

WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

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

Chair: Ant Mann - finboroughcouncillormann@gmail.com

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

Pettiward Hall

Lettings/Keyholder: Cathy Morgan

pettiwardhallbookings@gmail.com

St Andrews Church

Rector: Rev Sarah Jenkins - revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

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

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

Church Warden: Nigel Brown 01449 675344

Great Finborough & District Gardening Club

Cath Walker - cathwalker85@gmail.com

Tel: 07843 191101

Allotments Association - Mary Smyth Tel: 01449 672533

Primary School: www.finboroughprimary.co.uk

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

Tel: 01449 613208

Gt Finborough & Buxhall Under 5's Pre-School

Delia Prior - Tel: 07513 140072

Chestnut Horse Pub - Roly & Mandy 01449 553889

Candlestick Club: Keith Proctor Tel: 01449 736598

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

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

Stowmarket High School - Tel: 01449 613541

Stowmarket Health Centre - Tel: 01449 776000

Combs Ford Surgery - Tel: 01449 678333

Bildeston Surgery - Tel: 01449 740254

Stowmarket Library - Tel: 01449 613143

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - Tel: 01449 674980

GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



December 2025 & January 2026
ISSUE 564





GREAT FINBOROUGH VILLAGE DIARY

6th Dec 10-12.30	Xmas Shopping & Santa	Pettiward Hall
14th Dec 4pm	Christingle Service	St Andrews
19th Dec 6pm	Carols at the Pub	Chestnut Horse
24th Dec 4pm	Crib Service	St Andrews

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

8th Dec 7.30pm, 12th January, 9th March - Pettiward Hall

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 December 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

7th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

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

14th December: The Third Sunday in Advent

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

16th December: Tuesday

7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight	Little Finborough
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21st December: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

24th December: Christmas Eve

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

25th December: Christmas Day

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
10.30 am	Family Communion	Onehouse

28th December: The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Onehouse Trinity Hall
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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 (including 27 th December)

Your Local NHS Community First Responders

On behalf of your Ambulance Community First Responders (CFRs), I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who organised and attended the recent Village Quiz Night at Pettward Hall. Your incredible generosity raised over £600 for the local responder group.

Every penny goes directly towards keeping us operational, funding vital equipment and ongoing training so we can continue to respond to 999 emergencies right here in your community. It was wonderful for my partner, Melissa, and me, to finally meet so many of you in person on the night. We've been made to feel so welcome since moving to the village a year ago, thank you all. Also, a big thank you to Roly and Mandy at The Chestnut Horse for their separate donation following their pub quiz night! Once again, this funding goes straight back into the community we proudly serve.

With winter approaching, the NHS Ambulance Service is already feeling the strain. This makes local CFR groups more important than ever to ensure that medical help arrives as quickly as possible. In October alone, your local team attended over 20 emergency calls in and around Great Finborough including sepsis, breathing difficulties, and even cardiac arrests, where we were first on scene to each, providing immediate life-saving support before the blue-light ambulance arrived. So these donations really do save lives!

Three of our members have also recently completed 'Restart a Heart' instructor training, meaning we can now teach members of the public vital skills such as CPR and the use of a community Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which, thanks to the Parish Council, we are fortunate to have right here in the village. If any local group would like free training in CPR, AED use, or basic first aid, please get in touch. We recently ran a child-friendly session for the Boys' Brigade in Combs Ford and will soon be offering training to the Stowmarket Police Cadets and Great Finborough Primary School pupils in early 2026. To arrange a session, contact Richard.Lock@eastamb.nhs.uk, we'd love to help your group gain the skills that can truly save a life.

From all of us on the local CFR team, we wish you a fantastic Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2026!

Richard Lock

Welcome to the December/January Newsletter:

Earlier in November, the Parish Council Finance Committee met to plan the budget for April 2026 to March 2027. The meeting focused on reviewing the council's expected income and expenditure for the year ahead. Once this is calculated, the council can set the precept—the amount that appears on your council tax bill and is paid directly to the Parish Council.

The precept is one of the council's main sources of income and helps to fund a wide range of local services, including grass cutting, play park insurance, general maintenance, and the regular emptying of dog waste bins. Each area of spending is carefully reviewed to account for any likely cost increases from suppliers.

In addition to the precept, the council receives funding from new housing developments through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This money is considered strategically to determine how it can best be used—both to support existing commitments and to fund new projects, such as the recently installed Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

The council also maintains a reserve fund to cover unexpected costs. Even with careful planning, unforeseen issues can arise. For example, a few years ago, trees on parish land had to be professionally felled, an expensive but necessary safety measure.

This summary offers just a glimpse into the financial planning that supports our village. We hope it helps explain how funds are managed and, if needed, why changes to the precept may occur.

In November, with help from other residents we repainted the lines in the car park; this saved the village £900. We still have a bit to do but well done all. Also, we tackled the overgrown hedges near the football pitch which had completely consumed the original footpath.

Sadly, I have to report of issues with dog mess on some of our paths. Please use the bins around the village to dispose of correctly and don't leave near or around the bins.

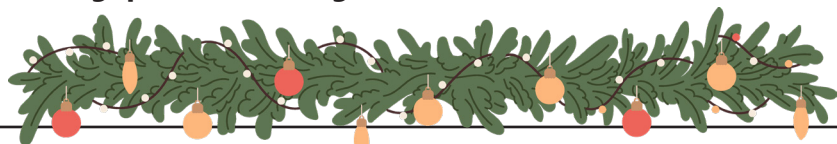
It was great to see the 'Tommy' figures on the village green, a small gesture but hugely impactful.

I have experienced issues with my parish council email address. We are looking to rectify this but in the interim, to get in touch, please use finboroughcouncillormann@gmail.com or the newsletter email address below.

Finally, may I offer season greetings and thanks to all advertisers, contributors and those who help behind the scenes to put the newsletter together.

Wishing you all a great Christmas break and happy New Year.

Ant Mann
finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com



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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Buxhall and Great Finborough

'Candlestick Club'



The Candlestick Club is hosting a Bingo, Raffle and Buffet on
Thursday 8 January 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 have a membership of 52 and meet at Buxhall village hall on the
3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm

Our membership is growing and all enjoying meetings, trips and
holidays. We have a varied programme to keep us entertained
through the winter months. Our speaker in October was Steve

Green FAST & FURIOUS or should we say driving at a mature age. The evening was very
informative, lots of questions asked and advice given as to where to look on websites for
safe driving. A highway code test was put upon us at the end, we got most of them
correct!

SPEAKERS/EVENTS:

10th December 2025 - Buxhall WI Christmas meal and entertainment

21st January 2026 - Stowmarket Workhouse & the Paupers Grave - Julie Johnson

Jill Scarff
jill@scarff.co.uk

Great Finborough & District Garden Club

The change to darker nights reminds us that Christmas is fast approaching and we can start planning how to bring our gardens inside and make the most of the natural foliage we have in abundance around the village.

Our November meeting was a fascinating talk by Chris Wiley about Sustainable Horticulture. He talked about his lifelong passion for plants and how his career has progressed over the years including founding his web based company the "Sustainable Plant Store Ltd" and introducing a new sweet pea at the 2022 Chelsea Flower Show. He gave advice about reducing waste for landfill, saving water, using locally sourced or low carbon footprint plants and containers all to help us ensure a greener future. He also talked about his new venture developing an AI app for plant advice and care. The meeting was enjoyable and well attended.

Our annual members Christsmas party takes place on Thursday 4th December which is an opportunity to get together and catch up while sharing some delicious food. Details have been sent to members.

Following last years success we are also holding our second Christmas Wreath making workshop in Pettward Hall on Saturday 6th December at 2pm for a couple of hours. Full details have been sent out to members but if any non members would like details then please contact me on the email address below. Fingers crossed we don't have any power cuts this year!

There is no meeting in January, so our next regular meeting will be on 12 February at 7.30pm. This meeting will be a Willow Weaving workshop by Deborah Hart. There will be a chance to make your own willow snail to take home or have fun watching others.

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



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Obituary

Dugal Nisbet-Smith, aged 90 years, died peacefully at home on 13 November 2025, having left his native New Zealand long ago. He lived in the village with his wife, Ann, for many years. His working life was in journalism and newspapers, and it took him all over the world. He held very senior positions in the news organisations that dominated Britain in the second half of the 20th century. He knew, was respected by, and influenced many senior politicians and other leaders. In 1980 he was managing director of Times Newspapers Ltd. Awarded a CBE for services to the newspaper industry, when retiring as director of the Newspaper Society after 14 years in 1997, Dugal was presented with the Society's President's Prize, seldom awarded.

In a long and fruitful retirement, Dugal became a sculptor and produced many works of art. He read and increased his knowledge voraciously, retaining his interest in current affairs and world events to the very end. His discourse was always filled with humour and immense detail, achieved with the unstinting support of Ann - herself having had a notable medical career. Dugal enjoyed his home, garden, good food and friends. He appreciated the loyal support of Michaela over nearly 2 decades. Most of all he loved and spoke proudly of his 3 children and many grandchildren. He is and will be sadly missed.



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Non-members wild birdseed order form for February 2026

The next order will be placed on **11 February 2026** the birdseed collection will be on **Wednesday 18 February 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

Name

Tele No.

Product	Weight	Price	Quantity	Cost
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg	£14.00		
W.B.M. Premium	20kg	£16.50		
W.B.M No Wheat	20kg	£20.00		
W.B.M NEW High Energy	12.75 kg	£18.00		
W.B.M. No Mess	12.75 kg	£18.00		
W.B.M Robin & Songbird	12.75 kg	£18.00		
Finch Mix	20 kg	£17.00		
Mixed Corn	20 kg	£12.50		
SUPER Poultry Mix	20kg	£14.00		
Peanuts (superior quality)	20 kg	£38.00		
Peanuts (half sack)	10 kg approx.	£20.00		
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg	£19.00		
Sunflower Kernels	20 kg	£30.00		
Sunflower Kernels	10kg approx.	£16.00		
Nyjer Seed	20kg	£43.00		
Nyjer Seed	10kg approx.	£24.00		
Suet Pellets	12.75kgs	£21.00		
Suet Balls (Superior quality)	Price each	14p		
	150 £21/Box			

Style@Stow Fashion

St Andrew's Church Wednesday 15th April.

We are looking for ladies (any size between 10 to 18) who would be willing to 'walk the catwalk'

If you are interested, please text 07766196612

Tickets (to include a drink and 'nibbles') will be on sale in the new year...

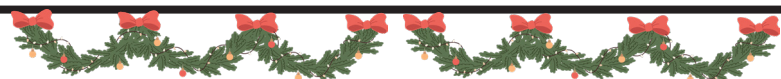
Letter from the Rector

As I write this I've already seen many Christmas adverts on television so we're obviously hurtling towards the festive season! 2025 has been another busy year across the villages that make up our benefice of seven parish churches. And now we turn to one of the most important times of the Christian calendar, the birth of Jesus, on the 25th December. Preparing for Christmas can be quite stressful and this year, while we're still experiencing a cost of living crisis, that pressure can overwhelm us. We can run ourselves into the ground trying to find the perfect present and preparing a Christmas feast for our family and friends. The most important thing to us though is time, time to spend with our loved ones, time to spend volunteering with those who are struggling, time just to be ourselves and to prepare to welcome the birth of Jesus.

We will be hosting a number of Christmas services across our seven parishes and there should be something for everyone. Details can be found elsewhere in the magazine but if you find the busyness of Christmas just too much, please do think about joining us at our candlelit, quiet service of Holy Communion at 6pm on Christmas Eve at St Mary's, Combs. We look forward to welcoming you at one of our Christingle, Carol, or Crib services so do please come and join us as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world.

Sending all good wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

**With blessings,
Revd Sarah**



**Carols at the Chestnut Horse:
Friday 19th December, 6pm**

**Supporting
St Andrews Church, Great Finborough**

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- 45 minute session
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- ✓ Scenic off-road routes
- ✓ Race pack & finisher medal
- ✓ Exciting prizes & lucky draws
- ✓ Childrens Race 1.5 miles 10 am start
- ✓ Running Race 4 miles 10.30 am start
- ✓ Ramble 4 mile 10.45 am start



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-first-four-miles-buxhall-new-years-trail-tickets-1794794571879> @happyruncoach 07786 315339

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.

Everyone welcome.

Ant Mann 07968 154171

Great in Finborough Together (GiFT)

Our village good neighbour scheme has had several new referrals in the last month and a dozen of our volunteers have been engaged in providing 'gifts' of time and help. We hope you've kept the flyer from last month's edition (although the phone number is on the back page of every newsletter). You can phone or message to ask for or offer to help. Please keep sending through your personal recommendations of trades and professionals you have used and can recommend to others.

If you know someone is moving in to the village (or arrived this year) please let us know so we can welcome them and explain GiFT. Years ago we had a welcome pack for new residents. If you think we should produce an updated version, and/or can contribute to it, please get in touch.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their willingness to help over this first year. We wish all our gifters and gift receivers a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are going to be on your own for any part of the festive season and don't want to be, please let us know. We may be able to help.

GiFT Steering Team

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Archeological Treasures

Footpath users on the 'three bridges' route will have noticed the excavations in the field below the reservoir. The trees and topsoil have been removed in preparation for the construction of a second reservoir to feed the golf course. An extended archaeological survey took place between 13 October and 7 November.

The archaeological team has uncovered some probably medieval drains and ditches which will be recorded and mapped. A brick-making clamp believed to date from the 16th century was uncovered, which may signify the site was used for firing bricks, possibly to aid the construction of Finborough Hall.

The discovery adds a fascinating layer to our heritage.

Felicity Cloake



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Saturday 20th December - Christmas Decoration making

Every 3rd Saturday of the month
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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

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who has attended our 2025 events. It has been a pleasure to see our events have been so well supported and appreciated over the last year.

We are currently planning our 2026 programme, so please do let us know if you have any suggestions for future events in Buxhall.

Confirmed dates for 2026

21st February: Bangers Beans and Bingo

6th June : Burger, Bun and Bingo

5th September: Buxhall Village Show

21st November: Bangers, Beans and Bingo

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from Buxhall Community Council**



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Mid Suffolk

With it coming up to Christmas, I want to do more shopping online, but there's been things in the news about delivery problems. I'm worried about not receiving things on time or packages being lost. What should I do if my parcel goes missing?

When you're online shopping, it's not always clear whom to contact if things go wrong.

As a customer your contract is with the seller that you bought the item from. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. They should chase the courier to find out what happened to your order if there's a problem.

If your parcel hasn't arrived:

- Check the delivery address you gave the seller, to make sure it's correct.
- Then contact the seller and ask where your order is.
- If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential, and you let the seller know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, you can ask the seller to deliver the item to you again if the item wasn't delivered either by an agreed date, or within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days. If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time, you can ask the seller for a refund.

Another problem people face is when parcels get left in different places, for example outside or with a neighbour.

Cont.

If your item was delivered by Royal Mail:

- And they left your package with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility if it gets lost.
- If they leave it somewhere you hadn't instructed, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund.

If the item was delivered by a courier:

- Check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's or courier's responsibility if your order has gone missing. However, if you did not agree to this, then it's the seller's responsibility if your order goes missing.

If you ordered something from a private seller or you're still having trouble after trying the tips above, you can find out more via the Citizens Advice website at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer>

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.

Did you know we have a Village Facebook page?

Take a look at:
facebook.com/parishcouncilgreatfinborough



Stowmarket Eco Future Group "I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas"

Be GREEN on BLACK FRIDAY

Statistics around seasonal spending during November vary, but what is clear is that spending on Black Friday in the UK regularly tops 1 billion pounds. Everyone loves a bargain it seems. "Green thinking" knows the real cost of an item and asks some important questions before deciding on a purchase. What impact does the item have on the Environment over its lifetime? How is it packaged? Where was it made?

What impact will producing/ transporting/using it have on the planet? How will it eventually be disposed of? Even – do I really need it? Can I Repair, Reuse, Recycle instead of buying new? The cost of an item is not just £ and pence when it is purchased but its impact on people and environment.

GIVE GREEN Please consider Green gifts – plants, seeds, trees, eco goods and keep an eye on the plastic and packaging that doing Christmas traditionally generates. Can you get clever with your wrapping by using fabric or brown paper – try decorating parcels with leaves or natural objects etc? Why not get the kids making decorations and have a wonderful time doing it? One of the pleasures of decorating the tree is rediscovering favourite or memorable items that appear regularly each year.

There seems to be a lot more conversation this year about having a more personal crafted and reused Christmas that is meaningful, than buying lots of new stuff, especially things that will hit the rubbish bins after a few days. I heard recently about one family who used this mantra for choosing gifts: something you want, something you need, something to wear and something to read.

Why not share your "Green Christmas " ideas with colleagues, friends and family? The Eco Group wish you and those you love a happy, waste free and sustainable

stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk | stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com



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CHRISTINGLE

**St. Andrew's Church
Great Finborough**

**14th December 2025
at 4.00pm**



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
COMBS AND FINBOROUGH
GROUP

**The
Children's
Society**



Messy Christmas!!



Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Saturday 13th December

10.30am to 12.00pm

Crafts, Stories, Songs and Food

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

Places must be booked by emailing

revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com





www.chestnuthorse.co.uk | 01449 553889

WHAT'S ON!

27th November sip and paint starts at 6.30pm

£35.00 per person includes free drink

and half time nibbles,

payment in full at time of booking, filling up quickly

28th November Live Acoustic Music with Jax Deacon

4th Dec Open Mic with Jax Deacon 7.30pm

13th Dec Jax & Co Live Music, starts 7.30pm

Open Christmas Day 11am-2pm

Boxing Day 3pm to 9pm

NYE Karaoke & Disco from 7.30pm

"Look out for our Christmas Menu, available on Facebook or ask for a copy when passing. Runs 19th Nov to 21st Dec.

Booking essential and deposit required."

Roly & Mandy

Haughley Hoofers North West Clog Dancers

We are your locally based team of North West Clog Dancers.

We warmly invite you to come along to our FREE taster afternoon on Sunday 25th January. We will be welcoming you into Haughley Village Hall, IP14 3NS between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm to join with us in learning a couple of North West Clog dances.

You don't need to have any previous experience. All you need is a pair of trainers on your feet and the wish to get a little regular exercise.

There'll be a relaxing break halfway through where we can get to know each other better over teas, coffees and home made cakes.

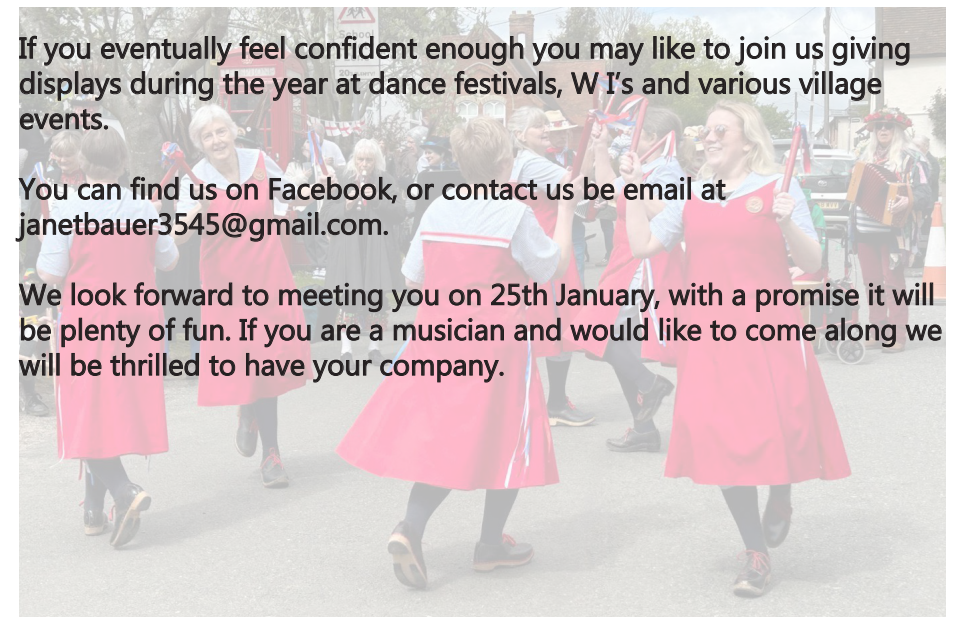
Dancing is good for us offering mental, physical and emotional health benefits. It provides an enjoyable way of exercising in a social environment, helps our balance and improves our memory.

All through the cold Winter months we meet for an hour and a half every Sunday evening to practice. Meeting on such a regular basis gives us the opportunity to form close friendships.

If you eventually feel confident enough you may like to join us giving displays during the year at dance festivals, W I's and various village events.

You can find us on Facebook, or contact us by email at janetbauer3545@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you on 25th January, with a promise it will be plenty of fun. If you are a musician and would like to come along we will be thrilled to have your company.





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Tel: 0782 5253 720

info@rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk

www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk

CRIB SERVICES

24th December 2025

2.00pm Combs Church

3.00pm Onehouse Church

4.00pm Great Finborough Church

We'd love to see you dressed as
your favourite Nativity character!



News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

Changes to bin collections

Suffolk Recycles is running a social media campaign about changes to bin collections across Mid Suffolk, due to start in 2026 in response to Government legislation. Search for www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk, click the 'Find out more' button for Better Recycling at the bottom of the page, or contact me if you cannot find answers to a question via this route.

Listed Building planning consent

Mid Suffolk and Babergh have introduced a new Local Listed Building Consent Order – the first rural councils in the country to achieve this. This means some sensitive improvements to local listed buildings can now be achieved more quickly and easily, including secondary glazing and replacement windows subject to conditions.

Food Bank

December and January are always a time of greater need, so if you can, please donate in the baskets now located in most major stores around Stowmarket.

The Hygiene Bank

People in need may be unable to afford basics such as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, nappies and sanitary products. Boots shop in the town centre has a collection box so you can donate an item or two when shopping.

Locality budget

The money for 2025/26 is now all allocated, so I am starting to note potential projects for funding from the 2026/27 budget, which will be available from May next year.

Full details available <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>

2026/27 budget, which will be available from May next year.

Full details available <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards>

Season's Greetings to everyone in our villages

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**

Village Biodiversity Plan

A village biodiversity plan is a local strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity, often created by the parish council and community. These plans typically involve surveying local wildlife, identifying threats, and outlining actions for residents and other organisations to take e.g. the Parish Council. This can include managing green spaces sustainably, considering biodiversity in planning applications, and running local conservation projects. This is part of a wider framework that includes national and regional strategies aiming to reverse biodiversity loss.

To help create our plan in Great Finborough, we would welcome input from any residents currently doing similar activity, no matter how small, such as erecting bat and bird boxes, documenting birds in your gardens or even planting hedgerows and native trees, as well as the ongoing development of our wildflower meadow and Wood-pecker Hill wood



Understanding what goes on in our village will help us shape the plan which can then be utilised when looking at bigger green space projects, as well as suggestions for future planning applications. This has already been adopted at Pettiward Hall where we erected swift boxes to encourage nesting.

As well as the positive, we can review any negative elements that are identified, such as invasive weeds or trees growing where they shouldn't and any potential threats to local wildlife.

If you already are doing some of this activity or would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Please email: finboroughpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pettiward Hall

Beer & Fizz Fundraiser Night

Thank you to Adam Brown for pulling out all the stops and putting on a fabulous evening on 1 November! With great food and lots of music and dancing the Beer and Fizz night was much fun and raised an amazing £200 for the village hall!

Great Finborough Veteran's Lunch

Thank you too to Lee Morgan for organising, and to Simon and Jacqueline Tarabella for catering for, our third annual Great Finborough Veteran's lunch. Supported by the amazing five course meal, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to dig out the old regimental ties and come together as a community to reflect on experiences and share tales of daring-do.

Bookings

We have been delighted to see an upturn in both private bookings and in events at the hall. It provides a fantastic space for a whole range of events from birthday parties, village lunches and quizzes to gong baths, yoga and pilates. Please do get in touch to check about availability. At just £12.50/ hour for the main hall and fully equipped kitchen, it really is a bargain!

