

Telstar

Stowupland News

No 349
December 2021
& January 2022



*Happy Christmas
to all our readers*

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EDITOR'S NOTES

DECEMBER 2021



Well, all too soon we are on the last issue for 2021! We will not be back until the February Issue in 2022.

My job here at Telstar HQ is made so much easier by all the contributions that are made by our clubs, councils, and churches, not to mention the articles from our readers. Down to Earth and Countryside Rambler have been very popular, and it has been lovely to hear what goes on in school! Sam has kept us entertained with his perspective on life over the past year too. Telstar is truly the voice of the people who live here so please do keep your contributions coming over the next year. Many thanks to everyone who has taken part over 2021. I hope you, our readers, have found Telstar informative and entertaining. Please do let me know if we fall short and we will try to do better.

The Telstar Team is quite a force – there are seven of us who make it happen every month but there is a small army that deliver Telstar to your doors. We now deliver 1200 copies every month, a figure that is rising with all the new houses coming online!

So, to everyone involved in Telstar, and to all our readers, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kay
Editor

Many thanks to Ace Photographer Keith Hyland for the front cover photo.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To all Stowupland residents

From Sid Mole & Family

Still moving the dirt!



READERS LETTER

Hi Kay,

I saw on the back page planting a tree for the W.I. They also planted trees in the garden in the village hall car park. But nobody mentioned that after a few years they neglected it. I hope the biodiversity group won't let this happen again.

Friends of Freeman's School agreed to keep the village hall footpath clear, it's now done by the cricket club. They all seemed a good idea at the time, they also created a community woodland which is no longer in existence for the public to walk through.

So, I think you need to look to the future, and I hope you will find young volunteers that will keep looking after these projects.

Regards

Colin Churchill

From the Editor

I did respond to this email and asked Colin if I could print it. We also had a conversation at the Taylor Wimpey Consultation Day. The gist of our conversation was this:

Colin raised some very valid points in his first correspondence. Indeed, the WI garden at the village hall was showing signs of neglect and I was aware that Sally Reeves had tried to get volunteer helpers to tidy it up. In fact, Sally, Colin and Margaret Gough had looked after the garden for some time.

The community wood at Freeman Community Primary School was covered in Telstar a few months ago. It wasn't that there was a group willing to look after it but the misuse of it that led to its demise.

I believe the cutting of footpaths are under review from our councils as reported in recent months in the council reports.

Clearly, Colin is passionate about the village and wants it to thrive for the good of all. He is merely voicing what many villagers think. I tried to reassure Colin – and I say this to all who have their reservations – that the Wildflower and Biodiversity Group was formed with a long-term view. Most of us recognise that we won't sit in the shade of the trees we plant but hope that future generations will.

Colin felt I was missing his point – that groups come and go and then things get neglected. Truly, I take that on board, it happens. My response to this is that I really hope we can create a group that gathers momentum and keeps getting people involved in their local area.

Yes, we do need young volunteers, and yes, we do have young people in the group including children (the future generation). I honestly believe there is a place for everyone and anyone to get involved in how they want their village to look and to create great green spaces for the benefit of all flora and fauna as well as for us, the custodians of our space. None of us are here forever but our trees and flowers will be here long after we're gone.

So, I asked Colin, "Do we just give up and do nothing?" Because that is the alternative. Do we throw our hands in the air and say "What can I do?" We can do something, so we should do something. It's just not an option to turn our backs on nature. The COP26 talks have highlighted so many things that we, humanity, continue to inflict on our planet. It sometimes seems unreal, too far away to matter, but it does matter, it matters to every single one of us. We can all make a difference. The UK lags far behind the rest of the World in biodiversity so anything that we can do will make it better. In many ways, the rest of the World doesn't touch us. Our own World is the reality we can see, feel, touch. That reality is Stowupland – it's our space so let's take care of it.

FREE PLANTS

We are splitting up some of our perennial plants at the moment and have spare ones for anybody who would like them.

They are:

Veronica's, black grass, Alchemilla, brunnera, bugle, alliums, violets, and nerines.

If you would like to come and have a look, please phone John or Shirley on 01449 775369 to arrange a visit.

5 Sycamore Road

P.S. We also have some hanging baskets and wall hanging containers which need new homes.

Note from editor

What a great opportunity to fill your garden for free!

Thank you, John and Shirley, for sharing.

Please be Covid friendly when you visit and wear a mask.

THE WILDFLOWER AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP

Much has been happening since the group formed about two months ago. A leaflet has been produced giving tips on making your garden wild-life friendly and these have been distributed with the November Telstar parish magazine to every house in the village. Bulbs and equipment were ordered for the community bulb planting sessions on 26th and 30th October and a colourfull poster displayed on the village's noticeboards. Despite some wet weather on the Saturday, the bulb planting sessions saw some 750 bulbs planted. 350 wild daffodils along the edge of Birch Close ditch on the Tuesday, and a mix of wild daffodils, snowdrops, snakehead fritillaries, wood anemones, bluebells in the ditch along the edge of The Green adjacent to the school site on Saturday. The event was photographed by Telstar photographer Keith Hyland.

Thanks must go to the parish council who have provided welcome support for the group, especially Keith Welham who handled the funding applications.

The Group were invited by Taylor Wimpey along to the community consultation day on Saturday 6th November at the village hall ahead of the company's housing planning application. Taylor Wimpey provided some bug house kits that could be put together by children as well as cowslip seeds, compost and a leaflet marked out to make seed trays. This was an excellent opportunity for the group to connect with villagers and explain what we are all about as well as to look at and discuss how Taylor Wimpey plan to include biodiversity in the new development.

Plans for 2022 include preparation of three areas of The Green in the spring ahead of wildflower planting in the autumn and a family event in February to include building bird boxes.

One of the group's aims is to increase the tree cover by planting native species in suitable locations, you can read about when Stowupland had rather more areas of woodland than it does now in the Stowupland Local History Group pages of this month's Telstar.

Anyone wanting to be involved in the group or to share information should get in touch with *Kay Easter 16 Oak Road. email - kay.telstar@gmail.com or Keith Welham email - keithwelham48@aol.co.uk*

THE WILDFLOWER AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP

After a busy autumn the Wildflower & Biodiversity Group would like to plan future events and round up on what has been achieved so far.

This is by no means a 'closed group', anyone can come along to find out more about what we hope to do, to take part either by research or planting, or just to dip in and out to help out. This is a community project, for the community, by the community. Our aim is to help Stowupland retain its village feel by enhancing the open spaces in the village. With so much proposed building taking place, and increasing traffic, it is important to maintain our rural space.



**If you would like to find out more,
please come along to our meeting:**

On 15th December

At 7:30 pm

In The URC

*Keith Welham – keithwelham48@aol.com – 01449 673185
Kay Easter – kay.telstar@gmail.com – 01449 677261*

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COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

Winter is biting at our heels and soon it will be thick coats, scarves, and wellies. Although the winter months can be quite cruel weather wise, I do love the clear sunny frosty mornings, there is something about them that entices me out, the cold air hits your lungs and you feel invigorated. I often ramble through woodland and study the frost, encrusted on all the fallen leaves, best of all a glistening cobweb dripping with tiny water droplets as the early morning sun illuminates this wonder of nature and light it up for us to marvel at.

The local hedgerows are laden with berries and at this time of year, wildlife will take full advantage of this free larder. The blackberries and elderberries have all been eaten by now, but the hawthorn is a valuable food source for many of our small mammals, wood mice are quite adept climbers they will emerge at night and take their fill and also stash some for leaner times. The fallen berries will not go to waste as the cousin of the mouse, the vole will soon find them and can often be seen at the base of hedgerows during the day if you are patient and quiet.

Over the past few weeks I have witnessed flocks of redwings and fieldfares, these are migrant thrushes that fly over to us from Scandinavia mainly. They will spend the winter with us devouring berries and fallen apples, we will get a heavy influx of these birds if the weather is inclement in their homeland. If you spot any of these thrushes in your garden they will appreciate an apple along with our local blackbirds, they love them as well.

I have noticed that a lot of people are feeding the birds locally and I applaud you for doing so. Keep the feeders topped up as our feathery friends will need this extra supply as the winter diminishes their natural food supply. It is amazing what will turn up in your garden, I have recently had a green woodpecker and a grey wagtail. The goldfinches number up to sixteen on the feeders along with the greenfinches and a few chaffinches. A pair of carrion crows often turn up and a few cautious magpies arrive early morning. Also, a jay was a recent visitor, but it did not stay long.

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry festive season and a safe and healthy New Year. I hope I will see you over the festive break on your rambles.



DOWN TO EARTH

KATE ELLIOTT

Mistletoe is growing well in my garden at home, I have three good bunches of it in an old apple tree - but its success has absolutely nothing to do with me. It grows when and where it chooses. I have managed to persuade one by squidding a berry into the crack in the bark of my apple tree, but that was just one out of perhaps twenty attempts and I have absolutely no idea why that particular one worked and the others failed.



Of course the other two didn't appear by magic. They were spread by birds, mostly thrushes, who eat the berries, find the gooey white flesh that surrounds the seed sticking to their beaks which they wipe clean on a branch. If there is seed in that goo and if the tree has bark with a suitable texture to catch and hold that seed, then it has a chance of germinating and growing.

It is picky about its host. Not any tree will do. Hawthorn is by far the favourite although it grows well on apple trees, limes and poplars. Not all mistletoe has berries - it is dioecious, which means the male plants are separate from the female, and only the latter have berries. This explains why a very healthy ball of mistletoe can be berryless and another nearby much smaller can be covered with them. Note to self - I really must try again with my squidding method and hopefully encourage some to grow in our old orchard at Columbine.

Our gardens are a great source for home-grown Christmas decorations. Make the most of what's available in the garden, particularly holly, ivy, allium heads and late berries such as pyracantha and twigs of mid-winter shrubs such as winter jasmine.

Forced hyacinths and daffodils are available in the shops if you haven't grown your own and they're no trouble to look after. Enjoy them while they're at their best and once they have finished flowering, you can plant them out in the garden.

Poinsettias are the Christmas classic and now you can get pink, cream and variegated ones as well as the traditional red. The 'flowers' are actually coloured bracts, the true flowers are just little tufts of yellow tucked away in the middle. They are quite fussy, so keep them in a warm room at an even temperature and away from any draughts.

Here are some jobs you can be doing this December and January:

Continue to plant bare-root roses, shrubs and trees.

Check stored bulbs for any signs of rot.

Remove yellow leaves from brassicas so fungal diseases such as grey mould and downy mildew don't take hold.

Pick off any yellowing leaves and faded flowers from overwintering pelargoniums.

Put out fresh water for birds everyday.

Scoop fallen leaves from ponds.

Clear out your shed and clean and organise your tools.

Look through seed catalogues and plan what to grow next year.

Place straw around the base of parsnips to prevent soil freezing, which can make harvesting difficult.

Prune grapevines and roses.

Dig over empty borders and prepare your soil for next year's planting.

As we go into December the poor garden can feel bedraggled and battered.

But the vegetable garden is still important. I like to have as much from the garden as possible for Christmas dinner - Brussels sprouts, potatoes, carrots, and parsnips. And I'm going to make sure I cut holly from the garden, make wreaths with dried stems and flowers, put up bunches of mistletoe and fill the house with green.

And the present that I shall be giving to myself is the most valuable of all - more blissful days in the garden.

BIODIVERSITY

The circle of life,
Nature at its best,
Look around you and you will see,
Biodiversity,
It's in the air,
It's in the sea,
And on the land,
Each drop of rain,
From Heaven descends,
With a speck of dust that bursts, when it lands,
Each piece of wood, that you think dead,
It's so alive with decay,
It's food for plants,
Other microbes they live there,
On the compost they are everywhere,
So when you think that we are dead,
We are not, biodiversity will make you rot,
We all live on in good compost,
All life when it dies returns,
To the earth where it was born,
In different shapes and forms,
And life you see will always be,
Life without an end.

Biodiversity by Grace Sochacz.

Authors note: Biogenesis.

Hypothesis that living matter arises from only living matter.

NEWS FROM HOME-START

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we have been left with a shortfall in funding, putting some of our family groups at risk of closure, which is why we launched our Pennies for Play campaign which will include a **Christmas Raffle**.

Tickets will be going on sale soon. The first prize will be £100 in cash, and there will be lots of other lovely prizes including a hamper.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (20) Home-Start Mid & West Suffolk | Facebook for more details on how to buy tickets, or call the office on 01379 678552 for more information.

Alternatively, you can donate to our campaign to help keep our family, perinatal mental health and SEND groups running at virginmoneygiving.com/fund/PenniesForPlay

We are currently re-stocking our charity shop at 1 Broad Street, Eye, with some fantastic winter items to reflect the change of season, so do pop in and have a look at what is new.

We are also selling various brand-new gift items in preparation for Christmas. For example, beautiful memo blocks, note pads and magnetic shopping lists, as well as a lovely range of Christmas Cards, wrapping paper and 2022 calendars. So why not shop local, save your precious petrol, and support a local charity?

You can also buy these items and so much more via our eBay selling hub. You can find us by going to www.ebay.co.uk and search for homestartsuffolk. This is where we sell our quirky, unusual or collectable items, and we also have a great range of clothing and shoes, including evening wear for the upcoming party season.

Facebook Marketplace is where we list our larger items for sale such as prams, cots, mirrors, rugs, household items etc. – just search for Chris at Home start on the Facebook Marketplace tab.

NEW VOLUNTEER PREPARATION TRAINING COURSES FOR 2022

Have you been thinking about volunteering? Why not make 2022 the year this becomes a reality? We recruit and train volunteers to support families with children aged 11 and under in their own homes, and also to assist with our family groups with children under the age of 5. We couldn't carry out this vital work without volunteers, so if you can spare a couple of hours a week, we would love you to join our amazing team of volunteers.

Our home visiting volunteer courses run 10am-2pm weekly for 7 weeks (excluding half term).

The next course starts on Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

Our group volunteer course is one session and runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm, followed by a session of safeguarding training the next week.

The next course starts in March 2022.

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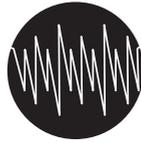
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STOWMARKET ECO FUTURE GROUP



Greetings from Stowmarket Eco Future Group. Wishing you a simple and meaningful Christmas and New Year Celebration focussed on love and care for your friends and family, and the natural world we enjoy.



Recycling: Our market stall on the 4th Thursday of each month, collecting hard to recycle items, is proving to be a great success. Everything collected is taken by our SEFG volunteers to various Terracycle projects. We collect:

1. Dry Pet food and Dog treat bags, wet pet food pouches (empty, clean and dry please)
2. Medicine Blister packs (empty)
3. Plastic toothbrushes, plastic toothpaste tubes and holders (empty) toothbrush heads, floss containers
4. Cheese wrappers and cheese nets
5. Any brand of pen, felt tip, highlighter, marker, correction fluid pot, correction tape, mechanical pencil, eraser pen regardless of their composition



Don't forget that we also collect empty **crisp packets** at Red Gables, Ipswich Street Stowmarket on the first Sunday of each month 2-4 pm

“Christmas Greenery”

Be GREEN on BLACK FRIDAY

It seems that everyone likes a bargain! In 2020 it is estimated that UK shoppers spent a colossal £6 billion. The anticipation is that will drop this year (only 4.8 billion). Green thinking knows the **real** cost of an item. What impact does the item have on the Environment over its lifetime? How is it packaged? Where was it made? What impact will using it have on the planet? How will it eventually be disposed of? Can you Repair, Reuse, Recycle instead of buying new?

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?



stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com

DOGS TRUST

Hello from Dogs Trust!

Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:



The first, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a **free** service for dog-owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. This is often a great concern to the elderly, as their dog may be their only friend and companion – Dogs Trust can give them peace of mind, knowing that their canine companion's future is safe, should the worst happen to them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of rehoming centres and we never put down a healthy dog

Secondly, I wanted to make you aware that we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by emailing emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912

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SAM'S CHAT

Hello everyone

While I am writing this my family have Covid. Daddy got it first then a week after I got it then Jessica the next day after me. Mummy hasn't got it yet. We all just had coughs and colds so didn't know we had it until we did the lateral flow tests. So now we are home schooling again for 10 days until we can go back to school. I keep looking out on the computer for my lessons. I don't get all my lessons, but I find something to do like programming with Mummy. I also play a game on the computer called Rise of Nations. That has helped me with my geography. Jessica gets all her lessons, and she is doing much better than the last time we home schooled.

Before we all got Covid we went to the Green to help plant bulbs. I used a hand bulb planter to make a hole, Jessica pushed the bulb in then I squeezed the handle to release the dirt and bury the bulb. We planted about 30, I think. There were other people planting too. After a while the bulbs will grow into native wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*). We placed them right on the bank and we hope that they will grow down and all the way to the water. Now we know what to do we are going to plant bulbs in our garden too. We wanted to do bug houses but weren't allowed out to get them as we were isolating.



In half term we did a virtual Halloween trail at Needham Lake. This is where Mummy sees pumpkins and Frankenstein and witches on her phone and takes a photo while we act like we are dancing with them. It is fun to do and very clever how it works. We also did a scarecrow trail in Needham. We walked nearly six miles but didn't see them all as they were spaced out. We had a map to find them. Some were really good. One of our friends made one too, which we saw.

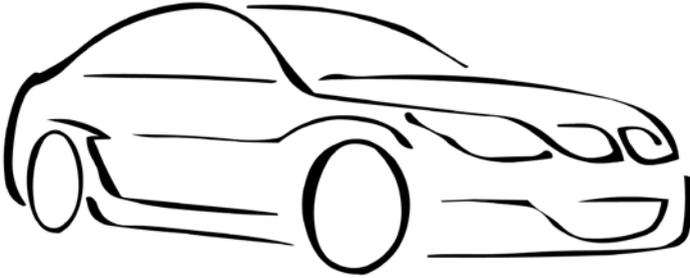


Recently Jessica, Mummy and I have been creating things out of loom bands. We started off with me making bees and Jessica and Mummy making little spiders, but we have also made ghosts, pumpkins, and bats! It is really fun, and it doesn't take a lot of time. We are making lots while we can't go out to swimming or karate or school. Next, we will make lots of Christmas ones. We also are learning to knit and crochet.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sam

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STOWUPLAND BOWLS CLUB

Well, we have had a busy time this last month putting the green to bed for the winter.

It was deep cored to let the grass roots expand and get some air, then it was reseeded and to finish off it was top dressed with a very fine soil.

Five weeks have now passed, and lo and behold the new grass is showing through.

We had all our hedges cut which nearly finished the wintering process, except the greenkeeper decided that the green needed a cut as the new grass was getting too long for the winter.

The A.G.M. was held at the pavilion and attended by a good turnout of members.

I was again elected as chairman and then the members unanimously elected Kay Easter, the editor of this magazine as Treasurer which she accepted, a welcome new committee member.

It is hoped we hold a Xmas party in December followed by a couple of social evenings in the New Year before the new season gets under way.

There is also a plan to hold an open day in the spring for the general public to come and say hello, have a drink and a piece of cake, and try their hand at bowling. Please do not forget this sport is not just for the older person, the sport needs all ages to come BEFORE it dies out.

The QUEEN'S JUBILEE will also feature in this year's programme of games which is open to Stowupland residents as well as members.

The club's thoughts and best wishes go out to Brenda Begg and family in this very hard time.

There will not be a report now until the New Year when an annual programme will be available so, MERRY CHRISTMAS, a HAPPY NEW YEAR and please keep safe through this difficult time.

Frank Boxall
Stowupland Bowls Club

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References upon request

Contact details:

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What a quick term it has been! Things have managed to stay predominantly as normal so far which has been fantastic.

The Year 6s have been enjoying their swimming lessons at Stowmarket Leisure Centre and are currently learning lifesaving skills. The Year 5s are progressing well with their guitar lessons as are our flute and clarinet pupils with two of our clarinet pupils passing exams with flying colours! The Year 3s have enjoyed their turn at Forest School this term, including trying animal yoga, doing some conker art and picking fruit to make blackberry and apple jam which they then got to taste on some toast. We've also been able to hold after-school clubs again so the children have been trying dodgeball, archery and basketball amongst others. All-in-all it's been a very busy, but fun term!

Usually at this time our parents' association, Stowupland Friends of Freeman, would be organising the school Christmas Fayre, however, as they have been unable to do this for the last couple of years due to restrictions, this year they are raising money for the school by holding a raffle for a lovely selection of Festive Hampers from Alder Carr Farm.



Tickets are £1 each and are on sale until Friday 10th December 2021, with the winners being drawn at the school on 15th December.

Tickets may be sold to anyone over 18, so if you would like to purchase any to have a chance of winning one of the lovely hampers as well as supporting your local primary school they are available to buy from the school office.

Cherry Tree Class News

Our Year 1 children in Cherry Tree class had a very exciting fortnight this term when their teacher, Mrs Durler, brought in some 'living eggs'. The eggs, which were 19 days old when they were delivered, were kept in an incubator in the classroom for the children to monitor. It didn't take long before the first chicks appeared, much to the children's excitement!



Mrs Durler's aim of having the eggs/chicks in the classroom was to bring learning to life, enriching the children's studies in different subject areas.

The first topic of conversation which arose from having the chicks in class was how it took up to 24 hours for a chick to hatch out of the shell, when egg shells normally seem to break so easily! The children decided to test how strong a raw egg was so they piled books on top of 4 raw eggs (not ones from the incubator!) and discovered the strongest eggs held 60 books in total – the equivalent of 11kgs!! No wonder the chicks were so exhausted once they had hatched!



Once the chicks had all hatched, they were put in a 'brooder'. The children then took it in turns to clean out the brooder each morning whilst the other children had the opportunity for a cuddle with the chicks.



As well as learning about animal husbandry, the children's normal learning was linked in with the chicks including painting pictures of them in Art, writing diaries about them in English and measuring the chicks in Maths.



Each table was responsible for their own chick and checked their weight and height daily. They noticed the chicks seemed to grow taller by one cube a day!

The children also kept a 'Living Egg' diary where they tracked the chicks' progress in addition to completing other tasks such as trying the chicks with different foods and organising pictures of the chicks lifecycle into the correct order.

And in Maths, they used a ruler for the first time, measuring pictures of chicks hatching out of eggs, which they then placed in order size, smallest to largest.

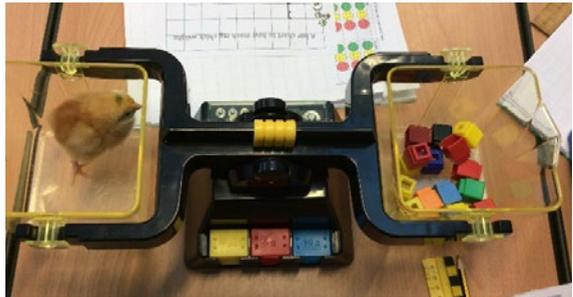
Having the eggs and chicks in class really did enrich the children's learning. Most of the time they didn't even realise they were doing maths, science etc because they were having so much fun!

They were all quite sad when the chicks left but luckily they all found homes with families from Cherry Tree class so we can still hear how they're getting on.

And Finally

All the staff and pupils at Freeman Community Primary School wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will back in the February issue with more news!

From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow





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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Citizens Advice

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

Jo Churchill - jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk -
Constituency Office, 10 Hatter Street,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LZ - 01284 752311
House of Commons - 02072 198487
<https://www.jochurchill.org.uk/>

Mid Suffolk District Council

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk
Keith Welham - keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk -
01449 673185

Police

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

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC 14443 Stefan Henriksen - Police Station,
Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NJ
stefan.henriksen@suffolk.pnn.police.uk - Phone: 101

Samaritans – 116 123

Stowupland Village Website

www.stowupland.com

Parish Council Website

www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Suffolk County Council

www.suffolk.gov.uk 01449 673185
Keith Welham - Keith.Welham@suffolk.gov.uk
SCC – General Contact No. 0345 606 6067

Schools

Stowupland High School -
www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk - 01449 674827
Freeman Community Primary School -
www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk - 01449 612067

Vets

Cedarwood - 01449 676966
Stowe Vets - 01449 613130

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

WED 1	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and toddler group
WED 1	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
WED 1	7.30 pm Village hall	Local history group - Hexachordia
THURS 2	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Choose Refills pop-up shop
THURS 2	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
SUN 5	10.30 - 4.30 Village hall	Antiques and Collectors fair
SUN 5	7.30 pm Village hall	Country and Western music club – Paul James
MON 6	evening Village hall	Dance Club
WED 8	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and toddler group
WED 8	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
THURS 9	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
THURS 9	7.30 pm URC hall	Parish Council meeting
MON 13	7.30 pm Village hall	Dance Club
WED 15	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and toddler group
WED 15	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
WED 15	7.30 pm URC	Wildflower & Biodiversity meeting
THURS 16	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
SUN 19	7.30 pm Village hall	Country and Western music club – Brian Mann
MON 20	7.30 pm Village hall	Dance Club
WED 22	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
THURS 23	7 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls

THURS 30

7 pm Village hall

Short mat bowls

JANUARY

SUN 2	10.30 - 4.30 Village hall	Antiques and Collectors fair
WED 5	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
THURS 6	2 - 4 pm Village hall	Choose Refills pop-up shop
THURS 6	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
MON 10	7.30 pm Village hall	Dance club
WED 12	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and Toddler group
WED 12	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
THURS 13	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
MON 17	7.30 pm Village hall	Dance club
WED 19	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
WED 19	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and toddler group
THURS 20	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls
MON 24	7.30 pm Village hall	Dance club
WED 26	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
WED 26	9.30 am Village hall	Baby and toddler group
THURS 27	7.00 pm Village hall	Short mat bowls

FEBRUARY

WED 2	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Mobile post office
WED 2	7.30 pm Village hall	Local history group (see LHG page for subject of talk)
THURS 3	2 - 4 pm Village hall car park	Choose Refills pop-up shop

Rachel Eburne - rachel.eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk -
01449 673311

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

Mobile Library - 07721 879855

Parish Council

Sally Reeves – Chairman - 01449 745739
sallyreeves@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Laura Beeson - 07918 808387

laurabeeson@stowuplandpc.co.uk

John Hayward – 01449 674717

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Laura Johnson - 07826 851030

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Paula Murton - 07906 677817

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Ray Studd - 01449 676606

raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Jerry Voden - 01449 703717

jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council – Claire Pizzey
parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk - 01449 677005

2 Broomspath Road, IP14 4DB

*Parish Council Minutes of meetings and agendas are
available on the Parish Council Website
www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud*

Village Hall Bookings

Colin Booker - Phone - 07862740830
stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Village Clubs

Baby and Toddler Group -

Kelly Woolhough - 07776 206430

Book Group - Patricia Hodgkins - 01449 672127

Stowupland Bowls Club - Graham Newman -
01359 240846

Community Events - Keith Welham - 01449 673185

Country and Western - Pat Murphy - 01449 677405

Dance Club - Mary Durham - 01449 672601

Local History Group - Jerry Voden - 07951 086383

Short Mat Bowls – Pam Fayers – 07713026696

Sports and Social Club - Andy Parkin - 07796 274905

- www.stowupland-sports-and-social-club.co.uk

Stowupland Cricket Club

www.stowuplandcricketclub.co.uk/

Stowupland Falcons Football Club -

stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk

Stowupland Sports Centre -

info@stowuplandssportcentre.co.uk - 01449 672531

Stowupland Wildflower & Biodiversity Group –

kay.telstar@gmail.com

Stowmarket Wildlife Group - John Thompson -

swtstowmarket@gmail.com - 01449 676471

TEXTING FOR THE MATURE

(The modern acronyms)

Are you keeping up with youngsters' speak?

Do you understand the text?

They don't use words, just letters.

My word, whatever next.

There are many you might understand,

L-O-L is all you need.

You could write it as, "Laugh out Loud,"

But it takes more time to read.

I've been looking at some text for the old,

A-T-D is a disappointment.

It means that you are "At the Doc's."

Assuming you have an appointment.

U-O-D-T-S, bad news,

If you're not in a bungalow.

"Up or Down the Stairs," which way?

Which way do you want to go?

You might have G-H-A,

If you've eaten far too late.

"Got Heartburn Again," that's what it means,

When your stomach is in a state.

To finish, one that you might know,

O-M-G, a message short.

In longhand, "Oh My Goodness,"

And that's my final thought.

The Really Lovely Poetry Company R.R.G.

WHO IS GOING TO THE PANTOMIME?

Oh yes, we are! Oh no, we're not!

Pantomimes have become a traditional part of Christmas celebrations. The roots of pantomime can be traced back to 16th Century Italy where 'Commedia dell'Arte' was entertainment with music, dance, tumbling and acrobatics. The Harlequin was the main character, a bit of a rogue dressed in patchwork clothing who carried a magic bat. The bat was used to knock down a series of hinged flaps to change the scenery. The term 'slapstick' originated from the Harlequin's bat!

By the 18th Century, the characters of 'Commedia' had transferred to the London stage. Early pantomimes were based on classical stories set to music but without speech. The most notable Harlequin was John Rich who danced but never spoke. In 1732 he built Covent Garden Theatre with the proceeds from his pantomimes. Harlequin, with all his devilment and tomfoolery dominated pantomime for the next hundred years.

At another famous London theatre, Drury Lane, the actor-manager there astounded his audiences with a speaking Harlequin. New stories incorporated old folk tales like Robin Hood and Dick Whittington. In 1806 Joseph Grimaldi's Clown was a tremendous hit in Mother Goose which began to edge Harlequin out as the star of the show.

After the Theatres Act lifted the restrictions of not using the spoken word in 1843, spoken dialogue was allowed. Witty puns, word play, and audience participation added to the enjoyment of pantomime. Any subject matter was used, from the old folk tales to social satire with comments on topical events.

By the late 19th Century, pantomimes were extravagant affairs which could last for five hours! It became customary for pantomimes to open on Boxing Day therefore setting this form of entertainment solidly at Christmas, for family entertainment.



Left to right: Miss Rosie St. George as Boy Blue in Little Bo Peep, Miss Maud Boyd as Robin Hood, Ada Blanche as Robinson Crusoe, The Sketch Magazine, 27 December 1893, England. Museum no. 131655. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Left to right: Dan Leno as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin* at the Drury Lane Theatre, 1896, England. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Samuel Simmons as Mother Goose in *Mother Goose, or the Golden Egg*, Covent Garden Theatre, 1806. Published by S. De Wilde, 1807, Harry Beard Collection

Gender switching was relatively common on the historical stage. Men were often dressed as women as female performers were banned until 1660. However, for pantomime, the masculinity of the dame was always pronounced and became an essential part of the comedy. In the mid 19th Century, the stage saw its first principal boys, ladies dressed as boys usually in a lead role. At this time, it would have been unseemly for a lady to show as much as an ankle, but the principal boys performed in shorts and tights. Many female Music Hall stars were brought to these great theatres as principal boys. By the end of the century principal boys and pantomime dames were firmly fixed on the pantomime stage.

Pantomimes became huge extravaganzas, with flamboyant costumes and bewildering scene changes.

In December 1900, a critic in *The Star* newspaper wrote:

The Drury Lane pantomime...is a symbol of our nation. It is the biggest thing of its kind in the world, it is a prodigal of money, of invention, of splendour, of men and women, but it is without the sense of beauty or the restraining influence of taste. It is impossible to sit in the theatre for five hours without being filled with weary admiration. Only a great nation could have done such a thing; only an undisciplined nation would have done it. The monstrous, glittering thing of pomp and humour is without order or design; it is a hotch-potch of everything that has been seen on any stage.

Images and quotes courtesy of Victoria and Albert Museum.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Christmas Biscuits

Ingredients

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 100g/3½oz caster sugar
- 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 275g/10oz plain flour
- To decorate
- 400g/14oz icing sugar
- 3-4 tbsp water
- 2-3 drops food colouring or writing icing
- Edible glitter/decorations

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale, light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time, until well combined.
4. Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.
5. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 1cm/½in.
6. Using biscuit cutters or a glass, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray. To make into Christmas tree decorations, carefully make a hole in the top of the biscuit using a straw.
7. Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, then cool on a wire rack.
8. For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring if used.
9. Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and sprinkle over the glitter. Decorate as you like. Set aside until the icing hardens.

This is a basic cookie recipe that you can adapt to make in any variety of shapes. You could make small ones and fill pretty jars to give away as Christmas presents or use them as tree decorations (don't forget the hole!)

Recipe courtesy of BBC Food.

THE WALKER CUP

Jerry Voden and I went along to St Elizabeth Hospice and met with Alistair and Katie Ewan from Old Newton to present a cheque for £1032, and all the gift aid forms, from The Walker Cup. We presented the cheque to Brandon Orton, a community fundraiser for St Elizabeth Hospice.



This is an excerpt from The Crier, Old Newtons magazine, written by Annie Stearn:-

“This year’s event was a huge success and very well attended with 181 people walking from Old Newton and Stowupland in our annual challenge to win The Walker Cup. The idea for this sponsored walk came from Roger Stearn 13 years ago when he wanted to raise funds for St Elizabeth’s Hospice which provided such wonderful care for a cousin of his. Every year the walk has generated a healthy competitive spirit between the villages and one year saw the walkers wearing fancy dress and Roger in his Speedos!

Roger not only established this amazing fundraiser, but has walked it every year including this year, when in blazing sunshine he walked with his family at the wonderful age of 81.”

Stowupland retain the Walker Cup with 96 walkers to Old Newtons 85.

A festive poster for the Christmas Winter Fair 2021. At the top left is the RSPCA Suffolk East & Ipswich Branch logo. The background is light blue with snowflakes and a string of colorful Christmas lights. The title 'Christmas Winter Fair 2021' is in a large, bubbly font. Below it, the location 'STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL (Stowmarket IP14 4BG)' is listed, along with a list of stalls: 'Stalls for all the family to enjoy including crafts, bric-a-brac, homemade jams and chutneys, raffle and tombola.' The date and time are 'SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER 11AM - 3PM'. The poster is decorated with candy canes and a wreath. At the bottom, it says 'Hot and cold refreshments available.' and 'ENTRY IS FREE FOR ALL!' in bold red letters.

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LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

You will have missed our November meeting when Robin Webb shared with us the result of the dig by Oxford Archaeology into '**What Lies Beneath**' the houses of Trinity Meadows. Jerry's write up will appear in the New Year.

And possibly also missed our Christmas meeting on **December 1st** (Village Hall, 7.30) when we are getting into the festive mood with the music of **Hexachordia**, an evening of festive **music, fun and mirth** as experienced by 16 and 17th century folk.

Our new membership year starts in January, though please don't forget we do not have a meeting in January. If you have enjoyed reading our pages or perhaps attended one of our meetings as a visitor and would like to know more about the Group and the benefits of membership, please contact our Membership Secretary, Christine Williams, on (01449) 771430 for an application form. Applications can, of course, be made at any time of the year on a pro rata basis. Looking forward to the time of year when traditionally trees are welcomed into our homes, Neil has been thinking about;

TREES IN THE STOWUPLAND LANDSCAPE

Stowupland now has a biodiversity group who are looking to re-wilding parts of our environment. One aim is to plant more trees to increase biodiversity and limit climate change. Suffolk is one of the least wooded counties and today our parish has no sizable areas of woodland but how much was covered by trees in the past?

The whole country would once have been covered by wildwood but most of this had been cleared in prehistoric times. Early settlement grew up in the river valleys, the uplands of Stow were probably very sparsely populated as the heavy clay soil was very hard to work before effective drainage was developed. So this higher land was used mainly for grazing animals. Areas of surviving woodland would also be a feature on this land. An increasing population meant expansion into these less favourable lands leading to the felling of remaining woodland areas to bring more land into cultivation.

What woods remained would have been managed as a resource by coppicing to provide a regular supply of wood and timber for fuel, fencing and building etc. Pigs were also allowed to roam the woods where they would eat the fallen acorns. Woods were also cover for game birds, deer and other wild animals that could be hunted.

In 1389 the manor of Thorney Hall which included a large part of Stowupland contained 30 acres of woodland or 15.8% of the manor's land. There were also 16 acres of Alder a tree that flourishes on wet land.

Today Stowupland has no large areas of woodland, the nearest being Gipping Great Wood. This being on the Tyrrell family's Gipping Hall estate would have been retained as a landscape feature and as cover for game. However, hints of areas of woodland can be found in old documents.

Hoowood/Howood

The area known as Hoowood was between Mount Pleasant Farm (originally named Hoogate or Howgate Farm) and Stonebridge Lane. This was described in a deed of 1603 as "a parcel of wood called Hoowood 44 acres in area". However, in 1613 it is described as "land pasture and wood ground lately being all wood ground now converted into arable and pasture 44 acres". So, we can see here the process of the clearing of woods in favour of the farming of arable and livestock.

Pennes Wood

In a document of 1488 mention is made of "land of the John Hotoft called Penneswood". Its location is made clearer in 1633 when an acre of land is described as "between Pennyswood on the north and the common way called Sheepcote Lane towards the south" Sheepcote Lane would now be Creeting Road.

Badegryn Wood (spellings vary)

In 1291 when Thorney Hall was being rebuilt timber was sourced locally including "two large oaks in Badegreym for the hall". An earlier instance of this placename is from 1250 when a Walter de Baldegrim (Walter of Baldegrim) is mentioned. Proof that a wood once existed at this place comes later when it is called Badgreenwood. It was situated on the eastern side of Saxham Street.

Trees also grew singly in hedgerows and these were sometimes used as boundary markers on parish or manor boundaries. Somewhere near the house now known as The Ashes, off Newton Road, stood four ash trees, these must have been a familiar feature as they were used as a fixed point on perambulations of two of Stowupland's manors - "unto the corner on the Weste syde of the fower ashes growinge at Reedes house nowe the house of John Hubberd" The 1668 perambulation of Thorney Hall manor notes - "a place called Bury Way stile where here is one tree marked for the procession way of Stowupland" this tree would also have marked the then boundary between Stowupland and Mendlesham parishes. Each year the ceremony of beating the bounds would process around the boundary of the parish so that all would know the exact line in event of any dispute between neighbouring parishes about this. (Neil Langridge, 2021)

Coming more up to date we know that in the 19th and 20th centuries Stowupland was studded with orchards growing various types of fruit but especially apples. Maybe a topic for a later article?

As the song says we may '**deck the hall with boughs of holly**', but it is usually a fir tree I associate with being brought into the home at Christmas. I was surprised recently to learn from my mother that her father would dig up a small holly tree to bring in to be decorated for Christmas. During the year he would search the hedgerows for a suitable young tree that he would be able to dig up and take home. There are many superstitions associated with trees, and although Pip Wright 's talk in October did not delve deeply into witchcraft as such he did much to enlighten us on earlier people's experiences of living among witches.

Suffolk Witches by Pip Wright

On the 6th October Pip gave a talk to 35 members and guests at the village hall on Suffolk Witches.

He asked the audience for a travel pass into Norfolk and Essex, as this would give him the scope to extend his talk over a wider area. In the early 15th century witches were known for their skills as herbalists. Since physicians were in short supply and expensive many country-folk would turn to the local wise woman or witch when they ailed or needed medicines to help them through difficult times.

The first story we heard was about a lady in Eye by the name of Marjory Jordamine. She was very good at making predictions, and unfortunately for her, she was heard to predict when her king, King Henry VI, was going to die. The King sent two men from his court to investigate Marjory. She was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be burned at the stake, but for treason not witchcraft.

Some of Pip's descriptions of how information was extracted from "witches" in those days were none to pleasant and perhaps not to be described in a family magazine! Apparently, it was also said that Anne Boleyn was a "witch", and it is claimed she cast a spell over Henry V¹¹. However, there was no law against witchcraft in her lifetime. It was only after her daughter Elizabeth 1 came to the throne that a law was passed making witchcraft illegal. Around 1582 a "coven of witches" was investigated in Essex and most of them were found guilty and hung. After the death of Elizabeth 1 in 1603, her distant relative James VI of Scotland became James 1 of England. He had a keen interest in witchcraft. He had even written a book on the subject and decided it was necessary to strengthen the laws on witchcraft. This included proof and evidence from witnesses who had actually witnessed these events.

Pip then moved forward to the mid-17th century when England was gripped by Civil War. He explained that this was a period of great political turmoil with a loss of governmental control. And he reminded us that it was during this time of civil unrest that Mathew Hopkins, the self-proclaimed "Witch Finder General" made his mark on East Anglia. This was not a government appointment, but he had put together a small team who were determined to seek out witches. Bounties were put on suspected witch's heads and the team went about their duties with a will.

He came to Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds in 1645 and 80 cases of witchcraft were tried with many of the accused being sentenced to death. Not all were convicted and there was one judge who directed the jury not to convict as he thought there was not enough evidence. However, the jury disagreed with him, unable to overturn the verdict he reluctantly had to pass the death sentence. This was a difficult period for professed witches.

Pip explained that belief in witchcraft was not new but perhaps witches were being seen as malevolent and people were increasingly looking for signs of the devil.

The witch finders introduced the idea of 'devil's marks' that were small growths or areas of the body that were less sensitive to pain where a witch might suckle her familiars. Pip even spoke to his GP about the concept of extra nipples and was told that 1 in 5 people had more than 2 nipples – so he queried how many of the audience could be accused as witches.

People also started to protect themselves from evil by marking their hearths and doors with 'witches marks', engravings that would ensnare evil and stop it entering the house.

Mathew Hopkins died of TB and after this the witch trial mania slowed down. The last trial was in 1712 at Stevenage, taken by Mr Justice Powell. For some reason although the verdict was guilty the hanging was delayed, and the person concerned was eventually granted a royal pardon. Pip finished by saying after this date people started to take a more tolerant view of witches and trials and they eventually petered out.

There was a Q&A session after which refreshments were served. Our thanks to Annie and Liz for stirring their cauldron in the kitchen to cater for us (Jerry Voden, 2021)

.....

If we don't see you at our December 1st meeting, all at SLHG would like to wish our readers a **Very Happy Christmas and New Year**. And we look forward to meeting again in 2022 on February 2nd when Neil will be joined by Sarah Doig to share their research about a couple of local historians. In the meantime, if you have any questions about SLHG please have a look at our website **www.stowuplandlocalhistorygroup.org**

or contact; Jerry Voden (Secretary) – 01449 703717: voden@btinternet.com

.....

Down Memory Lane...

we associate pantos with Christmas and this year SLHG are decorating a Christmas Tree at MEAL to celebrate Freeman C.P. School pantos of the 1960s. (MEAL's theme is Christmas music).

But did you attend this 1957 performance by the **Stowupland Amateur Players**? I have the names and a photo of the cast of this performance but can anyone share any more memories about SAP?



YOUR LOCAL CITIZENS ADVICE NEEDS YOU

A local charity offering advice is looking for new volunteers to join their team.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk offer people free advice on issues like benefits, debt, employment and housing. Volunteers are based in the Advice Centre in Stowmarket.



Simon Clifton, Chief Officer, said, "over the covid-19 pandemic we have continued to provide a service to people who need it – closing up shop was not an option. One challenge that remains is to continue to meet demand. Volunteers are at the heart of our charity and we're looking for new people to join our team. You don't need any specific qualifications or experience to volunteer with us, just an interest in working with people to make their lives better."

Steve Avery, who has been volunteering with Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk for 4 years, said, "I like volunteering here because you make a real difference to people's lives. There's a great team of people and you get a lot of support. I would say to anyone considering volunteering to give it a try because it keeps you connected and up to date."

There are several roles available including Advisers, Telephone Assessors and Trustees.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit midsuffolkcab.org.uk/ volunteer or contact Tina Hovell, Volunteer Recruiter, on 01449 676060.

Stowupland Village Hall **Excellent facilities - competitive prices**



Our Village Hall is just the place for clubs and groups to meet or for special functions, such as parties, receptions and exhibitions.

There is one large room suitable for 140-300 people depending on the event. A small one seats up to 20 people. There is a well equipped kitchen, ample parking and a licensed bar, plus a new audio-visual system included in the standard hire charge.

Interested? Look on our website at www.stowupland.com/village-hall.
Call or email Colin Booker, our booking secretary to arrange a viewing or make a booking.
Tel: 07862740830. email: stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com



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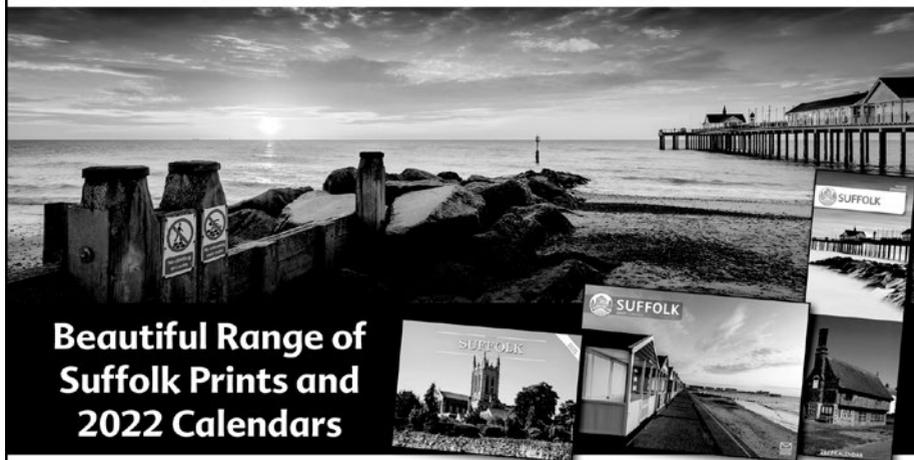
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U.R.C CHAPEL

NEWS

We are now thinking about our Christmas Celebrations within the Chapel and at home. It's hard to believe that it will soon be 2022. 2020 and 2021 have been difficult years but hopefully the worst is behind us as we look forward to 2022.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 13 December at 10.30am. Please come and celebrate with us on this day.

There will **not** be a coffee morning in December, we recommence in 2022 with a coffee morning on 28th January 10am to 12noon and then the last Friday of the month until November.

There is no service at the Chapel on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. On Sunday 23 January 2022 Holy Trinity will join us for a United Service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. This service starts at 10.30am.

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

The Speakers for December & January are as follows:

- 05 December The Revd Richard Edwards
- 12 December The Revd Robert Sheard (Carol Service)
- 19 December Clive Herrod
- 26 December No service at The Chapel
- 02 January Veda Berriman
- 09 January Rev Robert Sheard
- 16 January Rev Norman Tharby
- 23 January Nichola Glasse **United Service at the Chapel with Holy Trinity Church for the week of prayer for Christian Unity at 10.30am**
- 30 January Keith Scarff

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Joyce Gardiner

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Luke 2: 7

"She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger — there was no room for them to stay in the inn."

Yet again this year we hear that Christmas could be cancelled, last year it was going to be cancelled because we couldn't see family or friends this year it is because of supply issues, we can't get toys for the children, we can't get our turkey, then we really miss the point of Christmas, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, not food and presents, as nice as they are.

The story of Christmas is not a story about what we get physically, presents and food! We can still celebrate Christmas without all those trimmings. It is about celebrating one particular present, that of Jesus Christ who came into the world a poor and hopeless baby born in a stable, born to a poor working family, born in a time when his own country was occupied by the Romans, where people did not feel that they were free in their own country.

The story of Christmas is a story that brings us hope, things will get better, and don't we need that story retold to us at this time, with the ongoing crisis of climate change, the ongoing crisis of the pandemic, we need a story now more than ever of hope that things will change and get better and that's what the Christmas story is truly about. The babe born in Bethlehem just over two thousand years ago came to change the world and still can change the world today.

Unlike last year we will be able to sing carols in church, we will get together and worship and thank God for the gift of Jesus, this is the time when we need that reassurance that things do get better, but because of that we are reminded of our own place in the story, Jesus is not just a gift to us, but also a gift for the world, and receiving that gift it gives us the strength to move on and work together to grow the kingdom of God here and now.

How ever you celebrate Christmas remember the true story of Christmas and have a good one.

Happy Christmas. *Robert*

The Reverend Robert Sheard (United Reformed Church Minister of Stowmarket, Debenham, Stowupland, Mendlesham and Haughley.)

COFFEE MORNING



Friday 28th January 2022

Stowupland URC Chapel

10am – 12noon

Coffee, Tea and Cakes

All welcome

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STOWUPLAND

Vicar : Revd Brin Singleton Tel. 770921

Churchwardens : Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 770363

: Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 613710

Email: brinsingleton@btinternet.com

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2082/benefice/>



Dear Friends

The season of Advent arrives and in faith we wait in preparation for the arrival of God's gift in His Son and the promise of His presence to dwell with His people. And in faith the world waits on the promise of this last climate change **C**onference **O**f the **P**arties, that we may prepare the way for our presence on earth to sustain the gift of life given us in creation.

The promise being to implement the changes agreed at these annual Climate Change Conferences. Rather like the Christmas Gift we can view **COP** as some annual rehearsal of hope, a story told but to which we are not party, something done to us, beyond our participation, yet retold year on year as some kind of promissory note, waiting for arrival, that hoped for future salvation. Yet that comparison poorly reflects the reality of the God with us in the Christmas story of Incarnation. Like our faith's promise of salvation, **COP's** promise only finds fulfillment in the hearts and lives of individuals, you and me, at our hand and in our words and in our actions.

We also, with our governments and those we appoint to act for us, are among those **P**arties promised to implement change, just as gift giving at Christmas if only seen at Christmas has little to offer for the salvation of those bound daily in the darkness of oppression and poverty.

COP is in its 26th year and still there is no change in the upward trajectory of our global balance sheet of Carbon Emission and Deforestation.

We must break the cycle of annual promises and act. Just as our faith asks us to move beyond outward signs of gift giving and act. The daily prayer of our faith repeats the hope of God's Kingdom on Earth as in Heaven.

God's promise to be with us in the Son is not a one off or even an annual rehearsal of an event now past, this hope is real in your hand and mine.

By our gift is Heaven come near each day, by opening our hearts to the needs of others, changing our own expectations and lifestyles and investing in change for that common good on earth as in heaven. God's gift to us both in Creation and in the Son holds nothing back in investing in us, and God's promise now waits in us, we who are **P**arties to His promise, that we may fulfill that promise, the Kingdom come in our day.

Let this New Year be the year we make salvation real, for creation, and for all her children.

Yours in Christ, *Brin. Rector*
Haughley with Wetherden & Stowupland

PLEASE NOTE: All services may be subjected to change by government rules in force at that time.

Services in December 2021

5th Dec	9.30am	Parish Communion
12th Dec	9.30am	Worship for All & Christingle
19th Dec	6.30pm	Carol Service

Christmas Eve

24th Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

25th Dec	11.00am	Family Communion
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Services in January 2022

2nd Jan	9.30am	Morning Worship
9th Jan	9.30am	Worship for All
16th Jan	9.30am	Morning Prayer
23rd Jan	10.30am	United Service for Christian Unity at URC
	6.30pm	Evensong
29th Jan	11.00am	Benefice Communion

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING:

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

CHRISTINGLE 2021:

This year, we will be incorporating the "Christingle" into the morning Worship for All Service. We hope as many of you are able will come along to this most enjoyable occasion with the presentation of a Christingle to the children as usual.

CAROLS in the CROWN PUB:

Come along and enjoy singing Carols in the friendly atmosphere of the Crown Pub on Tuesday, 21st December from 7.00pm.
All Welcome!



The poster features a decorative border at the top and bottom with colorful Christingles (candles, oranges, and baubles). The central text reads: "1st@4" in blue, "Christingle" in large red letters, "In the Worship for All Service" in blue, "9.30am on Sunday" in black, "12th December at" in black, and "Holy Trinity Church" in large black letters.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

As your Parish Council now meets on the first Thursday of the month it has meant this last month been a short month for council business so there is not a lot to report.

The top surface of the Safer Route to School, alterations to the bus stop at that location and the removal of the sandbags are, we have been informed, scheduled to be done at the same time but still no date. Your Parish Council has instructed a contractor to install posts along the road through The Green. These will be the same type and distance apart as the ones by the butchers. Those previously installed have done an excellent job of protecting The Green from damage by vehicles so we are continuing with installation. If the sandbags have not been removed by the time the contractor starts installation we will just have to work around them. There are areas of The Green that have been very damaged by vehicles parking. There is no parking allowed on The Green at all. This is by legislation, not the whim of your Parish Council and that includes any vehicles parked on The Green in front of properties.

The last of the major works on the Cemetery is taking place. The brambles have been cleared at the back in preparation for the planting of a new native hedge, and native daffodil bulbs have been planted along the front fence. There has been a lot of clearance in the middle tree section to uncover hidden graves and to improve the two seating areas. The new arbours will protect the seats from bird droppings and offer a bit of shelter for visitors to the cemetery.

I attended the Taylor Wimpey Community Day on 6th November and met several residents. It was good to hear that the comments expressed by residents reflected those made by your Parish Council. The biggest concerns were traffic volumes in general and the A1120/B1115 junction. There were some who felt a roundabout was the answer and others who thought traffic lights were the best option. As long as they improve the junction for safety and to cater for increasing traffic volumes is all your Parish Council asks.

As I have said before it is not just the proposed Taylor Wimpey development that impacts the junction but also the 2 proposed developments at Ashes Farm and Diaper Farm and I am happy to report that the potential developers of all 3 sites have now met twice with planners to make sure the A1120/B1115 junction would be fit for purpose and to get it right first time. These meetings are something your Parish Council has been lobbying for and it is gratifying that it is now happening.

The Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan seems to have been delayed for further information to be made available and we will need to see what impact that has on the timing of the Taylor Wimpey planning application. The land for the development is not part of our Neighbourhood Plan but is part of the Joint Local Plan.

2021 has been another very busy year for your Parish Council as I hope you have seen via my reports and I want to thank Claire, our Parish Clerk, my fellow Parish Councillors and our District and County Councillors for all their time and efforts this year. I also want to thank our army of volunteers and our 2 litter pickers for keeping our village clean and tidy and our footpath team for their regular walking and reporting. As a village our thanks must also go to the Telstar Editor and her team for keeping us all informed and on occasion amused.

Like a lot of you I am now into Christmas planning mode ready for the family to eat me out of house and home. The cake and the pudding are maturing nicely and the Sloe Gin is nearly ready to decant. Whatever your plans for the festive season please stay safe and well and please spare a thought and a little time for those who will be alone at Christmas.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sally Reeves

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021



*The meeting opened with 4 members of the public,
8 Parish Councillors and Councillors Eburne and Welham.*

Council Report:

The full Suffolk County Council and the District Council reports can be found elsewhere in Telstar. Cllr Eburne reported on the current Mid Suffolk District Council 5-year housing land supply which currently stands at 9.54 years, up from last year's figure of 7.76. Cllr Welham advised that he had been watching the SCC portal for road closures/partial closures and found it very inaccurate with the Landex one not shown at all and the Thorney Road one as 14 days when actually it was only required for a matter of hours. He was also concerned that the closure signs were put in place around 5pm the day before they were required. He also reported that the High School's Estate Manager had promised that the resident's ditch will be cleared. Cllr Reeves reported to Cllr Welham that she had still had no direct response to her letters to the SCC CEO.

Matters of Report:

The revised quote for the posts for the Green has been received and a meeting with the contractor has been scheduled for 8th November. The outstanding work for the cemetery is due to start late November and the allotments in December. The Clerk has met with Network Power and they have advised that the work will start asap. The storage licence for the village hall has been completed and sent back to them. All other items are awaiting a response.

Public Forum:

A resident advised that there was an error in the ownership of the ditch abutting the school land as reported in last month's Parish Council report in Telstar. She was also concerned about the debris left by the contractors cutting the trees in the cemetery, but she was advised that the work is still ongoing and that it will be cleared before they leave.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Joint Plan:

Cllr Eburne reported the reasons why the Draft Joint Local Plan had been paused as the spatial strategy which is the positioning of new housing in relation to the current infrastructure. There are also issues around their arrangements for the gypsy and traveller community. There is currently not a good enough trail of evidence for their decisions, and it is expected that this work will take a further 6-9 months before it is ready to go out for public consultation. In light of these revelations, the Parish Council have asked that the MSDC Councillors arrange for a meeting between the Parish Council and the MSDC Area Planning Manager, preferably before Christmas so that their views and concerns can be heard before any more planning applications by large developers are submitted.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Cemetery and Churchyard – The Parish Council approved the sub-committee's proposal that the quote from S&J Trees for works to trees in the churchyard.

Environment – It was agreed to accept the quote from S.P Trees to clear the ditch at Birch Close and raise the canopy of the trees on the Green.

Planning – There have been no new planning applications received this month and MSDC have granted the applications from Saxham Street, Devon Road and Mill Street.

Councillors Reports:

Cllr Voden reported that a cheque for £1032 was handed over to the St Elizabeth Hospice from the money raised in the Walker Cup. There will be further money available coming from the Inland Revenue in respect of Gift Aid. He once again thanked all who helped to put on the event. He also advised that he will be going to see how Stowmarket speedwatch group go about changing the Speed Indicator Devices to different posts on 7th December. Cllr Reeves asked for Parish Council approval to arrange for the removal of the large influx of moles on both the Green and in the cemetery on Health and Safety grounds.

Correspondence:

Amongst the correspondence this month was a revised quote, a wayleave payment from Open Reach, a donation request from Citizens Advice, a DEFRA consultation from SALC, a Gambling Act consultation and the active travel consultation update from MSDC. From Linden Homes a letter regarding the bus shelter in Thorney Green Road and the PCC consultation on the new police and crime plan from Suffolk Police. From residents there were queries about planting an oak tree grown from an acorn, the roadworks at the Landex development and a property in Mill Street.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021

Extraordinary Council meeting

An extraordinary council meeting was held on Monday 18 October to discuss two motions proposed by the Green and Liberal Democrat group carried over from the previous meeting. Firstly, a motion to reduce light pollution and the harmful effects on biodiversity of street lighting by putting policies in place to control new street lighting was passed with only one vote against. Secondly a motion to object to the Government's proposal to introduce voter photo ID requirements at polling stations, was also passed but only by a very narrow margin.

Joint Local Plan

The Inspectors have paused the examination for the Joint Local Plan for 6 months. This is to allow officers to re-consult and further clarify the spatial strategy and review part of the evidence base. There are some concerns about the housing allocations, particularly the concentration of new developments along the A14 corridor, and, for example, why land for almost 800 housing units has been allocated in Woolpit but fewer homes are planned for Needham Market which has a greater range of services, including a rail station.

Tree for life scheme

The tree for life scheme has been re-launched. Applications are invited from parents to plant a tree to mark a birth or adoption between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Remembrance trees can also be applied for by parents who may have lost a child during the same period. Details are on the Councils' website.

Community Infrastructure Levy

MSDC has made a bi-annual payment of CIL funds to local councils – amounting to over £1M across 47 different town and parish councils.

Needham Lake

Construction of the new café is progressing well, and it is anticipated that it will open before Christmas.

Solar Carport

A start on construction of the solar carport scheme at the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre is planned for early November, with completion in March. Energy generated will be available for electric vehicle charging and used within the Leisure Centre. Battery storage will also be provided and any surplus power fed into the grid.

iPad Loan Scheme

Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world. 26 new iPads, all with 4G internet connectivity and a range of pre-installed applications and web links, will be available for free to anyone in the two districts to borrow from Stowmarket and Needham Market libraries.

Link from Bloor Phase 2 to Trinity Walk Bus Shelter

We are awaiting an assurance from MSDC that the section on MSDC land will be funded by the District Council. MSDC are in contact with Bloor Homes for details of the length of track that they have promised to provide within their site.

Locality Awards

There is still funding available from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact us for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying.

Councillor Keith Welham
keith.welham@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673185

Councillor Rachel Eburne
rachel.eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Telephone: 01449 673311

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021

Covid-19 Update

A request to Government for additional support has been agreed. The additional support will include:

- Support for the vaccination efforts by extending opening hours and creating pop up vaccination clinic within our communities
- Help to coordinate on the ground door knocking campaigns
- Help to reduce transmission in schools with increased testing and additional temporary powers
- Funding for COVID-19 awareness raising communications and advertising.

Also, face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1 November. This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk; staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visits will also be restricted - only essential visits will be permitted. A review of the effectiveness of the measures will commence on 15 November.

Cabinet Meeting – 12 October

Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 - Cabinet considered a list of recommendations from the Forum and noted that the Council is taking action to address the recommendations.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) - Cabinet agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed BSIP and delegated final development, including costings, and the submission of the BSIP, to the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member. Cabinet also noted details on Enhanced Partnership Arrangements will be provided prior to its submission in March 2022.

Safer Route to School, Removal of Sandbags, Works at Bus Shelter

No change - I am still waiting for an explanation of why SCC consider that the scheme as proposed at the time of the land swap should not proceed. I have asked again for a start date for the gravel surfacing to the safer route, changes to the bus stop markings, kerbing and footway works at the bus shelter and removal of sandbags.

Sizewell C

Suffolk County Council have announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up 'important concerns' with the Secretary of State. The Opposition Group remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation of the scale of the difficulties in progressing the project, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration's inability to face the reality of the situation. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as increasing costs.

Road Closure: Thorney Green Road

I am seeking clarification regarding the proposed road closure of Thorney Green Road. The work has been described as a thrust bore under the road, with no carriageway incursion and delays unlikely, to provide a water supply into the Linden Homes site. However, advance signage indicates a full closure of the road.

Locality Awards

Each County Councillor has a locality budget of £6,000 a year. I still have around half of that sum unallocated; and I welcome requests from community groups.

Keith Welham

County Councillor of Stowmarket North and Stowupland

Keith.Welham@suffolk.gov.uk

01449 673185 or 07831 705 714

Mid Suffolk District Council

Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2021/22

	Usual Collection Date	Revised Collection Date	Change
Refuse	Monday 27th December 2021	Wednesday 29th December 2021	2 days later
	Tuesday 28th December 2021	Thursday 30th December 2021	2 days later
	Wednesday 29th December 2021	Friday 31st December 2021	2 days later
	Thursday 30th December 2021	Tuesday 4th January 2022	5 days later
	Friday 31st December 2021	Wednesday 5th January 2022	5 days later
Recycling	Monday 3rd January 2022	Thursday 6th January 2022	3 days later
	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Friday 7th January 2022	3 days later
	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Saturday 8th January 2022	3 days later
	Thursday 6th January 2022	Monday 10th January 2022	4 days later
	Friday 7th January 2022	Tuesday 11th January 2022	4 days later
Refuse	Monday 10th January 2022	Wednesday 12th January 2022	2 days later
	Tuesday 11th January 2022	Thursday 13th January 2022	2 days later
	Wednesday 12th January 2022	Friday 14th January 2022	2 days later
	Thursday 13th January 2022	Saturday 15th January 2022	2 days later
	Friday 14th January 2022	Monday 17th January 2022	3 days later
Recycling	Monday 17th January 2022	Tuesday 18th January 2022	1 day later
	Tuesday 18th January 2022	Wednesday 19th January 2022	1 day later
	Wednesday 19th January 2022	Thursday 20th January 2022	1 day later
	Thursday 20th January 2022	Friday 21st January 2022	1 day later
	Friday 21st January 2022	Saturday 22nd January 2022	1 day later

From Monday 24th January 2022 refuse and recycling collections return to the normal schedule.

Please note: There will be no garden waste (brown bin) collections during the weeks commencing 27th December 2021 and 3rd January 2022. Please refer to the garden waste collection schedule, which is available at: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services

Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day

Waste Services

Web: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services

Email: recycling@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)



Mid Suffolk District Council

Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule 2022

December 2021							January 2022							February 2022							March 2022						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
							31																				

April 2022							May 2022							June 2022							July 2022							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
				1	2	3							1			1	2*	3**	4*	5						1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6**	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
							30	31																				

August 2022							September 2022							October 2022							November 2022						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3						1	2						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													

- Refuse (general rubbish) collection week
 - Recycling collection week
 - Please refer to the Christmas & New Year Waste Collection Schedule 2021/22
 - 0 Collections following a bank holiday will be a day later than usual for the rest of the week
- All recycling collections during the week commencing 6th June will take place a day later than usual*
- * Refuse collections for Thursday 2nd June will take place on Saturday 4th June instead*
- ** Refuse collections for Friday 3rd June will take place on Monday 6th June instead*

Please make sure your bin is out by 6.30am on collection day

Waste Services

Web: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/waste-services
 Email: recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk
 Phone: 0300 1234 000 (option 4)



JJ'S Waste Services

- All Types Of Rubbish Cleared
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johnjames1970@icloud.com

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THE TELSTAR TEAM

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Businesses with a Stowupland connection can advertise at very reasonable rates.

Diary Dates – Neil Langridge – neil@stowman.plus.com - 01449 616275
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 proofreaders 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 1,100 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.

Telstar – for the community, by the community.

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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**Your Christmas Tree
at
Stowupland Village
Hall**



**'Real' trees can be left at this site from 7am Fri.
14th January, until 6.30am on Friday 28th January.**

**Trees must be less than 7' tall & must have all
decorations, stands & pots removed. Please call
03001234000 (Option 4) for further details.**

