

PARISH PUMP

No 396 parish.pump@gmail.com

June 2026



The Blackcap—one of twelve wild birds heard in our garden at one time



Three black pigs *NOT* found in our garden at one time!



Isn't this lovely?



Another baby hedge pig

Parish Pump: delivery to Assington Green

This is another cry for help please: Due to Paula Green's house move, we need a volunteer to deliver the magazine every month to the houses in Assington Green. It takes about half an hour to walk it or 5 minutes by car. **Anyone who is interested please contact Peter on 07711689171. Thank you.**

Wickhambrook and District Garden Club

At our April meeting, **Jason Reed**, from Moles Seeds, told us about hardy annuals that can be sown straight on the ground where they are to bloom, from mid-April onwards. However, the soil must be warm to the touch, use your bare elbow to check, and the seed must be covered to keep birds from eating it. Once the seedlings are growing, it can be difficult to recognise and remove the weeds, but this method saves planting out. Hardy annuals are resilient and can take a little frost and prefer not to be over watered once established. Seed heads can be harvested and the seed used next year. Plant in diagonal lines, which can be made with a rake, or, mixing seed with sand, you can broadcast on a prepared area. By June there should be colourful flowers to enjoy! Some of the hardy annuals he recommended were: calendula, saffron, salvias, cornflowers, cosmos, lavatera, sunflowers and zinnias. www.molesseeds.co.uk is a colourful website showing many new and

exciting varieties and ordering from it saves 3%.
 May's Events were **A Garden Party for members on 9th May at Melford House and Visit to Beth Chatto's garden on 14th May,**



followed by our annual Plant Sale on Saturday 23rd May at the WI Hall. Buying started at 10am. All were welcome. We hope you found something different to grow in your garden!
On Monday 1st June, Jason Breed will be following up his talk about summer colour, at 7.30 in the WI Hall. Non-members are very welcome.
Ruth Seal. Montage by Polly Puxley-Pituch



A preview of Beth Chato's Garden EUPHORBIA GRIFFITHII "Fireglow" One of the many euphorbia in the Gardens See page 6

**Stansfield PCC
 Village BBQ
 Sunday 19th July 2026
 at
 Village Hall,
 Stansfield, CO10 8LW**

11.00 service in the hall – optional

**12.15 BBQ,
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St Nicholas Hospice Care 'Wills Week'

Each year, more than 300,000 people across the UK receive care and support from hospices. Many of those services are only possible thanks to the generosity of



people who choose to leave a gift in their Will.

This June, St Nicholas Hospice Care is once again running its Wills Weeks, giving local people the opportunity to have a Will written or updated by a participating solicitor at a reduced cost.

Instead of paying a fee, you are invited to make a donation to the Hospice, helping to support patients and families in your community.

St Nicholas Hospice Care needs to raise around £9.5 million each year to continue providing free care. With only a small proportion of this funded through statutory sources, support from the community is vital. Donations made during Wills Weeks and gifts left in Wills play a crucial role in ensuring hospice care remains available both now and for future generations.

Leaving a gift in a Will, no matter how small, can make a lasting difference. It can help ensure that people facing dying, death and grief are supported with dignity, compassion and expert care.

Wills Weeks is a positive and practical way to make plans for the future while supporting a local charity. To find out more and book an appointment, visit <https://www.stnicholashospice.org.uk> and search for **Wills Weeks**.



Speed Indicator Device for Stansfield

Speed of vehicles entering Stansfield will be flashed up on a new device to be positioned in the entry roads into Stansfield. Help towards funding for the £2000+ device, which will remind drivers to slow down to below 30 mph in the village, is being



sought from County and District Council locality budgets. Stansfield Parish Council made the decision at their May meeting after residents raised concerns about speeding at last year's annual open Parish Meeting. The parish council is also considering putting "gates" at both ends of the village with signs reminding drivers to slow down and take care through Stansfield. A new 20 mph limit for the village has also been investigated, but it is unlikely Stansfield would qualify unless speed bumps and other calming measures were put in place, and these would likely cost the parish in the tens of thousands.

Road Safety on the whole stretch of the A143 between Haverhill and Bury is being looked at by **Cllr Bobby Bennett** of Suffolk County Council. She said there were frequent accidents and consequent road closures. Stansfield councillors highlighted some dangers such as the turn to Denston via Water Lane, and vehicles parked blocking the sight splay at the turn towards Bury.

The Stansfield Village Sign is due to be re-erected shortly. Thanks to the generosity of a village resident, who has offered to do the work at no charge, the only cost will be around £250 (for the materials involved) from the parish annual maintenance budget. Following the outcome of the recent court case about the incident when over 30 sheep were killed by loose dogs in Stansfield, the Parish Clerk is to write a **letter to the shepherd** offering sympathy and support. All parish councillors personally contributed to the fund created in the village which raised over £5000 for the shepherd.

A **village newsletter*** is to be created which will be distributed three to four times per year to coincide with the events that the parish council has instigated. These events, whilst costing the parish very little, offer opportunities for socialising between residents, and informal contact to raise ideas and concerns with councillors. In addition to the **Fun Day on August 15th**, an Autumn event possibly a coffee morning and workshop featuring the making of seasonal decorations and beverages like mulled wine, is being considered.

Next Meeting of Stansfield Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9th September in the Village Hall, 7pm.

*** Please note the Parish Pump was born in Stansfield**

An extremely lucky batman

A delightful meeting

Recently I was on a routine visit to Stradishall church when I came across two delightful gentlemen. They were **Mr John Sargent and his father**. We discussed their connection with **Stradishall**. It turned out that John was doing his national service in the RAF and he was at a not pleasant training weekend, when he luckily had the job of making and pouring the tea. **This changed his whole life!**

Now please put this story on hold for a minute. Do you recognise the man in the photo? It is:

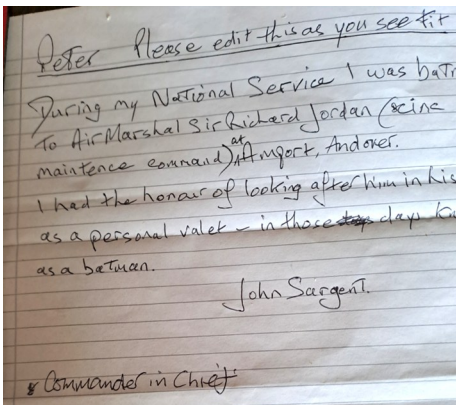
Sir Richard Bowen Jordan KCB (Knight Commander Order of the Bath), DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) Air Marshall, Flying Officer, Flight Lieutenant, Squadron Leader, RAF test pilot, Staff Officer (Peace Organisation), Wing Commander, Station Commander, Air Commodore, Group Captain, Air Officer Commanding (RAF India, Pakistan and Gibraltar, Aide de Camp to King George VI, Air Commodore in Chief (Royal Observer Corps), Director General RAF, Companion Order of the Bath.

The most important distinguishing point here was that Sir Richard was a **pilot** and even more importantly, was at one time based at **Stradishall**. On one occasion during the war he came back from a sortie and he managed to crash his plane near **Bury St Edmunds**. Fortunately, no-one was hurt because he managed to crash into a copse of trees. He returned to Stradishall on a farm cart.

Now at some point in this illustrious career he spotted airman **John Sargent** pouring the tea at the aforementioned training



weekend. John was so expert at this that he was singled out by the Air Marshall and after much consultation was taken on as his **batman**. This he had the honour of doing for a number of years even when Sir Richard Jordan was knighted by **King George the Sixth**.



So, the moral of this story was if the Air Marshall had not been based in Stradishall I would not have met John and his father at the church!

SAT 20 JUNE

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Apart from being only £12 a round, it's a place to enjoy the outdoors, share a few laughs, and spend quality time together. A round can be completed in around 90 minutes, making it ideal for modern life when time is precious but the desire to get outside and play remains strong. Of course, it's an even better time if you're playing well.

Susan

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Lidgate church FARM WALK June 13th



Lidgate will be holding their Farm walk on June 13th. This will be an evening walk starting at 6pm for a couple of hours. Meet at the church gate. It will be led by Graham the farm manager and will go on land not normally available to the public. Cost £10 per adult and children over 12, children under 12 £2, well behaved dogs on leads welcome.

There will be wine, soft drinks and nibbles in church afterwards

Also, our Cheese and Wine will be on August 15th at Street Farm courtesy of Barbara and Nick Arundale, a beautiful venue. Cost £12 for adults and children over 12, £6 for under 12
Time 6.30 to 10, There will also be a Raffle

Many thanks Janet

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Hawkedon Church

The following services will be held at St Mary's Church, Hawkedon during **JUNE** :all very welcome.

Sunday, 14 June. 9am. BCP Holy Communion

Sunday, 28 June. 11am. Morning Prayer with hymns followed by refreshments

H is for Helen, Hawk and Hawkedon!

On a May evening and to an appreciative audience in the packed Village Hall, local author and naturalist, **Helen Macdonald** gave a vivid and illuminating talk describing the story of her life (so far!) from her nature obsessed childhood, university at Cambridge, and world-wide travels including raising falcons for Gulf Sheiks, living among scientists from NASA in the Arctic, and visiting the remote atoll of Midway, an American Airforce base, populated by four hundred thousand albatross!

Her bond with her photographer/journalist father **Alistair** was extremely deep and a long period of agonising grief following his early death led her to seek solace and purpose by acquiring a wild goshawk of her own. Mabel became the focus of her life, helping her to understand how the natural world copes with dying. The book 'H is for Hawk' brought world wide acclaim and



eventually was made into the widely popular film of the same name, released earlier this year and starring Claire Foy as Helen. Helen described the story of all this with amazing and articulate clarity and the audience was riveted whilst also thoroughly enjoying the accompanying expressive pictures. Although a self-confessed recluse, she is now often seen out and about in the village walking her green parrot Bertie and giving him flying lessons. The extremely successful evening, with wine and refreshments, generated a useful and essential fundraising sum towards this year's struggle to rebuild the partially collapsed churchyard wall.



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Wickhambrook Garden Club

On Thursday 14th May, a group from Wickhambrook Garden Club set off to visit the **Beth Chatto Gardens** in Elmstead, near Colchester. (Many thanks to CLASP for providing the minibus and the lovely driver.)

Beth Chatto started her garden in the 1960s, with a strong belief in "the right plant for the right place!" The site, which covers 7.5 acres, was once an overgrown wasteland with poor gravel soil and boggy hollows. Today it is truly beautiful, even when seen in the heavy showers we encountered. This was somewhat ironic, as one of the most famous areas is the Gravel Garden (originally a carpark), where, once in situ, the drought-resistant plants are never watered. In contrast are the Water Garden, the Woodland Garden, and the Reservoir Garden. Of course, there is also a plant nursery with lovingly nurtured plants for sale (and knowledgeable folk on hand with expert advice), a gift shop, and a tea room – a welcome shelter during the worst of the downpours. Some of us also went to see and admire the seven Berkshire piglets, who are enjoying helping to prepare unused scrubland for future cultivation. In spite of the weather, it was a grand day out! **Ruth**



MULLEIN (*Verbascum thapsus*) in the Gravel Garden



The Berkshire piglets—all black and lovely.

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Curate's Chronicles – June 2026 (God's Call to Serve)



As the hedgerows burst into full bloom and the long, golden evenings of June settle over our beautiful Suffolk countryside, there is a palpable sense of life in all its fullness.

In the Church's calendar, June is traditionally a month of profound significance - a season known as Petertide, named for St Peter the Apostle whose feast day is the 29th June. It is a time when many dioceses across the country and around the world gather to ordain new deacons and priests.

Petertide is a time of "yeses". It is a time when individuals, having wrestled with that quiet, persistent "still small voice", finally step forward to offer their lives entirely to God's service. This year, our celebrations carry a particular weight of joy and anticipation for our own community. Responding to God's call is rarely a straightforward path. In the modern world, we are often told that our value is defined by our career ladder, our salary, or our personal brand. Yet, God frequently calls us to a different kind of accounting. I was one of those who turned away from a successful career to follow God's call, and I am always moved by those who have the courage to change course mid-life too - those who leave

behind established professions because they have found a deeper hope that they simply must share.

Offering one's life to God isn't about escaping the world; it is about diving deeper into it with a new perspective. It is about finding hope in the future, even when the news headlines suggest reasons for despair. When someone chooses to be ordained, or become a licensed lay minister, they are making a public statement that God is active, that grace is real, and that the future belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are thrilled to announce that Sarah Smith, from our own benefice, will be ordained Deacon at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on the 27th June. Following her ordination, Sarah will join us as our new Curate. We look forward to welcoming her into our church family as she begins this sacred chapter of her ministry.

Sarah's journey to the Cathedral steps is a testament to the fact that God never stops calling people. Whether it is a call to ordained ministry, like Sarah's, or a call to be a more prayerful neighbour, a

more honest worker, or a more compassionate friend, we are all invited to participate in God's work of renewal.

As we mark the anniversary of many priests and deacons ordained in Petertide's past, let us use this month to look for God in the unexpected places. If you feel a nudge to change direction, or if you find yourself searching for a hope that the world cannot give, do not be afraid. The same God who sustains the stars in the sky is interested in the smallest details of your life.

Please keep Sarah in your prayers this month as she prepares for her big day in Bury St Edmunds. Please also pray for Revd Karen as she comes to the end of her Curacy with us and prepares to respond to God's call and takes up her first incumbency. May their time amongst us be a reminder to us all that the future is bright when we walk it with the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

The Revd Mark Woodrow (Rector)

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

Note from Rod :Have looked back in my records for 15 years and have not recorded a drier April. However in the last 10 years we have experienced similar low levels of rainfall but during May or June. We in East Anglia, are from media accounts, to be one of the driest areas of the country for the year to date

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	118	41
Tina Lee- Stradishall	45	32	9	25	19	27	30	33	46	63	101	46
Sam Slater- Stansfield	46	30	5	23	21	20	54	24	41	54	99	45
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	64	35	13	25	26	29	59	26	48	59	114	43
Jay Gridley-Hundon	59	26	11	21	26	29	22	25	38	77	122	54
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	73	33	8	21	30	32	32	20.5	43	58.5	98	52
Elaine Plumpton - Great Saxham	63	42	6	23	17	38	51	26	60	58	119	49

2026	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nick Burton- Stradishall	91	71	18	3								
Tina Lee- Stradishall	81	65	14	6								
Sam Slater- Stansfield	100	57	20	3								
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	96	84	25	4								
Jay Gridley-Hundon	116	105	28	5								
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	90	65.5	24	3								
Elaine Plumpton- Great Saxham	94	82	22	9								
Robin Stokes - Barrow	84	93	31	13								

Martin's back with Spring in his step on his way to Summer

Martin
Enriching things and some perhaps not !

I hope it is not just a feature of getting older that one can find pleasure in simple things. Little things like the crackle of the fire in the hearth, the sudden clearing of the sky towards evening after a dull day, the soaring flight of birds, yes even pigeons, and the shadows trees give on fields of sprouting corn. All these delight me but none so much as this past Spring we have lived through.

Is it the brutal hedge cutting, that gave us March and April with hedges looking like walls of snow guarding fields where despite all odds new life was stirring? Blackthorns were particularly early and lastingly abundant before the Hawthorn took their place. It was certainly May in May! And all along our pot holed roads the hedgerows gave us an ever changing display of wild flowers. The sturdy cowslips seemed to arrive so early with wild daffodils and, of course, the drifts of snowdrops bigger still than last year's display. Then came the bluebells, their colour contrasting with this year's profusion of wild rape seed yellow. It must have been very windy when the farmers were sowing for so much to land on the road verges. It is probably not Native and was first mistaken for Mustard by passers by and then went through a phase of being thought rather a common crop till television chefs began to extol the good properties of Rape Seed Oil which goes into so many things including cosmetics. Now its wild descendants have become part of the Spring wild flower scene. I saw a fully fledged dandelion clock seed head just ready to scatter in early March, buttercups arrived and then little bunches of Stellaria, its white stars now competing with wild garlic which is

even sold in foodie markets in London and occur in the recipes in the trendier cooking supplements of weekend newspapers.

If one looks and really sees these things one can be fulfilled and this past Spring was truly amazing and an antidote to what seemed an endless, rather dreary wet winter. Now we have had a few days of warmth and sunshine to encourage us to plant out tender plants just that bit too early only to see them snapped by frost. Things in the country are different year on year even to the lay person but take heart, dear friends, the common red poppy and its little sister the long smooth-headed poppy are here and blooming in fields, waysides and wastelands to tell us that summer is almost here.

But we live in times of change and articles are appearing saying that next year all over the world there will be high temperatures and water shortages. We should consider planting accordingly and treasure what Nature still gives us every day.

As a contrast I forced myself to watch certain elements of the Eurovision Song Contest. Of course as a major sponsor we get through to the final anyway unless we choose to boycott the whole shooting match on political grounds. Our entry this year was entitled Eins, Zwei, Drei and featured some Gentleman in a pink motor racing suit surrounded by a team of dancers performing to some manic choreographer's dream with their heads rammed into computer consoles or maybe television sets. If it was to be judged for tunefulness it was generously awarded with one sole point which I think was awarded in the Public Vote rather than by the international judges

who, I presume, know about these things and decided that for all the Composing might of Great Britain behind us, be it



Elgar, Britten or even Andrew Lloyd Webber, we had failed this year to produce anything that would register on the European Musical Richter Scale. Given that we were not even the most dire of contributions to the Competition the BBC and perhaps the Government were delighted that our contribution had not brought the country even closer to the brink of bankruptcy by having to host next year's event. I do know of people who follow the whole process of choosing our Song for Europe and then the Semi Finals right through to the glorious day of humiliation each year. Personally (and I don't mind if this is Old Age talking) I yearn for those days when songs were songs and we had the likes of Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson performing such memorable ballads as Sing Little Birdie, or Cliff singing Congratulations in 1968, or even barefoot Sandy Shaw. Those were the days! Eh, what?

Just one last thing: if you are interested in paintings there is a large and wonderful exhibition at the National Gallery just opened. Zubarán, the early 17th century Spanish painter, is celebrated in a large and glorious exhibition. Mainly religious paintings, many of friars, saints and martyrs but totally glorious and breathtakingly executed in every sense. There are still lifes too and above all there is Light which seems to be the province of great Spanish artists. If you think it might your thing, do go and see it. Google him first if you are not sure.

Welcome to Summer !

Wickhambrook Local History Society—Arsenic's Toxic Legacy



Wickhambrook Local History Society welcomed **Neil Dickinson** to the May meeting for what sounded like a very serious subject, but before too long we were in fits of laughter as Neil's dry wit made it come to life.

When he was a child in Sheffield, Neil would visit the Peak District where he collected minerals from the hills and this led to a lifelong interest, a university degree and a career as an industrial chemist.

His subject was arsenic, a chemical element from an ore which was a byproduct of Cornish tin and copper mining and since Victorian times has been used in many different ways. Fowler's Solution was marketed as a tonic and aphrodisiac, good for the complexion too as it caused cheeks to be rosy. Arsenic was used in chicken feed to grow bigger hens until fairly recently and was widely used as a spray to kill Colorado Beetle and Boll Weevil in the USA and was sprayed on fruit trees. As we know, it is also a poison and half a teaspoonful ingested can kill a human. Neil told us of poisonings and possible murders. In 1857, **Madeleine Smith** gave her fiancé cocoa laced with arsenic but murder was 'not proven' in the Scottish Court. **Mary Anne Cotton**, 1832-1873, poisoned 21 members of her

family with it to claim insurance. **Marcus Marymont**, an American serviceman, used it to poison his wife in 1958 and this was the first case where hair samples were analysed to prove slow poisoning over a length of time. In 1858, a Yorkshire confectioner mistakenly added arsenic to peppermint lozenges and more than 20 people died. In the **Manchester Beer Epidemic**, when cheap beer was contaminated by arsenic, 6,000 people were poisoned and 70 died. There were accidental poisonings too as a green dye used in clothing and wallpaper contained arsenic until it was banned in 1856.

This was such a fascinating talk, so much to learn and think about, and the chemists and farmers in our society had many questions for Neil at the end of the evening.



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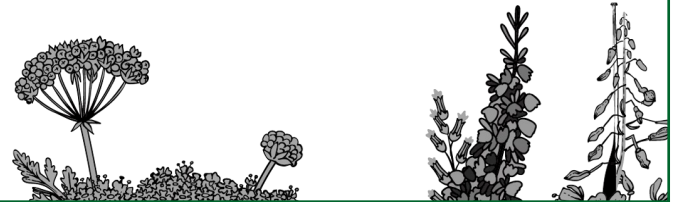
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Spring Sunshine and Shared Gardening Wisdom

May is often seen as the true height of spring, with gardens bursting into colour and warmer days encouraging everyone outdoors. This month's Plant & Seed Swap was the perfect way for villagers to celebrate the season together. Residents arrived carrying an impressive collection of plants and seedlings — from trays and baskets to boxes and even a wheelbarrow full of greenery. There was a wonderful variety on offer, including several thoughtful donations left before the event, which were very much appreciated. The sunny weather made



the gathering even more enjoyable, as people relaxed with cups of tea, exchanged gardening advice and caught up with neighbours. It was lovely to see experienced gardeners sharing their knowledge with others.

As Marjah commented, "Learning lots from the master gardeners in the village. The event also saw another fantastic show of support for the Community

The People of Poslingford

Pantry. Mark will distribute the generous donations, and sincere thanks go to



everyone who contributed. After villagers had chosen the plants they wished to take home, the remaining plants were kindly donated to the



Stansfield Plant Sale, ensuring they will



continue to be enjoyed elsewhere in the community.

An enormous thank-you to everyone, for their support.

Our event for next month is, Booze in the Pews & Quiz. Please bring your own



drink. To take part in the quiz, please bring a donation for the Community Pantry. Everybody is welcome.

Booze in the Pews & Quiz

Saturday 13th June at 2pm

St Mary's Church, Poslingford

Bring your own drink & a donation for the Community Pantry to take part in the quiz

Heather

Suffolk residents called to support £8.2m air ambulance appeal

East Anglian Air Ambulance is calling upon people and businesses in Suffolk to support its £8.2 million appeal to build a new air base over the border in Cambridgeshire, following planning approval for a site near Fulbourn.

The charity must relocate from its current base at Cambridge Airport, which is set to close in 2030. Without a replacement, the air ambulance warns its service could be cut in half, leaving only its Norfolk base – which would significantly increase response times to life-threatening emergencies across Suffolk and the wider region.

The proposed facility at New Shardelowes Farm will support crews serving **Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Norfolk**, helping ensure patients continue to receive rapid, hospital-level care. The charity estimates that without a centrally located base, nearly 1,000 lives a year could be put at risk. **CEO Matthew Jones** described the appeal as a



“pivotal moment,” adding that while planning permission has been secured, public support is now critical to fund construction.

The campaign is backed by local families whose lives have been saved by East Anglian Air Ambulance crews, including Mia Cornelius from Haverhill, who gave birth at home to baby Clayton at just 26 weeks. In 2025, East Anglian Air

Ambulance treated 1,845 patients, including 151 children. From its current Cambridge base the charity's Anglia Two helicopter can reach around 1.2 million people within ten minutes.

Donations and community fundraising efforts are being encouraged, with the charity saying even small contributions could help secure the future of its life-saving service.

For more information or to find out how to donate, visit eaaa.org.uk/base **Same advert as last month because it is a very worthy cause. P**

If you have a press/media enquiry, or need an earlier response, please email marcomms@eaaa.org.uk or call 01603 576675. Best wishes, **Rachel**

Stansfield Village Hall

Stansfield Plant Sale 2026

Despite forecast of rain for Saturday 16th May, the sun came out for Stansfield Plant Sale. Generous gardeners started arriving with plants in the morning and by 12pm the tables were groaning with flowers, vegetables, herbs and trees. At the 12 o'clock whistle there was a rush of people with an eye for the pick of the crop, then a steady trickle of customers



into the afternoon. Meanwhile inside the hall, many stayed for some tea and delicious cake, or maybe something stronger from the bar, and to spend time chatting with friends and neighbours.

Thanks to all who supported Stansfield Plant Sale either by coming along and buying something, or by donating plants, cakes or raffle prizes. Sincere thanks also to all those that helped the Village Hall committee run the event on the day. The event raised £460 towards keeping your Village Hall going. Thank you!

Refugee week 15th- 21st June

Stansfield Village Hall will be taking part in 'Refugee Week', the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the

contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary by showing 'Dreamers' as Cinema in Stansfield's monthly screening on 19th June.

Dreamers is a bold and tender story from director Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor. The film tells the tale of Isio, a Nigerian migrant freshly placed at a UK asylum removal centre, who searches for the will to battle the system and finds a kindred spirit who might help her through. Freedom is elusive, but love is eternal.

"Tender, empathetic storytelling is elevated by handsome cinematography and heartfelt performances." Wendy Ide, *Screen International*.

Entry is free, but donations to help with event costs appreciated.

Derek Adams

Stradishall Parish Council News

The Annual Meeting of Stradishall Parish Council took place on 11th May 2026. **Ian Hutchinson** was re-elected as Chair and **Ed Hollingsworth** as Vice-chair.

Finance and the Annual Audit for 2025-2026 were the main items on the agenda. The Council approved the accounts and supporting documentation for the audit which has been published on the parish council's website at <https://stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk/finance/financial-information-2025-26/>

Dogs on Stradishall Playing Field

Stradishall Parish Council has been contacted about two terriers on the playing field, one of which was out of control. Concern was raised about what might have happened had children been on the playing field.

Dog owners using the playing field are reminded that it is a public space and dogs should be on the lead or under close control if there are other users on the playing field, especially children. Dogs should also be kept away from the play equipment. If residents are concerned about the behaviour of dogs on the playing field they should contact the Parish Council in the first instance. Dangerous dogs however should be reported to the Police.

Annual Parish Meeting

Stradishall's Annual Parish Meeting also took place on 11th May. This was a village meeting and an opportunity for residents to meet parish councillors and other local government representatives. District Councillors **Marion Rushbrook** and **Nick Clarke** attended with **Peter Thompson** from Stradishall Church, a volunteer from the VAS Management group and **Simon Furnell** from HERA. All the reports from the Annual Parish Meeting are available on the Parish

Council's website at <https://stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk/about-us/annual-parish-meeting/annual-parish-meeting-2026/>

District Councillors' Report

Nick Clarke spoke about the following: West Suffolk Council has started work on a new Local Plan to accommodate the additional housing requirements passed down from central Government.

All their locality budget has been spent.

They are very keen that smaller parishes do not miss out on funding from this year's locality budget.

Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk. There will be three unitary councils, West Suffolk, East Suffolk and Ipswich.

Better Recycling is starting in June.

The proposal for a new Forest City between Newmarket and Haverhill.

Stradishall Church Report

Church Warden **Peter Thompson** presented his report. He has been involved in a lot of work to improve St Margaret's Church and the churchyard. They have applied for a Faculty to fix a leak in the church roof but will need to raise the money first.

Highpoint Estate Residents Association (HERA) update

Louise Latache gave an update. They are working hard to improve the roads on the estate. They are planning to start taking up the loose surface tarmac on Chestnut Road to see what needs to be repaired underneath.

VAS Report

The VAS has been in use for two years now. Patterns are emerging showing that speeding is worse on the Street compared to Edmunds Hill. They will be interested to see the impact on speeding when the new

post is installed on Edmunds Hill. **Proposal for a Forest City between Newmarket and Haverhill.**

There has been a lot of publicity in the press about a proposal for a new settlement between Newmarket and Haverhill. The proposal is for approximately 370,000 new homes across 45,000 acres of countryside. West Suffolk Council has advised that the Forest City concept is not related to the West Suffolk Local Plan. West Suffolk Council held a without prejudice meeting with the Forest City promoters for the purpose of finding out further details of the proposal. Following this meeting West Suffolk Council responded to state that they have not offered any expression of interest or support for the proposal. Should the concept progress to a formal proposal Stradishall Parish Council would be consulted as part of the statutory process. In the meantime, Stradishall Parish Council will monitor the progress of this proposal and keep residents informed of any developments. When and if a formal consultation process takes place, Stradishall Parish Council will hold a planning meeting which residents will be able to attend and share their views with parish councillors.

Nick Timothy MP is also concerned about the Forest City concept and residents can contact him if they wish to. His email address is nick.timothy.mp@parliament.uk

New meeting time

Stradishall Parish Council will be trialling a new meeting time at the next meeting on Monday 6th July. The meeting will start at **6 pm**

Joanne.

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Karla Greenwood - Car Aid Coordinator
on 07724 698 283



C·L·A·S·P
CLARE LIAISON & SUPPORT PROJECT

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 think I am a victim of snobbery. They are the words of my best friend. I am going out with a lovely guy. He's kind, great fun and really gets me. But his family! They just don't like me. In fact I think they all wish he'd break up with me. I didn't realise but there's a real class system. I am pretty ordinary or so I thought. I live with mum and dad in a normal house in ****. I have always felt kind of normal. But my boyfriend lives in a big house in the countryside with its own tennis court. He went to a posh boarding school and I went to the local comprehensive. None of this matters much to me but I can tell it matters a lot to his family. The first question they asked me was what school did you go to. I call my grandmother Nan and they all laugh at that. They make it clear that it should be Granny or Gran. His mum and especially his dad are always making little jibes at me like pointing this out as if it's a joke. But it's not. My boyfriend says he doesn't care but I wonder if maybe he does. I don't know whether to just walk away but we do really care about each other. My boyfriend says he doesn't share his parents' views and very much wants us to be together. What should I do? J

Dear J,

I appreciate that this is really bothering you and admire your open stance to talk about it directly. As much as I'd like to say there is no class system your email neatly demonstrates that there is. It is easy for people to downplay this kind of thing but human beings do form groups and often like to stick in these groups. Almost like animals herding together for safety. J, this is largely between you and your boyfriend. Can he discuss this openly with you and hear your point of view? If so, you seem to say he is comfortable, but you also doubt yourself. Are you comfortable in the relationship in spite of this? Are you happy? It's not clear. If you are, continue. But keep talking about it. Make sure you talk this through with your boyfriend and share together your true feelings around it all. If the relationship lasts and becomes serious it may be worth you and your boyfriend dealing with this issue directly with his parents because it would not be acceptable for you to feel uncomfortable in the long term. Meanwhile enjoy your relationship. Keep communicating honestly. And know you're only dealing with superficial attitudes. What you call your grandmother is entirely up to you!
Carol



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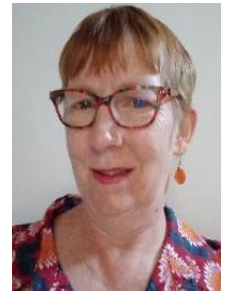
Wickhambrook Parish Council



Cllr Mike Lavelle with Deirdre Smith

©Image by Jim and Gwen Ashling

Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I've enjoyed some lovely weekends working in the garden and it's hard to believe that we are already heading into summer. We have seen some lovely wildflowers in the cemetery which have established following the pollarding of some trees and removal of the cypresses leading to the Chapel of Rest last year. We're also eagerly looking for the return of Bee Orchids in the newly established wildlife area on Six Acres.



Thank you to all who came to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April, where it was with huge pleasure that Mike Lavelle presented **Deirdre Smith** with the [Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel Award](#).

Deirdre was born in Wickhambrook and has been involved with village life for all of her life. She has helped in the past with Jubilee celebrations and to raise funds to build the Pavilion, she has been helping with the Wickhambrook Carnival and Fete and Flower Show for the last thirteen years, and has been actively involved in the running of many of village societies (such as the WI and Garden Club). We also heard at the meeting of the many successes of clubs and societies in Wickhambrook.

We have some repairs to the children's play areas scheduled for June. Thanks go out to Cllrs **Kevin Grimes** and **Mel Karunaratne** for their inspections of the play equipment. Grants were recently approved for: **Wickhambrook Carnival Committee (first aid cover) £243.60**



May saw the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on 28th May. You may have noticed that one of our councillors has changed their name – our warm congratulations go out to **Tracey and Mark Cann** on their recent marriage!



We have two meetings in July – the Estates Committee on 2nd July, and our scheduled parish council meeting on 30th July. Check out the agenda and reports of which will be published on 26th June and 24th July respectively. <https://wickhambrook-pc.gov.uk/meetings/>. If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider, [please do get in touch with me](#).

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 clerk@wickhambrook-pc.gov.uk if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Wishing you all the best, keep safe and well

Hilary Workman Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council

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As a result of all the support that our various Denston 550 events received two years ago we are delighted to say that we have been able to resurrect the sound system in St Nicholas' church. No-one can remember when they last heard it in action but miraculously the existing speakers have been woken from a long slumber with a little work and the help of a new amplifier. This would not have been possible without the generous support of the Parish Pump community and the PCC is extremely grateful. We look forward to sharing the improved audience experience with everyone who comes to our services or to future events!
Charles Hamilton – Church Warden Best wishes Charles



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Thankyou

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About East Anglian Air Ambulance - Registered charity number: 1083876

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As the prize for winning the February quiz at the Compasses pub, Old Goat Brewery in Stansfield, the winners **Anya, Pat and Neil**, chose Stansfield Good Neighbours and Stansfield Bloomers to receive the cash that has been collected via publican/brewer Roy Elder and quiz masters **Helen and Marc Allison**.

The quiz is a fun evening held at the Old Goat / Compasses on the third Thursday of each month. It is a light-hearted evening and is only £1 per person to join in, which all goes to charity. Marc and Helen do a great job presenting the quiz, with a varied range of questions with subjects known to most ages.

So if you fancy an enjoyable evening in congenial surroundings please come along.

The next quiz night is Thursday 21st May, "Eyes Down" at 7.30pm Patricia Whelan. (Stansfield resident)

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Mary Cleaver



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DIY Divorce: common pitfalls

The introduction of no-fault divorce and the online divorce portal has made the divorce process seem easier and more accessible, which has encouraged couples to manage the process themselves.

While the system appears simple, it does not remove the legal and financial consequences that come with ending a marriage or civil partnership. Not seeking independent legal advice can have serious financial and legal consequences.

While HM Courts & Tribunals Service has worked to simplify the divorce process, it still contains legal terminology that can confuse those without legal expertise. For example, you need to confirm that the court has jurisdiction based on where you or your former partner live or are normally settled.

Financial issues may remain unresolved if parties deal with the divorce themselves. A divorce only ends the legal relationship. It doesn't automatically resolve or dismiss financial claims; and a spouse's financial claims can remain open even after the divorce is granted.

There are several common pitfalls:

1. Failure to indicate financial claims on the divorce petition

If you fail to indicate your intention to apply for financial orders when completing the divorce petition, you may lose the ability to pursue financial claims later.

2. Unresolved financial claims

Even if you state your intention to pursue financial orders, the divorce process itself does not address your financial claims. Unless a separate application is made and/

or a consent order is obtained, the financial ties between spouses remain open and unresolved.

3. Agreeing to a 'clean break' without proper financial disclosure

Many online divorce services offer 'clean break' financial orders at a low cost, where both parties agree not to pursue financial claims against each other. However, without full financial disclosure, this can be a risky move. You might believe you know your ex-spouse's financial situation, only to discover later that important assets or incomes were not considered. A clean break may not provide a fair division of assets especially where the full financial picture has not been assessed and considered.

4. Incorrect drafting of consent orders

Consent orders, which legally finalise financial settlements, must be carefully drafted. If a consent order is not worded correctly, it can result in unresolved financial claims, lead to future disputes, or even render the order unenforceable.

5. Overlooking complex assets, especially pensions

A common mistake in DIY divorces is either ignoring certain assets or treating all assets in the same way. Pensions are particularly problematic; many individuals fail to properly evaluate their pension assets, either ignoring them entirely or misjudging their true value. Two pensions with the same cash equivalent value on paper may offer vastly different benefits in the future.

6. Tax Implications of Financial Settlements

Independent specialist tax advice is also critical. Transferring assets in a divorce may trigger Capital Gains Tax liabilities. Failing to address these implications upfront can lead to unexpected financial burdens for one or both parties later.

Moving forward

If you are considering managing your own divorce, it is worth understanding what is at stake. A short conversation with a family lawyer can protect your position, even if the process remains amicable. For further advice contact Oslers Solicitors on 01449 774670 to discuss your case with a specialist lawyer

Mary .



LIFE'S A GAME
OF CRICKET ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Unfortunately no matches to report on because of the lack of volunteer players



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Jeff's wine

Knowing what grape the wine comes from, how old it is and where it was made and bottled, leaves us with the perennial question of what will the wine taste of, and why. To help solve that problem we need to know what the grape is and what sort of wine we can expect to drink.

Here are some of the more well known White wine varieties and their qualities. Albarino. From Rias Baixas in NW Spain. (Alvarinho in Portugal). Quite fruity. Crisp.

Aligote. Second white wine in Burgundy. Quite sharp. Used to make Kir.

Chardonnay. Arguably the greatest of all whites. Can go from sublime buttery to sweet dessert Chasselas. Ordinary grape from Switzerland. Also known as Fendant. light table wine Chenin Blanc. The main grape used in Loire wines where it can be dry or medium dry.

Fiano. Italian. Another example of clean, powerful wine from the South.

Furmint. Hungary. Under the label Tokaji this is a distinctive fruity wine. Currently at Lidl £8.99 Gewürztraminer. Distinctive, med dry aromatic wine from Alsace, Germany Gruner Veltliner. Austria. Crisp slightly spicy.

Malvasia. Grape used to make Madeira.

Marsanne. Rhone grape. Big bold fruity. Melon de Bourgogne. Grape used to make Muscadet. Sharp and acidic.

Picpoul de Pinet. Acidic citrus flavoured wines. Pinot Gris. Aromatic, soft wines from Alsace. Not to be confused with Italian PG's.

Riesling. Grown worldwide but Germany/Alsace produce the best light fruity wines.

Sauvignon Blanc. Crisp, clean, dry tasting of green fruits. Semillon. Grape for Sweet whites, Sauternes.

Vermentino. Aromatic wine from Sardinia.

Viognier. Rhone grape, dry or medium dry.

We can categorise the above as follows, Light and Dry. Aligoté, Chasselas, Pinot Gris and Sauvignon Blanc, Albarinho.

I would suggest simple Summer dishes, Salads, Seafood. Cream cheeses, Delice de Bourgogne, Goats Cheese to accompany these.

Fruity Whites. Chardonnay, Ch Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Furmint, and Vermentino.

A step up with more elaborate Seafood, grilled on a BBQ perhaps. Cheese as above Aromatic. Gewürztraminer, Viognier, Riesling Asian foods which are lightly spiced suit these grapes. Smoked fish. Cheese Chaource, Feta, Ricotta Full Bodied. These wines will mostly been vinified in Oak Casks which produce full bodied wines with vanilla notes.

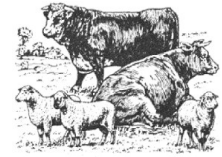
Chardonnay, Marsanne, Roussane, Riesling, Sauv Blanc. The best of these are from Burgundy. They call for Top End seafood dishes such as Turbot, scallops, lobster, chicken with cream sauce. Cheese Brie, Camembert, Comte, Gruyere. If Burgundy locals such as Epoisses.

Best, Jeff



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	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 13

To be involved with someone romantically

An important chess piece

Pear cider

The 'Pub Landlord'

Walk waist deep through water

One committing immoral acts

Coins and notes

Take That's Robbie



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What delectable treat might one be indulging in?

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 16th June 2026.

Answer to Puzzle 12: Theresa May

[The answers were: Flower, Fly, Pole, O, Fair, Day and BE and they can all be pre-fixed with 'May']

Congratulations to Pauline Stoddart of Stansfield who is the winner of May's puzzle.



West Suffolk District Councillors

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Stansfield, Hawkedon, Brockley, Wickhambrook,
Stradishall, Clare, Hundon, Cavendish, Stoke by
Clare, Kedington and others Bobby Bennett**

bobby.bennett@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

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First bells and now folk singers. Sounds from Cowlinge church
On Friday, 24th April 2026, exactly one hundred years to the day when the bells first were rung at Cowlinge church, five of Suffolk's most experienced bell ringers rang a three-hour Peal in anniversary celebration. Bell ringing is a difficult skill, learned over several years, and to ring a non-stop Peal demands physical and mental abilities only achieved by the most experienced. We were blown away by the level of accomplishment and the sound of the bells. Thank you so much to the ringers: **Christine, Mark, Richard, Thomas and Alan**. We hope you enjoyed that BBC Radio Suffolk broadcast your ringing live, and that both the East Anglian Daily Times and the Newmarket Journal wrote up the full story. It was a very special day. Turning now to our next special event in our Concert Series at the church. On the evening of

Saturday, 4th July, to our great delight, the Camus traditional folk band will be playing in the church, performing songs upon a range instruments, from the Northumbrian small pipes to keyboard, guitar and bouzouki. The group is named after a village in County Galway and describe themselves as playing 'an exciting mix of traditions, with influences from Northumberland, Ireland and Shetland, a dash of bluegrass and Galician, and our own tunes and songs'. The performance **begins at 7.30pm**, drinks will be served from 7.00pm, and tickets are by donation on the evening.
Margaret



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 June 2026 **DRAFT**

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

Date	Time	Church	Details
07 Jun	10:00 am	Wickhambrook (First Sunday after Trinity HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: □ Liturgical colour: ● Proper 5
14 Jun	10:00 am	Stradishall 🛎 (Second Sunday after Trinity HC)	Celebrant: Revd BArbara Sherlock Organist: □ Liturgical colour: ● Proper 8
18 Jun	07:00 pm	Wickhambrook (Archdeacon's Visitation)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: □ Liturgical colour: ●
21 Jun	10:00 am	Lidgate (Third Sunday after Trinity HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: □ Liturgical colour: ● Proper 7
28 Jun	10:00 am	Denston (Fourth Sunday after Trinity HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: □ Liturgical colour: ● Proper 8

Year A

HC = Holy Communion; CW = Common Worship Order One; BCP = Book of Common Prayer;
SOP = Songs of Praise; MP = Morning Prayer; CWOT = Common Worship Order Two
[Organist's initials]
Elder; PB = Paul Bevan



From l to r: Christine Knight, Mark Ogden, Richard Knight, Thomas Scase and Alan Mayle (C)

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Lambing 2026 is coming to a close with only two ewes left to Lamb. Our percentage this year is 180% which means, our ewes have produced 180 lambs for every 100 ewes. This equates to an average of 1.8 lambs per ewe, which I am very happy with especially with the rare breeds not being as prolific as your Commercial breeds. Cattle are all out happily grazing and the calves are growing well; we do desperately need some more rain as the ground is very dry. Our crops are

Portia and her lambs and calves

looking good considering we haven't had much rain. Once again, we desperately need some more wet weather for our linseed crop Especially as it's our most profitable crop this year.

Last year's lambs have all been shorn and they have produced some beautiful 1st cut fleeces for which I have very happy customers. It's lovely to see the

finished product from the fleeces later in the year.

Our other sheep will be shorn over the next few weeks. Which will be a relief as I do worry this time of year about fly strike.

Our lamb boxes are up and running again each month after the little break at lambing time. We will also have beef available again in about a month time. Our piggies are growing well and have started clearing the orchard that they're in.



CLASP first aid training

We are pleased to advise that we have re-arranged two first aid courses for our volunteers as part of our duty of care to the people who use our services. Attendance is **entirely optional** although you may find such training of use on a personal level not just as part of your role within CLASP. It will include CPR and use of a defibrillator as well as other basic emergency first aid. We can take up to 12 volunteers for each of the following sessions. Please let us know **all the sessions** on which you would be available so that we can allocate places accordingly. We will try to ensure that volunteers from all areas of CLASP are included, where possible. All courses will take place at Clare Baptist

Church Hall in the High Street and be about 2 to 2.5 hours in length. The courses are as follows: **Tuesday, 16 June at 7.30pm Thursday, 18 June at 10.00am** Please reply as soon as possible so that you don't miss out as we have over 70 volunteers and only 24 places. If you help in more than one area of CLASP, we apologise that you may receive this email more than once. We hope you will join us. If you have any queries, please let us know. **Sue Rouse Secretary, CLASP**



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Our homes support residents to fill their days with activities they enjoy, from crafting, baking, and gardening to laughter-filled outings. Highlights include visits to Thetford Forest, Felixstowe Beach, Fordham Garden Centre and other local spots. For quieter moments, residents can enjoy afternoon tea with loved ones or relax with a book in our landscaped gardens. Community is at the heart of our homes, with local schools and groups joining for storytelling, carol singing, dance classes, and shared activities that create meaningful connections across

generations. Fulfilling lives and dreams. Our wishing tree is another way we like to support residents to live fulfilling, active lives. When a resident hangs a wish on the tree, we'll do everything we can to try to grant it. It might be something small like revisiting a beloved place or engaging in a hobby



from their past, or it could be something completely new. We recently fulfilled a 90-year-old Newmarket care home resident's wish with a heartwarming trip to Meow Cat Café, where she was reunited with her love of cats and left feeling really happy. Home-cooked meals to savour. Meals are freshly prepared daily with a focus on choice, quality, and accessibility. Our chefs create seasonal dishes based on residents' preferences and cater to all dietary needs, including modified diets. Dine in our restaurant-style surroundings or enjoy in-room meals, with our team always ready to help. Sweet and savoury treats, daily favourites, and new culinary experiences are all part of our person-

centred approach. Join us for our upcoming financial clinic event. Come along to our informative session on Tuesday 21st April, 4pm - 6pm with Jono Dorrington from Eastgate Financial and Edmundson Hall Solicitors, as they share expert guidance on understanding the costs of care and safeguarding your assets — helping you navigate complex financial decisions with confidence and peace of mind for you and your family. Trusted to care. At Care UK, we've been delivering high quality, person-centred care for over 40 years. That's why over 10,000 families across the country trust us to care for their older loved one.

To find out more about Kentford Manor care home or to book a place at our event, call 01638 438 150 or visit our website careuk.com/kentford-manor Jeddah Way Kennett Newmarket Suffolk CB8 8JY

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