

New book to celebrate clergyman

Cobbold's Wortham, the new publication which draws on the words and paintings of the village's former rector, will be launched next Saturday.

The 111 watercolours and writings from the original 1860 handmade book *Features of Wortham*, which was a gift from Richard Cobbold to his wife, are reproduced in the new book.

Wortham author Sue Heaser has edited the new publication, which also includes Cobbold's description of Wortham inhabitants.

"It is a unique record of our village in the 19th century," she said.

Cobbold's original work will be on show at the book launch in the village hall, from 10.30am to 3pm, when the new book will be on sale. Other archive material from the Suffolk Record Office will also be on display. The launch will be followed by a presentation with slides on Wortham's "unique heritage from a compassionate Victorian" by Mrs Heaser at 3.30pm.



Sue Heaser in front of White House Farm, which was known as Poplar Farm in 1860.

Picture: Mark Bullimore

Sewage overflows once again in flood-hit village

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Heavy weekend rains brought more misery for a village plagued with drainage problems.

Sewage was seen coming from manhole covers at Fressingfield on Sunday, just five days after a similar incident.

According to the Safe (Supporters Against Fressingfield Expansion) website, seven manhole covers were lifted and were leaking sewage on Sunday.

The Tuesday before – only a day after Suffolk County Council highways had cleared surface water drains – sewage and sanitary products were seen coming from manholes.

Low Road is especially affected by the flooding, and particularly an area opposite the Baptist chapel, according to the website.

Safe secretary Pam Castro said the situation was caused by surface water connections which had been made to the foul sewer in the past. At times of heavy rain, the sewer filled up, and resulted in sewage overflowing.

If large-scale housing developments were allowed, more sewage would enter the drainage system and Sunday's flooding would occur more often, she said.

"We are not against all development. We are not against one or two houses, but 10 houses or

more is not fair on the village."

An Anglian Water spokesman said: "A large amount of rainfall fell in a short period of time on Sunday, with more on Monday. Intense rainfall can cause standing water to build up on hard surfaces because there's nowhere for it to go, causing surface water flooding.

"It also means our sewers become full while they move water away – it's a bit like a bath

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plughole, and it takes time for the water to drain.

"We will continue working with our drainage partners, including the local council, highways team and Environment Agency, to ensure our sewer network is running as it should, helping to take water away as quickly as possible."

Last week, the *Diss Express* reported that a planning appeal for 24 homes in Postmill Lane, Fressingfield, had been refused because the development would erode the open countryside.

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