

WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Parish Council: www.greatfinborough.onesuffolk.net

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

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

Footpath Warden: Richard Burton - greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com

District Councillor: John Matthissen - councillor@matthissen.net

Tel: 01449 258894

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

Tel: 07545 423847

Great in Finborough Together - GiFT

Tel: 07522 171190

Pettiward Hall

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

Tel: 01449 771360

St Andrews Church: www.standrewsgtfinborough.co.uk

Rector: Rev Sarah Jenkins - revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

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

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

Church Warden: Nigel Brown 01449 675344

Great Finborough & District Gardening Club

Cath Walker - cathwalker85@gmail.com

Tel: 07843 191101

Allotments Association - Mary Smyth Tel: 01449 672533

Primary School: www.finboroughprimary.co.uk

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

Tel: 01449 613208

Gt Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's Pre-School

Delia Prior - Tel: 07513 140072

Chestnut Horse Pub - Rob & Clare Tel: 01449 674688

Candlestick Club: Keith Proctor Tel: 01449 736598

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

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

Stowmarket High School - Tel: 01449 613541

Stowmarket Health Centre - Tel: 01449 776000

Combs Ford Surgery - Tel: 01449 678333

Bildeston Surgery - Tel: 01449 740254

Stowmarket Library - Tel: 01449 613143

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - Tel: 01449 674980

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



**April 2025
ISSUE 557**

GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

2nd April 7pm	Church Parish Meet	St Andrew's
5th April 10am - 12.30pm	Easter Craft Trail	Pettiward Hall
9th April 12.30pm	Lent Lunch	Maple Lodge
21st April From lunchtime	Race of the Boggmen	Chestnut Horse
4th & 8th May	VE Celebrations	See page 21

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

7.30pm Pettiward Hall Upstairs
12th April

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

Middlefield Drive (opposite playground)

***Note new times for 2025**

MOBILE POST OFFICE - every Thursday 1.30 - 2.30pm

Middlefield Drive Car Park

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

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



The Combs and Finborough Benefice

Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland Services in April 2025

Rector: The Rev'd Sarah Jenkins, The Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, Stowmarket IP14 2AY 01449 676065
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Canon Pauline Higham, The Rectory, Woodland Close, Onehouse IP14 3HL 01449 771791
 Please contact the Reverend Sarah Jenkins at revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com if you would like details of how to join any of the Zoom services

6 April:	The Fifth 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
13 April:	The Sunday Next Before Easter, Palm Sunday	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Great Finborough
3.00 pm	Palm Sunday Procession/Service (procession starts at 2.30pm)	Little Finborough
Mon 14 April:	Holy Week	
8.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Service
Tues 15 April:	Holy Week	
8.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Service
Wed 16 April:	Holy Week	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Onehouse Trinity Hall
8.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Service
Thurs 17 April:	Holy Week – Maundy Thursday	
8.00 pm	Said Holy Communion	Buxhall
Fri 18 April:	Holy Week – Good Friday	
10.30 am	Walk of Witness	Onehouse
2.00 pm	The Hour before the Cross	Harleston
Sat 19 April:	Holy Week – Holy Saturday	
6.00 pm	Easter Vigil	Zoom Service
20 April:	Easter Day	
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Sung Eucharist	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion by Extension	Harleston
9.30 am	Holy Communion by Extension	Shelland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Combs
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
27 April:	The Second Sunday of Easter	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Buxhall
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Onehouse
11.00am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough

Weekday Services

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



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REWTS

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

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

Welcome to the April Newsletter:

After many years at the helm, Mary and David Preece are hanging up their duties as custodians of Pettiward Hall.

Over the years they have been instrumental in not only the smooth running and upkeep of the Hall but also raising many, many thousands of pounds in grants and funding to help with its upkeep. The Parish Council would like to pass on their deepest thanks to them both.

April sees the much anticipated Race of the Boggmen. Simon Waspe has kindly put pen to paper to give some background on this truly unique and enjoyable event. If you are keen to RUN the Boggman, then please let me know so we can fully recreate 2 teams fiercely competing!

Our new website is now up and running:
www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk

Please take time to look through and if you see any areas needing correcting, please email clerk@finboroughparishcouncil.org.uk. There are still areas where content is still to come in but we very much want this site to celebrate what's great in Great Finborough.

At our recent Parish Council meeting, residents expressed their concerns for the volume and size of vehicles using Combs Lane. We have asked the County Council to see what can be done as it's also adding to increase and frequency of potholes along this stretch.

Finally, on the 27th April, we will be finishing the area around the new village bench. Any volunteers to help move and spread topsoil and then seed the area will be much appreciated.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Ant Mann
finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Buxhall Community Council

Save the date

Burger, Bun and Bingo: 7th June 2025

Village Show: 6th September

Bangers Beans and Bingo: 22nd November

St John's Church Onehouse

VE 80th Anniversary coffee morning/cake sale and fundraiser

We will be having our usual stalls at this event on Saturday 3rd of May at Trinity Hall, Onehouse from 10am until 12 noon. The stalls consist of cakes, books, plants, games, tombola and raffle.

If you can support we will very much appreciate it.

Many Thanks.



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GiFT

Since the launch on 1 March of Finborough's very own good neighbour scheme, we have recruited another 7 volunteers and have helped several people in the village with practical tasks and offered emotional support.

At any point in our lives, we can suddenly find we need help or support and should never be reluctant to ask. There are some things we can all do to make it easier to be helped, should the need arise. Note these are not only relevant late in life and/or if we live alone:

1. Make a list of who should be contacted in an emergency. Put it somewhere obvious at home. Share it with someone you trust.
2. Make sure someone you trust, or the emergency services, can access your home in an emergency. Think about installing a key safe on an outside wall.
3. If you get stuck indoors/fall or fall ill at home or in your garden, have your phone with you.
4. If you have already had one fall, consider asking your GP for referral to the Falls Service and/or order a community alarm.
5. Sort out power of attorney soon, just in case you lose the ability to make your own decisions about your finances because of illness or accident.

GiFT can help with any or all these suggestions - and lots more besides. Call/message 07522 171190. Make a note of the number or refer to the back page of any newsletter.

GiFT Team

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:

facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough



Gardening Club

It isn't quite spring yet, but we have already had some beautiful sunny days to tempt us into the garden. Unfortunately, the lovely weather was short-lived, and temperatures have fallen again. However, the daffodils round the village are in full bloom and giving us a taste of what is to come as the weather gets warmer.

Our March meeting was an engaging talk from Clive Boase of Climate Change Gardening a newly formed charity whose aim is to educate gardeners about the small changes that can make a big difference. Clive talked about the different approaches we could take to gardening. He explained how we could "accept and adapt" by using drought tolerant plants for higher temperatures and we could "soften the impact" by planting for shade and joining together with other gardens to become part of a green corridor.

He also had ideas of how we could reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by switching from petrol to electric tools and how we could keep carbon in the soil by using no dig gardening methods and using compost and mulch.

Clive's message was that there are 25 million gardeners in the UK and if everyone made changes it would add up to making a big difference. Our next regular meeting will be on 10th April at 7.30pm. This meeting will be a talk on flower power by Ruth Goudy from Kiln farm.

The planning for Open Gardens on Sunday 22 June 2025 is in full swing and we will need some volunteers to help to make the event a success. A sign up sheet will be available at our next meeting.

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

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

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



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We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



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St Andrews Church Great Finborough

Lent Lunch



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

You will be most welcome

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



BUXHALL WI

Spring is just around the corner and bulbs are beginning to bloom. Our guest speaker for February was unable to join us and so very kindly David Nicholson joined us and gave a talk on HIDDEN LONDON. A very informative talk on different buildings, monuments and sites that we all walk past when visiting London and not realising they are there and the history on how they came to be there. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments, raffle and closed with THE KING. If you are interested in joining the WI please pop along to a future meeting or contact Jill (details below).

Forthcoming guest speakers -
16th April 2025: Charlie & The Dig

Venue: 7.30pm at Buxhall Village Hall

Jill Scarff (07876254314)
(Minute Secretary) jill@scarff.co.uk



I've recently found myself living alone after the breakdown of my relationship. My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?

Here are some steps you can take to ease your financial worries:

1. Single Person Discount: Since you're now living alone, you can receive a 25% discount on your council tax. Make sure to notify your local council that you're the only adult in the household. Even if the person who left has been gone for some time, you're entitled to the discount from their departure date.
 2. Disregarded People: If there are people living with you who are disregarded for council tax purposes (such as full-time students, under-18s, long-term hospital patients, etc.), it can reduce the number of people considered for council tax purposes, possibly leading to a discount. You can check online for a list of who counts as disregarded.
 3. Second Adult Rebate: If there's another adult living with you who is on a low income or receiving certain benefits, you could be eligible for a 'second adult rebate,' which reduces your council tax.
 4. Disability Reduction: If you or anyone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted for that disability, you might be eligible to have your council tax band reduced. For example, a band C property that's been adapted for a disabled resident could be re-banded to a band B property, which would lower your bill.
 5. Council Tax Reduction (CTR): If you have a low income, you can apply for a Council Tax Reduction, which may lower your bill. The council will ask about your income and circumstances to determine if you qualify. If you've reached State Pension age, different rules may apply.
 6. Discretionary Reduction: In cases of severe financial hardship, your council can offer a discretionary reduction, which can reduce or even cancel your council tax. You will need to provide evidence of your situation. If you're denied this reduction, you can appeal to a valuation tribunal, which could order the council to reduce or cancel your bill.
 7. Seek Help: It's essential to communicate with your local council. If you're struggling, let them know as soon as possible. You can also reach out to Citizens Advice for assistance in navigating your options.
- You can check out our website for more information on disregarded people, getting a second adult rebate and how to appeal a valuation on our website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>



Buxhall Community Council
invite you to a
"Lest we forget"
Family Fun Quiz
(plus raffle)

A celebration of 80 years

Saturday 10th May

7:30pm at

Buxhall Village Hall



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Great Finborough Garden Club



SAVE THE DATE

Open Gardens

In Great Finborough

On Sunday 22nd June 2025

12.00 to 5.00

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

Newsletter Advertising

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

If you would like to advertise, please email:

finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

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



London Marathon Fundraising

Hello lovely residents of Great Finborough! We are Hayley Peters and Jude Kemp and we are both running this year's London Marathon on Sunday the 27th of April. You will likely spot Hayley running in and around Buxhall and Jude up and down Valley Lane - we are busy working parents and are squeezing in lots of training to ensure we can raise precious funds for the charities close to our hearts.

We would be very grateful if you might be able to sponsor us a little to help our causes and to give us an extra boost and motivation in our training - you will see QR codes below which will take you straight to our fundraising pages.

If you see us out running, please give us a beep or a wave - it makes our day!

Thank you H and J xx

Hayley

I am raising funds for the **'National Deaf Childrens Society'**. I have three young children, our youngest Busby was born with profound hearing loss which resulted in him being unable to hear until an operation last year. As a family it was a tough time but we worked together learning and teaching sign to our family. During Busby's diagnosis & surgery we were incredibly well supported by charities for the Deaf like NDCS, raising funds for them from running the marathon is my way of giving back to give other families hope that are born with similar difficulties.



Jude

As a former teacher and now a parent, I believe in changing children's outcomes and my professional role supports the education of children in care. I see first hand how children need stable homes, understanding teachers, care and love to enable them to thrive. I am running for the **'Childhood First'** charity which gives children in care better access to emotional and therapeutic support. I know we can support our children to break the cycle and have a bright future. Thank you for sponsoring me!



Village Improvements

As a Parish Council we are always looking at ideas and opportunities to improve the village we live in. The recent new circular bench and village sign improvements are 2 obvious examples.

But we are keen to know what **YOU THINK** we need in the village.

There are often grants and funding we can apply for or use funding already in place. The playpark at Middlefield Drive represents a joint funding initiative from external organisations to deliver a much-used asset in the village.

If you have idea, no matter how big or small, we would love to hear from you. It could be something as simple as a new bench or litter bin in Woodpecker Hill, through to a zebra crossing or improved speed cameras on the High Road. We can't guarantee all ideas will happen but it's good to start somewhere!

Please email: finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com, suggestions can be anonymous if preferred.

St Andrew's Church

St Andrew's Annual parish meeting will be held in the church at 7pm on the 2nd April.

All are welcome and it is the opportunity to hear what has happened in the last 12 months and what is planned for the year ahead.



Stowmarket Methodist Church, Regent Street IP14 1RH

All welcome

Sunday Morning Worship – every week at 10:30 am

Coffee Cake and Conversation – 3rd Wednesday each month – 16th April 2025

Guided Meditation group for Wellbeing and Relaxation/stress and anxiety relief. Led by qualified practitioner. 10:30 for 11 am start. Refreshments provided.

Caring for each other and God's creation

Announcing *Skulduggery in Stowmarket*, Saturday April 26th 2025



Stowmarket Library's Skulduggery team is excited to announce this year's fast-approaching crime fiction festival.

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Saturday 26th and meet our guest authors: Barbara Nadel, Kate Rhodes, Tom Mead, Sophie Morton–Thomas, Alison Bruce, & Bridget Walsh. Tickets are £5 per author, or £15 for all-day Saturday. Light refreshments are available throughout the day.



Book your place:

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/resources/skulduggery-in-stowmarket

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

First Buxhall Summer Fayre

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



Saturday 16th August 2025 12 Noon to 4pm

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Fee: £10 per 6 ft table
plus a draw prize
donation

Come and sell your
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preloved items

Contact Sally
07934047612,
alpaca63@msn.com

Emily 07964045373,
emilybyam1@gmail.com

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



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The Chestnut Horse



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~~~~~

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~ You can book the extension for your function any day of the week

~~~~~

Spring Opening Times

Wednesday & Thursday 12-3 and 5-8 (serving food 12-2 & 5-8)

Friday & Saturday 12-8 (serving food 12-2 & 5-8)

Sunday 12-8 (serving food 12-4)

Sunday Roasts - from 12pm

Open for May Bank Holidays

Regular:

Weekly Wednesday - Texas Hold'em Poker Nights - register by 7pm

Every 1st Thursday - Open Mic Night with Jax

Every 3rd Thursday - Quiz Nights

What's On:

Race of the Boggmen Monday 21st April

Check out our Facebook page for more details!

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

Contact the Parish Council:

greatfinboroughfootpaths@gmail.com

Pettiward Hall

Little Ernie

The winners in the March (and final) draw were Sally Nurton and Hazel Terry. They each won £7.50. Thank you again to all those that have supported the hall by buying lottery tickets over the years.

Bookings

At the time of writing I don't know who the new Bookings Secretary will be as this will be decided at the committee meeting immediately following the AGM on 26 March. In the meantime, if you wish to book the hall, please contact me and I will pass your request on to the relevant person.

Details of the new contact will appear in the May newsletter.

Mary Preece

Do you like Sociable Sewing?

The "Sew Silly" group meets once a month to work on their various projects.

We have machine and hand sewers working on quilts, tapestry, soft toy making, dressmaking, mending, making bags etc any "Clean" craft is acceptable. There is lots of table space to spread out and an ironing station.

We chat and discuss; help is available and we learn from each other but it is not a teaching group. We all bring our own packed lunch, drinks are provided, and we each pay £10 towards room hire and refreshment costs.

If you would like to join us (or pop in and see what we do) we meet in Stowmarket Methodist Church Hall, Regent Street IP14 1RH on the first Friday of each month 10-3pm .

This month's Meeting is Friday 4 th April

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01449 678100

Stowmarket Eco Future Group

ECO-ENERGY example:

"This is my experience of investing in insulation, solar panels and an air-source heat pump to reduce my carbon footprint. It's saving me money too.

Solar panels were my first purchase in 2020. I also invested in solar batteries that allow me to store solar energy for use in the evenings. Any excess energy I sell back to the grid...not a huge money earner but it mounts up in the summer, when I have no electric bills and build up credit instead. I switched my tariff to Octopus Energy Cosy tariff, especially for heat pump owners. This gives me three three-hour low-cost windows during the day. I can use these periods to wash or cook...and I can charge the batteries from the grid during these times in the winter when there is not enough sun.

Insulation came next...the house has adequate insulation but as there was (and still is) a discount grant from Mid Suffolk Green Initiative, I took the opportunity to renew and double my loft insulation.

I then swapped my gas boiler for an air source heat pump, as there was (and still is), a government grant to help do this. The ASHP runs continually at a low level....and what a difference that made to the house! All the rooms are always at the same temperature....and I don't have a mould problem anymore because it's always warm and dry. The air quality has improved noticeably too.

My electric bill last year was under £700....this is with two people and a constantly warm house. This is my story of successfully adopting new technologies for the sake of the planet...but also finding that it benefits me at the same time!"

Insulation grants: cosyhomes@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk phone 0300 1234000 (Option 7) www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme

stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk | stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com

Letter from the Rector

Well at last the clocks have moved forward an hour and the days will be getting lighter, a welcome return after the cold and dark of winter! Within the church we are still observing Lent but on Sunday 13h April we will celebrate the joy of Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey with the crowds cheering him. This year we will have a service at Little Finborough which will involve a procession from the Punch Bowl pub in Battisford Tye, starting off at 2.30pm, to the church for a service at 3pm. Do come and join us if you can!

One question that is often asked is why does the feast of Easter move from year to year? In the West, Easter this year will be observed on Sunday, April 20th . Easter is a "movable feast" that is always held on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th . You may wonder why do the Easter dates change but Christmas doesn't? The reason for this is that Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon which is specifically the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or after the March or spring equinox. Quite confusing!

We have a number of different services taking place across our group of seven churches from Palm Sunday on 13th April, through Holy Week to the celebration of Easter on Sunday 20th April. You will be able to find details of these services in the magazine and we look forward to welcoming you to our churches at this Easter time.

**With blessings,
Revd Sarah**

THANK YOU

I want you to know how much I appreciate all the help, kindness and good wishes I have received since my husband, Syd, became ill and died in December. £900 was donated in his memory to the Alzheimer's Society.

Sheena Dohoo

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Saturday 19th April

12:00 – 3:00pm

Table top games and activities for all ages are available



Please contact Hilary if you'd like to help out in any way.



hilary-hall@hotmail.co.uk



01449 737671

Supported by MSDC Living Well in Winter Grant

Future 2025 Opening Dates

17th May	20th September
21st June	11th October
19th July	15th November
August: closed	13th December



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News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

Locality Grants Awarded

The awards for 2024/25 have all been paid out now, so to inspire ideas and groups for the new year, here is a list of items funded for the communities this time.

Village Marquee	Spring bulbs & beehive
Mowever for Allotments Assoc	Backdrops for the Jubilee Players
Projector	New Toddler Group
Strimmer	Cycle Racks & goal posts
Good Neighbour Support Scheme	Playground swings
Stow Striders portable lighting	

Applications for awards will open in May, and your District Council has increased the budget to £10,000 per councillor for the 2025/26 year, so please start considering community needs and improvements. For information on the scheme go to the website www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk and search for Locality Awards Or just give me a call.

**Tree & hedge planting – new developments
(Repeat request as leaves are just starting to emerge now)**

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

Recycling & Repair Café

There is exciting news that the voluntary group may soon be able to accept medical blister packs for recycling once again, so start saving them, and watch out for news on social media.

Dates - Repair Café & Recycling - Red Gables Sunday April 13, Market Stall Thursday April 24

You can find out more about the Repair Café here :

<https://stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk/repair-cafe/>

Councillor John Matthissen 01449 258894 or 07976 308128

councillor@matthissen.net | Council Phone No: 0300 123 4000

2 Brick Kiln Cottages, Barretts Lane, Needham Market IP6 8RZ

A bit of Boggman & Steve Hammond history

Steve was born at home in Mildmay Road Ipswich in 1951. He attended St Helens Primary School in Woodbridge Road near the Dove Pub. In WW2 Steve's Dad was a stoker on a mine sweeper based in Lowestoft Docks. In the 1950's Steve's parents moved into a general store on the corner of Bartholomew Street and Spring Road Ipswich. Dad was still working as a builder and driving a lorry for Scruttons potato merchants. Sadly the shop couldn't make a profit so it closed.

The family moved to Stowmarket in 1961 when Steve was just aged 10. His role moved to a new High School built in Onehouse Road on farm land that was part of Chilton Hall. The family moved into a bungalow next to the school. Steve loved the open space behind of the cricket and rugby pitches. Young Steve helped the groundsman plant some poplar trees which grew quickly and were still on the hill top in 2025. He failed his eleven plus so had to attend the old Grammer School in Violet Hill Road. He still remembers getting his new school uniform in Inces shop aged 10. They were knocking down the Palladium (the flea pit as it was known) which was almost opposite in Ipswich Street and he could hear the noise of the demolition.

His first visit to Great Finborough and The Chestnut Horse Pub was aged 15 in 1966. He played Rugby for Stowmarket Needles. They came to play at Finborough Hall on the grass. There were two tiny showers at the back of the pub they used. These were ridiculous. 30 men trying to stand on something as big as a sink. Two outside bogs were at the pub behind a sheet of tin. The parlour was where the inside toilets are now at the right end of the pub.

He recalls a large table of sandwiches being provided for the players. Steve could run fast and played on the wing. He used to come up to the farm at Boyton Hall with his mum to buy eggs and pick strawberries in the summer. He knew of its existence from a school boy and its prominence on the hill top which provides some amazing views 360 degrees. He loved playing in the woods each side of the hall drive.

It was alleged that my Dad Trevor's little brother Ray found the original Bogg Race contract dated 1896 in the loft at the farm house whilst doing roof repairs in 1977. The first reenactment of the race occurred in 1978 starting at The Chestnut Horse pub on The High Road in the centre of the village opposite one of the greens on which a large Chestnut Tree stands.

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations Join in the party: A shared moment of celebration

In addition to the national celebrations to celebrate this important anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we will be holding two events in the village which we'd love you to take part in:



Sunday 4 May 2025, 5.30pm: 1940's themed party

Bring along a plate of food to share and your favourite tipples to enjoy and get ready to party like it is 1945! After all, on Monday it's a bank holiday!

Why not dig out your tea-dresses/ uniforms and get into the spirit of things? It isn't obligatory to dress up but we will be making awards to those with the best 1940's looks!

A raffle will be held and donations will be invited to cover costs (with any excess funds being used to support the Pettward Hall).

Thursday 8 May 2025 7pm: Dairy Farm, Valley Lane

As we don't have a village beacon, Bex and David have very kindly agreed once again to light a bonfire in their beautiful garden. We will be offering a barbecue (small charge), good company and children's games from 7pm.

Donations and any profit from the barbecue to go to the Royal British Legion.

WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE ABLE TO:

- Volunteer to help set up/ run these events
- Make donations in support of these events

AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORGANISE ADDITIONAL VILLAGE ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE VE DAY 80

Lee & Cathy Morgan (07967 665025/ leemorgan3232@gmail.com)

Hop on over for our

EASTER

Stick Man themed
Craft Trail!

Come and join us on

Saturday 5th April 2025
10:00 am – 12.30 pm
starting at
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Refreshments,
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Raffle to enjoy in the
hall

For some egg-citing
Stick Man fun!



It used to be a farmhouse years ago and the pub was The White Horse. That building is now a house and stands on the corner of Church Road opposite the village hall.

The 2 teams were then transported in a tractor and trailer up to the farm to race back to the pub. Eric and Eve Smales ran the pub then. At the time it was washed green and owned by brewers Greene King in Bury St Edmunds. Eric wore his slippers in 1978. In 1979 he had the inner door taken off its hinges!

In 1896 the farmer at Boyton Hall a Mr Joseph John Hatton hired a team of village 'min' to plant his potatoes. On the day they'd all got drunk and failed to turn up so he sacked the lot. His friend Mr William Boggis from Oulton Broad near Lowestoft was staying at Boyton Hall at the time with his brother. He had a colleague living in a nearby village and he found a new gang to do the work for Mr Hatton in nearby Haughley which is north west of Stowmarket, Great Finborough being south west. The next morning both teams turned up to do the work. Mr Boggis suggested that both teams assembled in the farm yard. The contract would be thrown in the air. Originally any team member could enter the pub with the contract and win the work. Later on each team of 'min' appointed a 'Bogg Man' who had a white cross painted on his face. Only he could win the race and then get his team the work by being the first one crossing over the threshold by entering the front door of the Chestnut Horse. The event was repeated annually on Easter Monday for fun until 1914 when WW1 began and too many young men were sent off to fight. It was Steve Hammond's idea to bring it alive again following Ray's discovery. He thought of other events to make an afternoon of it.

Egg and spoon races for all ages. The youngest class is 0 to 5 so if you're not born yet you can run! Egg throwing; here 2 people toss an egg over the bunting and their friend is expected to catch it without it smashing. If successful it's repeated tossing it back over the high bunting after stepping back to the next distance marker painted on the road. This continues getting further apart until the egg gets smashed. Over time there had been a tug of war, pram racing where the baby clearly isn't a baby and a play. It can appeal to all age groups.

One year they had a play on Good Friday. Steve created a group of Serbian circus entertainers based around himself and his mate 'Hicky' Colin called 'The Intrepid Baldinies.'

Colin having appeared as a baby in a pram race went onto become The Headmaster of Tottenham School in London.

When Steve moved to London teaching he brought up many colleagues from Southall to take part. Steve visited local graveyards to find local characters and research them for ideas. John Goodluck had a folk band that played in The Pettiward Hall just near the pub at the inaugural event in 1978.

There was no Bogg Race in 1985 as Swine Fever was rife in pig herds. They had a boat race drinking beer instead. In 2001 it was cancelled again because of foot and mouth disease. Steve couldn't be involved in 2001 or 2003 as his children were born. Steve's girlfriend Elizabeth Coruthers lived in London but came up to Suffolk to take part. She attended teacher training school but became a book binder and moved to Edinburgh. She rebound a book made on Suffolk created in 1813.

My age group will remember Mike Simpson we called Lenny who was a serious accountant and a South American Andreas Rambligam we called Golly. Jason AKA Porky was a legend. They all came up from London to race in the Haughley Team.

Bladder Bashing

Steve's mum was horrified to come home one day to find a washing line full of pigs bladders drying in the breeze after he had washed them to get them clean. He got them from Norfolk and Suffolk Pigs slaughterhouse in Old Newton. He thought up the idea drinking in the Queens Head in Stowmarket, a pub still there opposite Stowmarket Church.

Two teams would compete in a race rolling blown up pigs bladders by hitting them with sticks on a pub crawl in the town. It started at The Queens, then the King William, The Pickerel in Stowupland Road and finished at the Old Maltings near the railway station which had just opened up as a night club.

They had a boatrace drinking pints of beer in each of the four bars. Steve used to host medieval banquets where he appeared as the jester. His nephew at just 14 was bladder boy initially carrying them all on a pole. They were inflated using a bicycle pump. On the first attempt Steve over inflated it which burst and showered his brother with cold pigs urine.

I wish to thank Steve on behalf of the Parish for his ideas and tenacity to keep going through 6 decades. It has been a fun part of many lives for so long; generations now of families. It keeps it a free gathering for the community. I drove the tractor and trailer of Bogg 'Min' to the farm, once I think was 1989. Chris Davey filmed the event on his video recorder that year. It still exists at Abbey Farm Cottage ! I have declined to ever actually officially run the race nor throw eggs. The dogs love clearing up the broken ones!

My Great Grandad William Herbert Waspe first moved into Boyton Hall when he took the tenancy from Squire Pettiward in 1906 . In 1914 he wanted to raise some money to send his 2 daughters travelling the world so William bought the house and land and 4 workers cottages. 120 years on my family still farm it. I'm proud of that and that my family have been part of this tradition since 1978. It's quite special. Time brings an end to most things. 2027 will be the 50th year of The Race of the Boggmen!

Simon Waspe

