

# PARISH PUMP

No 389 [parish.pump@gmail.com](mailto:parish.pump@gmail.com)

October 2025

## URGENT MESSAGE TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

**STOP PRESS:** We have a volunteer for Distribution Organiser which is marvellous.  
It made my day. All we need now is a Treasurer—please!!

**Perhaps the inevitable has happened.**

**We are about to lose our Treasurer and our Distribution Organiser. Two or more volunteers are urgently needed. To put it bluntly, without either of these roles we will have to close down.**

**Neither job is arduous. The Treasurer has to deal with about 60 transactions per year. Full details of the role are provided on Page 7. Once per month the Distribution Organiser needs to collect the 700 copies from the printers in Haverhill and then subdivide and deliver them to our 16 excellent Distribution Hub Leaders.**

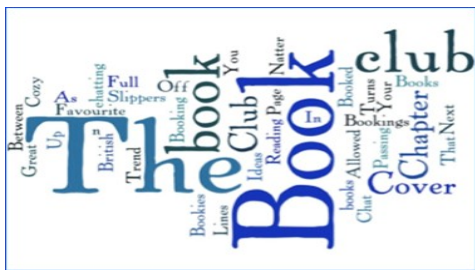
**(all who live in Clare, Wickhambrook, Stansfield, Stradishall, Denston, Hawkedon and Poslingford area).**

**So there you are.**

***Anyone who is at all interested* please call me**

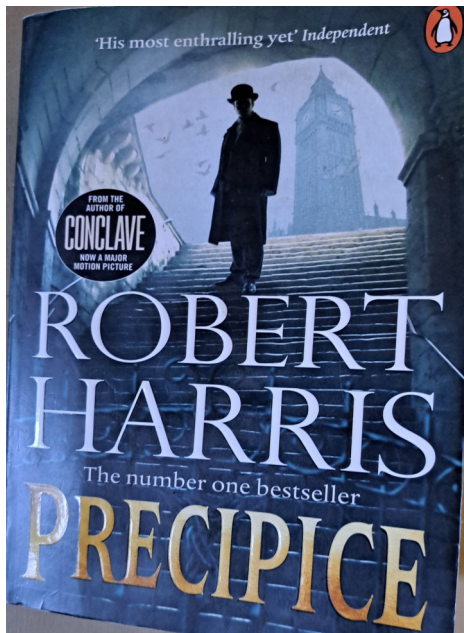
**ASAP 07711689171 or email**

**[peter.thompson@enviroman.com](mailto:peter.thompson@enviroman.com)**



## Robert Harris: Precipice

There was unanimous enthusiasm for **Robert Harris's** political drama, *Precipice*, which captured our imaginations from the beginning, indeed from the Author's Note, before the story even started. Here we learn that, whilst a



work of fiction, it is based on real events and draws heavily on authentic documents. As the novel progresses the full significance of this becomes apparent as we are witness to an astonishing disregard for National and International security right at the top of the British government during the lead up and first phase of WW1.

With an intriguing blend of the political and the personal we follow the affair between 61 year-old Prime Minister Asquith and 26 year-old, 'lithe, vivacious' aristocrat, Venetia Stanley. They are prolific writers of letters and their romance unfolds around these letters – those of Asquith are the real thing but Stanleys are made up. Fortunately, the author does a good job in writing letters from the point of view of a young woman which feel authentic. With the London post going 12 times a day, we thought their exchange was the Edwardian equivalent of today's WhatsApp messaging! However, Asquith shares not only 'declarations of passion' but also top-secret official documents including classified Foreign Office telegrams pertaining to the mounting European crisis and the outbreak of war in September 1914. Soon the Intelligence agencies become aware of a serious breach in security and Paul Deemer, a



## Harris & Harris Books (NEW PREMISES)

- Two floors of new and old books for readers of all ages
- Fast ordering service
- Books posted worldwide
- Gift certificates available

young aspiring police officer, recently promoted to Special Branch, is assigned to investigate. He soon finds himself working in the murky world of counter-espionage which takes him undercover into the homes of the social elite and then intercepting the letters themselves on a mission to detect any evidence of spying for the Germans. The novel proceeds through interweaving the perspectives of **Asquith, Stanley and Deemer**. Deemer offers a commentary on the shocking content of Asquith's letters 'filled with military and political secrets' such that Stanley 'knows more about military operations than most Cabinet Ministers'. This leads him to ponder the state of mind of the PM 'to share so many state secrets with a young woman less than half his age, to send them through the ordinary post, and to show her decrypted telegrams – that was beyond love surely? That was a kind of madness'.

We agreed that it was quite terrifying that **Asquith** was making 'the most astounding and world-shaking decisions' whilst in the grips of an 'erotic obsession'. We enjoyed how, with the licence of a novelist, Harris embellishes all this with behind-the-scenes Cabinet meetings, where 'battles royal' are being waged between the heads of the armed forces and government ministers, and during which the top man himself is writing his love letters! By the by, **Churchill** does not come off well here either, being portrayed as a warmonger with a dangerous inability to admit when he is wrong.

Apart from **Deemer's** comments the author leaves the letters to speak for themselves and deciphering the whys and wherefores of the relationship between Asquith and Stanley is left to the reader. The affair, 'the thrill of it – the secrecy, the illicitness, the *risk*', seemed to rescue Stanley from the ennui of her privileged life and the 'pointless young bores' of the Edwardian elite with whom she spent her time. We understood her attraction to a powerful older man who made her feel so special and important that he wanted to share everything with her. Stanley is intelligent and attractive and she helps to 'settle' Asquith during a very difficult time. However, with the increasingly

'extravagant effusions of his feelings' and knowing 'far more than I want to know' comes a waning of Stanley's attraction to him and she sees the relationship as more about a 'patriotic duty to keep him happy'. As she tries to distance herself, Asquith becomes more desperate and she feels responsible for him and his ability to lead. She finds a way out which shows courage and independence and although not a particularly likeable character we are glad for her. We found it quite thought provoking that Harris calls her 'one of the most consequential women in British political history' – it was a sobering experience realising that had she let her secrets out the progress of the war could have been very different. The extravagant domestic life of the pre-war aristocracy was well captured by the elegant dinner parties and huge picnics in the grounds of their country estates. We called these 'the last hurrahs' of the aristocracy before 'this war will be the end of them and their way of life' and men, coming back from the fighting, are 'not going to put up with the Stanleys and their slave wages'. We thought the frivolity of the opening boat scene where the list of guests was 'like the society page in a newspaper' is exquisitely observed. Deemer calls them out for their careless and selfish behaviour, their sense of entitlement that they should be 'above the rules that applied to ordinary citizens'. Throughout he offers the steady, serious voice of an 'ordinary citizen' – a counterpoise to the 'braying' upper classes! He is doing his best to be honest and brave and shows up his so-called 'superiors' as decidedly lacking in moral fibre. We have a glimpse into his modest private life and his sincere affection for his brother which adds yet another layer of interest in the book. There was much to be enjoyed and we all agreed *Precipice* was extremely well researched with a depth and clarity of writing which drew us in and held our attention to the end. We decided to award a worthy 4.5 stars!

Book club meets every month in and around Stansfield. We always welcome new members and if you would like to join us please contact **Anne** [annedennis1@live.co.uk](mailto:annedennis1@live.co.uk) or 07557357362

**Bee species in Stradishall churchyard. Author Billie Pike**

**Below is a fascinating list of the bee species found in our churchyard earlier this year. There are 23 different species recorded**

Sample_period	Genus	Species	Common_name	Sociality	Nesting	abundance
Spring	Andrena	Andrena fulva	Tawny Mining Bee	Solitary	Ground	1
Spring	Andrena	Andrena haemorrhoa	Orange-tailed Mining Bee	Solitary	Ground	9
Spring	Andrena	Andrena proxima	Broad-faced Mining Bee	Solitary	Ground	1
Spring	Apis	Apis mellifera	Western Honey Bee	Eusocial	Cavity/Hive boxes	1
Spring	Halictus	Halictus tumulorum	Bronze Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	4
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum calceatum/albipes	Common/Bloomed Furrow Bee	Eusocial/Solitary	Ground	5
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum malachurum	Sharp-collared Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	26
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum pauxillum	Lobe-spurred Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	1
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum smeathmanellum	Smeathman's Furrow Bee	Solitary	Ground	29
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum sp.		Solitary	Ground	1
Spring	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum villosulum	Shaggy Furrow Bee	Solitary	Ground	2
Spring	Nomada	Nomada sp.		Solitary	Parasite	2
Summer	Bombus	Bombus pratorum	Early Bumblebee	Eusocial	Ground/Cavities	2
Summer	Heriades	Heriades truncorum	Large-headed Resin Bee	Solitary	Wood	39
Summer	Hylaeus	Hylaeus confusus	White-jawed Yellow-face Bee	Solitary	Opportunistic Stems/wood	1
Summer	Hylaeus	Hylaeus pictipipes	Little Yellow-face Bee	Solitary	Ground	2
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum calceatum/albipes	Common/Bloomed Furrow Bee	Eusocial/Solitary	Ground	1
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum leocopus	White-footed Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	1
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum malachurum	Sharp-collared Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	5
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum pauxillum	Lobe-spurred Furrow Bee	Eusocial	Ground	4
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum smeathmanellum	Smeathman's Furrow Bee	Solitary	Ground	5
Summer	Lasioglossum	Lasioglossum villosulum	Shaggy Furrow Bee	Solitary	Ground	1
Summer	Osmia	Osmia leaiana	Orange-vented Mason Bee	Solitary	Cavities	1

These species lists will not be representative of all the bee species on your site, just the ones that are attracted to the yellow pan traps I was using which tends to be the smaller-bodied, ground-nesting bees. Hopefully you'll find the information interesting though. For bees that could be identified to species level, I have included the common names alongside the Latin names. I have also split the species lists up between spring and summer so you can see which species were present across the different seasons. **Billie**

**CAR AID REPORT - AUGUST 2025 CLASP Committee Meeting Monday 15th. September 2025**



Monthly trips made historical easy reference summary:-  
 17-24-30-14-28-22-24-22-18-29-21-24  
**Total Year 2022 = 273 c/w 237 in 2021**  
 32-32-42-24-41-48-31-26-21-25-35-32  
**Year 2023 total = 389 total, 32.4 average**  
 47-62-29-37-38-34-46-33-27-37-31-23  
**Year 2024 total = 444 total, 37.0 average**  
 20-24-29-37-23-22-33-23  
**Year 2025 to date = 211 total, 26.4 average**  
**Bookings taken as at 10<sup>th</sup> September month to date – 14**  
 The number of trips made in the 2023

year at 389 was **42%** more than those made in 2022. The number of trips made in 2024 at 444 was higher by **14%** than those made in 2023. At the end of August this year, the number of trips made at 211 was **35%** lower than the same eight months last year (326 trips). Nevertheless, despite the low demand this year to date, it can be seen from the Statistics Summaries above that the underlying demand for our service has grown significantly over the last seven years. However, the difficulty in finding volunteer drivers continues. **In my view, this is a very significant ongoing problem.** It should be noted that we used the services of 27 drivers of our theoretical complement of 30 in the first half of this year. Nevertheless, we have

always managed to provide the service required despite demands sometimes arising or changing at short notice.



**The ongoing relevant CarAid Statistic** - In the 89 months, since April 2018 when I took over, CarAid has helped 264 different clients, making 2,048 trips averaging 23 per month. I am pleased to hand over the management of CarAid to **Karla Greenwood**, and have every confidence that under her control, CarAid will continue to provide, and hopefully improve, this valuable service for our community.  
**OVER AND OUT !**  
**John Webb 10<sup>th</sup>. September 2025**

## Community Transport: *Connecting Communities*,

I'm writing on behalf of *Connecting Communities*, a door-to-door minibus service in **West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire** dedicated to supporting those in our area who struggle to access public transport. Whether it's getting to essential appointments, seeing friends and family, or simply taking part in everyday activities, we're here to help individuals stay connected and independent. We know that lack of transport can be a real barrier—particularly for older residents or those living in rural areas—and we want to make sure that everyone who could



benefit from our service knows about it. That's where we'd really appreciate your support. Would you be able to help us promote our service locally? For example: sharing our information in your parish magazine or newsletter; including a link or mention on your website or social media; circulating our details to community groups or local organisations. Any help in spreading the

word would be invaluable. We're also a not-for-profit service, and if your Parish Council is in a position to offer a small donation to help us keep serving the community, it would make a real difference. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like more information, leaflets, or to discuss further. I'd be delighted to hear from you. **Rachel Pearce Transport Bookings Administrator** Tel 01638 664304  
Email: [transport@thevoluntarynetwork.org](mailto:transport@thevoluntarynetwork.org)  
Website: [www.thevoluntarynetwork.org](http://www.thevoluntarynetwork.org)  
Follow us on Facebook



### SERVICES INCLUDE

Chimney Sweeping  
Stoves Installed  
Chimney Pots  
Bird Guards

Proud members of



Where reputation matters

[ClementsChimneySweeps@outlook.com](mailto:ClementsChimneySweeps@outlook.com)  
07810 616837







**WINNER • BEST FILM**  
BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS 2006

SUMMER 1983. A TIME TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

# THIS IS ENGLAND

A Film by Shane Meadows

"STUNNING AND UNFORGETTABLE. A WORK OF ART!"  
ELIZABETH WEITZMAN NEW YORK DAILY NEWS





**Friday 17th October**  
**Stansfield Village Hall**  
Hall Lane, Lower Street, Stansfield, CO10 8LW

Doors 7pm | Film 7.30pm | Licensed bar  
Tickets £5 on Door

enquiries: [friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk](mailto:friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk) or call 01284 789192

Registered Charity 304939

*Happy beginnings, Happy futures.*



## Happy Days Childcare



- Accept golden tickets for two year olds.
- Offer up to 30 hours funding for preschool children.
  - Open 7am – 6.30pm.
  - Dedicated baby room with own garden.
- Wrap around and holiday care for children aged up to 11 years.
  - Fresh, home cooked meals daily.

Based at Stradishall, we are a set in a rural location on convenient commuter routes to Haverhill, Newmarket, Clare and Bury St Edmunds.

# 01440 820 027

[debbie@happy-days-childcare.co.uk](mailto:debbie@happy-days-childcare.co.uk)  
1, Lancaster Way, Stradishall. CB8 9YD.



My dear friends,  
As I sit to write this month's contribution, a familiar coolness has begun to creep into the air. The mornings are a little crisper, the evenings draw in sooner, and the trees in our churchyards are starting to blush with the fiery colours of autumn. It's a beautiful, yet poignant, time of year, as we witness the slow, inevitable turn of the seasons. The vibrant greens of summer give way to the golden hues of autumn, a gentle reminder that nothing in this world is permanent. I always feel a sense of melancholy as the nights lengthen. The long, light evenings

of summer, filled with the hum of bees and the late songs of birds, now feel like a distant memory. This growing darkness can sometimes feel heavy, and it's easy to find ourselves a bit low as we brace for the months ahead. But even in this transition, there is a profound beauty and a spiritual truth to be found. The natural world is entering a time of rest and preparation, drawing inward before the new life of spring. It's a cycle that mirrors our own spiritual journeys. Sometimes we need to retreat, to rest, and to reflect in the quiet dark before we can bloom again. As we move through October, we approach a time of remembrance that offers a different kind of light. At the end of the month, we have Hallowe'en, or All Hallows' Eve, which is a wonderful

opportunity for community fun and festivities. But it's also the prelude to something more profound: On All Saints' Sunday on 2nd November, we celebrate the lives of all the saints, not just the famous ones you see in stained-glass windows, but every faithful person who has lived and died in Christ. It's a day to remember the 'great cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) who have gone before us. This is a powerful message for the darker nights of the year. When the world feels shadowed, we are reminded of the radiant light of Christ that shone in the lives of ordinary people—your parents, grandparents, a beloved friend or mentor, or a faithful neighbour. Their lives, lived with faith and love, are a testament that the light of Christ is never extinguished. It is passed from one generation to the next, burning brightly in the darkest corners of the world. So, as you snuggle up with a warm cup of tea on a chilly evening, remember this. The darkness is only a part of the journey. The light of the saints, the light of Christ, and the light of our shared faith shine on, a beacon of hope and a promise that new life will always follow. Let us carry that light with us, sharing it with those around us, so that even in the lengthening nights, our community may be a place of warmth, hope, and peace. With every blessing,  
Mark The Revd Mark Woodrow



**HOW NICE!**

Hello, My name is *Marion*. I live in **New Zealand** and would like to congratulate you on the magazine that you produce each month. I'm very fortunate in that the last time I visited, my son and his wife, who live here, had a copy of your magazine. I enjoyed reading about all the events and the interesting articles. My daughter in law has for a considerable time, been printing it and sending it to me. I'm in Sudbury for a holiday and thought I would take the opportunity to thank all your contributors and the people who produce this wonderful insight into village life. Again thank you all for a wonderful job. Kind regards  
**Marion**

**Chimney Matters**  
Town and Country

**Professional Chimney Sweeping**  
Fully Insured

**Mobile : 07767 864127**  
**Phone: 01284 789663**  
[www.chimneymatters.co.uk](http://www.chimneymatters.co.uk)

**Monthly rainfall inches 2024/2025**

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				
Tina Lee- Stradishall	45	32	9	25	19	27	30	33				
Sam Slater- Stansfield	46	30	5	23	21	20	54	24				
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	64	35	13	25	26	29	59	26				
Jay Gridley-Hundon	59	26	11	21	26	29	22	25				
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	73	33	8	21	30	32	32	20.5				
Elaine Plumpton - Great Saxham	63	42	6	23	17	38	51	26				

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

# Richard's brilliant Ride and Stride for Stradishall: More than 28 miles—amazing!!



I set off to meet Peter at Stradishall church just after 9:30 and with paperwork and sticker in hand headed on the short trail across the Denston Estate to St Nicholas where the greeter and I confirmed the signing procedures and wished each other well for the day ahead. A short trip up the road, joining a footpath through some impressively horned cows that largely ignored me; then the winding, climbing lane to Assington Green and beyond. Having crested the ridge I came across a cacophonous mayhem of Guinea Fowl (Google says it's actually a 'confusion') roaming free on the roadside heralding my sudden appearance – they have to be one of the best guard alarms available. In the distance I could see Poslingford church and I ran the footpath that eventually arrived at the rear of the graveyard. From there it was up the steep hill to join the Bury-Clare path and descend into Clare. Clare offered four stops; the Baptist church, St Peter & Paul's, the United Reform and finally through the park to the intriguing door that leads to the priory. A brief pause for a bite of sausage roll and stone removal from my trainer, then it was back to the cross country trails to Cavendish. Out on the



rolling paths the skies were darkening and the ominous rumble of thunder echoed in the distance. Cavendish St Mary's was ticked off and I crossed the green to the village store which I'd earmarked as a lunch provisions' stop. Unfortunately, the looming electrical storms had caused issues with the payment machine and having no cash I had to replace the snacks and left empty handed. The next leg was an 8k run north along new paths for me, heading for Hawkedon. As I left the village I came across Tour de France hero Mark Cavendish propped up against a farm wall, chapeau! For the following hour the sun prevailed and I navigated the bucolic trails, up hills and down through fords. At one point, rounding a copse, I came nose to nose with three surprised roe deer that stood static for a few seconds before deciding I was not their preferred company. Eventually, climbing the steep hill up from the river, I arrived at Hawkedon and joined some of the classic cars taking part in the rally. In the church I spotted Richard III's coat of arms in the stained glass at the East window and wondered about the connection? As I left, the black clouds had edged ever nearer and the first drops of light rain appeared. On arrival at Stansfield All Saints, the focus was now the approaching storm. The church was empty so I signed the sheet and gambled that I'd have enough time to make Wickhambrook before the likely deluge. The path went down the hill to the cottage at Purtonford and then along the small brook that is the River Glem. The lightning was now overhead and the rain more persistent. I quickened and finally joined the road that took me to another All Saints. The church again was empty and I sat in the dark listening to the thunderous heartbeat of the storm outside... munching on a ginger nut. Ten minutes passed and after a second ginger nut I decided I had to press on so donned the waterproof and set off in what I hoped was now receding rain. Arriving at Farley Green, and with the sun making a re-

appearance, I figured I had enough time to make it to Cowlinge and set off. I walked the hill that approached St Margaret's and as I got nearer I was welcomed by a joyous string quintet playing in the church. After signing in, the greeter provided me with a cup of orange juice and a cherry Bakewell cake which I consumed blissfully sitting on a bench in the sunshine. The last effort was 6k back to Stradishall and I completed the day with 5 minutes to spare – total 12 churches, 28.6 miles, 59,897 steps. Another SHCT adventure and hopefully will raise a little bit for Stradishall church – any donations please pass to Peter. Also, a special thank you to all the greeters that make this such a great event

## Your Local Handyman Service

- Professional Painter & Decorator •
- General Handyman •
- Flat pack assembly •
- Garden Maintenance •
- Removals and clearance •

We are time served and professional.  
Offering a friendly, reliable & efficient service

Contact us today on 07812 134267

**Your handyman is Dan**



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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

There is a rumour (so far unsubstantiated) that Father Christmas *might* be visiting Stradishall this year. Watch this space to learn whether he can fit it into his busy pre-Christmas schedule.



#### POSLINGFORD CHURCHYARD



No content this month please wait till next month

#### Advertise your Business

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

Peter Thompson

e: [parish.pump@gmail.com](mailto:parish.pump@gmail.com) or please ring 07711689171



**BUT**, far more importantly, so does the **PARISH PUMP.**

We are seeking a volunteer **Treasurer** to manage the finances of the Parish Pump. The role consists of:

- invoicing and collecting payments from our advertisers. (60 per year)
- making payments to suppliers, principally our printers.
- managing the bank account.

If you manage your bank account online and have good Excel experience then you have all the skills you need to undertake this role. The input is in the order of 6-10 hours per month. This is a volunteer position, but it is a rewarding way to contribute to our community and the continued success of our **Parish Pump.**

If you are the slightest bit interested in helping, even in the short term, please make contact either by e-mail at [parish.pump@gmail.com](mailto:parish.pump@gmail.com) or ring **Peter** on 07711689171. Thank you

## The Baptists in Clare do so well at recycling



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who have supported **TWAM** and **Re-Cycle** at the joint collection. Both vans went back full with some amazing items.

Trev Maynard, our National Operations Manager, says “it was a real team event where our two charities got to support and work together in a lovely setting. Thank you Viv and all at Clare Baptist Church for organising everything, especially the coffee and cakes.”

**Many thanks. We had some folk who said they had read the article in Parish Pump, so a very big thanks for all the work you do in publishing it. Regards Vivien**

This September, St Nicholas Hospice Care is proud to join the Second-hand September campaign, inviting everyone to discover the joy of sustainable shopping in our charity shops. From vintage gems and high street labels to quirky home décor and bestselling books, our stores are bursting with pre-loved treasures waiting to be found. Shopping second-hand isn't just about saving money it's about making a difference. Every purchase helps us provide compassionate hospice care

## St Nicholas Hospice

across West Suffolk and Thetford, ensuring no one faces dying, death, or grief alone. It costs around £9.5 million a year to run our Hospice, but we face an annual funding gap of approximately £6.66 million. This means that every day, we need to raise over £18,000 just to keep services running and we rely on the generosity of our community to do that. By donating good quality items or

choosing to shop with us, you're helping to reduce waste, cut down on fast fashion, and create a reliable source of income that allows us to plan sustainably for the future.

Join us this Secondhand September, discover treasures, do good, and support hospice care that lasts. Find your nearest shop or learn how to donate at [www.stnicholashospicecare.org.uk](http://www.stnicholashospicecare.org.uk). Hope you are all well Best Regards Natalie



Rosie: Volunteer at Barton Road, Bury St Edmunds



Barbara: regular shopper at the Haverhill shop



Dylan: Volunteer at Haverhill shop

## Wickhambrook Local History Society

David Ellin, a material scientist and archaeologist, took up metal detecting on his retirement and his talk consisted of the finds made by him and two friends in and around Lidgate. Lidgate was the crossroads of three tribal kingdoms. Lidgate has given up many



finds, from a polished hand axe - polishing improves cutting - to many coins from countries around the Roman empire which shows that Lidgate was a centre of trade. One coin was a rare denarius minted in BC34 in Alexandria in Egypt. Also lots of pottery has been found from many different eras as well as brooches, horse ornaments and much more. One very rare find was a lead curse tablet for someone who had stolen rings. This object is now in Moyses

Hall Museum. Lidgate is a villa site but so many artefacts have been found there showing it was not only a site of domestic occupation but also would have had industrial workings as well. The Romans were in Lidgate for a long time from AD43 just after the invasion to about AD410 which probably makes it a really important site. **KAY McEVOY** (Dorothy Anderson is on holiday and asked me to write this)



# AP TREES

- Pruning • Felling • Crown Reducing
- Stump Grinding • Hedge Trimming



- Friendly and professional company covering all aspects of arboriculture
- Fully qualified and competent arborists
- Work to BS3998 - British Standard for Tree Works

**M: 07932 647071**

E: [info@ap-trees.com](mailto:info@ap-trees.com) W: [www.ap-trees.com](http://www.ap-trees.com)



# WATSONS PLANTS

Watsons Plants is bursting with a beautiful array of perennial plants. The quality of our plants is second to none and we are confident they will be thriving in your garden for years to come. We have a substantial choice of quality shrubs and garden plants at hugely competitive prices.

For the discerning gardener or enthusiastic beginner, we have something for everyone.

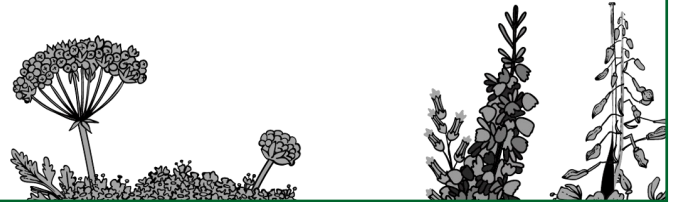
[enquiries@watsonsplants.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@watsonsplants.co.uk)

[watsonsplants.co.uk](http://watsonsplants.co.uk)

Watsons Plants Ltd, Bury Road, Depden, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 4BU

Louise Watson 07952 638016

Chris Watson 07941 640560



# A1 CARS

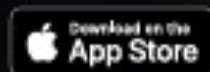
EST. 1975  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

*Celebrating 50 years* 1975 - 2025

**TAXI | AIRPORTS | CORPORATE**

Safe, reliable and professional taxi services for Bury St Edmunds and surrounding area

**DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP**



**ONLINE BOOKING**  
[a1cars.co.uk](http://a1cars.co.uk) - 01284 766777

# Stansfield Village Hall Management Committee

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that  
the Annual General Meeting will be held  
at  
Stansfield Village Hall  
on  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 at 7.00pm

By order of the Village Hall Management Committee  
Derek Adams (Chairman)  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

All members of the Parish of Stansfield  
are welcome to attend

Registered Charity Number 304939



Congratulations to John & Sara Dennis who celebrate  
their 70th wedding anniversary on 1st October

# BECKY COOPER designs

CURTAINS ♥ BLINDS ♥ SHUTTERS ♥ INTERIORS

Handmade curtains, roman blinds,  
pelmetts, cushions, lampshades  
Made to measure shutters & blinds  
Motorisation  
All soft furnishings handmade in our  
own workshop  
Free home visits, design and advice  
Professional measuring and fitting  
service  
Local family business  
Helping you choose the right product  
for you, your family and your home  
07506 844889  
[www.beckycooperdesigns.co.uk](http://www.beckycooperdesigns.co.uk)  
[beckycooperdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:beckycooperdesigns@gmail.com)



## CLARE & SUDBURY PROBUS CLUB

Retired Professional and  
Businessmen's Club



**We are seeking new members!**

ARE YOU A RETIRED PROFESSIONAL OR BUSINESSMAN AND WOULD LIKE TO  
JOIN OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON CLUB IN THE CONVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE OF  
THE BULL HOTEL, LONG MELFORD?

WE ALSO ORGANISE OUTINGS OF INTEREST AND SPECIAL SOCIAL LUNCHEONS  
FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR WIVES / PARTNERS.

OUR MEMBERS COME FROM A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS INCLUDING  
ACCOUNTANCY, ENGINEERING, LEGAL, FINANCE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
MEDICAL, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, RETAIL AND TRANSPORT.

COST OF MEMBERSHIP £20 PLUS AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF £25

LUNCH MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH  
A GUEST SPEAKER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT OUR CLUB SECRETARY  
TELEPHONE: 07824 309738

## Wickhambrook: Meet your Parish Councillors and two lay members

<b>Andrea Grimes</b> Cemetery Records Project Cemeteries & Churchyard Officer Estates Committee (Substitute) Highways and VAS Public Access Devices Officer	✉ <a href="mailto:Andrea.grimes@wickhambrook.org.uk">Andrea.grimes@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>
<b>Kevin Grimes</b> Road Safety Working Group Highways and VAS Estates Committee Member Play area Inspections – Bury Rd	✉ <a href="mailto:Kevin.grimes@wickhambrook.org.uk">Kevin.grimes@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>
<b>Mel Karunaratne</b> Chair - Estates Committee Road Safety Working Group Youth Facilities Officer Play area Inspections – Cemetery Rd	☎ <b>07904272416</b> – weekday evenings only ✉ <a href="mailto:Mel.karunaratne@wickhambrook.org.uk">Mel.karunaratne@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>
<b>Mike Lavelle - Chairman</b> Chair - Parish Council Emergency Planning Internal Control of Finance Six Acres Officer Vice-Chair – Estates Committee	✉ ☎ <b>07415 390477</b> <a href="mailto:Mike.lavelle@wickhambrook.org.uk">Mike.lavelle@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>
<b>Linda Smith</b> Website and Social Media Neighbourhood Plan SALC Area Meetings	☎ <b>07980 712514</b> weekends and evenings only <a href="mailto:Linda.smith@wickhambrook.org.uk">Linda.smith@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>
<b>Tracey Turner</b> Estates Committee (Substitute) Neighbourhood Plan (Chair NPWG) Planning Vice-Chair – Parish Council	☎ <b>01440 821565</b> ✉ <a href="mailto:Tracey.turner@wickhambrook.org.uk">Tracey.turner@wickhambrook.org.uk</a>

Following a recent resignation, Wickhambrook now has two vacancies on the parish council. If you are interested in finding out more about the parish council, please do contact the clerk and/or one of our parish councillors for a chat, or come along to one of our

meetings. We also have three lay members of the Estates Committee:  
**Mr David Di Giulio** Village Greens and Tree Warden  
**Mr Roger Medley** Footpaths Officer  
**Mrs Mary Jolland** Environment &

Sustainability  
 And two further Lay Members:  
**Dorothy Anderson** Village Recorder  
**Julian Wilson** United Charities  
**For more information contact the Clerk, Hilary Workman**

# squiggle



At Squiggle, we know you want peace of mind knowing your affairs are in order. Without proper planning, your loved ones could face unnecessary stress and unanswered questions. That's why we make Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney, and Estate Administration simple.

Our process has already helped thousands get sorted and feel at ease. Start today - so you can stop worrying and be certain your wishes will be respected.



Martin Treanor  
01787 322 939

[Martin.Treanor@squiggleconsult.co.uk](mailto:Martin.Treanor@squiggleconsult.co.uk)  
[www.squiggleconsult.co.uk](http://www.squiggleconsult.co.uk)

### Book a Free Estate Planning Consultation



If you've been wanting to put a Will in place or to update an existing one but were unsure where to start, help is now at hand. Squiggle Consult Ltd are one of the country's leading firms of estate planners and we now have a presence here in southwest Suffolk. Estate planning is the means through which you can ensure that your assets pass down to your chosen beneficiaries after your death. It is important to consider putting something in place that captures your wishes and provides protection for those you love. There are several estate planning solutions

available, although some are more effective than others at protecting your chosen beneficiaries from life's eventualities. This is why it is vital that you obtain professional advice. I pride myself with helping my clients to put the right solutions in place for their individual needs. During our consultation I will guide you through the estate planning process and help you to find a solution that's right for you, explaining any potential benefits from using Wills, Trusts, and Lasting Powers of Attorney. I will also explain how the Probate process works and what you could do to make it easier for your Executors. You can arrange to meet with me in your own home or over Zoom, whichever you prefer. To book your consultation go to: [martin.squiggleconsult.co.uk](http://martin.squiggleconsult.co.uk) Or Email: [martin.treanor@squiggle.co.uk](mailto:martin.treanor@squiggle.co.uk). Tel: 01787 322 939

### JOB ALERT!

Want five flexible hours a week working from home?  
Earning between £16 and £18 an hour?

Have good office/IT skills but get free specific  
on-the-job training?

Then an interesting admin/clerical job could await you.

Please ring Annie on  
07496851198/01284789448 to discuss

### HT Young's Fish Ltd 07880 777967



Helen and Ellie

We are excited to have taken over from Turners and are a sister brand of Youngs Fish Ltd which was established in 1981 with a second generation of fishmongers with a passion for supplying a wide variety of the freshest quality fish and the best service possible. Our trading days have now changed to:

**Wednesday:** Willow Tree Farm Shop 9am to 1pm  
**Thursday:** Coggeshall Market Hill 1.30 to 4pm  
Long Melford 1.30 to 4pm  
**Friday:** Clare Market 7.30 to 10am  
Lavenham 11am to 1pm  
Depden 2 to 3pm

# PMP BUILDING

IMPROVEMENTS • REPAIRS • MAINTENANCE



- BRICKWORK
- ROOF REPAIRS
- PLASTERING
- CARPENTRY
- INSULATION
- GENERAL BUILDING
- FENCING
- PATIOS & DECKING WORKS
- DRIVEWAYS
- LANDSCAPING

## 07777 689080

[PMPBUILDING@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:PMPBUILDING@OUTLOOK.COM)



NEW  
GOOD TIMES

With over 15 years' experience  
let us take care of your themed  
parties, DJ, music and events

Call Dan on  
07812 134 267

## Country Cooking with Louise Mackrill



### Autumn Fruit

Don't let pears, apples & quince on your trees go to waste, there are so many things to do with them, here are some ideas ...

### Pork chops with quince & apple

**compote** Quince and apples are the perfect accompaniment to pork

4 large free range pork chops on the bone  
1 lemon  
1 large Bramley apple  
2 eating apples such as Cox  
450g quince



### Pork chops with quince & apple compote

6 tbsp caster sugar 30g unsalted butter ½ tsp ground ginger  
Heat an oven-proof fry pan and cook the chops a few minutes each side. Pop in the oven 200oC for 15 minutes. Meanwhile make the compote. Squeeze the lemon into a bowl of cold water, peel and slice the quince & apples, putting their flesh into the bowl to stop them browning. Put the sugar & 2 tbsp cold water into a pan & dissolve, simmer to a caramel then add the butter & swirl around. Drain the fruit, then add to the pan & cook gently for about 10 minutes. Add the ginger and simmer another 5 minutes, season well & keep warm. Remove the chops from the oven, rest for 5 minutes, then serve with the warm compote.

### Bacon & pear grilled cheese

Sometimes plain grilled cheese just isn't enough! This combination works really well.



Spread a slice of bread with some jam (we used home-made plum jam), top with some cooked bacon, **sliced**

### Bacon & pear grilled cheese sandwich

pear and cheese (cheddar). Top with a slice of bread to make a sandwich. Cover the top and bottom with melted butter and griddle or grill until golden.

### Pear & roquefort tart



This is a classic combination for a perfect first course or light lunch. Pears are fabulous now and

keep well in a cool dark place. If you don't have time, bought pastry is an easy option.

Line a 23cm loose bottom fluted tin with shortcrust pastry. Prick the base, line with baking paper & baking beans. Blind bake for 20 mins.

3 ripe pears, quartered & cored 2 tsp olive oil

100g smoked bacon lardons 150g mascarpone

**Pear & Roquefort tart**  
2 free range eggs, beaten 50ml whole milk  
2 tsp chopped fresh thyme 150g Roquefort cheese, crumbled

Arrange the pears over the base of the pastry case & bake about 10 mins. Fry the lardons in the oil until golden, set aside. Beat the eggs into the mascarpone with the milk, season well & add the thyme. Scatter the lardons and Roquefort over the pears the pour over the mascarpone egg mix. Bake 25 mins until set & golden. Leave to cool a little before serving, or completely if to be served cold.

### Pear fritters with fennel sugar

This is SO simple, but has the X Factor when it comes to autumnal desserts  
100g plain flour 2 tsp caster sugar

5 tbsp melted semi salted butter 150 ml whole milk  
Vegetable oil for frying 2 free range egg whites

2 tsp fennel seeds 100g caster sugar  
4 ripe but firm pears

For the batter sift the flour & sugar into a bowl, make a well and add the melted butter & milk. Beat until smooth. Set aside. Grind the fennel seeds until fine,



stir in the sugar & tip into a baking tray. Heat the oil to 180oC. Peel the pears, slice into 6

wedges & cut away the core. Whisk the egg whites to soft peaks, fold into the batter. Dip the pear into the batter then lower into the hot oil, holding suspended in the oil before letting go which will prevent it from sticking to the base. **Pear & fennel fritters** Deep fry for 4 mins, flipping over, until crisp & brown. Drain on kitchen paper, toss in the tray of fennel seed sugar whilst still hot & serve straight away. Great with a scoop of vanilla pod ice-cream!

**Parish Pump  
COPY DEADLINE:  
All contributors &  
advertisers to submit  
copy no later than the  
18th of the month.  
Please note the change.  
Thankyou**

## ARE YOU WIDEAWAKE?

Link to Ticket Sales (same as QR code) <https://ascw.uk/wideawake>



On 9th October in Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre at 7.30pm, wildlife filmmaker Cindy Buxton lifts the lid on life on remote Wideawake Island — a volcanic speck in the Atlantic with no permanent residents, but plenty of boobies... feathered ones, that is! From vast Sooty tern colonies and dramatic sea stacks swarming with seabirds, to thousands of giant green turtles nesting under the stars, Cindy's tales capture the island's wild beauty, quirky history, and the challenges of living miles from anywhere.



## Martin Kinna

## Green Shoots



There has been enough grief these few weeks. A visit from the U.S. President gave rise to many a funny WhatsApp message and there have been some joyous moments too. I was not at all impressed with the programming of the Last Night of the Proms which only confirmed in my mind the notion that BBC Radio Three is certainly dumbing down its offerings in a hopeless bid to attract a younger audience. I was however completely overwhelmed by the amazing orchestra Chinese! a few days earlier. The exclamation mark is not a typo, and it is a well deserved part of their name because

the effect this huge range of multi racial performers bring to their performances is breathtaking - it had me so thrilled and excited. Chineke! was formed to champion Diversity in Classical Music: the name means "God" in the Igbo language. The members are drawn from up and coming Black and ethnically diverse classical musicians. Sir Simon Rattle is a huge enthusiast and was to have conducted them at the Proms. No matter, the result was magnificent. You can still get their performances on BBC Proms Catch Up. One of the aims of the orchestra is to

create more opportunities for black and ethnically diverse musicians in British and European orchestras. A truly worthy goal. Earlier this evening, I ate at a family run trattoria in Perugia at which the menu said that, were diners minded to tip, the tips would go not to the staff but, at the request of the staff, to a charity supporting the displaced and starving in Gaza. I have been moved by a lot of what I have seen over the last few days in Orvieto, Foligno, Monterfalco, Spello, Spoleto and Todi, but this is now top of the list.  
**Martin**

## Portia's September farming

Yay the rain arrived, the grass is growing. Cultivating is complete on the farm. We just have one more field to finish ploughing. We have started cutting the hedges around the farm and topping field margins.

The sheep and cattle are all a lot more settled now the grass is growing and we've been able to ease off feeding our winter hay.

The Stubble Turnips and Fodder Rape are starting to grow. We have 30 acres hopefully as winter feed for the sheep. This will enable us to rest some of our grazing after the hammering it's had over the summer. This field will be electric fenced and the sheep will be strip grazed over it.

Stubble turnips are an excellent source of energy and water, a great source of protein and minerals ideal for the sheep over the winter months. Grazing the sheep over our arable land inputs a natural fertiliser onto the land rather than man made. This also enables us to reduce our carbon footprint.



## Some of the Delights of the South Atlantic Islands



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](mailto:carolreay1@icloud.com)

Dear Carol

Nearly three years ago I broke up with the girl I considered to be the love of my life. We dated at school when we were teenagers and were together for nearly 7 years. I loved her, got on well with all her family, even felt one of them, and generally felt this was my relationship for life. She depended on me and as she was three years younger than me, I didn't mind this at all. We worked.

Then it all came to an end. She started work - she's a hairdresser and did some training in London - and she kind of drifted away from me. I could feel it happening at the time and didn't know how to stop it. Anyway, that's all some years ago. The thing is I just can't get over her. Every time I meet a girl, I just compare her to my ex. I find myself just hoping my ex. will come back if I just wait long enough. But that's not really on I don't think and in any event I am not fully living my life. R

Dear R,

Thank you for writing to me. I can hear it took courage to do so.

There is a great deal of sadness and regret in your email, and I want to start by acknowledging that. Sometimes we do not deal with the grief of loss and it can stay with us. You truly loved your girlfriend, and it ended resulting in a great loss for you and also the way you saw yourself and your life panning out. You also lost a family where you felt accepted and comfortable. It was all very challenging. Now you find yourself almost stuck in time. You cannot open-heartedly go forward and of course you cannot go back. But sending the email in here is the first step to dealing with this.

I think you would benefit from some short-term counselling. You can then talk through your loss, give air to your feelings and start to allow shifts in yourself to take place. I will email some recommendations. There are issues to explore like how you liked her depending on you. Perhaps you like to be needed which is fine of course, but helpful to be self-aware around.

So, I would start with some counselling and simultaneously make active plans around facing forward. Sometimes forcing ourselves to do things can help us unblock a situation. So, if you have any hobbies or interests see if there are groups you could join and new social situations you could explore.

You will move through this R. Take courage and take the steps you need to to make this happen.

Carol



PLUMBING | HEATING | RENEWABLES



Plumbing & heating repair & maintenance



Vented & unvented water systems



Oil boiler installation & repair



Power flushing



Oil tank installation & replacement



Bathrooms



Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)



ALL WORK FULLY INSURED

For all your plumbing & heating requirements & for a local reliable service:

01440 422163

07391 483373

email@fuelscape.co.uk

fuelscape.co.uk



# Suffolk Oil Solutions

BOILER & TANK SPECIALISTS

Tank Replacement Specialists  
 Plastic & Steel Tanks  
 Base Construction  
 Tank Removal/ Disposal Service  
 Oil Boiler Servicing & Breakdowns  
 Heating Oil Supplier  
 DBS (CRB) Checked & Fully Insured

## 01440 820267

info@suffolkoilsolutions.co.uk



**£** We Sell HEATING OIL email us for competitive daily price

Proud members of  
**Checkatrade.com**  
 Where reputation matters

Registered Heating Business



# J.A.P. Architects

Market Hill, Clare, Suffolk CO10 8NN

T: 01787 279490

E: enquiries@japarchitects.co.uk

W: www.japarchitects.co.uk



Established in 1965 J.A.P Architects is an award winning chartered practice.

Our services range from feasibility stage and project conception through to design and detailing, building regulations and, if required, contract administration.

We offer a free first-stage consultation to establish the scope of our client's requirements

## B Z Alexander Ltd

### Chartered Accountants

For all your business requirements including:

**Accounting**

**Self assessment tax returns**

**Bookkeeping**

**Payroll**

**Initial consultation FREE OF CHARGE**

**Contact Stefan Bransby-Zachary FCA**

**Located in Denston**

**Tel: 01440 820 675**

**Email: [stefan@bzalexander.co.uk](mailto:stefan@bzalexander.co.uk)**

### Prices for advertising in this magazine

#### INSIDE PAGES

	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

From Gillian Gates <gillgates1@yahoo.com>

**HOW LOVELY!!**

Hi Peter, we met at Stradishall churchyard last summer and you helped my sister and me find our great great grandmother's grave for which we will be forever grateful to you. We were unable to locate my great great grandfather at the time but returned a

few days ago and noticed that the area had been cleared which you said you would do for us and we have found his headstone laying on the ground just beneath the surface It is broken at the top and bottom but we were wondering

if it would be ok to come back tomorrow to clean it up and put it back in the ground where it originally stood. (DONE!) We did go into the church and it looks amazing so much work has gone into restoring it and it is much improved from last year when we visited Thank you, Gillian



**STANSFIELD  
Parish Council**  
*Working with our local community*

Police have apologised for not acting soon enough, or robustly enough, when residents and Stansfield Parish Council made complaints about attacks by loose dogs in the Assington Green area.

Over 40 people heard this apology at a special meeting of the Parish Council called to discuss the killing of over 35 sheep in July.

Inspector **Ben Hollands** said that before the major incident on 18 July, there had been two earlier attacks on sheep. A Community Resolution Order had been imposed on 10 July including strict control measures including secure fencing, and compensation for the farmer. But this should have been imposed earlier, and there had been a delay in investigations starting.

Police have issued a statement that following the major incident, the owner had been charged with several offences and the dogs were in custody. Insp. Hollands assured residents that the dogs would **not** be returning to the village.

A report to the Parish Council from the Police and Crime Commissioner stated that the Police were “aware of previous

reports involving the dogs and it is accepted that the initial Police response did not reflect the seriousness of the situation”. Police were now taking steps to upskill their response and Investigation teams.

The report added that the issue “...of giving Police powers to take preventative action early, when serious threats are flagged up by a community, would be an issue for Government to take up”.

**Inspector Hollands** outlined several laws applicable to offences of causing fear, dogs being loose, and attacks on livestock...much of which did not carry the power to seize dogs or arrest owners. The cost of DNA analysis to determine which dogs were involved was also a factor in deciding on what action Police could/would take.

Because of this concern about the effectiveness of current legislation, Stansfield Parish Council had invited **local MP Nick Timothy** to another special open meeting. (This is to be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Village Hall.)

Incidents involving the dogs stretched back to February, and several people described being threatened or attacked in their gardens, out on walks or in their cars. One incident concerned children. Not all incidents had been reported direct to Police, and Police do not act on social media reports or hearsay. Use 101, or if an incident is actually in progress 999. Several residents took advantage of the

opportunity to give information to Insp. Hollands and Sgt Marlow after the formal PC meeting when refreshments were offered by volunteers from the village Good Neighbour scheme. **At their scheduled meeting on 10 September, Stansfield Parish Councillors** heard a resident say that

virtually any breed of dog could be involved in livestock and wildlife attacks and that training and responsible ownership was vital. The Parish Council are working with Police and other agencies to improve the way Threats to a Community can be communicated to improve the chances of preventing incidents.

Other subjects covered in this meeting included:

The annual grant of £768 to the Village Hall towards running costs in the current financial year.

Ways to tackle speeding in the village, which will also be brought up at the meeting with the MP on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The adoption of a new Policy for the Council covering how it will engage with the community.

An update to the village Emergency Plan and a call for volunteers willing to train in rest centre management.

Arrangements for the village Fun Day next summer.

Alternative ways to publicise parish affairs to be more visible and accessible to residents.

Anyone who has some clerical or administrative ability and who would like a home-based paid job for about five hours a week is invited to contact the Parish Clerk, **Anne Lines** for more details. Tel: 07496851198 email: [stansfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:stansfieldpc@outlook.com)

Our picture shows Stansfield PC Chair **Rex Barnes** presenting a bouquet to **Anne Lines** who will soon be retiring as Parish Clerk.



**Cindy, Sam and Ann in the Falklands**



Unique and interesting products from local makers and producers

# Stansfield Christmas Shopping Evening

Wednesday 19th November  
6 pm - 8 pm

Free Entry ~ Free Parking  
Prize Draw ~ Refreshments  
Mulled Wine ~ Bar

**FREE** mince pies for all shoppers!

**Stansfield Village Hall, Hall Lane, Lower Street,  
Stansfield, Sudbury, CO10 8LW**

In aid of Stansfield Village Hall Charity No. 304939

# red side up

**Tel: 01440 706 911**

20 Rookwood Way Haverhill Suffolk CB9 7AA  
mail@redsideup.co.uk

**www.redsideup.co.uk**

Your single source for high quality print



Printers of



Leaflets • Booklets • Stationery • Business Cards • Books • Magazines • Brochures • Forms • Postcards • Invites • Newsletters • Labels • Posters • Envelopes • Pupil Planners



## David Pryke Motor Repairs Limited



**FOUR WHEEL ALIGNMENT  
DIAGNOSTICS  
TYRES AND BATTERIES  
CLASS 4 MOTs  
ALL MECHANICAL REPAIRS  
AIR CONDITIONING**



**Unit D Townsend Bridewell Street  
Clare Suffolk CO10 8QD  
Tel/Fax 01787278016**

**www.davidprykemotorrepairs.co.uk  
Email: davidpryke@aol.com**

### PARISH COUNCILS - WHO'S WHO in YOUR VILLAGE?

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

## My cars from a bygone age—well almost: Part 2

### 1960 Alvis TD21

Another beautiful car, memory fades, but



the main issue was that it drove brilliantly except on ice and very wet roads where it skidded badly and with 2 tons of car this is not a joke. Another problem was that the bonnet was so long that up a hill in the Lake District it was not possible to see the sheep lying on the tarmac in front of us. Our ten-month-old daughter became 100mph baby in this car as did the young family of our long-time friends, Hugh and Ann, they loved it. The wheels were re-chromed and I put the rear wheels on the wrong way

round, (in my ignorance). On the AI we gently came to a standstill as the wheel overtook us and it ended up in a ditch on the north side. We never did find the wheel nut. Rachel slept through the whole thing. We owned the Alvis when we moved to an old house in Osmotherley. In the process of moving we took there our old purple and gold minivan which had pictures of ladies all over the bodywork. We introduced ourselves to our new neighbours. And shall we say received a cool reception.

### 1961 Aston Martin DB5

What a car? James Bond had one and so did we. Carol drove it into the depths of Middlesbrough many times, as part of her job as Home School Liaison Officer, and the locals loved it. There was no need to lock it there, the locals looked after it with pride! A prig in insurance expressed concern that school children should not be



driven in an Aston. We ignored him! Like all the previous cars it was beautiful. Under hard acceleration up a hill the bonnet would rise and it seemed to take off. If you moved from 5th to 4th the effect was totally amazing.

It did not take off when the timing chain broke at the bottom Osmotherley hill at 20mph. I still have one of the pistons. It was never the same again.



Look carefully and you can see the gouge in the piston. This particular piston came off

### 1981 BMW 525 i

A very smooth car; with the radio on I managed to do 90 in third instead of fifth without noticing. The handling wasn't that brilliant and Carol managed intimate contact with a Lincolnshire dyke on one snowy night. No harm done but the car had to go



### . 1987 Range Rover

Wonderful workhorse but very, very thirsty. It was so bad, that the figures were hard to believe. We decided to have a Daihatsu diesel engine fitted to reduce the running costs. I found a firm in Tewkesbury that would do the conversion in one day. So, I drove down one afternoon, stayed overnight and took the car in next morning. I have never seen such brilliant coordination of the guys who changed the engine. I drove back home in the afternoon and it was excellent. I achieved over30+ mpg with no problem at all. One black mark, a car with a substitute engine has no value at all in the second-hand car trade irrespective of how good it is

The Range Rover was a fantastic work horse: we drove all the way from Salisbury to Stanhope with an enormous cast iron bath hanging over the tailgate. It did it without a

murmur of protest. The Rover was eventually replaced by a series of TDI Discoveries – great vehicles and good workhorses but maintenance costed us an arm and a leg. It seemed to me over the years Land Rover lost the ability to produce a reliable car. To be fair they always got us there but the cost was consistently high. Our final replacement for these was a Volkswagen Touareg which is large but reliable and is still going strong with its costs significantly lower than the TDI's





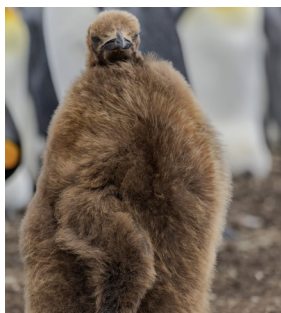
Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. We're now well into autumn, and our next Volunteer morning is scheduled for [Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October](#). We meet

at the Chapel of Rest at 10:30, and this time we have work planned for the children's play area at the Recreation Ground until around 1pm if you would like to join us. Just drop me a line at [parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk). Some other events taking place in the parish include:

- [4 October - Tradecraft Shop and Coffee Morning](#)
- [9 October – Cindy Buxton: Wideawake Island Talk](#)
- [11 October – Wickhambrook Church Maintenance Morning](#)
- [14 October – WI Meeting: Fay Jones – The Woodland Haberdasher](#)
- [21 October – Local History Society: Costume Through Glass Stained Windows](#)
- [27 October – Wickhambrook Garden Club: The Dry Garden at Hyde Hall](#)
- [31 October – WI Tea Party](#)

You can find a full list of events planned in the parish on the [website](#). We still have two vacancies on the parish council and would really like to recruit new team members as soon as possible. Take a look at the [website](#) and please do contact me if you have any queries.

**Cindy et al in the Falklands again!**

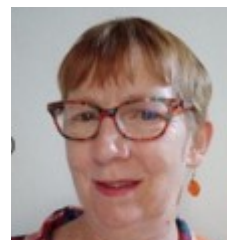


**Wickhambrook Council Minutes**

- An update on the Neighbourhood Plan and Road Safety issues**
- A review of income and expenditure against the approved budget**
- Planning applications**
- Finalising the grounds contract specification for 2025/26 and**
- Nominating an individual to lay the wreath at the Remembrance day ceremony**

You can find draft and signed minutes of all our meetings at [wickhambrook.org/parish-council/minutes](http://wickhambrook.org/parish-council/minutes) The Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan which sets locally specific planning policies that can shape growth and influence the type of development in our parish. Following extensive consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan has now successfully passed an independent examination and has been approved to go forward to a Parish Referendum on Thursday 13th November between 7.00am and 10.00pm. The Referendum will operate in the same way as an election. Those entitled to vote will be asked to answer 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question:

*'Do you want West Suffolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wickhambrook to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area?'* If more than 50% of the turnout vote 'Yes', the District Council will be legally required to 'make' (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan as part of its planning framework. This means the planning policies in the Plan will have to be taken into account when decisions on planning applications are taken. You can find out more about our [Neighbourhood Plan](#) on our website. 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](mailto:parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk) if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!



Keep safe and well **Hilary Workman Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council**

**Pride and Prejudice at Cowlinge church**

We were treated to a feast of entertainment at the performance of *Pride and Prejudice* in Cowlinge church, on the 5th September. The talented company from 'This is My Theatre' gave us a wonderful musical half hour introduction to a fast moving and fun interpretation of *Pride and Prejudice*. With only 5 actors, they provided a slick and happy rendition of the book. One of the cast played 5 characters, including a horse! Maybe 6, as he could well have been the coach driver, as well as the horse! The theatre company will be returning to Cowlinge church on March 19th next year with *Jane Eyre*. I cannot recommend it too highly. Christine Cowlinge Church Companions



**Denston Village Hall 100 Club Quiz night STEFAN, TREASURER 01440 820675**

The final 100 club (for 2024/25 ) has been drawn this month and the winners are

- 1 Gwen Gregory £20**
- 2 Mr & Mrs Turner £10**
- 3 Camilla Hamilton £ 5**

Thanks Stefan

**M Jordan**

Painter & Decorator  
Wallpapering.  
Interior & Exterior.  
Domestic & Commercial.  
Free Estimates & Advice.  
Fully Insured. References Available.

07510 842442 - 01638 815226  
[jordandecorating@gmail.com](mailto:jordandecorating@gmail.com)

## Disclaimer. An interesting read! Normally Parish Pump is Apolitical but sometimes some words have to be said. This was quoted on social media



Journalist and college professor **Stacey Patton** goes viral by penning a stunningly powerful statement about how she was on **Charlie Kirk's**

"digital hit list" and recounting the horror that he inflicted on her.

"We cannot allow this tragic assassination to whitewash Kirk's legacy..."

"I am on Charlie Kirk's hit list," Patton wrote to her 215,000 followers on Facebook. "His so-called 'Professor Watchlist,' run under the umbrella of **Turning Point USA**, is nothing more than a digital hit list for academics who dare to speak truth to power. I landed there in 2024 after writing commentary that inflamed the MAGA faithful. And once my name went up, the harassment machine roared to life."

"For weeks my inbox and voicemail were deluged. Mostly white men spat venom through the phone: They threatened all manner of violence," she continued.

"They overwhelmed the university's PR lines and the president's office with calls

demanding that I be fired," Patton wrote. "The flood was so relentless that the head of campus security reached out to offer me an escort, because they feared one of these keyboard soldiers might step out of his basement and come do me harm."

"And I am not unique," she added. "Kirk's Watchlist has terrorized legions of professors across this country. Women, Black faculty, queer scholars, basically anyone who challenged white supremacy, gun culture, or Christian nationalism suddenly found themselves targets of coordinated abuse," Patton wrote.

"Some received death threats. Some had their jobs threatened. Some left academia entirely. Kirk sent the loud message to us: speak the truth and we will unleash the mob!" she continued.

"That is the culture of violence Charlie Kirk built. He normalized violence. He curated it, monetized it, and sicced it on anyone who dared to puncture his movement's lies," she wrote.

"And now, in the wake of his shooting, there's all this national outpouring of mourning, moments of silence, yellow prayer hands, and tributes painting him as a civil debater," Patton continued. "But the truth is that Kirk and his foot soldiers spent years terrorizing educators, trying

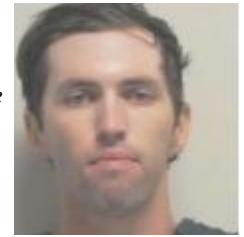
to silence us with harassment and fear!"

"And now the same violence he unleashed on others has come full circle."

"But what I find especially jarring is the dissonance in public mourning for a smug white man whose life work was actively hostile to certain groups," she continued. "Kirk spent years demonizing LGBTQ people, mocking gun survivors, spewing racism about Black folks, and pushing policies that literally shorten lives."

"It is so revolting to watch a bipartisan wave of grief sweep over this hateful racist as if he was a neutral community servant," she concluded.

This is pure unvarnished truth from Patton. Charlie Kirk did not deserve what happened to him, but nor did his victims deserve the hell that he unleashed on them. If Americans are going to build a more peaceful future for ourselves we must condemn political violence while also condemning the hateful, bigoted rhetoric that made Kirk a multimillionaire.



### Wickhambrook WI –Meet the author



On 30th August a literary event was held. Ali Bacon, sister of one of the WI members, came to talk about her latest

book. Ali had visited previously when she talked about her previous book "In The Blink Of An Eye" which imagined the life of an early Edinburgh photographer. Her latest book "The Absent Heart" was inspired by the letters of Robert Louis Stevenson and the complicated love

triangle between Frances Sitwell, Sidney Colvin and Louis Stevenson himself. The afternoon took the form of a question-and-answer session between Ali and her sister Dorothy Anderson exploring how the interest in this fascinating trio came about. Frances Sitwell was a beautiful, cultured young woman trapped in an abusive marriage with a clergyman Albert Sitwell. She found refuge at the rectory in Cockfield with the Babbingtons and there met Sidney Colvin. They were soon attracted to each other but maintained a chaste relationship for many years, both still being married. Then one day Robert Louis Stevenson appeared to throw the relationship into jeopardy. Ostensibly Colvin was to become Robert's guide and mentor but fell madly in love with Frances. She was swept away by his ardour and youthful exuberance but also saw something in his writings. When they began a correspondence Frances kept all

his letters while insisting that he destroy all hers, which he dutifully did. The story is based around these letters, some of them love letters, some more mundane.

Ali proceeded to explain how she became intrigued with this relationship. Frances was not immune to heartache: both her sons died young after attempts to save them. Louis Stevenson also died at the age of 44 having suffered poor health most of his life. The letters then fell into Colvin's hands and were subsequently published. Around this vast treasury of information Ali weaves the story of these three people who became inextricably tangled. After some questions from the audience Ali was thanked for her time and for sharing her work and kindly signed copies of her book for those who wished to purchase a copy **Wendy**.



### Wickhambrook WI –meeting

Once a year the committee take a back seat and "the members take over"! We are never sure what to expect but it usually turns out to be a fun evening. This September a group of members began the evening with a few lively games of Bingo which included a game specifically for the committee members. This was followed by a "Blind Auction" where two members conducted an auction of various items

which were wrapped up so that nobody had any idea what they were bidding for. This produced some fierce bidding wars as members vied for the "lots"! Items eventually secured included a china cup and plate, a candle, a back scratcher, a jigsaw puzzle and some second-hand novels. The money raised was to boost the WI funds. After some delicious homemade cakes and cookies with tea and coffee, members agreed it had been a fun-filled evening.

### Cindy in the Falklands



# MEET YOUR MP !

**Tuesday 30 th September  
6-7pm**

**Nick Timothy** is coming to Stansfield Village Hall. Come and talk to him about anything that concerns you, including Threats to the Community like loose dogs, attacks on sheep, speeding in the village etc...

Anyone who wants to attend this meeting is invited to email [stansfieldpc@outlook.com](mailto:stansfieldpc@outlook.com) to assist organising.

Meeting organised by Stansfield Parish Council.



## 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 October 2025 **DRAFT**

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

Date	Time	Church	Details
05 Oct	10:00 am	Ousden * 🍎 🍌 🍷 (Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity   HC Benefice Harvest Festival)	Celebrant: <b>Revd Barbara Sherlock</b> Organist: <b>[CM]</b> Liturgical colour: ● Proper 22
05 Oct	03:00 pm	Lidgate * 🍎 🍌 🍷 (Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity) Harvest Festival)	Celebrant: <b>Revd Eve Bell</b> Organist: <b>[KJ]</b> Liturgical colour: ● Proper 22
12 Oct	10:00 am	Stansfield (Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity   HC)	Celebrant: <b>Revd Eve Bell</b> Organist: <b>[DO]</b> Liturgical colour: ● Proper 23
19 Oct	10:00 am	Stradishall 🛎 (Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity   HC)	Celebrant: <b>Revd Eve Bell</b> Organist: <b>[KJ]</b> Liturgical colour: ● Proper 24
26 Oct	10:00 am	Cowlinge 🛎 (Last Sunday of Trinity   HC)	Celebrant: <b>Revd Eve Bell</b> Organist: <b>[DO]</b> Liturgical colour: ● Proper 25

Year C

## Clare Community Food Bank

**Free food at the  
Community Pantry in  
Clare Parish Church**

**07456 863 555**

[www.boomerangspetfo  
odbank.co.uk/](http://www.boomerangspetfoodbank.co.uk/)



## ROB HARRINGTON — BUILDING CONTRACTOR —

*From planning to completion and everything in between*



New builds



Period Restoration & Listed Buildings



Extensions



Extensions



Extensions



Outbuildings



Bespoke Work



Landscaping



Alterations

**could you foster?**

**nexus fostering**

**we urgently need carers in Suffolk**

**Ofsted Outstanding Provider**

Visit us at [www.nexusfostering.co.uk](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk)  
Call us on 01603 951 405

07900 843329 / 01440 423783

[robertcharlesharrington@gmail.com](mailto:robertcharlesharrington@gmail.com)

[www.robharringtonbuilding.co.uk](http://www.robharringtonbuilding.co.uk)

Wickhambrook, Suffolk



Mary Cleaver

Does Bad Behaviour Matter in Divorce Finances?

Divorce is rarely straightforward — especially when one person feels they were badly treated. Whether it's cheating, gaslighting, coercive control or financial abuse, many people going through a divorce understandably want to know: "Will the Court take their behaviour into account when deciding who gets what?"

It's a fair question — and the answer is a bit more complex than a simple yes or no. Let's start with a common misconception: the Court doesn't usually hand out financial penalties for being a bad spouse. Even if someone has cheated, lied, or treated their partner poorly, the Family Court in England and Wales generally won't reduce their financial award just because of that. The main focus is on dividing assets fairly — not punishing past behaviour.

So What Does the Court Look At?

Financial decisions are based on a list of factors set out in the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. These include income and earning potential, housing and other financial needs, the standard of living during the marriage, contributions (both

financial and domestic), any health conditions, and finally, conduct — but only if it's so serious that it would be unfair to ignore.

So, when does someone's behaviour cross that line?

Cheating is one of the most common conduct questions that is raised. Sadly, infidelity, on its own, usually makes no difference at all in financial proceedings. The Court doesn't take a moral stance since it's not about who was "at fault" for the breakdown of the marriage. Gaslighting, Coercive Control or Emotional Abuse are behaviours that are taken more seriously, especially since coercive control became a criminal offence in 2015. While emotional abuse doesn't automatically impact a financial outcome, the Court may consider it if:

- It affected the victim's ability to work
• It created a serious power imbalance in the relationship

Financial control or economic abuse is an area where behaviour can impact the financial settlement. If one spouse has prevented the other from working, controlled or withheld money, built up

assets secretly or left the other person financially dependent. Then the Court may award more to the victim to help restore independence and fairness.

Physical abuse or domestic violence may also be considered if it has affected someone's physical or mental health, or their ability to earn a living, especially if it impacts their ongoing needs, like housing or care for children.

The Court is more likely to consider conduct in cases involving hiding or wasting money (e.g. gambling, fraud, asset dissipation), refusing to disclose assets, or criminal behaviour with direct financial or welfare consequences. In these situations, the Court may adjust the settlement to reflect the impact of that behaviour.

It can be very frustrating, especially if you feel deeply wronged, but the law is mainly focused on financial needs and fairness, not on passing judgment on personal behaviour. However, if the conduct has had a real financial impact, such as limiting your earning ability, causing trauma, or creating dependency, then it may be relevant. Mary

Jeff's page



Hi Peter,

The most challenging part of the wine world is vintage wine. What is it and why is it so expensive and sought after. It need not be costly (see below) but it can a sublime experience especially when accompanied by outstanding food. In essence all wine is vintage as it is grown and picked in the same year. (although not in the Southern hemisphere). However everyday wines, with little or no pretence are meant for early drinking.

Vintage wines are the product of the grape, the area they are produced in, the weather of that year and the skill of the winemaker. The vines are chosen because they are best suited to the local conditions. The weather is the major factor, so the conditions are closely watched, and recorded, every day. Temperatures, sunlight hours and amount of rain all play their part in determining the eventual health of the grapes.

The winemaker then works his magic and we, eventually, enjoy their expertise in creating their sublime wines. Understanding what he is trying to achieve with his wines is a big part of realising what to expect. In the big estates they try to maintain a particular style but the man in Burgundy with 3 or 4 rows of

vines will try to make his wine as individual as he is.

When the wines come to market the experts taste the wines and offer their opinions of the wine and its expected longevity. At this stage the wine is big, bold and bursting with fruit, and or tannins. Should you buy wine at this stage (en primeur) then expect to leave it for many years. In 2005 in Morey-St-Denis I bought some of Michel Magnien's Grand Cru '01 and he told me under no circumstances should I even think about drinking them for at least twenty years. In the same year my sister and Bill had dinner at the local hotel with Michel who produced two magnums of Clos de la Roche 1945. A Grand Cru from that village. Described as "unable to fully describe how good it was."

I also have wines of similar ages which are still not ready for drinking. In addition, wines from areas like Cahors, Madiran, St. Joseph and the Rhone Valley should be at least twenty years old to enjoy them at their best. Learning about these areas, and the grapes grown in them, adds to the pleasure we derive from drinking them. It is a fact that as we age, we develop palates that have, over the years, come to appreciate the complexities and nuances which vintage wines develop.

There is a phrase in the wine world "There are no great wines, only great bottles." Meaning that we are seduced by the well-known names, the history, and romance,

associated with them. These are of course outstanding wines but if they do not suit your palate then your enjoyment of them will be limited. Realise which are those which are best suited to your palate and drink them.

Now how and where to buy vintage wines. Online Wine auctions are the answer. I have been buying at auction for many years. I do not purchase the great wines but the vintage wines from less well-known areas. These have included bottles from France, Spain, Italy, Lebanon and elsewhere from the 1970's onwards. Looking for wines from less well known regions made from even more obscure grapes has enabled me to purchase wines that I would not have been aware of or thought of trying. But then a great part of wine is discovering something new which the supermarkets would never have. Anything slightly off piste is also well worth trying. If you locate a wine, you know little about look it up on the producer's home page or any of the many wine websites.

There are numerous auctions of wine all of which are found on the Internet. As for cost, even with all the charges, the wines I have bought in this way have all been purchased for about £10 a bottle, and in many cases less than that. best, Jeff

# OLD GOAT BREWERY

**FINE ALES, BREWED ON THE PREMISES**

WINE, SPIRITS & SOFT DRINKS ALSO AVAILABLE

**COME AND TRY OUR DELICIOUS  
CRAFT BEERS, BREWED ON THE  
PREMISES - INCLUDING LIMITED  
SEASONALS.**

**FOOD VANS, LIVE MUSIC**

**PUB QUIZ EVERY 3RD THURSDAY**

**WWW.OLDGOATBEER.COM**

**THE COMPASSES  
HIGH ST,  
STANSFIELD  
SUDBURY. CO10 8LN**



01284 789009

**AUTUMN HOURS:**

**THU: 6:30PM - 10PM**

**FRI: 4:30PM - 10PM**

**SAT: 4PM - 10PM**

**SUN: 4PM - 7PM**

# Refined Blinds & Shutters

We create bespoke blinds that are tailored to fit your windows

With a wide range of products there will be the right blind for your home

**01284 388 779**

[info@refinedblinds.co.uk](mailto:info@refinedblinds.co.uk)

[refinedblindsandshutters.co.uk](http://refinedblindsandshutters.co.uk)

## Who is who in our local church benefices?

BENEFACTICE	CHURCH (Parish)	RECTOR	CONTACT	ELDERS AND OFFICIALS
 <b>BANSFIELD</b>	<b>COWLINGE</b>	<b>The Revd Eve Bell</b>	<b>07815441304</b>	<b>Dr Paul Bevan</b>
	<b>DENSTON</b>			
	<b>LIDGATE</b>			
	<b>OUSDEN</b>			
	<b>STANSFIELD</b>			
	<b>STRADISHALL</b>			
	<b>(Assington Green)</b>			
<b>WICKHAMBROOK</b>				
<b>STOUR VALLEY</b>	<b>CLARE</b>	<b>The Revd Mark Woodrow</b>	<b>01787277515</b>	<b>The Revd Dr Karen Smith</b>
	<b>POSLINGFORD</b>			
<b>SUFFOLK HEIGHTS</b>	<b>HAWKEDON</b>	<b>The Revd Clive Fairclough</b>	<b>01284 615828</b>	<b>Mrs Heather Phillips Mr David Taylor</b>
<b>SUFFOLK HEIGHTS</b>	<b>(Thurston End)</b>	<b>As Hawkedon</b>	<b>As Hawkedon</b>	<b>As Hawkedon</b>

## Puzzle Time

### Puzzle 6



Composer?



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](mailto:delphicsquest@gmail.com) (feedback also welcome.) The closing date for submissions is 16th October.

Answer to Puzzle 5: Walmington-on Sea  
[The clues gave: Farthing, Hodges, Sponge and Walker – all characters in Dad's Army.]

Congratulations to Lucy Tovey of Wickhambrook who is the winner of last month's puzzle.

## St Mary's Church Lidgate



**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](mailto:bobby.bennet@suffolk.co.uk)

West Suffolk District Councillor for **Whepstead Wickhambrook Denston, Stansfield, Brockley, and Hawkedon**

Sarah Pugh [sarah.pugh@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.pugh@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

West Suffolk District Council for **Clare, Kedington & Hundon ward**

Cllr Nick Clarke -  
[nick.clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:nick.clarke@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Cllr Marion Rushbrook  
[marion.rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:marion.rushbrook@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Cllr Karen Richardson  
[karen.richardson@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:karen.richardson@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Memories are Golden

Open  
Monday-Thursday 09.30-2pm

The Old Parkway School, Unity Offices, Park Road,  
Haverhill, CB9 7YD

Memories are Golden specialises in offering day care services to individuals living with dementia and suffering from heart conditions, diabetes, and other long-term physical challenges.

We also support people in their journey towards combating loneliness and isolation from families, friends, and their community.

Our Community Hub provides a safe space to socialise and build friendships, as well as providing meaningful activities, entertainment, and social events, to improve well-being. We also provide a 2 course nutritious meal every day.

**£55 per day**

We are accredited with Suffolk County Council who can commission service users to attend the hub if they meet criteria

We offer a taster day FOC - If you would like to book a visit please call Kelly on 07538920731  
Email: [enquiries@memoriesaregolden.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@memoriesaregolden.co.uk)  
Website: [www.memoriesaregolden.co.uk](http://www.memoriesaregolden.co.uk)

# Stansfield Village Hall

## The Infamous Quiz

Saturday 4th October

Prizes

7pm doors -  
7.30pm start

Bar  
Raffle

Tickets £10  
under 16 £8  
inc hot HOME-COOKED supper



Book your ticket, gather your team (up to 8) or join a team on the night.  
**Booking is in advance:**  
[ticketsource.co.uk/stansfield-village-hall](http://ticketsource.co.uk/stansfield-village-hall)  
Info/help with booking: [friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk](mailto:friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk) or 01284 789 192

Registered charity No. 304939

# treeworx

NPTC QUALIFIED

est 2005



All aspects of tree surgery undertaken, fully insured and to British standards 3998.

- Crown reductions
- Crown thinning & lifting
- Felling & removal
- Fruit tree pruning
- Hedge work

To discuss your requirements and for a free no obligation quote please call: **CLARE BASED 07796 848928**  
[tree\\_worx@yahoo.com](mailto:tree_worx@yahoo.com)



## J.R. HUMPHREY & SONS

### YOUR LOCAL FAMILY BUTCHER



Always a fine selection of meats, cheeses, dairy products, poultry and smoked hams

5, Market Hill, Clare, Suffolk.  
Telephone 01787-277294

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR 16 TO 24 YEAR OLDS.

## SHARE AN HOUR A WEEK WITH LONELY ELDERLY



Become a YOPEY Befriender and visit care home residents. Talk to them and join in their activities. Some residents get no visitors and many have dementia.

Learn #SkillsForLife and build a 'Record of Volunteering Achievement' that will look GREAT on your applications for university or for a job.

£29 fee gets you support for a year from an award-winning charity. If you are under 18 YOPEY will contact your parents or carers.

#YOPEYBEFRIENDER #CHANGELIVES #BETHEDIFFERENCE



01440 821654

YOPEY, Woodfarm Cottage, Bury Road, Stradishall, Newmarket, CB8 8YN

### FREE HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST



Stansfield now has a friendly team of volunteers to help with a range of small tasks

Collecting shopping or prescriptions. Minor household tasks. Help with pets. Driving to medical/dental appointments. Computer, TV and phone support. Emergency meals. One-off garden tasks. Form filling/letter writing. Call or visit for a chat.

# Stansfield Good Neighbours

## 07827 128511

[stansfieldgoodneighbours@outlook.com](mailto:stansfieldgoodneighbours@outlook.com)

## JQ ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Professional and Reliable Registered Electrician

For Free Quotations

Call John 07502161882

Email: [johnquinnelectrical@gmail.com](mailto:johnquinnelectrical@gmail.com)

## Stradishall Parish Council News

A meeting of Stradishall Parish Council took place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. County Councillor **Bobby Bennett** and District Councillors **Marion Rushbrook** and **Nick Clarke** attended the meeting.

### Planning

12 residents also attended the meeting to raise their concerns about a planning application for the former Cold Store in Stradishall village, to let it for use as a distribution centre for a flat pack furniture company.

Stradishall Parish Council objected to the application as it did not feel it was appropriate to have a commercial enterprise in a quiet rural village so close to nearby properties, when the site is not allocated for employment in the Local Plan and Stradishall is not a sustainable village because of its lack of amenities. In addition to this, councillors felt that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on nearby properties because of the level of noise, pollution and overlooking from HGVs which would be generated if the application goes ahead. There would also be an impact on road safety as there is no footway along the B1063 from the proposed access to the main part of the village.

### Six-month budget review

Councillors reviewed the Parish Council's expenditure to date against the budget for 2025/26. There were a number of overspends, the main one being on repairs to the play equipment. The play equipment is inspected monthly by West Suffolk Council and produces a list of findings with their associated risk. The primary focus for the Parish Council is on high or moderate risk findings. One example was the pavilion roof which was picked up as moderate risk and has now been repaired. In addition to repairing the pavilion roof, the swing seats have been replaced. Unfortunately, the wooden swing frames are starting to deteriorate and will need replacing in the next year or so. Stradishall Parish

Council is obtaining quotes for replacement swing frames. It is also planning to allocate more money for playing field maintenance in the next budget.

### Grass Cutting Contract

Stradishall Parish Council's current grass cutting contract is due to end this year. If you would be interested in quoting to take over the contract, please contact our parish clerk, **Joanne Kirk** for more details.

### Tackling speeding and road safety in local communities

Speeding and road safety is the main concern consistently raised by residents but the most difficult one to tackle. This is because the Highways authority for Suffolk is Suffolk County Council and communities find it a challenge to get them to take their concerns seriously. Stradishall Parish Council has received a letter from Moulton Parish Council asking if they would like to join a group of interested parishes to lobby Suffolk County Council on their current stance relating to speeding and road safety. Moulton Parish Council contacted a number of other local parish councils about their experience with speeding and road safety and over 20 responded. The feedback received was that it is a battle to make any progress with improving community road safety due to the processes used by Suffolk County Council and the costs which are passed on to local parishes.

Stradishall Parish Council agreed to join the group and work with other parish councils to highlight the extent of concern within West Suffolk and lobby Suffolk County Council to update its policies in line with other county councils like Cambridgeshire which are far more responsive to the needs of their communities. With devolution coming, it is important that awareness is raised of just how important this issue is and that communities want to be heard.

### Loft insulation offer



Public sector organisations in Suffolk have teamed up to pay half your bill when you top up your insulation with High Loft (up to £200). Anyone in Suffolk can receive a 50% discount off their purchase of 200mm or 370mm wide insulation rolls (up to £200) with free delivery, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

Go to [www.bit.ly/suffolkloft](http://www.bit.ly/suffolkloft) and fill in the short form to receive your personalised link to order, or call High Loft's insulation experts on 01706 248203. The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will close once the allocated funding has been spent. Loft insulation helps maintain a cooler indoor temperature so now is the perfect time to get your home summer ready.

To find out more visit [www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding](http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/funding).

### Connecting Communities Rural Transport Service

*Connecting Communities* is a door-to-door minibus service dedicated to supporting those in our area who struggle to access public transport. Whether it's getting to essential appointments, seeing friends and family, or simply taking part in everyday activities, they are there to help individuals stay connected and independent.

### How do you use it?

**Call** your local area operator up to a week before you'd like to travel to book your journey. They'll be able to answer any questions you might have. The number is 01638 664304.

Joanne



No Grass too tall give us  
a call  
T: 07717781497

E: [josh.barrett24@outlook.com](mailto:josh.barrett24@outlook.com)

## Services at Hawkedon St Mary in September

Services at St Mary's Church,  
Hawkedon during October  
12th 9am. BCP said Holy  
Communion  
26th 11am. Morning Prayer with  
hymns



## Craft Fair

Sunday 5th October  
at Whatfield Village Hall  
Rectory Road, SAT NAV IP7 6QU  
**10am - 4pm**  
HOT & COLD REFRESHMENTS  
SERVED ALL DAY

Lots of stalls selling a wide variety of crafts  
Come along, bring your friends and family  
Shop for Christmas, birthdays or just treat yourself

BUMPER RAFFLE - lots of great prizes!

All proceeds to - **Success AfterStroke**   
Registered Charity No. 1211565

# THOMAS BEDWIN

Documentary Wedding Photography



Photographs to relive your wedding day over and over

[www.tjbedwin.com](http://www.tjbedwin.com)

**Suffolk Trade Centre - "the best in motoring and customer care"**



**Servicing -All makes and models  
MOT's Car Sales  
Cars bought for cash.  
Finance available.  
Web Site:**

**[www.suffolktradecentre.co.uk](http://www.suffolktradecentre.co.uk)**

**Special offer Quote SuffMOT for a £10 discount off your MOT fee.**

**Telephone 01440 820994**

**e mail: [suffolktradecentre@gmail.com](mailto:suffolktradecentre@gmail.com)**

## MTP LANDSCAPES & GARDEN MAINTENANCE LIMITED

Maintain-Transform-Perfection

All Aspects of Landscaping and Garden Maintenance

(CONTACT US TODAY)

MOBILE: 07920152095

WEBSITE: [mtplandscapes.co.uk](http://mtplandscapes.co.uk)

EMAIL: [morganparsons177@gmail.com](mailto:morganparsons177@gmail.com)

### LOGS FOR SALE

Crate of Hardwood £100.00 each. Crate of Soft wood £85.00 each.



**Please call Brad on 07775591799 to arrange collection/delivery. Based in Wickhambrook**



## Prestige Insulation

Insulation specialists offering all aspects of

insulation services from Domestic and Commercial clients throughout the UK  
[prestige-insulation.co.uk](http://prestige-insulation.co.uk)

Contact **07391 604547**