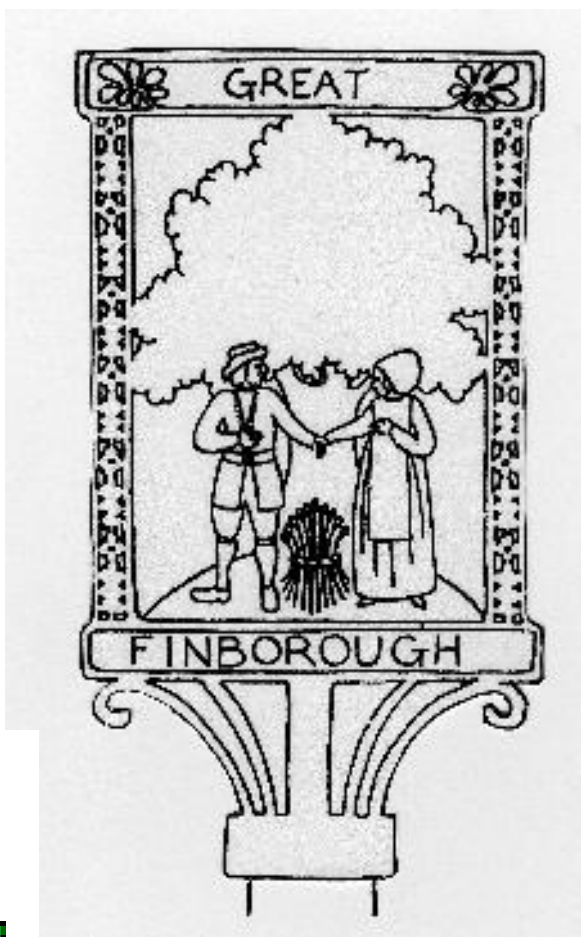


# GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



**DECEMBER 2009 &  
JANUARY 2010  
ISSUE 404**

## VILLAGE DIARY – DECEMBER 2009

2	7pm	Buxhall Women's Institute
3	12pm	Christmas Lunch, Candlestick Club
3	7-9pm	Youth Café, Pettiward Hall
3	7.30pm	Garden Club, Pettiward Hall
4	tba	Bazaar, Primary School
4	7.30pm	Smile Reception, Mill House, Buxhall
7	7.30pm	Stowmarket and District Camera Club
9	7pm	Buxhall Women's Institute
10	7-9pm	Youth Café, Pettiward Hall
10	7.30pm	Table tennis, Church Room, Onehouse
15	7.30pm	Singing For Pleasure
16	6pm	Community Carols, Primary School
17	6.30pm	Bingo, Pettiward Hall
19	tba	Bowling Trip, Youth Club
21	7.30pm	Community Council, Pettiward Hall
21	7.30pm	Stowmarket and District Camera Club
22	8.30pm	Carols, Shepherd and Dog

## VILLAGE DIARY – JANUARY 2010

1	11am	New Year's Day Walk
4	7.30pm	Parish Council, Pettiward Hall
14	4.30pm	Skylarks
14	7.30pm	Table tennis, Church Room, Onehouse
14	4.30pm	Skylarks
18	7.30pm	Community Council AGM, Pettiward Hall
20	7pm	Buxhall Women's Institute
28	7.30pm	Table tennis, Church Room, Onehouse

The Newsletter is produced by Great Finborough Parish Council,  
printed by Gipping Press, and distributed to all households in the  
village free of charge



### Editorial

Wishing you, from the Parish Council, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! It looks, from the pieces submitted this month, to be wall to wall partying in December with the opportunity for lots of celebrating over Christmas itself and then a quieter time in January. We will all need it when it comes!

If you know someone newly arrived and living in the village, or friends and neighbours who are moving on, please let me know. If you know someone who needs a copy of the Village Welcome Pack contact me.

15 January 2010 is the next copy deadline for material for February as this newsletter covers January as well. Please put 'newsletter' in the header if you are emailing. Norman and I welcome visitors so if you need to contact me 'phone, email or call in to Park Cottage any time. The kettle is always on.

**Sally Gooch**



**Dennis Green**  
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### News from the Parish Council

#### Next Meeting

4 January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Pettiward Hall.

**Giles Hill, Parish Clerk**

### News from the Community Council

The next meeting, which is open to everyone, will be on 21 December at 7.30pm in Pettiward Hall.

**Sue Green**

#### AGM

Everyone is invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Community Council which will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 18 January 2010 in the Pettiward Hall.

The Community Council is delegated by the Parish Council to manage all the community facilities owned by the village including the Pettiward Hall, the village greens, the car park, the children's play area and, in future, the 5-side football pitch. The object of the Charity is 'the provision, development and maintenance of the village hall and such land, buildings and equipment as may accrue for recreational purposes, for use by the inhabitants of the village without distinction, including use for a) meetings, lectures, classes and general entertainment; b) sports and physical recreation; c) the conservation of flora and fauna'.

The primary purpose of the AGM will be to elect a Committee of Management, the members of which will have legal obligations as Trustees of the Community Council. All parishioners of Great Finborough aged 18 years and upwards are entitled to attend the meeting and vote. If anyone would like more details either of the Community Council or the role of Trustee, please call me (676249). The Agenda will be:

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Object of the Community Council & Powers of the Management Committee
3. Election of four elected members
4. Notification of one member appointed by the Parish Council

5. Appointment of up to two Co-opted members
6. Committee to elect chairman and vice-chairman
7. Committee to appoint secretary and treasurer
8. Schedule of meeting in 2010
9. Reports of the Community Council's Working Groups:
  - Pettiward Hall
  - Children's Play Area
  - Village Car Park
  - Youth Engagement
  - Conservation Area
  - 5-aside Football Pitch.
10. Any other business

**Richard Brice**  
**Chairman, Community Council**

***Season's Greetings from your District Councillor***  
***Recycling Shoes***

Many things we throw away have potential for re-use, and one of these is shoes. If shoes, boots, sandals, trainers, etc. are in useable condition, please fasten them together using their laces or straps, and deposit in special 'Variety Club' bins at Iliffe Way car park, Wolsey Road Post Office or wherever you see the 'Shoe Banks'. To get in touch with me see Who's Who.

**John Matthissen**

*MILL HOUSE, BUXHALL, IP14 3DS*  
*Christmas Reception in aid of Smile*  
*(cleft palate) charity*  
*Friday 4 December 2009 at 7.30pm*  
*Tickets £7.50 from Chris Childs (736095)*

**News from the Friends of Great Finborough Primary School**

The Christmas Bazaar will be on Friday 4 December at the school. We are looking for any donations of raffle prizes, children's tombola prizes, empty jars, sweets and little gifts. Donations to the school office. Times will be advertised in the next newsletter. Many thanks again and we hope you continue to give great support to our future events. **Sharla Goldsmith**



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***High Town Green, Rattlesden***

Come and visit the animals in our working farmyard anytime.



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&  
Cream**

## Youth Club

It has been a busy month for the Youth Committee. After an AGM and a Youth Club meeting I was elected Chair to replace Scott Murkin. Joining me is Rivah Polden as Secretary. I would like to thank Scott for all of his work so far for the Youth Committee.

I am in the process of booking a ten pin bowling trip for the youth. It will be on Saturday 19 December and currently we have 24 places booked but can change this as need be. This trip will be open to the youth of Finborough and Buxhall (13-17 years) and anyone associated with the Youth Club or Youth Committee. This evening will include 2 games of bowling per person and it will be an evening's entertainment. Travel will be included and the estimated price is about £6. Letters will be issued soon and they will be posted through doors and available from Finborough Primary School. Money will be collected before the trip.

I would also like to thank the adults involved for their continuing support. It is much appreciated and I think that this support has got this group where it is today.

**Joe Ball**

### **SINGING FOR PLEASURE 2009**

THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,  
AT 12 NORTHFIELD ROAD, ONEHOUSE AT 7.30pm

Please ring Kathleen on 613388 if you are interested.

It is an informal group for those who just enjoy the  
relaxation of singing together.

Folk-songs, light classics, and songs from the shows. Please say  
if you have any special requests so word-sheets can be prepared.

All are welcome.

**Next session: 15 December**

## New Year's Day Walk

Following the success of the walk last January, Derek Ames, Cathy Croome and I are arranging a walk with starting points as follows:

- Church Room, Onehouse 10am
- Shepherd & Dog, Onehouse 10.30am
- Car Park opposite shop, Great Finborough 11am.

The walk from Finborough will be a circular of about 3 miles, after which there will be opportunities for refreshments at either the Chestnut Horse or the Shepherd and Dog. For information, contact Derek (613328), Cathy (677128) or me.

**John Matthissen**

### **Reduce your accountancy costs**

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Sunday roasts served

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## Dog Mess is Horrid

Editor: This is a letter sent to the Parish Council, although action is, literally, in the hands of dog owners:

Dear Mr Brice

The School Council is writing to you because we have a problem with the public paths near the church and woods in Great Finborough. At Great Finborough Primary School when Reception children go for a welly walk every Tuesday on the public foot path they always walk past dogs business. We are very concerned that people will step in it and have to walk with that horrible stuff on their shoes and it will spread diseases and germs. So we are wondering if you could put up dog bins or dog mess signs. Thank you for your time in reading this letter and your help with this problem. Yours sincerely,

**Kirsty - Secretary, Megan - Chairperson,  
on behalf of the School Council**

The problem has also been reported on the High Road between the bungalows and the school. Please could the dog owners involved take care? Thank you.

**Patricia Reeve**

## Wanted A Flock of Sheep!



Can you knit?

A quantity of sheep are wanted as part of the Crib Service at St Andrew's Church on Christmas Eve. Patterns are available – if you would like to have a go please contact Trudy (674819) or Lesley (675970).

And if you want to know why – do come along at 4pm on Christmas Eve!

Trudy Gray

GREAT FINBOROUGH & BUXHALL UNDER 5s

PETTIWARD HALL

## LITTLE HANDS TODDLER GROUP

FRIDAY MORNINGS - 9.15 am - 11.15 am

(term time)

For children aged 0 - 3 yrs - £1.50 per family

Play, craft, music, stories and more

Healthy snack for the children and a cuppa for the adults included

All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer

\*\*\*\*\*



Toddler Group Christmas Party

Friday 11 December - 9.15-11.15am

'Featuring special guest wearing red'

Come and join our special Christmas party especially for the little ones

Presents for all, special Christmas picnic

Booking needed to help Santa load his sledge

Booking forms available at toddler sessions, or call the pre-school on 07708 362697



Visit our website:  
[www.under5sgfb.co.uk](http://www.under5sgfb.co.uk)





**Sharla Goldsmith**

[illegible]

## Know your limits

When pouring your own drinks at home, it is easy to drink more than you would normally. We might not realise just how much we are drinking, as we often do not measure the amount. Keeping a drink diary for a week is easy, and can really make you stop and think about whether you ought to be cutting back.

More than a quarter of the population in England drink above the recommended guidelines. This can increase the risk of heart disease, breast cancer, liver disease, stroke and other diseases. Drinking above lower-risk guidelines can also impact on your ability to get a good night's sleep and affect your general day-to-day health.

The Chief Medical Officer's guidelines on lower-risk drinking recommend men do not drink more than 3-4 units daily (about one-and-a-half pints of beer) and women do not drink more than 2-3 units daily (a large glass of wine or three single measures of spirits). The table below reminds us how many units are in the most common beverages:

<i>Beverage</i>	<i>% alcohol</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Units of alcohol</i>
Wine	12	175ml (standard glass)	2.1
Wine	12	250ml (large)	3
Wine	13.5	750ml bottle	10
Beer/lager	4	Pint	2.3
Beer/lager	5.2	Pint	3
Strong cider	9	440ml	4
Strong cider	9	Litre bottle	9
Alcopops	5	275ml bottle	1.4
Spirits	40	25ml (single shot)	1
Spirits	40	50ml (double shot)	2

**Dr Amanda Jones, Deputy Director of Public Health, NHS Suffolk**

### Free and Fee Charged Courses

For more information please contact Petrina on 01449 613645 at the Community Education Centre, Childer Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1PP:

- NOCN Drawing Level 1 - 30 hour course- Day or evening
- NOCN Creative Craft Skills - Level 1 - 30 hour course - Day or evening
- NOCN Massage - Level 1 - 30 hour course - Day or evening course
- Relaxation Techniques for Beginners - 12 hour course Daytime course
- NOCN Sewing Machine Techniques - Level 1 - 30 hour course
- NOCN Garment Making - Level - 1 - 30 hour course - Daytime course
- Living with Children (for parents/carers with children 0-11 years) Daytime course and a free crèche may be available with this course.
- Living with Teenagers (for parents/carers with children aged 12-18 years)
- Move on English or Maths - Day or evening course. Level 1 or 2 City & Guilds
- Key in Learn On - Learn basic computer skills - Level 1 or 2 - Daytime course
- NOCN Assertiveness and Decision Making - Level 1
- NOCN Counselling - 30 hour course
- Paper, Paint and Play & Play and Language (for children 2-4 years) Two short courses for parents/carers and children - Daytime course
- Hearing Children Read - Introductory course for parents/carers - Daytime
- English for Speakers of Other Languages - Help with English; reading writing speaking and listening. This course is low cost and in some cases free of charge
- Move on English and Maths - free course
- Key in Learn on - free course
- Holiday Spanish Course £80 - Tues 5-7pm
- Life Drawing - Course £80 Tues 6.30-8.30pm
- Watercolour - Course £80 Tues 6.30-8.30pm
- Painting with Acrylics - Course £80 - Fridays 10am – 12pm
- Computer Skills for the Complete Beginner - £3.95/hour Mon 6.30-8.30pm
- Improve your Computer Skills - £3.95 per hour - Wed 6.30-8.30pm
- Digital Photography for Beginners - 4 hour course £16. Tues 6.30-8.30pm
- Holiday French - Course £80 - Monday 6.30-8.30pm
- Craft Workshops - with Hazel Bradshaw 2 hour workshop - £8 per workshop
- Felting, Knitting with wire, Jewellery Making, and Paper Making - Friday 1-3pm.

**Carole Hearn**

### THE OLD BARN

Church Green in Hildam  
(Next to Church)

Please feel free to pop in and see a large range of Phoenix Cards on display along with Christmas decorations, wreaths, gifts and an irresistible selection of stylish shabby chic, vintage and vintage style furniture, lamps and accessories for your home and garden.

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## Artists for Artists Sake

Mid Suffolk District Council has organised a series of talks offering the chance to meet and hear professional contemporary artists talking about their work and practice. Sessions include talks from individual artists, new artists' collectives and representatives from artist-run spaces. The dates are:

- 3 December 2009 - Grenville Davey, Sculptor
- 21 Jan 2010 - Mark Dixon, Experimental Artists.

For further information on talks, please visit:

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/Your+Community/Local+Arts/Art+Events+and+News/Artists+for+Artists+Sake+Sessions.htm> or telephone:

01449 724633. All talks will be held at the Lecture Theatre, Mid Suffolk District Council, 131 High Street, Needham Market, IP6 8DL. Talks start from 7pm, so please arrive from 6.45pm. Cost - £8 for all six sessions or £2.50 each - pay on the night. To book, please call 01449 724633 or email [artsdevelopment@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:artsdevelopment@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Vicky Smy**

## OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER

I live in Great Finborough and am an Ofsted Registered Childminder. I have either one full time or two part time spaces from January 2010. I can drop off and collect from Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's and Great Finborough Primary School. I can offer early mornings if required. School holiday only spaces also available.

For further information please contact  
Julie on 678882 or 07760 667867

## Having a Christmas clear out?

Then why not help the hospice? If you are thinking of updating your evening wear or replacing furniture you could help St



Elizabeth Hospice. We are seeking donations of good quality furniture to sell in our shop in Bury Street, Stowmarket. We will even collect from your home. To donate furniture contact the Meredith Road shop, 3-5 Meredith Road, Ipswich, IP1 6ED on 01473 744080 Monday – Saturday 9am-4pm

The funds raised enable St Elizabeth Hospice, which has just marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to continue to make a real difference to the lives of patients and families, friends and carers. This month donations of evening wear are also needed as the party season gets under way. Please donate any formal evening wear or party dresses you do not want during an Evening Wear Amnesty including menswear, dinner jackets, ties and accessories such as bags, shoes and shawls. You may even find inspiration for an outfit to buy for a party this Christmas or New Year. Christmas cards, wrapping paper and diaries are available to buy from the shop and you can also pop in for ideas for festive gifts.

**Sarah Cawley**





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### ST JOHN'S TABLE TENNIS

*Thursday Nights* 7.30-9.30pm in the Church Room: 10 December

*Thursday Nights* 7.30-9.30pm in the Church Room: 14 and 28 January

There will be no Table Tennis on Wednesday afternoons in December & January. See future newsletters for when these sessions will resume.

Why not try a bit of gentle exercise with a game of Table Tennis? New players welcome. £1 per session. Give me a ring for further details.

Derek Ames (Tel. 613328)



Wishing all our clients & their pets  
a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

## New Year—New Smile!!!

With FREE dental checks &  
SPECIAL OFFERS on canine &  
feline dental procedures  
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### Great Finborough & District Garden Club

At last Mother Nature seems to realise that Winter should have arrived and the storms and frost are slowly starting to inflict themselves on our gardens. A time to finish all the housekeeping chores in the garden, the cutting back, clearing up of debris and piling of leaves into leaf mould heaps and sorting out the potting shed.

The November meeting: 'Winter Colour in the Garden' was presented by Richard and Mary Ford from Park Green Nurseries, Wetheringsett. Richard showed us some stunning pictures of what can be achieved with bare branches and those plants and trees that are brave enough to flower during the Winter months.

The next meeting will be the ever-popular Christmas party to be held on 3 December. This takes the form of a light-hearted quiz with nibbles, mulled wine, and the renowned 'Pass the parcel'. Please return the December function slip to John so we know how many will be attending.

In January gardeners hibernate, sitting in front of the fire immersed in seed catalogues and dreaming of the flowers and vegetables they hope to produce next year. So does the Garden Club. The first meeting of 2010 will be on Thursday 11 February.

If you are interested in joining the garden club or would like to join us for any event you will be very welcome. Membership is only £10 per household per year. For further information contact me or John Davey at [john@abbeyclassics.co.uk](mailto:john@abbeyclassics.co.uk) - see Who's Who. **Judith Cameron**

### Allotments

I have agreed to be the point of contact for the time being for those who are interested in having an allotment once such a development is secured. The Parish Council has received the request. The first meeting of those who have already expressed their interest in an allotment have met up too.

**John Davey**

### *Don't miss out this Year!*

Order your Christmas Trees from Ray &  
Janice  
Paupers View, Union Road, Onehouse  
Tel: 01449 613343

Trees from 3 - 7feet  
*Norway Spruce Nordman*  
Available from Friday 4 December



### Recycling Christmas Trees

Mid Suffolk & Babergh District Council will be collecting Christmas Trees again on Monday 11 January 2010 as this year it was so successful. There will be a designated drop off point for the Christmas Trees in your village. This will be advertised in the Village notice boards.

**Hannah Bridges**

### Wild Bird Seed

Thanks to everyone who has purchased seed this year as a result of your support. Since June we have been able to donate well over £400 to the Village School's Squirrel Garden Club. The next order will be placed on 15 January.

The wholesalers will only hold their price for one month so I cannot give the seed prices until after 15 December and am, therefore, unable to put the details in this month's magazine. If you would like to place an order in January please either ring or email me before 5 January and I will give you the prices. If you are a Garden Club member or order your seed through the School you will receive the order forms as usual. **John Davey**

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**Please call Phil on: 01449 777088 or 07891 777459**

**Carol Singing at the Shepherd & Dog**

Tuesday 22 December 8.30pm onwards.

Do come & join us for some traditional carols.

## The Mill House Cattery

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For bookings or further information  
Please call: Mark or Lisa Gilson 01449 674853  
Or visit our website:  
[www.themillhousecattery.co.uk](http://www.themillhousecattery.co.uk)  
The Mill House, Valley Lane, Gt. Finborough

### Stowmarket and District Camera Club

On 7 December we have *A Good Competition Print or Just Another Photograph*. On 21 December 2009 we hold a Christmas quiz. All our members wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a healthy new year. If you are interested in joining our friendly club they will be welcome to come on a club night or log on to our website at [www.stowmarketanddistrictcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.stowmarketanddistrictcameraclub.co.uk) or call me on 07774 779701.

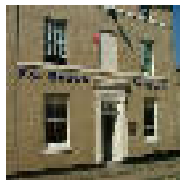
**Brian Payne**

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*Your sight care is our priority*



**Come and join in with**  
**Community Carols**

**6pm Wednesday 16**  
**December**

**Great Finborough Primary School**

Carols around the Christmas  
Tree. Wrap up warm and  
bring a torch!



Mince pies and a hot drink  
afterwards in the school

**All welcome**

### **Buxhall Women's Institute**

The speakers throughout this year have been diverse, entertaining, interesting and introduced us to a range of subjects. A ladies' venue could be forgiven in thinking Andy Malcolm talking the 'The Fisherman's Mission' would not have much interest to the WI in landlocked Buxhall but they would have been wrong. Andy told us of the work of the Mission but in doing so sang two sea shanties and read a poem. Any man capable of doing that in front of over 50 women deserved our full attention and this he got.

Libby organised a good day out to Newmarket for a craft show where there were many different stalls. The venue included two cookery demonstrations and a wine tasting opportunity. We are looking forward to a pre-Christmas dinner on 2 December at the Old Counting House, organised by Mrs Ann Beaton. The following Wednesday, 9 December, we enjoy our own Christmas party and the Buxhall handbell ringers have kindly agreed to ring for us. We then meet on 20 January 2010 and the speaker will talk about forensic science. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome.

**Judith Hickman**

### **Thanks from EACH**

On 5 November The Chestnut Horse hosted a fireworks display which raised £102.61 for the East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Thanks to Leonel, Helen and Darryl for organising this event - and of course to all those that donated so generously.

### **EACH Charity Shop**

Clear out your clutter and help EACH –for those that don't know we now have an EACH Charity Shop in Stowmarket – at 31 Ipswich Street. We always need Bric-a-brac, Books, Clothes, Shoes, DVDs, Toys and Electrical items etc. In fact there is nothing we won't accept. Any old clothing or linen that has seen better days we can send for recycling. If you are unable to take your donations to the shop we can pick them up from you. Call 675447 or you can drop them off at 8 High Road, Great Finborough.

**Marion Mason**



Christmas magic at the  
Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

04 DECEMBER – 17 JANUARY

*Fee-fi-fo-fum! I smell two hours of panto fun!*

Enjoy some Christmas sparkle with laughter, songs and fairytale enchantment at our annual pantomime. Along with traditional fun and frolics, our beautiful National Trust playhouse offers seasonal treats and cakes in the café to compliment your festive day-out.

*"The most fetching little theatre in the country"*  
The Guardian

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[www.theatreroyal.org](http://www.theatreroyal.org)

### BRIGHTEN YOUR NEW-YEAR

Our spring season is on sale from 23 November, visit our website for details.



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### 2009 Number Quiz


Once again it is time for the annual Number Quiz in aid of St Mary's Church, Buxhall. In its sixth year entries come from far and wide as many people buy extra copies to send with Christmas cards. Last year's furthest entry came from Guernsey. Where will it be this year?

The idea is to fill in the missing words that relate to the numbers and initials given, for example: 1666 G F of L – Great Fire of London. The person with the most correct answers wins. In the event of a tie a draw will be held and there is a spot prize for the first entry drawn out of a hat from all the entries received. Even if you only get one correct answer, you may still win a prize: provided that you return your entry form!


*First prize - £10; Spot prize – a bottle of wine.*

Quiz sheets are £1 each and available from Chaplins in Great Finborough, Lavinia Biles (736297), Chris Childs (736093), Ivy Friston (736541) and Anne Hicks (736171). Entries to be returned to Mrs Ivy Friston, 2 Fourwinds, Mill Road, Buxhall, Stowmarket, IP14 3DS by Thursday 10 January 2010. The names of the prize winners will be published in the February 2010 editions of the Buxhall and Great Finborough Newsletters and the answers will be available.

**Judith Hickman**



St Edmundsbury Cathedral  
Following in the footsteps of Edward the King and Saint



THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH  
A Festival of Carols & Readings

# A Festival of Carols & Readings

at St Edmundsbury Cathedral,  
Bury St Edmunds  
on Wednesday 9th December 2009  
at 7.00pm

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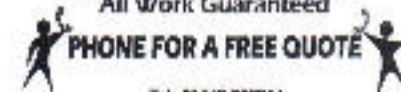
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### St Andrew's Church

By the time you read this Advent will have started; a time of waiting and preparation. We also celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday 6 December – do come along for this special occasion when we are joined by the Benefice Choir and others from the church community in the five villages of the Benefice.

Details of the activities over Advent and Christmas are scattered through the newsletter including Community Carols at the Primary School. Last year this was a super occasion and we hope that many more from the village will be able to come along.

We very much look forward to welcoming many in the community to St Andrew's over the next few weeks – perhaps to join us in worship or to drop in to the church over the Christmas period. This year for the first time in many years we will be holding a short service on the afternoon of Christmas Eve: a family service and Blessing of the Crib. This will provide a moment to draw breath as the preparations for Christmas draw to a close. We will come together to sing some familiar carols as we celebrate the baby's birth on that first Christmas.

For the church the Christmas season continues through January with the celebration of Epiphany – the arrival of the wise men bringing gifts for the new-born king – and on into early February. On Tuesday 2 February we are celebrating Candlemas with a special service at 7.30pm. This is not as well known as many of the church's festivals – why not come along and find out more?

**Trudy Gray**

### Parish Church Contacts

As from 1 January 2010 initial enquiries relating to:

- Baptisms - contact Rev Trudy Gray
- Weddings – contact Rev Arlene Cruickshanks (676123)
- Funerals - Ray Taylor (613343).

If the services of a priest are required or for pastoral issues please contact Trudy, Arlene or me (736093).

**Rev Chris Childs**

### From the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

As I approach Christmas this year it is with a touch of sadness I will be saying goodbye to all the friends that I have made here over the past four years or so. My celebrations will be militated by my bringing my ministry here to a close and winding things up ready to move on. My sense of disharmony is minor and temporary but many people find themselves out of tune with the celebrations every year. They are surrounded by people talking about Christmas being for the children while they have none and long for them. Or, they see families coming together for Christmas whilst their own family is a source of anger and abuse. Or, they remember Christmases past in painful contrast with a present that is missing someone they love very much. Perhaps they struggle daily with depression and find the jollity of Christmas unbearable, or maybe they are lonely and that loneliness is re-enforced at Christmas time.

It is into that disharmony that Christmas most powerfully speaks. For the Christmas story is set in a time when for the People of God the world looked very bleak indeed. The Roman Empire loomed over the tiny country of Palestine like some story-book ogre, hungry to assimilate everyone into its own image. Terrorists lurked in the hills and to cap it all, the king was obsessively suspicious; murdering his wife, generals, his own children – anyone he feared threatened his throne.

Into this world was born Jesus, son of Mary, a child Christians believe was God himself. The Light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. He was born not into peaceful celebrations and goodwill but into the disorder and disruption of huge population movement. He was born to *scatter the proud* and *lift up the lowly*; to *fill the hungry with good things* and *send the rich away empty*. God is the father to the orphan and husband to the widow. Christmas is above all things the reminder that he changes our world.

So whether or not Christmas comes as a blessing this year, may you find in it God's power to redeem the burdens we carry and to transform darkness to light, the humdrum into the extraordinary. God himself became part of his own creation so that he might lift us up, however low

we might find ourselves. Christmas is a season of hope as we look on the baby that is God's love for the world and rejoice. Have a blessed Christmas,



### **Buxhall & Great Finborough Candlestick Club**

The penultimate meeting had PSCO Claire Cox talking to members about distraction burglaries, home security, bogus telephone callers and issues to do with local crime. Many issues were raised with her, and those she could not answer straightaway, she agreed to look into with her colleagues. Many thanks, Claire, for a stimulating and useful talk.

Our final meeting of 2009 is our Christmas lunch on 3 December at the Cedars Hotel, Stowmarket. 12pm for 12.30pm. As the club has existed for over 40 years the Committee decided the club itself would fund the lunch. Members are reminded to bring a small Christmas gift with them, for either a man or a woman. The club is then in hibernation until 1 April. New members are always welcome!

**Keith Proctor**

### **Skylarks Children's Club**

At our last Skylarks session we made models of the Nativity, with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, the Kings with their gifts and the shepherds with their sheep. This will go into the Crib Festival at Great Finborough Church. After squash and biscuits we played a game of Tag and made a lot of noise.

The next Skylarks sessions are on 14 and 28 January. If any child aged between 5yrs and 9yrs would like to join Skylarks and lives in Onehouse, Harleston, Shelland, Great Finborough or Buxhall, please contact Derek Ames on 613328 or Christine Hagger on 736487.

**Rachel Ball**



## **Big Crib Exhibition**

From Saturday 28 November to Friday 4 December

At 17 Churches throughout Suffolk including  
St Andrew's Great Finborough  
Watch out for more details.

This is an event organised as part of the Year of the Child and will feature work by local schools and others.

There will also be a variety of cribs from many sources on display. If you have a Christmas crib that you could lend as part of this display, or can help in any way, please contact Trudy on 674829. The church will be open as usual for this period and someone will be in attendance for the whole exhibition. Offers of help will be appreciated!



### **A Celebration Quarter Peal**

At the end of the Crib Exhibition Week a quarter peal will be rung at St Andrew's starting at 7.30pm on Friday 4 December.

### **Decorating St Andrew's Church for Christmas**



All will be welcome to give a hand in decorating the church ready for the Christmas celebrations. We will be having a good go at this on Saturday 19 December from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Coffee, mince pies and other festive goodies available.

All levels of skill welcome! Do come along.



### Services at St Andrew's in December and January

6 December	10.30am	Patronal Festival
13 December	11am	Holy Communion & Baptism
20 December	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
24 December	4pm	Family Service and Blessing of the Crib
25 December	10.30am	Family Service with Holy Communion
3 January	11am	Holy Communion
10 January	6pm	Celtic Evening Prayer
17 January	11am	Holy Communion
24 January	11am	Time2Worship Family Service

**Pop in For Coffee at St Andrew's**  
**Every Saturday Morning**  
**from 10.30am to Noon**  
**(not 26 December or 2 January!)**



This is an informal opportunity to have coffee and a chat - perhaps when you're passing on a stroll around the village or visiting the churchyard.



We are delighted to welcome

**The Rt Revd Clive Young**  
**Bishop of Dunwich**

to our Patronal Festival on  
 Sunday 6 December

**11am St Andrew's Church, Great Finborough**

Do come along and join our worship

### CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR DECEMBER

#### Weekday Morning Prayer

Monday	Onehouse	8.00 – 8.30 am
Friday	Great Finborough	8.00 – 8.30 am

<b>Monday 6 December</b>	<b>St Andrew</b>	
Patronal Festival	Finborough	10.30am

<b>Thursday 10 December</b>		
Holy Communion (2)	Shelland	10am

<b>Sunday 13 December</b>	<b>Advent 3</b>	
Holy Communion (2)	Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion (1) & Baptism	Finborough	11am
Holy Communion (1)	Harleston	11am
Carols by Candlelight	Onehouse	3.30pm
Village Carol Service	Buxhall	4pm

<b>Sunday 20 December</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>	
Holy Communion (2)	Buxhall	9.30am
Carols and Readings	Shelland	9.30am
Family Communion (1)	Onehouse	11am
Nine lessons and Carols	Finborough	6.30pm

<b>Thursday 24 December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
Blessing of the Crib with Carols	Buxhall	3pm
Family Service and Blessing of the Crib	Finborough	4pm
Carol Service	Harleston	4pm
Midnight Mass	Buxhall	11.30pm

<b>Thursday 25 December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
Holy Communion (2)	Shelland	9am
Family Service	Buxhall	10am
Family Holy Communion	Onehouse	10.30am
Family Service with Holy Communion	Finborough	10.30am

## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR JANUARY

<b>Friday 1 January</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>	
Welcoming the New Year	Buxhall	11am
<b>Sunday 3 January</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	
Sung Eucharist (1)	Buxhall	9.30am
Reflective Morning Prayer	Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion (1)	Finborough	11am
Family Service	Harleston	11am
Evening Prayer	Onehouse Room	6.30pm
<b>Sunday 10 January</b>	<b>Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1</b>	
Matins	Buxhall	9.30am
Holy Communion (2)	Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion (1)	Harleston	11am
Family Service & Christingle	Onehouse Room	11am
Celtic Evening Prayer	Finborough	6pm
<b>Sunday 17 January</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	
Family Service & Christingle	Buxhall	9.30am
Matins	Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion (1)	Finborough	11am
Family Service (1)	Onehouse Room	6.30pm
<b>Sunday 24 January</b>	<b>Epiphany 3/Conversion of St Paul</b>	
Holy Communion (2)	Buxhall	9.30am
Holy Communion (2)	Harleston	9.30am
Time2Worship	Finborough	11am
Holy Communion (1)	Onehouse Room	6.30pm
<b>Sunday 31 January</b>	<b>King Charles the Martyr</b>	
Patronal Festival	Shelland	10.30am

*Whether you are a regular worshipper or visiting this Sunday  
you will find a warm welcome at any of our services*

## WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Richard Brice	Chair, Parish Council/Community Council	676249
Giles Hill	Clerk, Parish Council	740272
	<a href="mailto:lsdp@btinternet.com">lsdp@btinternet.com</a>	
John Matthissen	District Councillor. 3 Wash Lane Corner, Great Finborough, IP14 3BJ	771742
	<a href="mailto:councillor@matthissen.net">councillor@matthissen.net</a>	
Penny Otton	County Councillor	737870
	<a href="mailto:penny.otton@councillors.suffolccc.gov.uk">penny.otton@councillors.suffolccc.gov.uk</a>	
Revd. Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff	Priest in Charge The Rectory, Onehouse	616010
Revd. Trudy Gray	The Old Police House	674819
Lesley Cass	Church Warden. Valley Farm	675970
Brenda Grimaldi	Church Warden. Gardenside	612440
Sally Gooch	Newsletter Editor	677940
	<a href="mailto:sally.gooch@btinternet.com">sally.gooch@btinternet.com</a>	
John Davey	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	674401
Delia Prior	Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5s	07708 362697
Gail Jarrett	Great Finborough & Buxhall Brownies	674538
Scott Murkin	Chair, Team Finborough 11 Middlefield Drive	
Charles Freeman	Royal British Legion	01728 684819
Keith Proctor	Candlestick Club	736598
Judith Cameron	Great Finborough & District Garden Club	672978
	<a href="mailto:judyandian@btinternet.com">judyandian@btinternet.com</a>	
Sharla Goldsmith	Charity Bingo	678480
Nigel & Jeannette	Post Office & Village Shop	612274
Leonel Girao	The Chestnut Horse	612298
Stephen Dodd	Great Finborough Primary School	613208
Nigel Brown	Chair of Governors, Primary School	675344
PCSO Claire Cox	01284 774100 x3104 or via 01473 613 5000	
Combs Middle School (674666)	Stowmarket High School (613541)	
Stowmarket Health Centre		776000
Combs Ford Surgery		678333
Stowmarket Library		613143
<b>Pettward Hall Bookings</b>		676249
<b>Village website:</b>	<a href="http://www.great-finborough.co.uk">www.great-finborough.co.uk</a>	
<b>Primary School website:</b>	<a href="http://www.greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk">www.greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk</a>	