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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

APRIL 2026

I think Spring is my favourite season, it's just lovely to have some better weather. I'm so enjoying walking around the village with my dog, Fen, and seeing the trees coming into blossom and the spring flowers in bloom. I'm also really thankful that we now have the lighter nights.

I'm taking part in 'Moon Walk', an annual event which raises vital funds and awareness for breast and other cancers, so I need the lighter nights to get in as much training as possible. Talking of walking, I mentioned it last month, and I'll probably mention it lots more between now and the September edition; get this date in your calendar – **Sunday 13th September – The Walkers Cup**. This year is going to be Stowupland's year, so we need as many of you as possible taking part. Now, of course, I want Stowupland to win, but more importantly, it's really about raising money for St Elizabeth Hospice, so a really worthy event to get involved in. We'll bring more details in future editions.

This month sees Holy Trinity's annual Craft Fair on 25th April, which is always worth a visit, and the following is the annual opening day at Columbine Hall. If you haven't visited before, it is well worth the trip; the gardens are exceptional, and proceeds from the event support the vital work of St Elizabeth Hospice. I visited for the first time last year and was struck by just how beautiful the grounds are. Details of both events are inside.



On behalf of the Telstar team, we are also delighted to offer our congratulations to Kate Elliott, the talented gardener at Columbine Hall, on her acceptance as a full member of the Garden Media Guild. This is a significant achievement and well deserved.

I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our current county councillor, Keith Welham, whose term of office as Stowupland elected representative on Suffolk County Council will conclude following the May election. Keith has always shown a strong commitment to community-building and has worked tirelessly on behalf of Stowupland residents throughout his tenure. However, this will certainly not be the last we hear from him; he remains an active and valued member of the Telstar team and the Stowupland Wildflower and Biodiversity Group.

Another event to look forward to is the Garage and Yard Sale, which, although it isn't until June, you'll need to register by 10th May. Details of the event and how to register are inside.

Finally, congratulations to 'Stowupland Mountain Rescue', who won our last community quiz. Our next quiz will be on Friday, 19th June, and there will be details in upcoming editions.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

MARCH 2026

Devolution and local government reform – election reinstatement

The County Council elections planned for May 2026 have now been reinstated. The current plan is for:

County Council elections in May 7th 2026.

Unitary elections in May 2027.

Mayoral Elections in May 2028

Call for sites

The Council has published a map of all sites submitted during these Call for Sites exercises. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>

This is not a list of preferred development locations. Publication promotes transparency and ensures communities have early visibility of what has been suggested. No planning status is granted by submission. Sites do not benefit from any presumption of development. Submissions will now be assessed against planning policy, constraints, evidence and deliverability criteria.

Assessment outputs will be published through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) in Spring 2026.

Pylons

National Grid's plan for more pylons in the Suffolk countryside should be halted, leading councillors from Mid Suffolk District Council have told a public hearing (11th February).

National Grid proposes 159km of new overhead lines between Norwich and Tilbury, with the route cutting through the Suffolk countryside.

Mid Suffolk has called for a delay to the project so other options can be considered and costed – such as an undersea route or undergrounding of the entire length of the project. They cite serious concerns about the impact on the environment, communities and businesses.

You can still join monthly drop in meetings online, link below.

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 342 374 307 126 43

Passcode: fd3iJ2FW

Nature Recovery Grant

This new grant, launched in January, offers 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, and the deadline for applications for the first round of funding was open until Monday, 16 March, and the following application window will open in June 2026. Funding opportunities and support - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Armed Forces Day, Stowmarket

Plans are beginning to take shape for Armed Forces Day, which will be held in Stowmarket on 27th June, supported by both Mid Suffolk District Council and Stowmarket Town Council. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community. There will be a number of attractions such as a climbing wall, an assault course, and hopefully a helicopter from Wattisham. It is shaping up to be a great family day out.

Bins

The delivery of new bins ready for the rollout of Better Recycling has now started. This means the delivery of a new blue recycling bin, the new food caddy and food recycling bins.

Bins and recycling - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Mid Suffolk budget and Council Tax

Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed its 2026/2027 budget, which will protect vital services and see further investment in town centres, sports facilities and boosting biodiversity and nature. Mid Suffolk District Council is increasing Council Tax by 2.99%

About 8% of the total Council Tax bill is attributable to Mid Suffolk District Council, and this percentage has been reducing. For context, for a Band D property, the increase attributable to Mid Suffolk is about £5.23 per year or 10p per week.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2026

Local elections in May 2026 reinstated.

At the end of January, the government announced that a number of local elections around the country would be postponed, where councils had written to them saying it would be helpful for delivery of Local Government Reorganization (LGR). This included Suffolk County Council's elections, which were due to be held on Thursday 7 May 2026. However, following legal challenge, the government has reversed its plans and has now announced that county council elections – as well as those due to be held by Ipswich Borough Council – will take place as originally planned. New councillors elected in May will hold office until the new unitary authority/ies are vested in 2028, with councillors for the new unitary authority/ies elected in 2027 and 'shadowing' the existing councillors for a year.

The elections will be held using the new division boundaries. Stowupland will become part of the Upper Gipping Division; Andrew Stringer is the current councillor and has served that division for around 20 years. For me, this is the last of my councillor reports. I have enjoyed representing Stowupland as a Parish, District and County Councillor for around 25 years. I'm grateful to everyone who has voted for me over this time and read my reports.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government is due to make an announcement by the end of March on how many unitary councils will be set up in Suffolk.

It has come to light, via a Freedom of Information request by BBC, that the Conservative Administration asked the Government Minister to consult the public on the single unitary only and not offer the alternative option of three unitary authorities for Suffolk, as proposed by the District and Borough Councils. Letters were written by the Conservative Leader and the Chief Executive. Councillors were not informed that this had been done. This underhanded attempt to withhold information from Suffolk residents was discovered during an investigation by the BBC.

Energy, Water, Transport, Commercial and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy

At Cabinet on Tuesday 24 February, revisions to the council's Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy were approved, including a change in the name of the policy to the Energy, Water, Transport, Commercial and Adaptive Infrastructure Policy. This policy details how the council will respond to large developments such as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), solar farms and data centres that may be attached to them, and changes to road systems in the county that may be needed following the projects.

Suffolk County Council is a consultee on NSIP proposals, but it is not the decision-maker, and the policy sets out how the council will respond to such consultations, such as protecting best and most versatile agricultural land for food production, wellbeing of local communities where projects are disruptive and especially where there is cumulative impact of multiple projects, such as the coastal area around Sizewell C. The policy notes that solar farms may soon have data centres attached, so the council needs to have an agreed approach for developments that are large scale and energy-intensive. The policy also sets out that Suffolk County Council expects developers proposing projects to fund Planning Performance Agreements – this means that responding to the proposals for these developments does not come out of the council's budget.

Vehicle Removal Trial for Resurfacing Works

Suffolk Highways has announced that they will trial removing vehicles that have not been removed for planned resurfacing works. The council plans to make sure that residents are made aware at least two weeks in advance of any works, with cards placed under windscreens and put through residents' doors. Two days before the works are due to begin, cones will be put out along with signage to say when the works are due to begin. If there are still cars parked on the road on the day works are due to start, officers will knock on doors to try and find the owner to move it, but as a last resort, vehicles will be moved, ideally nearby where they are still in sight, but if this is not possible, they may be moved to a facility in Bury St Edmunds with a £70 fine issued. As with other Penalty Charge Notices, the amount payable is halved if the fine is paid promptly. Although it has long had the power to remove vehicles for planned works, until now, Suffolk County Council has not exercised it – compared to Essex County Council, for example, who have been doing this for about a decade. This approach will be adopted by the council for a period between March and June 2026 initially, with a report prepared on the trial and making recommendations for the future.

Changes at the Top

On 13 February, it was announced that Nicola Beach, the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, would be leaving her role. Nicola has been Chief Executive since 2018 when she replaced Deborah Cadman, and will be stepping down at the end of March 2026. The council proposes to appoint two existing directors – Andrew Cook and Mark Ash – into new joint chief executive roles for the remaining two years of the council's existence. As these directors' existing posts would not be recruited into, the number of senior staff at the council will reduce by one, saving up to £92k a year. This decision needs to be ratified by councillors at the next meeting of full council on 19 March 2026.

Suffolk Sustainability Initiatives Nominated for Awards

Suffolk County Council has been nominated for a national award for its work on energy and sustainability. Only 24 local authorities in the UK have been shortlisted for the first APSE Energy Awards, which are held in partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The awards celebrate innovation and the role local authorities play in responding to the challenges of energy transition, climate change and long-term sustainability. The 'Accessing & Managing Finance' category recognises Suffolk County Council's Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme (administered by Lendology CIC), and the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group's Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Scheme (administered by Reed In Partnership). The loan scheme offers an interest-free loan to make energy efficient improvements, such as insulation, solar panels or heat pumps. Through countywide Sustainable Suffolk initiatives, the county is also up for a second award, in the 'Working in Collaboration' category which involves a range of projects such as a study into supporting taxi drivers to move to electric vehicles, and launching the Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network.

You can find out more about these initiatives here: <https://sustainablesuffolk.org.uk/>

Local Highways Issues

A1120 in front of The Crown. SCC Highways have provided a firm estimate of the cost of the scheme but have discovered that a small area of 'verge' is not adopted highway. The works in this area cannot be carried out without the agreement of the landowner. The Parish Council have agreed the scheme and the funding so that works can be ordered before my term as County Councillor comes to an end.

A1120 near URC church. A scheme to alleviate standing water on the road and flooding of property is planned for later in 2026.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

MARCH 2026



This meeting opened with 5 Parish Councillors, 6 members of the public, 1 Mid Suffolk District Councillor (MSDC), and 1 Suffolk County Councillor (SCC). Cllr Donna Bridges was in the Chair.

Apologies: 2 Parish Councillors, 1 MSDC Councillor.

Matters of Report: The Clerk went through the report. Recent repairs to FP32 are now complete, and the bridge crossing to the high school, which was reported damaged earlier in the month, has been repaired. Plans for the Thorney Green bus shelter were a separate item on this month's agenda. It was noted that the no cycling sign was missing on FP32.

Co Option to the Parish Council (PC). Peter Scopes had applied for one of the recent vacancies advertised around the village and in Telstar. Peter was proposed, seconded and voted on to join the Council. Peter then joined us for the rest of the meeting and was welcomed as a new member of the Council.

Public Forum: Representatives from Saxham St. had 121 signatures on a petition to implement speed restriction measures on the road. Council supported this; however, it was a matter for the SCC highways department. It was agreed to send this to the highways department, and the resident leading this petition had already had discussions with a highways engineer, and also with SCC Cllr Welham. The way forward was to have a site meeting, which would be arranged at a later date, and a member of the Parish Council would attend and discuss options. There was a suggestion that a survey could also be carried out by the highways department to monitor the problem, although costs were involved, and this would be discussed further at the meeting. It was agreed to look at the possibility of reforming the Stowupland speed watch group. It was agreed that the Clerk would advertise in Telstar to see if any volunteers were willing to restart this group, as the PC had all the necessary equipment for the reforming of the group. Progress would be reported on at the next meeting.

A member of the Village Hall Committee reported that he had noticed contractors carrying out work on some trees that were on village hall land. The Clerk reported work was going on at the school, cutting back trees, and she would check out what was happening and report back. There may have been some confusion as to who owned different sets of trees.

A resident was unhappy with the amount of damage done in front of her drive by vehicles turning round near her drive, and was keen to stress this was not being done by the family. Cllr Bridges suggested that the Greens committee look at this, and it may be a case for preventative measures to deter this from happening in the future.

There was a report of rubbish in the cemetery. Previous to this, the Clerk had been down and reported that the cemetery looked good. The Resident provided an exact location, and it was agreed that the Clerk would go down and check this out once again.

Report from SCC Councillor Welham: Cllr Welham went through the report there were no questions. Cllr Welham informed the meeting that this may be his last PC meeting as Cllr for this ward. The government has decided to have elections on the 7th May 2026. These were postponed earlier but were now due to go ahead, and due to recent boundary changes, he would be re-standing for election in a Stowmarket ward. There was a new Green Party candidate standing in the Stowupland ward, and in due course, we would hear who was due to stand to represent the other parties in the forthcoming election. The County Councillor's report is available in this edition of Telstar.

MSDC Council Report: Cllr Watson went through the report there were no questions from the floor. This report is also available in this edition of Telstar.

Planning: One application was received for land adjacent to 20 Saxham St, Stowupland, Suffolk. The PC planning officer had recommended that the PC support this application, which was approved by Councillors.

Councillors to note any decisions by MSDC planning department. None Received

Finance: It was agreed to pay the bills for March 2026.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Sustainability Consultation: It was agreed that this would be answered by the Clerk and Chair at a separate meeting.

A1120 Junction Improvements: Plans were received for the proposed improvements at a cost of £7978. 36. These were approved by the council (these would be subject to adjustment depending on circumstances)

Repairs to Thorney Green Bus Shelter: A quote was approved for work to continue to finish repairs to the bus shelter. This was agreed at £320 (two days' labour) and £160 for one day's contingency. The Clerk would purchase the black paint for the project.

Cemetery: The Clerk was thanked for her work on the update to the cemetery terms and conditions, which had been circulated to all Councillors. A vote was taken to adopt these, and it was agreed. The Clerk would ensure they were put up on the cemetery notice board.

Governance: Councillors had received copies to review and re-adopt the code of conduct, Internal statement of control and the 2025/6 GDPR audit. These were agreed and adopted.

Change of May Meeting: 7th May 2026, due to the forthcoming elections on this day, it was agreed to change the date of the May meeting to the 14th May 2026 at 7 30pm, meeting venue to be advised.

Correspondence: This month, a letter was received from a resident with concerns about cemetery policy. The Clerk had answered the concerns outside the meeting and would ensure that a copy of the newly adopted policy is placed on the cemetery notice board. The football club requested the use of the green pitch for the U12 team. This was approved, and dates include 22nd July, 29th July, 5th August and 12th August 2026 from 6 pm to 7 30pm.

Columbyne Close verge issues had been passed to the MSDC Councillor for action.

Notification that we were in the bird flu zone and what precautions to take.

The Clerk requested that she attend the National Association of Local Councils conference in London; this was approved. Updates on the National Grid, updates and various surveys from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

The parish council is looking for volunteers to join the Neighbourhood Plan group. You can find details of the plan via the QR code.



Dates of Next Meetings:

Stowupland SOAP 18 3 2026 10 am to 12 pm in the Sports and Social Club
Parish Council meeting 2nd April 7 30pm URC.

Biodiversity 30th March 7 30pm URC.

Cllr Bridges closed the meeting at 20:24 hrs.

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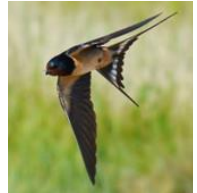
COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

Spring is here; the birds are starting to sing to claim their territory and attract a mate. The first early butterflies are emerging with the brimstone butterfly gracing our hedgerows and country lanes. They will be searching for the spring flowers for their first taste of nectar. Look out for the comma butterfly as they will be on the wing along with the holly blue; they will flit along the hedgerow looking for the ivy and holly to lay their eggs in the following weeks. The blossom is out in the hedgerows with cherry plum probably the earliest followed by blackthorn (sloe), crab apple, wild cherry and hawthorn being the commonest to see. Check out the pussy willow at this time of year as it attracts both bumble and honeybees.

The spring flowers are out; by now the snowdrops are past their best, but primroses, cowslips, oxlips, wood anemone and other woodland flowers are out with bluebells to follow in April. Look out for violets in shady damp places as also. I have noticed bumble bees flying around the garden; these are the queens at this time of year looking for a suitable place to start this year's colony. They will often select a mouse or vole burrow to start their nest, which may be constructed of pulped wood they obtain from trees or maybe your garden fence. They start with a simple cell structure and continue to build as the colony grows. I have also seen honeybees on warm days looking for their first meal as they come out of dormancy; you may spot them on your flowers in the garden.

This is the time of year when our summer migrating birds start to arrive on our shores, probably the first you will hear is the chiffchaff (a small warbler) or the willow warbler with its descending song which is always a pleasure to hear. Wheatears will be arriving as well; they often stay along our coastline to feed up before dispersing to their breeding grounds. These attractive ground-feeding birds can be seen in good numbers at Languard Fort nature reserve, Felixstowe. Also, watch out for any early martins and swallows. The osprey will soon appear at Rutland Water to nest. These large fish-eating raptors are masters at catching fish, and I have witnessed them taking large mullet along our estuaries and sea trout in Wales. Their talons are long, with a rough texture on the feet to enable them to grip securely before they leave the water with their catch. They will turn the fish headfirst to help with aerodynamics as they fly to the nest or favourite perch. Another bird worth listening for is the bittern; they are found in extensive reed beds. Their call is a 'booming' sound and, if you are lucky to witness this, it is an amazing sight and sound.



Adders are out and about; normally the males emerge first from hibernation followed by the larger females. If you visit RSPB Minsmere nature reserve, you may see both adders and bittern on the same day. Just ask one of the helpful wardens and they will give you all the information. At this time of year, be aware that hedgehogs are leaving their hibernation quarters and will be wandering about looking for food at night. If you are lucky to have one in your garden, please put out some hedgehog food to supplement its natural diet and a shallow bowl of fresh water.

I really enjoy spring, watching the tree buds swell, then burst into fresh leaves of varying shades of green. Just to enter a woodland to enjoy the spring flowers with the song of birds filling the air, to catch a glimpse of a deer as it heads for cover or the flash of white from a rabbit's tail as it seeks refuge down its burrow. All these things are there for us to enjoy, no B.O.G.O.F. or spring sale. This is FREE for all of us to wonder at and enjoy.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE POTTING SHED

PAULA WILLMOT

I have enjoyed a lot of quiet time planting seeds over the last few weeks. Whilst the sun may not be shining (I am not sure 2 days-worth really counts, but wasn't it glorious!), planting seeds provides us with hope and inspiration. The air is warm and the greenhouse even warmer, so everything is germinating really quickly. Even some very old pumpkin seeds I found at the bottom of a box, goodness knows how old they were! Light levels are also increasing, so it's a good time to start most vegetables and flowers. Although don't rush to sow everything, many varieties don't want to emerge from the safety of their packets until April or May, and the threat of frost has completely gone. Another tip is to always buy the best sowing compost you can afford.

April jobs in the Meadow garden are as follows:

- It's time to give roses some rose food and mulch around the base to give them the best possible start. Watch out for new and tender buds; it's very easy to knock them off.
- Remove faded flowers from daffodils and other bulbs to keep things neat and tidy.
- Cut buddleia back to 30-60 cm tall. But don't discard the clippings, just stick them in the ground for extra bushes to fill gaps where needed.
- Keep an eye on potatoes that are chitting in dark cupboards and cold windowsills. Once the eyes erupt with leggy stalks, it's time to plant. First earlies must go in now; others will wait.
- As I write this column, it's still too soggy to mow. So, spend time oiling and cleaning mowers ready for the first dry day.
- Any daffodils that did not bloom, dig up the bulbs and check for grubs, throw away if the bulb has been eaten from the inside.
- It's time for slug patrols. The warm, moist weather is their favourite environment. They also love feasting on new growth.
- Finally, a job I have been dreading, scraping out the moss that has grown in between paving slabs and drive pavers. It's a very long job, but really enhances drainage, so well worth doing.

Social media this month is full of ideas for training roses. There are some lovely ideas from Kate at Columbine Hall, which I will definitely be following, creating upright tunnels and training the roses into a cylinder. And whilst on the subject of one of our most beautiful local gardens, do book one of their fabulous tours being offered this summer, one of which is in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice on Sunday 26th April. As Monty Don has now returned to our screens, we will be glued to his top tips and plant suggestions. However, the Beechgrove Garden is also worth watching. Based in Scotland, where the weather is far more challenging, the varieties recommended are often robust and hardy. The team are also very good at experimenting with various feeds and composts. Fingers crossed, the next few months will allow us to get out in the sunshine and finally start enjoying the health and mental well-being benefits of our plots. 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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STOWMARKET ECO FUTURE GROUP



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Email: stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com

Collection of hard to recycle items - see update below

The next market stall collection is Thursday 23rd April (please note THIS IS NOT THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH). We also collect items at the *Repair Café - 2nd Sunday of the month (12th April) at Red Gables 2-4 pm plus REPAIR CAFÉ 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 – A reminder: Some of the folk visiting our market stall were unaware that we can now take (empty) blister packs again in small quantities.

Children fighting over ice cubes!

I need to write this report about 4 weeks before local magazines are published, so at the moment the news from the Middle East is dreadful. The destruction of lives, livelihoods and property is immense and tragic, and my fervent wish is for it to stop as soon as possible. On top of everything else, it adds to the environmental problems our planet is already experiencing. Wars cost in many ways even before bombs are dropped. Mineral resources, land use and training practices all have a huge carbon and environmental cost, and finances are diverted away from more wholesome projects.

The picture I have had in my mind for some time is of a group of children fighting over ice cubes. As they try to grab them, the thing they are fighting over disappears. The same with planet earth – who wants to “win” what they have destroyed?

The better news is that there are billions of ordinary people who do not have this lust to fight. People who want a safe, clean place to live, work and raise their families. As wars rage it is even more important for those who can to offset the damage being done.

Every food mile saved, plant-based meal eaten, energy saving device installed, thermostat turned down, renewable power source used, car journey saved, flight not taken, piece of clothing kept and worn many times, tree planted, item not purchased, transportation of items saved, makes a difference.

We might feel insignificant in the face of bad news and wonder what difference we can make, but small actions (which are being done by people worldwide) all add up. We need to have the confidence to keep going and keep encouraging each other. Thank you for all that you are able to do.

Andrew Bingham

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I recently bought a doll for my child. 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, 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 midsuffolcab.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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Saturday

9.00am – 12noon





STOWUPLAND WILDFLOWER AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP

Programme for planting the mounds and ditches on The Green.

I was able to persuade MSDC to provide enough wildflower seeds for all the mounds and ditches on The Green. The work should be completed by the end of March. The first area to be sown was on The Green beside the track opposite M&M butchers. This work was carried out by members of the Biodiversity Group, a member of the Parish Council and residents living along the track between Green Farm and Corner Farm. The Parish Council will be arranging for the other areas to be sown, and the Council may welcome volunteers if they have not completed the work by the time you read this article.



As a first step, we have cut off tree roots protruding from the ditches and mounds and removed large stones. We also had to rake out leaves. Some areas were left because of water in the ditches. We mixed seeds with kiln dried sand so that we could ensure all areas were covered and raked the seed in. We hope to see some growth by mid-April.

We, and the Parish Council, will welcome any help with future maintenance, but this should be minimal. Removal of large 'weeds' and over-sowing patches with poor growth might be needed. Your comments on the appearance will be welcome. Future work will include some further small areas of wildflowers, but this work cannot be commenced until the Parish Council has met with the mowing contractor.

We may need to look again next year to see if a different mix of seeds might be more appropriate in the wetter areas.

Daffodils on The Green

What a joy to see so many of the native daffodils flowering on the edge of The Green in front of Birch Close. The bulbs were planted in Autumn 2023 and are becoming established now. They will hopefully go from strength to strength.



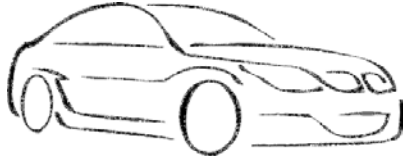
Sunflower Competition.

You should have received a packet containing a few sunflower seeds with your March copy of Telstar and I hope you have planted the seeds, and that they have germinated. If you haven't planted them yet, it's not too late, but plant them as soon as you can. If you need more seeds, please get in touch. Please send your photos and progress reports throughout the spring and summer; please send them to keithwelham48@aol.com.

Work days – Our next work days are 10 April and 8 May. Please come and join us, or just stop by to give a bit of encouragement.

Future meetings in 2026 – 1 June, 21 September, 23 November.

Contact us: to find out more, please telephone Keith on 01449 673185, email keithwelham48@aol.com or come along and talk to us when we are out and about in the village.



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STOWUPLAND FALCONS



With the slight improvement in the weather, we have managed to get some matches played at Stowupland. The pitches are still very soft and muddy, but just about playable.

On Sunday, 1st March, we had three of our girls' teams in Cup Semi Finals, our U12s won a tight game against Achilles on penalties, and the U13s had a comfortable 5-0 win over Felixstowe & Walton. Unfortunately, our U15s lost to Ipswich Exiles on penalties. But great to get two teams to finals day at the end of the season.

Moving on to our Adult First Team, it has been a difficult period with games being called off for various reasons. Unfortunately, we lost our top of the table clash with Cops 1-2, which leaves us 7 points behind them but, as we all know, nothing is certain in football. It was pleasing that the team bounced back the following week with a fine 6-3 win over a very decent Tattingstone team.

At long last, our Adult Reserve Team have played a game! They recorded a good 3-0 win over Old Newton.

I am taking the opportunity in this article to give you details of who does what at the football club:

Chair:	Gareth Pressley	Girls Officer:	Charlottte Darlow-Hunt
Vice chair:	Craig Simpson	Boys Officers:	Karl Coleman & Lee Bloom
Secretary:	Jez Birt	Welfare Officers:	Polly Bearman & Trevor Fishlock
Treasurer:	Darren White		

These are the main officers of the football club.

Please find below the upcoming home fixtures for our Adult Teams:

1st Team

29/03 Haughley
04/04 Sporting 87
11/04 Saxmundham
15/04 East Bergholt

Reserves

21/03 Laxfield
06/04 Old Newton Res

So, everything is going well, as long as the wind keeps blowing and the sun keeps shining.

Colin Herbert, President
Stowupland Falcons FC

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

Adrian Ramsay – Green Party
WaveneyValleyOffice@parliament.uk
01379 830200

Mid Suffolk District Council

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

Janet Pearson - 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

Parish Council Website

www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud

Suffolk County Council

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

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

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 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

APRIL

WED 1	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
WED 1	14:30 various venues	Book Group (contact 01449 672127 for further details)
WED 1	19.30 URC Hall	Local History Group – “Paupers Graveyard Onehouse”
THURS 2	Afternoon Village Hall	Young Carers Club party
THURS 2	19:30 URC Hall	Parish Council meeting
THURS 2	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
SUN 5	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
WED 8	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 9	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
SUN 12	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
TUES 14	09:30 Jubilee Crt.	Mobile Library
TUES 14	09:55 The Green	Mobile Library

WED 15	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 16	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
SAT 18	10:00 - 12:00 Church Hall	Coffee, Cake and Chat
SUN 19	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
WED 22	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 23	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
FRI 24	10:00 - 12:00 URC Chapel	Coffee Morning
FRI 24	19:30 Village Hall	Community Bingo
SAT 25	09:00 Village Hall	Craft Fair
SUN 26	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
WED 29	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 30	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

SUN 3	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
TUES 5	16:00 Village Hall	Young Carers Club
WED 5	19:30 URC Hall	Stowupland Local History Group - "Thorney Green"

JUNE

SAT 13	Playing Field	5-A-Side football tournament
SUN 14	Playing Field	5-A-Side football tournament

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

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*

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/

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

PLAYING CARDS --- A PACK/DECK OF CARDS

Who would have thought that pieces of card,
Would allow us to play many games?
Some games are easy, some are hard.
I'll try to remember some names.



You might own your own pack.
It's a versatile collection.
Many games that you can play
What a wonderful selection.

We're told the origin's China. (9th century)
Then Middle east, just by chance. (13th century)
Cards travelled through many countries.
Arrived to us via France. (15th century)



Play games, all alone, or with others.
Pontoon, a game where you twist.
And then you progress, moving onwards
To all sorts of games based on **Whist**.

Whist has a version called **Bridge**.
Your partner might well be a dummy.
But if you prefer making patterns,
You might like the game known as **Rummy**.



If you are playing many games.
It's good to have an ace.
With many games like **Nap** and **Brag**
You need a **Poker** face.

Many games are similar,
And others quite unique.
If folk are using two part packs.
They're paying French **Bezique**.



We might play cards for the winning.
But something my Grandad would say,
"If you're not prepared to come second,
The rule is you must just not play."

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NIBBLES

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STOWMARKET U3A

The Stowmarket U3A History group recently visited The Hold in Ipswich, the home of over 900 years of local history, and an Aladdin's Cave. It was a fascinating visit, and we were given a guided tour of the Suffolk Archives, a modern home for the county's rich past. It is a treasure trove packed with letters, photographs, personal diaries, maps, newspapers, historical documents, official records and oral histories.



The Hold has partnerships with Ancestry and Find my Past, which can be accessed for free on site, so an ideal place to research your family tree, or the history of your village, house, church, society, etc. The documents are for reference only, but access and use of computers is free; there is no need to make an appointment, and we found the staff incredibly helpful.

We had fine, sunny weather and were able to enjoy lunch outside on the quay to discuss our visit, and we all agreed it been an enjoyable morning.

Stowmarket U3A is a thriving, friendly, sociable group for people no longer in full time employment or raising a family. In addition to the history group, members can choose to join over 30 different interest groups.

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), at the Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket.

Our next 2 meetings are:

- **15 April – The Fascinating World of The Cryptic Crossword, Angela Bell**
- **20 May – The Z8869 Story; a 99 Squadron Wellington Bomber crashes in Great Finborough in 1941, Paul Thompson**



New members are always welcome. Visit our website: www.u3astowmarket.org.uk. For membership enquiries, email membership@u3astowmarket.org.uk. Registered charity 1002987.

We look forward to seeing you!

STOWUPLAND SOAP

Who could resist homemade cakes, a comforting cup of tea or coffee, a chance to catch up with old friends, and a little entertainment too? If you are over 60 years of age and you've never been to a SOAP Club, this is what you've been missing. Run by the people of Stowupland for the people of Stowupland, the club is proudly supported by the Parish Council and M&M Butchers.



Meetings are held at the Sports & Social Club four times a year.

The 2026 dates are:

Wed 17th June, Wed 23rd September, Wed 2nd December (note the change of date).

WALKING CRICKET

Tuesday 5-6pm

31 March

7, 14, 21, 28 April

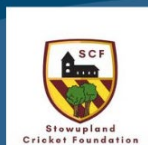
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suffolkricket.org/walking-cricket



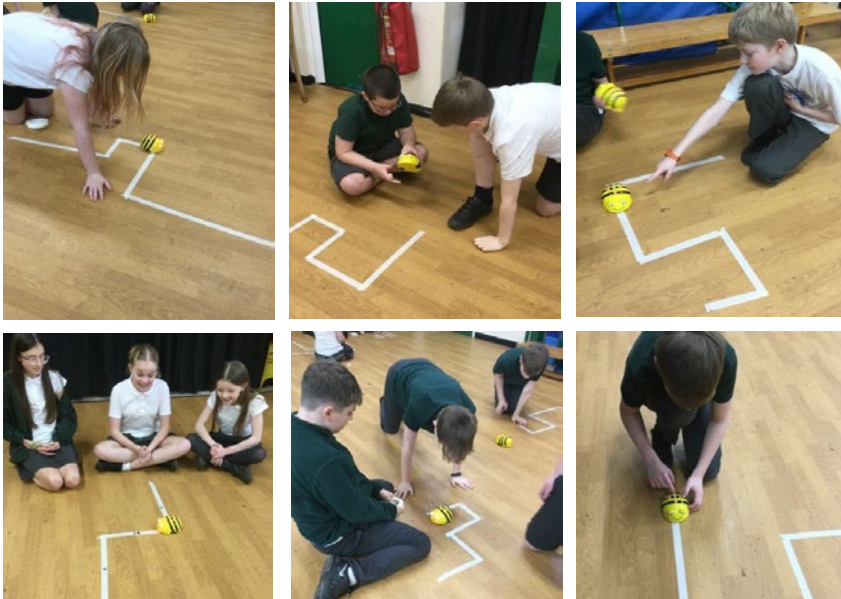
FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Teaching & Learning

As always there is lots happening around Freeman Primary School!

The Year 6 children have been busy developing their Python programming skills this week. They have been exploring key concepts such as syntax, nested loops and identifying logic errors. To support their understanding of sequencing and instruction-following, the children also used Beebots to practise programming routes using a variety of challenges.



They have also done a study of artists, exploring Paula Rego's powerful artwork 'The Dance'. The children examined the painting closely, discussing its possible meanings and describing what they noticed using formal artistic elements. They made thoughtful inferences, drawing on their own experiences to justify their ideas. Inspired by the themes and details within the artwork, the children then developed their own narratives, creating imaginative stories based on elements found in the painting.



The year 1 children have had a fantastic start to 2026 and have achieved so much! In History they have been learning about significant individuals from the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. They have studied the life of Mary Anning, and the whole class has been fascinated by her discoveries. The children have enjoyed learning some new dinosaur names and finding out more about fossils.

We were very fortunate to have a box of fossils on loan from Ipswich Museum, which really helped to bring our learning to life. The class had the opportunity to see a Megalodon's tooth, a Plesiosaur paddle and even a whale ear bone!

Following on from this, the children took part in a range of exciting activities, including making their own fossils, sketching fossils and having a go at excavating fossils themselves.

In English, the children have been writing postcards from the Equator, the North Pole and Stowmarket. It has been wonderful to see them continuing to consolidate their use of capital letters (especially the personal pronoun I), finger spaces and full stops.



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.

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Paracise - 11.15am to 12.00pm

Wednesday evenings

Paracise at 6.45 to 7.30pm

(online weight loss support is available)

For more info & prices please get in touch

Call Jo: 07913 922926 Email: jo@josfit4all.co.uk

Website: josfit4all.co.uk or paracise.com



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

If you are reading this after **Wednesday, April 1st** you missed a talk by Julie Johnson on **Whispers from the Graves**, she shared some research about the Paupers Graves at Onehouse.

Make sure you have Wednesday May 6th in your diaries when Dr Shalena Klazow will take us on a Medieval Pilgrimage to Woolpit.

Our first talk of 2026 was given by Gerry Barnes. He gave us a tour of East Anglia looking at the history of its Orchards. This was our first meeting in our new venue, the URC hall. This is a cosier space than the village hall but works well for us. Our new SLHG flag banner got its first airing to advertise that a meeting was in process. Watch out for this around the village for any pop-up displays we may hold. But now over to our Jerry for a review of Gerry's Orchards.

His slides and photographs were very interesting, but it is difficult for me to share their details in this article. Gerry told us that orchards were a common site in England in past centuries, however sadly they are getting rarer. The demand for new housing, and developers wanting more land, means less land is available for use as orchards. This is not a recent decline. Back in the 1960s MAF was advocating the 'grubbing up' of orchards to make way for more productive crops and required less manpower to manage.

Way back in the 1800's many farms had garden orchards, and this produced a source of fruit which could be consumed but was also used for making cider which boosted farmers income at that time. The hay day of the orchard is shown in history from about 1850-1950, most farming communities had an orchard, and Gerry had an example where 13 farms in and around one area had an orchard.

Gerry informed us that these areas were similar to the biodiversity areas that we are working on today. Orchards in those days had a variety of uses, not simply to provide fruit for the kitchen. As well as fruit trees and bushes, nut trees provided an undergrowth and hedging, wood pruning's were used as firewood, grass grown under the trees provided grazing and hay to fatten livestock. Many orchards would have had their own bee hives.

Most farms also had apple stores. These were used to store apples awaiting transport to town markets and the production of cider. As cider making became more commercial, bigger firms were started to cope with the increase in demand. New fruit varieties were developed over this time to cope with the demand, and progressive apple crops were in use from as early as 1880. The introduction of the national rail network made it easier to move the fruit to market and to distribute cider to new markets.

Historically orchards were a common feature in farming in the East of England, valued not only for their fruit production and cider making, but also for their economic value. Sadly, they are in decline today, but Gerry informed us that there are organisations working hard to ensure orchards remain viable for British fruit growing and cider making today.

There was a lot more to Gerry's talk than I can share here. Neil thanked Gerry for coming, Dave pointed out that Stowupland Biodiversity group are doing what they can to bring back some orchard areas to Stowupland but finding spaces where trees can be planted is not easy. We then had welcome refreshments, thanks to Annie and Liz. Sadly, no cider though.

It is often said today that 5 fruit trees make an orchard and the 1840s title records show us that scattered across Stowupland were many small orchards. However, how many fruit trees it took then to define an orchard I don't know. They weren't large commercial ventures but if it were possible to reinstate all those fruit trees and undergrowth with their associated benefits for wildlife Stowupland would have a very different environment.

In the 1950s and 60s MAF was actively encouraging farmers to 'grub up' orchards to make way for growing more commercial crops. Greater use of pesticides and the culling of 'noxious birds' that had been blamed for destroying crops were largely responsible for current concerns over loss of biodiversity. Some local people, such as Judy Clarke, looked at possibilities to reverse this decline. Do you know of other people, who are no longer with us, but who took actions to retain and improve our village environment.?

STOWUPLAND.
RAT AND SPARROW CLUB.—A meeting for the purpose of forming a Rat and Sparrow Club was held in the Council School, Stowupland, on Monday evening. Mr. T. Brame presided. The Chairman said that all were agreed that the rat should be destroyed.

This cutting is from the e Stowmarket Weekly Press, 7th June 1917. About the founding of a Rat and Sparrow Club in Stowupland. At a meeting that was held in Stowupland's primary school it was proposed that rats and sparrows

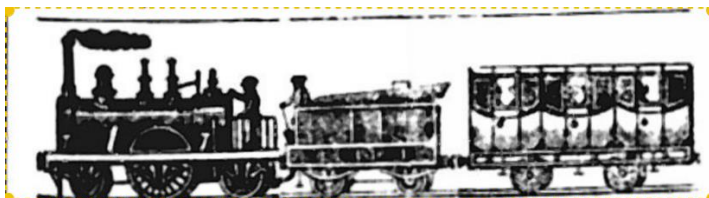
should be culled. In other reports bullfinches, jays, stoats and moles were all considered to be pests that damaged crops and clubs should pay a bounty for every corpse exhibited. It was suggested that live birds could be caught and caged to act as decoys.

Stowupland did retain some commercial orchards. Star Orchard in Saxham Street is a give away that this house used to be surrounded by quite a large orchard. Also, in the 1960s Davy's Farm briefly changed its name to Davys Farm Orchard. The land where today's High School was built in the 1970s was a large apple orchard. And between Mill Street and the A1120 an ancient orchard can still be seen.

A press cutting from September 1977, reported that 'scrumpers', a group of 'highly organised thieves had carried out a £1,500 moonlight raid on a Stowupland Farm.' The farm owners thought the thieves had got away with 100 boxes, approximately 2 tons of apples.



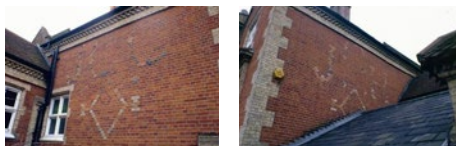
In the 1960's the press reported on the **Do-It-Yourself** directors of Mid-Suffolk Growers Ltd. They had built their own cold-storage unit in Mill Street, to provide 'cold-storage for 250 tons of fruit grown in the Stowmarket district. There were 17 members growing apples on 235 acres, pears on 27 acres, and plums on 2 1/2 acres. By 1966 they had a thriving direct sales business even exporting to West Africa. This press photo shows local ladies sengaged in the seasonal work of sorting the fruit.



(Image copied from Bury and Norwich Post 17th September 1845)

Last month Neil asked who knew why the initials J.G.H or J. C.C used to be visible on the Stowmarket Railway Station Building. (Photos from SLHG Archive)

In 1847 the railway line from Ipswich to Norwich and Bury St. Edmunds was opened on 7th November of that year, however the completion of Stowmarket station (actually in Stowupland before boundary changes in the 1930s) was delayed due to the death of the contracted builder Daniel Revett and the need to appoint a fresh contractor, finally being completed in July 1849. Stowmarket people were determined to have a station worthy of their town and the parish authorities contributed £1000 towards the cost of a new approach road from the town and advanced a loan of £3000 to the company towards the building itself.



The letters stand for the names John George Hart and John Chevalier Cobbold. John Chevalier Cobbold (of the Ipswich brewing family) was chairman of the Eastern Union Railway and John George Hart was the manager of Stowmarket Bank and a director of the railway company. When the route was being planned it was by no means certain that the line would come through Stowmarket and the town was so grateful to these two gentlemen for ensuring that Stowmarket got its rail connection that their initials were incorporated in the building.

A little bit of background information. John George Hart was manager of Oakes Bank in Stowmarket from 1820 -1861. The bank stood where TSB is now. He had also been Postmaster for several years and served as churchwarden. As explained above he was a driving force behind getting the route of the new railway to come through Stowmarket in 1846 and suggested the building of the Corn Exchange in 1836. he even bought up an old shop in the Stowmarket Market Place and had it demolished to provide a site for the new Corn Exchange.

He was reportedly a man of great energy and even celebrated in the town as "The Man Who Made Stowmarket". However, after his death the bank found serious irregularities in the accounts to the tune of £60,000. The parishes charity had also been mismanaged during Hart's time as Churchwarden leading to a review of the charities by The Charity Commission.

The 1903 Godfrey Edition of the Ordnance Survey Map of Stowmarket carried this short description of the problems encountered in laying the track to the SE of Stowmarket.

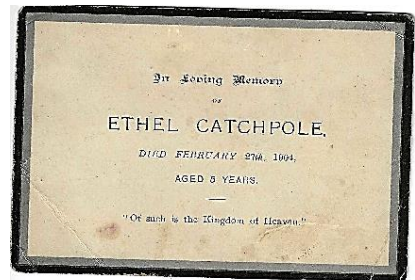
The Ipswich & Bury Railway through Stowmarket had opened in 1846 after some considerable engineering problems had been overcome. The land to the south east of the station was bog which had 'completely baffled' the contractors and labourers 'by the rapid subsidence of the embankment at that place and the continued absorption of the earth thrown down'. The engineer, Peter Bruff solved the problem by floating the track on a raft of brushwood. The station building, 'one of the handsomest in the county', was designed by Frederick Barnes, built by a loan from the parish authorities of £3,000, to which a further £1,000 was paid to construct the new road and bridge to the station. At the same time Pickerel Bridge was replaced by an iron bridge. By the construction of sidings and mineral lines maltings were spread through the lower parts of the town, even replacing in the 1850s the mediæval Thornev Hall in Stowinland.

How long does your bread keep without it going mould?

On Good Friday 1899, the year of Ethel Catchpole's birth, her mother Emma baked some bread. Ethel would have been Margaret Catchpole's older sister. We still have a piece in our Archives.

Apparently, bread baked hard in the oven on a Good Friday will protect the house from fire for the coming year. Sadly, Ethel died on February 27th, 1904, aged 5.

The bread now looks and feels like a large brown stone. The Catchpole family lived for 150 years in a house near the church (Belvedere). We are very grateful to Margaret's family for donating so many of the families' artefacts to our archives.



Find out what you don't know about your local area by coming along to a meeting.

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.

COLUMBINE HALL OPEN DAY

It's Columbine Hall's big open gardens day on
Sunday, April 26th 12-5 pm,
all in aid of St. Elizabeth Hospice.

There'll be craft stalls, plants for sale from local nurseries
and refreshments.

£5 each - you can pay on the gate, under 16's free.
Dogs on leads welcome.

The moated medieval Manor House is surrounded by five acres of gardens, including a parterre, bog garden, walled kitchen garden, wildflower meadow, vistas and eye-catchers, two newly built bridges and the creation of a new Italianate style walled garden. Come and see the hundreds of spring bulbs, including tulips and daffodils, we've planted - you'll find us in the village along Gipping Road - IP14 4AT. It will be lovely to see you.



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The
United
Reformed
Church

U.R.C CHAPEL

NEWS

Minister: Vacant

Secretary: Brian Hewitt 07500734113

I'm sorry to mention it again, but what a lovely time of year as we see God's beauty all around us as the spring flowers are peeping through. The sound of lawn mowers as we hopefully prepare our gardens for sitting in, if the rain holds off. The clocks have also been changed, giving us longer days.

On Sunday, 1 March, we joined with the United Reformed Church at Stowmarket for the anniversary service to mark the opening of the new building, following the rebuild after the bombing in 1941. The service was led by Revd Andrew Royal, and it was very nice to catch up with him and Linda, who had travelled from Kent, where Andrew is the Minister of a church in Maidstone. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed after the service. We now look forward to our Easter celebrations.

Our next Coffee morning is on Friday, 24 April 10 am to 12 noon. A draw will be included at this event. Everyone welcome

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

The Speakers for April are as follows:

05 April	John Webb Easter Sunday Communion Service
12 April	Keith Scarff
19 April	Bruce Thorn
26 April	John Webb

Joyce Gardiner

Elders Message

As I sit here to write this on yet another gloomy, wet day in late February, wondering what to write for there seems little cheer about. My crocuses have been eaten by the muntjac deer, my lawn has been dug up by grey squirrels searching for the acorns they buried but cannot remember exactly where, while the wood pigeons trample or leave their mark on everything.

And doesn't time fly by? It doesn't seem like many days ago that we were celebrating Christmas and the gift to us from God of Jesus Christ, his only son. How he came to us a newborn child, born in that stable in Bethlehem.

And now we are in April already, and remembering the events of Easter. Reminding ourselves of his death upon the cross. Of how he died in love for us and all mankind, of how he died in love and obedience to his Heavenly Father.

But our sadness at his death is to be short lived, for on the third day he rose again, proving that there is no finality in death. God raised his son to eternal glory so that he could be with us throughout our earthly journey. Jesus also ensured we would never lack anything because he gave to all that love and follow him the gift of his Holy Spirit to be a strength, a comfort, a guide and light for our path.

The sun will shine again, the lawn and plants will recover as the warmth of spring will cheer us all, enabling us to go forward, spreading the love of God and sharing the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ with all those we come into contact with.

May God bless you, and the love of Jesus Christ be in all your hearts and minds this Easter time.

Keith Scarff (Stowmarket Elder)

COFFEE MORNING



Friday 24th April 2025
Stowupland URC Chapel
10am – 12noon

Coffee, Tea and Cakes

A prize draw will be held

All welcome



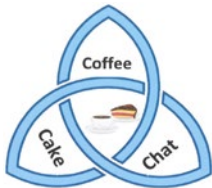
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COME AND JOIN US FOR

Stowupland Church Hall
Saturday 18th April 2026, 10.00 – 12.00

There will be tea/coffee, cakes and good company

Everyone is 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/>

What's in a name?

The last time I went to the dentist he told me he didn't like tea. His name is Denis.

Names – we all have one and so do most other things. Ships, streets, your dog, plants and festivals – including Easter.

Ever thought about the name 'Easter'? It apparently derives from the old English word Eostre, a fertility goddess. She gave her name to the fourth month of the old English calendar, which corresponds to our April.

As most historians believe that Jesus was crucified in early April, you can understand why the church, back in the day, overlaid the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection on top of the celebrations of spring and fertility, new life and new beginnings. It made sense. But it does always amaze me that not just Christians, but everybody else too, still call this Christian festival, 'Easter' in 2026.

I mean, you can understand why Christmas is so called - 'Christ' and 'Mass'. It does what it says on the tin! But Easter is a strange word which, understandably, most people don't know the meaning of. Yet we still call Easter – Easter.

Which is why, even though I always resort to calling this time of year Easter, I try and be more specific in the names I use.

For example, I call Good Friday (and no one is quite sure why it is called 'Good') – Crucifixion Friday (because Jesus was crucified on the Friday). Easter Saturday, I call 'Silent Saturday' (because Jesus was dead on the Saturday) and Easter Sunday, I call Resurrection Sunday (because Jesus came back to life on the Sunday).

So, what do you think? Should we still keep the name 'Easter' or change it to something else?

This Easter we have services and events on Maundy Thursday, Crucifixion Friday, Silent Saturday and Resurrection Sunday across the three parishes. Please do come along. You will be warmly welcomed. And do contact me, Alison, Ann or Sue if you need more information.

Happy Easter!
Revd. Andy Buttress

Date	Stowupland	Wetherden	Haughley
Wednesday 1st		9.00 pm Compline (Night Prayer)	
Maundy Thursday 2nd	7.00 pm Agape Supper and Stripping of the Altar		
Good Friday 3rd	2.00 pm Hour at the Cross	2.00 pm Hour at the Cross	12 Noon Procession of the Cross
Easter Saturday 4th			10.00-10.30 am PIZZA CHURCH Easter Garden and Easter Egg Hunt. 4.00 pm An Easter Production – 'Denial'
Easter Sunday 5th	9.30 am Easter Day Celebration (with Communion)	11.00 am Easter Day Celebration (with Communion)	11.00 am Easter Day Celebration (with Communion)
Sunday 12 th	9.30 am Worship for All	11.00 am Morning Worship	11.00 am Parish Communion
Monday 13th	11.00 am Steeple View Service		2.00 pm Mere View Service
Wednesday 15th		10.00 am Morning Prayer and Praise	
Sunday 19th	9.30 am Morning Worship	11.00 am Worship for All	11.00 am URC/Anglican Service
Wednesday 22 nd			10.00 am Morning Prayer & Praise with Communion at the Vicarage
Sunday 26 th	6.30 pm Evensong	11.00 am Parish Communion	9.30 am BCP Said Communion
Wednesday 29 th			10.00 am Bible Reflection and Discussion – Maxwell Charnley Room (by Post Office)

PARISH CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

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

PRAYER: God, may the resurrection of Jesus from the dead give me new hope that death is not the end. Amen.

CRAFT FAIR 2026: The upcoming Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, 25th April.

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.

STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL BOWLS CLUB

As mentioned in the March Telstar, the Bowls Club in Stowupland folded in January, and the Village Hall Trustees have decided to start a new club to keep Bowls available for the benefit of everyone in Stowupland.

The article in the last Telstar prompted quite a bit of interest and, as a result, the trustees are proceeding with setting up a new club and hope to start playing in April or May. Full details of when the club will open and the costs of playing will be provided in the May edition of Telstar.



As mentioned last month, “Stowupland Village Hall Bowls Club” will focus on encouraging anyone to try bowls and, if they like it, to play socially. As such, we will be open to all – beginners, good or bad players, young or old, families, couples, individuals or groups of friends. Don’t worry if you don’t know how to play, we will show you. Don’t worry if you don’t have the equipment; we have some you can borrow.

We could do with a few more volunteers who can help with the grass cutting, so please let us know if you fancy that – just think of all the lovely straight lines you can practice with the mower!

If you are interested in any way in playing bowls or helping us run the new club, and you have not already done so, please contact us. Please email your name, email address and details of your interest to stowuplandvillagehall@gmail.com. Or call, or text your details to 07857547983, if you prefer. We will then keep you informed of what is happening.

Stowupland Village Hall Trustees

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Editor - Sarah McManus – 07849 506898 - The editor welcomes contributors. Please send all articles and contents to 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. Businesses with a Stowupland connection can advertise at very reasonable rates.

Diary Dates - Neil Langridge – 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

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HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH

CRAFT FAYRE

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