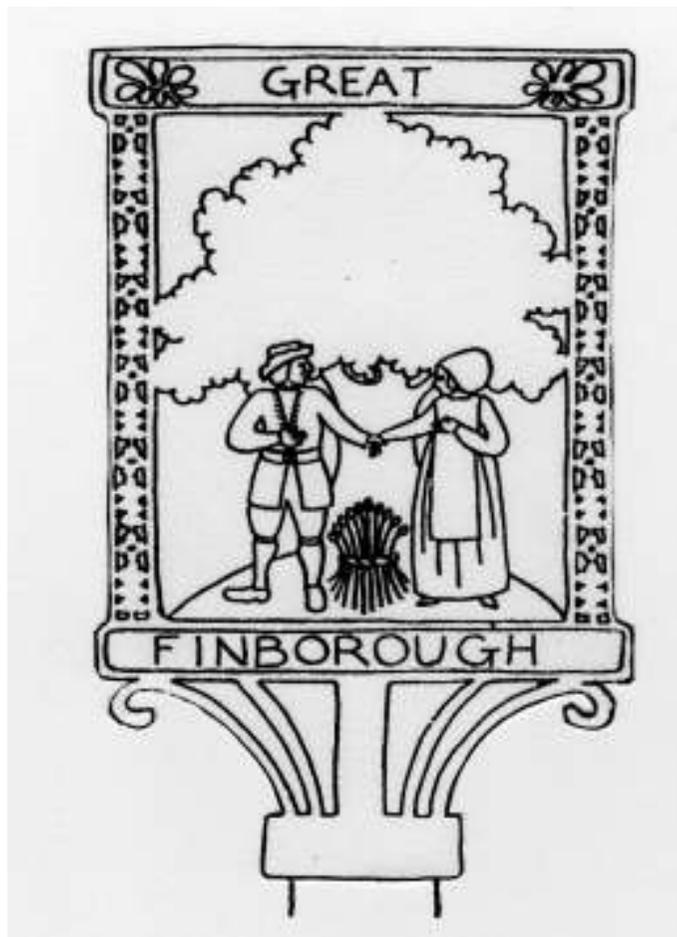


GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



**FEBRUARY 2012
ISSUE 425**



VILLAGE DIARY – FEBRUARY 2012

6	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
6	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pettiward Hall
9	4.30-6pm	Skylarks, Onehouse Church Room
9	7.30pm	Garden Club, Pettiward Hall upper room
11	8.00am	Men's breakfast, Onehouse Church Room
20	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
20	7.30pm	Festival of Angels Meeting, St Andrews Church
21	6.00pm	Pancake party, Onehouse Church Room
23	4.30-6pm	Skylarks, Onehouse Church Room
27	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall

VILLAGE DIARY – MARCH 2012

5	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
5	7.30pm	Parish Council, Pettiward Hall
6	10am-1pm	Flower arranging
8	7.30pm	Woodpecker Hill Group AGM, Pettiward Hall
12	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
24	7.30pm	Buxhall Fun Quiz Night

ST JOHN'S TABLE TENNIS

Thursday Nights 7.30-9.30pm

In the Church Room: 9 and 23 February 2012

Why not try a bit of gentle exercise with a game of Table Tennis?

We give a warm welcome to new players of all ages and abilities.

Beginners particularly welcome.

£1.50 per session. Give me a ring for further details.

Derek Ames (613328)

The Newsletter is produced by Great Finborough Parish Council, printed by Gipping Press, and distributed to all households in the village free of charge. Claims made in advertisements have not been verified and for these the newsletter disclaims responsibility.

Editorial

A month into 2012 and it feels like Xmas was a very long time ago. In January it was hard to know whether to embrace Spring or keep on waiting for the long hard Winter we think we ought to have been having since November. I guess we will just get on with being busy anyway. The Parish Council certainly has plenty to do on our behalf. Big decisions ahead to be made in relation to the best use of the field by the Ravenscroft Development, the future of the Pettiward Hall, and how to encourage Post Office Ltd to re-provide a Post Office – lost to the village since our last newsletter – and support the village shop.

If you know someone newly arrived and living in the village, or neighbours moving on, please let me know. The village welcome pack for new residents is available from me.

15 February is the copy deadline for material for the March 2012 edition. 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

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News from the Parish Council

At the January meeting of the Parish Council:

- Resolved to set the precept for 2012/13 at £6,327 which would ensure that, for the Parish Council part of the Council Tax there would be no change for Band D properties.
- Decided to purchase a litterbin for the playground and another to go next to the Youth Shelter.
- A keen interest was shown in celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee with an event of some kind and it was agreed to make plans at the next meeting.
- Recorded the Council's thanks to the retiring members of the 2011/825 Speed Watch team. Sessions will have to be suspended until volunteers come forward to replace the team.
- A further meeting of the potential allotmenters will be arranged to gauge the current level of interest before further action is taken to identify a location.
- It was agreed that nothing needs to be done with the fencing and that the existing entrance to the Ravenscroft Development Amenity Land is adequate. It was noted that the handover of responsibility is yet to take place.

Village Shop and Post Office

The Council was informed that the Post Office would close on 12 January. Nigel Edwards informed the meeting that he had resigned from Post Office Ltd in 2009 giving notice to them that the premises would no longer be available. He stated that the Post Office had had two years to find an alternative location but had done nothing forcing Mr and Mrs Edwards to give them notice to quit. It was confirmed that the responsibility lies with Post Office Ltd to provide a service rather than the shop's proprietor.

It was noted that a fulltime Sub Postmaster is costly and the village has not been able to support the cost through its use of the Post Office and shop. It was confirmed the Church has been offered as a possible PO location. Nigel Edwards confirmed the shop would not be closing. It needs the full support of the whole village given the competition posed by the Stowmarket supermarkets.

Cllr Otton offered her help, based on her experience of the setting up of Rattlesden's Community Shop and Post Office. It was agreed that the Council would ask Post Office Ltd what it plans to do to re-provide a service to the village. Then a public meeting may be held to gauge support for a Post Office and develop a plan.

Peter Turner is Vice Chairman. The next Parish Council meetings are on:

- Monday 6 February 2012
- Monday 5 March
- Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council: Wednesday 9 May.

You are very welcome to attend.

Norman Vendittelli

East Anglia Potato Day 2012

 **Saturday 11 February**

Stonham Barns

Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6AT
(On A1120, just east of junction with A140, follow brown tourist signs)

9.30am to 1.30pm - Admission £1.50

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News from your District Councillor

Tree Planting

My target of planting a tree for every re-election vote began in Buxhall recently when 150 native species trees were planted by a group of twelve Green Party members and other local people. The trees, many saved from local gardens, will supplement the major planting schemes around Fasbourn Hall in Valley Lane. They will eventually form a small copse where the footpath leaves Valley Lane heading for Kiln Lane and Brettenham Road.

Mid-Suffolk integration with Babergh

This work continues with the appointment of seven 'tier 3' managers, and much work at departmental level to move to shared working methods and systems. I am a member of the joint IT panel, alongside other Councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

New Year Village Walk 2012

Eight of us met up outside The Chestnut Horse on a mild and bright morning (2nd January) and set out across the fields to Buxhall Vale, where we met up with ten further walkers from Onehouse. We then took a little-used and picturesque route to the Buxhall Crown, where we were warmly welcomed. We enjoyed some good conversation over a drink and optional lunch before separately returning to our respective villages. Many thanks to Derek Ames, who helped to organise this very successful event. It is such a good way to welcome in the New Year and to enjoy our beautiful countryside and some good company.

The Forge Caravan Site

The result of the public inquiry into The Forge is expected sometime in February. Government has announced that it will provide a grant to Orwell Housing Association to upgrade the site if the compulsory purchase order is successful. I am aware of a range of views of local people on this matter, some understandably very strongly held; and others expressing an interest in having a fuller understanding of the issues.

I remain, as always, committed to listening and responding to local views on this and any other matter relevant to our community, and to doing my best to ensure that you are represented. For example I recently lobbied MSDC to take account of local views as a result of which they re-opened negotiations with the landowner and his representatives, although unfortunately the only response was a clearly unworkable counter-offer. You will understand that I am not permitted to publicly disclose any of the owner's commercially confidential information. However if anybody would like a fuller account of my personal recent work in relation to The Forge, then please get in touch and I will be pleased to outline this to you. Leave your name and contact details if I am not immediately available or alternatively speak with Councillor Andrew Stringer on 01449 780339.

Just a reminder...

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that any communications from your Councillor (reports, invitations to meetings, etc) have, and will always, clearly include my name, address and contact details. Wishing you all a happy 2012. To contact me see Who's Who.

John Matthissen

Great Finborough Primary FC

Bury St Edmunds & District Primary School Football League 2012

Date	Time	Venue	Opposition
14.01.12	10am	Home	Gt Barton
21.01.12	10am	Away	Rougham
28.01.12	10am	Away	Abbots Green
04.02.12	10am	Away	Bardwell
11.02.12	10am	Home	Barrow
03.03.12	10am	Away	Risby
10.03.12	10am	Home	Rougham
17.03.12	10am	Home	Thurston
24.03.12	10am	Away	Barrow

News from the Village School

Christingle Service

Over 100 people joined us for the Christingle Service at St Andrews. A BIG thank you to Rev. Chris Childs for making this an enjoyable event for all and particular thanks must also go to the ladies who baked so many lovely Christingle cakes for all to enjoy!

It's a Cracker!

What stars! I have received so many positive comments from the local community regarding both the school performance of 'It's a Cracker' and the children's performance at the United Reformed Church to 450 people. The comments relate to both the performances and the excellent behaviour of the children at the 'Carols for All', which was a very long event! It takes a huge amount of confidence to stand up and perform in front of so many people, well done to all the children who participated and performed magnificently! My thanks to the Parents and Carers who helped with the making of the props and setting up the high school.

Friends!

The Friends Committee has been busily supporting the School in so many ways over the last term. The stall at the 'Stowmarket Christmas Light Switch On' event was a huge success from both a publicity point of view and the raising of additional funds to support the work of the school. This was followed by a successful Christmas Fete which was enjoyed by lots of members of both the school community and village community. Volunteers raised money at Morrisons by holding a bag-packing event. Our thanks are also extended to all parents/ carers and members of the community who have supported the events. The school has purchased a second laptop trolley to hold the laptops purchased by the Friends.

Celebrating Success

I am delighted to report that the village school has been judged by Ofsted, in December 2011, to be a 'Good school with Outstanding features'. The Church of England inspected the school in January 2012 and found it is 'Outstanding'.

We are particularly pleased that the Ofsted report celebrates the success achieved in the development of our new curriculum which was graded 'Outstanding'. The report recognises that all groups of children make good progress from their starting point and that careful monitoring, good teaching and targeted support are key to this achievement and the overall consistently above average standards achieved year on year. The children all reported feeling safe at happy at school, and parents were very positive about their children's progress. The inspector would now like us to look at how we develop links with other communities to prepare them for living in a multi-cultural society. He also supports our plans to improve the recreational environment (playground and field).

As staff and Governors we work hard to constantly improve the school and I am delighted that this hard work is reflected in the inspector's comment 'the school never rests on its laurels, but always strives to improve'. The Ofsted report can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report> By mid February 2012 the Church report should be available at <http://www.churchofengland.org/education/your-local-school>

I hope you enjoy reading the reports and share with me the great sense of pride I have in the success of the School. We are dealing with applications for places for September which are again in high demand. If you are considering applying for a place for your child, please come and see us soon. The half term holiday is week commencing 13 February 2012.

Stephen R Dodd



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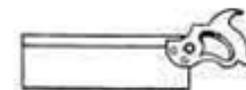
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Great Finborough & District Garden Club

The Garden Club year of 2011 was busy, both horticulturally and socially. The gardeners of Great Finborough and District were encouraged to plant, grow, and travel with presentations from Thompson and Morgan, which included tasters of the newest seed and plant introductions. Ben Potterton returned to tell us about his latest travels to locate, identify, and help save threatened plant and animal species. We learned about the ongoing work of Jim Marshall and his wife Sarah to locate and propagate old varieties of Dianthus and Cedric Morris irises respectively.

The social side of the club started off with Open Gardens. Thanks to all the help received from the village community and the members' hard work, we raised £1,400 for EACH. The BBQ for garden openers was closely followed by a very well supported Club member's BBQ. The Christmas quiz over nibbles and mulled wine, was another resounding success with over 30 members present for an evening of fun and good company.

The Club opens 2012 with the meeting on 9 February; held as usual in the upper room of the Pettward Hall at 7.30pm. This will be a talk by Colin Randel from Thompson and Morgan about the growing of vegetables. Open Gardens this year will be on 1 July. If you would be interested in opening your garden to help us in our efforts we would be delighted to hear from you. It is not necessary to be a member of the Club to participate.

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 £12.50 per household per year. Non-members can attend meetings for £2 per person. For further information contact me or John Davey - see Who's Who.

Judith Cameron

Spring Flower Arranging

During November and December a group of women met at my home to learn flower arranging in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Following the success of those meetings Vicki is planning a Spring programme of more displays and designs. The course starts on Valentine's Day and runs weekly until 27 March 2012. The first session will involve making a hand tied arrangement. In subsequent weeks we will cover making posy style arrangements, front facing symmetricals, Spring door rings, front facing asymmetricals and continental arrangement. We will finish making an Easter dinner table arrangement.

We meet on a Tuesday morning from 10am-1pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided within the cost of the session (£10+ materials). If you are interested in coming along please ring me on 770900 to discuss materials required and for directions.

Vicki Hease



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Finborough Flourishes

I've been hairdressing for nine years and have worked in salons in Ipswich, Bury and Stowmarket. After a short spell of working from home whilst I searched for the right place I am very excited to now be able to offer a colourful yet relaxed salon experience to clients; both existing clients and new ones. I pride myself on offering a personal and individual service to every client and use my wealth of knowledge and experience to create something beautiful.

The salon opens on Monday 6 February next to the village shop and will offer an extensive range of colouring, cutting and styling services to both men and women. We open Monday to Friday with some later evening appointments too. You are invited to come along and have a look at the salon and have a drink with us on Friday 3 February between 7pm and 9pm.

Kerry Irons

Flourish

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For all appointments and enquiries
Please contact Kerry
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kerry.hair@hotmail.com



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Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

Our World Premiere of *Stagefright* opens (see details overleaf) on Thursday 9 February. A Theatrebus will pick up on different nights from different villages and towns. Pick up is from Needham Market, Stowmarket, Elmswell and Woolpit on Friday 10 February. Pickups from other towns and villages on different nights but these are the nearest to Great Finborough.

Emma Martin

WORLD PREMIERE

PREPARE TO BE SCARED!
Not suitable for young children

Thursday 9 – Saturday 25 February

A Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Production

STAGEFRIGHT

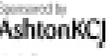
written by Michael Punter, directed by Colin Blumenau,
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Theatrebus

We are excited to announce the relaunch of Theatrebus – a service to offer return coach travel across Suffolk into Bury St Edmunds. Leave the car and relax into our Theatrebus package.

Simply call the Box Office and book your Theatrebus package on 01284 769505, all tickets must be booked in advance.

ALL TICKETS: £20 including the return bus, free programme and a drink on arrival. **FOR UNDER 26'S: £11.50** including the return bus, free programme and a drink on arrival.

Your Local Pick-up Point

Fri 10

Bus 1: Needham / Coombs Ford / Stowmarket / Great Finborough / Buxhall / Woolpit / Bury St Edmunds – Arrive 7pm

Skylarks Children's Club

Skylarks is a Club for 4-8 year old children living or attending church in Buxhall, Great Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland. On 12 January our session was centred around Epiphany, the Three Wise Men and the giving of gifts to the baby Jesus. Derek organised a word search all about the Three Wise Men and Chris supplied maps of the Middle East and jig saws of the Middle East for the children to assemble. Everyone, including the adults, did very well constructing the map jigsaw. Derek read a story about the Three Wise Men. Derek, Jenny, Lesley, Chris and Kirsty helped the children make Epiphany cards whilst Carole and Christine decorated biscuits with the children. They were colourful and glittery and the end result resembled a wrapped up present!

After refreshments there was time for a game. Two children had to wrap a present and tie it up with a long piece of ribbon. They competed with another couple. The 8 groups of 2 completed the task their skills were judged. There was much excitement and eventually, although a game, it was decided that everyone did very, very well at this particular activity. For the adults it reminded us of the old Generation Game! Why not join us. We have lots and lots of fun!

Sessions are held on Thursdays between 4.30pm and 6pm in the Church Room, Onehouse. Forthcoming dates are 9 February (Theme: Love) and 23 February (Theme: Pancakes). For enquiries about joining Skylarks, please contact Derek Ames (613328) or me on 736487.

Christine Hagger

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A Festival of Angels



From time to time St Andrews has hosted festivals of one sort or another. Later this year we would like to hold 'A Festival of Angels' involving both our schools, village organisations and individuals. We hope to include crafts, flowers, cakes and even a special Angel ale. If you would like to be involved in any way please come to a meeting in the church at 7.30pm on

Monday 20 February when we can explore ideas and make some plans in what will be a warm environment with refreshments. No previous interest or involvement is necessary - just some enthusiasm. If you cannot make that date but would like to be involved please telephone me.

Chris Childs

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Working in Partnership



**Getting it right
What goes into the recycling bin?**



- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Catalogues & phone directories (e.g. Yellow Pages)
- ✓ Junk mail (with any plastic wrappers removed)
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Greetings cards
- ✓ Cardboard food packaging (clean) and cardboard boxes (flattened)
- ✓ Rinsed metal food cans
- ✓ Drinks cans
- ✓ Foil (clean, please scrunch into a loose ball)
- ✓ Plastic bottles (lids removed and put in separately)
- ✓ Plastic yoghurt pots and similar
- ✓ Plastic food trays, plastic food containers & plastic punnets

**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEAN, DRY AND LOOSE
WITHIN THE RECYCLING BIN**

No thank you...

- ✗ Aerosol cans (can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- ✗ Crisp packets
- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Garden waste (can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- ✗ Glass (bottles and jars can be taken to the nearest bottle bank)
- ✗ Nappies / Sanitary products
- ✗ Netting – e.g. from fruit punnets etc
- ✗ Plastic / Carrier bags (can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- ✗ Plastic film or Plastic food wrap (e.g. biscuit wrappers, cling film, cellophane etc)
- ✗ Hard / brittle plastic e.g. children's toys or flower pots
- ✗ Polystyrene - including pizza packaging / burger boxes etc
- ✗ Tetra-Pak (Juice cartons) (can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- ✗ Textiles / Clothes (can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- ✗ Tissues, Kitchen Towel or Shredded Paper

Helpline 0845 606 6045

The John Peel Centre for Creative Arts says thanks a million!

The John Peel Centre for Creative Arts in Stowmarket has won a £500,000 award from Biffa. The Centre will provide a lasting legacy to the life and career of the much-loved and broadcaster who lived in Great Finborough. As well as being a national icon, John Peel was a much-loved member of this community and always supported worthwhile local initiatives. He was renowned for encouraging new music from unlikely sources.

The centre will eventually be a place that offers a lot of things to a lot of people. John had catholic tastes, so it wasn't just about loud music. He played all sorts of music and that's what we will be doing. We will have a state of the art rehearsal and performance space and hope and lots of people will use it. We hope that people who liked John's work will help support the Centre and ensure his legacy lives on. As well as being his widow, I am a patron and Director of the John Peel Centre Community Interest Company.

The Corn Exchange was built in 1985. It housed the 'Assembly Rooms' and apart from agricultural trading, the building was the main venue for the town's big social occasions until its closure in the mid 20th century. Since then, the building has had several uses, none of which made enough of the venue's potential value. It has stood sad and semi-derelict for many years.

The £500,000 funding will enable phase 3 of the building work to begin in May 2012. Work will include new state of the art lighting and sound systems, a new box office, a mezzanine level including a café and bar, sprung flooring, staging and upgraded facilities. The centre will also be upgraded to environmental standards with solar panels, triple glazing, additional insulation and an air source heat pump.

A new programme of events running to May 2012 will be launched shortly including music, spoken word, theatre, family events and comedy. There will also be a number of fundraising activities run to help raise further funding for the centre's future. If you would like to know more about the centre and upcoming events, please visit: www.johnpeelcentreforcreativearts.co.uk **Sheila Ravenscroft**

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WILD BIRD SEED

The next order will be placed on 10 February and will be available for collection from Abbey Farm Cottage, Buxhall Road, Great Finborough, IP14 3AU, by about 15 February.

If you would like to place an order please let me have your requirements together with a cheque and your 'phone number, to 'Great Finborough Garden Club' by 8 February. Sunflower kernels will be in 20kg sacks from now on. The next seed order will be April.

John Davey

Product	Weight
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg
Wild Bird Mix Premium	20 kg
Wild Bird Mix no Wheat	20 kg
Finch Mix (no corn)	20 kg
Mixed Corn	20 kg
Peanuts (superior quality)	25 kg
Peanuts (half sack)	12.5 kg approx
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg
Sunflower Kernels	20 kg
Sunflower Kernels (half sack)	10kg approx
Wild Bird Mix no Mess	15 kg
Niger Seed	25 kg
Niger Seed (half sack)	10kg approx
Fat Balls (any quantity)	Price each



Hello everyone. I am pleased to say that there are no crimes to report these last two months.

Bogus callers... Residents are being asked to be cautious when dealing with any doorstep callers after a recent incident. People from utility companies asking to look at meters are not always in uniform but should always carry identification. If you are still not happy call the company to confirm who they are. If they are legitimate they should not mind. Always check their identification and if you suspect the caller is not genuine please call Police, using 999 if necessary.

Scam telephone calls... are being received by persons purporting to be from Microsoft wanting details of your computer so that they can take control and access your computer and all its personal information of the owner. Never believe someone telling you they know you have a problem with your computer that they can fix.

Cold Callers... Suffolk's Trading Standards team have recently introduced another No Cold Calling zone in Suffolk. The total number of NCCZs in Suffolk to date is 29. Zones are set up in areas where residents have identified they do not want visits from unsolicited or 'cold' callers. The zones are created in partnership with Trading Standards, the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and local residents. They are marked with signs in the street and stickers displayed in residents' windows asking people not to call at their doors.

A recent survey of residents living in the first 12 NCCZs in Suffolk found that 97% felt safer as a result. In the same survey, 93% said that doorstep visits from uninvited traders had virtually stopped since the introduction. To find out more information by contact Suffolk Trading Standards by emailing trading.standards@suffolk.gov.uk

A14 Bridges

There have been two local instances of people throwing stones or other objects from bridges onto cars travelling on the A14. On 22 November 2011 this involved five children near Woolpit and a lorry heading eastbound had a nearside window damaged. On 7 December a vehicle travelling eastbound had its windscreen damaged.

Buxhall

There was an attempted theft from a motor vehicle overnight on 5 January. The driver's window of a white van was smashed. Tools were taken out but left on the ground close by. **PC 421 Annelly Miles & PCSO 3155 Sian Uttley**

Joint Housing Board for Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Tenants and leaseholders in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can stand for election to become part of a new Joint Housing Board, which will make decisions about issues affecting all tenants across the two districts. This is believed to be the first Joint Housing Board in the country where tenants and Members from two districts will work together, with equal voting rights, to decide on strategy and develop plans and policy. The Joint Housing Board, which will be made up of 12 Members (six councillors and six tenants), will be established in the next few months. It will cover six wards across the two districts.

All tenants can stand for election. Those who stand as a candidate will be asked to write a 'mini-manifesto'. All tenants will then take part in a postal ballot to elect a tenant to represent their ward in February 2012. Tenants and Leaseholders who would like to find out about the Housing Board and how to stand as a candidate can contact me on 01449 724759

Tarina Gregory

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My Private Gym

My Private Gym (MPG) has opened the first of several unique fitness facilities at Combs Tannery, Stowmarket. The concept offers customers use of all the professional equipment of a public fitness club but on an exclusive basis for their own personal training session. No more waiting for machines, no more busy changing rooms and no more watching other people's TV while working on a fitness programme. It is as though each MPG member had bought all the equipment, built an extension to house it, and employed someone to clean and maintain it.....for a few hours use a week.

At a time when people are looking for value for money in everything that they do or buy, MPG also offers its members the opportunity of sharing the cost of working out with friends. The monthly fee is for time (hour long sessions) not per user. The fee can, therefore, be shared between up to four people, so for those who want to visit the gym once or twice a week, it turns out to be highly cost effective solution. MPG is presently offering a free hour trial session and, although there is no obligation to join, 100% have requested membership after the session. For more information see my advertisement.

Victoria Holt

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Onehouse Ramblers

This month's walk will take place on Sunday 5 February. Meet at the Church Room car park in Onehouse at 2.30pm. We will proceed along Forest Road towards Stowmarket and then at Chilton Leys corner take the footpath to Chilton Fields, coming out near the bottom of Chilton Way. We will then walk up Chilton Way to the Ambulance Station and take the path across top of Chilton Fields & back to Onehouse.

Derek Ames

Buxhall Fun Quiz Night

Saturday 24 March at 7.30pm in Buxhall Village Hall. Teams of up to 6 people, £3 per person. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Grand Draw. Proceeds for Buxhall Village Hall. To book yourselves in please ring Mim or me (see Who's Who). Come and enjoy!

Keith Proctor

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From the Ministry Team

Just when you think that all the special promotions are over in the shops (despite the fact there are Easter eggs around), you see a sign that says '14 February – treat the one you love to the object of her dreams'. Obviously this is aimed at the male shoppers but there are similar adverts for women.



So it is that time of year again when the shops are tempting the adults with chocolates, jewellery, champagne, flowers, cards and anything that seems to have a heart on it. Yes, you've guessed. As I write this, Valentine's Day is on the radar. All over the world cards and gifts will be sent as a sign of love between husbands, wives, partners, girlfriends and boyfriends. And as in the past some of them will pretend they have no idea who they are from.

But who was St. Valentine? Well, this Valentine came to fame in Rome nearly 300 years after the birth of Jesus. The Emperor of the time was dismayed that the men were not enlisting for the army. They loved their wives and families too much to become soldiers. So Emperor Claudius II Gothicus decreed that engagements and marriages were against the law. Valentine was a priest in Rome and he refused to obey. He went on marrying young men and women because he believed that was God's way. He was dragged before the courts on 14 February AD 270 and, having refused to change his ways, paid the price with his life. Since the Middle Ages St. Valentine has been celebrated on that day reminding us of how we can show our love to those whose lives we share.

For Christians there is one who loves us more. Jesus, who gave his life for us on the cross. The love he showed his fellow humans gives us an example of how we can show love to each other – not only on 14 February but every day. So let us remember the words we hear at each Holy Communion: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. You do not need cards and chocolates and flowers to do that, but an open heart. Be ready to walk beside them rejoicing with them in good times and supporting them when the going gets tough. **Arlene Cruickshanks**

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Great Finborough and Buxhall Under 5's *Christmas Play*

An enormous well done with a huge smile on my face. Our Christmas play was wonderful. The children did fantastically well, and what lovely positive comments from the parents, grandparents and friends who came to watch. The children performed a Christmas Nativity with a twist on some well known nursery rhymes. We all had so much fun!

New Year, New Faces...

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The Pre-School has started the term with lots of new faces, which is lovely. The children will be learning about life experiences, going to the doctor, optician, dentist, hairdresser or a party. We will be discovering all about Chinese New Year and covering Valentine's Day.



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Josie Sparkes

For more information contact:

josie@dancingsparkes.co.uk

Film Quiz

A big Thank You to everyone who entered our film quiz. The winner was Shane Cotton with 49 out of 50 correct answers. A big well done!

Fundraising

We will be continuing our fundraising throughout the year. This year all funds raised will go towards our outside area, which is in desperate need of a revamp. Please look out for future fundraising events and come along and help support our Pre-School. **Delia Prior**

DOES GAMBLING AFFECT YOU?

Is gambling getting in the way of the life you and your family want to live? Many of us like the occasional flutter but, for some, gambling can become a serious problem, not only affecting the gambler but those closest to them.

Traditionally, gamblers were thought of as male but, with the increase of online gambling sites, more and more women and young people are affected.

Do you recognise any of the following?

- Being preoccupied with gambling
- Using gambling to escape from problems
- Trying and failing to control or stop gambling
- Chasing losses
- Hiding the extent of gambling
- Financial troubles caused by gambling
- Strain on personal relationships

NORCAS offers free confidential counselling in the Ipswich area to those with, or affected by gambling problems. Individual or family counselling available.

To make an appointment,
contact NORCAS:
t: 01473 259382
e: ipswich@norcas.org.uk
For further information please
visit: www.norcas.org.uk

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Gambling

Gambling is a hidden problem and little understood. It often goes undetected. It can be a factor in relationship breakdown, domestic abuse, child abuse/neglect, offending and anti-social behavior. Initial assessments do not always reveal the extent of gambling problems. The rate of problem gambling is rising, particularly in women and young people and the rate of suicide among problem gamblers is double the national average.

At NORCAS, we can offer free 1:1 counselling for those with a gambling problem, and those affected by a problem gambler. I would also be happy to give a short training session to any local organisations who might like more information about this. Please contact me if you are interested. NORCAS can be contacted on 01473 259382 or at www.norcass.org.uk

Mari Green

Hospice wants your unwanted items this New Year

If you receive any unwanted Christmas presents this year, please think about donating them to St Elizabeth Hospice. Donations of new or second-hand items are needed to resell in the Hospice's 15 shops across Suffolk to raise funds for the charity.

If you are updating your furniture this Christmas or New Year, then why not donate your old fixtures and fittings to the hospice too. Donations of good quality: sofas, chairs, tables, cabinets and other home furnishings are needed to resell and raise funds for the hospice which costs £6.6 million a year to run. Van drivers can collect items from homes for free, six days a week. Money raised through the shops enables St Elizabeth Hospice to continue to make a real difference to the lives of their patients and families, friends and carers. For any further information please contact me on 01473 723600 or email fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk

Samantha Catling

Charity Haircut

Thank you to all of you who have made kind comments on my new 'do'. 10 inches of my hair was donated to The Little Princess Trust shortly before Christmas. So far I have raised over £300, thank you for your generosity and support. The website is still open for anyone wishing to make a donation. www.justgiving.com/lisaqilson

Lisa Gilson



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Suffolk Better Broadband Programme

You may have noticed in the media that the Suffolk Better Broadband Programme is gathering pace, and Suffolk County Council hopes to start work on improving services with Suffolk in Autumn this year. Before we start work, we have to go through a public procurement process to select a provider to develop the Suffolk network.

In order to make this contract as attractive as possible to bidders, as well as to provide evidence to use as leverage during negotiations, we are asking households to register their demand for broadband. This will make our case as strong as possible. Not only will this aid the procurement process, but it will also inform us of where the areas of particular need exist across Suffolk.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband. Ideally we want to get the message to all households in all parishes, that their input via this survey will be critical to improving broadband in Suffolk. Hard copies of the survey can be provided.

A lot of background information to the programme, including a summary of our plan, monthly newsletters, and a FAQ page also appears on www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband For additional information, please contact jonathan.chown@suffolk.gov.uk **Jonathan Chown**

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 11 February at 8am
Church Room, Onehouse

Pastor Stephen Nowak
Stowmarket Baptist Church

. An offering is to cover expenses. We will finish by 9.30am

Please book places with Derek Ames indicating choice of Traditional English Breakfast or Continental Breakfast by 8 February (Tel: 613328).

Woodpecker Hill Group

Woodpecker Hill Group is holding its AGM on Thursday March at 7.30pm upstairs at the Pettiward Hall. Meeting open to all. Woodpecker Hill is Great Finborough's community woodland, run and managed by local residents. We have been successful in securing lottery funding to enable us to create this wildspace for the benefit of all. In the past year we have cleared areas that are now used by the Primary School for Forest School activities and outdoor education. If you would like to join our group or just wish to join us on our working parties, please feel welcome to attend and see what we are all about. Any further details please contact me on 777980. **Bec Gardner**

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News from Onehouse

Enid is organising a Pantomime trip to Woodbridge to see Puss in Boots on 11 February 2012. The cost of coach and ticket is £16. There are a few seats left so if you are interested please contact her on 613441. There will be a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, 21st February in the Church Room at 6pm. Pancakes and games for all the family. There will be no charge but donations would be gratefully accepted.

Carol Hearn

Three Kings and quite a few friends

People out and about in Finborough one morning early in January may have been surprised to see a long procession of small kings following a big and beautiful star. They were off to find a special family and a very new baby in the village church. The Bible does not actually say how many were the wise men but traditionally we count three because there were three gifts. But in Finborough that day there were nearly 90! Our kings were celebrating Epiphany. The kings found the family they had been searching for, offered their gifts, and sang joyful songs before going back to school for lunch.

Then the kings kindly lent their crowns to decorate the village church for the Sunday service which again celebrated Epiphany, and another set of kings searched for the star which led them to the baby in the stable. The congregation added their hopes and prayers to little stars which, along with ones made earlier by the Brownies, were fastened like a shower to the tail of a mighty comet high above the stable. And afterwards everyone enjoyed Epiphany biscuits with a drink.

Lesley Cass



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"cerveza, vino y
tapas?"



I can teach you!

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on **01449 736955**

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our love, sympathy and prayers to the families of those who have recently died

At King Charles the Martyr, Shelland

5 January 2012 Ernest Morter, aged 81 years

Service of Thanksgiving

At St Mary's, Buxhall

5 January 2012 Ernest Morter, aged 81 years

At West Suffolk Crematorium

17 January 2012 Ronald Clifford Rham, aged 80 years

20 January 2012 John Henry Goldsworthy, aged 82 years

At Ipswich Crematorium

4 January Arthur Skinner, aged 92 years

12 January Trevor David Tame, aged 65 years

Burial of Ashes

At St Mary's, Buxhall

3 December 2011 Molly Heather Mitson

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Speedwatch

The Great Finborough Speedwatch Team needs more volunteers to help reduce the risk of accidents on the busy road through the village. Speedwatch consists of unpaid volunteers from the local community authorised by Suffolk Police to use handheld radar gun equipment to monitor speeding vehicles. Speedwatch is not a sinister or vindictive organisation aimed at upsetting motorists but it aims to make drivers aware of their excessive speed within the legal 30 mph limit area.

The recently published results of the Village Survey show that an overwhelming majority of residents in Great Finborough regard speeding vehicles in the village as a major problem. Statistics show that speeding is a very great contributor to road accidents resulting in injury and death. Do you want to help keep our roads safe? If you would like to register your interest in becoming a Speedwatch volunteer please contact Norman Vendittelli (see Who's Who).

Rob Nurton

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St. John the Baptist Church, Onehouse

Family Service
For Valentine's Day

On 12 February
In the Church Room at 11am

All are very welcome
To this special celebration



Tuesday 28 February
At 4pm
In the Church Room
Onehouse
Children's Service
Lasts approximately 20 minutes
With drink/biscuit at start
All welcome, including parents!

**CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE
FOR FEBRUARY 2012**

Thursday	2 February	Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	
Benefice Communion	Buxhall		7.30pm
Sunday	5 February	3rd before Lent	
Sung Eucharist	Buxhall		9.30am
Reflective Morning Prayer	Shelland		9.30am
Parish Communion	Finborough		11am
Matins	Harleston		11am
Sunday	12 February	3rd before Lent	
Matins	Buxhall		9.30am
Holy Communion	Harleston		9.30am
Parish Communion	Shelland		9.30am
Family Service	Onehouse Church Room		11am
Sunday	19 February	Sunday next before Lent	
Matins	Shelland		9.30am
Holy Communion	Buxhall		9.30am
Parish Communion	Finborough		11am
Family Communion	Onehouse Church Room		11am
Wednesday	22 February	Ash Wednesday	
Holy Communion (with ashing)	Buxhall		7.30pm
Sunday	26 February	Lent 1	
Family Service	Finborough Primary School		11am
Holy Communion	Harleston		9.30am
Parish Communion	Onehouse Church room		11am
Sunday	4 March	Lent	
Sung Eucharist	Buxhall		9.30am
Reflective Morning Prayer	Shelland		9.30am
Family Communion & Baptism	Finborough		11am
Matins	Harleston		11am

WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FINBOROUGH

Chair, Parish Council	Norman Vendittelli	677940
	norman.vendittelli@hotmail.co.uk	
Clerk, Parish Council	Paula Gladwell	737942
	finboroughparishclerk@gmail.com	
District Councillor	John Matthissen	771742
	<i>3 Wash Lane Corner, Great Finborough, IP14 3BJ</i>	
	john.matthissen@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Penny Otton	737870
	penny.otton@councillors.suffolccc.gov.uk	
Newsletter Editor	Sally Gooch	677940
	sally.gooch@btinternet.com	
Priest in Charge	Rev. Chris Childs	736093
	<i>Rectory Bungalow, Buxhall, IP14 3DJ</i>	
	revcchild@aol.com	
Church Warden	Lesley Cass	675970
Church Warden	Brenda Grimaldi	612440
Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5s	Delia Prior	07708 362697
Great Finborough & Buxhall Brownies	Gail Jarrett	674538
Chair, Team Finborough (Youth Club)	Sam Vendittelli	
	sam.vendittelli@hotmail.co.uk	
Charity Bingo	Sharla Goldsmith	678480
Candlestick Club	Keith Proctor	736598
Great Finborough & District Garden Club	Judith Cameron	672978
	judyandian@btinternet.com	
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	John Davey	674401
	john@abbeyclassics.co.uk	
Post Office & Village Shop	Nigel & Jeannette Edwards	612274
The Chestnut Horse	Angela and Alan	612298
Head, Great Finborough Primary School	Stephen Dodd	613208
	headteacher@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk	
Acting Chair of Governors, Primary School	Sally Gooch	677940
Police (Elmswell)	PCSO Sian Uttley	101
Combs Middle School (674666)	Stowmarket High School (613541)	
Stowmarket Health Centre		776000
Combs Ford Surgery		678333
Stowmarket Library		613143
Pettiward Hall Bookings		674407
Village website:	www.great-finborough.co.uk	
Primary School website:	www.greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk	