

# Telstar



## Stowupland News

No 373  
March 2024

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# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

MARCH 24

Happy March everyone. Isn't it good to feel that spring is on the way.

Last month saw the inaugural 'Heart of Suffolk Farmers Market' at Stowupland Village Hall, and I managed to pay a visit. Sadly, not early enough as some of the vendors had already sold out, but nevertheless, I was extremely impressed with what I saw, and managed to still spend a bit of money. Those who did run out have assured they'll bring more with them next time, but this is a clear indicator of the success of the event. This is undoubtedly an asset for the village. It's great to have local producers selling their quality products all in one place and I for one hope it goes from strength to strength. The next event will take place on Saturday 2nd March 2024 09:30 to 13:00.

The next community quiz night will take in the village Hall on Friday 16th March 2024. I'm still hoping for a win for my team, but suspect it'll be a long time before it happens. The reigning champions are currently Marshalls Marvels, who were the winners at the January event, so let's see if they can retain their. Don't forget that the village hall bar is open for drinks for the quiz and details of this event, and the community bingo are inside. Talking of the bingo the jackpot at the last event was a whopping £485, so well worth winning. Both these events are proving to be extremely popular, so you need to get in early.

Another event taking place this month and throughout the year are Community Litter Picks. Stowupland Falcons Football club has arranged these events, which the parish council have agreed. We live in a beautiful village, and these events are a good way for us all to be able to do our little bit to keep it looking beautiful. So, if you have the time, please get involved. Details are inside.

Lastly, last month I mentioned in my notes the annual yard sale, which was to take place on Sunday 9th June. I'm afraid I have had news that this has now been cancelled; if I hear of a new date, I will let you know.

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

## **MSDC Plan**

At the Council meeting last week, the priorities for Mid Suffolk District Council were agreed. There was extensive consultation to ensure a wide range of views were taken into account. The core of the plan is putting environmental and social responsibilities at the heart of everything we do, "helping to create thriving and resilient communities in Mid Suffolk." This encompasses:

- Housing and infrastructure
- Resilience
- Community wellbeing; and
- Environmental sustainability.

A key principle is to work collaboratively with communities.

## **MSDC 2024/25 Budget**

At Mid Suffolk's Cabinet meeting next week, the draft budget for 2024/25 will be discussed. This includes a 2% council tax increase to ensure financial stability for day to day services in the wake of shrinking government grants.

A financial reserve has been built up over the last eight years and this will be spent on areas to benefit Mid Suffolk residents including:

- Bringing disused land back into use for amenity or other uses
- Land for biodiversity and to meet Biodiversity Net Gain
- Stowmarket town centre regeneration
- New foot/cycle paths to improve connectivity

In the housing budget, in order to be able to fund improvements to the Council's housing stock, it is proposed that rents increase by 7.7% (in line with the Government formula – CPI+1%). Many tenants receive housing benefit or universal credit and due to recent increases in the rent portion of this, the major of tenants will not see an increase in rent.

## **Gateway 14**

The proposed Green Skills and Innovation Centre business plan was approved by Council subject to funding from Freeport East.

## **Flooding**

The Council agreed a motion to support communities on flooding and to help with emergency plans.

In Debenham a community meeting was held, organised by an MSDC Councillor, attended by the Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council amongst others. From this, various initiatives are now underway.

### Local issues

The footpath link between the Trinity Walk bus shelter (by Gipping Road) and Trinity Meadows has finally been completed.

There have been several planning enforcement issues regarding the land next to Rosemary Cottage on Church Road and the land at Trinity Meadows along Gipping Road.

### Locality Award

A reminder that this year's locality awards are still open for applications. Any group or organisation can apply for amounts of £250 or more. Please contact one of us for an application form.

Cllr Rachel Eburne  
Rachel.Eburne@midsuffolk.gov.uk  
01449 673311

Cllr Janet Pearson  
Janet.Pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk  
07928 512592



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 J.D CARPENTRY

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



*February's meeting opened with 7 Parish Councillors, 3 members of the public and MSDC Councillors Eburne and Pearson and SCC Councillor Welham.*

**Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Welham felt that it was very important to encourage residents to use the SCC Portal to report every instance of flooding on the highway as each report will help to prioritise areas where there is consistent flooding. He reported that he has asked for the constriction in the ditch to be sorted out in Church Road and for some grips to be dug into the verge. Cllr Welham advised that this has not been a good week for SCC budgets. He feels that SCC are certain to implement cuts to the Arts in 2025 with any funding available only on a bidding basis for certain projects and there are a lot of organisations in the County who are likely to be making such bids.

Cllr Eburne was pleased to report that MSDC have finally finished the footpath between Trinity Meadows and Trinity Walk. She also reported that she had attended a multi-agency meeting at Debenham to discuss the recent flooding issues in the village. She wanted to ensure that Stowupland had a robust flooding emergency plan in situ as not all villages did have. She still has locality funds available for those groups that require it.

**Matters of Report:** The additional speed indicator device has been installed and the post on Thorney Green has been repaired. All other items are ongoing.

**Public Forum:** A resident was grateful to the Parish Council for writing to AWA in respect of the flooding in Saxham Street, but she was not happy with their response as there was no indication that they intended to do anything to alleviate further flooding on the road. She did report that the farmer has dug a deep ditch to deal with the floodwater on the field. She asked for the PC to keep an eye on the situation. Another resident enquired about when the Retreat Pond project was likely to start. He was advised that permission was required from the tenant and the PC had been unable to speak to him yet. There was also a request for a further defibrillator to be sited in the region of M&M Butchers.

**Litter Pick:** The football club would like to undertake some litter picks to give something back to the village and it was agreed that these should be held on 16th March, 15th June, 14th September and 14th December meeting at the Village Hall at 10am.

**D-Day:** The information on the D-Day anniversary celebrations guide was noted and it was agreed that a working group would meet to discuss an event for the village. There will be a lighting of the beacon and it is hoped to liaise with the Church. D-Day coincides with the night of the Parish Council meeting which may have to be moved to the 2nd Thursday in June instead.

**Policies & Procedures Review:** Councillors will each be allocated a set number of policies and procedures to review before the March Council meeting.

**Internal Audit:** Councillors reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit, and they were satisfied with the suitable independence of Heelis and Lodge and that they should accept the fee of £420 for the 2023-24 internal audit.

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

**Allotments** – The pest controllers reported that they have picked up 65 dead rats from the allotments to date. It was proposed to use allotment reserves to pay for rat control to continue for 1 year at a cost of £80 plus VAT per month.

**Biodiversity & Wildlife** – The group carried out some tree planting in the school orchard on 3rd February.

**Cemetery and Churchyard** – A lot of the bushes have been cut back in the cemetery. A positive meeting has been held with the residents about the grass cutting in the cemetery. Some of the graves are a little high which means that it can never look like a lawn but a meeting will be held with the grass contractor before the start of the cutting schedule to ensure that he is conversant with the Parish Council's expectations.

**Neighbourhood Planning** – It was proposed that an 8 panel event display board with case and dots should be purchased and this is to be funded through the SCC locality fund as they have been unable to locate the old one. Cllr Pearson advised that she had borrowed it and has not returned it yet. It was decided to defer this proposal until next month so that they can check if the old one is still suitable for their needs.

**Planning** – A planning application has been made for a single storey extension to an existing workshop at Stowupland Hall. The other planning application is for a solar farm in Blacksmiths Lane. Permission has been granted for heat pumps and solar panels at a property in Mill Street.

Cllr Studd is to check on certain issues relating to the garage and another property in the village.

**Transport, Traffic and Safety** – It was agreed that the PC should collect data from the SID devices on a quarterly basis which will be reported back to the Parish Council and Suffolk Police. This information will also be added to the website. It was also agreed to run a 12-week rota with the SID devices, 6 weeks on, 3 weeks off, 3 weeks on and then they will be turned round. The current data is showing regular speeding of 60mph and one of 104mph. Residents are reported to be pleased with the one outside M&M Butchers.



**Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Melhuish reported that there was a large amount of rubbish in the ditch by Linden Homes.

Cllr Bridges was not happy that signs advertising the location of the Aspen Grange development had been placed on the SID device poles and she would be taking steps to get these removed.

**Clerk's Report:** The Clerk reported that she had attended a SALC meeting on transparency codes and will be including the necessary financial information on the PC website. There was also a NALC briefing on churchyard expenditure and restrictions but this does not apply to Stowupland as it has a closed churchyard. She advised that she has asked for quote for the tarmacking of footpath 46. It was also agreed that she could include Stowupland with a group of other villages to give a collective response to MSDC regarding the Call for Sites request.

**Correspondence:** This month's correspondence included three emails from MSDC asking for sites available for residential development for the year as part of the Local Joint Plan, notification of a Joint Local Validation List Consultation and a suggestion of Parish Councils arranging local litter picks. There were four letters from residents; the first asking for a co-ordinated response to the flooding on Church Road, the second regarding the annual yard sale, the third not happy with AWA's response to the recent flooding issues in Saxham Street and the final one is a suggestion that CPR training should be offered to Stowupland residents. Stowupland Falcons have asked if they might assist with drainage on the football pitch on The Green.

*The meeting closed to the public at 8.35pm.*



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# COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

## **Cabinet and Council meetings**

Cabinet met on 30 January to consider revised budget proposals. The next full Council meeting will be on 15 February; this will be an opportunity for all councillors to debate the proposed budget and level of council tax.

## **Council Budget for 2024/25**

The Conservative administration presented a revised budget to Cabinet on 30 January following the announcement of an additional £7.2 million of grant from central government. As a result, the Risk Reserve will be reduced by £8.7 million, rather than £15.9 million, but there are no proposals for replenishing the Risk Reserve and it is likely to be reduced further in 2025/26. This appears to be in direct contravention of the council's own financial policies.

The revenue budget shows total expenditure for 2024/25 of £587.5 million. The council tax increase for a Band D property will be £74.61 for the year, £1.43 per week.

In adult social care, where the number of people in need of provision is increasing, service users are expected to accept a lesser service, or pay more. The administration acknowledges that complaints in this service sector will rise and there may be an increase in homelessness due to the withdrawal of Housing Related Support. Finding homes for people made homeless and help for people in danger of being made homeless will become extra work for District and Borough Councils.

Cuts in children and young people's services include a 'redesign' of the skills team and loss of Family Hubs. The reduction in this service will lead to an increase in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). It will be the most vulnerable in Suffolk that will feel these cuts most.

The removal of all core funding for museums and arts will be replaced in 2025/26 by a £500k project funding pot, which will require a bid for every single project, with no certainty of acceptance. The most vulnerable residents in Suffolk are likely to be most affected by these changes.

## **OFSTED/CQC Report on SCC SEND provision**

The report was made public on 30 January and shows that the service has widespread and/or systemic failings. The service needs to focus on the reasons for parental dissatisfaction, the timeliness and quality of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and communication. Too many young people with EHCPs become adults Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). One off funding of £1 million has been made available to address the backlog of EHCPs and improve the quality of assessments.

Governance of partnership working and engagement with children, young people and families needs urgent improvement. The full report is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80565>

Since the report being made public, two Cabinet members and a deputy have resigned. This follows the departure late in 2023 of two directors within the Children and Young People Service, with two interim directors brought in to run the service. The service has been poorly managed for a number of years and underfunded. Further savings are required to be made in 2024/25.

### **Sizewell C Construction Begins**

Construction begins this month of the controversial new power station at Sizewell, a project that is forecast to take 17 years to complete. This will have a massive impact on local communities, the coastal environment and transport routes in the county. Suffolk County Council has secured £250m in mitigation monies for Suffolk communities, but there will still be upheaval in the county; the council has a role to play in making sure there is sufficient effort to minimise its impact and that the concerns of residents and local businesses are heard and considered.

### **New Funding to Combat Serious Violence**

Suffolk's Safer Stronger Communities Board has announced a fund of £150,000 from the Home Office to support Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy. Organisations can bid for funding for specific projects which support the work of the Strategy, with allocation of funding managed through Suffolk Community Foundation.

The Serious Violence Strategy focuses on young people and communities at risk of becoming involved in serious violence, and the funding for projects is available to charities, voluntary sector organizations, social enterprises, parish councils, educational settings and other public bodies from April 2024. Applications are invited for grants between £4,000 and £15,000 and organisations can apply by visiting: <https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/seriousviolencedutyfund/>

### **'Good Journey' Scheme for Visitor Attractions**

Visitor attractions in Suffolk are invited to sign up for a new scheme promoting car-free days out in the county. Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk County Council have teamed up with national organisation 'Good Journey' to create the scheme, which launches in March.

Around 25 local tourism and visitor attractions are invited to join the Suffolk Good Journey scheme offering residents and visitors discounts and incentives to leave the car at home and explore more of the county on foot, by bike or using public transport. Participating attractions will be supported and will feature on [goodjourney.org.uk](http://goodjourney.org.uk) which provides travel information and discounts to domestic and international visitors and there will a marketing campaign to promote it.

Visitor attractions and venues interested in joining Suffolk Good Journey can find out more details by contacting Loretta Jones at Good Journey on [loretta@goodjourney.org.uk](mailto:loretta@goodjourney.org.uk) or [info@suffolkgrowth.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkgrowth.co.uk)

### **Autism Strategy for Suffolk**

At the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 18 January, the first draft of a Suffolk autism strategy was discussed, which will increase awareness and support for autistic people and make sure local services are accessible and meeting their needs. The plans include supporting autistic people to look for work and those who are considering self-employment, tackling health and care inequalities, improving access to education and transition into higher education. The strategy was commissioned by Suffolk County Council and local NHS providers and has been developed in co-production with Suffolk people with autism to reflect their views and experiences.

### **Blue Badge Team - Change of Telephone Number**

As a direct result of customer feedback, the Blue Badge phone number will be changing, and there will now be a dedicated phone line for Blue Badge customers. From **31 January** the Blue Badge team will be answering enquires on **03456 066 077**; this number will be visible online across the SCC Website, InfoLink and any future published materials. This is a change from the current telephone number, which is 0808 800 4005.

For information about how to apply for a badge or assist someone to make an application, please visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/blue-badge-scheme>

### **High School OFSTED report**

The report following the inspections carried out in 2023 was released on 15 January and is available on the OFSTED website. The overall rating of the school is 'requires improvement'. Sixth form provision is rated 'good' and the Mulberry Centre provides 'a strong quality of education'.

The Academy have called upon the former head of Great Yarmouth Charter Academy to 'encourage pupils in the school's vision, ethos and expectations'.

### **Local highways issues**

**Safer Route to School** - Notices appeared on The Green confirming that the surfaced path has been adopted as a Public Right of Way. Design work for the next section through to the car park has been completed and construction is planned for school summer holidays at the latest.

**A1120 in front of The Crown** - The Local Highways Engineer is working on this scheme and will be applying for MSDC CIL funding for the full cost of the works.

**A1120 Church Road** - I reported the blocked drain on A1120; it has been cleared but the problem has recurred. I have also asked for the pipe under the road near the school to be cleared again, as there is a build-up of debris, and for the flow rate out of the balancing ponds on Trinity Meadows to be checked.

**A1120 between Tesco and A14** - I have continued pressing for work to be carried out to drain the carriageway so that the cones can be removed. SCC Highways do not consider this issue to be a high priority and improvement works are unlikely for some years. Further pressure is being applied and an approach has been made for outside funding.

### **High School – Public Footpaths**

I am still waiting for a date for a site meeting with PROW officers and representatives from the High School. I have emailed yet another reminder.

Keith.Welham@suffolk.gov.uk  
01449 673185 or 07831 705 714

## **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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# A GENERAL ELECTION IS COMING

## Why Am I voting for an MP for the Waveney Valley?

Why indeed? We don't live in the Waveney Valley and Stowupland is nowhere near the River Waveney.

Because of population changes across the UK, a complete redrawing of parliamentary constituency boundaries has taken place. Last time we voted it was for an MP to represent the Bury St Edmunds constituency. A new seat, covering mostly West Suffolk, but including Stowmarket, is being contested in the next election; and it's been renamed as the Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket constituency.



But Stowupland has not been included in that constituency; we are in the new Waveney Valley constituency, which extends across to Halesworth, and up to Bungay. Eye, Harleston and Diss are also included, along with several Norfolk villages I've never even heard of.

Stowupland is in the very bottom corner of the boundary shown on the map on the left.

If you're not already on the election register, don't forget to register to vote. Just visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

To register to vote by post, visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote).

Don't forget, if you are going to vote at a polling station you will need to prove your identity by showing photo ID – such as a passport or driving licence.

If you don't have a passport or driving licence, the district council will be able to verify your identity and issue an identity document. Call 0300 1234 000 and ask for Election Services. Don't leave it until the last minute. We don't know when the election will be called.

If you need any further information or help with registering to vote or obtaining photo ID, please let me know. You can telephone me on 07831 705 714.

*Keith Welham*

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<https://stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk>

Email: [stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com](mailto:stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com)



**Collection of hard to recycle items (unfortunately we still cannot bulk collect medicine blister packs – please do not include them in your recycling items but take them if you can to a Superdrug Pharmacy, nearest one is Bury St Edmunds):**

**2nd Sunday each month (10th March) at Red Gables 2-4 pm plus REPAIR CAFÉ**  
**[stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com) and 4th Thursday each month (28th March) on**  
**Market place 9:30 to 11.30 am.** We collect Coffee pods, clean pet food pouches, cheese wrappers and nets, pens, flattened crisp packets, make up packaging and pringles tubes, also clean and flattened tetra packs – see our website for details.  
**Please note that the Toothpaste and Dental Products collection scheme has ended.** [Terracycle Collections | Stowmarket Eco Future Group](#)

**What a great success ! “I loved it” “When’s the next one?”** Our first CLOTHES SWAP EVENT was a huge success, more than 100 people turned up and had “nothing but praise” for the idea. Another date is being arranged in April (21st subject to confirmation)

## swap walk bike

Meantime: Another launch event is being planned – **a community cycling and walking hub** at Red Gables, Ipswich Stree 12- 4pm on Sunday 14th April. Interested volunteers please contact Sue via [stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com)

Our personal Carbon Footprint really matters - our homes, how much fuel we use, the flights we take, the food we eat, the way we vote, the interest we take in what is happening - it all really matters. It is easy to feel helpless and hopeless in the face of such huge environmental problems, especially with everything else going on in the world – we all get discouraged at times. Stowmarket Eco Future Group is your friend – you will find support and encouragement from other like-minded individuals. A lot of work and networking is going on alongside the more visible practical actions. You are very welcome to join us.

**More and more people are making changes to their lifestyle in order to protect our planet – every one of you is greatly appreciated.**

*If we have thought that the “younger generation” will solve Climate Change in the future, we now know that **it is up to us** – there is no time to wait for children to grow up.*

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# RAMBLINGS FROM THE POTTING SHED

PAULA WILLMOT

Firstly, a big thank you for the warm welcome I have received on taking over this column, some really lovely comments whilst out and about in the village. I suspect, like most of you, we are all eagerly awaiting the warmer weather that March will bring. I am also carefully watching the seeds, in the attached photos, that I probably planted too early but that seem to be doing well.

Over the next couple of paragraphs, I'll cover what I will be focusing on in March and I'll mention a few good social media sites that seem

to be giving some top tips at the moment. We also have the wonderful Gardeners World returning on the 15th March so Monty will be keeping us on track as well.

It's not just plants that hold my interest; garden bird life is also important as well as bees, hedgehogs and small creatures. This month's tips include a little wildlife care too! Here's my list for March:

- Clean out bird boxes ready for the new occupants. If you want to fully furnish for the new tenants, pop the fluff from your tumble dryer through the opening, birds will soon arrange it just as they want it.
- Don't be too hasty clearing away piles of sticks and leaves from the winter months. These could still be home to all sorts of wildlife who are also waiting for the warmer weather.
- It's time to start chitting potatoes. Most garden centres have a huge variety to choose from. Whether you are sowing in bags, the ground or piles of old tyres, make sure you choose the ones you know taste delicious!
- One seed you can start sowing now is the chilli. These tender plants need a warm windowsill to kickstart the growing season. They are also a great small plant for children to grow.
- Take a look at your roses and cut out the dead growth (usually brown sticks) as well as the leggy growth or any spurs growing in the wrong direction. It's a chance to really shape how you want them to grow.

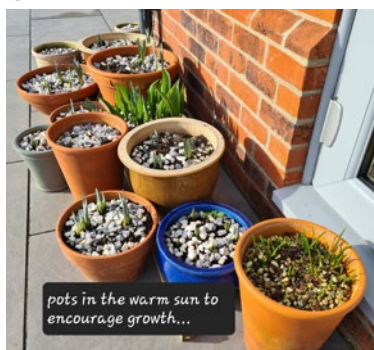


- Its also time to overhaul hedges while they are dormant and the birds haven't started building nests. Go carefully; a hard prune on all sides will likely stress and kill the hedge. Hard prune the top and gently prune back some of the 'whips' at the sides to keep the shape.
- Make sure your larger pots are in the right place, moving and tidying as you go ready for planting. I've also moved all my bulb pots to a sunnier aspect to improve and encourage growth.

One really enjoyable project you can also have a go at while waiting to get outside, is growing your own citrus trees. This is a lot easier than you think. Take some orange or lemon pips and give them a wash, removing the slippery outer layer. Wrap the pips in a piece of damp kitchen paper and pop in a small plastic bag. Hang the bag in your airing cupboard for about 10 days. After 10 days open the bag and you will see some of the pips will have produced a small shoot. Pop these in a little pot with some compost and cover with a plastic bag and watch them grow. Keep potting on until the trees really start to take shape.

Social media, especially Instagram, has some great follows at the moment for us keen gardeners. One lady who is always full of good advice is @anya\_thegarden\_fairy. She's great at sharing her money saving ideas including propagation tips and how to get more flowers from your hellebores. Her latest useful tip is using old cream and yoghurt pots for sweet peas as the deep pot is ideal for the roots, as well as recycling plastic.

Another good follow is @the\_mediterranean\_gardener. Michael Griffiths has a great tutorial on pruning roses (checkout his electric pruners, really good) and his reel on growing your own loofah sponge is very interesting. Finally, for those who love garden birds @putman\_and\_robin is a great follow. Tony Putman has tamed and named the robins in his garden and photographs them in fabulous detail as he works on his garden. The robins often fly down to sit on his muddy boots as he has his cuppa.



So, that's all for now and until next month. March will see me sitting in every shaft of sunlight that comes my way, willing Spring on. I'll also be visiting some of the RHS partner gardens in the local area to catch the snowdrops, including Anglesey Abbey just off the A14 at Lode, Chippenham Park Gardens just outside Cambridge and the wonderful Fullers Mill Garden in West Stow near Bury St Edmunds. All are open for the snowdrop season and beyond. Happy gardening!

# NEEDHAM MARKET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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The Community Council will again be organising the now annual art exhibition at the Community Centre over the EASTER weekend which this year is 28th March to 1st April.

This will be the 48th year of this event which attracts artists from all parts of East Anglia raising money which the community Council uses to support other groups in the town.

The event starts with a wine and cheese buffet on Thursday 28th March tickets for this are available from Lilac & Lily's in the High Street priced at £10.00 each (includes 2 glasses of wine)  
Or email [nmccartexhibition@btinternet.com](mailto:nmccartexhibition@btinternet.com)

If you are an artist or know someone who is, and they would like to exhibit their work, please contact us at the above email address.

If you would like to help with this event with taking in of the 600 plus paintings or hanging them in the hall or stewarding over the weekend, then again please contact us at the email address for further information.

If you are new to the town of Needham Market, and the surrounding areas, this is a good opportunity to see the wealth of talent that this area has to offer, and you may want to purchase a painting for your home.  
We can take payments with debit & credit cards.

The Community Council looks forward to seeing you over the Easter Weekend



# FAST TEST STOWMARKET



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Contact: Adam Bennett  
Tel: 01449 770902

Address:  
Unit 4, Tomo Business Park,  
Tomo Road, Stowmarket,  
Suffolk, IP14 5EP

# COUNTRYSIDE RAMBLER

BRIAN WARD

I really enjoy this time of year as wildlife start to emerge from its winter slumber. Recently I have seen queen bees visit the snowdrops for their first drink of nectar. This will be the nourishment they have been waiting for all winter as they leave their hibernation quarters on warm sunny days. If the weather allows, hedgehogs will leave their winter quarters in search of food. Keep an eye out and if you spot one place some hedgehog food out in a secluded area and check to see if it is eaten. Hedgehogs are messy eaters so the food can be strewn about around the area. If a neighbour's cat has found it, the food bowl is normally licked clean. If in doubt place the bowl on some dry sand and check the footprints the next day.

Adders and other reptiles will soon be leaving their hibernation areas and, as the days get warmer, they will emerge to bask in the sun. Minsmere nature reserve has a good population of adders, so if you wish to see them, get advice from one of the wardens at the visitor centre. They will inform you of the best area to observe them. Sometimes a warden will be available in situ to let you view these amazing reptiles through a scope or binoculars and once you have got your eye in you may be able to find some yourself. Please keep at a safe distance.

The early blossom is now showing, normally starting with cherry plum, blackthorn {sloe} and crab apple, but look out for the more subtle blossom of the holly and spindleberry as the weeks go by.

My wife puts out a slice or two of brown bread under our bird feeders every morning and often up to six magpies will fly in within minutes to devour this early meal. They will quickly eat what they can and then grab a beak full and fly off to hide it for later. This just shows how intelligent the crow family are, as most crows [corvids] will show this trait. I have watched the magpies stash their meal and on occasion another crow, the jackdaw, will quietly spy on the magpie and steal its meal. A very crafty tactic on behalf of the jackdaw and an easy meal with little effort.

The early flowers will soon be showing. Look out for primroses and five fingers, oxlips and violets in the coming weeks. Ransoms (wild garlic), along with wood anemones will soon be adorning our woodlands, then carpets of bluebells. All this will only happen if the weather stays mild, but I have just heard the forecast and it said another cold snap is on the way BBBRrrr. Keep warm and well and a brisk walk always helps, even if it's cold.



# Rushbrook's

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Email: [rushbrookschimneysweep@hotmail.com](mailto:rushbrookschimneysweep@hotmail.com)

Telephone: 07581 352772 or 01449 612296



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Email – [Orchardgaragedms@outlook.com](mailto:Orchardgaragedms@outlook.com)

Address – Orchard Garage DMS Ltd,  
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Community

**BINGO**

**NIGHT**

**All Cash Prizes**

**FRIDAY 22nd March**

**STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL**

**Doors open 7.00 pm**

**Eyes down 7.30 pm**

**Everyone Welcome (over 14's only).**

**Bring your own drink and nibbles**



**NIGHT**

**STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL**

**FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Doors open 7.00 pm**

**Quiz starts 7.30 pm**

**£3 Per Person - Teams of up to 6 people**

**Village Hall bar will be open for drinks**

**To enter a team please ring Keith on 01449 673185**

# COMEDY GREATS

## DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE?

Two brothers lived in Peckham.  
The programme was quite funny.  
They tried their luck in the marketplace.  
They never made much money.



Remember Victor Meldrew.  
He had a happy wife.  
But he was always grumpy,  
And had an awful life.

If you enjoy your history,  
You'd like your smart Black Adder.  
He treated Baldrick badly,  
Which made his servant sadder.



You must have stayed in an hotel.  
Where service takes for hours.  
It could have been far worse,  
If it's name was Fawlty Towers.

It was most unusual,  
With characters we like.  
Making fun of conflict,  
And a home guard, name of Pike.



Not good to be in prison.  
The solitude might get "yer."  
Inmates would have porridge.  
Like Norman Stanley Fletcher.

People watched the Royles,  
And Gogglebox, the same.  
Watching people watching T.V.,  
Viewing is insane!



And finally, my favourite.  
An M.P., later Prime.  
Jim Hacker was the leader,  
And he just ends this rhyme.

*The Really Lovely Poetry Company* R.R.G.

# **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

## **Citizens Advice**

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

## **Doctor**

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

## **Emergency Numbers**

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

## **Good Neighbour Scheme**

HELPLINE: 07591 539621

## **Member of Parliament**

Jo Churchill - [jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

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

## **Police**

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

## **Samaritans** – 116 123

## **Stowupland Village Website**

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

## **Parish Council Website**

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

## **Suffolk County Council**

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

## **Schools**

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

## **Vets**

Cedarwood - 01449 676966  
Stowe Vets - 01449 613130

# DIARY DATES

If you know of any events happening in the village I may not have picked up on please do get in touch by 7th of the month at [stowman@stowman.plus.com](mailto:stowman@stowman.plus.com) or on 01449 616275.

## MARCH

SAT 2	09:30 - 13:00 Village Hall	Heart of Suffolk Farmers Market
SUN 3	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
MON 4	18:30 Village Hall	"Tappy Feet" Tap dance class
TUES 5	16:00 Village Hall	Young Carers Club
WED 6	12:00 Holy Trinity Church Hall	Lent Lunch
WED 6	14:00-16:00 Village Hall car pk.	Mobile Post Office
WED 6	14:30 various locations	Book Group (contact 01449 672127 for details)
WED 6	19:30 Village Hall	Local History Group "Suffolk Churches"
THURS 7	14:00-16:00 Village Hall car pk.	Choose Refills mobile shop
THURS 7	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
THURS 7	19:30 URC meeting room	Parish Council
SUN 10	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
MON 11	19:30 Village Hall	Village Hall trustees meeting
MON 11	18:30 Village Hall	"Tappy Feet" Tap dance class
MON 11	19:30 URC Hall	Bio-diversity group meeting
WED 13	12:00 Holy Trinity Church Hall	Lent Lunch
WED 13	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 14	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
FRI 15	19:30 Village Hall	Community Quiz

SAT 16	10:00 - 12:00 Church Hall	Coffee, Cake and Chat
SAT 16	10:00 Village Hall car park	Community litter pick
SUN 17	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club
MON 18	18:30 Village Hall	"Tappy Feet" Tap dance class
TUES 19	09:30 Jubilee Crt. 09.55 Green	Mobile Library
WED 20	12:00 Holy Trinity Church Hall	Lent Lunch
WED 20	14:00-16:00 Village Hall Car Pk.	Mobile Post Office
THURS 21	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
FRI 22	10:00 URC chapel	Coffee Morning
FRI 22	19:30 Village Hall	Community Bingo
MON 25	18:30 Village Hall	"Tappy Feet" Tap dance class
WED 27	12:00 Holy Trinity Church Hall	Lent Lunch
WED 27	10:00-12:00 Sports/Social Club	SOAP club
THURS 28	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls

## LOOKING AHEAD

### APRIL

MON 1	18:30 Village Hall	"Tappy Feet" Tap dance class
WED 3	19:30 Village Hall	Local History Group - Education in the Middle Ages
THURS 4	19:30 URC meeting room	Parish Council
THURS 4	19:00 Village Hall	Short mat bowls
SAT 6	09:30 - 13:00 Village Hall	Heart of Suffolk Farmers Market
SUN 7	19:30 Village Hall	Country & Western music club



Rachel Eburne - [rachel.eburne@midsex.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.eburne@midsex.gov.uk) -  
01449 673311

MSDC General Contact No. 0300 1234000

**Mobile Library** - 07721 879855

### **Parish Council**

Donna Bridges - Chairman - 07736 348335  
[donnabridges@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:donnabridges@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Terry Easter - 07958906176

[Terry.easter@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:Terry.easter@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Laura Beeson - 07918 808387

[laurabeeson@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:laurabeeson@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Laura Johnson - 07826 851030

[laurajohnson@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:laurajohnson@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Debra Melhuish - 07979125904

[debramelhuish@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:debramelhuish@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Paula Murton - 07906 677817

[paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Ray Studd - 01449 676606

[raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:raystudd@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Jerry Voden - 01449 703717

[jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:jerryvoden@stowuplandpc.co.uk)

Clerk to the Parish Council - Claire Pizze  
[parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stowupland.suffolk.cloud)*

### **Village Hall Bookings**

Lisa Tunbridge - Phone - 07862740830  
[stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com)

### **Village Clubs**

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

Local History Group - Jerry Voden - 07951 086383

Short Mat Bowls - Pam Fayers - 07713026696

Sports and Social Club - Mark Dye - 07799 662491

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

Stowupland Falcons Football Club -  
[stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk](http://stowuplandfalconsfc.co.uk)

Stowupland Sports Centre -  
[info@stowuplandsportscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@stowuplandsportscentre.co.uk) - 01449 672531

Stowupland Wildflower & Biodiversity Group -  
Keith Welham - 01449 673185

Stowmarket Wildlife Group - Heather Salmon  
[-heathersalmon50@gmail.com](mailto:-heathersalmon50@gmail.com) - 07722 871205

# SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – SID



You will have noticed that over the last couple of months SID is in operation in various locations through Stowupland Parish. We now have 3 devices up and running. These 3 devices are a welcome addition to our Parish and have already been a topic of conversation around the village, we have received really good feedback. We have been concerned with the speeding traffic through our village for some time and the Parish Council had been in long discussions with Suffolk County Council for some time regarding the type of device we required and with help from some willing parishioners we have managed to install them.

**What is SID?** SID is a battery/solar operated radar device that detects speed of vehicles up to 150m from its position. It indicates speed of vehicles travelling towards the sign with an appropriate message to the drivers. It also detects the speed of vehicles travelling the opposite direction away from the sign.

**What is recorded by SID?** It records the volume of the vehicles passing the sign in either direction at set intervals, the average and maximum speed of the vehicles and the date and time.

**What message does the SID display?** SID displays a "THANK YOU" message in green to drivers who conform to the speed limit and a "SLOW DOWN" message in red to those drivers travelling too fast. For vehicles travelling more than 30mph the sign will flash a red triangle and a slowdown message but will not display the actual speed, this is designed as an "anti-racing" measure.

**How many and where are the SID Locations?** We have bought 3 devices and they are situated where SCC Highways Team advised they be used.

1. B1115 by Allotments & Devon Road in a 30mph area
2. A1120 by Village Hall on Church Road in a 30mph area
3. Thorney Green Road in a 30mph area

**What has been the experience of SID so far?** We believe this has slowed the traffic within those areas, and we have received good comments from parishioners. The data will be downloaded quarterly and published on our website for everyone to read; it will also be sent to Suffolk Police for monitoring.

**How can I help with SID?** SID is managed by the Parish Council and relies on volunteers to assist with turning each device, switching off the device for the required amount of time, collecting the data and reporting the data to police. If you would like to be involved in this process, please contact the Parish Clerk ( [parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk) )

# **STOWUPLAND BOWLS CLUB**

**JOHN MOLLETT**

Hello again; at last, the long dark winter is coming to an end, and we can look forward to the new season. I expect that you will have heard that work on the village hall is in abeyance so we will be using all our existing facilities for this season. Work on the green is in progress and any help will be gratefully received.

I have enjoyed short mat bowling in the village hall, and this has kept my hand in. I will see you on the green come April when once again we can meet old friends and make new ones. Best wishes to all.

For further information you can contact the secretary Graham Newman on 01359240846 or Chairman Frank Boxall on 01359244591

## **STOWUPLAND FALCONS**

**MARK DYE**

Stowupland Falcons football teams are now entering the second half of the season, with many teams throughout the age groups having plenty to play for. Unfortunately, the weather has again played havoc with the fixtures meaning a lot of midweek games coming up in the latter stages of the season.



The Saturday morning club and the girls wildcats are enjoying lots of youngsters joining in the training as they venture into their first taste of football.

Planning has now started for the Stowupland Falcons Big 5-a-side, which should be held on the second weekend of June. Anyone who would like to get involved please let us know. Also, this year it's the 50th anniversary of youth football and 50th year partnership with Stowupland High School; more news on the celebrations will be announced soon.

Facebook – Stowupland Falcons FC | Twitter - @StowFalcons | Instagram



## SOAP Club

### **Calling all over 60's**

Come along to meet old friends, new friends and enjoy a morning of company, activities & good cake in a welcoming social environment.

### **Our next event is**

**Wednesday 27 March 2024, 10:00 - 12:00**

**at Stowupland Sports and Social Club.**

**Please do join us.**



If you would like any further information, please do email [paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk](mailto:paulamurton@stowuplandpc.co.uk) or call 01449 677005

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# Community Litter Pick

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Time 10.00am**

## MEET AT:

- Village Hall Car Park

**Let us have a greener cleaner Parish**

## Other Litter Pick Dates

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

## Stowupland Needs You

Litter pickers and Hi Viz jackets provided

A chance to meet new people

Children supervised by an adult are very welcome!

Help improve your neighbourhood



## Stowupland Parish Council working with Stowupland Falcons

Clerk: parishclerk@stowuplandpc.co.uk | 01449 677005  
Chairman: donnabridges@stowuplandpc.co.uk | 07736 348335



**STOWUPLAND  
GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

*A volunteer service run by residents for residents*

Helpline 07591 539 621

# STOWUPLAND OPEN GARDENS

NIGEL NAPIER

The village will be having an Open Gardens Event again as part of the St Elizabeth Hospice Great Garden Trail on Sunday 30th June.

It is the 10th year of The Great Garden Trail raising funds for the Hospice and supports all their good work.

We have returning gardens from previous years, but we are always looking for new gardens to add to the list, there have been so many new gardens added to the village I the last few years!

If you are interested in opening your garden for this very deserving cause, please e-mail me - [nigelnapier01@gmail.com](mailto:nigelnapier01@gmail.com)

Many thanks!

07534 525 263

01449 258 254

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Although Christmas seems a while ago now, we were just approaching the festive season when we submitted our last article!

## Christmas Performances

Children in Reception and Year 2 performed their Christmas Nativity plays to parents and carers.

Children in Years 1 and 3 entertained residents in Steeple View Retirement Home with Christmas songs and residents of Langham Care Home in Stowmarket were also treated to a wonderful performance in school, enjoying refreshments afterwards with staff and pupils.



Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 taking music lessons with County Music, also performed

to parents and carers. Children from all three year groups have the opportunity to learn flute and clarinet and Year 5 are also learning to play the guitar, which some Year 6 pupils have chosen to continue this year.

Parents and carers thoroughly enjoyed all the performances. They were extremely impressed with how well the younger children had learned their lines and how well the older children played their instruments, especially those who have only recently started lessons.

The whole school also visited Holy Trinity Church for a Christmas Service.

## Forest Schools

Year 5 are excited to be back in Forest School. Children shared their Forest names in the opening circle and studied blades of grass covered in frost. They were delighted to find ice in the mud kitchen and enjoyed constructing rope swings.







They have also learnt how to use a Laplander saw and palm drills and some children carved their initials into logs for their dens.

Cereal hoops were threaded for the birds and pine cones were re-covered with lard and bird seed.

Year 4 have also been busy making the most of the cold weather by making leaf ice wreaths. They left water and leaves outside to freeze in the chilly weather with stunning results!!

### National Story Telling Week

The whole school recently took part in a Story Telling Week to celebrate the joy of sharing stories. Children in Reception listened to *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and then sequenced the story using story cards.



Older children listened to stories in their classes. They worked in groups to adapt the story which they then performed to the whole school at the end of the week.



## PE Taster Session

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were treated to a futuristic "TRON" treatment turning sporting activities into everything neon. Playing sport in UV light sharpens senses; improves hand-to-eye co-ordination and builds up spatial awareness skills. Everyone had great fun!



## Junior Road Safety Officers

In December, we carried out our first patrol. We issued green flyers for good parking, yellow flyers where parking could be slightly better and a red flyer asking someone not to park in a particular area again.

We were really pleased that most of the parking was really good and that there was still access to the Church. A lot of families also chose to 'Park and Stride.' We reminded parents not to park on the yellow hatchings and to always make sure that seatbelts are fastened before pulling away.

*'From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow'*



# **FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **V A C A N C I E S**

### **MIDDAY SUPERVISOR**

Salary £10.60 per hour. Job share or part-time would be considered.

Required to start as soon as possible Monday to Friday: 11.45am - 13:20pm, 38 weeks (term time only) per year.

Freeman Community Primary School is a successful, happy, caring community of 203 children.

We are looking for a kind and caring individual with a positive outlook to join our midday supervisor team. Duties will include helping children as they eat their lunch, tidying away, leading play activities on the playground and attending to any first aid incidents. Supporting individual children with SEN will also be part of the role. Experience of working in a school environment would be an advantage although not essential as training will be provided.

### **SCHOOL GOVERNOR**

*Did you know that you don't have to be a parent or member of staff to be a school governor?*

School governors are also drawn from the local community and come from all walks of life.

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 (Thursday) six times a year and occasional visits (termly) during the school day, we'd be very pleased to hear from you to discuss the role of a governor 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 [www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk)

**For further details about the positions please contact the school on 01449 612067 or via mail: [admin@freeman.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@freeman.suffolk.sch.uk). Application forms for both vacancies can also be found on the school website.**

# STOWUPLAND WILDFLOWER AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP



**Hedgehogs:** Did you know that a healthy hedgehog population is considered a good indicator of a healthy biologically diverse environment? We aim to set up a number of projects to raise awareness of hedgehogs and how to protect them.

We have been working with pupils at Freeman School and have placed hedgehog homes within the school grounds. Next, we hope to set up some video recording equipment so that pupils can see hedgehogs in action. Later this year we would like to promote a hedgehog monitoring scheme to find out the present numbers of hedgehogs in the village.

**Wildflower Planting:** We have received 150 tiny oxlip plants. These are so small at present that we need to grow them under cover before we can plant them in the wildflower meadow on The Green. Just as the red rose is the floral emblem of Yorkshire, so the oxlip is the floral emblem of Suffolk, and we need to encourage them. They may take a couple of years to become established – look out for pale yellow flowers.



**Native Fruit Trees:** 5 apple and 3 plum trees have recently been planted as part of our two mini-orchards on land at the high school. These are all local varieties and further trees will be planted in the autumn or next spring.

**Working With Schools:** Due to the need for temporary buildings at the High School, our work has been scaled back. Nevertheless, three raised beds can be put in place near the sixth form block for students interested in raising vegetables. Two raised beds will also be provided for students at the Mulberry Centre, where we hope to encourage flower and vegetable growing and development of a wildflower strip in part of their open area.

The fallen tree in the grounds of Freeman School wood has been removed and neglected fruit trees have been rescued. Street Forge have supplied wooden welly holders for pupils taking part in 'Forest School' activities.



**No Mow May:** Our request to the Parish Council that they join this nationwide project to encourage biodiversity in public open spaces was rejected. We argued unsuccessfully that residents of our village would enjoy seeing the buttercups on The Green throughout May; and it is also important that bees and many other insects have access to pollen and a wilder habitat for just those four weeks. The Council took the decision to mow as normal through May, with the exception of our Wildflower Meadow and the Half-a-Mow area.

We would like to arrange a consultation with residents to establish whether residents prefer The Green mown short or would prefer one or more areas of The Green left uncut for the month of May 2025. We hope that the consultation will be organised jointly with the Parish Council and that the outcome of the consultation will be accepted by all.

**Home Garden Projects:** We are keen to encourage everyone with a garden, large or small, to follow No-Mow-May. Perhaps anyone with a larger garden could leave areas of longer grass throughout the summer.

To encourage everyone in the village to grow pollinators for insects, and seed for birds, we will be providing every household in the village with a small packet of sunflower seeds, and details of our competition to grow the tallest sunflower. We will offer a small prize for the winner.

**Spring Fair – 27 and 28 April:** We plan to have a display at the Spring Fair in the Village Hall.

**Biodiversity within new developments:** We have been encouraged by the way that Linden Homes approached providing mitigation measures and biodiversity within open space areas. Many residents of Trinity Meadows have expressed wide concerns about the lack of adequate provision within their development. Some of our group met with residents and the Green Party Joint Leader to discuss these issues, notably the planting of inappropriate trees and shrubs.

**Increasing Our Tree Cover:** The tree cover in Mid Suffolk is very low and the District Council is encouraging the planting of trees and hedges on public and private land to increase the tree cover from 8% to 15% of the total area of the district. We would like to hear from local landowners, and anyone with suggestions for where trees might be planted.

**Our next meeting** is on 11 March at 7.30 in the URC meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join our group, or just to come along and find out more about our plans for improving the biodiversity of Stowupland.

*Keith Welham*



# LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

**OUR NEXT MEETING** is Wednesday March 6th (7:30 Village Hall) when we will welcome back Sarah Doig for her take on Suffolk Churches. This was postponed from 2023. If you can't join us for March, then come along on April 3rd when Kate Jewell will take us back to school in medieval times.

.....

If you remember back to December 2023, you will recall our speaker was Keely Thomas. Using our treasurer as her guinea pig she explained how we can use internet resources to trace and record our family tree. Similar resources can be used to trace the history of your home or the land on which it was built.

Many of the resources cost money to access but this is where our Local Records Offices are so valuable. We are fortunate that our nearest records office is in Ipswich, although, as anyone who has used it since its move to The Hold, accessing documents is far more time consuming than in the good old days of Gateacre Road.

For many years and up to now, Suffolk has been fortunate to have three sites for researching local history. Lowestoft is now a shadow of its former self, and the Bury St Edmunds Records Office had been fighting plans to move it to a less accessible part of town; but now it seems government cutbacks are threatening to centralise the storage of all historic documents in one place. You may think this does not matter to you but it will have a knock on effect for anyone who enjoys hearing or reading about our local area. After all, speakers and authors have to be able to access old maps, documents and records and that is becoming increasingly difficult. Whilst we are all aware that money is tight, those who know are convinced that closing down the smaller records offices will not make significant savings and will place increasing pressure on The Hold, causing it to run out of storage space in seven years. Digitalised online documents can be very useful, but there is nothing like handling and smelling old documents, wondering who else has touched them and why.

As Stowupland's archivist, I think we are so lucky that previous researchers such as Ena Carter and our present researcher Neil Langridge have built up a very substantial body of knowledge about the village, but there is so much more that we need to be able to investigate.

In December's Telstar Neil wrote up his research about a house that can be seen along the road from Stowupland to Stowmarket. This month he concludes his current research.

**The Uplands – part 2** Following on from the first part of the history of the house now known as The Uplands, and the attached farm formerly called The Tithe Farm in the Dec/Jan Telstar, we will look at the property's later history.



In Frederick Woolaston's will of 1794 the farm is said to be then leased to and in the occupation of John Boby. The Boby family were farmers living at The Ashes off Newton Road and later were tenants of Columbine Hall. John Boby bought the farm and house and in his will of 1815 he bequeaths it to his son Robert Boby. It was at that time in the occupation of John Boby's widowed daughter Elizabeth Posford.

In 1822 the house was divided into 3 tenements or cottages in the occupation of Elizabeth Posford, Dennis Spooner and widow Goote. Robert Boby died in 1828 and the property was put up for auction it was bought for £5160 by Charles Rayner Freeman of Stowupland Hall.

During the year 1844 there was much unrest amongst the agricultural workers in the area over low pay. Protests escalated in the form of arson attacks on local farms; there were 2 fires at Columbine Hall and the Tithe Farm was also attacked.

On 1st June a fire was started at the Tithe Farm and a stable and large barn were destroyed. The Norwich Mercury reported the incident as follows:

*"A fire broke out on Saturday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a barn on the Tithe Farm, Stowupland, the property and in the occupation of Mr. C. Freeman. Being within a few rods of the town of Stowmarket, the engines were on the spot almost immediately the alarm was given, and aided the exertions of the numbers present, succeeded in saving the dwelling-house, which was uninhabited, and thatched cottage in the rear of the premises. The property destroyed, which we understand was fully insured, consisted of a stable, with a large double barn containing several loads of straw and fodder, and large quantity of building materials."*



**Hill House on right, the large building is the barn destroyed in 1844, the thatched cottage on the left. From 1839 tithe map.**

Freeman posted in the newspaper the same day –

*"C. R. FREEMAN RETURNS his most grateful thanks to the kind friends, neighbours, and inhabitants at large of Stowmarket and its vicinity, for their prompt assistance, by which means the Hill House was saved from the late awful fire, and desires to express his warmest acknowledgments".*

The will of C.R. Freeman made in 1849 left all his property in Stowupland to his children. In his diary William Freeman, son of Charles, mentions visiting the farm a few times briefly.

On 9th Aug 1851 he "paid men at Tithe Farm".

2nd Feb 1852 he "drove Rev. F.W. Freeman to Tithe Farm

6th Feb 1852 he went to Tithe Farm in the morning and again on 7th Feb.

The farm was bought in 1863 by Frederick Cookson, vicar of Stowupland, the house said then to be in occupation of a Mr. Matthew and the land farmed by Thomas Cuthbert. The property is advertised in the newspaper with a good description.

*"The Hill Estate Stowupland ... . The RESIDENCE comprises dining and drawing room with entrance, kitchen, wash-house, cellar, and store- rooms. Three principal bedrooms, and two attics; stable, chaise-house and offices; with a well of excellent water. A walled in garden, an orchard of growing fruit trees. The remainder comprising extremely fine Arable and Meadow Land.*

In the 1861 census William Matthew age 34 who was of independent means is shown at Hill House with wife Dorothy and son John and a 70 year old visitor Marianne Beard, maybe a relative. They also had three servants namely a cook, groom and nurse.

On the death of the Reverend Cookson in 1872 the property passed to his son Frederick Nesfield Cookson. In 1876 the property passed to Alexander Clutterbuck, brewer of Stowmarket, whose brewery was at the old waterworks site in Station Road. He also owned The Retreat. Clutterbuck soon sold it to Ernest Prentice of the prominent Stowmarket business family. Prentice immediately mortgaged the property for £2000. The property came into the possession of George Gudgeon who put it up for sale in 1901.

Later owners were –

William Harvey, brewers' chemist of Stowmarket

William Alfred Turner, grocer of Stowmarket

Ethel Martha Marsh

Cecil and Gertrude Shuttlewood

James and Hazel Brownlee

Roger Brownlee

Russell and Janice Meredith

I have no doubt there will be other snippets about the people who called The Uplands home, and as these come to light they will be added to our website: [www.stowuplandlocalhistorygroup](http://www.stowuplandlocalhistorygroup)

## **Out & About**

**If ever you want to make a comment or have a query about Stowupland's history or our meetings. Please contact Jerry on 01449 703717 or [voden@btinternet.com](mailto:voden@btinternet.com)**

When taking a walk around our village have you ever been grateful for a bench to rest on, but wondered about why the bench is there?

Many have been erected to commemorate a local person or a special event. Many of the plaques on the back of the benches are becoming illegible so SLHG would like to put together a record of where, why and when. This month's benches were in memory of Mr A.G. Addison and Rene or Hubert Shave. Have you sat on one and do you have any memories to share about Alf, Rene or Hubert?



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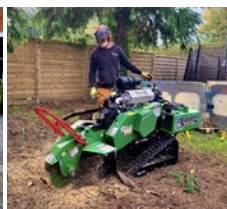
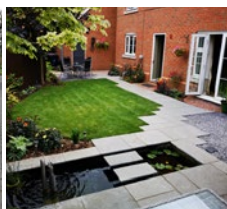
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**Damp and mould is building up in our house as the weather gets colder. Our living room is the worst and there's a strong smell, so we've stopped having friends round. We're also concerned about our health. We've reported it to our landlord, but they haven't done anything. With six months left on the tenancy agreement, we're running out of options. What should we do?**



You've done the right thing by bringing this to your landlord. To work out if they are responsible, you'll need to find the cause of the damp and mould. This can take time unless there's a clear cause, like bad insulation or a leaking roof.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. The main types are rising, penetrating, construction, and condensation damp. It can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. Information on our website can help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Go to [citizensadvice.org.uk](https://citizensadvice.org.uk) and search damp for more information.

You should check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp. Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of those you live with. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if the window frames are rotting.

Condensation is a key cause of damp we're all familiar with. You should try and reduce extra moisture in your home, this will make it easier to show that your landlord is responsible for the damp. Extra moisture can come from portable gas or paraffin heaters, drying wet clothes or using a tumble dryer with no outside vent.

You may reach the point where you just want to get out of your tenancy agreement early, but remember this can be tricky and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

For example, you could get support from Safe Suffolk Renters, a Suffolk wide project to help improve relationships between landlords and private tenants. Contact them via their website [safesuffolkrenters.org](https://safesuffolkrenters.org). As a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

## **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 140-260 people depending on the event. A small one seats up to 20 people. There is a well equipped kitchen, and a licensed bar, plus an audio-visual system and Wi-Fi. There is ample car parking and an outdoor children's play area.

Interested? Look on our website at <https://hallbookingonline.com/Stowupland>

Or contact Lisa Tunbridge our booking secretary

Tel: 07862740830 email: [stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:stowuplandvillagehallbookings@gmail.com)



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# **STOWMARKET WILDLIFE GROUP**

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**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust

## **APRIL 2024**

**Wednesday 24 April, 7.30pm – RSPB MINSMERE PAST AND PRESENT  
and why it is so special.**

***A talk by David Staff***

**Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ**

Admission £3.00.

David is a Guide at the flagship RSPB reserve at Minsmere. His talk will trace the history of the site from the earliest records, through its transformation from wartime defence against invasion to become a world-class nature reserve. He will talk about the land, the varied habitats and the wide range of species it now supports. For the future, David will talk about how Minsmere may withstand the pressures of climate change and land usage and continue to improve.

## **JUNE 2024**

**Wednesday 26 June, 7.30pm – WILDLIFE IN OUR GARDENS.**

***A talk by Geoff Abbott***

**Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ**

Admission £3.00.

Our gardens can be home to a huge variety of interesting and attractive creatures, birds, insects and many others. They are especially important to many of the pollinating insects, now that many wildflowers are so depleted in the countryside. This talk will introduce us to many of them and discuss ways in which we can attract more.

## **SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Wednesday 25 September, 7.30pm – THE WORLD LAND TRUST**

***A talk by Dan Bradbury***

**Stowmarket Football Club, Bury Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1JQ.**

Admission £3.00.

Saving Land Saving Species - Suffolk based charity World Land Trust will take you on an inspiring journey as we endeavour to safeguard precious ecosystems around the world. We talk about how we confront habitat loss and help local people across the world protect and restore their land to safeguard biodiversity and the climate.

Dan is the Director of Brand and Communications for the World Land Trust. His presentation will include slides, with lots of images and videos which will also include World Land Trust Patrons who are Sir Dauid Attenborough, Steve Backshall, Chris Packham and David Gower.

## NOVEMBER 2024

**Wednesday 27 November, 7.30pm – BATS IN SUFFOLK with**

***A talk by Anne and Dennis Kell***

**Stowmarket Football Club, Bury Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1JQ.**

Admission £3.00.

Anne and Dennis are retired teachers with a lifelong interest in wildlife. They have been members of the Suffolk Bat Group since the 1980s and have also been licensed bat workers with Natural England. Their presentation will introduce the audience to the world of bats and talk a little more about their ecology and lifestyles in the UK, especially in Suffolk. They will also try to show some of the activities in which the Suffolk Bat Group has been involved, including surveys that anyone can join in.

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Arrangements may change.

Please check the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website at [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/) events for updated information about these events.

## CONTACT

Heather Salmon - 07722 871205 [heathersalmon50@gmail.com](mailto:heathersalmon50@gmail.com)



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# U.R.C CHAPEL

## NEWS

Minister: Revd Robert Sheard  
Telephone 01449 678173

Stowmarket URC Anniversary will be on 3 March at 10.30am and we will be joining them for this service. **There will not be a service at the Chapel on that day.** We joined with our friends at Holy Trinity Church on 21 January for the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

As Spring approaches, it is a time to look forward to warmer weather and lots of colour from the spring flowers. A very special time of year.

Our next Coffee Morning is on **Friday 22 March 10-12noon as the last Friday is Good Friday therefore, we have brought the coffee morning forward a week.** Please come and join us for a cuppa, cake, and good company.

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 our worship. A warm welcome awaits you.

### **The Speakers for March are as follows:**

03 March No service at the Chapel as it is the Anniversary at Stowmarket URC

10 March Stephen Horrex (Mothering Sunday)

17 March Rev Richard Edwards

24 March John Webb

31 March Rev Norman Tharby (Easter Sunday Communion Service)

*Joyce Gardiner*

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

### **Luke 24: 1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

At the end of March, we celebrate Easter Sunday, which is the most important of the Christian Festivals, but for many it is just a time to give chocolate eggs. They don't think about it being the day that God raised Jesus from the dead. If they do, they do not think that it really happened!

In His book *Who Moved the stone?* Frank Morison looks at the question of what happened that first Easter Day. He at first sets out to prove that it did not happen. He suggests 6 possible scenarios of what could have happened that first Easter Day:

1. That Joseph of Arimathea secretly removed the body to a more suitable resting-place.
2. That the body was removed by order of the Roman Power.
3. That the body was removed by the Jewish authorities to prevent the possible veneration of the tomb.
4. That life was not really extinct, and that Jesus recovered in the cool of the grave.
5. That the women mistook the grave in the uncertain light.
6. That the grave was not visited at all and that the story about the women was a later accretion.

After He looks at these possible scenarios and the evidence of Peter, James and even Paul, and that they were prepared to die for what they knew was true, he only came to one conclusion and that is that God did raise Jesus from the dead!

So, this Easter, I encourage you to relook at the Easter narrative and find for yourself that Jesus did rise from the dead to be your Saviour.

And on the third day he rose again from the dead. Happy Easter.

*Robert*

*Reverend Robert Sheard Minister of the Stowmarket Group of Churches. The group consists of Stowmarket, Debenham, Mendlesham, Haughley and Stowupland.*

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Friday 22nd March 2024,**  
Stowupland URC Chapel 10am – 12noon



Coffee, Tea and Cakes

**There will also be a raffle  
draw.**

All welcome

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

## NEWS

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
STOWUPLAND

Rector: Revd Paul Clarke Tel. 07903 452010  
Churchwardens: Mrs Ann Doubtfire Tel. 770363  
Mrs Sue Hayter Tel. 613710  
Email: revpaulclarke@me.com



March is upon us, and we are seeing signs of Spring and new growth everywhere. Spring is such a hopeful season after the long grey days of winter as we hear the sounds of the birds, see the sunshine, feel the increase in temperature, watch flowers growing and new green shoots appear on the trees. Everything is having a fresh start but what about you? It's a new season which can also be seen as a new season in your life, feel the motivation, be empowered to take charge and embrace the Spring.

Here in church, we are now in the season of Lent, 40 days where we are reflecting on Jesus, his life and his journey towards the Cross. But as we know the cross is not the end because, with Easter Day there is a new beginning, a new start.

During Lent we are having an additional weekly service at Wetherden church at 9pm on a Tuesday evening. This is for the whole benefice of Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland. This is just a short contemplative service at the end of the day - you are very welcome to join us. In the week leading up to Easter there will be a Compline on Monday in Stowupland, Tuesday in Wetherden and Wednesday in Haughley all at 9pm.

The Lent lunches are an excellent way of meeting together and sharing food. In Jesus' time the sharing of food and fellowship was so important. The most important meal, that we still remember today, was the Last Supper that Jesus had with his friends, the day before He died. We will be remembering that meal as we join together for a simple supper and service in Stowupland Church Hall on Maundy Thursday (28th March) at 7pm, again this is for everyone (but it would help with catering if you can let us know that you will be attending). And then of course there is the joy of Easter Day when we can all meet together in Haughley Church and celebrate the Risen Lord with our Easter Day service.

We do hope that you will all be able to feel the joy of Spring and make a new start in your life or even in your journey with Christ.

*With God's love and our prayers to you from the Ministry Team*

### Services in March 2024

3rd Mar	9.30am	Parish Communion
5th Mar	9.00pm	Tuesday Compline Service at Wetherden
10th Mar	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise
12th Mar	9.00pm	Tuesday Compline Service at Wetherden
17th Mar	9.30am	Morning Worship
19th Mar	9.00pm	Tuesday Compline Service at Wetherden
24th Mar	4.00pm*	Palm Sunday Evensong



25th Mar	9.00pm	Monday Compline Service at Stowupland
26th Mar	9.00pm	Tuesday Compline Service at Wetherden
27th Mar	9.00pm	Wednesday Compline Service at Haughley
28th Mar	7.00pm	Agape Supper at Stowupland
29th Mar	2.00pm	Good Friday – Hour at The Cross
31st Mar	11.00am	Benefice Easter Service at Haughley

*\*Please note time change of Evening Service.*

### OUR PRAYER FOR YOU THIS SPRING:

Lord, we thank you for being a beacon of light and keeping us safe during times of darkness.

Help us to leave the winter behind us and step forward with you.

This is a season full of hope, as new life emerges from the natural world around us.

Let us fall deeper in love with you, as we draw closer to your heart and keep our focus on you alone.

Let us take hold of each new day with open eyes and hearts.

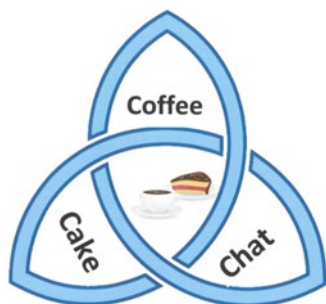
Help us to be fruitful and grow stronger in our faith, embracing all that is ahead.

Even though we may still have challenges and times of difficulties this spring, let us look to you, our lighthouse keeper, for guidance through the mist. Amen.

**FOOD BANK BOX:** If you would like to donate items for the Food Bank to help those in need of a helping hand, there is a box at the back of the church for you to leave your items. The church is open during service times and on the 3rd Saturday morning 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 groups/meetings. For more information, please contact Sue Hayter on 01449 613710. Thank you.

## COME AND JOIN US FOR



### Stowupland Church Hall

Saturday 16th March 2024

10-12

There will be tea/coffee, cakes,  
raffle and good company

Everyone is welcome



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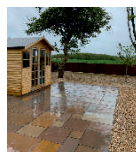


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# **THE TELSTAR TEAM**

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

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

**Diary Dates** - Neil Langridge – [stowman@stowman.plus.com](mailto:stowman@stowman.plus.com) 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 proof-readers and Jerry Voden chairs meetings of our team. The entire team are unpaid volunteers.

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

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

## **From the Telstar Committee**

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

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

**Deadline Date:** 7th March 2024 for April 2024 Edition

Printed by Gipping Press Ltd. Tel: 01449 721599. Web: [www.gippingpress.co.uk](http://www.gippingpress.co.uk)

## Stowupland

