.

The Derbyshire Yeomanry were stationed at the hall at the start of the second world war, followed by the Highland Light Infantry, and later the Royal Signals. The park was used as the U.S. Army 65th General Hospital from 1944, with the house being used as the Officers' Mess. A prisoner-of-war camp was also situated in the park, on the opposite side of the lake.

By the end of the war the mansion had become very dilapidated and it was decided that it should be dismantled. An auction was held in 1946, to sell the fixtures and fittings from the house, with the final lot being the shell of the house.

The old Tudor kitchen block was excluded from the sale, but was finally taken down in 1966 and

the tablet over the door was returned to the Bacon family.



The Gatehouse recalls the days of the hall.

The site of the hall and the park is now owned by Mr. Guy Topham, but the title of Lord of the Manor is held by Mr. Peter Holt-Wilson.

The village school was built in 1845 and founded by George St. Vincent Wilson, the squire, Revd. Thomas Holt Wilson, the rector and Miss Barbara Wilson. The parish of Redgrave also included the village of Botesdale and the school was built for the children of both parishes. The house opposite the school was built to house the headmaster.



The Old School.

During the war years children from the East End of London were evacuated to the two villages and attended the school. At the beginning of the war the children were having music and English lessons and educational films in the Mission Room, as there were an extra 51 children, 3 masters and one schoolmistress.

# 8000 Years of History

The school was closed in 1994 when it was amalgamated with Rickinghall School and moved into a brand new school built at Botesdale for all the primary age schoolchildren of these villages.

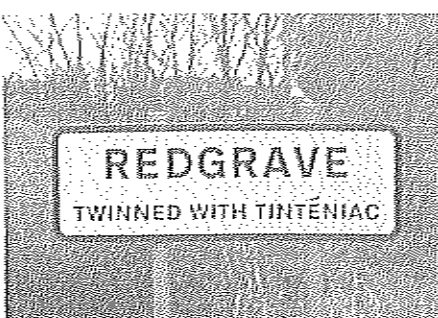
The Mission Room was built in 1897 by The Revd. Thomas Holt Wilson. The evening services for the parish were being held in



The Mission Room.

private houses and the school during the winter as the church was dark and it was a long way from the village. Various events were held to raise the money with the shortfall being given by the Rector. Plans have been drawn up to renovate the Mission Room to hold more services there when St. Mary's Church is made redundant.

The Methodist Chapel was built in 1897. Before this, groups of Methodists had met in private houses. The first Independent congregation formed in 1672. The Methodist Chapel closed in 1994 and has now been



Welcome to Europe!



The Cross Keys - There were six pubs!

converted to a private house. Joseph Hart and his sons were organ builders in the nineteenth century living in the houses now known as Rose Cottage and Walnut Tree Cottage, with a large workshop in the garden in which the organs were built. They built an organ for Redgrave Church in 1842 but this was replaced by a very fine organ in 1890 in memory of Mrs. Lucy Wilson, wife of the squire.

The only public house remaining is the Cross Keys. Almost opposite this were The Fox and The Grapes. Other public houses were The Drum, The Half Moon and the Greyhound.

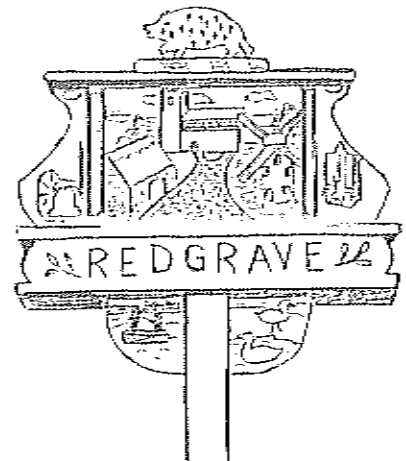
In the nineteenth century, apart from the usual shops and public houses, there was a wheelwright, blacksmith, wine, spirit, coal and corn merchant, corn millers, tea dealer, tailor, saddler, harness maker, thatcher, horse dealer, cobbler, plumber and in 1836 even an umbrella maker.

The last shop and post office closed in 2003 and its owner has applied to change it to housing.

The Abbot of Bury was given a charter in 1227 to hold a market for the manor of Redgrave. This was situated in Botesdale along the main road between Bury St. Edmunds and Lowestoft to catch the passing trade.

The twentieth century saw the change from a typical agricultural self-sufficient village, to one where the majority of the employed inhabitants work outside the village.

The Village Sign has two different sides depicting features of Redgrave and its history. One side shows St Mary's Church, one of the mills and the gabled barn



The Village Sign.

together with the bell and organ depicting two of the village trades. The fen side shows raft spiders, a reed warbler, and an adder against a background of sedge cutting plus the ducks and the lake with monks fishing. The heraldic parts of the sign are the



Traditional cottages in the village.

Holt and Wilson emblems plus the ermine pig of the Bacon family.



# Questionnaire Replies

## Household basic information

The response to the household questionnaire was excellent with 183 replies out of a possible 220, (83%). Clearly the report can only refer to the reaction of those 183 householders but this sample is high enough to give a valid indication of facts and feelings on the subjects raised.

The householders were asked to provide factual information and therefore much of the data didn't reveal any surprises but the following education and social

notes provide a useful background to the later sections of the report.

Out of the 422 people represented, 93 are under 18 years and 123 over 60. Most of the residents, (95%) referred to Redgrave as their main or only home and 157 are owner-occupiers. 16 self-identified as people with disabilities.

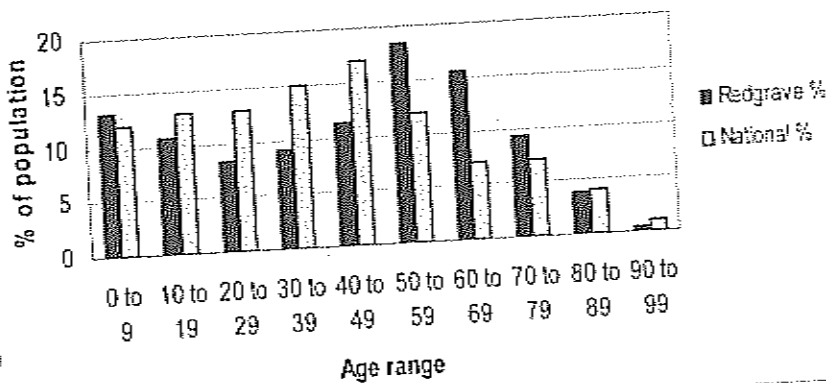
This survey did not include the 9 new houses as yet unoccupied.

71% of villagers live in detached

homes and 22% in semi detached properties. As might be expected in an old settlement 26% of the housing stock was built before the 19th century and another 14% is pre 1930. There are 50 Listed Buildings in the village.

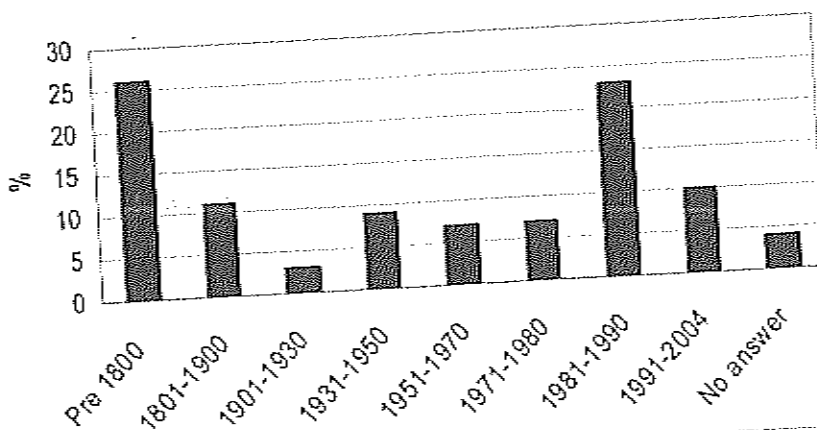
The adult section will provide more detail of where Redgrave children go to school or college but there are 20 attending pre school groups. 38 young people attend primary schools and 24 attend secondary schools with 2 at middle school and 1 going to a school for those with special needs.

Peak is 10 years older than national average



Redgrave's age groups compared to national average.

One third of all houses have been built in the last 25 years



House building in Redgrave over the past 25 years.

It seems that there is a good level of satisfaction with schooling as 63 householders expressed approval against only 2 who were not happy. The 70 'don't knows' and those who simply didn't answer, no doubt represent the many people who have no current need to be aware of standards in local education. Despite this general satisfaction some of our under 17's are put off 'after school' activities. 13 families, (54% of responses on this subject) felt there were no suitable activities and 7 lacked transport home.

Childcare is clearly a problem as 24 of our respondents felt that improved facilities in Redgrave would help them. 12 said that local childcare would allow them to return to work, 5 could extend the hours they worked and 7 could undertake training or study.

The specific childcare facilities requested were an 'after school' club, (17) a holiday club, (21) and a breakfast club for children, (9). Another 12 households would use a local registered nursery or private nursery.

# Questionnaire Replies

Mobility – traffic is dealt with more fully elsewhere but Redgrave people have 274 cars and 177 bicycles – it would be interesting to know how many of the bicycles are used regularly!

## Project Finance

Redgrave taxpayers currently pay around £35 per year for that part of council tax that is spent for them by the parish council. As would be expected, there is not great enthusiasm for more tax increases even for projects identified by the village plan. Of the 183 householders contributing to this report -

87 People, (48% of the village) would pay more

48 People, (26% of the village) would not pay any more

47 People, (25% of the village) did not reply

95 People, (52% of the village) do not support higher local tax

A £10 increase would only be able to yield £2000. Those who wish to carry projects forward will need to consider carefully how their projects can be funded.

## Adults Opinions

All the following are based on the 338 questionnaires that were returned.

### Our Services

These questions covered the Emergency Services, (Fire, Police and Ambulance), street lighting, road signs and most importantly the lack of a village shop.

### Emergency Services

Of the questionnaires returned more than 56% did not answer this section. That may be purely

because they have never used any of the emergency services. Of the remainder, 44% gave an opinion although fortunately, people appeared generally not to have needed these services.

Despite overall satisfaction with response times, several significant problems were identified.

## Street Lighting

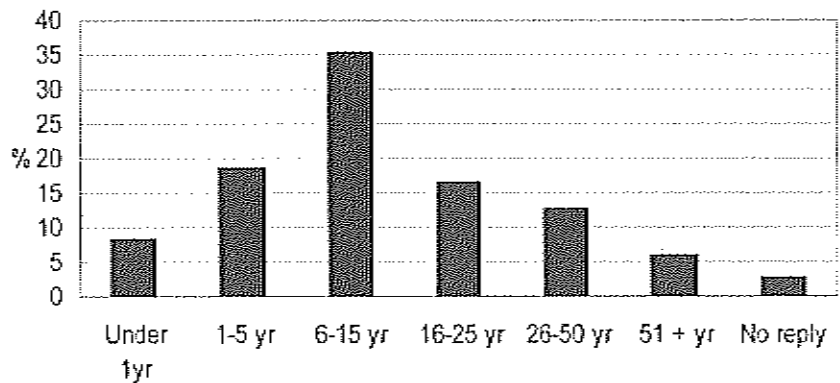
37 people did not answer this question. Of the 90% of people who replied, only 95 wanted more lights. The areas commented on were along The Street, Half

Moon Lane and Church Way.

However, 206 stated that they did not want any more lights.

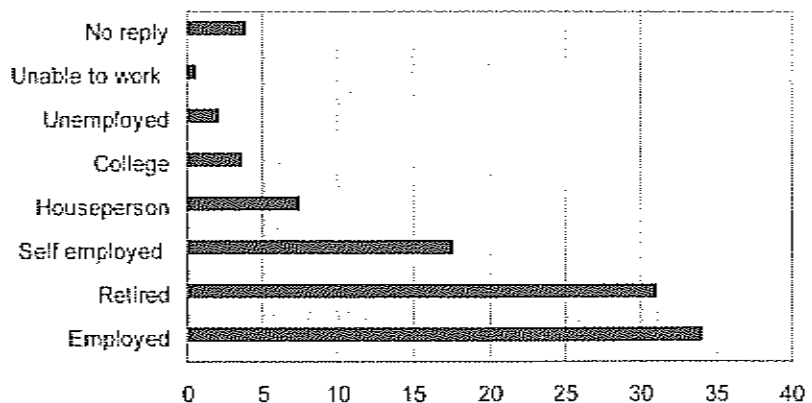
The most common reason given was to avoid light pollution. Some thought that more lighting would spoil the village. Others thought more lighting would attract vandals and that lit up areas would encourage gangs of youths loitering in the village. It was obvious that most people in the village are happy with the amount of street lighting we have.

A quarter of adults have lived here less than 6 years



Length of residency by age group.

Occupation %



Occupational categories in the village.

# Questionnaire Replies

## Road Signs

The majority of residents in Redgrave felt that the number of road signs was about right. Only 58 people felt that there were too many, and 50 people gave no answer. However, some people felt that some of the signs were badly sited and too low, below head height.

## Shop Closure

The loss of the last remaining shop in the village has caused a lot of comment, most of which shows that although the majority of people are able to manage; they would prefer to have 'their shop'.

Of the 338 adults who answered, 38 gave no opinion and 144 said that the loss was a significant problem. However, 156 said that it did not cause them a significant problem, but most would like to see it re-open because it was a focal point in the village as well as providing a service.

People felt that they would rather have a local shop than produce more pollution by driving to Rickingham and beyond for basic foods and the post office. There were 128 written comments saying how inconvenient it was to be without the shop and post office. As 14% of the population are aged 65 and over it is likely to become more of a problem as the village ages.

## Use of Facilities

In the 338 questionnaires returned this section showed a very mixed use of the village facilities, which is clearly shown in the following chart.

People were asked how often they used the village facilities. The most popular is the Cross Keys pub, followed closely by the Activities Centre, the Church and Mission Room.

The most frequently used play area is the Amenities Field

followed by the Half Moon children's play area.

The mobile library is not used very much. This may be due to a lack of knowledge of this facility.

There are a lot of suggestions to improve and increase the use of the Amenities Field including:

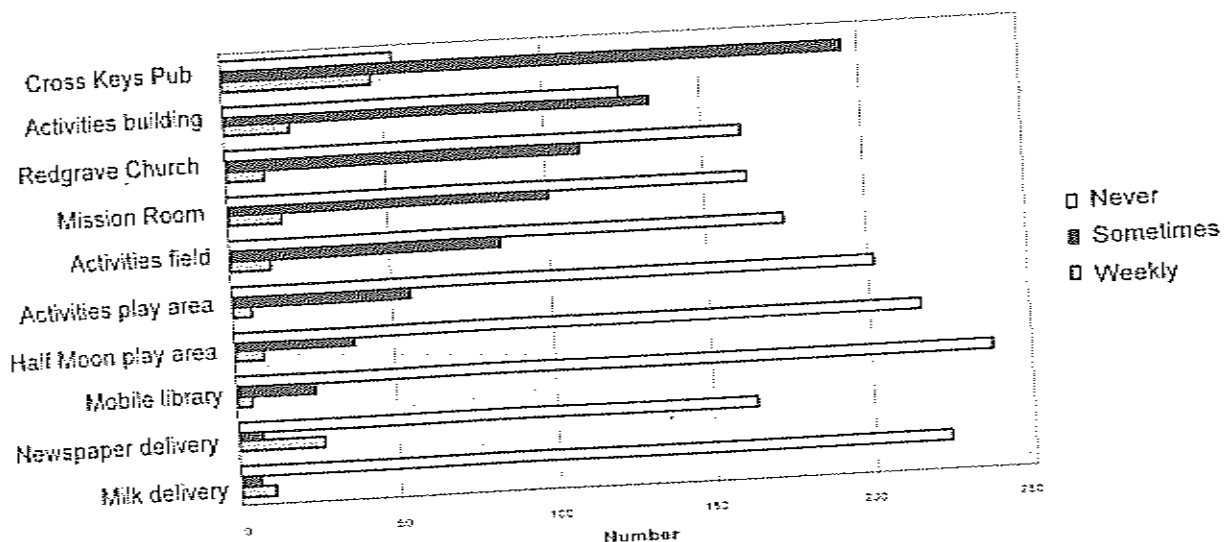
- A larger and improved play area;
- A skating and cycling area;
- Bowls and tennis area.

There are also a lot of suggestions about the future of the Activities Centre and these include both a:

- Larger kitchen and storage area;
- Larger main room

Most people would like the buildings appearance to be improved. They are aware that this is both expensive and not practical or possible unless the village owns the land the building is on.

Use of facilities



Villagers use of facilities.

# Questionnaire Replies

The results show that two thirds of the village either do not know about the Half Moon play area or don't have an opinion about it. Of the remaining one third of answers given the ratio of 2 to 1 are satisfied with the facilities there.

Suggestions were also made that the village did not need 2 play areas and the village should concentrate on the Amenities Field play area.

## Redgrave Church

Of the questionnaires collected in, 122 did not answer this section.

72 of those who answered declared that the Church was important for worship.

137 said that the Church was important for baptisms, weddings & funerals. Slightly more than this said it was a focal point for the community.

230 people felt it was important to maintain the Church as a historic building.

## Most don't attend regularly

241 people do not attend the Church in Redgrave or any other Church or religious group outside the Parish.

58 people attend other religious groups outside the village.

The majority of those who attend elsewhere go to The Catholic Church in Diss, Parkview Chapel Botesdale & the Methodist Churches.

## The Mission Room

42 people said that the Mission Room was important for worship.

212 were of the opposite opinion. 84 people did not answer.

91 people felt that the Mission Room was an asset for social activities but 169 said it was not.

109 agreed that the building was a focal point for the community, with 154 against.

75 people did not answer this question.

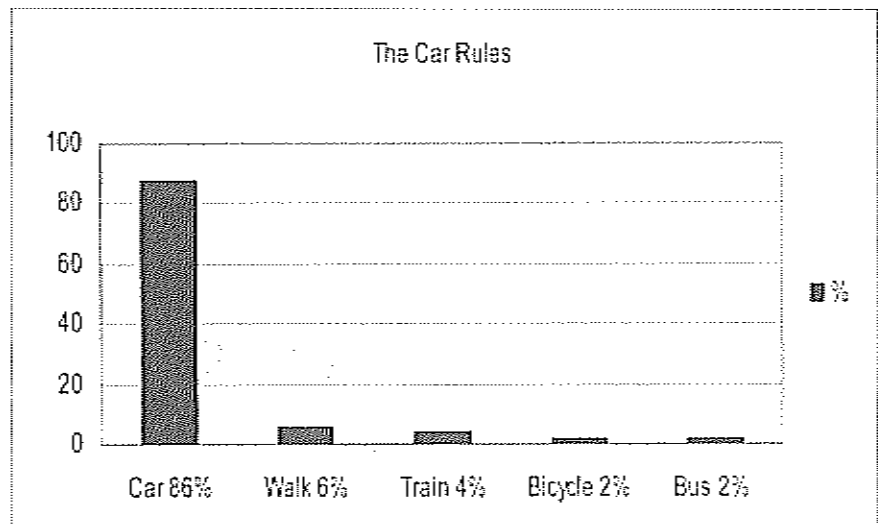
Only 5 questionnaires had comments, these ranged from

poor parking, lack of publicity on services offered, inadequate facilities, and finally lack of cleaning.

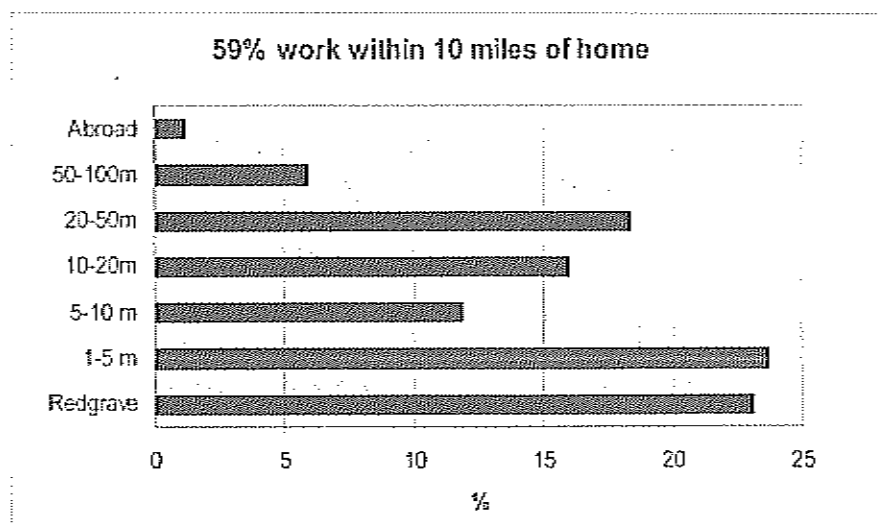
## Walking and biking: rare

On the questionnaires returned 171 people travel to their work, by car or van. This form of transport is mainly used for leisure.

270 and 284 use a car for shopping & taking children to school or college. 11 are able to walk, 2 use car & train & 3 cycle.



Transport used by villagers.



Distances travelled to work.

# Questionnaire Replies

174 residents use their own transport for voluntary & charitable work.

192 need their vehicle for visiting the Health Centre.

A little over one third of vehicles are kept in a garage, the remainder are mainly parked off the road.

122 of the replies used the train occasionally and 78 people use taxis occasionally.

43 people regularly use a bus service from Redgrave. 21 use a coach for longer distance travel, day trips or holidays. This small number of users felt, that routes and timings of trains and buses could be improved

There seemed to be lack of awareness of the community wheels van. Those who did use it commented that it was unreliable.

## Speed bumps would not be popular

200 felt speed limits should be enforced, preferably by flashing warning signs. A small majority

thought more signs warning of dangers should be provided.

58 felt speed humps would improve safety.

## Improvement Areas

The following areas needing improvements were identified:

The lack of a pavement on the south side of Churchway;

The lack of a pavement between Crossroads & Charters Towers;

Excessive speeding by vehicles through the village;

The blind corner between the shop and the Mission Room;

The 'S' bends on entering the village from Botesdale;

Cars parked along Churchway;

Cars parked without lights;

Bridleways & Footpaths need improvement and maintenance;

A safer cycling and walking route between Redgrave and Botesdale.

## Health Services

Redgrave has a population that is overwhelmingly happy with its health services with only 16 people, (5%) registering discontent. There are also 16 people unhappy with Social Services. Botesdale Health Centre is by far the nearest general practice and explains why 88% of Redgrave residents are registered there.

There are also 37 who use doctors in Diss and Hopton. Also two who are registered out of the area. This apparent satisfaction with local services hides a significant 'wish list' of additional therapies and services that Redgrave people would like. These services range from mental health to breast screening and from dentistry to homeopathy and podiatry.

It may be that a clearer knowledge of the services that are available and where they can be accessed would be useful.

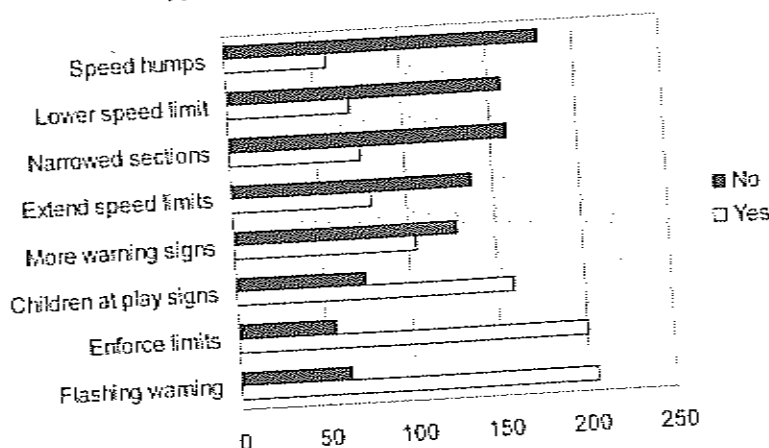
However good the doctors, nurses and social workers in Suffolk are, they have difficulty helping those who are not able to travel. Over 30 people do find this a problem, even for short journeys to Botesdale and Diss.

Many of those with travel problems, (for medical visits) were elderly or female. Those who are getting older wonder how they will manage to get to hospitals and doctors when they are unable to drive.

## Good Neighbour Scheme

It is not obvious from the results of our survey whether there is a clear need for a 'Good Neighbour' scheme as 120 were

Traffic control measures wanted



Possible traffic control measures.

# Questionnaire Replies

in favour and 119 against, with 99 not answering the question.

This is an area where there may be a lack of understanding about such schemes. If so, some additional work seems necessary if we are to ensure that those needing help get it – without disturbing the neighbourly care that is already part of the local culture.

## Refuse Collection

Redgrave people are justly proud of the village atmosphere and, judging from the response to environmental questions, they want to keep the village clean and tidy. The following table shows the percentage of people who said services were either good or reasonable:

|                   |   |           |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Snow clearance    | - | 215 (72%) |
| Road gritting     | - | 215 (72%) |
| Waste recycling   | - | 85 (28%)  |
| Litter bins       | - | 141 (47%) |
| Street cleaning   | - | 170 (57%) |
| Refuse collection | - | 287 (97%) |

When asked which of the solutions should be used to deal with any lack of tidiness in the village, around 33% chose not to answer. The responses are shown below:

## Bylaws Enforcement

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| For     | - | 162 (54%) |
| Against | - | 52 (17%)  |

## More Road Sweeping

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| For     | - | 160 (54%) |
| Against | - | 51 (17%)  |

## Village Spring Clean Day

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| For     | - | 107 (36%) |
| Against | - | 81 (27%)  |

## More Notices

|         |   |          |
|---------|---|----------|
| For     | - | 63 (21%) |
| Against | - | 98 (33%) |

## Recycling Services

Redgrave residents are enthusiastic recyclers with more than half of the population using the facilities at Brome, Roydon, Rickinghall and the bottle bank at the Cross Keys pub. Nearly 100 people took the trouble to comment on recycling services. There is enthusiasm for more facilities in Redgrave (246 [83%] for & 48 [16%] against).

## Dogs

Other issues that affect the enjoyment of the village include the problem of dog fouling.

118 people, (39%) were not aware of a problem

186 people, (62%) supported measures to reduce this, these included:

|                    |   |           |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Dog mess bins      | - | 103 (35%) |
| Enforced fines     | - | 104 (35%) |
| More notices       | - | 89 (30%)  |
| Set exercise areas | - | 53 (18%)  |
| Dog wardens        | - | 41 (14%)  |

## The Knoll and The Pond

It's not possible to talk about the Redgrave environment without a mention of the two areas that

define the centre of the village, the Duck Pond and The Knoll.

Whilst the village seems very happy with The Knoll, (only 28 out of 338 felt it needed improving) there is concern about the Duck Pond. This section produced 225 votes, (76%) for more and better maintenance.

Villagers generally want a cleaner pond with more seating.

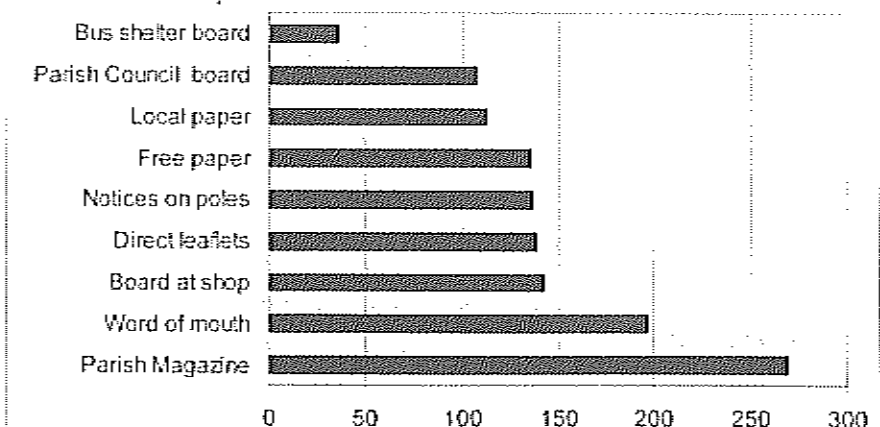
## Parish Magazine

The steering group wanted to know how everyone heard about what went on in the village in order to provide a basis for any improvements. Redgrave seems to use all of the normal sources of information about local events.

269, (91%) gave the parish magazine as their primary source, with 197, (66%) giving word of mouth as the two most widely used methods of communication, followed closely by all of the various notices and notice boards.

There is a lack of knowledge about how village organisations publish their activities & decisions.

Where do you get information ?



Information Sources.

# Questionnaire Replies

## Parish Council

The Parish Council should be known to all residents because of the frequency of meetings and breadth of its involvement in village life.

171 people, (51%) know how they publish their decisions. 87 people, (29%) were satisfied with how the PC spends their taxes, 32, (10%) were not. 171, (57%) didn't know how they spent it. 154, (46%) felt that councillors were aware of their concerns and feelings and 72, (24%) did not.

As members of the community, everyone can attend the parish council meetings and have their say on any issue. 132, (44%) had attended a meeting and 181, (61%) had not.

The reasons for this are worth publishing in full and are set out below:

Redgrave residents do not go to PC meetings because:

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| No time               | 61 |
| Not interested        | 42 |
| Inconvenient time     | 19 |
| Would be boring       | 17 |
| Unaware of time/place | 28 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Didn't want to be pressed into active involvement | 40 |
| Didn't know it was a public meeting               | 14 |

## District/County Council

District and County councils fared even worse with relatively few residents having confidence that they knew what concerned locals.

An average of 80 people, (27%) thought the District and County Councillors were aware and 124, (42%) thought they were not.

## Information booklet and website

178, (60%) feel that they need a single, central means of information in Redgrave. 56, (19%) disagreed. 104, (35%) didn't answer this question.

165, (55%) voted for an information booklet. 142, (48%) voted for a website, with 110, (37%) welcoming a website as the main source of information.

196, (66%) have access to the web. 224 residents, (75%) have access to a computer at home. 75, (25%) wanted a public internet facility, but 149, (50%) did not.

## Crime

Information from the survey shows the following analysis:

19 households suffered Vandalism/crime damage in the last 3 years.

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Burglaries            | 16 |
| Theft                 | 13 |
| Rowdy behaviour       | 13 |
| Drunkenness           | 4  |
| Threatening behaviour | 5  |
| Assault               | 1  |

When asked if crimes were reported to the police, 12 people said they didn't think anything could be done and 17 considered it too trivial.

Others said they were nervous of revenge attacks, or were not prepared to give statements, or didn't know how to report it.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood watch, (NHW) meetings are organised by an area co-ordinator, helped by 20 street co-ordinators.

NHW meeting dates and venues are always advertised in the Parish Magazine.

When asked about attending NHW the response was:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Not interested                                    | 26 |
| Inconvenient time                                 | 57 |
| Said it could not help them                       | 12 |
| Didn't want to be pressed into active involvement | 44 |
| Hadn't heard of NHW                               | 38 |
| Didn't know they could attend                     | 33 |

Didn't know what the meetings were about 5

221 people said that they know how NHW works, 82 do not.

185 people knew how to contact their NHW co-ordinator, 117 did not.

## Housing

Redgrave has a mixture of ancient and modern dwellings as well as 'in between' type properties, spanning the years from the 14th to the 21st Century.

One third of all houses have been built in the past 25 years, which is an average rate of 2 or 3 per year.

124, (37%) want more houses to be built. 169, (50%) do not.

45, (13%) didn't give an opinion

## Small Developments

151 residents expressed a view:

56% favour small groups of two to ten properties;

44% favour infill development.  
Two favour large estates

# Questionnaire Replies

## Local affordability

116, (52%) of the 225 who answered the question said that there should be more houses available at low cost.

93 people, (41%) said that sales should be restricted to local people.

85, (38%) favoured rentable housing association property

Of the 151 who answered this multiple choice question, 137, (91%) would like building for first time buyers. Only 67, (44%) would like family houses built.

There is very little need for other accommodation by villagers, with only nine needing an alternative in Redgrave and seven elsewhere.

## Activities Centre Land

The Activities Centre is on a land lease until 2021, but costs could be minimised by buying the land.

87, (26%) did not reply.

Of those who responded:

167, (50%) thought that the Parish Council *should* buy the land.

84, (24%) were *not* in favour of buying the land.

From comments made, some people did not know why it might be necessary to buy the land. Some needed more information before answering the question.

There was a certain amount of concern about the land being used for development and some were asking where more information is available. There were offers of help to fundraise.

## Selling Parish Land

One of the ways of financing the purchase of the Activities Centre land *might* be to sell some of the land owned by the parish. The responses to this question were:

97, (29%) did not reply.

129, (38%) thought that some of the Parish land *should* be sold.

112, (33%) thought that Parish land *should not* be sold

Once again there was some concern about development over selling land in order to protect green spaces. Several people needed to know more and where this information is available.

Many of the people who replied positively, were in favour of selling as much land as is necessary to purchase Amenities Centre field.

There was a lack of knowledge of where the land owned by the Parish Council is situated, and some would have appreciated a map in the questionnaire. Once again fundraising was mentioned as an option and help volunteered.

## What do we sell?

Of the 129 people who replied positively to the idea of selling land, the results are shown below:

It will be noted from the table, that since only 129 people

voted to sell any Parish Council Land, 25 people *too many* voted on the Half Moon option.

It would appear that a clear majority of the 129 are in favour of selling options 1 and 2.

## Social Networks

There are a variety of clubs and organisations in the village that meet in different venues:

The Activities Centre;  
The Mission Room;  
St Mary's Church;  
The Cross Keys Pub.

## St Mary's Church

The church is being made redundant on 1st April, 2005 but it is hoped that it will be taken over by the Churches Conservation Trust. This will mean that it will be used for 6 services per year as well as weddings, baptisms, funerals, concerts and other village activities. It is the largest meeting room in the village and can comfortably accommodate 400 people.

## Redgrave Amenities Trust

This is a charity for the benefit of the people of Redgrave. It provided much of the funding required to start the Half Moon Lane play area. It has built and runs the Activities Centre, which was completed in 1998. It rents a 12 acre field, which is home to the football club, cricket club and another play area. The Centre has two changing rooms, an

| Parish Owned Land                                      | Total | Yes | No |
|--|-------|-----|----|
| Land at corner of Mill Lane/Fen Street <sup>1</sup>    | 21    | 78  | 43 |
| Land opposite Fen Farm ('The Allotments') <sup>2</sup> | 125   | 78  | 47 |
| Half Moon Play Area <sup>3</sup>                       | 154   | 71  | 83 |

Opinions on the sale of village land.



# Questionnaire Replies

activity room for 50 people, showers, toilets and a small kitchen. Many and varied activities take place there including Parish Council meetings, Art Club, Luncheon Club, Ladies Club, Quizzes and Whist Drives. The committee includes 3 Trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

## The Community Council

This is a charity mainly involved in fund raising events for the benefit of the village including managing the play area in Half Moon Lane and organising the traditional visit of Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. Events are usually held in the Mission Room or at the play area.

## Parochial Church Council

The council meets quarterly. It maintains and operates the Mission Room, which is a place of worship. It is also used as a meeting room and will accommodate up to 80 people, with a kitchen and toilets. The meeting room is used for a variety of activities, which include prayer and discussion groups.

## The Parish Council

This has nine members and meets monthly at the Activities Centre. The public are welcome to attend all meetings.

## The Village Day Committee

This group organises the annual Village Day at the end of May, on the Knoll. It consists of games, activities and fun events for children, teas for adults, a barbecue and karaoke.

## Redgrave Rangers FC

They have three teams and one junior team, (under 14's). Home matches are played on the pitch at the Activities Centre. The club also organises a fete, quiz

evenings, car rallies and children's discos.

## Redgrave and District Ladies Club

This evolved from the former WI and meets at the Activities centre. Outings are arranged and there are talks by guest speakers.

## Redgrave Luncheon Club

This meets monthly. Currently the number of members is limited until the Activities Centre is expanded. Any surplus funds raised go to the Redgrave Amenities Trust.

## The Redgrave and Bressingham Cricket Club

This is based at the Activities Centre. In addition to home matches it organises social events,

## The Phoenix Club

This is allied with Age Concern and meets fortnightly, for lunch, at the Mission Room. The club also organises outings.

## The Art Club

Members meet weekly at the Activities Centre. All paint mediums are used. Occasionally well-known local artists are guests for the day.

## The Leg Club

This is a support group held weekly at the Activities Centre. It's open to anyone including patients referred by their GP. Registered nurses, as well as volunteer helpers are in attendance.

## The Whist Club

This meets monthly at the Activities Centre, for entertaining evenings of progressive Whist.

## Neighbourhood Watch

This meets twice a year or as required, and updates villagers through the parish magazine.

## Encore

This is a local mixed singing group, (with a pianist) which performs for charity. Their repertoire covers music hall to modern day.

## New Activities

The table below shows activities that people would like to be available. Broken down by age group and the type of activity. The number of people wanting each activity is also shown.

|   | Adults | -18 |
|---|--------|-----|
| Village Cinema                            | 110    | 10  |
| Evening Classes                           | 103    | 1   |
| Local Interest Talks                      | 98     | 1   |
| Theatre Visits                            | 63     | 5   |
| Gardening                                 | 62     | 2   |
| Quiz Evenings                             | 59     | -   |
| Tennis                                    | 56     | 13  |
| Aerobics                                  | 52     | 4   |
| Badminton                                 | 50     | 6   |
| Yoga                                      | 44     | 2   |
| Boules (Petanque)                         | 42     | 3   |
| Bowls                                     | 41     | 4   |
| Dancing                                   | 38     | 11  |
| Barn Dance                                | 36     | 1   |
| Flower Arranging                          | 31     | 1   |
| Treasure Hunt                             | 30     | 8   |
| Billiards/Snooker                         | 26     | 2   |
| Squash                                    | 26     | 4   |
| Martial Arts                              | 21     | 11  |
| Volley Ball                               | 21     | 3   |
| Table Tennis                              | 18     | 3   |
| Skittles                                  | 14     | 1   |
| Athletics                                 | 9      | 15  |
| Basket Ball                               | 9      | 8   |
| Religious and Spiritual Discussion Groups | 20     | 1   |

There are a number of other activities, (not listed) involving Redgrave and the surrounding villages. Details will be available in the information booklet currently being produced for eventual distribution to every household in Redgrave.

# Questionnaire Replies

## Young People's Replies

60 young people responded which is a 90% response rate. This was the highest rate of return to any of the questionnaires distributed.

There were 31 males and 29 females in the age range of eight to 17 years. The majority of young people currently living in Redgrave are under 14. One young person self-identified as someone with a disability.

All 60 children are in full time education. 23 at Botesdale, 25 at Hartismere (in Eye), four at Thetford, and three at Culford (near Bury St Edmunds). Three young people have part-time jobs.

The means of transport to school is by car or bus with nobody walking or cycling. Three use two modes of transport.

59 young people generally felt safe in the village. One young person didn't feel safe, but the majority avoided going out after dark and don't go out alone. Lack of street lighting and the speed of traffic are a concern.

If they needed to go out it was with parents or friends and they take a mobile phone and stay away from certain areas.

Most young people have several different leisure activities:

Watching television - 49 (82%)  
 Meeting with others - 44 (73%)  
 Sports - 42 (70%)

Other activities were Brownies, music, computers, computer games, cycling, dancing, drama, drawing, gardening, horse riding, Kook Sool Won, Lego, reading.

17, (28%) listed sport as the activity they spent the most time doing. The four most popular sports being hockey, horse riding, rugby, and swimming.

Most of the activities in the village seem to be biased towards traditional boys games, (such as *cricket and football*).

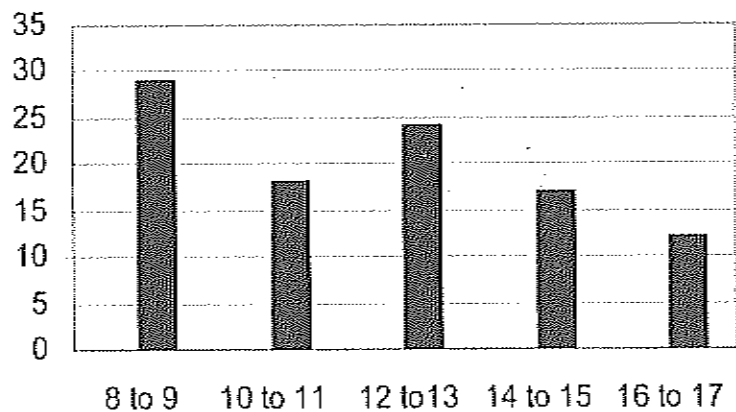
It was very clear from the responses given by girls living in the village, that most if not all of them feel there are not any activities specifically aimed at them.

More activities are wanted on the playing field such as hockey, tennis and play equipment for older children.

Other suggested activities were:  
 Over 13's football;  
 Five-a-side football;  
 Tennis;  
 Cricket;  
 Rugby.

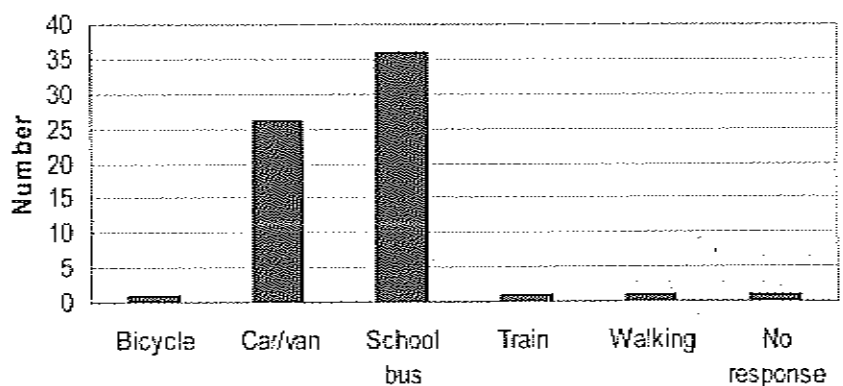
More equipment is needed on the playing field and the Half Moon play area needs some improvement.

Age Range of Young People



Ages ranges of young people living in the village in %.

Young people transport to school



Transport used by young people.

# Questionnaire Replies

The next question asked was, 'What else is needed in Redgrave that doesn't exist?'

16 of 42 comments stated that the village needed a shop again and 58, (96%) felt the closure of the shop in 2003 had affected them for one reason or another.

Other views included: 39, (65%) wanted a youth club; 47, (78%) wanted an indoor meeting place; and 39, (65%) wanted a youth council. Other suggestions were for indoor sports facilities, (for badminton for example), a

running track on the field and a football team for the girls.

It was also thought that a tarmac area on the playing field would be good, especially for netball, basketball and tennis.

The area round the basketball net is grass and the ball doesn't bounce enough. Tarmac would be much better.

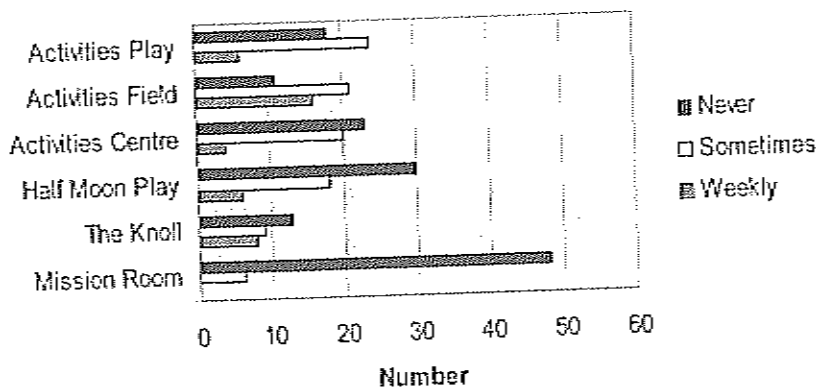
Improving the village for the young people included several more issues including a safe cycle route to school and weight restrictions on lorries.

Although the response rate from young people living in Redgrave was very high, the comment was made that we could have asked better questions.

There isn't very much for Redgrave teenagers. Over 12's want to get together to socialise, maybe somewhere nicer than the bus shelter! There's also a demand for discos that are aimed more at teenagers.

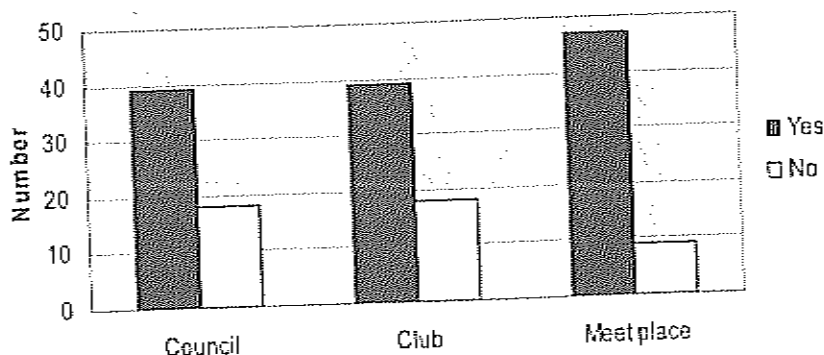
More interesting play/activity equipment was wanted for older children. Some ideas were: swings, a see-saw, a grown up slide, rope swings, tyres, an adventure playground/obstacle course and a picnic area.

Young people use the following



Facilities used by young people in the village.

Young people want to meet



Where young villagers want to meet.

There were 95 comments about how young people miss the shop and want one back. Some of the young people surveyed used the shop daily.

Young people don't like the fact that they can't just pop down to the shop to buy sweets, ice cream, magazines and meet their friends.

The shop was obviously very important to young people in the village. They are very aware that we all have to go to Botesdale for anything you would normally find in a typical village shop.

Other things that were considered important were:

- A more frequent bus service;
- More sports in the form of basketball, squash, rounders, netball, hockey and BMX;
- A golf bunker and putting green.

Young people also commented that they also ought to have a say and a choice about something planned for the village that would affect them.

# Questionnaire Replies

## Business Results

23 Questionnaires were returned from a wide variety of businesses. 21 identified the nature of their business. The only common factors were four farming, two building/construction. The remainder being varied and not directly related.

Village businesses employ a total of 55 permanent and 60 temporary staff. In addition 33 are sub-contracted. 15 of the permanent staff live in Redgrave.

15 of the businesses have plans to expand and 12 expect to create new job opportunities.

Five employers stated they have a shortage of unskilled labour and eight have a shortage of skilled labour. The skill shortages are within building, farming and health care. No specific training needs were identified. Four companies indicated difficulties in recruiting staff.

According to the employers, no employees have problems with transport to and from work. The majority of firms are satisfied with the road network and its general maintenance. Some commented on poor hedge and verge cutting schedules during the summer and road gritting in winter.

The lack of adequate or suitable premises was referred to in only two instances, the areas of concern being lack of suitable storage facilities and retail outlets.

Half the companies had experience with the local planning authorities but only four commented. There were no common trends in the responses. Services were generally considered acceptable with the

exception of the electricity supply. Frequent power cuts and surges were cited as problems.

The postal service was identified as unsatisfactory by three businesses with earlier delivery being preferred.

Waste disposal is an area of dissatisfaction identified by two of the businesses.

The perception of the quality of service provided by the local police was equally divided, with eight satisfied, eight dissatisfied.

The main problem identified is that policing is 'invisible'.

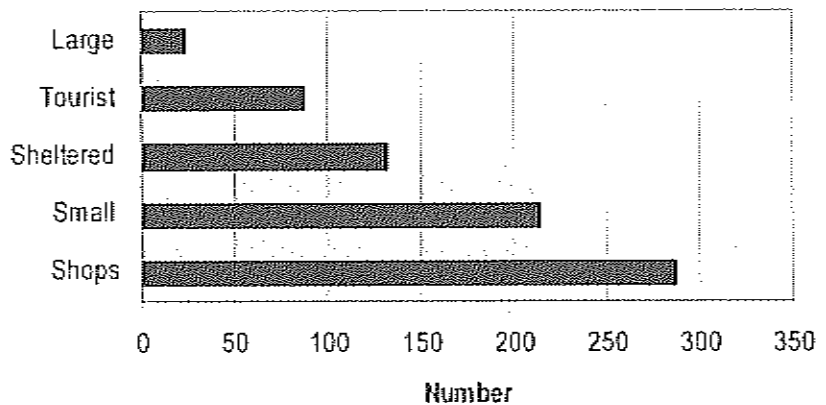
Finally, areas identified where the local authorities could be of assistance to local businesses are:

- A reduction of business rates
- An increase in storage facilities
- An increase in retail premises
- A reduction in the paperwork required for planning

## More Businesses and Shops

The views of the 338 adults about businesses are shown in the chart of types of businesses wanted.

Types of business wanted



Business wanted in Redgrave.



Redgrave Business Park.

# Redgrave Key Data

## Geography

### Location:

B1113 on Suffolk side of Norfolk/Suffolk border.

National Grid Reference - TM045 780

The source of both the river Waveney and the Little Ouse.

### Rivers:

2123 acres = 860 hectares.

### Total area:

2.75 miles, (4.4) km apart.

### Furthest points:

The Activities Centre.

### Geographic centre:

26 metres above sea level.

### Lowest point:

48 metres above sea level.

### Highest point:

## Population

### Electoral roll:

2003 to 2004 = 420 - 208 Male, 212 Female.

### Growth:

1976 = 311, 1996 = 405, 2003 = 420.

### Dwellings:

2003 to 2004 = 220.

### Growth:

1961 = 139, 1971 = 145, 1976 = 149, 2003 = 220.

## Environment & Land

### Conservation area:

73 acres (33 hectares)

### Listed buildings:

St Mary's Church - Grade I;

Two Grade II Star buildings;

47 Grade II buildings.

### Redgrave Fen:

Redgrave Fen, (a site of Special Scientific Interest of some 80 acres) is currently leased to Suffolk Wildlife Trust from The Fen Charity until the year 2027.

### Sports Field:

The Redgrave Amenities Trust has 12 acres leased from the Llanover Trust until the year 2021.

## The Parish

### Parish Council Land:

The Parish council owns The Knoll, the Old School Field play area, (0.891 acres) the Town Pit, (2.963 acres), the Fen Allotment, (0.946 acres). The Knoll is a village green with its own Bylaws.

### Parish Council Precept:

Currently, (2004 - 2005) £7500 per year, (£33 per year for Band D)

### Public buildings:

The Activities Centre is owned by the village (via the Redgrave Amenities Trust), The Mission Room, Church, (both owned by the Church of England)

### Amenities:

Cross Keys Public House. Shop and Post Office, (currently closed).

## Distances

Primary school Botesdale

1.25 miles (46 children from Redgrave attend this school)

Hartismere High school Eye

6 miles (34 children from Redgrave attend this school)

Nearest Health Centre

Botesdale - 1.25 miles

Nearest Post Office

Rickinghall - 2 miles

Nearest Mini Supermarket

Rickinghall - 2.25 miles

Nearest Market Town

Diss - 5 miles.

Nearest Hospital

Bury St Edmunds - 17 miles

## Bus route

Diss - Redgrave - Botesdale - Bury St Edmunds

# Redgrave Action Plan

## General

Set up Action Coordination Group, (ACG) at the plan presentation day;  
ACG to update annual parish meeting on action plan progress;  
Identify the first champion for each action at the plan presentation day;  
Arrange a meeting of those wishing to champion action programmes;  
Add or delete actions after feedback at the plan presentation day.

## Welfare

Check exactly who needs transport to doctors and find ways to assist;  
Communicate results of health questions to Botesdale Health Centre;  
Call a meeting of those requiring childcare to find ways to provide this;  
Further investigate good neighbour scheme;  
Maintain pressure to keep the regular bus service for the 43 users.

## Information

Create parish council website;  
Produce village information booklet including clubs and organisations.

## Services

Invite emergency services to come and explain response time;  
Discuss with police and county council how to enforce speed limits;

## Young People

Arrange meeting to decide the way forward on:

Youth Council;  
Meeting place;  
Youth Club.

## Sport

Investigate provision of low cost pastimes:

Aerobics; Yoga; Boules;  
Sport for girls;  
Devise a bicycle event to get 177 bikes out of sheds and into use.

## Social

Extend scope of village day;  
Find out what is involved in village cinema;  
Find out what evening classes are wanted;  
Set up Theatre visits;  
Set up Gardening Club;  
Set up more Quiz evenings;  
Arrange local interest talks.

## Facilities

Investigate possibility of community shop/post office;  
Extend Activity Centre to give more space and kitchen;  
Invite PCC to explain to residents its plans for the Mission Room;  
Explain why and how the Activity Centre land might need purchasing;  
Communicate results of survey on church to PCC and diocese;  
Communicate results of survey on Mission Room to PCC.

## Councils

Discuss with Mid-Suffolk the planning policy implications of the survey;  
Parish council to consider survey when assessing planning applications;  
Investigate provision of better segregated waste recycling;  
Investigate spring clean day particularly approaches to village;  
Parish council to note that no more street lights are wanted;  
Ensure village pond is maintained;  
Get height raised of any signs currently below head height.

# Redgrave Fen

## A Rich Wet Wilderness

Redgrave Fen is an 80 acre part of the Redgrave and Lopham fen area, which is the source of the river Waveney. In 1818 it was granted to the poor of Redgrave as the Pools Allotment, (later the Fen Charity) in order to provide fuel from cutting peat. It was otherwise considered as wasteland. (currently The Fen Charity helps the disadvantaged using income from investments).

As coal overtook peat as the preferred fuel, the Fen Charity derived income from livestock grazing which was in its turn superseded by sedge cutting.

By 1894 there was, however, income of only £5 per year for shooting and the occasional sale of peat or sand. The peat and sedge cutting over the centuries did, fortunately, have its wildlife benefits. Where peat turves were cut for fuel open pools were created which are today a home for rare aquatic plants and the fen raft spider.

In the late 1950's, David Bellamy studied the fen and found a

diverse and fascinating mosaic of fen wildlife communities, rich in rare species of both acid and alkali loving plants. This richness was a result of the fen's unique water regime, complex geology, soil structure and the traditional management practices of local people over the centuries.

Walkways, left between the peat digging sites, had evolved into species-rich fen meadows. Sedge and reed had been cut for thatching. Invading bushes had been thinned out at harvesting, preventing the sedge and reed beds becoming woodland.

The cutting of furze, (gorse) and brushwood faggots had also helped keep scrub to a minimum. Mixed vegetation was cut for bedding for cattle and horses. The cutting of taller, more vigorous plants had allowed the smaller ones to flourish.

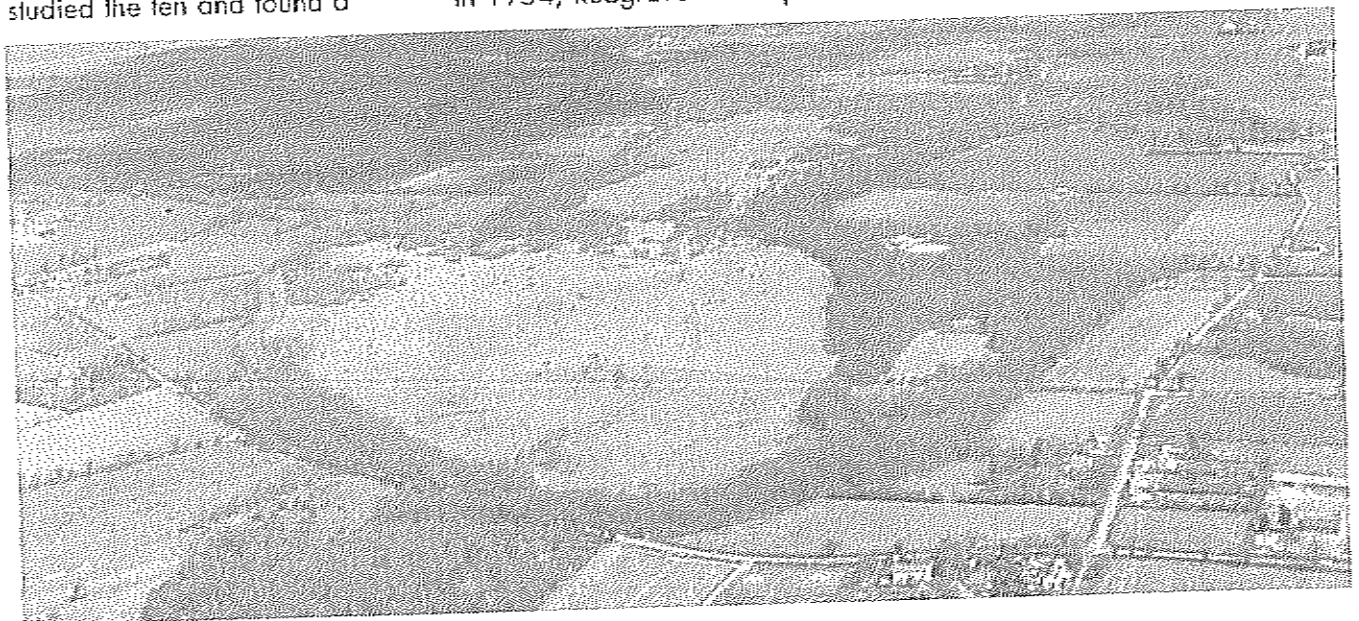
Sheep, cattle and horses had grazed the marginal land, heaths and fen meadows, helping to maintain the diversity of the fen.

In 1954, Redgrave and Lopham

Fen was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI) in recognition of its conservation interest. Eric Duffey discovered the raft spider in 1956.

In 1959, Redgrave went onto mains water, drilling a borehole. Further deepening the River Waveney in the 1960's lowered the water table and started a process of drying out and degradation of the fen. Summer droughts followed the winter floods and the shallower pools started to dry out every year, to such an extent that the fen raft spider population had contracted to only two small colonies.

In the mid 1990's they had to be kept going by artificial irrigation of their pool habitat by water pipe networks. The grass and sedge became overgrown, and scrub marched across the Fen. The peat rotted, releasing centuries of stored nutrients. The Fen became dependent on river water polluted with agricultural run-off. The rarest and most important wetland wildlife went first, followed by the less demanding species.



Aerial view of Redgrave Fen.

# Redgrave Fen

In 1961, The Suffolk Nature Society, (now *Suffolk Wildlife Trust*) was born out of the plight of the fen. Some clearing of scrub and grazing was re-introduced, but resources were not available to undertake large-scale work. In 1967 the Fen trustees leased Redgrave Fen to the Suffolk Nature Society for a lump sum of £607 for a period of 60 years.

The borehole and dredged river were still there preventing vital water reaching the fen. By the late 1980's the situation was critical - Redgrave and Lopham Fen simply could not survive the modern world.

In 1991, the Fen was designated a world wetlands site. In 1993 it was awarded National Nature Reserve status. Since then, Suffolk Wildlife Trust has joined with the conservation body, English Nature to manage the fen.

The decline of the fen continued until, in the early 1990's the National Rivers Authority, (now *the Environment Agency*) studied the fen to assess how bad the damage was and if it was possible to restore it. The project which arose was to move the water borehole, restore the water levels of the river Waveney, remove oxidised peat, scrub, and invasive trees, and re-create the habitat conditions to allow the most important wildlife to re-establish.

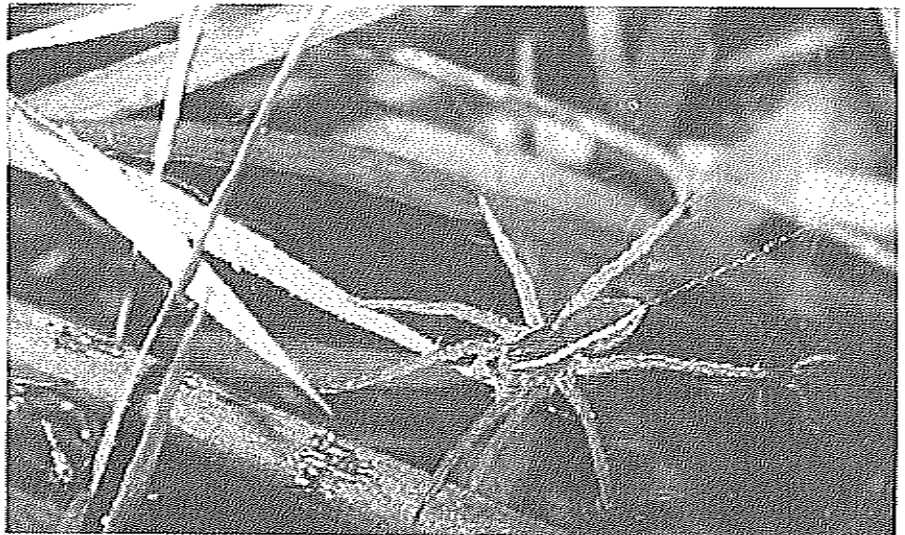
The main project works lasted for 5 years until 1999 when the borehole was finally closed. The total cost of the restoration was approximately £3.4 million. Half of the funding was from the EU.

The restoration has been a mammoth task, involving a wide range of innovative measures.

Polish Konik ponies, (*Tarpan*), which graze in permanently wet conditions, have eaten their way through areas left unmanaged for years. Hebridean sheep and Sussex cattle are also used for target grazing in specific areas. The fen's recovery following the restoration can be measured by the reappearance and expansion of characteristic fen plant and animal communities. There are strong signs of species recovery. In time, the recovery of whole communities will bring the fen back to a rich, wet wilderness.

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust visitor centre, on the South Lopham side of the fen, has panoramic views and is open at weekends and bank holidays. It hosts many interesting activities. A new local group started two years ago to restore wildlife and improve access to the Little Ouse headwaters on the West side of the B1113.

Volunteers are always welcome at the work parties of both the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Little Ouse Headwaters Charity.



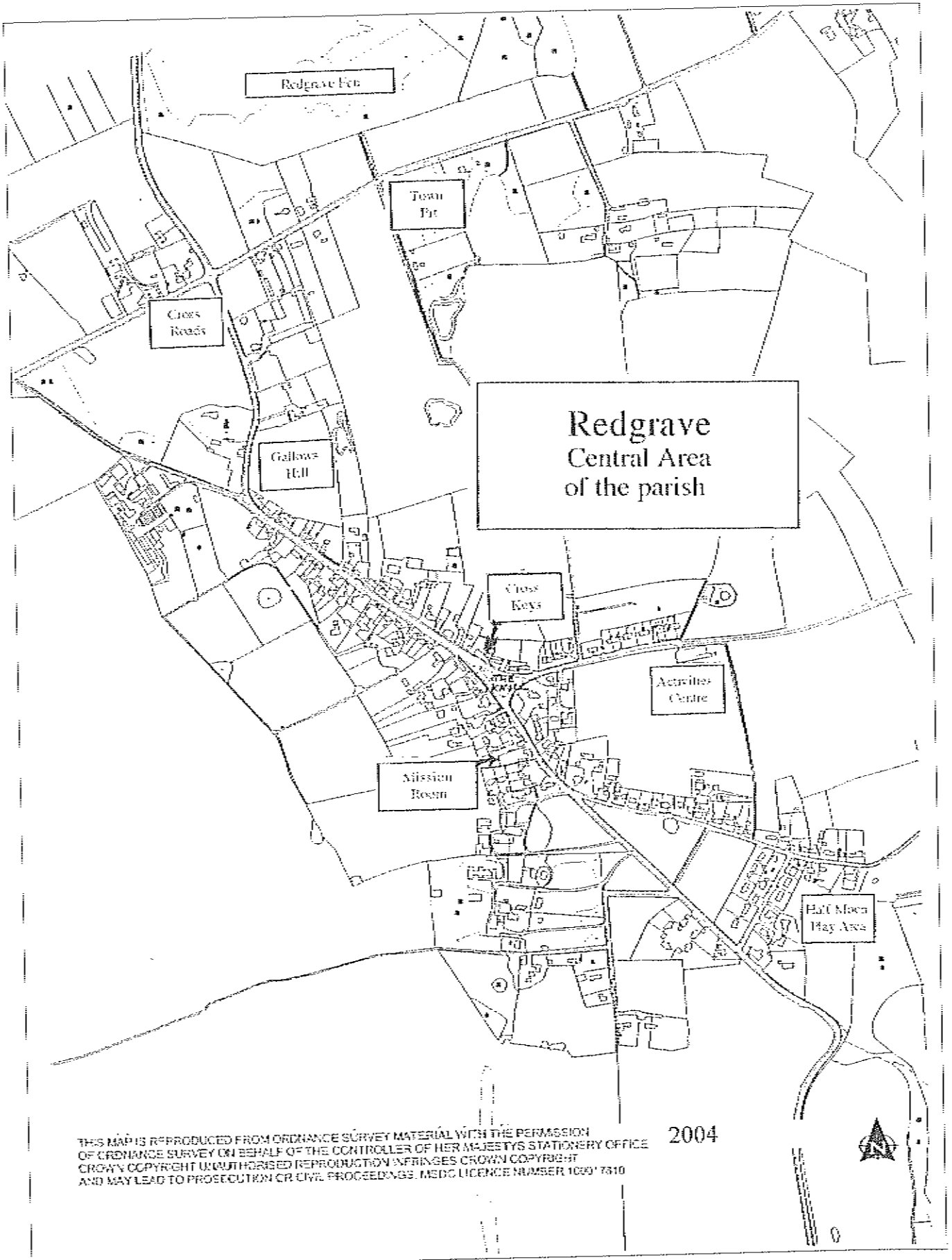
The rare Raft spider.



Two of the Polish Tarpan horses grazing.



# The Village



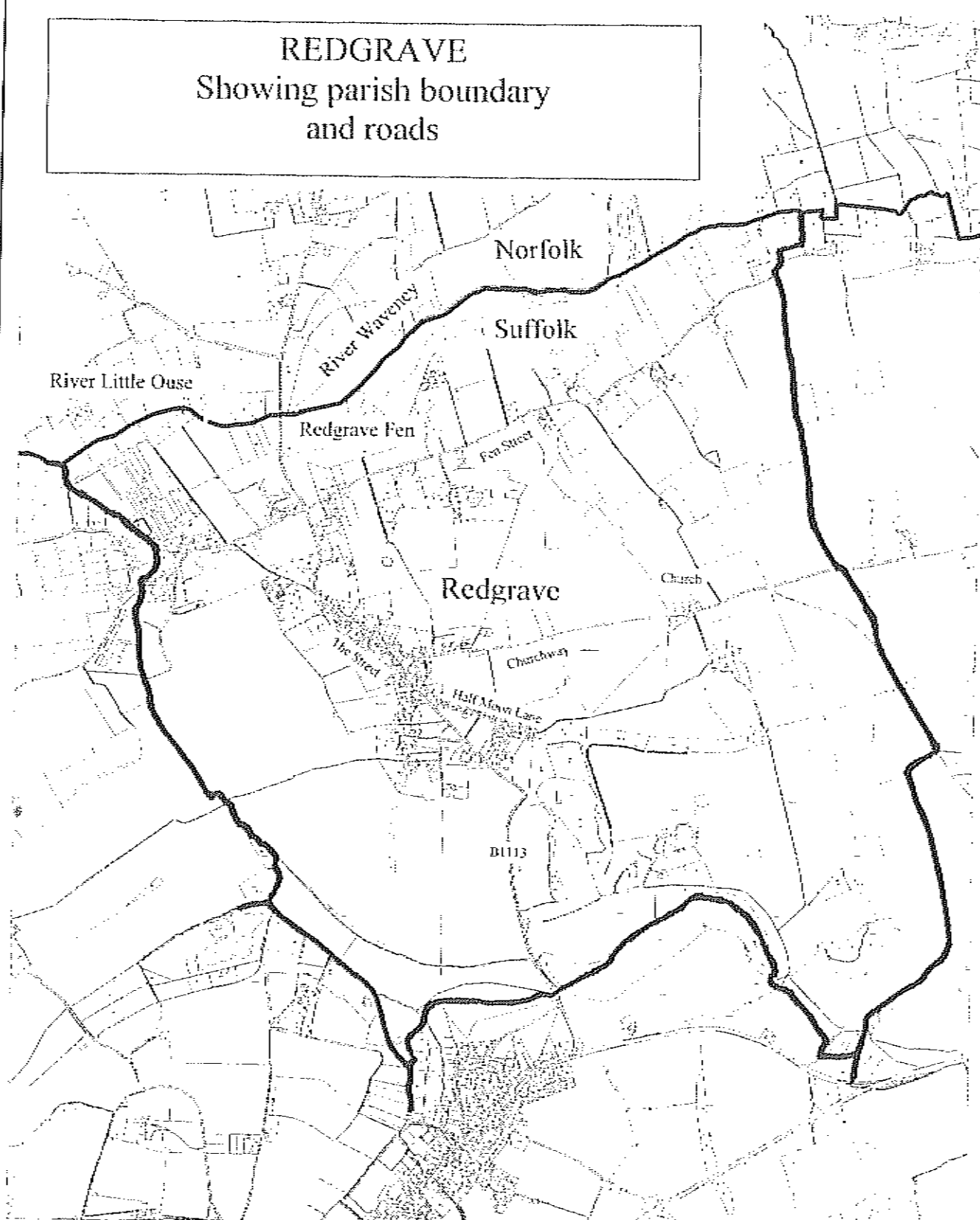
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2004



# The Parish

**REDGRAVE**  
 Showing parish boundary  
 and roads



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2004  
 Scale 1: 21000



# Contributors & Volunteers

34 volunteers and 398 residents made this plan happen...

|                       | <i>Steering group</i> | <i>Distribution &amp; collection</i> | <i>Opening &amp; numbering</i> | <i>Data input</i> | <i>Analysis</i> | <i>Report</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Steering Group</b> |                       |                                      |                                |                   |                 |               |
| John Preston, (Chair) | ●                     | ●                                    |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Ann Preston           | ●                     | ●                                    |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Joyce Orves           | ●                     | ●                                    | ●                              |                   | ●               | ●             |
| Norman Orves          | ●                     | ●                                    | ●                              |                   | ●               | ●             |
| Rosemary Walker       |                       | ●                                    |                                | ●                 |                 |               |
| Jason Walker          | ●                     | ●                                    |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Jean Baird            | ●                     | ●                                    |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Ian Baird             | ●                     |                                      |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Marion Wilby          | ●                     |                                      |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |
| Margaret Hayward      | ●                     | ●                                    |                                |                   | ●               | ●             |
| Bob Hayward           | ●                     | ●                                    |                                | ●                 | ●               | ●             |

## Other Volunteers:

|                  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Celia Thorne     |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| Daphne Culley    |  | ● | ● |   |  |   |
| Diane Thorrold   |  |   | ● |   |  |   |
| Angie Robinson   |  | ● |   | ● |  |   |
| Jan Cresswell    |  | ● |   | ● |  |   |
| Bernie Cresswell |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Joan Joyce       |  | ● |   | ● |  |   |
| Vic Joyce        |  | ● |   | ● |  |   |
| Jenny Eason      |  | ● |   | ● |  |   |
| Liz Randle       |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Jenny Chaplin    |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| David Chaplin    |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Deb Shepherd     |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Anne Squires     |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| June Hart        |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Edna Digby       |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Bob Digby        |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Ken Green        |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Sherry Rowe      |  | ● |   |   |  |   |
| Irene Robertson  |  |   |   |   |  | ● |
| Jean Sheehan     |  |   |   |   |  | ● |
| Andrew Excell    |  |   |   |   |  | ● |
| Cathy Smith      |  |   |   |   |  | ● |

28 distributors and collectors

Sharing the data input made the tedious part less onerous and faster.

One person doing the first draft analysis on each section provided focus.

Team editing of the whole ensured no personal bias.



Concept Design

Michael Preston Typographic Design

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