

WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Parish Council: www.greatfinborough.onesuffolk.net

Chair: James Spencer - james@finboroughparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Jennie Blackburn - clerk@finboroughparishcouncil.org.uk

Footpath Warden: Richard Burton - greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com

District Councillor: John Matthissen - councillor@matthissen.net

Tel: 01449 258894

County Councillor: Penny Otton - penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 07545 423847

Great in Finborough Together - GiFT

Tel: 07522 171190

Pettiward Hall

Lettings/Keyholder: Mary Preece - mary.preece1@btinternet.com

Tel: 01449 771360

St Andrews Church: www.standrewsgtfinborough.co.uk

Rector: Rev Sarah Jenkins - revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

Combs Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, IP14 2AY | Tel: 01449 676065

Associate Priest: Rev Canon Pauline Higham | Tel: 01449 771791

Church Warden: Nigel Brown 01449 675344

Great Finborough & District Gardening Club

Cath Walker - cathwalker85@gmail.com

Tel: 07843 191101

Allotments Association - Mary Smyth Tel: 01449 672533

Primary School: www.finboroughprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Stephen Dodd - admin@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk

Tel: 01449 613208

Gt Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's Pre-School

Delia Prior - Tel: 07513 140072

Chestnut Horse Pub - Rob & Clare Tel: 01449 674688

Candlestick Club: Keith Proctor Tel: 01449 736598

Buxhall Woman's Institute: Judith Hickman - judithhickman12@gmail.com

Police (Stowmarket SNT): Tel: 101 - stowmarket.snt@pnn.police.uk

Stowmarket High School - Tel: 01449 613541

Stowmarket Health Centre - Tel: 01449 776000

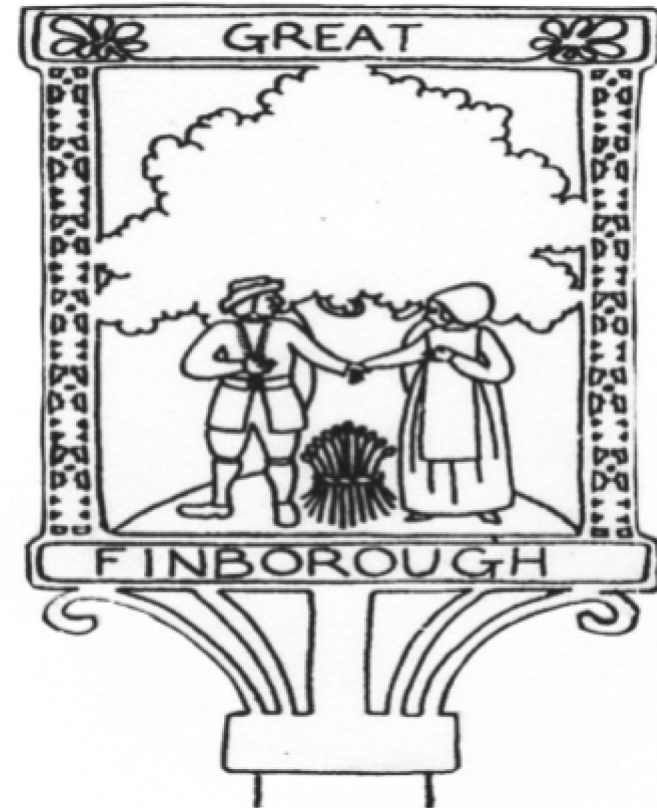
Combs Ford Surgery - Tel: 01449 678333

Bildeston Surgery - Tel: 01449 740254

Stowmarket Library - Tel: 01449 613143

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - Tel: 01449 674980

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



March 2025
ISSUE 556

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

13th March 7.30pm	Gardening Club	Pettiward Hall
26th March 7.30pm	Pettiward Hall AGM	Pettiward Hall Upstairs
5th April 10am - 12.30pm	Easter Craft Trail	Pettiward Hall
9th April 12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Maple Lodge

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

7.30pm Pettiward Hall Upstairs
10th March

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE - every 4th Friday 2:50 - 3:10pm

Middlefield Drive (opposite playground)
*Note new times for 2025

MOBILE POST OFFICE - every Thursday 1.30 - 2.30pm

Middlefield Drive Car Park

The 'Village Newsletter' is published by Great Finborough Parish Council and printed locally. Views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily accepted as being those of Great Finborough Parish Council. The 'Newsletter' accepts all articles, notices and advertisements in good faith. We cannot be responsible for the content of any submissions, nor liable for the quality of goods and services offered. A full copy of our Policy is available on our web site.

To contact the editor (Ant Mann) submit articles, letters or advertising, email:
finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com



The Combs and Finborough Benefice

Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland

Services in March 2025

Rector: The Rev'd Sarah Jenkins, The Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, Stowmarket IP14 2AY 01449 676065
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Canon Pauline Higham, The Rectory, Woodland Close, Onehouse IP14 3HL 01449 771791

Sunday Services

Please contact the Reverend Sarah Jenkins at revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com if you would like details of how to join any of the Zoom services

2nd March:	Sunday next before Lent	
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom Service
11.00 am	All Age Worship	Combs Church Hall
5th March:	Ash Wednesday	
9.30 am	Holy Communion with Ashing	Onehouse Trinity Hall
9th March:	First Sunday of Lent	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Great Finborough
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse Trinity Hall
16th March:	Second Sunday of Lent	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Harleston
11.00 am	Family Communion	Combs Church Hall
3.00 pm	Evensong	Little Finborough
6.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Service
23rd March:	Third Sunday of Lent	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Onehouse Trinity Hall
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
30th March:	Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday	
10.00 am	Benefice Family Communion	Great Finborough

Weekday Services

9.30 am on Wednesday	Holy Communion	Onehouse Trinity Hall
10.00 am on Saturday	Morning Prayer	Zoom Meeting

All Welcome! Whether you are a regular worshipper or a visitor to our churches, you will find a warm welcome at all of our services



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Welcome to the March Newsletter:

Spring is dangerously close to showing itself with the daffodils making a welcome appearance on the grass by Middlefield Drive. This is summed up by a lovely poem by Sarah Waspe on page 15.

Since the last edition the village has suffered the loss of 3 much loved and respected residents. Many thanks to Norman Vendittelli for writing their incredible obituaries on pages 17 to 21.

Following the last Parish Meeting, we have decided to give the village web site a much-needed refresh which will offer clearer, current and relevant information across many facets of the village. Coming soon!

In January we held one of the regular litter picking events covering the extremities of the village. It's always incredible how thoughtless people can be when disposing of their litter. Not only does it look dreadful but also contributes to local flooding as we found some drains blocked with plastic bottles. Many thanks to all who helped across the weekend. If you see an area needing attention, please get in touch.



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REWTS

Trees & Gardens

Tree surgery: from light pruning to large tree take down, surveys and stump removal.

Garden landscaping: patios, fencing, decking, pergolas, gates, stone driveways, water features, turfing and seeding new lawns, borders and planting designs.

Garden maintenance: hedge cutting, pruning, weeding, strimming, grass cutting, tidying.

Tel: 0782 5253 720
info@rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk
www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk

The ongoing saga continues with the stream at the top of the road to Buxhall. We have been promised that another official is now involved with plans to investigate further!

A gentleman's ring was found on the 17th January in St Andrew's churchyard (near the door on the north side of the building). If you have lost it (or you know someone who has), please contact any of the people listed under 'St Andrews Church' on the back of this newsletter.

The Chestnut Horse hosted its now annual Burns Night celebration with David Wilson delivering the traditional address of the haggis, a great night was had by all.

GiFT is now up and running and looking for support, so take a look at pages 9 and 10 for further details.

We are looking for a volunteers to deliver newsletters, if you can help out 10 times per year then please get in touch.

Ant Mann
finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Traditional Oak Carpentry

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Email: rushbrookschimneysweep@hotmail.com

Telephone: 07581 352772 or 01449 612296

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 Tel: 01449 771102 or 07802 545737

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Non-members wild birdseed order form for April 2025

The next order will be placed on **1 April 2025**. The birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 9 April 2025 between 14.00 and 16.00 hrs. from Abbey Farm Cottage**. If you would like to place an order please let me have your requirements together with a cheque made payable to "Great Finborough Garden Club", or **by BAC's** "Gt Finborough & District Garden Club", sort 09-01-54, account no 20213287 please reference your name followed by B/S. Orders may be posted to or dropped off at The Little House, High Road, Gt Finborough, IP14 3AA, or if it's more convenient dropped off at 1 Valley Lane, Gt Finborough.

Thank you. Peter Turner 07789727974 or p.turner125@btinternet.com

Name **Tele No.**
The wholesale price of Sunflower kernels has increased

Product	Weight	Price	Quantity	Cost
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg	£14.00		
W.B.M. Premium	20kg	£16.50		
W.B.M No Wheat	20kg	£20.00		
W.B.M NEW High Energy	12.75 kg	£18.00		
W.B.M. No Mess	12.75 kg	£18.00		
W.B.M Robin & Songbird	12.75 kg	£18.00		
Finch Mix	20 kg	£17.00		
Mixed Corn	20 kg	£12.50		
SUPER Poultry Mix	20kg	£14.00		
Peanuts (superior quality)	20 kg	£38.00		
Peanuts (half sack)	10 kg approx.	£20.00		
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg	£19.00		
Sunflower Kernels	20 kg	£30.00		
Sunflower Kernels	10kg approx.	£16.00		
Nyjer Seed	25kg	£41.00		
Nyjer Seed	12.5kg approx.	£21.00		
Suet Pellets	12.75kgs	£21.00		
Suet Balls (Superior quality)	Price each	14p		
	150	£21/Box		

We hope you find the articles and information in our newsletter informative and interesting. It does rely on input from our community – submission deadline for the next edition is the 15th of the month. To submit articles, letters or advertising, email: finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Gardening Club

Our February meeting was the first chance in 2025 for us all to get together and start to think about our plans for the gardening year. We started our yearly program with a fabulous talk and demonstration of willow weaving by Deborah Hart. Deborah introduced the different types of willow and how they could be treated and used. She then talked about the different weaving techniques that can be used inside in baskets and outside in the garden in its living or dried forms. Deborah illustrated her talk with pictures of her own creations from specially commissioned dinosaurs and submarines to dragon flies and basketry. She also highlighted the work of other weaving artists and weaving through history.

Deborah then showed off her skills by weaving a garden obelisk which she donated to the raffle and caused a flurry of extra ticket sales!

Finally, we were able to view Deborah's collection of baskets and hats that she had either woven herself or acquired from antique shops. An inspiring evening!

Our next regular meeting will be on 13 March at 7.30pm. This meeting will be a talk on climate change gardening what action we can take in our own gardens.

Just a reminder that we will be running Open Gardens this year on Sunday 22 June 2025. This is our major charity fundraising event as well as being a chance to see the lovely gardens we have in the village. We are looking for a few more gardens to add to the list so if you would like to include your garden can you contact Mary on 01449 672533.

A reminder that subscriptions were due in September. They will remain at £15.00 per household and £2.50 for guests.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the garden club or would like to join us for any event you will be very welcome.

For further information contact: Cath Walker on 07843191101 or cathwalker85@gmail.com

Letter from the Rector

With the beginning of March, in the church we come into a period of busyness with the beginning of Lent, a period when Christians remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by the devil before beginning his public ministry. And at the end of Lent we come to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the major feast of Easter but more of that next month. Throughout Lent we will be holding a number of special services and events which we would like to draw to your attention:

Wednesday 5th March, Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent) - a service of Holy Communion to include the option of the receiving of ashes - 9.30am at Trinity Hall, Onehouse



Our Lent course will take place on zoom on these Thursdays, 6th March, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March, 3rd April and 10th April at 10am. We will be using the booklet 'Living Hope' and if you would like to join the course please email revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com It isn't essential to join all the sessions so if you can only make some of them that's absolutely fine

Saturday 8th March - Combs Lent Lunch, a simple lunch of soup and bread with all donations being sent to charity - 12pm to 2pm at Combs Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, Combs Ford, IP14 2AY

Wednesday 26th March - Onehouse Lent Lunch, a simple lunch of soup and bread with all donations being sent to charity - 12pm to 2pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Saturday 29th March - Messy Church for Easter!, an event for children and families to explore the real meaning of Easter which includes stories, songs, crafts and finishes with lunch. Places must be booked in advance by emailing revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com - 10.30am to 12.30pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday, a special family service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments - 10am at St Andrew's church, Great Finborough

So, many occasions to observe the period of Lent and to look forward to the celebrations of Easter and we would love you to join us if you're able to!

**With blessings,
Revd Sarah**

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Great Finborough

Finborough Court Garden

Pilgrims Way, IP14 3AY

Wednesdays : 2pm-4pm

April 23rd, May 21st, June 18th

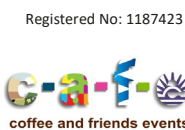
Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01284 663 472



St Andrews Church Great Finborough

Lent Lunch



Please join us on Wednesday 9 April from 1230 at Maple Lodge, High Road, the home of Simon and Jacqueline Tarabella

You will be most welcome

Your generous donations will go to the church's chosen charity

The World Day of Prayer this year is being hosted by Little Finborough Church, IP14 2LE on Friday March the 7th at 2.15pm.

The women of The Cook Islands have put together the Service this year and the theme is 'I made you Wonderful'. We look forward to seeing many of you there as the participants have really planned well and intend making the Service, colourful, interesting and memorable. Refreshments will be served so please stay as you will receive a warm welcome from us all.

Carole Hearn

To contact the editor (Ant Mann) submit articles, letters or advertising, email:

finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com



Citizens Advice need volunteers!

Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau currently have opportunities within our friendly, welcoming team of volunteers in our Stowmarket office.

Every volunteer gets something different from their volunteering experience, including the opportunity to:

- make a positive difference to people's lives
- improve self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing
- gain invaluable work experience
- receive high-quality training and develop new skills
- use existing skills and knowledge to benefit the local community
- meet new people from a range of backgrounds
- feel valued and part of a team
- change the way things work for the better

If you can spare a bit of time, please get in touch for an informal, no obligation chat on 01449 676060 or visit midsuffolkcab.org.uk/volunteer

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am - 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Your help is needed at Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's

Do you have any free time and can put your hand to woodwork? We are looking for volunteers to help improve our small outside area by making some wooden toys and accessories. Because of the size of the area, things need to be built bespoke to fit. We are happy to pay for the materials needed, we just ask for a bit of your time and craftsmanship! Examples of what we are looking for are below, if you would like to have a chat first and see what is needed before committing to anything, we would be so grateful if you could contact the Pre-School:

What we need :-

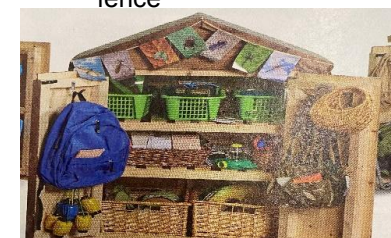
A small mud kitchen, with a removable lid so it could become a writing station as well.



A narrow tower planter for flowers and herbs



4 adjustable towers narrow display shed to fit against fence



Great Finborough Garden Club



SAVE THE DATE

Open Gardens

In Great Finborough

On Sunday 22nd June 2025

12.00 to 5.00

Would you like to open your garden? It's great fun. For more information phone Mary on 01449 672533

Newsletter Advertising

Our newsletter is hand delivered to all houses within Great Finborough (390 properties) and is a great and cost effective way to promote your business to local residents. We can even create the advert for you.

If you would like to advertise, please email:

finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Size of Advert	Price per month	Price for 5 adverts	Price for 10 adverts
¼ Page	£ 8	£ 36	£ 68
½ Page	£ 11	£ 50	£ 93.50
Full page (A5)	£ 15	£ 67.50	£ 127.50

Great in Finborough Together (GiFT)

Since the last report in the newsletter, the steering team for Great Finborough's own good neighbour scheme has been working hard to get ready to launch. We have created a list of all the tasks (gifts) someone in the village may need and we have been recruiting volunteers to deliver these gifts. We have piloted the scheme where a need has been identified, and we have got the basic governance arrangements in place including insurance. Thanks to our District Councillor, John Matthissen, we have a grant to cover the set up costs, and we have the support of the Parish Council.

So....GiFT is ready for launch on 1 March 2025. You may be thinking:

- Who is this aimed at?
- What can I ask for help with?
- How do I ask for help?

And, you may be thinking, I am willing in principle to help others but how do I volunteer...or how can I help others when my life is already busy/stressful/difficult?

This is what you need to know. The scheme is for everyone in the village, not just the old, ill or lonely. Single people and families with children also need help sometimes and we will try to assist. Our ambition is to recruit everyone in the village as a potential volunteer and potential recipient of a gift at some stage in their life. Categories of gifts include:

- Giving lifts locally; or advice/help with vehicle issues
- For those ill, rehabilitating and/or lonely/anxious/vulnerable: shopping, liaison with health and social care services, posting a letter, fetching library books or a prescription, making a meal, accompanying someone to hospital/GP or other appointment, putting a plan in place for an emergency; meet up for a chat/listening; guiding to services/tradespeople/groups; linking me up with others in similar circumstances; being a keyholder; taking in a parcel
- Help with using the Internet/mobile phone/apps
- Help with accessing benefits/increasing household income
- Help with garden tasks: temporary or advisory
- Help with pets: temporary or advisory

- Help with food, cooking, diet/healthy eating: temporary, advisory or buddying up
- Help with exercise: advisory or buddying up
- Help with cleaning, ironing, tidying up, clearing out stuff: temporary or advisory
- Help with small DIY tasks (like fixing a curtain on rail, sticking door, tap dripping, fitting a key safe/smoke alarm), or advice about skilled tradespeople
- Help with child care: emergency, temporary or advisory
- Helping a young person contribute to volunteering/community service
- Welcoming those new to the village.

If you need a Gift

If you want to ask for help for yourself or someone else in the village, now or in the future, phone or message 07522 171190. We aim to return your call the same day or within 24 hours. Any information you share will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with our policy. We cannot guarantee we can oblige with every request, at least until we have recruited enough volunteers who are available at the time you need them. Keep this number handy for when you need GiFT.

If you might be willing to help someone at some point, if you are free and able. Use the same phone number/message to signal you may be willing to consider volunteering (no commitment needed at this stage) and/or request the questionnaire that matches your potential willingness with the list of gifts.

For those who have already volunteered, thank you. We will be in touch with more information shortly. For those who anyway help others in the village community, registering your contribution with GiFT means you have the protection of GiFT's insurance cover and other governance arrangements. Please get in touch.

Sally Gooch



News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

Representing Onehouse, Great & Little Finborough, Combs, Harleston & Shelland

Local Government Reorganisation

Apart from the cancellation of this year's County Council elections, the way ahead is far from clear, beyond the election of a single mayor to cover Suffolk and Norfolk. I, and your District Council, will strive to maintain and improve local services. We will campaign for the most local form of local democracy to be established, and for powers to be passed down from Westminster to locally-elected councillors, not drawn up to mayors required to deliver Government priorities.

Tree & hedge planting – new developments

This is the time of the year to check if recent planting has succeeded or failed. There have been far too many losses especially in drought years, but the developer has an obligation to replace significant losses. Every standard tree should be replaced within the first 5 years, although hedging is planted sufficiently to allow for a few losses. Please let me know of any dead trees or gaps in hedging, anywhere in the District, with details of precise location, developer etc. Pictures are helpful once leaves are fully open so live and dead are clearly visible.

Citizens Advice

Contact us on 01449 676060 or 01449 676280 during opening times to speak to an adviser.
Drop into our office at 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket.
Open Monday - Thursday from 9.30am - 3.30pm Friday - 9.30am - 12.30pm
Seek advice online - www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us

Food Bank Demand is strong - please donate at any of the supermarkets.

Council Phone No is 0300 123 4000 Because I know not everyone can use the internet.

Councillor John Matthissen 01449 258894 or 07976 308128
councillor@matthissen.net
Or write to me at 2 Brick Kiln Cottages, Barretts Lane,
Needham Market IP6 8RZ

First Buxhall Summer Fayre

Buxhall Village Hall, 16 Mill Road, Buxhall, IP14 3DS



Saturday 16th August 2025 12 Noon to 4pm

- Book your pitch for the table-top sale
- Fee: £10 per 6 ft table plus a draw prize donation
- Come and sell your crafts, products and preloved items

- Contact Sally
07934047612,
alpacasal63@msn.com
- Emily 07964045373,
emilybyam1@gmail.com

Fayre will be held on our village Recreation Ground in and around our marquee – you can bring your own gazebo
All proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall



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The Chestnut Horse



Rob & Clare look forward to welcoming you

~~~~~

~ See our food boards inside the pub or on Facebook for menus  
~ You can book the extension for your function any day of the week

~~~~~

Winter Opening Times

Wednesday & Thursday 12-3 and 5-Close (serving food 12-2 & 5-8)
Friday & Saturday 12-Close (serving food 12-2 & 5-8)
Sunday 12-8 (serving food 12-4)
Sunday Roasts - from 12pm

Regular:

Weekly Wednesday - Texas Hold'm Poker Nights - register by 7pm
Every 1st Thursday - Open Mic Night with Jax
Every 3rd Thursday - Quiz Nights

What's On:

Wine Tasting evening - Thursday 27th Feb
Mothers Day Afternoon Tea - 29th March

If you spot something in the village in need of attention, please get in touch. It could be overgrown footpaths, missing or hidden signs, broken or damaged play equipment in the playpark.

Contact the Parish Council:
greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com

Pettward Hall

“Little Ernie”

The winners in January were Neil & Sadie Watts and Michel Morel. In February they were Sue Yeates and Jenny Lucas. They all received £7.50.

The lottery scheme started in 2014 and was the brainchild of the late John Davey who was a trustee at the time. Since then the lottery has raised £2,178; the same amount has been given in prizes. The money raised has made a valuable contribution to the following projects:-

Double glazing, new heating, acoustic panels, new stage curtains, new chairs, refurbishment of first floor including stair lift, new bargeboards, new hall lighting, roof repairs, external and internal painting, the new roof and the new chimney.

The trustees would like to thank all those that have purchased tickets over the years in support of the hall. A new committee will be taking over at the end of March and, after discussion with the potential new trustees, it has been decided not to run a new lottery scheme from this April. It may well be that the new committee decide to launch a similar scheme in the future but they agreed that they will have enough to get to grips with in the first few months of taking over!

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Great Finborough Village Hall charity will take place on Wednesday, 26 March at 7.30pm in the upstairs Meeting Room. This is your chance to receive the trustees' annual report and view the 2024 annual accounts. Only one of the current trustees will be seeking re-election but there is a group of lovely people willing to take over, so please come along and show them your support by voting them on to the committee.

Mary Preece

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01449 678100

Stowmarket Eco Future Group

stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk | stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com

Most months of the year there are special days set aside to focus on particular issues and the environment is no exception. See <https://moralfibres.co.uk/environmental-days-and-dates-to-know>

In March on different days we are asked to focus on world wildlife day, plastic, forests, recycling. You might like to participate in <https://www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour> by switching off all electric items for one hour Saturday 22 March 8:30-9:30 pm to protect the earth. The major event of March is run by Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2025 takes place from 21 March - 6 April 2025.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/> Their website makes these points

1. Litter lasts a lifetime Many items take centuries to decompose and pollute land and water as they do so.
2. Litter harms animals Thousands of creatures every year are killed or need to be treated for injuries caused by litter.
3. Litter costs money Every year, hundreds of millions of pounds is spent clearing up litter - wouldn't that be better spent supporting other public services?
4. Litter is a wasted resource It costs more to produce new cans and bottles than it does to produce recycled ones. Littered cans and bottles are lost to the recycling system.
5. Litter drags an area down Research shows that people feel less safe, and house prices go down when an area looks littered and uncared for.

Huge thanks to all the local groups and organisations that do regular litter picking, but a call out to all to Take Litter Home or bin it properly.

Something to do: Look at the things around you in your home, shed/garage, workplace. What is their end-of-life story? Will they recycle? Will they rot down easily? Will they hang around for centuries breaking down into pollutants?

Use your awareness to make better decisions about what you buy. #lovewhereyoulive



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**Buxhall and Great Finborough
'Candlestick Club'**



The Candlestick Club is hosting a Bingo, Raffle and Buffet on
Thursday 6 March 2025 at Buxhall Village Hall

Join us between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

A chance to meet up with friends, make new friends locally,
win prizes and eat some lovely handmade cakes!

All visitors are welcome ~ you may then decide to become a member!

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:
facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough



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Spring - Taking a Leap

Spring - the mere word means taking a leap
Spring - you galvanise us into action
Waking us from our wintry sleep

Warmer weather beckons
Temperatures start to rise
Daylight hours are longer
Leo and the Big Dipper are more visible in the skies

Vibrant yellow daffodils brighten us like the sun
Beautiful bluebells fill the woodland floor
Spring colours are second to none
Buds and blossoms promise what's in store

Woodpeckers drumming
Bees buzzing
The queen looking for her nest
The cuckoo's call
Frogs from frogspawn
In Spring we are truly blessed

It's Eastertime
The return to life
The re-awakening
To a season sublime

Sarah Waspe



Gold Bracelet found opposite Broad Oak

Gold with various different coloured stones

Email: finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com



Hop on over for our

EASTER

Stick Man themed Craft Trail!

Come and join us on

Saturday 5th April 2025
10:00 am - 12.30 pm
starting at
Pettiward Hall, IP14 3AE

£3.50 per child
every child gets an Easter egg

Message Delia to book your place now!
Email: gfbunderfive@gmail.com or
Text: 07513 140072

Refreshments,
Children's games &
Raffle to enjoy in the
hall

For some egg-citing
Stick Man fun!











Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's

Wow! We have been very busy this term celebrating Chinese New Year, year of the Snake. We also took part in the nationwide big bird watch, counting how many and which birds are in our gardens and round the village and making sure we help them find food during the cold weather. And one that we are all looking forward to, Shrove Tuesday for this we will be visiting Finborough court to see who is best at tossing the pancakes and catching them as we can. And then of course eating them after, YUM. But most importantly of all we will be having great fun doing all of this.

Our preschool is fully booked at the moment, but please feel free to contact us if you need a space, ready for September. The preschool is open Monday - Friday 8:30 till 3pm (term time only). You are welcome to visit to have a look around and to find out more about our setting. Do have a look at our Facebook page and check out some of the exciting things we have been up to.

Date for your Diary:- Saturday 5th April 10am-12:30 is our annual Easter Trail, this year is a craft and quiz trail based around the story of The Stick Man.

Delia Prior and Team

Buxhall Village Show 2025

Buxhall Community Council is delighted to host the annual Village Show again on Saturday 6th September 2025. In order help with your planning, planting and preparation for this quintessential event, we are publishing the programme early.

SECTION 1 – VEGETABLES

1	5 Potatoes - any colour	6	2 Courgettes – equal size
2	5 Onions – any colour	7	5 Runner beans
3	5 Shallots	8	5 Tomatoes – any variety
4	3 Carrots with foliage	9	1 Marrow
5	3 Beetroot with foliage	10	Any other single specimen vegetable

SECTION 2 – FRUIT

1	5 Apples - dessert any variety	3	5 Plums – any variety
2	5 Pears – any variety	4	5-10 of any other fruit

SECTION 3 – FLOWERS

1	3 Dahlias	4	10 Stems of mixed flowers
2	3 Roses – any variety	5	Pot plant – any
3	3 Chrysanthemums		

SECTION 4 – BAKED GOODS

1	4 Scones: sweet or savoury	4	Tray Bake cake: any flavour
2	Any home-made bread.	5	Loaf Tin cake: any flavour
3	Sponge cake with filling: any flavour	6	Decorated celebration cake

SECTION 5 – PRESERVES

1	Any non-stoned jam or fruit preserve	3	Pickled relish or chutney- any type
2	Any stone fruit jam or fruit preserve	4	Any home-produced honey

SECTION 6: PHOTOGRAPHY (maximum A4 in colour or black & white)

1	A Landscape photo	3	A Family and/or Pets photo
2	A Wildlife photo	4	A serendipitous photo

SECTION 7 – ARTS AND CRAFT

(Any medium eg fabric, wool, wood, metal, card, paper, pottery etc)

1	A child's toy	3	A picture
2	A new home-made item for the home or garden	4	Recycled or upcycled item for the home or garden

SECTION 8 – CHILDREN Ages a) 7 and under b) 8 and above

1	Any 2D or 3D art form made from recycled materials or vegetation	3	4 cup cakes: any flavour
2	2D or 3D art form of a windmill using any medium including lego	4	A named vegetable character made from at least 3 vegetables

SECTION 9 – BRITISH HUMOUR IN THE GARDEN – Make the Judges Smile

1	A single vegetable – your longest, heaviest, most misshaped, ugliest, or humorous vegetable. Creatively displayed with accessories and an apt title, caption or name
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Obituaries

When I interviewed a number of prominent Great Finbrians in 2022 for the village newsletter, I did not expect to be reviewing them now as obituaries for some of those remarkable characters. This winter has been harsh for the community of Great Finborough this year, as we have lost three of our own.

- Syd Dohoo died peacefully at 91 on 2 December 2024
- Graham Chaplin died peacefully on 7 January 2025, aged 80
- Mary Williams died peacefully on 9 February 2025.

Syd Dohoo

Family was always important to Syd and he was a husband, father, stepfather, grandfather and great-grandfather. In common with his generation, he did National Service. Thereafter he built a career in sales, working his way up to become head sales manager, travelling abroad a great deal. Syd met Sheena in 1993 and found they shared interests in spiritualism, dancing, tennis, badminton and swimming. He was also a proficient diver. They were married in 1997 and the following year moved to Great Finborough, making many friends across all generations. They enjoyed a rich social life and took many holidays abroad, as well as typically spending New Year with friends at Symonds Yat.

Syd enjoyed his garden and fishpond. Sheena and Syd were members of the Ramblers Association, and the Garden Club and erstwhile Wine Club in the village. Physical exercise was always important to Syd and he was a founder member of Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre's Forever Fit Exercise Class, regularly attending for over 20 years. Even in the late Spring of 2024, despite chronic back pain, he made himself walk down Valley Lane and around Woodpecker Hill.



In common with many, Syd did his fair share of volunteering, including a spell as treasurer of the Parochial Church Council when money was being raised to repair the church spire. Perhaps his most altruistic act was in donating his body for medical science. His large and loving family takes comfort from knowing his wishes were fulfilled and that he contributed directly to training specialist trauma doctors in advanced pre-hospital life-saving procedures. His donation has inspired at least one other villager to consider doing likewise.

Graham Chaplin

In 2022 I described Graham Chaplin as 'welded to Great Finborough' as, although he was actually born in Kent, his family's roots here date back to 1524 and his father was 2nd cousin to Charlie Chaplin. Graham was an artistic blacksmith with a huge talent, responsible for many village signs including our very own; the chestnut horse above the pub door; and the seat that used to be on the village green and which now sits in Woodpecker Hill. In his front garden on Church Road is a sculpture of an RSJ tied in a knot and, until it went elsewhere on display, he had a 17 foot dragon made from forged iron on the roof of his garage - each of its 3000 scales skilfully crafted by Graham.

From the age of 4 years he lived with his family at The Poplars (junction of the High Road and Borough Lane) where his grandfather's stocking factory employed many local girls making socks until Graham's father opened a garage on this site serving petrol and servicing cars. Graham attended the primary school and Stowmarket High School, by which time the family had moved to Buxhall. Through an engineering and welding apprenticeship, he began to travel the country as a coded welder before he settled down with his wife, Marie, in Stowmarket.



WORD LIST

- APRIL
- BASEBALL
- BIRDS
- BLOSSOMS
- BUMBLEBEE
- BUTTERFLIES
- CHICK
- CLEANING
- CLOVER
- CROCUS
- DAFFODIL
- DAYLIGHT
- EQUINOX
- FLOWERS
- FORSYTHIA
- GARDEN
- JACKET
- LADYBUG
- MARCH
- MAY
- PICNIC
- PUDDLES
- RAINBOW
- ROBIN
- SEEDS
- SHOWERS
- SPRING
- UMBRELLA

SPRING

WORD SEARCH

W	A	O	A	H	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	S	Y
H	Y	N	I	B	O	R	D	C	T	X	C	E	B
R	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	V	Z	P	I	W
S	D	E	E	S	G	N	I	R	P	S	X	L	Z
U	A	U	C	G	N	S	C	V	I	O	Z	F	P
C	L	C	X	B	V	E	E	L	N	Z	F	R	D
G	L	K	B	F	L	A	D	I	N	L	L	E	Q
V	E	E	K	F	U	O	U	R	A	S	O	T	M
O	R	I	A	A	N	Q	S	D	A	O	W	T	X
R	B	D	O	N	E	J	Y	S	C	G	E	U	P
R	M	O	A	O	I	B	X	P	O	O	R	B	X
Y	U	U	S	F	U	N	U	M	S	M	S	L	N
E	E	H	C	G	F	D	G	A	D	T	S	C	H
E	T	X	S	E	D	O	X	Y	R	F	S	T	Q
B	T	I	Q	L	S	W	D	O	I	O	R	E	M
E	N	Z	E	B	I	P	U	I	B	R	E	K	A
L	T	S	C	R	O	C	U	S	L	S	W	C	R
B	L	T	H	G	I	L	Y	A	D	Y	O	A	C
M	C	R	A	P	A	D	Z	P	S	T	H	J	H
U	F	H	V	X	I	P	E	H	T	H	S	J	A
B	U	P	I	H	Y	C	R	G	X	I	R	D	Z
J	X	I	R	C	C	T	N	I	Z	A	E	M	V
D	R	S	E	I	K	N	B	I	L	U	R	M	X
D	C	L	O	V	E	R	G	V	C	G	N	A	H



Quiz time

Easy

6	9	1						5
			3				8	1
2	3	8	1			4	6	
7		2					9	4
4	8	9		2	7		1	
3			5		4	8	7	2
8	7	3	4	5				
1	6					3	4	

Hard

			6					
6						5	9	
			2		9	7		
1	9				8			
	6		3	4	2			
5	2					6		3
	3	5	9	2	6	8		
	7				1			
		1			3		5	6

Once their sons, Gary and Steve were born, Graham moved his family back to Great Finborough. He was very busy with his structural engineering and general welding business for the next 22 years, at times employing nearly 2 dozen men. The business was sold to Michael, the man he had managing it, and the business still going today as Miktek, on the Earnest Nunn Industrial Estate.



At the same time Graham was developing his artistic skills in a small forge in his garage but once he had more time he set up a forge in Buxhall and concentrated just on smithing. As a member of the Artist Blacksmith Association and the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths his skill was being recognised. Graham was selected from smiths of many different countries to work on the newly designed gates for the Globe Theatre on London's South Bank, which earned him a bronze medal from the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. Two years later he was awarded a silver medal and later he became a fellow. Graham pursued higher education as a mature student and achieved a Master's degree in Fine Art.

Graham was an imposing figure at 6'3" and his personality was as large, even as he fought the cancer that felled him in his last few months.

Graham had many and varied interests in sport including hillwalking, rock climbing and cycling, sometimes raising money for a number of charities. He drove a 1961 Rover 100 around England, Wales and Scotland and did a solo cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. Graham has written 2 books whose profits go to charity, including "Please try not to be late for tea" which was published in 2010. About the life of local children between 1948 and 1963, the illustrations were drawn by Graham.

Graham H Chaplin will long be missed and remembered in this village and, of course, his loss is felt most keenly by his large and loving family. He is buried with his parents in the graveyard of St Andrew's Church, there having been a huge turnout for his funeral. Two of Graham's sculptures, including the aforementioned dragon, can be seen at The Sculpture Park, GU10 2LB and I can attest it is well worth the trip: <https://thesculpturepark.com/>

Mary Williams

Mary Williams had a long and impressive history of volunteering throughout her adult life, whilst also raising her family and later becoming a farmer's wife. Mary met her husband, John, while still at school and, after graduating with a degree in biological sciences from the University of East Anglia, she joined him in Northumberland, working at Ashington Hospital in the haematology laboratory where she helped set up a genetics unit. Mary first involved herself in running the Girl Guides in Anglesey, after the births of her 2 children, and there she started up a preschool.

In 1980 the family moved to Great Finborough to the family farm being run by John's two aunts. Mary was fully committed to working alongside John to make the farm productive and deliver his conservation projects. She helped with the milking, made the butter and was responsible for the Saturday morning deliveries of Bulls' Butter, Bull being John's family name. Her work on the farm stimulated her interest in historical research and recording it, with a focus on local history, timber framed buildings and the Women's Land Army.

Trudy Gray, church deacon, asked Mary if she would help with the history of St Andrew's church which led her to uncover two record books in a room next to the vestry, one of which dated from 1640 and which covered the next 2 centuries. She also uncovered an inventory of items belonging to the Petteward family, including a painting by the Italian artist Paolo Caliari (Paolo Veronese) and through liaison with Charles Petteward (with whom she maintained contact), the painting was located hidden behind an altar. Charles had the painting collected, restored and sold at Christie's.

Mary was a member of the Women's Institute for a very long time, sitting on many committees. Having helped run the Brownies at Onehouse, she started a new unit in Great Finborough. Having volunteered at Combs Middle School, she joined the staff and went on to complete a Post Graduate Certificate Education in 1996, teaching in Ipswich for 4 terms until she was injured in a serious car accident.

Mary's interest in Boarded Barn Farm's history ignited a desire to learn more on a wider scale. Along with Maria Cook, Mary set up a local history group which led to a show in Petteward Hall that exhibited the local history they had discovered. Mary became the Village Recorder in or about 2002, and every year made records of the events taking place to form a record in modern times for the future. One copy of her work went to the Records Office and another to County Records. This is a role she has only recently handed on.

All this time Mary continued to be a school governor at Combs Middle School, where she served for 24 years. She completed another term of office at Great Finborough Primary School after that. Mary continued to be involved with Guiding and held the office of Division Commissioner and Treasurer for the district. In 2022 she received a long service award for 40 years, just one small piece of evidence of a woman deeply committed to helping in her community.

Mary remained stoical despite years of ill-health with the enduring support of John, and the love of her children and grandchildren. They and all her many friends will always miss her.

Norman Vendittelli