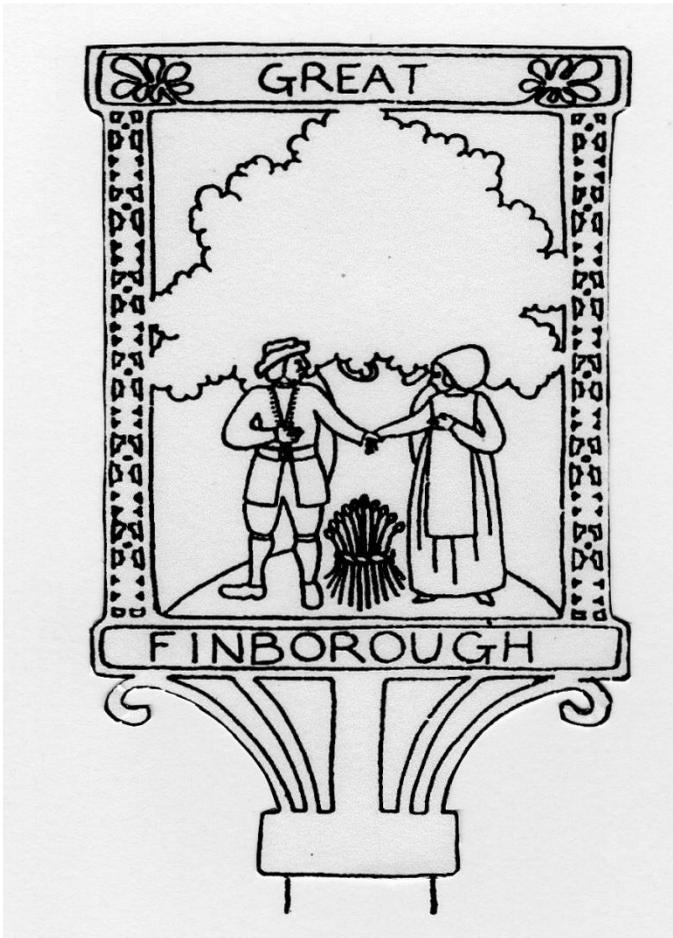


# GREAT FINBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



**DECEMBER  
2015/  
JANUARY 2016  
ISSUE 464**



## **VILLAGE DIARY – DECEMBER 2015**

3	7pm	Garden Club Xmas party, Pettiward Hall
7	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
8	9.30-11.30	Coffee Morning, Chestnut Horse
8	12pm	Candlestick Club Xmas Lunch, Buxhall Village Hall
14	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
14	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pettiward Hall
15	6pm	Community Carols, Primary School
10	7.30pm	Buxhall WI Meeting, Buxhall Village Hall

## **VILLAGE DIARY – JANUARY 2016**

9	8am	Men's Breakfast, Buxhall Village Hall
11	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
11	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pettiward Hall
12	9.30-11.30	Coffee Morning, Chestnut Horse
18	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall
20	7.30pm	Buxhall WI Meeting, Buxhall Village Hall
22	4.10pm	Mobile Library, Oak Close
24	2.30pm	Onehouse Ramblers, Trinity Hall (Church Room)
25	6pm	Brownies, Pettiward Hall

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## **Editorial**

David and Mary Preece and the rest of the Pettiward Hall's Management Committee deserve our thanks for their work over the last couple of years in obtaining grants and which has enabled the improvements in the Hall to provide a fabulous venue for a wide variety of activities and events.

Goodbye to Linnie who has moved from 4 The Green and a big welcome to its' new residents. Welcome also to Andrew Stiff and Mia Winfield who have moved into 3 Oak Close. If you know anyone leaving the village or moving in please let me have their details so we can give them an official village welcome or send off.

I am sorry the police no longer have the resources to keep us informed of the service they provide and how we can contribute to a safer neighbourhood. I'm sure you miss their monthly reports too – which just stopped without notice (other than the general election result).

It is with regret that I resign as the newsletter's editor after 7 years. This week I came under great pressure from the Parish Council, whose newsletter this is, not to print a letter submitted for publication because the threat of legal action had reportedly been made if it was published. The letter was, in my opinion, an appropriate contribution to the debate about the current planning application by Finborough School to turn the sports hall into a commercial venue. It was intended to ensure that the whole village knew about the application in order to meet the imminent deadline for comments to be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council, the decision maker.

This was the first time my editorial decision has not been accepted by the Council and, whilst I completely respect the Council's authority to choose its editor, I cannot fulfil my duty to the village if there is vetting and censorship. This denies freedom of speech which, I believe, is important even in our modest publication. I consider that the newsletter should reflect the widest range of views, as long as their expression is lawful. In acceding to the pressure not to publish the letter or any other information about the Finborough Hall planning application I have no choice but to resign. I am sorry that this means

that there are blank pages in this edition. The Parish Council will continue to have my active and full support.

Thank you to all the regular and occasional contributors to the newsletter. We welcome your contributions as the newsletter is only as good as the material provided by you. Thank you too to all our advertisers whose sponsorship enables the Parish Council to make it freely available to residents – and to Martin Burns who, as well as managing the village website, has loaded the website with the newsletters each month. This enables them to be accessed across the world by those with a connection to Great Finborough. It is a great way for those who are unlucky enough to have to move away to see what we are all up to.

There is no edition in January. Please contact Peter Turner, the Chair of the Parish Council, with regard to any issues about the newsletter or contributions for publication in the future. With very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**Sally Gooch**

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## **News from the Parish Council**

### ***Policing***

The November meeting began as usual with reports from our Suffolk County Councillor (SCC), Penny Otton, and our District Councillor, John Matthissen. Unfortunately our local police officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) no longer routinely attends parish council meetings and it appears that they will not even be providing a written report anymore. We are asked in future to seek information from their online crime map via <http://www.police.uk/suffolk/H44/crime/2015-06/all-crime/> or alternatively through the website <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/> The quarterly Priority Tasking Meetings had also been cancelled. This is a great shame. It is appreciated that when the service is stretched to breaking point officers must prioritise other policing activities. Remember that, for non-emergency police matters you can contact the SNT by calling 101.

### ***Planning***

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the parish and this means that it must consider each application, take on board residents' comments and formulate a response to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) based on relevant material planning considerations. These comments should be taken into consideration when Mid Suffolk District Council makes its determination.

This month we looked at Application No. 3808/15 for change of use of land for siting a mobile home to supervise the equestrian enterprise at Mill Hill Farm, High Road. Having not received representations from the public and, after careful consideration, it was agreed that the Council's response would be 'no objection' with a request that Hitcham Parish Council be consulted too. Recent decisions of MSDC were noted as the applications involving 4 Pettiward Close and 3 Boundary Cottages were granted.

### ***Issues***

Our meetings are a chance to highlight any minor maintenance issues around the village including slippery bridges, potholes and damage to street furniture. If you have any similar concerns or you see maintenance issues on your travels around the village please let me

know and I will report them to the relevant local authority for consideration. Alternatively you can easily report problems on the roads, such as potholes, online at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/report-a-highways-problem> or contact Customer Services at MSDC or SCC on 0345 606 6067. They are usually very quick to respond.

### ***Speeding***

We are receiving more and more complaints regarding speeding through our village. Regrettably our local Community Speed Watch Scheme is not operating although the scheme has, time and again in rural parishes, proved to bring down the speed of vehicles. The initiative allows residents to address the issue of speeding by becoming actively involved in road safety by monitoring speeds at safe locations with speed detection equipment. It addresses the problem of speeding through joint work with the police, local community, parish councils and other partners. The aim is not to catch as many speeding drivers as possible but to reduce speed in areas of concern.

Community Speed Watch informs drivers that excessive speed is socially unacceptable and helps explain the dangers of speeding while addressing concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their neighbourhoods. It would be great if we could get our Speed Watch up and running again. If you would like to make a difference by volunteering a few hours a month then please get in touch.



**St Mary's Church  
Little Finborough**

# EPHANY CELEBRATION

**Sunday 10th January 2016**

**2.30 pm** Procession from  
The Punch Bowl Inn  
to the Church

**3.00 pm** Short Epiphany Service  
followed by tea and cakes

**If you do not wish to walk, please  
join us at the Church**

**Everyone is welcome  
at this community celebration of the  
Visit of the Wise Men**

## **Meeting on 19 November 2015**

The Council needed to call an extra meeting in November to deal with a couple of urgent matters.

### ***Playground***

The quotes for repair to the safety surfacing under some of the play equipment were considered and a contractor was agreed. The work will be completed before Christmas. Regrettably this will involve restrictions on parking and the closure of the play area for a couple of days whilst the work is carried out. The new surface edgings will ensure safer play. The Council is grateful for the funding provided by District Councillor John Matthissen and County Councillor Penny Otton towards the cost of the surfacing repairs.

### ***Planning: Finborough Hall Sports Hall***

This meeting saw the Council asked to comment on *Application 3886/15 Continued use of Sports Hall for school and local community purposes and additional use of first floor for wedding receptions, functions, conferences and other events. Internal alterations. Finborough School, Finborough Hall.*

The number of residents attending the meeting showed that this application has raised concerns. Nearly all spoke when invited to do so by the Chair and all expressed their objections to the proposal which includes plans to hold up to 30 commercial events a year and to extend the operating times.

It was suggested that such events were inappropriate in a rural setting and could cause serious loss of amenity especially to those households directly impacted by additional noise, light pollution and disturbance. Concerns regarding the increase in vehicle activity associated with the additional planned events involving up to 200 people, were raised including noise and headlights shining into neighbouring properties at and after midnight. It was noted that the original planning permission granted for the erection of the sports hall included conditions to ensure community access to the facility and concerns were expressed that expansion into commercial use may restrict this, and that it has not yet started.

After careful consideration of all the points raised, and discussion around the content of the application documents, it was unanimously resolved by the Parish Council to submit an Objection response to MSDC. This would be on the grounds of loss of amenity value to neighbours from inappropriate activities, disturbance at normally quieter times of day, and concern about the impact of night time illumination on the character of the area. In addition reasons included a need to safeguard other community facilities in the locality and ensure that the sports hall continues only to be used in a manner appropriate to its countryside location within the setting of the heritage buildings.

### ***Finance***

After approving payment of the newsletter printing, internal audit costs and a donation to the Parochial Church Council, it was agreed that the transfer of the Pettward Hall Premises Licence to the Management Committee of the Hall be approved.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 14 December at 7.30pm in Pettward Hall. You are welcome to attend.

**Paula Gladwell**

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## **Dog Mess – Possible £1,000 Fine**

There has been a considerable rise in the number of complaints concerning irresponsible owners allowing their dogs to foul local footpaths in the village, particularly near the 5 a side football pitch, allotment paths and Woodpecker Hill Wood. Children regularly use these areas (Forest Schools takes place regularly in the wood) and they are vulnerable to illnesses caused by dog faeces.



Please help to prevent this happening. If you are a careless dog owner who does not use the dog bins provided be aware that the Parish Council welcomes evidence and will give serious consideration to prosecution.

**Peter Turner**

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## News from your District Councillor

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By joining the register, you will receive:

- ✓A priority phone number you can use 24 hours a day, and regular updates until power is restored
- ✓A welcome pack of information about preparing for a power cut
- ✓Regular text message updates if you text 'power' followed by your postcode to 80876
- ✓Extra support from the British Red Cross.

### Who can apply

Customers with young babies in the household; those dependent on medical equipment or who are chronically ill or with a disability; those who are visually impaired, blind, hearing impaired or deaf and elderly people. Also eligible are nursing or residential homes and any other case that you would like UKPN to consider. You can register at:

<http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/priority-services-during-a-power-cut/> or by phone on 0800 169 9970.

### **ST JOHN'S TABLE TENNIS**

*Thursday Nights*

7.30-9.30pm:

10 December,

14 and 28 January

In Trinity Hall (Church Room),  
Onehouse

Bats & balls provided. £2 per session including refreshments.

We welcome new players.

Give me a ring for further details.

**Derek Ames (613328)**

### ***Locality Awards Scheme***

I have had a few requests now but more proposals will be welcome. Do get in touch and I will see if I can help. Season's Greetings to you all. To get in touch, see Who's Who.

**John Matthissen**



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## St Andrew's Flowers

After very many years as Chief Flower Arranger, Brenda Grimaldi has decided to retire. We thank her very much for all she has done and will doubtless continue to do on occasions. The church is open to visitors and it is always good to have some flowers on display. Some people are skilled and we thank them for their work. Others are not but all are welcome to bring flowers, if only in a vase, into church and place them on a windowsill. It makes the place looked loved and cared for. On the larger occasions there are others who often help with the pedestal and other displays.

We are looking for someone to co-ordinate and encourage the team already in place from New Year's Day onwards. I have a list of some 15 people and there are probably more just waiting to be asked. There is some funding available which stems from the Christmas and Easter appeals, but no specific budget. It is not onerous and so please give me a ring. It would be such a shame not to have flowers in the village church.

**Rev Chris**

Great Finborough CEVC Primary School  
and St Andrew's, Great Finborough

Are pleased to invite you all to

Community Carols  
at the School



Tuesday 15 December 2015  
At 6pm



## **News from Great Finborough Primary School**

With Christmas fast approaching, this is always a busy and exciting time in school. The month begins with children from Years 5 and 6 performing at the Over 60s carol service held at the Salvation Army Citadel. Throughout the school, choirs of voices can be heard rehearsing carols and songs for their Christmas performances. Green and Red classes will be performing 'The Nativity' and Blue, Purple and Silver classes are putting on a production of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'. The children also have the chance to enjoy traditional carols with Purple class singing to the residents of Finborough Court and the whole school attending our Nativity Tableau service at St Mary, Buxhall.

We are again holding our Community Carols evening at the school on Tuesday 15 December at 6pm, to which everyone from the community is welcome to attend. We will be singing around the Christmas tree in the playground, so please wrap up warmly and bring a torch or lantern. After the carols you are invited to join us inside the school for a warm drink and a mince pie.

Festive decorations made by the children during our decoration and Christingle making afternoon will brighten up the school. The Christingles will be used for the service in St Andrew's church on 6 December. Naturally, the children are excited about the prospect of what Father Christmas may bring them on Christmas Day, but as a school we like to celebrate this as a time of giving. The children will have an opportunity to buy a small gift for two friends or family at our Christmas Market. They are able to wrap and label the gift at school before taking it home ready as a surprise for Christmas day.

We have held two successful open day events this term where staff, Governors, children and parents have been pleased to show prospective families around and answer their questions. If you have a child who will be starting in Reception in September 2016 and you were unable to attend either of these events, please contact the school to arrange to have a look around. All that remains now is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from everyone at Great Finborough Church Primary!

**Melony Mayhew**

## **October's Buxhall Quiz Night**

This was another super evening with twelve teams taking part in eight rounds of enjoyable questions. Keith as Question Master kept things going amusingly and towards the end it was a two horse race! Team Finborough retained their title by a narrow margin with the Buxhall Choir Team coming in close behind. An excellent draw (we are so grateful for the lovely prizes donated) helped us raise £334 for the continuing improvements to Buxhall Village Hall. Our next quiz is planned for 19 March 2016. My sincere gratitude to my Question Researcher.

**Mim Proctor**

## **St Andrew's Church coffee mornings**

Come to our Christmas coffee morning on 8 December 2015 at pub. Lots to see and buy but most importantly meet friends and enjoy their company in the warmth of The Chestnut Horse. 9.30 am until 11.30 am. £1.50 for tea/coffee and cake.

The first coffee morning of 2016 will be on 12 January. Same time, same place. Give yourself a breather after the rush of Christmas. Come and catch up with friends and celebrate the New Year.

**Irene Bugg**

## **Stowmarket and District Camera Club**

On Monday 14 December there will be a talk given by Jane Goodall ARPS on 'The Beautiful Light'. New members are always very welcome at the club. All you need is a camera – any camera and a real interest in using it. Our members use DSLRs, mirrorless, compacts and bridge cameras. The meeting will be held at Stowmarket Community Centre, Hillside, Stowmarket, IP14 2BD at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

**Angela Coster**



## **Stowmarket Chorale Christmas Concert**

This much-anticipated regular event takes place this year in Stowmarket URC at 7pm on Saturday 12 December and features Abbot's Hall Primary School Choir. Tickets costing £9 for adults and £3 under 18s are available from choir members, Stowmarket Tourist Information at the Museum of East Anglian Life, and online at [www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk](http://www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk)

Thinking ahead, as a Christmas present with a difference, you might like to buy tickets for Stowmarket Chorale's next concert on Saturday 7 May 2016 at 7.30pm. This concert, at the prestigious venue The Apex at Bury St Edmunds, is an all-Mozart affair. The choir will be singing Mozart's Coronation Mass and Solemn Vespers, and Julian Farrell will be playing the glorious Clarinet Concerto, all accompanied by the talented Kingfisher Sinfonietta led by Beth Spendlove. Leslie Olive conducts. Put the date in your diary now. Tickets are already available from [THEAPEX.CO.UK](http://THEAPEX.CO.UK) online or from the box office on 01284 758000. Early Bird offers apply until 31 December. **Trisha Cole**

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### **Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday 9 January  
Trinity Hall, Onehouse**

**at 8am**

**Speaker: To be confirmed**

**Finish by 9.30am**

There will be an offering to cover expenses

Please book places with Derek Ames  
by Wednesday 6th January (Tel. 613328)  
indicating continental or traditional breakfast.

## Go wacky in wool for the Hospice

St Elizabeth Hospice launches a Christmas Jumper Week (14-18 December), urging friends, colleagues and classmates to go wacky in wool this December. We are asking local businesses, schools and groups to don their craziest knit and do their bit for their local hospice. Organisations choose a day during the week and on their nominated Christmas Jumper Day, everyone has to wear their silliest sweater and donate £2 to St Elizabeth Hospice.

Christmas jumpers have become such a popular phenomenon in recent years, nearly everybody has a festive top, and Christmas Jumper Week is a great excuse to get yours out and wear it to work, school or wherever. Holding a Christmas Jumper Day is sure to get you in the festive spirit in the run up to Christmas and is an easy and fun way to raise vital funds for your local hospice and help ensure nobody has to face their illness alone this Christmas.

Throughout the week the hospice will be offering prizes for the best, craziest and most outrageous jumpers through their Facebook and Twitter pages, so if you want to get involved, make sure you like and follow the hospice's social media channels for your chance to win some great giveaways.

To find out more or to request your Christmas Jumper Week festive fundraising pack, visit [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/jumperweek](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/jumperweek) or call 01473 723600 or email [fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk) If you would like to donate £2, just text JUMPER to 70300. Every pound you donate will help make a difference to the lives of local people living with a progressive illness such as cancer, motor neurone disease or heart failure.



**Felicity Rook**









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## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptism

We welcome into the family of Christ's Church

*At St Andrew, Great Finborough*

1 November 2015 Amelie Grace Mizon, aged 6 months

20 September 2015 Harry Ralph Barber Fisher, aged 12 months

1 November 2015 Lili Haf Brice, aged 11 months



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### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2016**

11 January

14 March

11 April and

Annual Parish Meeting

9 May.

7.30pm in Pettiward Hall

## **West Suffolk best in England for cancer diagnosis**

West Suffolk has been rated top in England for the second year running for having the best diagnosis rates for cancer at stages one and two. The area also has the highest one year cancer survival rate in the East of England. Latest figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) show that 60.6% of cancers in the NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area are diagnosed at stages one or two. This figure is better than any other CCG in the country, is significantly higher than the national average rate of 45.7% and repeats the success of last year's top ranking by HSCIC for west Suffolk in cancer diagnosis rates at stage one and two.

There are four stages which determine the extent to which cancer has spread, with stage one being the earliest. By getting diagnosed at an early stage of a cancer's development patients have a much better chance of survival and recovery. This very positive news follows figures released by the Office of National Statistics which show that the one year survival rate for patients in the West Suffolk CCG area diagnosed with cancer is 71.7%, higher than any of the other seven CCGs in the East of England and higher than the national average of 69.3%.

By working together we are raising awareness of cancer symptoms and encouraging people to get checked out by their GP if they have any concerns. The symptoms of cancer can present in different and varied ways such as a cough, or lump, or blood in the urine, so it is important to act on any changes in your body by making an appointment to see your family doctor. Do not put it off as the earlier a cancer is diagnosed then the greater the chances of survival.

This year has also seen the introduction of a new teledermatology service in west Suffolk. This enables a GP to take high-resolution image of a patient's skin lesion, which is then sent electronically to a dermatology specialist for diagnosis, with results sometimes received by the patient on the same day. This means a patient no longer has to wait for a hospital appointment, doing away with a long and worrying wait and enabling cancer treatment to begin sooner if needed.

**Dr Andrew Yager, GP**

## **Christmas Fair**

Our Charity Craft and Gift Fair in Pettward Hall held on 15 November raised £650 for EACH and this sum excludes the amount made by other charities also in attendance. Thank you for your support.

**Marion Mason**

## **Rabbie Burns Supper**

A Rabbie Burns Supper will take place at Trinity Hall (Church Room) on 23 January 2016. Elaine Devlin will be our MC for the evening. An evening not to be missed! For tickets contact me.

**Carole Hearn (T: 736025)**

## **Buxhall Women's Institute**

This month we meet a week earlier on Wednesday 10 December when members will be enjoying an evening of 'Fun and Games' with Cathy Croome. Visitors and new members are welcome to our first meeting for 2016 on Wednesday 20 January at 7.30pm at Buxhall Village Hall when we will be having a 'Bygones Quiz' with David Barker.

**Judith Hickman**

## **Thank you for your kindness**

Thank you to all my friends and neighbours who phoned and visited me while I was ill and who brought me flowers, cards, gifts and meals for Syd.

**Sheena Dohoo**

## **Onehouse Ramblers**

Wouldn't it be good to walk through fresh snow early in 2016? Come and join us for a walk of about 4 miles along local footpaths on Sunday 24 January. Meet in the Trinity Hall car park at 2.30pm. Management cannot guarantee snow!

**Derek Ames (T: 613328)**

## **East Anglian Air Ambulance**

Thank you for all the stamps, ink cartridges, mobile phones and old and foreign coins donated in 2015. Please keep up the good work in the New Year.

**Derek Ames**

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## From the Rectory

As I sat for Morning Prayer in St Peters Church, Stowmarket, in the second week of November, I was amidst Christmas trees awaiting their decorators. It has become as traditional as Christmas itself to moan that it 'starts too early'. But when the chips are down most people will say that they enjoy Christmas if only because it is good to have a break from the routine of life. So can a good thing start too early? Can there be too much celebration? I think not. I am sure some will disagree with me and I do know one house in Combs where the decorations go up at the beginning of November. Some will say 'it's just another day' and 'they can't understand the fuss'. The very same people make no real effort to make it different and so it will not be. Do you complain that it is all just commercialism?



At Christmas Christians celebrate the birth of someone coming into the world who showed us all how to really live our lives with positivity, cheerfulness and the right attitude. Only God knows how that message has been distorted over the millennia by terrible arrogance and worse. The church still has a reputation for dullness and judgmentalism, despite our best endeavours and the facts that speak otherwise. All

our services at Christmas should be characterised by cheer happiness and thanksgiving for the birth of a child who made a huge difference. It well counters the commercialism. Think about it and join us if you can. There is room for you. Also, do go and see the Christmas Tree Festival at Stowmarket if you have time. No Father Christmases just lots of spiritually uplifting thoughts and trees in a magnificent medieval building. Happy Christmas to you all.

**Rev Chris**



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## **Having someone with dementia to stay at Christmas**

Christmas is an important social occasion but it can be stressful for people with dementia, their carers and family. It is important that people with dementia are able to celebrate with the family. Here are a few tips on how to make the stay less stressful for your loved one and to help everyone enjoy the occasion and feel relaxed. Just being in an unfamiliar setting or have changes their usual routine can increase confusion and disorientation.

- Plan for the visit: Get advice from the person who normally provides care. They will know them best and will be able to give you tips.
- Get help if needed: Ask for help from family or friends, or consider asking a local care company if they provide ad hoc care.
- Safety and security: Look around the house for potential risks including trip hazards, stairs and steps, locks on doors and consider leaving a light on at night to make finding the way around easier.
- Noise and bustle: The house may be quite noisy and busy on some days. This may be hard for your loved one to cope and it may make it easier for them to leave the house unnoticed.
- Food and mealtimes: Food is a large part of Christmas festivities so take account of those with small appetite or eating problems. Try to avoid hurrying them and provide distractions for children at the table so that no-one feels rushed.

Be prepared for changes in the person's behaviour with so much going on. It can cause anxiety or confusion. Think about how they may be feeling. With planning and preparation it should help to make the Christmas celebrations go smoothly so that everyone has a lovely time.

**Claire Bewley**

## **Mid Suffolk Disability Forum**

Please note that meetings of the Mid Suffolk Disability Forum will take place on Wednesdays in 2016 on 20 January, 20 April, 20 July and 19 October. The next meeting will be held at the Salvation Army Centre, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, IP14 1NE from 10.30am to 1pm.

**Linda Hoggarth, Chair**



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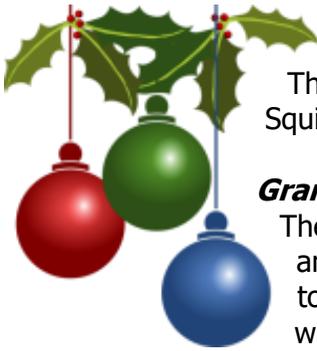
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Merry  
Christmas





## The Pettiward Hall *Little Ernie*

The winners in the November draw were Gerry Squirrel and Mr G Poulding. They each won £8.75.

### **Grants**

The Management Committee is delighted to announce the award of grants totalling £8,648 towards new stage curtains, acoustic panels and window blinds for the main hall from the following organisations: Suffolk County Councillor Penny Otton's Locality Budget, Mid Suffolk District Council, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Alfred Williams Charitable Trust and Suffolk Community Foundation. The installations will be completed by the end of the year. **Mary Preece**

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References available.

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## **Remember and celebrate a loved one in Stowmarket this Christmas**

St Elizabeth Hospice is inviting the local community to join us this Christmas at the Community Light up a Life service at St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket, to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one at this poignant time of year. Every year, the hospice holds these candlelit services to offer local people the opportunity to reflect on their memories of family, friends and colleagues who are no longer with us. The service will be held on Saturday 19 December at 6.30pm in the Church and will be led by Reverend Michael Eden.

Light up a Life services are free to attend, suitable for the whole family and open to anyone. The service will include carols, readings, the occasion to light a candle in memory of your loved one, and music from special guests, the Military Wives Choir. You can also personalise a St Elizabeth Hospice Special Memories Card, perhaps with a photograph, poem or drawing, to display at the service of your choosing.

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing, a moment for enjoying being with your family members and loved ones but it is also a time for reflecting on the lives of loved ones we have lost, remembering these special people and the cherished memories that we hold dear to our hearts. The Light up a Life service is open to anyone who would like to come. They do not have to have been cared for by the hospice and they could just be someone you cannot be with over the Christmas period.

If you would like to attend the Light up a Life service or to request a Special Memories Card, please call 01473 723600 or email [fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk) Once again, there is also the opportunity to dedicate a light in a loved one's memory online on the Hospice's virtual Christmas Tree at [www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/lightupalife](http://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk/lightupalife) Your donation will help provide care and support to people in Suffolk this Christmas living with a progressive illness such as cancer, motor neurone disease and heart failure.

**Pauline Donkin**

## **Great Finborough & District Garden Club**

Winter dragged its heels after a splendid Summer but the frosts are here and all those tender things should now be under wraps. The reward for all the work during the year is sitting by the fire with a clear conscience browsing the plant and seed catalogues ready for the next season.

Our November meeting was an illustrated talk by Richard Ayres, the retired Head Gardener of Anglesey Abbey. Since retirement he designed and built from scratch a new garden for Lord and Lady Fairhaven at Curtlin Towers after they moved from Anglesey Abbey. Many of us who have struggled with remoulding an inherited garden were envious of the opportunity to start from nothing apart from the land, a relatively free hand, and with the use of earth moving equipment on demand.

The next meeting will be our Christmas party to be held on 3 December. As always this takes the form of a light-hearted quiz, with nibbles and mulled wine, and not forgetting the now renowned 'Pass the parcel'. Please ensure that you have returned the December function slip to John Davey so we know how many will be attending. Please note that the venue will be the Main Hall and that it will start at 7pm.

In January gardeners hibernate or go on holiday so as not to waste those valuable hours in the garden later in the year. As a result the first meeting of 2016 will be on Thursday 11 February at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Pettiward Hall when Karen Kenny will be speaking on the subject of 'Weeds'. She will describe why they exist, how they survive, what they do for us, how they propagate and, perhaps most importantly for many gardeners, the best way to get rid of them.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or would like to join us for any event you will be very welcome. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, membership is only £15 per household per year and there is a charge of £2.50 for guest attendance at any single meeting. For further information contact either: John Davey or me – see Who's Who.

**Judith Cameron**

## Wild Bird Seed

The next order will be placed on 7 December and will be available for collection from Abbey Farm Cottage, Buxhall Road, Great Finborough, by about 9 December. If you would like to place an order please let me have your requirements together with a cheque to 'Great Finborough Garden Club'. I must have your telephone number so that you can be advised when the seed is ready for collection. Orders may be posted to or dropped off at Abbey Farm Cottage or at either 1 Valley Lane or 8 High Road. They must be received before 6 December. The next seed order will be placed in February 2016.

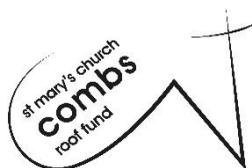
**John Davey**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Price</b>
Wild Bird Mix	20 kg	£9.50
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W.B.M No Wheat	20kg	£13.50
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W.B.M. No Mess	15kg	£14.50
W.B.M Robin & Songbird	12.75kg	£13.00
Finch Mix	20 kg	£11.50
Mixed Corn	20 kg	£8
SUPER Poultry Mix	20kg	£9
Peanuts (superior quality)	25 kg	£26.50
Peanuts (half sack)	12.5kg approx	£14
Black Sunflower Seed	15 kg	£11.50
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Nyjer Seed	10kg approx	£13.50
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## Combs Church Roof

You can now support our new roof project when you shop at the East of England Co-op. Please post your /token in the St Mary's Combs Roof box!

**Rev Chris**



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

The November meeting of Bring, Buy and Bingo turned out to be a very enjoyable afternoon with over £40 from the draw being added to club funds. Our final meeting of the year is the Annual Christmas Dinner at noon for 12.30pm. Unfortunately the wrong date went into the November newsletter. Ignore that date and turn up on Tuesday 8 December for a delicious Christmas lunch. Please also do not forget to bring a Christmas present either for a woman or a man and roughly to the value of £2.

After Christmas we all go into hibernation for 3 months. Enjoy the rest and come out again on Thursday 7 April 2016, refreshed and ready for another season. It finally comes to me to thank all our helpers who keep our little club going. A happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Please ring either me or Janet (T: 723717) to book your place. If you need a lift please contact me (see Who's Who). New members are always welcome.

**Keith Proctor**



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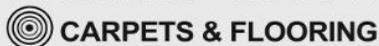
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## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR DECEMBER 2015

### **Sunday 6 December**

Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Reflective Morning Prayer  
 Worship and Messy Church  
 Matins  
 Christingle with Primary School

### **The Second Sunday in Advent**

Little Finborough 9am  
 Buxhall 9.30am  
 Shelland 9.30am  
 Combs 11am  
 Harleston 11am  
 Great Finborough 4pm

### **Saturday 12 December**

Carol Service with Nativity

Onehouse 5pm

### **Sunday 13 December**

Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Evensong  
 Carols

### **The Third Sunday in Advent**

Harleston 9.30am  
 Shelland 9.30am  
 Combs 11am  
 Great Finborough 11am  
 Onehouse 11am  
 Little Finborough 3pm  
 Buxhall 4.30pm

### **Sunday 20 December**

Holy Communion  
 Carols  
 Carols  
 Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols

### **The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Buxhall 9.30am  
 Combs 3pm  
 Shelland 10am  
 Great Finborough 6.30pm

### **Tuesday 22 December**

Candlelight Christmas Carol Service

Little Finborough 7pm

### **Thursday 24 December**

Crib Service with Carols  
 Crib Service with Carols  
 Crib Service with Carols  
 Carols  
 Crib Service  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion

### **Christmas Eve**

Buxhall 3pm  
 Onehouse 3pm  
 Great Finborough 4pm  
 Harleston 4pm  
 Combs 5pm  
 Combs 8.30pm  
 Buxhall 11.30pm

<b>Friday</b>	<b>25 December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
Holy Communion		Little Finborough	9am
Family Communion		Shelland	9.30am
Family Communion		Great Finborough	10.30am
Family Communion		Onehouse	10.30am
Family Service		Combs	10.30am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27 December</b>	<b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day</b>	
Holy Communion		Harleston	9.30am

### CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR JANUARY 2016

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3 January</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	
Holy Communion		Little Finborough	9am
Sung Eucharist		Buxhall	9.30am
Holy Communion		Shelland	9.30am
Matins		Harleston	9.30am
Holy Communion		Great Finborough	11am
Worship and Messy Church		Combs	11am
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10 January</b>	<b>The First Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
Holy Communion		Harleston	9.30am
Family Service		Shelland	9.30am
Holy Communion		Combs	11am
Holy Communion		Onehouse	11am
Plough Sunday		Buxhall	11am
Epiphany Festival		Little Finborough	3pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17 January</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
Holy Communion		Little Finborough	9am
Morning Worship		Buxhall	9.30am
Matins		Shelland	9.30am
Family Communion		Combs	11am
Morning Worship		Great Finborough	11am
Christingle		Onehouse	11am



**Sunday 24 January**

Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Holy Communion  
 Evensong

**The Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Buxhall 9.30am  
 Harleston 9.30am  
 Combs 11am  
 Great Finborough 11am  
 Onehouse 11am  
 Little Finborough 3pm

**Sunday 31 January**

Benefice Holy Communion  
 Benefice Holy Communion and  
 Patronal Service

**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Little Finborough 11am  
 Shelland 9.  
 30am

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Clerk, Parish Council	Paula Gladwell <a href="mailto:finboroughparishclerk@gmail.com">finboroughparishclerk@gmail.com</a>	01284 828112
District Councillor	John Matthissen <a href="mailto:councillor@matthissen.net">councillor@matthissen.net</a>	771742
County Councillor	Penny Otton <a href="mailto:penny.otton@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk">penny.otton@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk</a>	737870
Newsletter Editor	Vacancy	
Priest in Charge	Rev. Chris Childs <i>Combs Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, IP14 2AY</i>	673280 <a href="mailto:revcchild@aol.com">revcchild@aol.com</a>
Curate	Rev. Rachel Cornish <i>The Rectory, Onehouse, IP14 3HL</i>	257622 <a href="mailto:rev.rachelcornish@gmail.com">rev.rachelcornish@gmail.com</a>
Chair of the F&P Committee	John Kendall	736264
Church Warden	Nigel Brown	675344
Church Warden	Paul Goodchild	401185
Pettiward Hall Management Committee	Mary Preece	771360
Lettings/Keyholder	<a href="mailto:mary.preece1@btinternet.com">mary.preece1@btinternet.com</a>	
Great Finborough & Buxhall Under 5s	Delia Prior <a href="mailto:deila.prior@btinternet.com">deila.prior@btinternet.com</a>	07513 140072
Great Finborough & Buxhall Brownies	Gail Jarrett	674538
Allotments Association	Mary Smyth	672533
Candlestick Club	Keith Proctor	736598
Great Finborough & District Garden Club	Judith Cameron <a href="mailto:judyandian@btinternet.com">judyandian@btinternet.com</a>	672978
Buxhall Women's Institute	Judith Hickman	677540
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	John Davey <a href="mailto:john@abbeyclassics.co.uk">john@abbeyclassics.co.uk</a>	674401
Chaplin's Newsagent	Nigel & Jeannette Edwards	612274
The Chestnut Horse	Jennie & Andrew Craine	612298
Head teacher, Great Finborough	Stephen Dodd	613208
Primary School	<a href="mailto:headteacher@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk">headteacher@greatfinborough.suffolk.sch.uk</a>	
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Stowmarket Health Centre		776000
Combs Ford Surgery		678333
Stowmarket Library		613143
<b>Village website:</b>	<a href="http://www.great-finborough.co.uk">www.great-finborough.co.uk</a>	
<b>Church website</b>	<a href="http://www.standrewsgtfinborough.co.uk/">http://www.standrewsgtfinborough.co.uk/</a>	
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