

PARISH PUMP

No 391 parish.pump@gmail.com

December 2025/January 2026



We are delighted to announce that **Father Christmas** will be arriving at **Stradishall church** at **2pm Saturday 13th December**.

Come and meet him, enjoy some refreshments, and add your Christmas wishes and memories to the magic branches.

Entry free, refreshments £2



The Rocket. We saw this in Pickering Station, it was magnificent !

Spring is here??



To all our readers, because of the printer's holiday, this is the last issue before the New Year. Happy Christmas to you all!

A good outcome to the sheep tragedy we reported last month

Dear all

I would just like to say a massive thank you to everybody for their incredible kindness and generosity.

Whether it was a donation or just kind words of condolences for the lost/injured sheep it really has meant a lot having such support behind me at a such a devastating time.

I really can't put into words how much I appreciate what you've all done for me and my flock, it's breathtaking kindness

Kind regards

Tom Biela

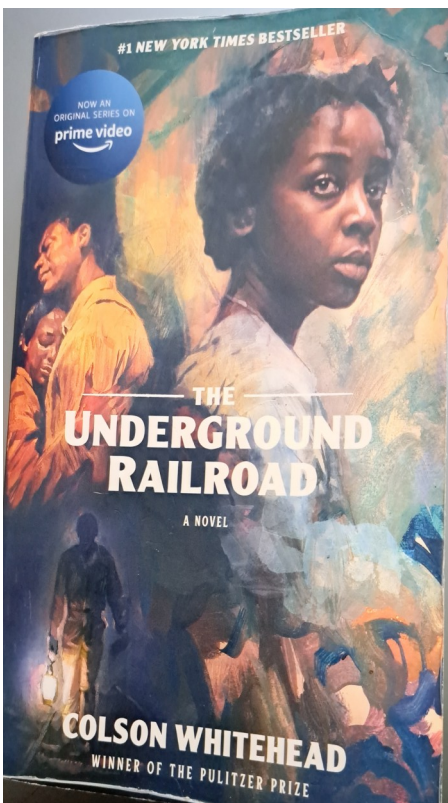
Please note: So far, £4,695 has been given to support Tom.



ENJOY!



As an unflinching excursion into the dark side of **American history**, **The Underground Railroad**, by **Colson Whitehead**, was a powerful and demanding read. It is also far from a straightforward read as real historical events and artefacts are interwoven with some fantastical reimagining of 19th Century America and an interesting willingness to play with time. A combination that worked for most of us – but it wasn't for everyone. The story revolves around Cora, a courageous young woman, who escapes from enslavement on a Georgia cotton plantation and must elude the infamous slavecatcher,



Ridgeway. Cora is from a line of brave, strong women. We meet her grandmother, Ajarry, who survived the holds of the slave ship to be 'sold and swapped and resold' many times over the years before finally arriving in Georgia 'with a new blankness behind her eyes', where she stays until she dies at work in the cotton field. Then there is her mother, Mabel, the only slave to ever run away and not get caught. From her grandmother Cora gets

steadfastness and from her mother she gets rebelliousness. The legend of Mabel sustains the plot. It is the reason why another slave, Ceaser, asks Cora to go with him when he plans to escape – as 'a lucky charm'; why Ridgeway is so obsessed with capturing Cora; why Cora is very conflicted in her feelings toward her mother – she was left 'a stray' with no one to protect her- but consistently searches for her wherever she goes. The mystery of what happened to Mabel holds the reader in suspense until the very end when the truth is eventually discovered.

Some disliked the lapidary style of writing at first but as we stayed with it most of us came to find it extremely impactful, as someone observed, 'it really packs an emotional punch'. The concise and pithy descriptions of Ajarry on board the slave ship in the opening pages, 'chained head to toe, head to toe, in exponential misery' ... 'her burdens were such to splinter her into a thousand pieces' being illustrative cases in point.

In the first few chapters the 'untold brutalities' in the day to day lives of the plantation slaves is all too real and painful to read. Then, after a hugely gripping and evocative account of Cora and Ceaser escaping through the swamp, historical realism morphs into magical realism as they step down onto the platform of the underground railroad, which they hope will take them to freedom in the North. The author has transformed the covert organised network of secret routes and safe houses, which was used by enslaved people to escape to free states before the Civil War, into a physical railroad with actual trains. It could be argued that reconceptualising the railroad in this way undermines the ingenuity of the real enterprise for smuggling slaves to freedom. However, from a narrative point of view we thought it makes the escape far more interesting as focus can be on Cora's experiences in the places she is transported to, rather than the journey of getting there. We also thought due diligence was given to drawing attention to the heroism and sacrifices of all the 'conductors' who risk their lives to guide the fugitives on their way.

When Cora and Ceaser climb out of the station in South Carolina it is into a world which 'has a much more

enlightened attitude' and 'they would have to learn how to walk like freemen'. Once again, the reader is thrown off course as the author rewrites history and reconstructs this former slave state. However, all is not as it seems and behind the 'progressive' exterior we gradually learn that malevolent machinations are at work – mandatory sterilisations, unethical medical experiments: they realise they were still under white peoples control and 'had not travelled very far at all'. Here the author seems to be bringing together injustices from other eras in American history into one compelling story line and through Cora we can see and feel the horror of it all. Cora is forced to flee again and again to evade the clutches of Ridgeway and each time the railroad delivers her to a new state where there are new atrocities to face – North Carolina with its 'night riders' and mass public lynchings of black people and Tennessee, all 'fire, disease and violence'. Amidst all of this Cora finds love along the way and snatches of happiness and relative safety. She escaped the plantation to find freedom and her journey teaches her that freedom comes in different forms - 'freedom was a thing that shifted as you look at it..(it) had nothing to do with chains and how much space you had' and that her search for real freedom and whatever that means will probably be never ending. This was a highly imaginative and fascinating book which generated lots of interest and extra curriculum research into the real underground railroad and various aspects of the story which we wanted to accurately place in a historical context – someone even read The Declaration of Independence! With a respectful nod to a lone 2 star rating 'not for me!' the majority vote went with a worthy 4 stars!

Our next book will be **The Bee keeper of Aleppo** by **Christy Lafteri**.

Book club meets in and around Stansfield every month, we welcome new members and if you would like to join us please contact annedennis1@live.co.uk or 07557357362

Garden Club The Dry Garden at Hyde Hall Speaker Ian Bull

On previous outings to Hyde Hall, we have been impressed by the planting and especially of the **Dry Garden**. **Ian Bull** who manages it, came to our meeting to tell us more about the project. He attributed the concept of a dry garden, which is never watered and receives almost no rainfall, to Beth Chatto, who pioneered the idea in response to a large sand and gravel area, of about an acre, where she has about two feet of sand and gravel with underlying clay. In 1990s work started, mixing organic matter with the sand and gravel. After planting the larger architectural plants, which are dominant and create a framework, such as small trees and conifers, the infills of



plants from hot, dry areas and ground cover add colour and texture. Tall flower spikes of, for example, *Verbascum* add seasonal interest and ornamental grasses merge well in this planting. The aim is to provide colour and variety throughout the year.

The Dry Garden at Hyde Hall is again about an acre, with a hot, south facing aspect and receives similar rainfall to Beirut and Jerusalem. A plan of the paths and main features was made.

In 2000, a hundred tons of hardcore and rubble was brought in and large gabbro rocks and boulders, from Aberdeen, were carefully placed to emphasise the contours of the site. A circular seating area is defined by a dry-stone wall, again using gabbro stones, to unify the whole garden. The soil was clay, so 50% sand and grit was introduced into the planting areas, and the paths were made of crushed granite, which allows rain to pass through. Ian Bull emphasised the importance of soil preparation. The planting plan was based



on plants originating in dry areas of the world, with architectural planting first, for structure. It is important to leave enough space. Ask yourself how big it will be in five years' time! March/April is the best time to plant, so plants are well rooted by the Summer. (After standing on planting areas, fork through any footprints where the soil has been compacted.) Once the infill and edging plants are in, spread gravel or stone between the plants, to help retain moisture. In 2001 the Dry Garden area was opened to the public. The plants were still very small and the rocks dominant, but by the end of the year and over the following years they became less

noticeable. Ten years later the Dry Garden was extended to about double the size. Some plants are introduced experimentally to check how well they survive winters and hot summers. Plants with surface hairs, or waxy leaves and silver foliage do well in dry spots, examples of which are the curry plant, sedums and *Yuccas*.



Varieties of perennial wallflower, salvias and lavenders also do well and *Acanthus* produces decorative seed heads.

Verbascum has a long taproot which reaches down for moisture.

Ian Bull illustrated his talk with lots of colour pictures and it was a very enjoyable evening.

In the Summer, the Club is planning another visit to Hyde Hall and also a smaller outing to the Beth Chatto's garden.

The Next Meeting is our AGM with cheese and wine, a variety of snacks, quizzes and a free raffle. Monday 24th November at 7.30pm in WI Hall, Wickhambrook.

New members always welcome.

Ruth Seal

St Nicholas Hospice

Morning, I hope you are all well and the approach to the festive season is calm.

This is a busy time of year for us at the hospice with our fundraising activities and importantly our in memory services across the area. Thank you for your continued support.

Natalie





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New Local Venture Brings People Together Through Shared Meals



A local resident from **Hawkedon** & business partner based in **Cambridge**, are launching an inspiring new social dining platform called **Join The Table (JTT)**. A platform designed to bring people together through the simple joy of sharing a meal. **JTT** is about connection, helping people meet, talk, and enjoy real company again. Whether it is lunch, a coffee or an evening meal, the idea is to make it easy for anyone to find a welcoming table nearby and share food with others. Their Hawkedon office explained, “So many people want to feel part of something again. In villages and towns alike, people can feel isolated especially if

they live alone or are new to the area. JTT gives everyone the chance to connect in a relaxed, natural way sitting around a table, chatting, and enjoying food together.” Loneliness and social isolation are growing challenges in the UK, particularly in rural areas like ours. **JTT** aims to help by creating opportunities for people to meet face-to-face and feel part of their community again.

Here’s how it works:

Step 1: Register on the JTT website at www.jointhetable.co.uk to create your free profile.

Step 2: Browse local venues that are hosting JTT meals — from pubs and cafés to restaurants & hotels taking part in the scheme.

Step 3: Book an individual seat at a shared table through the website. Come along & share good food & conversation with others. From an idea born here in the Suffolk countryside, **JTT** is all about rebuilding community — one shared meal, one new friendship at a time.

We are asking for local people to please support us and pre register your interest



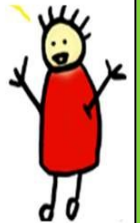
on our website www.jointhetable.co.uk so they can be the first to try this exciting new dining experience.

Sara Monk

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Join the table :UPDATE NOVEMBER 2025

Join The Table (JTT) has successfully run a number of pilot shared-table events in Bury St Edmunds, helping people meet, socialise, and enjoy great food together. We’re pleased to announce that more events will be returning to Bury St Edmunds soon, and we will also be trialling new events in Cambridge in the New Year.

We’d love to hear from local residents!

Please get in touch and tell us:

What types of events you would like to see

- Which days or times suit you best
- The kinds of venues you’d enjoy

Anything that would make you more likely to book a shared-table experience

Your ideas will help us shape future events and make them truly community led. Register your interest on our website and follow our social channels to stay updated with upcoming dates.

Come join the table — meet new people, support local venues, and be part of something social and fun!

www.jointhetable.co.uk Sarah Monk

Rector's Ramblings – December 2025 (Preparing Our Hearts of the Light)



My dear friends,
As the chill of December settles upon our communities, and the days grow shorter, there's an unmistakable

during this time, we use the Advent Wreath, a tradition rich in symbolism. You will see ours proudly displayed in the church. It is a simple, circular, evergreen wreath, symbolising God's endless love, adorned with **five candles**.



These candles are lit, one by one, over the four Sundays of Advent, each representing a facet of our long-held hope for the Saviour. The fifth candle is lit on Christmas Day.

The first two candles are **purple**, the colour of royalty and repentance. The

anticipation building in the air. The shop windows are beginning to sparkle and perhaps, a number of us are already humming a carol or two. This lovely, exciting build-up is a beautiful and natural part of life, but as Christians, we know that this season of **Advent** calls us to a deeper, more intentional kind of preparation than simply buying gifts and hanging decorations.

Advent, meaning "coming," is our liturgical season of waiting and hope, a precious four weeks where we prepare to celebrate the glorious coming of Christ - both His birth in a humble stable in Bethlehem, and His final coming in glory.

To help focus our minds and hearts

first represents the **Patriarchs**, people like Abraham and Moses, who waited with faith for the Promised Land and the Messiah. The second candle is for the **Prophets**, such as Isaiah, who spoke God's word and foretold the coming of the Lord. Their message is one of hopeful expectation, but also of calling us to look at our own lives and prepare ourselves by turning back to God.

The third candle, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent (often called *Gaudete* Sunday, meaning "Rejoice!"), is a beautiful, contrasting **rose** colour. It represents **John the Baptist**, the one sent to prepare the way for the Lord. This switch in colour signals a shift in our waiting—the light is getting

brighter, the coming is nearer, and we can begin to rejoice in the imminent arrival. The fourth candle, again **purple**, represents the Blessed Virgin **Mary**, whose "yes" to God



made the Incarnation possible. Her quiet obedience and willingness to serve are the perfect examples of the preparation God desires from us.

The final candle, lit to mark the start of Christmas (either at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day) is pure white, represents **Jesus**, the light of God coming into the world.

As the weeks unfold and we light these candles, I encourage you to see them not just as a pretty display, but as a weekly reminder to check in with your own heart. Are we waiting with the **faith** of the Patriarchs? Are we listening to the challenging **hope** of the Prophets? Are we turning our lives around with the **joyful** conviction of John the Baptist? And are we preparing a space for the Christ-child with the humble **obedience** of Mary?

This year, amidst the tinsel and the cheer, let us actively seek that quiet, still place in our soul where the true Light of the World wants to be born anew. May your Advent and Christmas be blessed, peaceful, and filled with deep, hopeful preparation.

With every blessing,

Mark
The Revd Mark Woodrow (Rector)

Monthly rainfall mm 2024/2025 (Please note the change in units: inches to mm)

2025	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nick Burton- Stradishall	55	31.5	11	22	20.5	23	39	25	47	60		
Tina Lee- Stradishall	45	32	9	25	19	27	30	33	46	63		
Sam Slater- Stansfield	46	30	5	23	21	20	54	24	41	54		
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	64	35	13	25	26	29	59	26	48	59		
Jay Gridley-Hundon	59	26	11	21	26	29	22	25	38	77		
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	73	33	8	21	30	32	32	20.5	43	58.5		
Elaine Plumpton - Great Saxham	63	42	6	23	17	38	51	26	60	58		

2024	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nick Burton- Stradishall	55	115	45	64	96	15	94	14	99	58	47	42.5
Tina Lee- Stradishall	57	119	47	87	91	19	93	16	98	68	31	38
Sam Slater- Stansfield	51	129	55	60	114	19	85	15	76	55	33	63
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	59	121	59	68	99	23	88	16	80	73	42	51
Jay Gridley-Hundon	71	128	57	74	104	21	93	16	108	71	39	39
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	53	132	59	62	106	21	90	16.5	88	38	39	79
Elaine Plumpton Great Saxham	54	129	66	69	78	23	90	16	99.6	52	43	53

Jonathan Dabbs - formerly Stradishall Service Station



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St Margaret's Church in Cowlinge is becoming known and enjoyed as a centre of music and the arts with performances attracting growing interest both from the village and from further afield. Almost all the events can be attended by voluntary donation, and we



so enjoy welcoming the visitors who make up the audience. Music and drama plans are afoot for 2026, but before these we are looking forward to our celebration of Christmas in the now-familiar form of our Carols

by Candlelight, to be held this year on **Sunday, 21st December, at 5.30pm**. The gathering is for everyone who loves to sing carols at Christmas and we hope that this year again the church will be filled with the sound of voices of all ages uplifted in celebration. Do come and join us, wearing your warmest clothes against the winter cold, and hear the Christmas story, told so many times through the ages, within a church that has heard the story for 800 years.

In preparation for Carols by Candlelight, we are holding a special craft afternoon on **Sunday 14th December at 2.00pm** in Cowlinge village hall for children to make Christmas tree decorations for the tree that will be in the church. The session will finish with a children's Christmas film, *The Star*. For details, please contact:

cowlinge.church.companions@outlook.com

Margaret Cowlinge Church

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Not only will you appear in over 700 copies of the Parish Pump, hand delivered to all homes in **Stradishall, Stansfield, Hawkedon, Thurston End, Poslingford, Assington Green and Denston**. (also available in **Clare, Cowlinge and Wickhambrook**) you will also be included in our online edition, landing in over 400 email inboxes. • Special rates for front or back page adverts • We can help with your advert design. • To discuss your advertising requirements, contact

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CLASP, your long established local Charity, is pleased to announce that **Karla Greenwood** has agreed to take over the role of **CLASP CarAid Coordinator** with effect from Tuesday 16th September. Many of you will know Karla who is the Clare Library Manager. She replaces **John Webb**, who is standing down after seven and a half years in the role.

You are reminded that CarAid, using volunteer drivers, takes local residents to and from medical appointments, such as hospitals, doctors surgeries, dentists, opticians and other medical services. This service is free of charge, but most recipients choose to make a donation to CLASP, which can be given to the volunteer driver to contribute towards the mileage allowances payable. CarAid continues to be dependent upon the commitment of its volunteer drivers, and welcomes new applicants to join the team. **If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, or need the CarAid service, you can call our dedicated phone line 07724698283**

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The Baptists in Clare do so well at recycling

Clare Baptist Church in Clare, a rural town in Suffolk-Essex, is known for its active community involvement in recycling and creation care. The church's recycling area includes items that cannot be recycled in usual council collections, such as bras, pens, writing equipment, stamps, plastic bottle tops, and corks. They also host events like the Season of Creation, a global movement of Christians seeking to renew their relationship with their Creator and all creation. The church encourages its members to participate in eco-friendly practices and to care for the environment as part of their faith. clarebaptistchurch.org.uk +2



The Bansfield Benefice



The Bansfield Benefice is the collective name for the Parishes of Cowlinge, Denston, Lidgate, Ousden, Stansfield, Stradishall and Wickhambrook in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom.

Services for December 2025 **DRAFT**

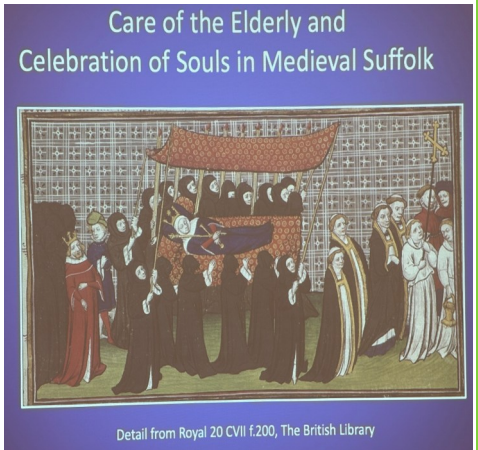
<https://www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services/>

Date	Time	Church	Details
07 Dec	10:00 am	Stradishall * (Second Sunday of Advent HC)	Celebrant: Revd Barbara Sherlock Organist: [CM] Litururgical colour:
07 Dec	03:00 pm	Lidgate (Carol service)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [DO] Litururgical colour:
14 Dec	10:00 am	Lidgate (Third Sunday of Advent HC)	Celebrant: Revd Barbara Sherlock Organist: [DO] Litururgical colour:
18 Dec	06:00 pm	Wickhambrook (Christingle service)	Wickhambrook Primary Academy
21 Dec	10:00 am	Denston (Fourth Sunday of Advent HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [KJ] Litururgical colour:
21 Dec	04:00 pm	Ousden (Carol service)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [KJ] Litururgical colour:
21 Dec	05:30 pm	Cowlinge (Carol service)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [KJ] Litururgical colour:
23 Dec	06:30 pm	Wickhambrook (Carol service)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [DO] Litururgical colour:
24 Dec	05:00 pm	Stansfield (Carol service)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [RG] Litururgical colour:
25 Dec	10:00 am	Cowlinge (Christmas Day HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [DO] Litururgical colour:
28 Dec	10:00 am	Ousden (First Sunday of Christmas HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [J] Litururgical colour:

2024 A

Wickhambrook Local History Society News – November 2025

It is always a pleasure to listen to **Kate Jewel** give a talk and her latest offering 'Care of the Elderly and Celebration of Souls in Medieval Suffolk' was very much enjoyed by members who had braved the cold to come to the meeting. Between the 13th and 16th centuries, old age began at 45! Those who worked on the land would keep going as long as possible but it was possible to make provision for your old age. Most people worked for the Lord of the Manor and any requests they made would be recorded in the Manorial Rolls. From those sources, Kate told us of contracts between fathers and sons to carry on working the same piece of land which included requests for care in return. Such things as 'a room at the end of the house', 'food per week', clothing and 'a place by the fire' if written in the contract were legal requirements. 'Winter fuel allowance' was mentioned too – some things don't change! Contracts were witnessed and penalties paid if terms were



Detail from Royal 20 CVII f.200, The British Library

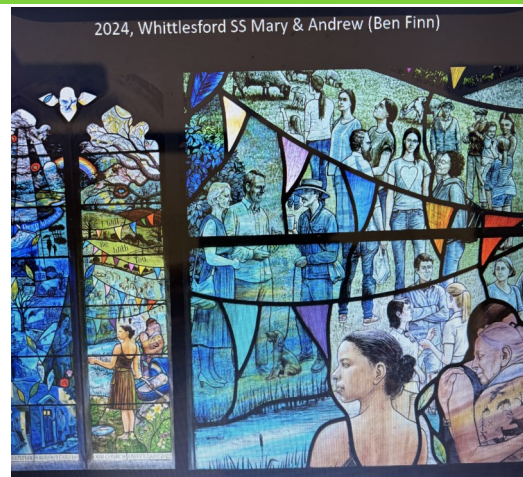
Wickhambrook Local History Society

Costume through Stained Glass Windows

In October the Local History society welcomed back **Christopher Parsons**, who gave us a fascinating look at the people depicted in stained glass windows and how they dressed. From medieval kings and peasants, right up to 2024, his talk took us to churches and museums up and down the country.

Favourite scenes showed a girl with rolled up sleeves in the twelfth century, gable headdresses, Cromwell's musketeers, soldiers in the Boer War, a munitions factory and 1950s depictions of the Royal Family among many others. Possibly the most unusual is a window in Whittlesford Church which depicts the pandemic in gloomy tones on one side and joyous celebrations when it was over on the other.

This was Christopher's 100th talk to various groups! He says it might be his last, but such breadth of knowledge deserves to be shared.



2024, Whittlesford SS Mary & Andrew (Ben Finn)



broken.

It was also possible for wealthier people to be looked after in a Monastery or Nunnery without taking Holy Orders. This could be as simple as having a meal every day, or it could be complete care. These were known as corrodies.

As life was short, people were preoccupied with death and the afterlife and Kate showed us a wonderful painting from Wenhaston Church of the last judgement with the good going to heaven and the bad to hell. Most churches had a painting like this to remind the congregation that their behaviour had consequences in the afterlife. For those who could afford it, funerals required many prayers, the tolling of bells, torch bearers and alms for the poor to speed a soul through purgatory. Food at a funeral was very important as the more people who came meant more prayers. One month after death and one year after there would be church services and more prayers, very lucrative for the church!

Although this seems a depressing subject, Kate's knowledge and enthusiasm made it a most enjoyable evening.



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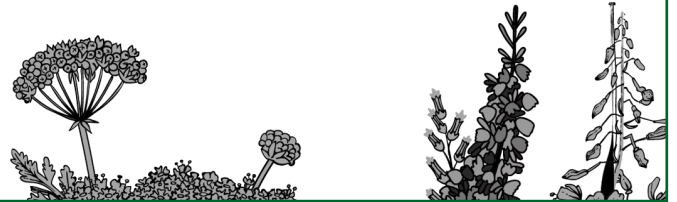
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People of Poslingford Remembrance in the Village

As the morning mist lifted, it revealed a beautiful, clear day for our village's Act of Remembrance. The church bells rang out across the village, calling everyone to gather at the Memorial.

Toby Snowling laid the wreath and gave a moving reading, while the service was led by our vicar, Reverend Mark Woodrow. It was a thoughtful and heartfelt occasion, bringing the community together to honour those who served and sacrificed.

Heather

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FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

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I look forward to seeing you on the number 45 bus soon! Stuart.apexfour12@gmail.com



Stansfield Village Hall Autumn Working Party – A Big Thank You!

Stansfield residents turned out on 15 November for the Village Hall Autumn Working Party, forming what organisers described as a “dream team” of volunteers. Thanks go



out to Andrew, Ann, Edwina, Jon, Mark and Patrick, whose hard work made a visible difference both inside and outside the hall.

Across the morning, the group tackled an impressive list of jobs: clearing gutters, cleaning internal windows, fitting draught excluder, fixing a picture, replacing light bulbs, and giving 3 fridges and 16 tables a thorough clean. Outside, volunteers cleared gutters and removed leaves from the playground, gave the new fire door a fresh coat of paint, removed ivy from the veranda and gave the veranda a thorough clean, carried out weeding and laid a preventative membrane topped with gravel.



Thanks are also due for some pre-work party day preparation by Jon for replacing a waste pipe and Sarah for having a bonfire to help tidy up the grounds.

Fuelled by tea, coffee and well-earned bacon sandwiches, the team achieved far more than we had hoped for. Sincere thanks go to everyone who gave their time and energy to support our much-loved village hall.

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Lavenham 11am to 1pm

Depden 2 to 3pm



A now married Thompson daughter
A glorious occasion in rural Surry it was lovely

Christmas Country Cooking with Louise Mackrill



December 2025

Let's get organised for Christmas ahead of time.

Canapés

Cherubs on horseback

These are my take on 'devils' using dried apricots instead of prunes. Wrap each



apricot in some thin streaky bacon and pop in the freezer until required. Fry gently or cook in the oven until golden.

Snack

Baked camembert with cranberries

This is a fun thing we make every year and I see it has come back into fashion again in various guises but really this 5 minute version is just as good.

I keep 3 or 4 boxes of supermarket camembert in the fridge just in case friends



pop in unexpectedly for a Christmas drink. All you have to do is slice the cheese in half horizontally, spread some

cranberry sauce in the middle, put the top back on. On a baking sheet layer some filo pastry, brushing with oil over each piece as you go, using 4 or 5 pieces & bring all together like a parcel brushing completely with oil to seal. Either cook immediately in the oven 180oC for 20 minutes or you can keep in the fridge until required. Everyone can spoon the hot cheese onto crackers or crudities.

Starter

Chicken liver & cognac pate

This can be made several days ahead as the clarified butter will help it keep. Fry chickens' livers in oil & butter until cooked. Zoom in a processor with a blob of tomato puree, a splash of cognac, plenty of soft cream cheese, seasoning and fresh thyme. Bubble some butter to clarify & pour over the pate before storing in the fridge. Serve with toasted brioche.

Dessert

Panettone bread & butter pudding

It really is worth buying a box of Panettone if only to make this scrumptious dessert. Prepare on Christmas Eve & leave in the fridge to soak before cooking on Boxing Day. Simply slice the Panettone into triangles & butter well, layering into an oven proof dish. Whisk together 4 eggs, 1 pint double cream, 1 pint milk, 6 oz sugar, vanilla extract & pour over the Panet-



tone. Refrigerate until required. Bake 160oC about 45 minutes & serve with cream.

Christmas Pudding Alternative

Black Forest Yule Log can be made ahead and frozen until required. Simply thaw overnight. This is a very light and sophisticated chocolate & cherry dessert which I make every year for those who prefer to steer clear of Christmas pudding. Not only is it gorgeously sticky & gooey but will also impress family & friends with its artistic yuletide appearance.

6 eggs separated
5 oz caster sugar
2 oz cocoa powder
A little icing sugar
Ganache
5 oz dark chocolate broken up and melted with 5 fl oz double cream to make ganache, cool.

1 jar black cherry conserve
Coating
10 fl oz double cream whipped until thick
2 oz dark chocolate

Whisk egg yolks with sugar until pale and just thickening, followed by cocoa powder. Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into the above. Spread onto silicone paper lined swiss roll tin and bake 180oC for 20 minutes. Remove, allow to sink and cool. Turn out onto a sheet of greaseproof paper sprinkled with icing sugar. Spread the chocolate ganache over the cake followed by the cherry jam. Roll up lengthways using the paper to guide you. Cut 2 diagonal pieces off each end to represent branches. Cover the whole 'log' with whipped double cream, ends and all. Melt the chocolate in a cup standing in a bowl of boiling water and with a fork blend the chocolate into strips to represent bark. Swirl the ends with the chocolate coated fork and decorate with holly.
Louise

St Mary's Church Lidgate
St Marys PCC are looking for a treasurer. Duties include



preparing the accounts and managing the finances (paying invoices and depositing donations). It would be helpful if the treasurer could attend the PCC meetings (4/5 per year) but it is not necessary to become a PCC member. If anyone has a few hours to spare please contact Janet Mitson on 01638 500587. Would you be able to put something into the Parish Pump?
Many Thanks in advance Nicky Turner (St Marys PCC Secretary)

HALLOWE'EN PICNIC
in Stansfield village

Our Half Term picnic at Stansfield Village Hall was held on October 31st and we



knew it would be wet as usual but a good excuse to turn it into Hallowe'en themed

session. There were 21 adults and children and lots to do including a spider



made from an Oreo biscuit! With big eyes! Made by Rachel, of course. Is there no end to her talents? There were many games and crafts going on and lots to eat and drink, including chocolate cakes with a bat on top, all edible of course. I think everyone had a good time despite the weather outside. We now look forward to the next one

Time to Dance

Well! Trees are almost bare, lanes are flooded, snow has made a brief call and winter is definitely around the corner if not actually here. It is that time of year again and we look at our oil tanks or log stores to check how we are off for winter fuel before any Big Freeze that might come along. One might get up humming Noel Coward's song "There are Bad Times just around the Corner !".

But this morning I found myself humming another seemingly appropriate song, this one from the 1937 Fred Astaire film Shall We Dance. In this there is a scene when Fred, a dancer who cannot find his rhythm, goes down into the engine room of the luxury liner he is travelling on to discover Dudley Dickerson and his band of black musicians toiling over the syncopated engine and easing their way into the George Gershwin number, "Slap That Bass". Dudley sings the first half of the number before Fred takes over. Its lyrics go "Zoom Zoom ! The World is in a Mess, with politics and taxes and people grinding axes, there is no Happiness ".

The film, of course, is a light breezy vehicle for Fred and Ginger and drips with luxurious scenes and costumes. But it was made in 1937 at the height of The Depression. Not only that but even harsher segregation laws were being passed, the famous anti negro Jim Crow laws. Many people could not afford the 25cents it cost to go and see the film and Black performers could not be portrayed

**"Today. In London with a different theatre every night !
Martin" He deserves it!**



entertaining White people. It was indeed a very hard time for many and the world needed light, fun and glamorous entertainment to help lift their spirits. It could be argued that we too need something to distract us from life's realities that we witness daily on our televisions.

Sometimes it is hard to know what to think and how to react. We must always think twice before following an instruction on our phones or downloading yet another app. Is this a scam? Where will it lead me? So too with how we should react to Digital ID cards. I still have my identity card issued in the 1940s and it has never seemed a problem, and it isn't. But in our highly computerised lives the card proposed could and probably would carry many details about us, some of which we would like to keep private. Our bank records, our criminal records (if any), our tax records, our marital status, our academic and employment records, in fact just about everything about us and our whole lives. Now since hackers of all sorts can try to get access to these things often targeting vulnerable people, just imagine what a foreign power might be able to do. And when you think what a mess was caused by the computer failure that led to the Post Office scandal one can see quite clearly what damage could be caused by a system dealing with every citizen in the country. Russia and China have these

cards. I think it is hard to know how to react to such proposals and the prospects are frightening. It is everybody's duty to be as informed as possible before agreeing to new laws like these.

Meanwhile, Christmas is hurtling towards us. For many a time of feasting, family and frivolity. It is different from how it was when I was a child and we were thrilled by a clockwork toy and maybe a new pullover. Expectations get higher year on year and each time they are harder to meet. It doesn't start with excitement building a week or so before hand when we learned Carols, made paper chains and watched cakes and puddings being made. Now the slow explosion begins in September with the arrival of the first mince pies.

The world may be full of uncertainties, we may be facing difficult decisions and the world is certainly "in a mess" but I hope your Christmas, wherever it is and whatever it is, and brings you some delight. Whatever you do just take advice from Fred Astaire and go on just SLAP THAT BASS !



I suppose this is where it all started



IH 414. My first real tractor after refurbishment

My tractors of the past—



International Harvester H784.



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If only! We saw it in Pickering



Of course you need a tractor to run swimming pool!

with Carol Reay-Glover



Problem page

CAROL is a trained counsellor living locally who can offer advice on personal problems, such as relationships, divorce, child issues, employment, depression - or general worries. Email her in complete confidence at carolreay1@icloud.com

Dear Carol

I have just lost my dog and my cat in quick succession and I'm reeling. I cannot stop crying. People are so hard as well. Most people think losing a pet is almost nothing and that makes me so angry. At work no-one has hardly taken any notice.

My dog was 17 and my cat was 20. And they were my best friends.

J

Dear J,

I am so very sorry for your double loss. Losing a pet is extremely painful and to lose two in quick succession is very hard to bear.

You are also clearly hurt by other people's reactions too which has not helped the situation. It's so hard when the world keeps turning and you are in dreadful pain.

You do not give me anything about your personal circumstances so I hope there are one or two close relatives and or friends you can talk to about this, share stories about your beloved dog and cat and share your pain with. Grieving and huge loss is made so much more bearable when there's someone to bear it with you. If this is not the case please reply to my email and I will suggest something else.

Finally I just want to suggest marking the deaths in some way. You can have a small ceremony somewhere, plant a plant or a tree in their honour or even, if you are religious, pop into a place of worship, offer a prayer and gain some solace.

Again I say how sorry I am J and I just encourage you to grieve for these significant losses.

Carol



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Denston Village Hall 100 Club Quiz night STEFAN, TREASURER 01440 820675 the next one is in 2026. Thanks Stefan

Prices for advertising in this magazine

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	Price for the period		Price for the period
	12 months	6 months	3 months
Eighth page	£90	£50	£30
Quarter page	£185	£100	£60
Half page	£275	£150	£85

BACK PAGE

	Price for the period		Price for the period
	12 months	6 months	3 months
Eighth page	£165	£90	£50
Quarter page	£255	£140	£80
Half page	£420	£230	£125

It is clear from our accounts that a single month is not viable

Parish Pump COPY DEADLINE:

All contributors & advertisers to submit copy no later than the 18th of the month. Please note the change. Thankyou



STANSFIELD Parish Council

Working with our local community



New Parish Clerk for Stansfield

Abbie Lee is Stansfield's new Parish Clerk.

Living in nearby Glemsford, Abbie is already Clerk to two other local parish councils and was appointed at a special Stansfield Parish Council meeting in October. Abbie was also appointed RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) and has accountancy qualifications and much experience in administration. Interested in languages and travel, she lived in China near Hangzhou, where she taught English for over five years. She has a seven-year-old son.

Abbie invites you to contact her about any village matters. Email: clerk@stansfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk. Tel: 07496851198.

At the special meeting in October, parish councillors unanimously agreed to appoint Abbie and took the opportunity to agree some other matters.

Having been advised that donations from the actual Parish Council could only be made to registered charities, all councillors agreed to make personal donations to the **Tom's Sheep Fund** to help the shepherd who lost over 35 sheep in the recent incident allegedly involving loose dogs. (see front page)

Letters of thanks were agreed to be sent

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to the **MP, Nick Timothy**, for attending a special Parish Meeting to discuss and support action that could be taken to improve the way Police work in Rural Areas.

A letter of thanks was also to be sent to **Annie Lines**, outgoing Parish Clerk, for her help and support over the past two and a half years, and a letter of welcome to **Matt Paisley**, incoming Locality Inspector for the Police.

Arrangements were discussed for Councillors to meet with the **Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore** in late November. This is to discuss policing in rural areas and community communications with Police.

It was also reported that plans for an Electric Vehicle Charging Point at Stansfield Village Hall had been scrapped due to ongoing costs.

Road safety and speeding, road closures, salt bins were identified as items for the next PC meeting on 7th January, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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PARISH COUNCILS - WHO'S WHO in YOUR VILLAGE?

Parish Council	Chair	Vice Chair	Clerks
Denston	Jeff Fellows jefffellows.crown@gmail.com 01440 820 310	N/A	Jeff Fellows
Hawkedon/ Thurston End	Rotating	Rotating	David Jarrold dmj1800@icloud.com
Poslingford	Martin England martin.england@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 01787 278413	Marc Allison marc.allison@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 07958337282	Chris Turner clerk@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 07814246204
Stansfield/ Assington Green	Rex Barnes rexstansfieldsoc@gmail.com 07778 058425 www.stansfield.onesuffolk.net	Andrew Pallett andrew.pallett.spc@btintern.et.com 01284 789434	Annie Lines stansfieldpc@outlook.com
Stradishall	Ian Hutchinson clerk@stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk 07970717116	Ed Hollingsworth https://stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk/	Joanne Kirk clerk@stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk 07880686069
Clare	Rob Eyre rob.eyre@clare-suffolk.co.uk 01787 277 559	Paul Bishop paul.bishop@clare-suffolk.co.uk ,	Davina Neale clerk@clare-suffolk.co.uk
Cowlinge	Linda Aston lindaaston555@gmail.com	Jane Nesham	John Barnett 01440 783 903
Wickhambrook	Mike Lavelle mike.lavelle@wickhambrook.org.uk	Paul Couzens 07713 740 984 paul.couzens@wickhambrook.org.uk	Hilary Workman 07508 039 810 parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk



Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. The trees have coloured up, the nights are drawing in – winter is coming!

Thanks go out to Mary Jolland for organising the November Litter pick, Barbara Merritt and the Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre for their welcome refreshments and to Cllrs Andrea and Kevin Grimes for organising the litter pick at Bury Road. Thank you too for such a strong turn-out. We'll be setting some dates of litter picks in the new year and hope to see you again soon.



Thanks also go out to Alan and Kathryn Cordy and their volunteers who did such a lovely job cleaning and decorating the Memorial and the gates into the cemetery leading up to it in preparation for the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 9th November. Representatives of Year Six of Wickhambrook Primary Academy laid the wreath on behalf of the parish council.



The referendum poll on Wickhambrook's Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday 13th November. **The Question asked was:** Do you want West Suffolk Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wickhambrook to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

We now have the [Declaration of Result](#). The turnout was just over 33% and just over 82% voted yes. West Suffolk Council will now go on to make (adopt) The Plan on 16th December.

Neighbourhood Plans guide future development in villages and are used by local authorities and Government planning inspectors when making decisions on planning applications.

Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan has been a huge undertaking and wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Cllr Tracey Turner and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, made up of parish residents including:

Richard Byers – Secretary, Diana Carroll, Emily Bayman, Jamie Green, Penny Bayman, Sandra Law, Roger Merry, Sue Sternberg and Tara Hayden.

We would also like to thank our Planning Consultant, Ian Poole of Places4People for his advice and work on this project!

Although the cutting season is drawing to a close, the grounds contractors have been out and about undertaking hedge cutting and clearing brush. Work has also been carried out on parish trees, including the removal of a bough overhanging the Children's play area.

The storms and very wet weather resulted in a lot of flooding issues in the parish last winter. You can sign up for flood alerts and warnings for your property or business here: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> and you can also check for flooding in Suffolk here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/location?location=suffolk> – this one includes a map

You can also call the floodline for advice: Telephone: 0345 988 1188 Textphone: 0345 602 6340

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Suffolk County Council is asking affected residents to report significant flooding to individual properties using the [Highways Reporting Tool](#), or if you don't have access to the internet, to call SCC Customer Service 0345 606 6171. Suffolk County Council have also published a new guide, [Flood Smart Living](#), which you can access through our website.

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public so why not come along? We hope that you will find it interesting and we would like to increase our community engagement. This helps to ensure that the decisions that are reached have the support of local residents.

You never know, you may wish to get more involved – there are lots of ways to contribute, from attending meetings and asking questions, to joining in with volunteer events, or becoming a Councillor! We currently have one vacancy for a parish councillor. If you would like to find out more, please do call me or one of our councillors, or come along to one of our meetings. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our next meeting takes place on Thursday 15th January at 7:00pm, in the Pavilion of the Memorial Social Centre. At this meeting the parish council will be considering nominations for the [Alf Hicks Crystal Biscuit Barrel](#), to be presented at the next Annual Parish Meeting. If you would like to nominate an individual (or group) for their outstanding service to the parish, please drop a line to the clerk not later than 31st December.

Please do join us, particularly if you have any issues you wish to raise or questions you would like to ask. If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider at a future meeting, [please do get in touch with me](#).

Finally, at our Estates Committee on 6th November, we remembered our dear friend and colleague, David Di Giulio, who had sadly died on the Monday. As a lay member of the estates committee, David cared for our greens and trees. We shall miss him.

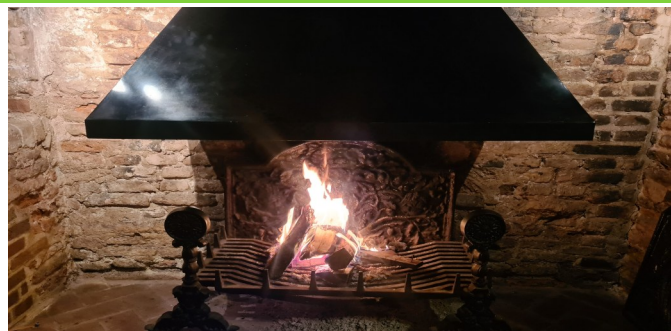
Do feel free to forward this message on to neighbours, friends and family in the parish and ask them to get in touch with me at parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the parish council in its work this year. Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year, keep safe and well.

Hilary Workman Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council



First signs of spring in Stradishall



What we all need in this shivery weather

Stradishall Parish Council News

A meeting of Parish Council took place on 10 Nov 2025. County Cllr **Bobby Bennett** and District Cllr **Marion Rushbrook** attended the meeting along with seven members of the public.

Public session Some of the people present were hoping for an update about Stradishall Garage. At the time of the meeting, West Suffolk Council had not received a revised planning application for the site. District Cllr Marion Rushbrook explained that the case officer would notify her should a planning applic'n be received. The Parish Council will also be notified and will hold a separate planning meeting if the application is submitted between meetings. Notices will be displayed in Stradishall, at Café 33 and in the shop.

Updates from County Councillor Bobby Bennett

Cllr Bobby Bennett spoke about the following Suffolk County Council issues: The Local Government Review. Suffolk County Council's business case for a single unitary council has been submitted to the Government. Suffolk County Council has a gap in its budget gap largely down to the high cost of social care.

Pothole season has started. She asked people to report them on the Highways reporting tool <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk> She has reported the drains on the A143 near Stradishall Crossroads. The meeting between some parish councils in West Suffolk and Cllr Chris Chambers, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste on 15th October. She had made her views known to him prior to the meeting. Policy is being looked at by Suffolk County Council and there should be some updates in the next few months.

District Council Report District Councillor Marion Rushbrook spoke about the following:

She has locality funding available. She agreed to let the clerk know how much money is available.

The Local Government Review. West Suffolk Council supports a three unitary option. The Haverhill bypass

Crime update from the Haverhill Community Policing Team

From 10th Aug – 11th Oct there has been a domestic non crime, criminal damage and a domestic in Stradishall plus crimes at the prison. The criminal damage was to a business premises and a suspect identified but victim did not support action.

Budget 2026 -27

Stradishall Parish Council approved its budget for 2026/27. The precept request for 2026/27 will be £14,477. The parish

council element for a band D household will be £82.73 per annum an increase from £74.79 which equates to £7.94 per annum per band D household, an increase of 10.62%. Included in the budget is money for maintenance of the play equipment on Stradishall playing field. The swing frames need replacing at a cost of approximately £7,000.

Update on the meeting of parish council in West Suffolk and Suffolk County Council on 15th Oct and the meeting with Nick Timothy MP.

27 parish councils from West Suffolk were represented at a meeting with Chris Chambers, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste on 15th October 2025. Stradishall Parish Council Chair, Ian Hutchinson, represented Stradishall Parish Council.

Parish councils present explained their frustrations and wanted to try and understand why it is so difficult to introduce road safety measures when other counties like Cambridgeshire are far more proactive in supporting parish councils with traffic calming and lower speed limits. The meeting was very constructive, and the parish councils present gave their input about what was wrong with the current system and what needs to change. Cllr Chambers made it clear that he had come to listen and that he would go away and take up the issues raised with his colleagues at Suffolk County Council. Since the meeting Cllr Chambers has discussed the meeting with colleagues at Suffolk County Council and confirmed that changes will be made in the next few months.

On 7th November a small number of parish councils met Nick Timothy MP. He is very supportive of parish councils and recognises that they should have more say in making their communities safer. He is lobbying for this with Suffolk County Council.

Urgent dental care in Suffolk.

Suffolk and Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board have shared the following information: Urgent care dental appointments are available across Suffolk within 1 to 7 days by contacting NHS 111. Adults and children experiencing dental pain, infection and other urgent issues can access NHS care seven days a week, including in the evenings. Go online at 111.nhs.uk or call 111 for an appointment.

West Suffolk Council updates Reregistering for a postal vote

Residents who applied for their postal vote [on or before 31 January 2024 and wish to continue with this arrangement will need to reapply for their postal vote before 31 January 2026](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/your-vote). Written notices will be sent out by West Suffolk Council



from 17 Nov 2025.

New small electrical recycling points across West Suffolk.

The new collection points can be filled with small electricals including mobile phones, tablets, cables, kettles, toasters and kids' toys, anything smaller than a standard sized microwave. Residents can locate their nearest recycling point via <https://maps.westsuffolk.gov.uk/>

The nearest locations to Stradishall are in Haverhill, Newmarket & Bury St Edmunds:

Haverhill

Strasbourg Square, Millfields Way, CB9 0HRCar Park, Lower Downs Slade, CB9 9LL

Queensway/Blair Parade, CB9 9BW Enringshausen Way Car Park, CB9 0BB Leiston Road, CB9 8JJ

Bury St Edmunds Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Rd, IP32 7EE Southgate Community Centre Car Park, Heron Road, IP33 2QA Ram Meadow Car Park, Cotton Lane, IP33 1XP Parkway Surface Car Park, Parkway North, IP33 3BAVinery Road Car Park, Vinery Road, IP33 2JP

Newmarket

The Guineas Car Park, (rear of Crown Walk), CB8 9EGAll Saints Car Park, CB8 8ET The Centre, Brickfields Avenue, CB8 7RX.

Poll Clerks, Presiding Officers and Count Assistants needed to work with West Suffolk Council at future elections.

A large team of people is needed to help ensure that elections are run efficiently, fairly and securely. Roles with full training and competitive pay are available. To apply, applicants must be: *At least 18 years old *Entitled to work in the UK *Able to remain politically neutral

Interested applicants can apply online at [Working at elections](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/working-at-elections) or contact the Elections team at elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk for more information.

Tel: 07880 686069 Email:

clerk@stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website:

www.stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk

The minutes of meetings are available on the Parish Council website. Draft minutes will be published within 28 days of a meeting.. **Joanne**

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Jeff's page

Botrytis cinerea. (Noble Rot).

Our journey brings us to Sweet (commonly known as Dessert) wines which are produced with the help of the above. This is the fungus which attaches itself to the grapes in dry weather after wet weather. Water is taken by the berries and in doing so concentrate the natural sugars which are left. This begins the fermentation process during which the grapes are picked and then used to make what we describe as Dessert wines. This is a traditional method going back centuries. Arguably the best known examples are Chateau d'Yquem from Sauternes, (from the Sémillon grape) and Tokaji from Hungary (from the Aszu grape). However there are plenty of other examples from Austria, Italy and Germany. The latter has three categories, all made from the Riesling grape, namely Auslese made from very ripe grapes with NR.

from small garden mowers and trimmers to large ride on machines,



professional mowers and robotics, plus a large range of accessories and parts.

Beerenauslese (BA) which is the same but with the berries (Beeren) picked later. Trockenbeerenauslese (TBA) which are grapes almost like raisins picked much later and quite often frozen which produces a very sweet, concentrated wine tasting of honey, dried stone fruits and golden in colour. Other similar wines, called Icewine, are made in Canada and the USA, and have similar properties to TBA.



What to look for. The colour will vary from golden to darkish brown. A light-coloured wine will have less intensity and taste. A dark colour will indicate an older wine. When poured into the glass the legs will move much more slowly, being more viscous. The nose is unlike any other wine, and you can expect any combination of the

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following, chocolate, fig, prune, pear, nuts, caramel and most certainly honey. The wine can be drunk with local fruit, savoury or sweet biscuits. Traditionally served with Foie Gras but there are many alternatives which can be accompanied with a Sauternes sauce. Oysters with sausages is another little-known combination. Roquefort and blue cheese are also a good partner.

Although most people have heard of Chateau d'Yquem there are other wines from that region well worth trying, including those from Cadillac, Loupiac, Sainte-Croix-du-Mont and Barsac. In the event that any lottery winner manages to buy the 1847 bottle of Chateau d'Yquem, at £96k, currently on offer I would be happy to give an opinion. May I also take this opportunity to wish all you wine drinkers the very merriest of Christmases and enjoyment of the wines you drink then and in 2026.

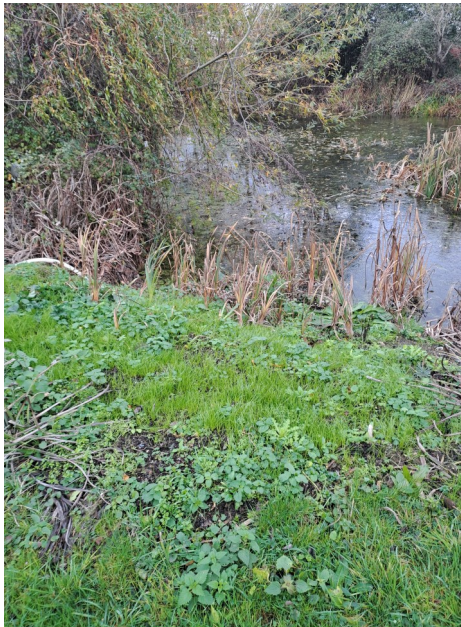
Jeff

A relic of former times !



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Mary Cleaver

Contact at all costs? Family Law Reform

A major shake-up in UK family law could protect thousands of children in situations of domestic abuse. The Government has announced it will repeal the "presumption of parental involvement" from the Children Act 1989 — the long-standing assumption that contact with both parents is generally in a child's best interests. This change has been driven by campaigners including Claire Throssell, who tragically lost her two sons, Jack and Paul, when their abusive father was granted unsupervised contact. Claire, now a survivor ambassador with Women's Aid, has argued for years that

the "pro-contact" culture in family courts places children in danger. Their fight won fresh momentum following a damning report by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, published in October 2023. The report analysed hundreds of court cases and observed many hearings, concluding that many judges still fail to grasp coercive control or the real risk to children. It described a "pro-contact principle ... rarely disapplied" and highlighted that the court system itself sometimes retraumatizes survivors. For Claire, the reform is deeply personal. Her advocacy is not just policy—it is a

promise she made to her children. "Every child deserves to be heard, seen, supported and believed," she said as she welcomed the Government's announcement. Domestic abuse charities such as Refuge have also welcomed the change, calling it a vital step toward ending what they describe as a "contact at all costs" mindset in family court. Legal experts and campaigners insist, however, that the repeal alone isn't enough. To protect children and survivors properly, they warn, the reform must be backed by better training for judges, more specialist court support,

Portia's glorious animals ready for Christmas

Cattle are all home. We have been busy bringing all the cattle home for winter. A little earlier than normal as we have our 4 yearly TB test next week. Having all the cattle home enables us to run the cattle

though the crush which is less stressful for the cattle and safer for the vet to carry out the test. The primary method for TB testing in cattle is a skin test, which involves two days of a

vet visit and it is a legal requirement. This is the standard, routine surveillance test. Day 1 is the test. Day 2 is the Reading (approximately 72 hours later). Portia



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CHRISTMAS HOURS:

24TH: CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTMAS CAROL PARTY 6:30PM - 10PM
 (CAROLS FROM 7:30PM)

25TH: CHRISTMAS DAY 12:00PM - 3PM

26TH: BOXING DAY 1:00PM - 6:00PM

31ST: NEW YEARS EVE 7:00PM - 12:30PM

1ST JAN: NEW YEARS DAY 1:00PM - 6:00PM

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	LIDGATE			
	OUSDEN			
	STANSFIELD			
	STRADISHALL			
	(Assington Green)			
WICKHAMBROOK				
STOUR VALLEY	CLARE	The Revd Mark Woodrow	01787277515	The Revd Dr Karen Smith
	POSLINGFORD			
SUFFOLK HEIGHTS	HAWKEDON	The Revd Clive Fairclough	01284 615828	Mrs Heather Phillips Mr David Taylor
SUFFOLK HEIGHTS	(Thurston End)	As Hawkedon	As Hawkedon	As Hawkedon

Puzzle Time

Puzzle 8

Local To(u)r(na)ment?

Thurston End 4
Poslingford 2

Wickhambrook 6
Stradishall 5

Clare 1
Cowlinge 4

Hawkedon 7
Assington Green 2

Stansfield 8
Denston 1

Why did no team make progress?

A *Delphic's Quest* prize pen will be awarded to a randomly drawn correct entry each month. To enter, please submit your answer to delphicsquest@gmail.com (feedback also welcome.) The closing date for submissions is 31st December.

Answer to Puzzle 7: Greyhound
[...racing to the line - rising at the finish. The last letter of each line of the (apparent) riddle from bottom to top gives GREYHOUND]

Congratulations to Agnes Rushmore of Clare who is the winner of last month's puzzle.



Yours to win!



West Suffolk District Councillors

West Suffolk District Councillor for **Denston, Stansfield, Hawkedon, Brockley, Wickhambrook, Stradishall, Clare, Hundon, Cavendish, Stoke by Clare, Kedington and others** Bobby Bennett
bobby.bennet@suffolk.co.uk

West Suffolk District Councillor for **Whepstead Wickhambrook Denston, Stansfield, Brockley, and Hawkedon**
Sarah Pugh sarah.pugh@westsuffolk.gov.uk

West Suffolk District Council for **Clare, Kedington & Hundon ward**
Cllr Nick Clarke -
nick.clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Marion Rushbrook
marion.rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Karen Richardson
karen.richardson@westsuffolk.gov.uk

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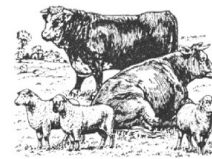
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Wickhambrook WI –meeting yeehahs or something like that!

Wickhambrook WI November Meeting took the form of a “hoedown “ as members took to the dance floor to attempt some line dancing. Due to the lack of an instructor our President Amanda Lavelle gamely led us in some basic steps before attempting a full dance. Accompanied by whoops and yeehahs we succeeded in putting together a complete routine. Despite some people confusing left and right and Charleston steps with grapevine steps it was an energetic and enjoyable evening.



Please note this is Karla Greenwood’s first report. Sincere welcome from the Parish Pump

Services at Hawkedon St Mary in December

Car Aid Report – October 2025

Meeting: Monday 17th November 2025

Sunday, 14th. 9am. BCP Holy Communion
 Monday, 15th 6pm. Compline
 Saturday, 20th. 5.30pm Carol singing at Hawkedon Queen
 Thursday, 25th. 9am. BCP Holy Communion with carols
 Many thanks, best, **Heather Tilbury**
Phillipshtapr@dircon.co.uk
 01284 789 250/07774 275656

Historical Monthly Trips

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	19	19	23	11	18	13	17	17	20	22	26	22
2020	29	23	24	1	5	5	5	6	6	18	13	7
2021	5	17	8	20	23	24	18	19	17	21	38	26
2022	17	24	30	14	28	22	24	22	18	29	21	24
2023	32	32	42	24	41	48	31	26	21	25	35	32
2024	47	62	29	37	38	34	46	33	27	37	31	23
2025	20	24	29	37	23	22	33	23	23	26		

	Total	Ave	% +/-
2019	227	19	
2020	142	12	-37
2021	236	20	40
2022	273	23	13
2023	389	32	34
2024	444	37	14
2025*	234	26	-30

*Based on first 10 months

During October 2025, we had:

- 33 trips booked
- 26 completed
- 7 cancellations



The number of cancellations was quite high this month due to a couple of clinics being cancelled and family members becoming available at the last minute.

We used the services of 14 of our volunteer drivers this month. As always thank you. The number of active drivers currently stands at 26 plus 2 in reserve.

A warm welcome to Jackie Betts and Sarah Rook who join CLASP as volunteer drivers this month.

Farewell and thank you to Carol Thompson and Mike Arnold as they officially retire from volunteer driving.

We provided Car Aid trips to 20 clients and 2 were new to Car Aid this month.

We tried doubling up clients who had a similar appointment time. This proved to be very successful. It reduced volunteer time, cost and our carbon footprint but was also enjoyed by the clients. Hopefully, we can continue this where possible.

We are still short of drivers and so if anyone has a friend or neighbour with a bit of spare time then please tell them how rewarding it is and send them my way.

Karla Greenwood 13/11/2025

A big vote of thanks

John & Sara Dennis would like to thank all their family and friends for such lovely cards and presents on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary.

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