# WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

## Parish Council: www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

Chair: Ant Mann - chair@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk
Clerk: Jennie Blackburn - clerk@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk
Footpath Warden: Richard Burton - greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com
District Councillor: John Matthissen - councillor@matthissen.net
Tel: 01449 258894
County Councillor: Matt Bentley - Matt.Bentley@suffolk.gov.uk

## Great in Finborough Together - GiFT

Tel: 07522 171190

## Pettiward Hall

Lettings/Keyholder: Cathy Morgan
pettiwardhallbookings@gmail.com

## St Andrews Church

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** - Roly & Mandy 01449 553889

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




## December 2026 & January 2027
## ISSUE 574

## GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9th Dec<br>2pm | Rural Coffee Caravan<br>Xmas Party (page 31) | Pettiward Hall |
| 18th Dec<br>6pm | Christmas Carols | Chestnut Horse<br>Pub |
| 28th Dec<br>4pm | Twixmas Quiz<br>(page 11) | Pettiward Hall |
| 20th Jan<br>2 - 4pm | GiFT Social<br>(page 31) | Pettiward Hall |
| 30th Jan<br>6pm | Village Quiz<br>(Page 11) | Pettiward Hall |

**FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**
14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Mar - Pettiward Hall (no Feb meeting)

**MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE - every 4th Friday 2:50 - 3:10pm**
Middlefield Drive (opposite playground)

**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 CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

## The Combs and Finborough Benefice

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

## December 2026

**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
Please use this link for all services held on Zoom - Meeting ID: 470 378 1299 - Password: Benefice
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4703781299?pwd=doep7y6JYxv0IlXsxROxnbezIda9ME.1

**6th December: The Second Sunday of Advent**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.00 am | Holy Communion | Little Finborough |
| 9.30 am | Morning Worship | Harleston |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | Great Finborough |
| 11.00 am | **Christingle** | Combs |

**13th December: The Third Sunday in Advent**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Buxhall |
| 9.30 am | Morning Worship | Shelland |
| 11.00 am | **Christingle** | Onehouse |
| 4.00 pm | **Christingle** | Great Finborough |

**20th December: The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | Harleston |
| 10.00 am | **Carol Service** | Shelland |
| 11.00 am | **Carol Service** | Combs |
| 4.00 pm | **Village Carols** | Great Finborough |
| 4.00 pm | **Carols Around the Village** | Onehouse |
| 6.30 pm | **Nine Lessons and Carols** | Buxhall |

**22nd December: Tuesday**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7.00 pm | **Carols by Candlelight** | Little Finborough |

**24th December: Christmas Eve**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3.00 pm | **Crib with Carols** | Combs |
| 3.00 pm | **Crib with Carols** | Great Finborough |
| 3.00 pm | **Crib with Carols** | Onehouse |
| 4.00 pm | **Carol Service** | Harleston |
| 6.00 pm | **Candlelit Said Communion** | Combs |
| 7.30 pm | **Christmas Communion with Carols** | Buxhall |

**25th December: Christmas Day**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.00 am | **Holy Communion** | Little Finborough |
| 9.00 am | **Holy Communion** | Shelland |
| 10.30 am | **Family Communion** | Onehouse |

**27th December: The First Sunday of Christmas**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.00 am | Benefice Holy Communion | Onehouse Trinity Hall |

**Weekday Services**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30 am on Wednesday | Holy Communion | Trinity Hall, Onehouse |
| 10.00 am on Saturday | Morning Prayer | Zoom Meeting (excluding 26th December) |

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**Welcome to the December/January Newsletter:**

Season's greetings to all in Great Finborough. A great time of the year with lots going on with the village during this festive period.

This is our December/January combined edition, so the deadline for February's edition is the 15th January 2027.

I've received various reports of increased dog mess throughout the village, even complaints of owners allowing dogs to use peoples' gardens and inside the playpark for their business! There are numerous poo bins around the village, so there really isn't an excuse. If you feel we need more bins to help combat the problem, please drop me an email and we can see what can be done but the bins, and the emptying of them, are one of our biggest costs in the village! Also, dog owners are risking being fined for not picking up!

Sadly, this isn't the only anti-social behaviour, as we have more fly tipping down Valley Lane. If residents are struggling to dispose of items, we would rather they got in contact to see if we can give advice or help with disposal, rather than having to extract items from ditches.

At our October meeting we discussed the ongoing issue of speeding and the spate of accidents around Borough Lane. Our County Councillor is looking into what can realistically be done to make improvements to the road. This is as well as looking at Combs Lane to see if any measures can be introduced to reduced speed. I will keep you updated in relation to this.

On Saturday 14th November we tackled the hedging alongside the football pitch and behind the youth shelter, in readiness of planting our community orchard. Thank you to all who turned out on a lovely crisp sunny morning to help with the work.

A special thanks to goes to Justin, who's specialist equipment made the job so much easier as well as tackling the hedges on Valley Lane, another job that had been on the list for a while!

**Cont.**

Later the same day saw the annual Veterans lunch, held at Pettiward Hall. 30 attended to share stories and reflect on their time in the various forces. A huge thanks to Lee Morgan for organising and Simon Tarabella for creating an incredible menu, well received by all.



The Christmas Gift Tree (page 25), organised by Mandy and the Chestnut Horse Pub, has had an incredible take up. Many people have taken tags, to then replace with gifts suggested by those in children's homes. Such has been its popularity, Mandy is adding more tags, meaning more children will receive a fantastic, cherished gift this Christmas. Please pop in and if you can, take a tag.

The pub is still keen to hear from residents on their thoughts on a village shop. Surrounding villages such as Rattlesdon and Hitcham benefit from these, and it would be great to have the convenience in Great Finborough.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all who help with the newsletter. For such a small publication, it demands several people to ultimately make it land on your doorstop. Well done to all.

May I wish everyone a peaceful and pleasurable Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Ant Mann**
**finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com**
**chair@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk**



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- Have a disability or a long-term medical, health, or chronic condition
- Use medical equipment that relies on electricity or water (such as home dialysis, oxygen concentrators, or CPAP machines)
- Are blind, partially sighted, deaf, or hard of hearing

**The Retrofit Energy Advice for Communities and Households REACH**
The District Council offers residents clear, impartial guidance on home energy efficiency, alongside information on available grants, funding opportunities and other support schemes where appropriate. The EV REACH van will support a programme of community roadshows and outreach events across Mid Suffolk, bringing trusted energy advice directly into local communities.

**Locality budget**
The 2026-27 Locality budgets still has some funds for a couple more projects. Details can be found on the website
https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards
It is usually a good idea to contact me to discuss your application before submission.

**Seasons Greetings to all residents**
**John Matthissen**
**councillor@matthissen.net | 07976 308128**
**Council Phone No: 0300 123 4000**



## Birdwatching in Great Finborough

Since January this year we have spent 3 hours once a month recording the birds, and other creatures, that we see in the village. We walk a different route each time and are building a picture of the wildlife in our lovely environment over the seasons. We have seen 55 species of birds so far. Some like Greenfinch, Sparrow, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch are sadly not so common now. Usually our walks are in the mornings when the birds are more active. We see fewer birds later in the day, but it's good to vary the timings – might see something different!

We certainly have a lot of Blue tits, the highest count in one session is 35 in August at the High Town Green end of the village. They are now flying around in larger flocks mixed with other tits.

Long Tail tits are gorgeous and are also in large groups now, constantly calling to each other – we saw 25 in early November at the end of Valley Lane.

We nearly always see Robins – their sweet song in the winter is lovely. There were 14 in the Valley Lane/Little Finborough walk in March.

Goldfinch are often seen in our gardens. We see them in the countryside in larger flocks in the winter months, particularly where there are seed heads in meadows etc. In January we counted 50 in the golf course/Finborough woods area.

The little Wrens are so secretive, but we have seen them on every walk. The most was 6 in January around Cagmans and City Lane.

We don't regularly see Goldcrests, but we are always on the lookout for them. We were thrilled to see 16 in August in the High Town Green end of the village. Really close views as they were feeding young.

During the winter we get huge flocks of Fieldfares, and in February we counted 222 in the fields around Cagmans and City Lane. They are arriving now from colder northern countries, and we saw 32 in the Valley Lane area in November.

**Cont.**

These days we are surprised if we don't see a Buzzard, but what a treat in April by the Golf Course to see 10 above us circling together riding the thermals. Red Kites are becoming a regular too, sometimes seeing off the Buzzards!

We count everything, including the huge number of Wood Pigeons and Partridges! We also love to see the Hares in the open fields – we counted 16 in Cagmans Lane area and 14 in Valley Lane in February and March. In April we counted 11 Orange Tip Butterflies in the meadows by the river near the Golf Course.

It's wonderful what you see when you take time to look. Very uplifting too, we always see something in nature that amazes us and it doesn't have to be rare. If you want to know more, please do contact us via Mary – blossomz001@btinternet.com

**Mary Smyth, Barry Cutler and Belinda Aldous.**









The next social with Rural Coffee Caravan will be our Xmas party at 2pm on 9th December in Pettiward Hall. There will be festive music, food and drink, and we are expecting a visit from the real Father Christmas! Feel free to wear something Christmassy if you're in the mood.

Finally, our first social of 2027, will be 20th January, still in Pettiward Hall, 2-4pm as usual.

**GiFT Steering Team**

I really can't thank the **GiFT** enough for their help when John was in hospital for 3 weeks. They arranged for me to get to Ipswich hospital nearly every day to see him, which meant so much to us both. It would have been very difficult for me to get there on my own.

A heartfelt thank you to all involved and I have to say the organisation was second to none. Great Finborough is very lucky to have such a caring team. Thank you.

**Mary and John King**

## News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

### Resilience

The government have advised that we all keep a few tins of food in the cupboard and get a wind up FM radio. This is sensible and most who have lived in rural areas will probably have some candles and a box of matches, as power cuts used to be much more frequent.
But in a crisis the most useful help will be people. Your District Council has an emergency planning officer who is able to call on other staff when needed, but there are 55,000 households in the District. Your neighbours and your local community are vitally important as became clear during the covid pandemic. Please get to know your neighbours and support your parish council and other village organisations.

**Cont.**

## Great In Finborough Together (GiFT)

Another good month with a wide variety of volunteers gifting help to other villagers. We managed to provide lifts to GP and hospital appointments, the bank, the Co-op, clubs and to the nail parlour. We saved one household over £1000 in taxi fares to hospital in 3 weeks, and their kind donations to GiFT are helping to fund help to other families. We are, however, actively wanting to increase our pool of drivers so we can help more people get to appointments. If you are willing to join our team please get in touch. Other help has included 1:1 befriending, checking on those feeling ill, helping people draft letters and understand official letters, delivering medication, dog walking, small practical tasks at home, and helping with finding tradespeople and professionals.

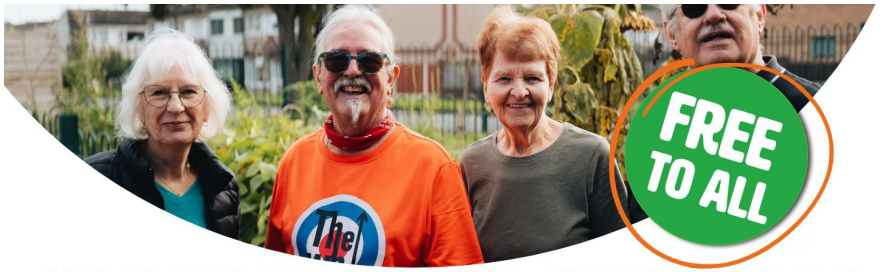
On 7 November we held an event in Pettiward Hall on how to save money on energy, save energy and make the switch to renewables while the £9000 grant for coming off oil/LPG onto a heat pump is still available. About 25 people attended and several have started getting quotes. If you couldn't get there we have spare paper copies of the information pack to give away and we can provide a digital copy if preferred.

The craft group will meet for the first time at 2pm on 6 January at Park Cottage. Just turn up if you want to be involved. Suitable for beginners and experienced crafters. Meanwhile be thinking about an apt name for the group, when you want to meet, and which crafts you want to work on. Please bring with you a piece of crafting you're proud of, or an idea for a project you want to start. We are also ready to start practical workshop sessions n the new year so it's not too late to say you want to join in.

The free seated inclusive exercise classes led by James Kettle of Enable Fitness, with whom GiFT is partnering, have got off to a great start with very positive feedback from those attending the sessions. They run every Friday afternoon (2-3pm or 3-4pm) up to 18 December, restarting 8 January. Just turn up and the exercises are adapted to what you can manage. If there are 900 people living in the village we estimate 200 adults would benefit from these sessions.

**Cont.**



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## Citizens Advice - Mid Suffolk

Take control of your finances this festive season

Christmas and the New Year can be an expensive time of year, and it can be tempting to rely on credit cards or borrow money to cover the extra costs. However, with a little planning and some careful budgeting, there are steps you can take to keep spending under control and avoid getting into debt.

Start by setting a realistic budget.

Think about who you need to buy presents for, any additional festive expenses and, most importantly, how much you can genuinely afford to spend. Try to stick to your budget and keep all receipts or ask for gift receipts, so you can return items if you need to.

Remember that household bills can also increase during the winter months, particularly with higher heating costs and more time spent indoors. For example, the UK Ofgem Energy Price Cap is expected to rise in January. Make sure you take these additional expenses into account when planning your spending.

If you're already struggling with debt, don't ignore it.

Ignoring bills, letters or requests for payment can make things worse. Contact the organisations you owe money to as soon as possible. They may be able to offer more manageable repayment arrangements or agree to smaller payments.

It's important to prioritise essential debts first, including rent or mortgage arrears, council tax and energy bills. These are known as priority debts because the consequences of not paying them can be particularly serious.

For other debts, such as credit cards and personal loans, gather together details of everything you owe, work out a realistic budget and contact your creditors to discuss an affordable repayment plan. Taking that first step can feel daunting, but it's an important move towards getting your finances back on track.

**Cont.**



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## Thoughts from a country gent!

I'm writing this by the fire on the evening of Saturday 14th November. I have spent two hours this morning cutting the hedge back near the football pitch with about a dozen others. A glorious sunny morning with good company.

We have now had two winter frosts and the leaves are starting to drop. I love the changing seasons but I don't like to see brown fields and bare trees which look dead. It's all part of the cycle.

I've been looking at the three month freeze that started at Christmas 1962 until March 1963. The ground was frozen at Boyton Hall throughout that time and the farm had no water. Steam trains kept the country moving. Cornwall and most of Scotland was generally cut off. Half our wild birds died - they either froze or starved. We don't want those days repeated.

Bildeston will soon be open to through traffic and Finborough Bridge will be shut for repairs. Whilst it is closed it will show us how important it is to us. Lower Road is not wide enough for much traffic, especially when two lorries meet.

Last weekend there were four activities in The Pettiward Hall. Sally had a 'Green Living' morning on Saturday, followed by a five year old's birthday party then Simon's quiz in the evening . I had students for exams Sunday morning. The building is there. It needs to be utilised.

The Church was full for the Remembrance Service, as it should be. We owe all to those who gave all. The unknown silhouettes have been erected on the green near the village sign. I'm very proud of that.

It's shocking it is not long until Christmas 2026 and a new year begins. I wish you all well. Peace

**Simon Waspe**



Remember, help is available.

If you're finding things difficult financially over Christmas or in the months that follow, try not to panic or feel that you have to manage everything on your own.

Whether you need help with budgeting, managing debt, paying household bills or finding out what financial support you're entitled to, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is here to help.

Taking that first step towards getting advice can make all the difference. We're here to help you find a way forward.

**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.**

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## News from Buxhall

Another very enjoyable Quiz Night was held on 17th October in Buxhall Village Hall.

Eleven teams poised with pen and paper went into battle. Throughout the night three teams were chasing each other and after all the scores were added up, Jenny's team from Rattlesden came out winners with 206, closely followed by a 204 and a 201 score.

A great amount of £451 was raised towards on-going improvements to the Hall. Once again we are so grateful to the generous quiz players who donated such terrific draw prizes and supported this regular event. Looking forward to seeing you, and more, at the next one in March 2027.

**Mim and Keith**

Buxhall and District Community Council

The committee would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported our events during 2026. It has been a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves; as a volunteer, giving donations, (especially for our raffles) and attending or participating in our events.

We are currently planning our 2027 programme and welcome any suggestions for future events.

## 2027 Dates for your Diary

20th February: Bangers Beans and Bingo
5th June: Bangers, Beans and Bingo
17th July: Buxhall Beer Festival
4th September: Buxhall Village Show
20th November: Bangers, Beans and Bingo

***Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year***

***from Buxhall Community Council***





## Stowmarket Eco Future Group

**stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk | stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com**

**Collection of hard to recycle items**
Collections continue at our monthly Repair café but please be reminded that the Market Stall collections have now stopped because many of our items are now recyclable in the new bins.

The Repair Café is held on the 2nd Sunday of the month (12th December and 9th January 2027) at Red Gables 2-4 pm stowrepaircafe@gmail.com

Mid Suffolk Green Party Evening Socials are held monthly at Fred's Bar on the third Tuesday of the month. All welcome.

### "I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas"

There is lots we can do to celebrate the festive season without it costing the earth.

- Say no thanks to excess packaging
- Think about the life of a product/how was it made, where will it end up?
- Regift, Reuse, Recycle
- Give plants, seeds, trees, eco products, fair trade items, wildlife memberships etc
- Make your own gifts – it shows love for the recipient
- Avoid sparkly cards/wrapping which cannot be recycled
- Bring out the old decorations, enjoy a bit of nostalgia
- Try out some vegetarian or vegan options for some of your meals
- Wrap gifts in cloth or bags which can be reused.
- Get the kids making decorations and paper chains
- Buy local items
- Think of a new year resolution to protect our planet and creation

We are at a critical time for the earth, what we do really, really matters. Have a great time as we move from the old year to the new and come back refreshed and ready to act.

## BUXHALL WI

We meet at Buxhall village hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. We are a very friendly group of around 55 members enjoying a varied range of activities and interesting visiting speakers.

At our October meeting we celebrated our 78th birthday with a slice of fruit birthday cake and a drink. We also welcomed Angie Jones who was our speaker for the evening with her talk entitled "Walks in the slow lane of Suffolk". She was a lovely lady, and we were very interested to hear how she and her husband chose to spend days out visiting different villages in Suffolk and along the Essex border, talking to local people and hearing their stories about village life many years ago. She certainly heard some fascinating and amusing tales.

**Forthcoming Speakers and Events**

9th December - our Christmas meeting

20th January 2027 – Fire Safety in your home with Tracey Grimwood

**Christine Hagger christinemhagger@gmail.com**


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## PETTIWARD HALL QUIZ NIGHTS ARE BACK!!

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**Saturday 30 January, 6pm**

**Saturday 6 March, 6pm**

**Saturday 17 April, 6pm**

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**Archive copies of recent newsletters can be found on the Parish website:**

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## Great Finborough & District Garden Club

After such a hot and dry summer the nights drawing in and first frosts seem to have arrived very quickly. The trees that had hung onto their leaves have now given them up in one fell swoop and the village is now covered with a blanket of autumn colour. The change in the weather is a reminder that winter is approaching and Christmas is just around the corner.

Our November meeting was a talk from Simon White entitled "Never a Dull Moment" about how to fill our gardens with colour all year round. Simon is an experienced nursery man with a long service medal from the Royal Horticultural Society to reward 40 years of work at Peter Beales roses. He shared his expertise about different types of roses and how to fit them into small spaces for the maximum impact. He also showed us ideas for plants that provide colour at different times of the year and how to combine them for a longer display. The talk was supported by Simon's photography showing the plants and flowers at their best.

Our annual members Christmas party takes place on Thursday 3rd December which is always a great occasion and an opportunity to chat and shared some food. Details have been sent to members.

We will also be holding a Christmas Wreath making workshop in Pettiward Hall on Saturday 12th December in the afternoon. Full details will be sent out to members but if any non-members would like more information please contact me on the email address below.

There is no meeting in January, so our regular meeting will be on 11th February at 7.30pm. This meeting will be a talk from Ade Sellars titled "The Good Life Gardener." Ade is a garden designer, presenter, writer and award- winning content producer who has a passion for growing his own food in his kitchen garden.

A reminder that subscriptions were due in September. They remain at £20.00 per household and £5.00 for guests.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the 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**

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## Opening hours for festive period

**21st & 22nd Dec 12pm - 8pm DRINKS ONLY**

**Wed 23rd December 2026**
**Normal hours for DRINKS & FOOD**

**Thursday 24th December 2026 – 12pm - 10.30pm**
**Food 12pm – 2pm & 5pm - 7pm**

**Christmas Day 11am – 2pm DRINKS ONLY**

**Boxing Day 12pm - 5pm**
**Food 12pm - 2pm BOOKINGS ONLY**

**Sunday 27th December 2026**
**Normal Hours for DRINKS & FOOD | Roast Menu – BOOKINGS ONLY**

**28th December 2026 – CLOSED**

**29th December – 12.00 – 20.00 – DRINKS ONLY**

**30th December – Normal hours for DRINKS & FOOD**

**New Years Eve 31st December – 15.00 – Late**

**1st January 2027 – Closed**

**2nd January 2027 – 12pm – 9pm**

**Food 12pm – 2pm & 5pm - 7pm**

**Sunday 3rd January 2027**
**Normal Hours for DRINKS & FOOD | Roast Menu – BOOKINGS ONLY**

**4th & 5th Jan 12pm - 8pm DRINKS ONLY**

**6th January 2027 – 10.30am - 8pm**
**Food 11.30am – 2pm ONLY**

**7th January 2027 to 14th January CLOSED**

**REOPEN Friday 15th January 2027**



## Non-members wild birdseed order form for February 2027

The next order will be placed on **10 February 2027** the birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 17 February 2027 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**

**Please note there are some price increases on some birdseed products**

**Name** **Tele No.**

| Product | Weight | Price | Quantity | Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wild Bird Mix | 20 kg | £15.00 | | |
| W.B.M. Premium | 20kg | £17.50 | | |
| 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 | £18.50 | | |
| W.B.M Robin & Songbird | 12.75 kg | £18.00 | | |
| Finch Mix | 20 kg | £18.00 | | |
| Mixed Corn | 20 kg | £12.50 | | |
| SUPER Poultry Mix | 20kg | £14.00 | | |
| Peanuts (superior quality) | 20 kg | £37.00 | | |
| Peanuts (half sack) | 10 kg approx. | £20.00 | | |
| Black Sunflower Seed | 15 kg | £19.00 | | |
| Sunflower Kernels | 20 kg | £31.00 | | |
| Sunflower Kernels | 10kg approx. | £17.00 | | |
| Nyjer Seed | 20kg | £44.00 | | |
| Nyjer Seed | 10kg approx. | £23.00 | | |
| Suet Pellets | 12.75kgs | £23.00 | | |
| Suet Balls (Superior quality) | Price each<br><br>150 £22.50/Box | 15p | | |

## Pettiward Hall

We have been delighted to welcome lots of people to Pettiward Hall over recent weeks. Meeting our running costs and keeping this important space available for the village is dependent upon both fundraising and a range of bookings from children's birthday parties to a range of meetings, training courses and clubs.

We have also been really pleased to be able to add to our range of exercise classes with our new inclusive exercise class on Friday afternoons joining our existing offer of pilates on Mondays and yoga on Thursdays.

Recent village events have been great fun. It was great to see all the families enjoying the village Halloween event and watching the children of the village learning how to play conkers for the first time! Thank you in particular to Simon for collecting and stringing all the conkers and acting as our MC plus to Jacqueline, Ann and Amanda for decorating the hall to look super spooky and to everyone who donated raffle prizes. We were delighted to raise £84 from raffle prizes and congratulate Lee for winning this year's trophy!

The first quiz of the autumn was also good fun. Thank you again to our amazing quizmaster Simon and to everyone who attended and donated to the raffle. Over £250 was raised through entry fees and the raffle. Congratulations to the Cathy and Nick Croombe and their Middlefield crew who came out top this time round!

**Cathy Morgan**

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:
clerk@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk



## St Andrews Church at Christmas

A warm welcome to all at our services in December:

**Sunday 6th December at 11am**
Holy Communion with the rector - Revd Sarah

**Sunday 13th December at 4pm**
Christingle service with the children from Great Finborough Church Primary School - all welcome.

**Friday 18th December at 6pm**
Christmas Carols in the Chestnut Horse - all are welcome for what is usually a full house!

**Sunday 20th December at 4pm**
The Village Carol Service with readings from members of the village community - a good opportunity to join with other members of the village and sing many of your old favourites whilst remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

**Thursday 24th December at 3pm**
Crib with Carols - a short family service, often one of the most popular of the year and this year the rector Reverend Sarah will be making her debut leading the service. She says she is really looking forward to it! Come and join her....

**Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?**

**Take a look at:**
**facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough**

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## Letter from the Rector

I can't believe where this year has gone, the diary for December is looking very busy indeed with a variety of events, including Messy Christmas on 12th December at Trinity Hall in Onehouse (please see poster on page 18). I do hope you'll be able to join us at one of our carol or crib services, we have a wide choice ranging from the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at Buxhall on 20th December at 6.30pm, to Carols by Candlelight at Little Finborough on 22nd December at 7pm, to Carols Around the Village of Onehouse on 20th December at 4pm with lanterns!

Christmas is a time for families and friends to come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, there are many people who will be on their own throughout the build-up in December and at Christmas itself. Please try and keep an eye out for friends and neighbours who you know are on their own at this time and we all know that the cost of living crisis makes things especially challenging for many people. And of course, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, Revd Pauline, Revd Alison or a member of the ministry team if you, or someone you know, is in need.

The Christmas story is possibly the most well known story throughout the world, telling us about the birth of a baby who was born to save us. The well-known characters Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the three wise men and of course, the baby, Jesus, all feature in a book that reads like an advent calendar. 'The Christmas Mystery' by Jostein Gaarder is written in the form of one short chapter for every day beginning on 1st December, and follows the journey of a group of characters travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus Christ. I read it every year and never fail to get caught up in the joy of that journey back through time to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. If you do decide to read it please let me know what you think of it.

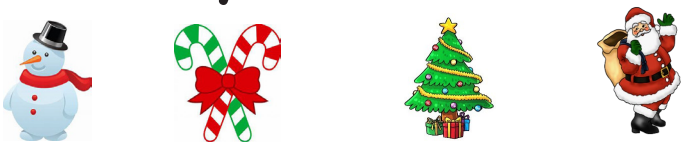
So may I finish by sending you all good wishes and blessings for a very happy Christmas and prayers for a healthy new year in 2027.

With blessings
**Revd Sarah**

COMBS AND FINBOROUGH GROUP THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# Messy Church

## Messy Christmas!!



## Trinity Hall, Onehouse

### Saturday 12th December

### 10.30am to 12.00pm

Crafts, Stories, Songs and Food

All ages welcome, primary age children and younger welcome with their parents/carers

Places must be booked by emailing

revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

The **Messy Church®** name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales





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