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# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

MAY 2026

Welcome to our May edition. The cricket season is well underway, and our village cricket club are looking for a scorer. This is a great opportunity to get involved in village life, so why not give it a go? Details are inside.

This is the time of year when I can really enjoy the outside and get a lot of serious walking done. It's my favourite pastime, and this month I'm putting that to good use as I'm taking part in the Moon Walk, a 26 mile marathon walk, along with my wonderful stepdaughter and soon to be step daughter in law. The Moonwalk aims to raise awareness and funds for research into breast and other cancers. Having had my own brush with cancer and losing my mum to cancer, this is a cause very close to my heart. I know times are hard at the moment, but if anyone would like to sponsor my efforts, I would really appreciate it. The money raised supports this fantastic cause. My fundraising page can be accessed via the QR code.



Sarah's fundraising page

Talking of walking, we will soon be having discussions about this year's 'Walkers Cup', which takes place on Sunday, 13th September 2026. We will bring you updates in future editions, but in the meantime, get those walking boots polished and get the date in your calendars. I am determined we will succeed in beating Old Newton this year, and of course, raise as much as we can for St Elizabeth Hospice.



One last thing, our quarterly community quiz will take place on the third Friday in June, 19th June, instead of the usual second Friday. More details inside.



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# DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

APRIL 2026

## **Local Government Reform**

The government has decided that there will be 3 unitary authorities in Suffolk. While detailed boundaries are still being finalised, the three unitary councils, West Suffolk, East Suffolk, South Suffolk and Ipswich are planned to be in place from May 2028.

Elections for the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from May 2028.

The idea of the transition period is to enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process.

## **Funding for Neighbourhood Plans**

MSDC has now introduced funding of up to £20,000 to support Parish Councils in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans/Reviews, which seek to allocate sites for housing development that make an agreed contribution to meeting the district-wide housing needs. The neighbourhood plan has statutory weight and status in the planning process, and is used to help guide and decide planning applications in conjunction with the Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

## **A14 and Litter**

Work has started on a clear up of the A14. Two trucks of rubbish were cleared from the side of the A14 between junctions 49 and 50, for Tot Hill and Stowmarket, during planned overnight road closures. We are grateful to volunteers who have been picking litter and all the community litter picks organised, but we continue to urge people to only do this where it is safe and not on fast roads.

## **Riverside land purchased for future generations**

Mid Suffolk District Council has purchased almost eight acres of land in the heart of Stowmarket to preserve it as a future riverside haven for nature and wildlife for future generations.

The land, between Takers Lane and the River Rat, adjoins the council's existing open space at Pikes Meadow – unlocking potential for a new riverside walk, connecting Combs Ford and Gipping Way.

The council's investment is a further step as part of work to enhance biodiversity and nature – protecting and strengthening the district's wildlife and habitat diversity – and providing public green space, as well as safeguarding the land from future development.

## **Locality Awards**

The next round of grants will begin in May this year, after the election period.

## **Nature Recovery Grant**

This new grant, launched in January, offers small grants up to £ 2k and larger grants up to £50k for projects that protect and expand wildlife corridors and habitats within the district – including tree planting, wildflower meadow creation, or other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations. Organisations such as environmental groups, schools and town and parish councils can apply. One application can be made per project, per year.

MSDC has also announced a new £525,000 fund to support ambitious nature recovery, flood mitigation and water management projects across Mid Suffolk. The fund opens for applications next week. The Catchment and Landscape Nature Recovery Grant promotes larger-scale, collaborative initiatives which could span multiple sites and landowners. With a focus on river catchments, it will support projects that benefit communities as they address biodiversity loss, with a particular emphasis on priority habitats and species. It will also support natural flood management, as well as projects to improve water quality and security. Funding opportunities and support - Mid Suffolk District Council - [babergh.gov.uk](http://babergh.gov.uk) / [midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://midsuffolk.gov.uk)

### Help with heating oil purchase

As a rural district, we have a large number of homes using heating oil, which as we know, is not covered by any price cap. The government has set aside £53 million to support households falling into fuel poverty. That funding will go to the county council's crisis and resilience fund, but we expect to work alongside the county council to help target this help at the most vulnerable households. To find support for heating your home, visit:

Energy, fuel and utilities - Mid Suffolk District Council - [babergh.gov.uk](http://babergh.gov.uk) / [midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://midsuffolk.gov.uk)

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# COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

MAY 2026

## **Unitary Decision Announced by Government**

On 25 March, the government announced that it had chosen a three unitary model for Suffolk following the Local Government Reorganisation process which will see upper tier authority Suffolk County Council and lower tier authorities like districts and boroughs abolished in two years. Last year, the government asked Suffolk councils to submit proposals on how many unitary councils they thought the county should have in the future. Suffolk County Council submitted a case for a single unitary council (One Suffolk) and the district and borough councils submitted one for three councils, which was the option chosen by ministers. These plans will see the county split into three areas: Western Suffolk, Central and Eastern Suffolk and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk, which includes the county town and Felixstowe. Elections for the new councils will be held next May, with those new councillors shadowing councillors elected in May this year until the new authorities are 'vested' from 1 April 2028.

## **Motion of Support for Survivors of Sexual Harm Passed Unanimously**

At council on 19 March, my group proposed a motion that the council release a statement of support for survivors of sexual harm and exploitation. The near-constant media coverage of the 'Epstein files' has triggered reminders of the ordeals suffered by survivors of sexual harm of both genders, increasing the number of people seeking help. The motion also proposed that the council run a social media campaign signposting people to Survivors in Transition, a local charity which provides support and advice, and write to the government advocating for funding for support services. The motion was approved unanimously in the chamber. In the same meeting, motions were also passed in support of the Lowestoft flood barrier and to look into how the costs of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) can be reduced. TROs are legal orders made by the council to amend speed limits and parking restrictions, add road markings or make other changes to highways in the county.

## **Extra Funding for Public Rights of Way**

On 24 March, Cabinet agreed to allocate an additional £3.9m of capital funding to repair structures on Suffolk's Public Rights of Way network. Structures, such as bridges and boardwalks, have a limited lifespan, and the council undertook a review to create a priority list of structures that need replacing or repairing in the next five years. The additional funding is needed because the amount of money usually allocated for these works is no longer enough, due to the increased costs of building materials and labour, which have gone up 50% in the last five years. The priority list includes the Bailey Bridge between Walberswick and Southwold, the Fen Bridge over the Stour at Debenham and Hemyard Bridge at Ixworth. If structures become unsafe for walkers the council has to close the Public Right of Way, with each closure costing £1,200 for a six-month period. The Cabinet also heard about the King Charles III Coastal Path, which, contrary to national media reports, is not yet fully open; sections between Manningtree and Shotley Gate, and north of Southwold, will not be open until later in the summer.

## **Libraries Decision Scrutinised**

At Scrutiny Committee on 11 March, last year's decision by the council to move the library service back in house was reviewed. The council's contract with Suffolk Libraries ended on 31 May 2025 and the county's 45 libraries and three mobile libraries came back into council control. A one-off allocation of £1.6million was made to cover the cost of setting up an in-house service. Libraries' Friends Groups remain in place, with the funds they have raised for individual libraries staying separate from Suffolk County Council's funding. The meeting heard how Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Libraries had worked together to make the transition seamless for library users, although the transfer into council employment had placed a burden on library employees to undertake staff training, including on council platforms for IT, HR and procurement. In addition, the council had undertaken a restructuring which had saved £340k in the 'central team'. No redundancies of front line library employees were made. During the meeting, the council also laid out their plans to engage with library volunteers, governance systems for the new service and how the service would be celebrating the 2026 Year of Reading. The meeting also noted that borrowing of paper books was reducing, but that digital services such as eBooks and audiobooks were continuing to grow.

## **Support for Care Leavers**

On 5 March, the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss services and support provided for young people in Suffolk leaving care. The council has a duty to offer support to young people leaving care up to the age of 25, and at the most recent Ofsted inspection in June 2024 this was highlighted as one of the main areas where the council needed to improve. Since the inspection, the council has worked to improve planning with young people who are coming up to leaving care, making sure more young people know what support is on offer, and making sure that support is accessible for them as they prepare for independence. In addition, the council received a visit from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in April 2025 which focused on youth homelessness and found that the council needed to immediately review its pathways for care leavers who presented as homeless. In response to these findings, the council increased the number of advisors working with 17 year olds to prepare for leaving care, and making sure they are aware of the help they can get, such as reduction in council tax, and the 'Family Business' model the council uses to provide apprenticeships and jobs for young people who have been in care. The council has almost halved the number of care leavers in unsuitable accommodation, although they are still planning more work in this area, particularly for care leavers in custody.

If you want to know more about what help the council provides for young people leaving care, you can find it here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/services-for-young-people-leaving-care>

## **New Government Funding to help with Increasing Fuel Costs**

Suffolk County Council has welcomed the additional £1.7m funding announced by the government to support households in the county facing increased oil heating costs. The council already provides cash payments to help residents with the cost of living through the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund. This scheme supports a range of essential costs, including utilities and energy, and has recently been updated to explicitly reference oil heating following the national announcement. From 1st April, Suffolk County Council will transition from the Household Support Fund to the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). This transition had already been planned prior to the new funding announcement, and will enable residents experiencing a financial shock or crisis - including sharp increases in oil heating costs - to continue accessing cash support via the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, using the same application route as before.

Residents can access information about this process and how to apply here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/suffolk-local-welfare-assistance-scheme>

## **Parents Urged to Vaccinate Against Measles**

The council is urging parents and carers in Suffolk to ensure their children are fully vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox, following a resurgence of measles cases nationally over the past two years. The country has seen a return of measles outbreaks linked to falling vaccination uptake and, as a result, the UK recently lost its World Health Organisation measles elimination status. Vaccination rates remain below the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks, with almost one in five children starting primary school not fully protected against serious diseases. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases in the world and can lead to complications including pneumonia, meningitis, and brain inflammation.

Health leaders including the Public Health team at Suffolk County Council have advised that parents and carers will usually be contacted by their GP practice when their child is due a routine vaccination but, if a child has missed a vaccine and is over 18 months old, these can be scheduled at any time by contacting their GP practice to book an appointment. If a parent or carer is unsure what vaccinations their child has already received, they can check their Red Book, the NHS app or by speaking to their GP practice.

## **A1120/B1115 Roundabout**

I have spoken to a senior engineering planner at Crest Nicholson. He expects construction to start on site in November 2026, and he has agreed to take down the Stowupland sign and reinstate it at a new location, exactly as existing, at no cost to the parish council. He needs to know the precise location and details of any other works at the new site. He suggested there could be an unveiling ceremony with invited guests.

Keith Welham  
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Phone: 07831 705 714



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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

APRIL 2026



*The meeting opened with 6 Parish Councillors, 1 Suffolk County Councillor (SCC), 2 District Councillors (MSDC) and 5 members of the public.*

2 apologies were received from Parish Councillors (PC). Cllr Ray Studd was in the chair and welcomed all to the April meeting.

**Matters of Report:** The Clerk updated the meeting on actions taken since the last meeting. Work was completed on the Thorney Green bus shelter this week. An oak tree has now been planted in the cemetery. The seeding on the mounds on the green had been completed by volunteers and thanks were expressed to all who had taken part in the work to plant the wildflowers and grass seed. Various works had been completed on the trees on the green and further work was to be discussed on tonight's agenda.

**Public Forum:** A resident from Birch Close reported to the council that there were cracked pavements in Birch Close, and also a lot of trees in the close overhanging neighbours' gardens. Some roots from trees had recently been coming up from the pavements and this had caused a gas leak in the road. She was concerned about residents using this route as she had nearly had a fall in the area. It was agreed that trees that are the responsibility of the Parish Council (PC) were to be discussed on the agenda and the pavements should be reported to the authority that deals with these issues (SCC). A resident expressed concern regarding increased use of the track to Green Farm and down to Columbyne Close on the green. It was noted that there was increased use by contractors and delivery vehicles, which are using the track and speeding in the area. There were signs up to deter use and the area was for residents only, however this was not happening. It was agreed after discussion that the Chair would write an article for Telstar to try to deter this happening in the future.

A resident raised concerns that no one had come forward to take up the vacant position of writing the monthly PC report for Telstar, which at present was being done by a Parish Councillor temporarily. He felt that the Parish Councillors should engage with residents to get this position filled on a permanent basis, as it was an important part of the Telstar, which readers wanted to read. The Clerk explained that there were adverts in recent editions of Telstar and on the Facebook page for the village and on noticeboards, with no volunteers coming forward for this position. It was agreed to try again via the outlets available. If out and about, members of the PC would ask about to see if anyone was interested in doing this role. If there is someone interested in this worthwhile volunteer role, please speak to the Clerk or any of the current Parish Councillors. The Clerk noted that the invites had gone out for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 22nd April 2026 at 7.30 in the URC meeting room and she had new advertising posters for the noticeboards. All residents are very welcome to attend.

**Report from our County Councillor:** Cllr Welham's report had been circulated to Councillors. Of note this month was the Government's decision to go for the three unitary councils to cover Suffolk. Details can be found in this edition of Telstar, which includes the full report. There were no questions. Cllr Welham

updated us on the proposed roundabout by the garage on the A1120. He has had discussions with an engineer working for Crest Nicholson. Detailed plans have been approved, and the Parish Council should now give details of the new location for the village sign. Construction work on the roundabout is planned to commence at the end of 2026 and should take around 6 months. Cllr Welham has suggested to Crest Nicholson that there should be an unveiling ceremony when the village sign has been re-erected.

Report from our MSDC Councillor: Cllr Watson went through the report, which had been circulated to all councillors. Full details of the report can be found in Telstar. This also covers the Government's decision on the local government reorganisation to cover Suffolk. Cllr Easter asked if a better map could be produced so the new areas to be administered by the proposed new councils were more clearly defined. Cllr Watson agreed to look at this and would find a more defined map, which could be circulated to Councillors.

**6 monthly review of the village hall occupation licences:** Councillors reviewed the agreements for storage space in the Village Hall. It was agreed that there were no problems with these and they would continue. The Playpark licence needed greater discussion, following receipt of an extensive report on the equipment in the play park. Some equipment was noted as worn and in need of repairs, and some was broken and needed quotes to be obtained, as these had been cordoned off and were not in use. A way forward was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes on the equipment that needed repairs and replacement and the results would be subject to an agenda item at a future meeting. The licence terms were agreed on the condition that urgently needed work could be undertaken promptly.

**Planning:** Cllr Studd gave the report on the planning application IP14 4AS, outbuilding/extension and erection of an enlarged single story extension with a pitched roof. The PC agreed to support this application. IP14 5DA Erection of a single storey rear extension. PC agreed to support, subject to the conditions in the report.

**Finance:** Councillors reviewed the payments and receipts and agreed to pay the bills for April 2026.

**Governance:** Councillors had reviewed the new correspondence from Suffolk Association Local Councils (SALC) on declarations of interest and this was adopted. The Clerk was thanked for her work on the new welcome pack for new councillors and this was also adopted.

**Survey of Trees on land owned by the Parish Council:** A quote for the survey work and report was accepted. Cllr Welham suggested that the trees on the land leased for allotments should be included. The Clerk will check the terms of the lease for this land.

Tree works outside Ramblers Cottages were discussed and it was agreed that this needed further quotes for comparison. The Clerk agreed to obtain further quotes for the next meeting.

Tree stumps on Footpath 32 are to be ground out. Quote accepted and an instruction would be passed to the contractor for work to be carried out.

The oak tree in the cemetery needed urgent work to be carried out and a quote was accepted to clear away the dead wood in the tree. The area is currently cordoned off.

It was agreed to replace the broken bollard on the green; the Clerk advised that she was still in discussions regarding the insurance claim.

**Clerk's Report:** A lot of work had been done and a lot is ongoing; progress was being achieved and is covered in this latest report and work continues to update councillors on ongoing actions.

**Correspondence:** There were reports from SALC detailing local Government reorganisation, most of which can be found in the SCC report and MSDC report. There were also updates on the progress of the National Grid pylon upgrades in Suffolk. There was an email from a resident with regard to a tree concern at the rear of Sycamore Rd. The Clerk will send a reply regarding discussions on this letter.

**Date for next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Change of date and venue due to the Local Government elections taking place on 7th May 2026.**

There was no further business. Cllr Studd thanked all for attending and wished all a Happy Easter holiday. He closed the meeting at 20.35 pm.

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# PARISH CHAIR LETTER



Dear Residents

As you know, we dug the ditches on the green last year, and we have been waiting to seed them.

On the 13th March, 7 volunteers started seeding the ditches behind the football pitch on the green and two residents cleared and seeded between footpath 32 and the Maple Road bridge.

On the 22nd March, we had 20 volunteers help clear and seed the rest of the ditches. All the ditches have

now been seeded with a mix of grass & wildflower seeds, which hopefully will germinate within the next couple of months and look pretty. We may need to add more seed later. I would personally like to thank all the residents, Parish Councillors and the Green Party members for all their hard work in getting this completed. It is really lovely to see some community spirit within the village.

*Donna Bridges*  
Stowupland Parish Council Chair





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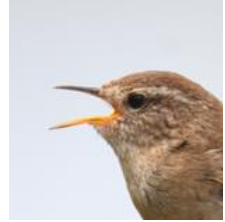
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# COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

I have recently visited Strumpshaw Fen in Norfolk and whilst there, in early April, it was a delight to see the swallows and martins arrive, swooping across the large pools to catch insects and build up weight after their epic journey from Africa. It still amazes me how these small birds not only navigate but also return to the same barn or house where they built their nests last year. Whilst at the reserve, chiffchaff and blackcaps were spotted, both of which were calling to attract a mate for the new breeding season. The marsh harriers were displaying their aerial dance, swooping and diving, which is all part of their courtship, and they were showing in good numbers. We were privileged to get a glimpse of the otter from one of the hides; these elusive mammals may only just poke their heads out of the water, so can easily be missed and, as they dive, you may only spot the long tail as they disappear and may travel 80 metres plus under the surface before emerging. They have their regular spraint (toilet stop) areas, such as a pile of reeds, or even a large mole hill; their droppings contain fish scales and are silvery in appearance. If you are patient and know of one of these spots, there is a good chance of a sighting; early morning and evening are the best times.



The roe deer are now shedding their velvet in readiness for the forthcoming breeding season. If you are lucky, you may come across one of their cute spotted offspring. The fawns are left in quiet areas, often long grass or scrub, and the female will return to feed them only occasionally. If you are in the area of a fawn, the mother will often bark at you to distract your attention from the offspring. A roe deer's bark is quite loud if it is nearby, and they will often stamp their feet on the ground at the same time as barking.

I really enjoy getting up at first light or before and finding a suitable place to sit and wait for nature to wake up. The robin is probably the first to sing; blackbirds and song thrush will join in. The hedge sparrow will commence its distinctive song, with rooks and jackdaws flying overhead on their way to their feeding grounds. The noisy male pheasant will enter the morning chorus with his sharp call as he stands on tiptoes and flaps his wings to impress his harem of hen birds. Often, a wren will surprise you as it sings nearby: a lot of noise from such a tiny bird.

In the following weeks, wildlife will go into full breeding status. You will see young ducklings chasing across the ponds and, hopefully, insects of all descriptions will be alighting on our garden flowers along with butterflies. In our local ponds, there will, I hope, be tadpoles, also newts, and the larvae of dragonflies will soon be leaving their home to emerge into adults and dance across our lakes and rivers' surface. Look out for early orchids; the flowers of spring are almost over, but look out for the bright blue flowers of alkanet, small but really vivid in colour. Yellow archangel can be found in damp woodland, looks similar to a nettle but with no sting. I know we live in a hectic world, but please try to make time to enjoy what surrounds us, and try to get your children interested, as they will be our wildlife guardians of the future.

# RAMBLINGS FROM THE POTTING SHED

PAULA WILLMOT

The diversity of the British weather never fails to astonish me. I am now watering my pots and borders due to lack of rain....I mean, what's next? Waking to a light frost also sends us all a warning to protect those tender buds and seedlings. The May garden is a time of bountiful joy with our tulips and late bulbs doing their very best to impress us. I have popped down to Nareys to buy a few fruit trees for the garden, including 2 very smart Nottingham Medlars and a couple of golden plums....and sneaking in an excellent cheese scone whilst there. Lots of our local historic houses are now starting to open their doors and it's a great time to look for extra planting and take note of schemes and ideas to copy in our own gardens. I will definitely be trying the squash 'Arch' as seen at Helmingham Hall last year. However, onwards and upwards to this month's tasks.

## **May jobs in the Meadow garden are as follows:**

- Now we have mulched and trimmed our roses, so start to keep an eye out for early blackspot and nip it in the bud so as not to ruin the summer flowering.
- Keep removing faded flowers from daffodils and other bulbs to keep things neat and tidy.
- I am not a fan, but kick start gladioli by putting corms into well drained soil to a 15cm depth and a sunny position. For succession, plant every 2 or 3 weeks.
- You can also split grasses still. As I am newly planted, I shall wait until next year, but big clumps of grasses can be split now and placed elsewhere in the garden.
- Those of you lucky enough to have a magnolia tree, the evergreen ones can be pruned and shaped.
- Cut back and shape willows and dogwoods for healthy green displays and then stem colour in Autumn.
- Set stakes and hoops around young herbaceous perennials. Installing them early keeps the plants upright and the emerging foliage will soon rise up and cover the supports.
- Once the risk of frost has passed, cut back woody stems of plants such as salvias. Take out damaged and old branches to reveal and encourage a healthier plant.
- If you are brave, and I am not! Take some delphinium cuttings. Choose strong basal shoots about 8cm, trim leaves and insert into pots of gritty peat free compost. I have grown seeds this year, but my expectations are low.
- April/May is peak nesting for birds, with small chicks being fed consistently. Leave any hedge pruning until late summer if you can.
- I have 5 fig trees, so I shall be selecting a couple of branches per tree to prune back hard to encourage new growth. The short branches will carry next year's fruit.
- Kickstart outdoor tomatoes. I will definitely be planting in my borders this year. They did far better here than in grow bags and pots.

The jobs are more important than the chat this month, so Happy Gardening!



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## STOWUPLAND COLLECTION POINT

If any individual, school, church or business would like to become a collection point for the Eco Future Group in Stowupland please contact Stowmarket Eco Future Group directly. Contact details can be found in their article.

Please don't leave your recycling on the editor's doorstep as I'm unable to help with this.

*Ed.*

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**Fax: 01449 675898**

**Email:**

**[Johnbullmotors@btconnect.com](mailto:Johnbullmotors@btconnect.com)**

# STOWMARKET ECO FUTURE GROUP



<https://stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk>  
Email: [stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com](mailto:stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com)

**Collection of hard to recycle items - see update below**

**The next market stall collection is Thursday 28th May . We also collect items at the \*Repair Café - 2nd Sunday of the month (10th May) at Red Gables 2-4 pm plus REPAIR CAFÉ [stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com)**

UPDATE ON ITEMS COLLECTED:

**Blister packs**, Coffee pods – plastic and metallic (not mixed), Pet food pouches (empty, clean & dry), Fruit nets, Tetra packs (empty, clean & flattened), Bicycle Inner Tubes, Spectacles and cases, empty make-up containers, Laptops and tablets with their charger (for parts), Batteries. (Please now take your soft plastics to Supermarket recycling points, thanks. ) BLISTER PACKS – we collect the packs that are mixed plastic and foil. Some blister packs now are **all foil**, and if so, they can be put in your home recycling bin. The recommendation is that they are bundled and wrapped in a piece of foil rather than thrown in loose.

As I write, the space mission is heading for the moon. The astronauts have reported back, saying how beautiful the Earth looks from space and that their overriding emotion was that we must look after it. They help us to appreciate what a unique place it is, and how much we depend on it as our home. It is a good perspective to have because here on earth, we so often take it for granted. It is of global importance that the earth remains a safe place to live, and in many places, governments and technology are working successfully together. Where that is not happening, it is important to keep reminding leaders of their responsibilities.

**Carbon Copy: Grow your Changeprint**



Our own personal responsibility is often more local. What we do in our own homes and communities is a vital contribution to the overall picture. “Carbon Copy” is a really interesting and encouraging website showing individuals, families and communities all doing their bit for the planet. It is intended to spark ideas about what we can do in our own locality. Find an idea that works for you and copy it!

An important thing we can do in May is vote in the Suffolk County Council elections. Our Local Councils have a huge impact on our lives because they provide a wide range of services and the environment in which we live with day to day. Protecting our county now and ensuring that it remains a safe and beautiful place for our children to live is a vital part of that work. We are fortunate to have 9 Green Party County Councillors already and in the face of accelerating climate change, their influential role is even more important. It is good to have representatives who recognise the importance of sustainability as they carry out their various roles. Voting is a big responsibility: the opportunity to request a decent way forward and protest against poor practice.

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**I bought a doll for my child recently. I thought it was manufactured by a well-known brand, but I suspect it might be counterfeit. How can I be sure, and what are my rights?**



You're right to seek advice about this issue, because counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous.

Fake children's toys, in particular, including dolls, often don't meet safety standards and can pose choking hazards - poor manufacturing can mean small parts are easily detachable.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off; other times it can be harder to tell.

It's not just toys and games - things like clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can also be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality - like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging, blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try to get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase. If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund.

If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them, and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back. To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

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](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30 am – 3.30 pm and Friday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.

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## **STOWUPLAND WILDFLOWER AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP**

### **Planting the mounds and ditches on The Green**

The Biodiversity Group sowed a trial length of the mounds on The Green in mid-March and a few days later there was a good turnout of residents to carry on the good work. Another afternoon's work by the Biodiversity Group has completed the task. Now we wait to see what grows.

It has been suggested that spring flowering bulbs should be planted on the mounds. We are recommending that wild native daffodils be planted, as these will withstand the wind and weather better than garden varieties. We plan to order these in time for autumn planting. Please get in touch if you would like to help with this.

### **Information Sign**

We have installed an information sign on the wildflower meadow. This area will not be cut until autumn. Please visit the area to watch bees and other insects feeding there.

### **Work with schools**

A member of our group is growing pumpkins from seeds to pass on to the Freeman School pupils in a few weeks' time; also, some for pupils at the Mulberry Centre. Within the High School site, fruit trees have been pruned and they are looking healthy.

A teacher at the High School has been in touch with a request that we become involved in a biodiversity project within the school grounds. We will be providing compost to the Mulberry Centre for their raised beds and look forward to discussing with the students what they would like to grow this year.

### **Half-a-mow on The Green**

Plans are being put together for a renaming of the area to Judy's Half-a-Mow, as a tribute to Judy Clarke, whose initiative it was to leave an area of The Green uncut, except for a crop of hay each July.

We will be erecting an information board to celebrate Judy's involvement in the project and inviting residents to afternoon tea on The Green on 21 June. This will be an occasion when we can share memories and enjoy the flora and fauna.

An extract from a report in the early 2000's:

*Half-a-Mow : 'An area that is only mowed once a year, so that wild flowers such as ladysmock have time to seed and the eggs of orange tip butterflies on the plants have time to hatch. Judy began to push for the scheme in 2000 and eventually, after some hard work, local canvassing and a public meeting, it was finally established, with Judy as Project Manager.'*

## **Sensory Garden at Barley Close**

We are hoping to carry out some more work to establish herbs and other sensory plants.

## **Sunflower Competition**

Hopefully, your plants are growing well, and you are keeping them watered and well fed. Please send your photographs and progress reports to keithwelham48@aol.com or ring on 07831 705714.

## **Workdays on The Green**

We will continue to meet on the second Friday of each month at 1.30. Come along and join us when you see our banner on The Green. We now have tabards, including some spare ones for new members or residents who wish to come along to help. Our next workday is 8 May, followed by 12 June.

## **Our next planning meeting is in the URC meeting room at 7.30 on 1 July.**

Everyone is welcome to come along to find out what we hope to achieve in our village.

# **STOWUPLAND FALCONS**



It is pleasing to start this article without moaning about the weather, at long last blue skies, sun and wind are back at Stowupland!

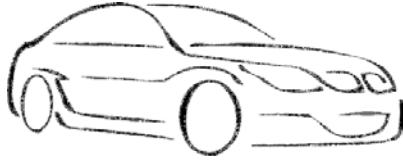
I will start with some good news, our U10s boys have reached a cup final, so more blue and yellow on finals day. It is also pleasing to report that our adult men's team have reached the semi-final of the Morrisons Freight Cup and, after playing the first three rounds away from home, they have received home advantage in the semi-final. They will be playing AFC Kesgrave at Stowupland on Saturday, 11th April. I will update you further in the next article.

During March, for the first time ever, we fielded an U6 team in some U6 friendlies against East Bergholt and Capel st Mary. All players were a product of our long running Saturday Morning Club. The SMC has been running for over 30 years and has produced around 40 teams. I have been involved in coaching in the SMC since it started all those years ago. Our adult first team squad includes several players who started their football journey in the SMC.

Behind the scenes, our hardworking fundraising team are putting the finishing touches to our Big 5 a side that takes place over the weekend of 13th/14th June and will include boys, girls, and mixed teams from all over Suffolk. It really is a feast of grassroots football. We hope the village will come out support the tournament and you can watch for free!

That's it from me, but plenty of football still to be played before the end of season.

Colin Herbert, President  
Stowupland Falcons FC



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# **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

## **Citizens Advice**

[www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk](http://www.midsuffolkcab.org.uk) - 01449 676060  
or 01449 676280 - 5 Milton Road South,  
Stowmarket, IP14 1EZ

## **Doctor**

Emergency - 999  
NHS Direct - 111  
Combs Ford - 01449 678333  
Stowhealth - 01449 776000

## **Emergency Numbers**

Power Cut - 0800 31 63 105  
Gas Leak - 0800 111 999  
Water Leak - 0800 771 881

## **Good Neighbour Scheme**

HELPLINE: 07591 539621

## **Member of Parliament**

Adrian Ramsay – Green Party  
[WaveneyValleyOffice@parliament.uk](mailto:WaveneyValleyOffice@parliament.uk)  
01379 830200

## **Mid Suffolk District Council**

[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

Janet Pearson - [janet.pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:janet.pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk)  
07928 512592

## **Police**

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us>  
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>

**Samaritans** – 116 123

## **Stowupland Village Website**

[www.stowupland.com](http://www.stowupland.com)

## **Parish Council Website**

[www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud](http://www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud)

## **Suffolk County Council**

[www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk) SCC - General No. 0345 606 6067  
Keith Welham - [Keith.Welham@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.Welham@suffolk.gov.uk)  
01449 673185

## **Schools**

Stowupland High School -  
[www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk](http://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk) - 01449 674827  
Freeman Community Primary School -  
[www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk) - 01449 612067

## **Vets**

Cedarwood - 01449 676966  
Stowe Vets - 01449 613130

# DIARY DATES

If you know of any events happening in the village that I may not have picked up on please do get in touch by 7th of the month at [stowman@stowman.plus.com](mailto:stowman@stowman.plus.com) or 07951 037749.

Please note – Diary Dates lists community events in Stowupland, for advertising all commercial events please contact Sally Wray - [adverts.telstar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adverts.telstar@hotmail.co.uk)

## MAY

SUN 3	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
TUES 5	16:00 Village Hall	Young Carers Club
WED 6	14:30 various venues	Book Group (contact 01449 672127 for further details)
WED 6	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
WED 6	19:30 URC Hall	Local History Group “Thorney Green”
THURS 7	Village Hall	Local Elections
SUN 10	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
TUES 12	09:30 Jubilee Crt. 09:55 Green	Mobile Library
WED 13	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 14	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
THURS 14	19:30 URC Hall	Parish Council Meeting

SAT 16	10:00 - 12:00 Church Hall	Coffee, Cake and Chat
SUN 17	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
WED 20	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 21	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
SUN 24	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
WED 27	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 28	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
FRI 29	10:00 - 12:00 URC Chapel	Coffee Morning
FRI 29	eyes down 19:30 Village Hall	Community Bingo
SUN 31	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**JUNE**

SUN 7	Various venues	Garage and Yard Sale
SAT 13	Playing Field	5-A-Side football tournament
SUN 14	Playing Field	5-A-Side football tournament
FRI 19	Village Hall	Community Quiz
SUN 21	Various venues	Open Gardens Day in aid of St. Elizabeth's Hospice

Cllr Agnes Watson - agnes.watson@midsuffolk.gov  
07599 828819

**Mobile Library - 07721 879855**

### **Parish Council**

Donna Bridges - Chairman - 07736 348335  
donnabridges@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Terry Easter - 07958906176  
Terry.easter@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Johnson - 07826 851030  
laurajohnson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Debra Melhuish -07979125904  
debramelhuish@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Paula Murton - 07906 677817  
paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Hayden Power - 07716 834111  
haydenpower@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Peter Scopes - 07557 273262

Ray Studd - 01449 676606  
raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Jerry Voden - 01449 703717  
jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council - Rachel Belcher-Nairn  
parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk - 07704 701095

*Parish Council Minutes of meetings and agendas  
are available on the Parish Council Website  
[www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud](http://www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud)*

### **Village Hall Bookings**

Lisa Tunbridge - Phone - 07515859337  
stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

### **Village Clubs**

Book Group - Patricia Hodgkins - 01449 672127

Community Events - Keith Welham - 01449 673185

Country and Western - Pat Murphy - 01449 677405

Local History Group - Jerry Voden - 07951 086383

Short Mat Bowls - Pam Fayers - 07713026696

Sports and Social Club - Mark Dye - 07799 662491

Stowupland Cricket Club -  
[www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk/](http://www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk/)

Stowupland Falcons Football Club -  
stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk

Stowupland Sports Centre -  
info@stowuplandspportscentre.co.uk - 01449 672531

Stowupland Wildflower & Biodiversity Group -  
Keith Welham - 01449 673185

Stowmarket Wildlife Group - Heather Salmon  
-heathersalmon50@gmail.com - 07722 871205

# WISE WORDS – PROVERBS

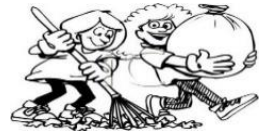
An English proverb is a short statement that usually offers life advice, wisdom, or a truth. What do you think?

Many hands, they make light work.  
Making tasks much slicker.  
But too many cooks will spoil the broth.  
Cooking will not be quicker.



Absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
A statement that sounds very kind.  
Some will disagree and say,  
"Out of sight is out of mind."

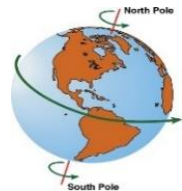
If you have a real concern,  
That's causing you some trouble.  
Will a friend's involvement help?  
Or make the problem double.



Practice makes things perfect.  
It's something we were taught.  
It does not always seem to work.  
Especially playing sport.



Money makes the world go round.  
And little comes for free.  
But what does make the world go round?  
I think it's gravity.



You're never too old to learn.  
Wise words, I hear you say,  
But teaching old dogs new tricks!  
Is impossible --- no way.



Better late than never.  
To be on time is fine.  
An early bird will catch the worm.  
And a stitch in time saves nine.



An apple a day keeps the doctor away.  
Long ago that's what people might say.  
They were very wise, the folk of the past.  
'Cause the fruit is still working today.





## Spring Village Walk

on

**Monday, May 4th**

Jane and Dan invite you to join them at  
"Crowstone"  
(2nd house past the Co-op garage)

The walk will leave at 10.30 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments will be served from 11.00. Please join us for the walk or just come to the house to socialise. Everyone is welcome.

*All donations will go to Christian Aid.*



# WE'RE RECRUITING ★ CRICKET SCORER

We're looking for a dedicated **Cricket Scorer** to join us  
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1:00 PM



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This is a great opportunity to get involved with the club,  
be part of matchdays, and play a key role behind the scenes.

**INTERESTED OR WANT TO LEARN MORE?**



Get in touch via DM | or contact the club directly

Community

# Bingo Night



*All cash prizes*



**FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026**  
**STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL**  
**DOORS OPEN 7PM**  
**EYES DOWN 7:30 PM**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**(OVER 18'S ONLY)**  
**BRING YOUR OWN DRINK AND**  
**NIBBLES**

**A STOWUPLAND COMMUNITY EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TELSTAR TEAM**

# STOWMARKET U3A



On a bright and sunny spring morning, the Stowmarket U3A cake walk group set off from The Cedars Pantry in Wetheringsett for their monthly walk, following natural lanes, field edges and quiet country roads. Cake walks are easy going and taken at an even pace over gentle ground up to three miles. The sunshine had brought out an abundance

of spring flowers for our enjoyment on the banks and lanes. We visited the village's fine late medieval Church of All Saints with its interesting tombs and two recent magnificent stained-glass windows, designed by Helen Whittaker MBE.

We also passed an old red telephone box with stained-glass reflecting landmarks and links to the village.



Stowmarket U3A is a thriving, friendly, sociable group for people no longer in full-time employment or raising a family. In addition to the cake walk, members can choose to join over 30 different interest groups, including: aviation, book club, geology, history, singing, French and Spanish conversation, yarn, recorder and many more.

Each month, we invite speakers to inform and entertain us. This is held on the third Wednesday of each month, at 2:30 pm (doors open 2 pm for refreshments), at the Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket.

Our next 2 meetings are:

- **20 May – The Z8869 Story; a 99 Squadron Wellington Bomber crashes in Great Finborough in 1941, Paul Thompson**
- **17 June – Summer Outing – Norwich Castle and Art Gallery and Wymondham Abbey**

New members are always welcome. Visit our website: [www.u3astowmarket.org.uk](http://www.u3astowmarket.org.uk). For membership enquiries, email [membership@u3astowmarket.org.uk](mailto:membership@u3astowmarket.org.uk). Registered charity 1002987.



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# FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Teaching & Learning

The Reception children had a chance to immerse themselves in role play hosted by Little City. The children had the chance to act out being in the doctor's surgery, vets, supermarket, café, school, building site, dressing up area, hairdressers/nail salon and the post office. The lady from Little City commented on how well behaved the children were and how much kindness they showed to each other with sharing and playing together. It was lovely to watch the children form new friendships and for some of them to step outside of their comfort zone and role play in an area unfamiliar to them. Events like this wouldn't be able to take place without parental support so Freeman Primary school thank all parents for funding this fun-filled morning.



Year 1 children have been learning about mass. They have used the new maths equipment to explore and compare the mass of items in the classroom, identifying which were heavier and lighter than others.



The children have also been sewing during their DT lessons. The children demonstrated lots of perseverance and they were very proud with their final outcome!



Year 6 have been busy in their Art lessons learning about different Artists and art styles. In their lesson about Pop Art they created the pieces below. The children used their sketch books to plan what they were going to paint, and thought carefully about their colour placement.



In Science, Year 5 have been learning about the Earth and Space. First, they learnt about the Solar System, then those chose a planet each to research. The children discovered how many moons their chosen planet had, how long it takes to orbit the sun and interesting facts compared to planet Earth. In the playground, the children pretended to be the Sun, Earth and Moon to learn how they orbit in relation to one another. Next, the children learnt about the phases of the Moon and how day and night are caused by the Earth's rotation every 24-hours.



In forest school the children celebrated World Book Day. They used clay and nature to create famous book characters for the rest of the class to guess. Can you spot Roderick from Diary of a Wimpy Kid and The Hungry Caterpillar? Some children practised their sawing and drilling skills and used their creativity to make gifts.



**SCHOOL GOVERNOR**

We are looking for a Trust Governor from the wider local community to join our Governing Body.

If you have an interest in education and can commit to one evening, six times a year and occasional visits during the school day, we would be very pleased to hear from you to discuss the role further. No prior knowledge is necessary; a comprehensive range of training and support is provided.

To see what our Governors do, please visit the school website. For further details, please contact the school on 01449 612067 or via [admin@freemancpschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@freemancpschool.co.uk).

**From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow**



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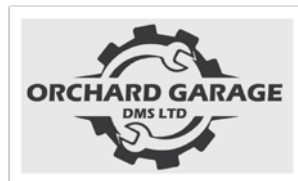
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# FOOD MUSEUM



**Dinner lady who inspired Jamie Oliver, headlined the third 'Food for Thought' talk series.**

Food for Thought, the talk series about what we eat, returned to the Food Museum on Thursday, 23 April, with a talk from Jeanette Orrey MBE.

This year, the talk series takes inspiration from the museum's School Dinners exhibition, which was recently shortlisted in the Museum and Heritage Awards 2026 for 'Best Temporary or Touring Exhibition of the Year.'

As co-founder of Food for Life, one of the UK's most influential school food reformers and a former school dinner lady, Orrey explored how school meals can serve as a powerful catalyst for change - improving children's nutrition, supporting healthier farming and localised procurement and helping young people understand the journey of food from soil to plate.

Coming up later in the series, we'll be joined by The Food Foundation on Thursday 25 June, whose landmark collaboration with Marcus Rashford, transformed public support for expanding free school meals and triggered national attention on child hunger.

'We're really excited to bring both Jeanette Orrey and the Food Foundation to the museum for the third series of Food for Thought,' explains Curator, Katherine Bridges. 'These thought-provoking talks will provide an entertaining evening and help to further the discussion around the future of school food'.

Held at the Food Museum, the talk will run from 7 pm to 8 pm with doors opening at 6.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £12 per talk. Further details and booking are available from the Food Museum's website [www.foodmuseum.org.uk](http://www.foodmuseum.org.uk)

## **About the Food Museum**

The Food Museum in Stowmarket is the UK's only museum dedicated to food. Our mission is to connect people with where their food comes from and the impact of our choices on the environment, society, health and wellbeing: past, present and future. We care for over 40,000 objects, including 17 historic buildings set in 84 acres of countryside.

## **About Jeanette Orrey**

Formerly a school dinner lady, Orrey transformed the menus at St Peter's Primary in Nottinghamshire, demonstrating that fresh, local, cooked-from-scratch school meals are both achievable and affordable. Her subsequent campaigning has reshaped national policy on children's food, and her book *The Dinner Lady* remains a touchstone for school-meal advocacy across the UK.

## **Media Contact:**

Chloe Brett, Marketing Manager  
[chloe@foodmuseum.org.uk](mailto:chloe@foodmuseum.org.uk)  
[foodmuseum.org.uk](http://foodmuseum.org.uk)  
[@foodmuseumuk](https://www.instagram.com/foodmuseumuk)



# LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our thanks to Julie Johnson for her very interesting and informative talk on the history of Stow Lodge Workhouse and the lives of some of the Paupers who called it home. It was lovely to welcome so many visitors. We do have some information on our website about local 19th-century families who had a family member buried in the Paupers' Grave. Jerry will, of course, write a brief overview of Julie's talk with an audio version on Jerry's Jabbas.

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 6th**, when we will welcome Dr Shalena Klazow to share her research on **Medieval Pilgrimages to Woolpit**. Then on June 3rd, a couple of our trustees will be delving into the history of Stowupland's council and our Green, and if this seems a curious juxtaposition, come along to find out what the connection is.

## Here's Jerry's take on Tales of Education as presented by Sandra Walker and Neil Langridge

The March meeting brought us a look at education in the village, both past and present. The Freeman's Primary School is the older of our two schools, but we also have Stowupland High School, which was completed in 1978. This image from a local paper shows the first head of the High School explaining the planned layout for the new school.



Some parents may remember children travelling to Bacton Middle School before returning to Stowupland to complete their education at the High School. The free school bus used to go from the Fish and Chip shop in those days. Before the building of Stowupland High in the late 1970s, children had had to travel to Stowmarket for secondary schooling.

Neil started the talk by locating an early Dame school in Stowupland, and Sandra told us that, as early as 1818, concerns were being raised about the lack of available schooling in Stowupland: **'The poor though desirous, are without the means of instruction'**. If parents wanted their children to be educated, they had to go to Stowmarket. Before compulsory schooling, many people, adults as well as children, gained some learning at Sunday Schools. These schools taught literacy alongside scriptures.

Boys were taught to read and, whilst girls might learn to read, needlework was an important skill to be mastered. It was clear from their research that the school timetable did not cover the variety that children of today take for granted. But as Leslie Brame reminds us, in his autobiography, lessons are not just learned in school; they are also taught to us by the adults we come into contact with.

Gently, gently touch a nettle,  
It will sting you for your pains!  
Grasp it like a man of mettle,  
And it soft as silk remains!

Even in his 70's, he still remembered this rhyme his mother had taught him as a toddler, although he did add he never managed to avoid being stung.

In 1838, the Rev Hollingsworth advertised in the Ipswich Journal for a **'qualified schoolmaster'** for the Stowmarket and Stowupland National School. The advert stipulated that the applicant ***must be a member of the Established Church and be well recommended to the Committee, for seriousness, sobriety, and qualifications adapted to the situation.***

By the 1860's, plans for a Parish school in Stowupland were spoken about. The location chosen was a field known as Pitman's Field, adjacent to Holy Trinity Church. Members of the Freeman family were involved in the initial planning for this new building. At the time, they lived in Stowupland Hall, and they farmed the land where the school was to be built. It was completed in 1865 and, over the years, it has had many names, but finally, its name reflects those first benefactors. In its early years, it was supposed to have space for just 64 children, but by 1871, it had 41 boys and 47 girls. Over the years, it has been extended many times to accommodate an increasing population. It still serves the village today.

Neil spoke about some developments in schools in the 20th century. Early schools followed either the British, Board or National models. National schools were a feature of the early part of the new century though, as time moved on, it was agreed to move with the times and the National schools were merged with the British schools as early as 1901 and around 1902 Board schools were phased out. *(NB Please note one of the first Jerrys Jabbas was on a talk about the National and British Schools in Stowmarket, and this is still available if you would like further information on this subject.)*

But names stuck, and it is not always easy to determine in the historical record whether a school was British, Board or National. Parents were expected to pay 1d (old penny) a week. In 1870, education for all children between the ages of 5 and 11 was made compulsory. By the 1960s, Local Education Authorities took on responsibility for schooling,

It was interesting to note that research showed that Empire Day was celebrated by pupils at Freemans Primary School in 1908. A Union Jack was displayed in the playground, the National Anthem was played on the day, and games were played in the afternoon. It is also worth noting that, at the start of the 2nd world war, evacuees arrived, and the primary school staff had to make provision for their education. That is a talk for another day.

Sandra and Neil had done a lot of work on this subject, and it is worth noting that Sandra has a lot of information in the village archives. Our audience asked questions at the end of the session, and we had a welcome cup of tea at half-time thanks to Annie and Liz.

**On May 12th, 1937**, celebration events for the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were held in the village. Six ladies had raised £29 10s 2d from 'house to house' collections to fund a children's party.

This was to be an afternoon of sports followed by tea in the school and the presentation of souvenir beakers. Due to the rain, the sports had to be delayed until the following week. Children received money as prizes: 1/-, 9d, 6d or 3d for children under school age, and 2/-, 1/6, 1/- or 6d for those of school age.

A Coronation dinner was organised for the grown-ups. A fine dinner was served *in the beautifully decorated barn of Stowupland Hall... 140 diners with soft light of petrol lamps kindly lent by Mr Chas Gyford.* (In the 1930s, Chas Gyford owned a shop in Saxham Street, which, although called *The Tailors*, seemed to sell a variety of goods.) I assume the ladies paid less for their Coronation Tea as they had done most of the hard work. I doubt everything was ordered in from a catering company.



After the event, it was realised that the Coronation Fund had a surplus of £9 10s 2d. This was deposited in a Post Office Savings account to start a fund for the Village Hall.

Did you attend the parish meeting on April 22nd? These annual meetings have for many years, provided an opportunity for local people to meet their parish councillors and find out what activities have been happening in the village in the last year. The minutes from the parish meeting of 35 years ago, that is May 21st, 1991, shows there were 6 parish councillors and

20 members of the public present. In the chair was Councillor Lake; there were 8 apologies for absence.

The evening commenced with a talk by Mr Ron Bailey from the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. He mentioned that *'more and more doctors in the area were now members, supplied with equipment raised with money from donations.'* He thanked Stowupland Parish Council for its support over the years and hoped it would continue.

The meeting then heard a report from Mr Farthing of the Suffolk County Council; in his absence, this was read by Mr Lake. Amongst other things, mention was made of local government reorganisation (some things never change). Mr Lake mentioned that the High School hoped to take **on the pond on the green by the Retreat as an environmental project**, which would improve the area. Does anyone know if this happened, and do they have any photos or notes about what was done?

Mrs J. Jones, a governor of the Freeman County Primary School, read a few sentences, including that there were 173 pupils on the school roll, and that children on leaving the primary school were now bussed to Bacton Middle School.

The minutes included notes on the activities of 11 groups. Less than 1/3 are still active today. Don't forget, if you want to know more about the history of your local council, come along to SLHG's meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd.

### Memory Lane

We often cite memories from Leslie Brame, who lived in the village from his birth in 1914 to when he left for the Far East in 1939. A few years back, a relative of his shared a typed document of his memories of his life, at home and away. We are extremely happy to say that the URC trustees have agreed that SLHG should look after it in our archives.

As was written in an earlier issue of Telstar, Judy Clarke was instrumental in many areas of village life; one of her projects was setting up the Half-a-Mow area of the Green. The Stowupland Biodiversity Group are keen that this should be commemorated with a change of name to Judy's Half-a-Mow.

They are organising for a sign to be erected near the area and planning to hold an afternoon tea party on the Green on June 21st to unveil the sign and to give local people a chance to recall many of the projects Judy took responsibility for.



Can you share any memories and/or photos of how areas of the Green have changed over the years? We are unsure of the date for this photo, but can you recognise where it was taken from, or even know the name of the cow?

**Enjoy reading about our talks and what is in our archives,  
then come along to our meetings.**

**If you have any queries about joining us or hearing about Stowupland's  
past:**

**Please contact Jerry Voden on 01449 703717 or  
secretary@stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.org**

**Visitors to our meetings are always welcome. Just turn up and  
pay £5.00 at the door.**



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# QUIZ Night



FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Stowupland Village Hall

Doors Open 07:00 pm

Quiz starts 07:30 pm

£3 per person- teams of up to 6 people

Village hall bar will be open for drinks

Bring your own nibbles

To enter a team ring Keith on

01449 673185

A Stowupland community event brought to you by the Telstar team

# STOWMARKET METHODIST CHURCH

## 190th Anniversary

**Saturday May 16th & Sunday May 17th**

Stowmarket Methodist Church in Regent Street is celebrating 190 years of continuous worship and prayer in May. Many Stowmarket residents will know the church from Sunday School, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, youth clubs etc. We have done a lot of work improving our facilities in recent years.

To celebrate our Anniversary, we are holding an Open Day on **Saturday, 16th May, 10am - 3.00pm**. There will be lots to see, and we will be serving tea/coffee and cake to visitors.

On Sunday, **17th May 10.30am** our celebration Family Service will be led by the Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District, Reverend Helen Hollands.

A warm welcome for you at any time, do come and see us.

### **Misuse of the track across the Green to and from Columbyne Close.**



Residents living beside the track that goes from Green Farm to Columbyne Close have noticed a lot of traffic using this track - sometimes at speed - to access or egress Columbyne Close. This is prohibited. This is a private track with no right of way to anyone other than the residents (or their guests), who live beside the track. It is clearly signed that this is a private track with no access to Columbyne Close at one end and at the Columbyne Close end, it is a public footpath with no vehicular access. Please could villagers be considerate and not use this track as a shortcut.

*Stowupland Parish Council.*



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# U.R.C CHAPEL

NEWS

Minister: Vacant

Secretary: Brian Hewitt 07500734113

With the increasing population around Stowupland, what better time is there than Spring to make new friends? Why not join us at one of our Coffee Mornings on the last Friday of each month. The next one is on **Friday 29th May 2026 10am to 12noon**. Also, we are always seeking to widen our congregation, please see below for details of our Sunday Services:-

Services are held at the URC Chapel, Church Road, Stowupland each Sunday at 10.30am and you are cordially invited to join us in our worship. A warm welcome awaits you.

## The Speakers for May are as follows:

03 May	Rev Norman Tharby
10 May	Nichola Glasse
17 May	Worship Group
24 May	Stephen Horrex
31 May	Nigel Crisp

*Joyce Gardiner*

## Elders Message

Greetings friends.

Charles Austin Miles was a prolific American gospel music composer, editor and publisher. He was born on the 7th of January 1868. and died in March 1946. Charles was born in Lakehurst New Jersey and showed an early interest in music, playing for a Church service at the age of 12. He was educated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of Pennsylvania, but in 1892 he abandoned his career as a pharmacist, feeling called to serve God through music.

I have fond memories of a song he wrote, which I have sung all my life from the Billy Graham song book. It is called " In the garden". Charles wrote this when he was meditating on the gospel of St John chapter 20, where Jesus's tomb was opened and Mary was looking in the garden for Jesus.

The words of this song come to me when I am in my garden in the morning, just being in the beauty of the early morning dew. These words touch me greatly and I would love to share them with you this month.

“I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the son of God discloses. He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing. And he talks with me and he walks with me and he tells me I am his own, and the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known.”

Does Jesus walk with you in your garden of life? Just listen to him, he is there. I pray that you hear him.

God bless you.

Jan Webb (Stowmarket Elder)

## **COFFEE MORNING**



**Friday 29th May 2026**

Stowupland URC Chapel  
10am – 12noon

***Coffee, Tea and Cakes***

***All welcome***

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

## NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
STOWUPLAND



Rector: Revd. Andy Buttress Tel. 07749265571  
Curate: Revd. Alison Roberts Tel. 613037  
Churchwardens: Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 770363  
Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 613710

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/haughleybenefice>

**A Church Near You:** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2086/>

### SUPERPOWERS

There is an old 'dad-joke' which goes 'where does Bruce Wayne get his energy from?' – Bat-teries!

I know it's a rubbish joke, but it fits in nicely with my theme this month.

A while ago, I was asked what I thought my superpower was. Surprised, I said, 'What do you mean – I'm not exactly Superman?' And they replied, 'Sure, but what do you think are the things that give you energy and what are the things you do which also give others energy and inspiration?'

That got me thinking. What do we do that particularly gives strength, power and vitality to those around us – things that might be particularly unique to us? And what are the things that make us 'come alive' as well? Maybe it is hospitality, listening, writing, baking, singing, DIY, teaching, sport or caring?

I know someone who has Down syndrome. Their superpower is their smile, warmth of character and sense of humour. These things give them and others immense happiness. Being empowered and empowering others is so important.

In the month of May, the Church celebrates the time when Jesus, after his resurrection, left this world (the Ascension), and sent his Spirit upon his dispirited followers (Pentecost). Suddenly, with this Spirit, they were changed and empowered. Suddenly, they found they had various 'superpowers' which enabled them to go and change the world. Once they were timid, now they were bold. Once they were fearful, now they were strong. Once they doubted, now they believed.

It is this same Spirit which Christians still believe empowers people today. It doesn't turn ordinary people into superheroes, but it does empower them to live with an inner capability and strength.

So what would you say your superpower is, and what do you think of this claim that Jesus still empowers people with his Spirit today?

Have an amazing May,  
Andy  
Revd Andy

### PARISH CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland  
(For more information please contact Revd Andy Buttress:  
email [revandybuttress@gmail.com](mailto:revandybuttress@gmail.com))

Date	Stowupland	Wetherden	Haughley
Sunday 3rd	9.30am Parish Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Sunday Praise
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Morning Prayer & Praise		
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Worship for All	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Parish Communion
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Service at Steeple View		2.00pm Service at Mere View
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>			5.00pm Pizza Church
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>			10.00am Morning Prayer & Praise
Thursday 14th			7.00pm Ascension Day Service
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Worship for All	11.00am URC/ Anglican Service
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>		10.00am Morning Prayer & Praise	
Sunday 24th	6.30pm Pentecost Evening Celebration	11.00am Parish Communion	9.30am BCP Said Communion
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>			10.00am Morning Prayer & Praise with Holy Communion at the Vicarage
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>		11.00am Benefice Communion	

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, please give me your strength and inspiration so I can be of help to others. Amen.

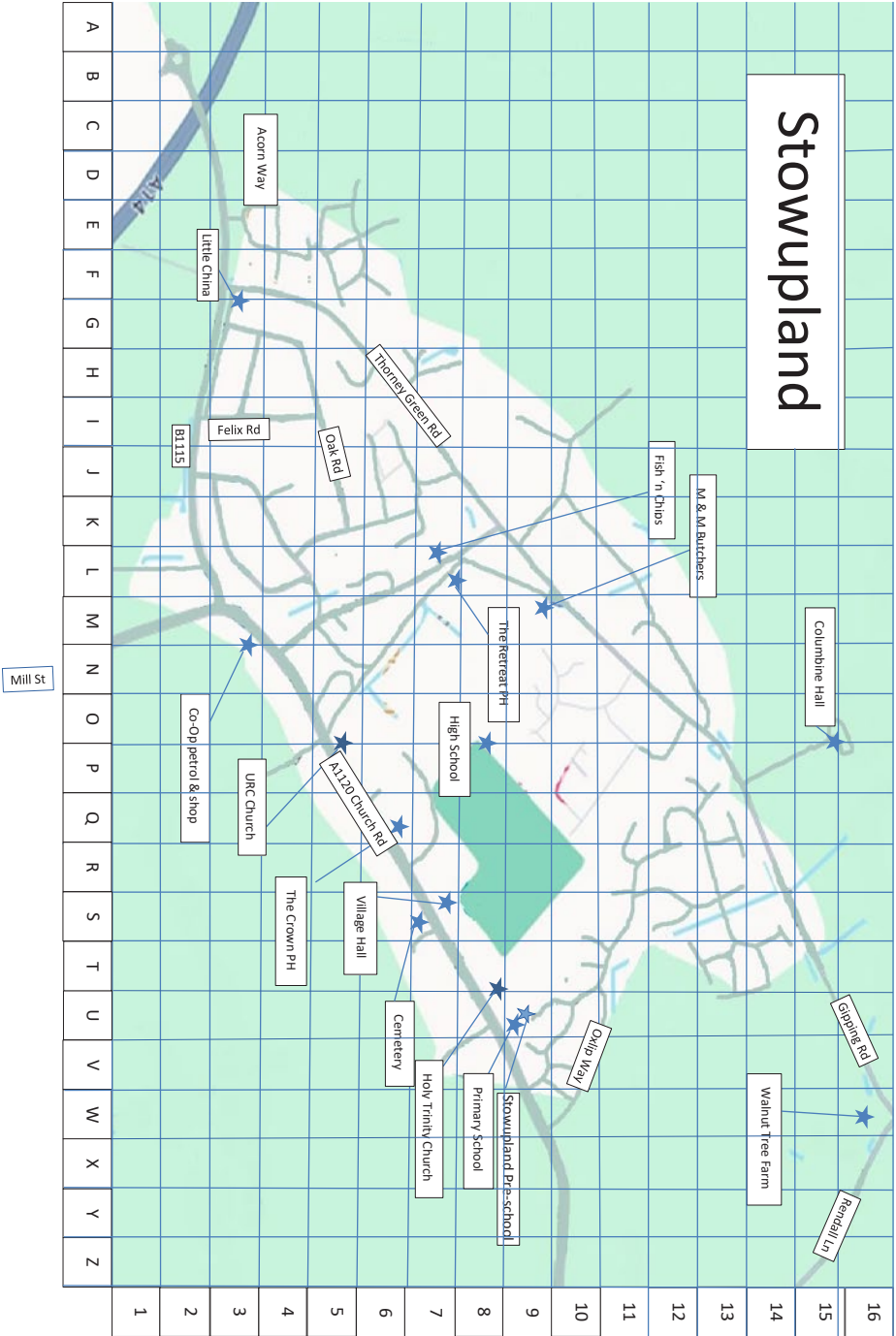
**FOOD BANK BOX:** If you would like to donate items for the Food Bank to help those in need of a helping hand, there is a box at the back of the church for you to leave your items. The church is open during service times and on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month to accept donations. Thank you.

**CHURCH HALL HIRE:** Please remember that the well-appointed Church Hall is available for hire at reasonable rates and would be ideal for children's parties and small group/meetings. For more information, please contact Sue Hayter.



**COME AND JOIN US FOR**  
**Stowupland Church Hall**  
**Saturday 16th May 2026 10.00 – 12.00**  
 There will be tea/coffee, cakes and good company  
***Everyone is welcome***

# Stowupland



# THE TELSTAR TEAM

**Editor** - Sarah McManus – 07849 506898 - The editor welcomes contributors. Please send all articles and contents to [articles4telstar@hotmail.com](mailto:articles4telstar@hotmail.com) or write c/o 4 Oak Apple Drive, Oak Farm Meadow, Stowupland, IP14 4FH.

**Business Advertising** - Sally Wray - [adverts.telstar@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adverts.telstar@hotmail.co.uk). Businesses with a Stowupland connection can advertise at very reasonable rates.

**Diary Dates** - Neil Langridge – [stowman@stowman.plus.com](mailto:stowman@stowman.plus.com) 07951 037749. To let the village know the date and venue of your event contact Neil to be included in the diary dates.

**Distribution Co-Ordinators** - Keith and Cathy Welham – 01449 673185. Colin Vickridge and Keith Welham are our proof-readers and Jerry Voden chairs meetings of our team. The entire team are unpaid volunteers.

Telstar is distributed by a team of volunteers who deliver the magazine to over 1,250 homes in Stowupland. The magazine is produced every month, with the exception of December and January, which is a combined copy that gives our trusty team of volunteers a well-earned Christmas break!

Telstar is funded by grants from Stowupland Parish Council and Mid Suffolk District Council as well as income from business advertisers.

## **From the Telstar Committee**

Please note that the opinions expressed in letters and articles are not necessarily those of the Telstar Committee. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication. We reserve the right to include, edit or amend as we think appropriate. Telstar is produced in good faith but errors or omissions may occur during the process of production. If this is the case, please let us know so that errors may be corrected.

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***Telstar – for the community, by the community.***

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Our annual fundraising event in  
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Stowupland to Old Newton & back!  
Come and join team  
Stowupland

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Register at the Sports and  
Social Club from 10:00 and  
finish before 16:00**

All ages welcome!

