

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: 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



May 2026
ISSUE 568

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

7th May 7am-10pm	Suffolk County Councillor Elections	Pettiward Hall
16th May 10.30-4.30pm	Dog Show & Craft Market (Page 5)	Chestnut Horse
18th May 7pm	Parish Council AGM	Pettiward Hall
20th May 2-4pm	Rural Coffee Caravan (Page 27)	St Andrews
14th June 1-4.30pm	Wildflowers Meadow Fete (page 28)	Woodpecker Hill

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

18th May, 15th June - 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 May 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 use this link for all services held on Zoom - Meeting ID: 470 378 1299 - Password: Benefice
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4703781299?pwd=doep7y6JYxv0lIXsR0XnbeZlda9ME.1>

3rd May: The Fourth Sunday after Easter

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom Meeting
11.00 am	All Age Worship	Combs

10th May: The Fifth Sunday after Easter

9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
11.00 am	The George Ward Service	Onehouse

17th May: The Sixth Sunday after Easter, The Sunday after Ascension Day

9.30 am	Patronal Holy Communion	Harleston
11.00 am	Family Communion	Combs
6.00 pm	Evensong	Little Finborough
6.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Meeting

24th May: Pentecost, Whit Sunday

9.30 am	Morning Worship	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
11.00 am	Morning Service	Great Finborough

31st May: Trinity Sunday

10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Great Finborough
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Weekday Services

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

51 SUMMARY TIMETABLE

Stowmarket Railway Station > Great Finborough > Hitcham > Bildeston > Hadleigh

MONDAY TO FRIDAY | Except Bank Holidays

 This service is being supported by Suffolk County Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Buses towards Hadleigh	51	51	51	51	51	51
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:40	09:40	11:40	13:40	15:40	17:40
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:48	09:48	11:48	13:48	15:48	17:48
Hitcham, White Horse	07:57	09:57	11:57	13:57	15:57	17:57
Bildeston, Clock Tower	08:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:00	18:00
Hadleigh, Bus Station	08:16	10:16	12:16	14:16	16:16	18:16

Buses towards Stowmarket	51	51	51	51	51	51
Hadleigh, Bus Station	07:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	15:00	17:00
Bildeston, Clock Tower	07:13	09:13	11:13	13:13	15:13	17:13
Hitcham, White Horse	07:16	09:16	11:16	13:16	15:16	17:16
Great Finborough, Post Office	07:25	09:25	11:25	13:25	15:25	17:25
Stowmarket Railway Station	07:34	09:34	11:34	13:34	15:34	17:34

For the latest updates, search us on Facebook & X (Twitter)  

For too long our wonderful village has been without a bus service but now the number 51 has arrived! Geoff and I took part in a survey with the Department of Transport in January and we stressed the poor availability of rural transport.

Like many older people in our community we have to accept that we won't always be able to drive ourselves and even though friends and neighbours in the village are always ready to help, many of us relish our independence. The new bus service gives us the opportunity to travel independently to Stowmarket with its links by bus or train, or beautiful Hadleigh. But this service is on a trial to find out if it's worth the investment. We must ensure it's used regularly by villagers if we want to keep it, and remember if you have a bus pass it's free! No petrol or parking costs, better for our pockets and the environment. They've even given us a bus stop. Please consider using this service and thus ensure it's here for all of us now and in the future.

Marion Filmer

Welcome to the May Newsletter:

We were blessed with incredible weather for the 49th Race of the Boggman event on Easter Monday. A great day bringing together many, many people to join in the fun. Well done to Roly and Mandy for hosting their first one as well giving up their car park space for a fantastic Craft Fair running throughout the day. See pages 18-20 for Simon's summary of this special day.

On the 13th April, we welcomed the new bus service, servicing the village with buses to the Train Station every 2 hours from 7.40am and a similar service to Hadleigh. See page 34 for the full timetable. The bus stops are located opposite the village notice board.

Hopefully by now you have received your new blue bin, inside which is a food waste caddy and inside that another smaller one. The new collection service will start in June with exact dates published nearer the time. This will mean existing green bins will be for clean, dry paper and cardboard. Black bins will take non-recycling waste like soiled food containers, nappies and bagged vacuum contents. The large food caddy is for outside and the smaller one for inside. These take things like leftover food, peelings, eggshells, pet food, tea bags etc. The blue bin is for glass, drinks cans, cartons including tetrapak, plastic bottles, tubs, carrier bags and tin foil. Full information will be supplied along with the new collection times. Brown bins will remain as a subscription service and will follow the current collection schedule.

The 2026 Suffolk County Council elections will take place on Thursday 7th May 2026. These will see 70 councillors elected to the new divisions which have been created following a review conducted by the Local Government Boundary Committee for England. Polls will be open from 7am to 10pm at Pettward Hall. Remember to take your photo ID.

On the 15th April, the village welcomed The Rural Coffee Caravan, in partnership with Great in Finborough Together (GiFT). Such a great idea to bring people together for friendship and a free cuppa! This one was hosted at Pettward Hall but future monthly events will be held at the Church (see page 27).

Cont.

Sadly, I must report that vandalism has struck again in the village. One of the benches by the wildflower meadow has been damaged beyond repair and will have to be replaced. If anyone has information, please contact the police or me.



And last but not least, another amazing Quiz night was hosted in Pettiward Hall. Simon 'the Quizmaster' Tarabella did a great job as always. Such an incredible, well supported event, attracting 75 people across 12 teams and raising £ 650 to help fund accessibility improvements for Pettiward Hall, a great asset to the village.

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

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The Great Finborough Dog Show & Craft Market

May 16th 2026

10:30am-4:30pm



10 Dog classe!!

Free event entry
Dog class entry £2 per
dog per class

Money raised from Dog show
entry will go to the local
community hall.

The Chestnut Horse
B1115, Great Finborough,
Stowmarket IP14 3AT



Support local crafters and show off your
dogs in a friendly community environment.



THE CHESTNUT HORSE
Gt. FINBOROUGH

Great Finborough & District Garden Club

Well it really is spring now and we can start working in our gardens and planning for the summer months. As we start the busiest time of year for gardeners it is lovely that we now have longer evenings and warmer temperatures.

Our April meeting was an engaging talk from Andy Holtham, titled Trees a SWOT analysis. Which featured the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that trees have and are subject to. Andy set out that a great strength of trees is the ability to regrow after being damaged and he illustrated this with a variety of photographs showing the unusual shapes that can occur when a tree has fallen or been damaged and has continued to grow.

Andy also talked about the need for water as being a weakness and how this limits the height of trees and the strategies trees have to deal with the times in the year when water is scarce. He set out that we do have a great opportunity to plant more trees to protect biodiversity but there are always competing priorities for land use which mean we don't manage to achieve the targets set by the government.

There were two threats discussed which were global warming and introduced pests and diseases. Andy talked about the impact of Ash dieback and also how Ash is used for the bats in major league baseball and was used to provide all wooden tennis rackets at Wimbledon right up until the 1980s.

Our next meeting will take place on May 14th at 7.30pm and will be a talk by Mel from Mickfield Hostas who are holders of the National Collection about Hostas plus a plant sale. 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

What a Treasure...

Is the **GiFT** team, to the people of Great Finborough.

I can't speak for other residents but whenever we need help, being able to ring the GiFT team is a treasure beyond measure.

To each and every volunteer a massive thank you. Whenever you help someone you're taking an enormous burden off their shoulders.

Cindy

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:

facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough



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Great in Finborough Together

The village good neighbour scheme, partnering with Rural Coffee Caravan, had its first social meet-up session of the year on 15 April in the village hall. Thanks to the Hall Committee for accommodating us.

25 villagers attended and enjoyed chatting, cake, company and the sharing of information. 5 requests for help were made and another 8 needs for help were identified and discussed. We move to the church for the rest of the sessions this summer as on warm days we can be outside and there is good disabled access/toilet facilities.

Dates: 20 May, 17 June, 15 July and 19 August. Times: 2-4pm.

Transport to get you there can be provided on request. If there is an ongoing demand for a cuppa, cake and friendship we can continue in the autumn and winter months.

GPs are recommending a programme called Living Life to the Full for those who can access the free 8-week online course designed to help you sort out your feelings when you feel low, worried or hopeless and learn skills to tackle life's problems. Further information at: <https://littf.com/course/>

Most people are feeling the pinch and for some of your family or friends, debt may be a worry. This is one of the many ways in which we can assist so don't be afraid to ask for help on their behalf.

The Food Museum runs Green Therapy 10-week courses for those whose mental and/or physical health would benefit from connecting with nature, the outdoors and growing plants. If you cannot join the course that started on 13 April, the next two start 22 June and 14 September. See <https://foodmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/events/green-therapy-courses/>

GiFT is for everyone in the village so, if you want a gift or want to give a gift of your time to others, please send a message to the phone number on the newsletter's back page or ring that number. Do leave a voice mail if the phone is not answered straightaway.

GiFT Steering Team

Non-members wild birdseed order form for June 2026

The next order will be placed on **3 June 2026** the birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 10 June 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.	£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	15p		
	150	£22.50/Box		



Buxhall and District Candlestick Club



2026 Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Total</u>
14 May	Bingo afternoon 2pm to 4pm Buxhall Village Hall			
4 June	River Stour Boat Trip with lunch at the Henny Swan	£12.00	£19.00*	£31.00
9 July	Bingo afternoon 2pm to 4pm Buxhall Village Hall			
13 August	Cromer End of Pier Show	£26.00	£28.00	£54.00
4 September	To be arranged			

* Plus the cost of lunch

NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Payment can be made by:

Cash

Cheque made payable to: Buxhall and Finborough Over 60s Candlestick Club

BACS paid to:

Bank Name: Virgin Money

Account Name: Buxhall and Finborough Over 60s Candlestick Club

Sort Code: 82-12-08

Account Number: 50135531

Please contact Emily on 07964 045373 or emilybyam1@gmail.com or Mim at one of the other events or on 07414 004006 if you would like to put your name down for any of the trips.

****Prices are based on a minimum of 25 people attending, if numbers fall short trips may have to be cancelled****

To contact the editor (Ant Mann) submit articles,
letters or advertising,
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GREAT FINBOROUGH
GARDEN CLUB



Join us for fun at the

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Free Entry

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2026

1PM TO 4.30PM
at
The Wildflower Meadow, Valley Lane, Great Finborough

'Winnie the Pooh' themed activities for children

Free activities for all ages. Bring your own picnic and drinks.
Teas, cakes and BBQ available.

Enjoy village socialising, guided walks, and games including
Meadow Hunts, Quizzes, Splat The Rat, Tin Can Alley,
Bowling, Nimble Thimble, Higher or Lower,
Welly Wanging and more.



Letter from the Rector

And so we have reached the beautiful month of May. 'The Merry Month of May' is actually the title of a poem written by a Tudor playwright and a phrase which has also appeared in songs and as book titles since the late 1500's. However, with everything that's going on in the world at the moment, it can be a struggle to feel especially 'merry'. There are times when I hardly dare read the latest headlines because of the conflicts taking place throughout the world, and the effect these conflicts are having on ordinary people.

But as I drive around our benefice of seven parishes, what is bringing me great joy is the beauty of the countryside at this time of the year. Although the daffodils have been and gone, the bluebells have arrived as have the blackthorn and hawthorn. And then there's the blossom which always brings a smile to my face. Everything is greening up and a few days of warmer temperatures make a huge difference. More than anything, what the burgeoning of the countryside brings is hope. And hope, is something we could all do with more of at this time.

Within the church we now move on from Easter and towards the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the growth of the fledgeling Christian church. The Day of Pentecost, celebrated this year on the 24th May, marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, enabling the disciples to speak in many different languages and understand each other. It symbolised the breaking down of barriers and empowered them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Celebrating Pentecost can share a powerful message of unity and selflessness in the face of diversity and in these challenging times, perhaps that is just what we need.

**With blessings,
Revd Sarah**

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

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

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tel: 01284 663472

Reg. charity: 1187423

www.ruralcoffecaravan.org.uk
info@ruralcoffecaravan.org.uk

Great in Finborough Together (GiFT)

is partnering with

The Rural Coffee Caravan this year to provide a monthly meet-up for **everyone** in the village

For a free cuppa
coffee/tea, cold drinks - and cake!
Combined with friendship

2-4pm at St Andrew's Church
20th May, 17th June, 15th July & 19th August



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



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 March meeting our speaker was John Nield from Suffolk Mind. He explained how important our mental health is and how we can improve it by avoiding stress which is a trigger. Also, by maintaining a regular sleep pattern of at least 7 or 8 hours a night. We learnt a lot!

Forthcoming Speakers and Events

20th May 2026 - A social gathering for Members
17th June 2026 – The Summer Garden Party

Christine Hagger christinemhagger@gmail.com



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I've found myself in a really difficult financial situation and I don't know where to turn. I was made redundant recently and now I'm finding it hard to keep up with my bills and am getting into debt - what can I do?

Money problems can feel overwhelming, but the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to face this alone. We know that times are incredibly tough for lots of people right now, and Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward.

Make sure you've been paid everything you're entitled to by your former employer. You can check what your rights are on the Citizens Advice website.

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, free budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can help you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs.

Before you start, try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips, debit and credit card statements or bills, and receipts for things you usually pay for in cash. Make sure you include all your expenses, for example money you spend on your partner or family.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, you can find out how to get help with your bills as well as what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

Please don't ignore bills or letters about money that you owe. You should collect and organise all debt-related documents to create a comprehensive list of all your debts. It might feel overwhelming when you see everything written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're taking action to sort things out.

If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. Take a look at the Citizens Advice website for more information about what bills to prioritise and how to manage debts. You can then speak to the organisations you owe money to - they might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments.

For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

Lots of people miss out on benefits they're entitled to, so it's worth checking what you can get on the Citizens Advice website. Claiming benefits might also let you get access to other financial help like cost-of-living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

Whatever your situation, you don't have to face this alone - get in touch with a free support service like us at Citizens Advice. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support and explore all the options for dealing with your debts.

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.

Jackbridge Beef

Spring is always a busy and hopeful time at Jackbridge farm, and this year is no exception. Our Aberdeen Angus cattle are nearly through calving, and I'm pleased to report that things have gone smoothly so far. There's always a mixture of anticipation and long nights involved, but seeing healthy calves up and about makes it all worthwhile.

As the weather has begun to improve, we've started turning the cows and calves out to grass. Fortunately, ground conditions are in our favour this year, with fields drying well and providing a good footing for both the cows and their new arrivals. The bulls, Peaky Blinder and Noah don't join the cows until the 1st May. It's a welcome change after the challenges that wetter seasons can bring, and it makes a real difference to both animal welfare and day-to-day work.

There's something particularly satisfying about seeing the herd out in the fields again, calves finding their feet and cows settling into a more natural routine. With plenty of grass coming through, we're hopeful for a strong start to the grazing season.

Our beef is available to buy direct from the farm either as individual joints or as a mixed pack including roasting joints, steaks and mince.

Please call or email for more information.

07780667204
01449 672177
pembertons@jackbridgefarm.com

Teresa

Jackbridge Beef

Grass fed Aberdeen Angus Beef

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Hymns & Pimms 2026

Sunday 5th July 3pm
St Andrews Church

£ 5 for unlimited refills



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FFD Running Club

If you are keen to start running, get fit, run in a group or socialise, then join us every Thursday at 6.45pm.

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

News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

£120k boost for art and culture in Mid Suffolk: This year, 10 organisations have received a share of £119,496 from the Mid Suffolk Culture Fund. for projects covering a wide range of areas and all age groups. Including, Stowmarket Culture Group, which has been awarded £15,000 for the delivery of the 'Jubilant' youth summer arts festival. And Orchestras Live, which will use a grant of more than £8,000 to facilitate an intergenerational orchestral project in Eye and the surrounding areas.

Devolution and local government reform: The government has decided that there will be 3 unitary councils for Suffolk. While detailed boundaries and names are still being finalised, the three councils are planned to be in place from 2028.

Our villages will be in the rural central council. Elections for the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from April 2028. The idea of the transition period is to enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, while services are delivered as usual throughout the process.

The current plan is for Mayoral Elections to be held in May 2028.

Works starting on 3G football pitch: Works to deliver a brand new 3G football pitch and mini athletics track in Stowmarket are due to start in the coming weeks.

The project is being funded by contributions from Mid Suffolk District Council, the Premier League, The FA, the Government's Football Foundation as well as S106 developer contributions. This is being built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School, the 3G pitch and athletics track will be available for community use with Everyone Active managing the facilities and associated booking system outside of school times.

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**



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WHAT'S ON!

Sunday 3rd May music with Savannah Love from 4pm

Thurs 7th May open mic night with Jax from 7.30pm

**14th May Sip & Paint night from 7pm
get your place booked as soon as possible
£35.00 per person paid at time of booking**

Sat 16th May dog show & craft market from 10.30

**Thurs 21st quiz night
7.30pm £2.50 per person teams up to 6 people**

Friday 29th Andy Ottley as ELVIS 8pm till 11pm

"Thank you to all who made our first Boggmen event such a great day."

Roly & Mandy



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17 Buxhall Business Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 3BW

Pettiward Hall

Yoga and Pilates

We are so lucky to have these classes available in our village. Pilates is on Mondays at 9am-10.15am and Yoga is on Thursdays at 9.45am-11.30am. Please do get in touch if anyone is interested in attending either class.

Solar Panels and Accessible Toilet

We are currently considering the possibility of two new projects at the hall. The first is the installation of solar panels. This would help with the reduction of the hall's ever increasing energy bills and would also help our environmental sustainability. The second is the installation of an accessible toilet. We want to make sure that the hall is accessible to all in the village and anyone visiting us. We think that the most basic need to use the toilet, shouldn't be a barrier to anyone.

If we are able to go ahead with either or both of the projects, we would be looking to help funding through grant applications. It would really help these applications to have feedback from the community which shows a want/need for the projects. If anyone would like to show their support and would be happy for their feedback to be included with any grant application, please do email us on secretary.finhv@gmail.com

Pettiward Hall Committee



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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, single 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**



Buxhall Community Council

BURGER, BUN & BINGO

with cheese slice, onions, lettuce, tomato, ketchup, mustard sauce and crisps

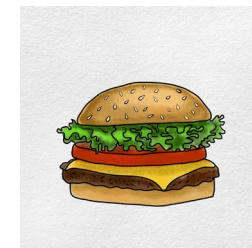
Buxhall Village Hall

Saturday 6th June 2026
at 7:00pm

Entry: Adult £5 Child £2.50

(6 games of Bingo £10.00)
Includes Raffle

Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles



Book your place by contacting
Mim and Keith Proctor: 01449 736598

The 50th Great Finborough Race of the Boggmen 6th April 26

The first race occurred on Easter Monday 1976. It needed the agreement of three key people; the friendly publicans of the Chestnut Horse pub, Eric and Eve Smale, my uncle, Ray Waspe who found an old employment contract in the loft at Boyton Hall and a young drama teacher from Stowmarket, Steve Hammond who had moved to London to find work.

The weather this year was perfect. It brings out the crowds, especially smaller children. I would like to thank everyone who attended and key people behind the scenes. Many play important roles on the day, so it functions seamlessly. Steve Hammond is still key to that.

Since the tree in Church Road was declared unsafe and had to be cut down, there has been nowhere to attach the bunting to throw eggs over. This was solved by Stowmarket Carnival Chair, Simon and his son who erected scaffold poles to solve the problem as well as hanging all the bunting on the green and around the pub.

Over the decades, a handful of people have been involved but sadly with time the list gets ever shorter. Steve, Mad Mike, Beaver, Caroline and Jill now assisted by her granddaughters now manage the egg and spoon races and egg tossing competitions. This can only occur with willing public entrants, of which there is no shortage. It's very cheap fun for all the family (entry was free). Jon Pettit and his tossing partner were champions. For the first time ever, they did eight lines!! That's almost one hundred feet with gentle care and accuracy. Great skill.

Gareth Hart now owns Boyton Hall. After 120 years it no longer farmed by a Waspe. His permission to start the Bogg Race at the Hall and run across the land is key. Matt provides transport for the teams with his Land Rover and brushers cart - we have evolved from scuffles in grain trailers. And Billy, who has stored relevant stuff at his house for years.

This is Mandy and Roly's first year as hosts at the pub. They came last year to watch. Much effort was put in; promotional advertising, a craft fair, bouncy castle, new outside furniture, an outside bar, good value street food, an ice cream van and even a one-way system through the pub to handle the many revellers needing drinks!

As the esteemed Master of Ceremonies, Steve always brings his thoughts, wit and experience as well as providing the real eggs, wooden spoons, chocolate eggs, sweets and trophies for the best tossers. Mrs Williams allowed us to park in her garden with the key vehicle carrying essential stuff to make the day run smoothly.

My friend Ski was delighted to drive my vintage tractor and park on the green. My uncle Len, Dad and Uncle Ray bought it new at Boyton Hall in April 1975 for £2,700. I'm very lucky to have it. People like to see it. It's registration is really HGV369N (there is a long story with DVLA.)

John, who I do the pub quiz with, ran the race this year to film it with a selfie stick. 'PC' Ant ran it as the flag bearer and independent adjudicator to bring a little decorum. Dave Wilson is key in recruiting Boggmen to run. We need youth and energy plus a little wily experience always helps. Three young village men have now run three years, so we have some experience in James, George and Ben. Other runners were Luke, Jay, Josh, Benjamin, Tim, Steve and Scott. After a brave last-minute tussle outside the Old Forge, Haughley were first over the threshold of the pub and won the 'potato planting contract'.

For me it was the best one ever. Last year, we'd just lost Graham Chaplin and Kelven Studd and I was an emotional wreck. However, as I was to take over the role of the 'vicar', last spring I thought I'd better learn how it all works. Dad brought me to the first one in 1976, I was five, my sister seven. In 1989 I drove the tractor and trailer load of Boggmen up to the farm. Kelven had done every race day dressed as a Vicar. When I was young, I thought he was a Vicar! In later days he had more sedate roles but was always involved in something, he was truly loved. Nurse Ady Smith couldn't make this one. I missed him.

I'd like to dedicate this year's 49th event (we missed one due to Covid!) to the absent founding fathers; My uncle, Ray Waspe who went too soon in November 1989, aged only 57. Eric and Eve Smale and Kelven Studd for his unwavering dedication.

Let's see what the fiftieth golden anniversary brings in 2027! I saw over sixty faces I know and countless new ones. That's a lot and great to see the support for our unique community event. Peace to all. God bless.