

Congratulations and well done to the Pink Tractor Ladies on their recent 16th year run. It's always good to see the colourfull tractors arrive early in the morning and depart Thorpe Abbotts Airfield with the colourfull drivers on board driving through our local villages and town arriving safely back at the airfield later in the afternoon. They are well on the way of reaching their target of raising £1m for breast cancer research.

A woodland classroom offering school children the chance to learn about wildlife first-hand has opened at a nature park created by volunteers. Youngsters from Scole Primary School attended the official opening of the new outdoor classroom at Scole Pocket Park. The site has been transformed from an overgrown wilderness by a team of volunteers from Scole Nature Trails Trust (SNTT) who have created the public park from land aquired from Norfolk County Council by the parish council. A big thankyou to all of the volunteers that have enabled this outstanding facility for the school children to enjoy not only now but for generations to come.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. The Space Chase adventure begin on the 13th of July and children aged 4 – 11 can sign up at any of NCC's libraries. They'll join The Rockets, our super space family, for a thrilling mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens. Eleven thousand children took part in last year's reading challenge. The challenge encourages children to keep up their reading skills during the long summer break.

NCC has recently opened it's first Multi-function centre in Attleborough. The Library has moved to this site where also a range of council services, including community learning and children's services, use the building and we are keen to work with the district council, other organisations and community groups, to see how they can use it, too. This means that we're joining up services in one place which is better for us and better for residents.

A livestock veteren with “pigs in his blood” has been rewarded for 50 years of dedication to the Royal Norfolk Show. Peter Mortimer, who runs the Metfield Pig Herd near Harleston, has been exhibiting at the show for half a century, and is also a long serving commentator in the pig rings. During the special presentation he was given a cake, champagne, a framed certificate and a golden sash proclaiming his “50 years of showing”.

I attended with many others the public meeting at Harleston Swan regarding the Mayflower 400 in Harleston celebrations planned for next year. It will be 400 years since the Mayflower ship sailed to America and there is to be national celebrations planned throughout the country including in Harleston because of the local connection through the Fullers, a family that came from Redenhall and Harleston and were passengers on the ship. Look out for information all about the many events planned.

My next surgery will be on Saturday 17th August 10am at HIP

Looking forward to the Airship celebrations this weekend in Pulham St Mary.

Martin