

WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

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

Chair: Ant Mann - chair@greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk (*NEW EMAIL)

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

Tel: 07545 423847

Great in Finborough Together - GiFT

Tel: 07522 171190

Petteward 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



March 2026
ISSUE 566

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

11th March 12.30pm	Lent Lunch See page 7 for details	Maple Lodge
19th March 7pm	Pettiward Hall AGM	Pettiward Hall
22nd March 10am-12.30pm	Magical Easter Trail See page 16 for details	Pettiward Hall
15th April 7pm	Spring Fashion Show See page 14	St Andrews
6th April From 12pm	Race of the Boggmen Event & Craft Fair	Chestnut Horse

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

9th March - Pettiward Hall

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 Combs and Finborough Benefice

Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland Services in March 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

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

1st March:	The Second Sunday of 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
8th March:	The Third 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
15th March:	The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday	
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
22nd March:	The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passiontide Begins	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Onehouse
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
29th March:	Palm Sunday	
9.30 am	Procession from the Punch Bowl pub, Battsford to church – All Welcome	
10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Little 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

Non-members wild birdseed order form for April 2026

The next order will be placed on **8 April 2026** the birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 15 April 2026 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.	£29.00		
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	15p		
	150	£22.50/Box		

Welcome to the March Newsletter:

At time of writing and with the daffodils coming through, I was hoping to say Spring is almost on us but as the snow is coming down, I'm not so sure! As I mentioned last month, use the grit bins as needed to ensure side roads and paths are safe to navigate.

We have had the results of the traffic/speed survey conducted on Valley Lane and disappointingly, Highways don't feel the road should be reduced to a 30 or made into a Quiet Lane. However, we are still pushing this and the article on page 19 from Councillor Otton, may give us another angle to investigate. I will look to update on this as it develops.

Keeping with speeding, you will see new and additional SID's (speed indicator devices) around the village which will hopefully continue to reduce speeding traffic on our roads. Although they don't record number plates, we can extract the speed of the vehicles going through each one. We can then use this to evidence changes to speed limits and also share the information with the police so they can conduct their own speed surveys.

It's really sad to see the amount of rubbish being thrown from cars into hedges and drainage ditches, especially on the roads coming into the village. There really is no excuse for this and if people are caught, they can be prosecuted. This also applies to dog mess. Page 15 highlights a situation experienced by the pre-school. Like with rubbish, there is no excuse for not picking it up and using one of the many poo bins around the village. These are paid for within your council tax so, if you have a dog, use them properly.

The local potholes are slowly being dealt with but remain an issue. Please use the online tool to highlight them, as it appears to be the best way to get action: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

As the current custodians of the magnificent Chestnut tree in our village, we have been consulting with tree surgeons on its upkeep as it's been a few years since it was last tackled.

Pollarding Chestnut trees is vital for managing their large size, preventing structural failure of heavy branches, and extending their lifespan. This technique keeps trees safe, and rejuvenates older trees by promoting new, vigorous growth. We have been advised to now tackle it around October so we can enjoy it through the summer, allow birds to nest and not destroy the many flowers coming out beneath it. If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch but also the tree surgeon will attend a parish meeting nearer the time to explain what's going to happen and when.

And finally, Monday 6th April brings us the infamous Race of the Boggmen. The pub will be fully supporting the event as always. This year there will also be the addition of a craft fair in the pub car park.

Look out for signs for the race and other activities on and around the village green.

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

The Beacon Club



The Beacon Club was set up nearly 3 years ago for two reasons, firstly to have the money to have the iconic steeple of St Andrews Church illuminated every night of the year at lighting-up time until 23.00hrs. Secondly, to support the running of the Church which costs £20,000/year to keep the doors open. The Church has 2 services a month but is usually open 5 days a week for moments of quiet reflection

We are still looking for new members of the Beacon Club, members donate £100 a year to support the steeple lighting & Church. We hold an Autumn Equinox supper in the Church by way of a small thank you. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch: p.turner125@btinternet.com or 07789727974

Peter

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St Andrew's Church

We are looking to open the church as many days as possible as we head into the Spring/Summer and are looking for volunteers to open/close on a particular day.

Timings can be flexible and we understand that everybody has holidays but if you could help, we would be delighted to hear from you!

It would be great if we could open up a very valuable village resource more regularly, and make it available to people from the village and from farther afield..

Also, a number of people have commented on the arrival of a card machine at St Andrew's - we have finally reached the 21st century!

As well as this, you can also use this QR code to make any donations:



Neil and Sadie 07850117831

Great Finborough & District Garden Club

Our February meeting was the first time in 2026 that we all got together, and we did something a little different. Deborah Hart visited us again and demonstrated how we could make a willow snail.

Deborah made it look easy and most of us had a go with varying degrees of success! The whole hall was a hive of activity with willow, wire and determined faces on every table. Everyone had a great time, and we proudly took our snails home, so they'll be gracing gardens all-round the village.



Our next meeting will take place on 12th March at 7.30pm and will be a talk from Dr Ian Bedford aka "The Bug Man" about companion planting for a balanced garden.

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

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer this year is being hosted by Shelland Church, IP14 3JE.

The Service is being held on Friday the 6th of March at 2.15pm.

The Women of Nigeria have prepared the Service and is themed 'I will give you rest, come'. A preparation meeting has already taken place and the format as well as the music is delightful, interesting and informative. An enjoyable time will be had by all. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.



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Good to Go!

Just a reminder of the event GiFT has arranged for anyone to attend on Thursday 5th March in Petteward Hall.

All the details are in the last newsletter, but essentially, it's designed to address all your questions about how to 'put my affairs in order'.

For adults of all ages, especially those who don't yet have: a will; guardianship in place for children; power of attorney in case you lose mental capacity; writing your wishes down about medical treatment you do/don't want, funeral plans; and what should happen to your pets if you can't care for them.

Drop in between 2-4pm and have a cuppa and cake with GiFT volunteers. You don't have to stay the whole time, and it's informal and positive not morbid. Andrew Bingham is coming in case you want to understand more about what happens when someone dies. Rosemary from Citizens Advice will also be there to advise on benefits you may be entitled to, how to maximise household income, and anything else the CAB can help with.

GiFT Steering Team



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Great Finborough Lent Lunch

Lenten
Soup and Bread

Please join us on Wednesday 11 March 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 Stowmarket Food Bank



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Draper Details

Hi all, I'm Ben from Draper Details. Having recently moved to Great Finborough, myself my partner and our Labrador Rupert have settled in very nicely.

A bit about myself and Draper Details; I've always had a passion for cars, motorbikes and pretty much anything with an engine. I'm also a bit of a fanatic when it comes to keeping things clean, after spending countless hours on the driveway cleaning not only my own cars, but everyone else's too - as my girlfriend, parents and sister can attest to.

And so what started as hobby has grown into me cleaning not only family vehicles, but friends, neighbours, and anyone else who wants their pride and joy kept clean and fresh.

I pride myself on taking extra care with every job, using only the best products, tools and techniques to get your car, van or motorbike looking its best.

If you're interested and would like to get in touch, drop an email to draperdetails@gmail.com or you can find my details in the newsletter. Alternatively, if you see me around the village (I'm usually in the Chestnut Horse a couple of times a week), then I'm always more than happy to have a chat.

Thanks all!

Ben

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letters or advertising,
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Letter from the Rector

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which this year falls on 15th March, countries around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives. But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, how many people are aware of its very different origins? Here are some of the traditions that have shaped Mothering Sunday into the celebration recognised today:

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many. Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare, (and facetime was still a long way off). In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on mothering Sunday.

Families across the country will be preparing little presents and cards and in some churches flowers are blessed and handed out during the main service. Families come together to have lunch, or children make breakfast in bed for their mothers, leaving all the mess to be cleared up later! It's all about showing appreciation and many make a huge effort to make their mother feel special.

**With blessings,
Revd Sarah**



Buxhall and Great Finborough 'Candlestick Club'



The Candlestick Club is hosting a Bingo, Raffle and Buffet on Thursday 5 March 2026 at Buxhall Village Hall

Join us between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

A chance to meet up with friends, make new friends locally, and win prizes – refreshments provided.

Members FREE
Non-members £2.00 entry

Everybody welcome!



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 50 members enjoying a varied range of

activities and interesting visiting speakers.

At our January meeting Julie Johnson, our speaker, spoke about the Stowmarket Workhouse & the Paupers Graves. She had studied in great detail the individuals and families, quite often with a farming background, who fell on hard times and had to enter the workhouse. She emphasised how hard and unpleasant it was made so it was not an easy option in times of difficulty. In fact, several of the inmates ran away.

Forthcoming Speakers and Events

3rd March - Suffolk East Federation conference with speakers

18th March 2026 – Suffolk Mind – Jon Neal

15th April 2026 – The craft of comic verse – Eric Tunake

Christine Hagger christinemhagger@gmail.com



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No need to book, simply meet on the village green opposite the pub.

If you would like any more details, please get in touch.

All levels welcome.

Ant Mann 07968 154171

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

Raise the Roof on St Augustine's Church, Harleston

Help us to 'Raise the Roof' (or at least the money to help) on our historic church in Harleston. The Church needs rethatching so at our Morning Service (9.30am) on Sunday 1st March, Rod, our Reader, will be talking about Jesus' parable of the Talents when Jesus speaks about a man who was going away and gave some money to his servants. One talent to one, two talents to another and five talents to a third (a talent was a silver coin). The men were to look after the money and see if they could increase it. When the master returned he asked what had happened to his money. The first man was scared of his master so buried it and then handed back the single coin, the second invested it and doubled his money, as did the third man. Now, we all have 'talents' or abilities, not just money. On the 1st March Michael Robinson will be handing out £10 notes to anybody who thinks that they can use it to increase its value. So get your thinking caps on and see what you can do/make/grow/sell to help us 'Raise the Roof'. You don't have to be in church to collect the money, see Michael or Hilary at some other time to join in. We will be collecting in the 'profits' at the Harvest Festival in September/October.



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Mid Suffolk

My council tax bill is due in March, and I'm dreading it as it seems to rise every year. My income hasn't increased, but everything else costs more, leaving very little left over. I'm worried about how I'll cope if my payments go up again.

Many people are feeling the same pressure as bills increase. You're not alone, and importantly, support is available.

Some people are entitled to council tax discounts depending on their circumstances. Your bill may already include an automatic reduction, or you can contact your local council to check if you qualify.

If you're the only adult living in your home, you should receive a 25% single person discount. When councils calculate how many people live in a property, certain people are not counted. These are known as "disregarded people" and include under-18s, student nurses, apprentices, and others. You can find the full list on the government website: www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay.

If someone has recently moved out, it's important to tell your council, as this could change your eligibility. Any discount you're entitled to can be backdated to the date they moved out, even if you inform the council later.

If you're on a low income, you may qualify for a Council Tax Reduction. This applies whether you're working or receiving benefits, although having other adults living with you can affect how much support you get. Only one person in the household needs to apply. The council will assess your income and circumstances and issue an updated bill if you're eligible.

You can apply via www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount.

Cont.

Extra support may also be available if you've reached State Pension age. The rules differ depending on whether you or your partner receive certain benefits such as Universal Credit, income-related ESA or pension credits.

Details are available at www.gov.uk/state-pension-age.

Even if none of these apply, councils can sometimes reduce or cancel council tax through a discretionary reduction if you're experiencing severe financial hardship. This is available even if your immigration status restricts access to public funds.

Council tax is a priority bill, so it's important to stay in contact with your council if you're struggling. Citizens Advice can help you explore your options and find a way forward, without judgement, and alongside you every step of the way.

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.

Pettiward Hall

April Quiz Night

The next quiz night date is ready to put in the diary! The quiz will be held on Saturday 18 th April. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 7pm start. Please contact Cathy Morgan at pettiwardhallbookings@gmail.com to reserve your spots. Entry price is £5 per adult, under 18s free. Max of 6 adults per team.

AGM

We give notice of the Pettiward Hall AGM which will take place at 7pm on 19th March 2026 at the hall. All are welcome.

Pettiward Hall Committee

Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's



Wow! We have been very busy this term exploring our senses, tasting and smelling lovely pizzas, using our eyes and ears to look and listen at all the wonderful things in the village. We also took part in the schools 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. We are 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 if we can. We will also be making some valentines cards with the residents. 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:- Sunday 22nd March 10am-12:30 is our annual Easter Trail. This year your child will get to be the character in their own fairy tale, will they choose to fight a dragon or a wicked witch, with a sword or a wand?

Delia Prior and Team

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:
facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough



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HBperformancecoaching

1 - 2 - 1 FOOTBALL

COACHING

AGES 7+

WHATSAPP - 07707016280 LOCATION - STOWMARKET/IPSWICH

1-2-1 SESSION

- 45 minute session
- Specific position tailored plan
- Outfield + goalkeepers
- Technical + Mental work

TRIAL - £10

AFTER TRIAL - £25



GROUP SESSION

- 45 minute session
- Tailored session to everyone attending the session
- Outfield + goalkeepers
- Discounted rate

£15 PER PERSON

HB

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- 45 minute sessions
- Nutrition advice for performance as an athlete
- Discounted price per session!

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come & Join Style at Stow for some
Fun - Fashion & Fizz
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Wednesday 15th | April | 2026
from 7pm Onwards
at

**St Andrews Church
Great Finborough**

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WHAT'S ON!

Thursday 5th March Open Mic Night 7.30pm

Sunday 15th March

Mothers day Roast, Free glass of Prosecco or Bucks Fizz
Booking & Deposit Essential

Thursday 19th March Pub Quiz £2.50 per person
starts 7.30pm

Thursday 26th March Sip & Paint Night
7pm start - BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Friday 27th March - Jax & Co band
from 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd April Open Mic Night 7.30pm

Monday 6th April - Race of the Boggmen
and Craft Fair from 12pm

*"Looking forward to see you all at the Race of the Boggmen
Event & Craft Fair"*

Roly & Mandy



One-day Tom, Dickie and Harriet and all their friends from pre-school decided to go on a bear hunt.

They were very, very excited, they got ready and off they went.

We're going on a bear hunt.

We're going to catch a big one.

What a beautiful day!

We're not scared.

Oh-oh

Oh-oh Miss, Tom's stood in some doggy poop and Dickie and Harriet tried to help him and have touched it.

We're **not** going on a bear hunt.

We're **not** going to catch a big one.

It's **not** a beautiful day.

We're **sad**.

Oh-oh

Oh-oh, we've got to go back to pre-school all because someone couldn't be bothered to pick up after their dog.



Be part of our

Magical Easter Trail

Come and join us on a magical adventure through the fairy door!
Fancy dress of princes, knights and fairies encouraged
with prizes for the best dressed!

Sunday 22nd March

10am - 12.30pm

Pettward Hall, Great Finborough

IP14 3AE

£4.50 per child. Message Delia to book

075131 40072

Games, Cakes, Easter Eggs,
Refreshments & Raffle Prizes



PRIVATE SPANISH HOLIDAY RENTAL

2 bedroom townhouse with private terraces in a peaceful location in La Manga Club,

A townhouse situated in beautiful landscaped gardens, near to the South golf course at the famous La Manga Club Resort. With accommodation on two levels, plus an outside kitchen and barbecue and a sunny roof terrace.

This two bedroom, two ensuite bathrooms property is set in a peaceful location and has recently been refurbished.

On the ground floor the lounge and dining room have patio doors to the terrace. This leads to the pretty communal gardens and swimming pool.

A fully equipped, modern kitchen with door leading to the terrace and gardens.

On the first floor is the master bedroom with double bed and an en-suite bathroom. Bedroom 2 can be set up as a twin or large double, also with an en-suite.



From £ 1000 - 1300 per week

Prices include linen, towels and swimming towels.

Communal gardens | Swimming Pool | Free Wifi | Parking | Air Con

If you're looking for accommodation for visitors to the area, then why not rent Great Finborough's 'The Hoot'.

A lovely, rurally set lodge, set in its own grounds, with private parking. Boasting incredible views of the countryside.

One double bedroom with en-suite cloakroom basin, heated towel rail, and WC.

Second, twin bedroom. Shower room with walk-in shower, basin, and WC.

Open-plan living space with kitchen, dining area and sitting area with electric fire. Lots of outdoor space with seating and BBQ.

For information on both properties, contact Kaz:
kjb@suffolktaxreturns.co.uk 07870680766

News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

Onehouse to Woolpit Quietway: Following the public sessions in both villages, you can still see and comment on the proposed route via <https://communitymap.uk/project/257>

Transport Options: There is welcome news that improved scheduled services between Hadleigh and Stowmarket, calling at Great Finborough, are to be introduced in April.

Community Nature Recovery Grant: This offers up to £50,000 for projects that protect and expand wildlife corridors and habitats within the district - including tree planting, wildflower meadow creation, or other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. As well as boosting biodiversity by working in partnership with charities and organisations such as environmental groups, schools and town and parish councils, the scheme will help to restore natural ecosystems and create opportunities for residents to 'get back to nature'.

River Catchments and Flood Alleviation: There is also a fund to support wider projects which study and improve river catchments to help nature and reduce flooding downstream. This is of particular interest for the River Ratt, where projects are already being considered. I will be pleased to hear from land-owners aware of places where water tends to collect during heavy rain, to see how the flow can best be managed.

See also <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/biodiversity-action-plan>

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



Messy Easter!!



Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Saturday 21st March

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

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

www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

Home > Newsletters

Newsletters

-  2026-Newsletters
-  2025-Newsletters
-  2024-Newsletters

Get Involved and Support St Nicholas Hospice Care in 2026

St Nicholas Hospice Care's Sunset Walk returns to Bury St Edmunds on Saturday, 20th June, bringing together families, friends and colleagues for an evening of remembrance, reflection and community.

Walkers can choose between 10km and 15km routes, or take part virtually from anywhere.

Before heading out, participants gather in the Abbey Gardens for entertainment, warm ups and refreshments, and creating a lively festival atmosphere. Along the route, live music, supportive volunteers and thoughtful moments of reflection make the evening full of laughter and remembrance.

Sponsored by Greene King, the walk supports the Hospice's mission to ensure no one faces dying, death or grief alone.

Sign up at: stnicholashospice.org.uk/news-community/events-listing/sunset-walk/

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New 20mph Policy

On Friday 9th January, a new 20mph speed limit policy was approved by SCC, with the aim of making the process for communities to apply for a 20mph speed limit easier and more streamlined. From now on, any application for a new 20mph limit in an area where recorded average traffic speeds are 28mph and under is likely to be approved by the council. The local county councillor must also be in favour of the change, and there should be majority support from residents.

The council states that local engagement needs to be carried out in the community, for example a survey or consultation of residents living on the roads/in the area. Any new 20mph limits will also still need local funding to be in place, unless the scheme aligns with a council programme as part of the Local Transport Plan. The new policy is based on recording speeds as follows:

Below 28mph - likely to be accepted, with a speed limit sign only, although signs warning that a 20mph zone is ahead may be required

Between 28 - 32mph - unlikely to be acceptable with signing alone. Gateway signing and traffic calming throughout the area may be required

Above 32mph - Unlikely to be acceptable without extensive traffic calming measures such as road humps, plus night-time lighting. It would also be subject to a Road Safety Audit

You can read the new policy here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/imported/20mph-speed-limit-policy-criteria.pdf>

Cllr Penny Otton, Thedwastre South
07545 423847 - penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk