

A photograph of a fox running through tall, golden-brown grass in a rural landscape. In the background, there are trees with green and yellowing leaves, and a body of water is visible. The scene is captured in a soft, painterly style.

Village Voice

DENHAM, HOXNE, SYLEHAM &
WINGFIELD

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2025

Supported by community donation and advertising revenue

PARISH COUNCILS

DENHAM

Web: www.denham.onesuffolk.net
Wendy Alcock (Clerk) 07726 924786
Email: denhamparishclerk@gmail.com
Kerina Jane (VC)
Duncan McGregor (C)
Maria Ford
Nancy Ford

HOXNE

Web: www.hoxne.onesuffolk.net
Sarah Foote (Clerk) 07554 733621
Email: pc@hoxne.suffolk.gov.uk
Caroline Abbott
Paul Ellis (VC)
Alan Garnham
Angus Herron
Richard Kruszewski
Marie Lagerberg
Bryn Lerwill
Jason Middleton
Chris Parkin (C)
Margaret Sillis

SYLEHAM

Web: www.syleham-pc.org.uk
Lesley Hastie (Clerk)
Email: lesleysylehampc@gmail.com
Gloria Elsdon (VC) 01379 668409
Malcolm Flounders (C) 01379 668413
David Goodwin
Layla Pettit 07715 609762
Steve Phillips 01379 668686
Robert Pilch 01379 668038
Steven Scott 07780 977518

WINGFIELD

Web: www.wingfield-pc.org.uk
Lesley Hastie (Clerk)
Charlotte Claxton
Robin Feavearyear 01379 586757
Tony Jolly (VC) 01379 384024
Lee Smith (C) 01379 384531
Guy Mathias 01379 388391
Dennis Murray 01379 384503

CHURCH COUNCILS

DENHAM

Helen Joslin (Sec.)
Barbara Irwin (Treas.) 01379 669077
Paul Chenery

HOXNE

Deborah Harding (Sec.) 01379 668190
Guy McGregor (CW) 01379 668434
Wilf White (CW) 07932 768900
Caroline Abbott
Andrew Castleden
David Hyde

SYLEHAM

Sarah Pilch (Sec.) 01379 668038
Julian Thompson (Treas.) 07770 582486
Sarah Buckley (CW) 01379 668480
Mary Lewis (CW) 01379 669258
Jackie Campbell 01379 668306
Lorraine Doll 01379 668637
Thelma Soanes
Jim Woodger

WINGFIELD

Patricia Grant (Treas.) 01379 384985
Jacky Taylor 01379 388355
Robert Elliott
Sarah Berry
Neil Mathias

The Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison and
Revd John McCracken are ex-officio
members of each Parochial Church
Council.

C Chair
VC Vice Chair
CW Church Warden

Contents

Front cover: A fox hunting in Hoxne
Photograph: Graham Turner
All photographs in Village Voice are subject to copyright

- 13 A Country Christmas
- 8 Aladdin
- 37 Banking Hubs
- 41 Borderhoppa
- 12 Church News & Services
- 23 Christmas Tree Festival
- 22 Christmas Snaps
- 39 Citizens Advice
- 7 Corn Hall, Diss
- 42 Crossword
- 35 Flash Fiction
- 33 Harleston Choral Society
- 33 Harleston U3A
- 9 Hoxne Film Nights
- 19 Hoxne Garden & Social Club
- 21 Hoxne Heritage Group
- 19 Hoxne Phoenix Group
- 8 Hoxne Village Hall
- 33 Library, mobile service
- 15 Little Lambs
- 25 Maynard Trust
- 26 Mellis Common
- 15 Mothers' Union
- 30 New Reeding Woods
- 40 Parish Council Reports
- 17 St Edmund's Primary School
- 28 Scouts
- 31 Spring Flower Open Garden
- 10 Syleham Wingfield Village Hall
- 5 The Well Tree singing
- 35 Waveney Heritage Centre
- 6 Wingfield Barns
- 15 World Day of Prayer

Letters to the Editor

Syleham Carol Singing

A big THANK YOU to all the singers and all those who invited us to sing. It was a cold but lovely evening and we were again reminded of the kindness and generosity of the people who live in our community. We raised £400 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice. Great!

See you next year!

Adrian and Jane

Thanks for the Books!

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly responded to our request for books in support of the church coffee morning book sale. As a result of your generosity we now have sufficient stocks to easily maintain the sale for the foreseeable future.

The coffee mornings are currently taking a winter break and will recommence on Saturday 15th March, when we look forward to seeing everyone again.

David Hyde

Diary Dates

Sun 2 Feb

Panto, Aladdin HVH p8

Tue 4 Feb

Coffee & Cake SWH p14
Little Lambs HPP p16

Fri 7 Feb

Open Mic SWH p10

Tue 11 Feb

Phoenix Group AGM, HVH p19

Wed 12 Feb

Book Club, Swan Inn Hoxne p14

Fri 14 Feb

Valentine Karaoke SWH p10
Film, The Critic HVH p9

Cont.

Diary Dates cont.

Mon 17 Feb

Mothers' Union mtg, Time House,
Hoxne p15

Tue 18 Feb

Arts Society talk, The Ashcan
Painters, Corn Hall p7
Heritage Group mtg, Hoxne Swan
p21

Wed 19 Feb

U3A talk, 'Fleeing the Red Terror'
St John's Church, Harleston p33

Thu 20 Feb

Garden Club talk, 'Closer to nature:
a Wilder Garden' HVH p19

Fri 21 Feb

Quiz SWH p11

Fri 28 Feb

Bingo SWH p10
Operetta, Die Fledermaus, Corn
Hall, Diss p7

Tue 4 Mar

Pancakes at WB p14
Little Lambs HPP p16
Scouts' HQ pop-up pancake Café
p29

Wed 5 Mar

Syleham & Wingfield Council mtg
SWH p40

Thu 6 Mar

Music workshop/concert, The Well
Tree HVH p5

Fri 7 Mar

Open Mic SWH p10
World Day of Prayer, Hoxne church
p15

Fri 14 Mar

Purplestar Karaoke SWH p10
The Ciderhouse Rebellion WB p6
Film, Conclave HVH p9

Sat 15 Mar

Bandemics Live Music! SWH p10
Coffee morning, Hoxne church p15
Scouts' Quiz HVH p29

Mon 17 Mar

Mothers' Union mtg, Time House,
Hoxne p15

Tue 18 Mar

Arts Society talk, Studio Pottery
History, Corn Hall p7
Heritage Group talk, Bulmer Brick
and Tile Company. HVH p21

Wed 19 Mar

Coffee & chat SWH p10
Little Lambs HPP p16

Thu 20 Mar

Garden Club AGM, HVH p19

Fri 21 Mar

Quiz SWH p10

Sat 22 Mar

Coffee & open morning SWH p10

Sun 23 Mar

Spring Flower Open Garden,
Brockdish IP214JY p31
Hoxne village spring clean HVH p40

Wed 26 Mar

Waveney Heritage talk, '60 Years of
Hospitality' Waveney Heritage
Centre p35

Fri 28 Mar

Bingo SWH p10

Sat 29 Mar

Music, Sam Sweeney WB p6

Wed 9 Apr

Waveney Heritage talk, 'Call The
Fire Brigade' Waveney Heritage
Centre p35

Thu 10 Apr

Play, Sophia SWH p11



Church Service dates p12-13
Corn Hall dates p7
Mobile Library dates p33
Borderhoppa dates p41

HPP	Hoxne Playing Field & Pavilion
HVH	Hoxne Village Hall
SWH	Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall
WB	Wingfield Barns

Heartwood

from Vermont U.S.A.

Thursday 6th March - Hoxne Village Hall

Workshop £10 ~ 2pm

Concert £15 ~ 7pm

Combined ticket ~ £20

Village
Voices Choir present...

Tickets from [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or scan the QR code



THE WELL TREE

an original storytelling musical



The Heartwood Trio are Vermont-based singers who are looking forward to visiting Hoxne for an afternoon and evening with Village Voices Community Choir and friends ~ Thursday 6th March. The afternoon event will be a singing workshop (with tea and coffee break) then a shared supper followed by an evening concert of the trio's nature-themed musical, "The Well Tree".

This will be accompanied by a 'crankie' ~ an illuminated, paper cut, hand-cranked scroll.

The audience will be invited to sing parts of the story.

Wingfield Barns

The Ciderhouse Rebellion



The Ciderhouse Rebellion sees virtuoso musicians Adam Summerhayes and Murray Grainger combine to produce incredible spontaneous tapestries of sound.

The pair specialise in creating music in the moment, based on traditional tunes or their own compositions - often springing from a single note, key, time signature or emotion. It's this unusually improvisatory focus that is uniquely magical. Their quest is to create music with no conscious thought between conception and playing - always searching for the unexpected and the possibility to create a deep sonic narrative that transports the audience.

Friday 14 March, 7.30pm

Tickets £14

Online sales via
[www.wegotickets.com/
event/612573](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/612573)

Sam Sweeney



Sam is a veteran of the mighty Bellowhead, former and inaugural artistic director of the National Youth Folk Ensemble, founder member of the acclaimed instrumental trio Leveret, and "Britain's Premier Fiddler" (Songlines), at the forefront of the revival in English traditional music.

After taking to the road for his first totally solo tour in 2023, Sam Sweeney is embarking on another tour - just him and a fiddle for an intimate evening of solo fiddle tunes and stories.

Saturday 29 March, 7.30pm

Tickets £18

Online sales via
[www.wegotickets.com/
event/631310](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/631310)

For more information, please contact Wingfield Barns IP21 5RA
office.manager@wingfieldbarns.co.uk www.wingfieldbarns.com

The Corn Hall, Diss

Talking about art...

We are a friendly and welcoming society that meets at the Corn Hall, Diss at 2 pm on the third Tuesday of the month to enjoy a wide range of illustrated talks about the arts, given by highly qualified speakers.



- 18 February:** The Ashcan Painters: The Eight - early 20th century founders of New York Realism.
- 18 March:** Studio Pottery: A Concise History. The Curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum explores handmade pottery in Britain from the late 19th century to the present day.
- 15 April:** The Women who Made Modernism: Paula Modersohn-Becker, Kathe Kollwitz, Gabriele Münter and Marianne von Werefkin - pioneers of German avant-garde.
- 20 May:** Textile Visionaries of Modern Art. The Textile Revolution and post war female designers.
- 17 June:** The Golden Age of Danish Painting: Landscape art showing changing Danish society between 1800 and 1850.

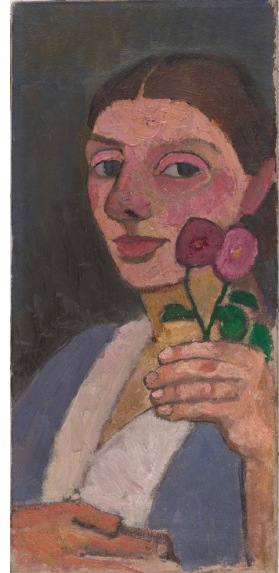
Suggested donation for guests: £8

New members and guests are always welcome

For more information: <https://artsocdiss.org.uk>
or email: info@artsocdiss.org.uk

The Corn Hall

St Nicholas Street, Diss IP22 4LB



Paula Modersohn-Becker,
1907, Self-Portrait, MOMA

Die Fledermaus, by Johann Strauss

Returning to The Corn Hall is *The Merry Opera Company* with their latest production of *Die Fledermaus*. Revel in the sparkling wit and delicious mischief of Strauss' timeless operetta.

Whether you're a seasoned opera lover or a newcomer to the world of operetta, *Merry Opera's* brilliant singers, directed by Guido Martin-Brandis with a witty English translation, promise a night of unforgettable melodies, fizzy frolics and cheeky capers.

Friday 28 February, 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm) Tickets £19

The Corn Hall

St Nicholas Street, Diss IP22 4LB
www.thecornhall.co.uk



St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne

Website: hoxnevillagehall.co.uk

In December we used the new projector facilities in the lounge/bar area, which is a warmer and cosier environment to use during the winter months. The film was a documentary called Wilding and was well received by the almost full house of film-goers.

We have two great films coming up: The Critic starring Ian McKellen for Friday 14th Feb and on March 14th Conclave, starring Ralph Fiennes who has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his role. *Note:* the film admission charge is now £5, to give us a chance of covering the film hire costs.

The new projector facilities can also be used to show PC presentations, which I

am sure will be appreciated by the various groups which use the hall for regular talks.

If you are interested in joining the volunteers who run the hall or to volunteer to work behind the bar, please drop me an email: bryn@lerwill.com.

If you would like to discuss a celebration at the hall, please email: hoxnevbookings@outlook.com.

We have three different areas that are available to hire individually or collectively, so can suit all needs.

Bryn Lerwill

Aladdin

Puzzle House Pantomimes present
A FUN-FILLED FAMILY PANTO!



**HOXNE
VILLAGE
HALL**
3.00 pm. Sunday 2nd
February 2025

IT'S LAMPTASTIC!

All tickets £7
Box Office Tel: 01379 384656

*Sunday,
2nd February 2025
3pm*

Puzzle House Pantomimes
present a traditional family
pantomime based on the
story of ALADDIN.

Join in with the songs,
solve puzzles on the way,
and try to make sure that
the wonderful Magic Lamp
does not fall into the wrong
hands!

Seven actors play a range
of characters in a show full
of songs, live keyboard
music, thrills, spills and
fun! This will be our
sixteenth year visiting
St Edmund's Hall.

The show starts at 3.00pm.
There are two acts with a
short interval.

The performance ends at
approximately 4.45pm.

[www.puzzlehousepantomimes.
weebly.com](http://www.puzzlehousepantomimes.weebly.com)

Film Nights



THE CRITIC

Friday 14th February

7:30pm £5.00 a ticket

Village Hall, Hoxne - tickets on the door
Bar open from 7pm and during interval Cert 15

THE CRITIC is a deliciously dark and sharp-witted thriller set in 1930s London featuring an all-star British cast including Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Ben Barnes, Alfred Enoch, Romola Garai and Lesley Manville. When the most feared and vicious theatre critic in town, Jimmy Erskine (McKellen), finds himself suddenly in the cross hairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner David Brooke (Strong), he strikes a sinister Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Arterton) who is desperate to win his favour.



CONCLAVE

Friday 14th March

7:30pm £5.00 a ticket

Village Hall, Hoxne - tickets on the door
Bar open from 7pm and during interval
Cert 15

Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, participating in the selection of a new pope. Surrounded by powerful religious leaders in the halls of the Vatican, he soon uncovers a trail of deep secrets that could shake the very foundation of the Roman Catholic Church.

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall, IP21 4LT

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas, New Year and Burns Night events! We had a great time!

We have plenty of regular and one-off events which we hope we can welcome you to in 2025.

The Sports and Social club at

Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall

continues to be open each Tuesday and Friday, from 8pm. The bar is open plus we have darts, books, board games, pool table and free wifi. Pop in for a couple of visits as a guest - then we would ask that you pay your annual membership of £3.50 (£3 concs) to take advantage of free and discounted events through the year, and keep us legal.



OPEN *night* *Open Mic* continues on the first Friday of the month, while Sarah from Purplestar Karaoke joins us on the second Friday of the month - free entry to both these events. We run a raffle on Karaoke night. February's Karaoke coincides with Valentine's Day so look out for 'pink' gifts in the raffle and beautiful love songs from YOU.

Our monthly *Quiz* and *Bingo* evenings raise funds for locally nominated charities and good causes. Bingo on Friday 28th February & Friday 28th March will both be for Fressingfield Scouts. The Quiz on Friday 21st February will be in aid of Hoxne



PTA at St Edmunds Primary school in Hoxne. All very welcome - ideally teams of four, £5 per person, Mars bars for team with lowest score - always huge competition for these! Contact Julie via text (07929794636) to book, or come along on the night!



Village Halls Week

**celebrating, encouraging
& supporting volunteers**
Village Halls Week
17-23 March 2025

National Village Halls Week

At the beginning of National Village Halls week, on Saturday 15th March we have LIVE MUSIC with local band *The Bandemics* booked to play! Come and join us - doors 7.30 for about 8pm. Our volunteer-manned bar will be open; we're looking forward to a great night!

Also in National Village Halls week there will be a *Coffee and Open Afternoon* on Wednesday 19th March, 1.30 - to 3pm, to coincide with the 81st anniversary of the loss of Lancaster LM 464 over Syleham in 1944. There is also a Coffee and Open Morning on Saturday 22nd March, 10 to 11.30am.

The Quiz on Friday 21st March will be in aid of our village hall, in National Village Halls week - details as 21st Feb. We look forward to seeing you at our village hall.

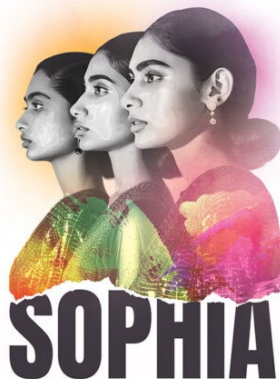
Dates for your diaries include:

Thursday 10th April - 'Sophia'

Eastern Angles professional touring theatre - Sophia Duleep Singh was born into royalty and grew up to be a revolutionary. Returning from India with a bold new sense of bravery, Sophia uses her status to become a beacon in the fight for women's suffrage and Indian independence.



See Eastern Angles' website for booking, or contact Julie to reserve a place and pay on the night.



Saturday 10th May - LIVE MUSIC with 'Herding Cats'

Local band - Roy Goodwin et al.

Julie Thompson
Text 07929 794636
juliethompson435@gmail.com

Syleham and Wingfield Sports and Social Club
present:

QUIZ EVENING

Friday 21st February

7.30 for 8pm start

Teams of 4
£5 per person

Buy crisps and chocolate from the bar or bring your own snacks.

Obviously there will be traditional Mars bars
for the lowest scoring team!

To book call or text Julie 07929 794636
or come along on the night

Syleham and Wingfield village hall IP21 4LT

In aid of: Hoxne PTA



SPRING UP

As I write this, the weather is still very cold and it does not feel at all spring-like. But the days are getting longer and the buds are appearing on the trees - spring really is on the way. It's a time of renewal for nature. We can take our cue from the plants and the nesting birds and make it a time of renewal for us as well. In the church spring is very much a time of growth and renewal, through the discipline of Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday, 5th March this year), looking forward to Easter and the resurrection of our Lord (20th April).

It's a time of change in the Church of England nationally as a new Archbishop of Canterbury is sought and in Suffolk as Bishop Martin retires at the end of February. God says, "I am making all things new" and we look forward with prayer and hopefulness to the new things which he will bring forth this year.

In our churches locally we also have some new ideas, starting with our new Eco-All Age service which will be taking place monthly at 4.00 pm on the last Sunday of the month at Hoxne, starting on 26th January, with further dates on 23rd February and 23rd March. We'll be exploring Hoxne churchyard and learning about the natural life within it before going inside the church for an informal service. Everyone is very welcome to join in - wellies might be useful!

Revd Eleanor Goodison
eleanor.goodison@gmail.com
Tel: 07876 143579

Church Services

*Denham, Hoxne, Syleham
& Wingfield*

Planned church services February/March

Every Friday: Compline at 6.00 pm
on Zoom

February

*Sunday 2nd February
Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)*

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Athelington

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield

*Sunday 9th February
Fourth Sunday before Lent*

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

4.00 pm Messy Church, Syleham and
Wingfield Village Hall - *note: change to
usual date*

*Sunday 16th February
Third Sunday before Lent*

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

10.00 am Village Service, Syleham

11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham

6.00 pm Evensong, Wingfield

*Sunday 23rd February
Second Sunday before Lent*

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham

11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne

4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

March

*Sunday 2nd March
Sunday next before Lent*

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Athelington

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Hoxne
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Wingfield
4.00 pm Messy Church, Syleham and
Wingfield Village Hall

Wednesday 5th March
Ash Wednesday

7.00 pm CW Holy Communion, Denham

Sunday 9th March
First Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion,
Redlingfield

9.30 for 10.00 am Café Church, Hoxne

Sunday 16th March
Second Sunday of Lent

9.30 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
10.00 am Village Service, Syleham
11.15 am BCP Holy Communion, Horham
6.00 pm Evensong, Wingfield

Sunday 23rd March
Third Sunday of Lent

9.30 am BCP Holy Communion, Syleham
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Denham
11.00 am CW Holy Communion, Hoxne
4.00 pm All Age service, Hoxne

Sunday 30th March
Fourth Sunday of Lent

11.00 am Benefice Holy Communion,
Syleham

St Margaret's, Syleham

Benefice Messy Church enjoyed their Christmas party and gave the entertainer Wayne Goodman a run for his money with their clever attempts at guessing his magic tricks. Our grateful thanks to the Social Club for funding this entertainment.

Our Carol Service attracted record attendance and enjoyed impressive renderings of some beautiful music by the Amici Singers alongside traditional

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

22 December 2024

Weak midwinter sun piercing through
the ageless glass
Lighting up the faces of the
congregation,
In rows, filling the small ancient church
at Syleham.

A ribbon of habitation along the valley
bottom,
With the church on a mound beside a
meandering river,
The slow currents carrying time along
with it
as it has done forever,
with voices of Christmas past.

People of the village have travelled here
Through muddy lanes and fields,
Following the long used track from the
cross,
Sometimes leaving footprints behind in
the snow.

They come wrapped as best possible
against
The wind that can penetrate any barrier,
To gratefully arrive and huddled
together
In the shelter of this pile of stones
Hidden from view like a secret
From the world.

Now we still come to take part and
listen
To a reassuring message,
Passed on from generations.
There will be Christmas carols
Whose words etched in our minds,
That we sing in a variety of keys.
Singing with those who have sung before
us.
The fabric of the building holding a
thousand memories.

On special occasions a choir
Will come to this place
To join us and sing
Mysterious words from heaven
In the most glorious tones,
That fill us with joy
For the celebrations to come.

Jean Marshall, Syleham



readings and congregational carols. We are most grateful to Adrian Knott and his friends, some of whom travelled a long way to be with us. The floral arrangements in the church were delightful.

Christmas Day saw a short and simple all-age service and it was lovely to have some children to help with the visual aids!

Coffee and Cake will continue on 4th February and a repeat visit from a helpful Suffolk Healthwatch representative is expected. This is a friendly drop-in café open between 10am and 11.30am, with free coffee and home-made cake, and may also be open on 4th March (subject to confirmation).

Church repairs and maintenance have been completed and we continue to be grateful for local fund-raising efforts and for grants from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, the Round Tower Churches Society and Benefact Trust. Our next fund-raising efforts are likely to be directed towards the delayed restoration of the Commandment Boards and repair of the ancient wardens' chest.

St Margaret's is open every day for visitors and for private prayer; we know from comments in the visitors' book that this is very much appreciated.

Contact for all above:
mary.lewis43@icloud.com
 01379 669258/07775 732259

Mary Lewis

St Andrew's, Wingfield

Sadly the Wingfield Barns Christmas Market was cancelled for this year but our stall put in an appearance at the Carols by Candlelight instead, alongside the mince pies and mulled wine. It was lovely to see so many people there, and at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, where the young actors playing the angel, shepherd, sheep (with excellent sound effects) and wise men did a great job!

The December Book Club meeting was postponed to January when we talked about *Busman's Honeymoon* by Dorothy L Sayers, which proved to be a controversial choice. The next meeting will be at 5.00 pm on **Wednesday 12th February** at the Swan in Hoxne, when the book will be *Mrs Bridge* by Evan S Connell.

Don't miss the now-traditional pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, 10.00 am to 12 noon on **4th March** at Wingfield Barns. *Note:* this is not the regular coffee morning date as that would be too far away from Pancake Day.

Revd Canon Eleanor Goodison

St Peter & St Paul's, Hoxne

I sat at the computer ready to write and my mind went blank - and then I remembered reading on social media of somebody from another Benefice complaining about their church being locked over the holiday season.

Hoxne church was unlocked every day, thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers. I do understand the problem though. Many people go to spend Christmas and New Year with relatives so the pool of volunteers becomes smaller; things do go wrong, people get sick, washing machines spring a leak... Back in the summer the church remained closed for a few hours because plaster had fallen in the porch of the church.

However we do aim to open the church every day; in the winter months from 9am to 4pm and summer months 9am to 5pm and everyone is welcome in. But please remember that the key holders are volunteers, and if they are 10 minutes late there will be a good reason.

I was asked if I could attach to my report some exciting words about the churchyard, and in a way it is about 'volunteering'. The PCC is delighted to announce that we have been able to secure the services of the Community Payback Scheme to assist us with the maintenance of the churchyard. The Scheme is operated by the Probation Service and involves individuals who have found themselves in a situation where they are required to give something back to the community as part of their rehabilitation. The group will be working in the churchyard for a few hours on the fourth Saturday of each month, beginning on Saturday, 25th January. There will be up to six individuals who will be fully supervised at all times by the Probation Service and members of the church will also be getting involved. This is a fantastic opportunity to not only get on top of the churchyard with regard to maintenance, but also to forge links and help in the rehabilitation of those who have, for whatever reason, found themselves in a difficult place.

The church is excited to be involved in this project. It is hoped over the coming months to be able to concentrate on areas of the churchyard that need some work, such as redefining the car park, defining some of the paths, sorting out rogue saplings growing through graves and keeping the sheds, benches and gates in good order.

The PCC is very grateful to those individuals who regularly attend family graves in the churchyard and help to keep things looking tidy and we do hope you will continue to be involved if you are able.

It is intended to develop the wilding of some areas of the churchyard to help with wild flora and fauna, and to create a nature trail with information boards, as there are some ancient and very interesting parts of the churchyard that would be of great interest to the community.

Finally, church coffee mornings resume on **15th March** at 9.45am - we hope to see you there.

Deborah Harding
01379 668190

Mothers' Union

The Hoxne Mothers' Union Fellowship Group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm at Time House, Low Street Hoxne.

Monday 17th February meeting.
Monday 17th March meeting.

New members are always welcome at our Fellowship Group.

Cathie McGregor
Group Leader 01379 668434

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

The annual World day of Prayer service will be at Hoxne church on

Friday 7th March

with coffee served from 10am
followed by the service
at 10.30am.

This year it has been written by the women of the Cook Islands with the theme of
'I will make you wonderful'.

Everyone will be warmly welcomed.

Mary Lewis and Cathie McGregor

Little Lambs

Little Lambs had some fun sessions in November creating angels to hang on their tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at Hoxne Church.

In December they met at the church on a Wednesday morning where they held a crib service led by Revd Eleanor, during which they placed Mary and Joseph and the visitors in the crib. The children then decorated their tree with their handmade angels, and of course the lambs they created two years ago that come out every year!





This year we were delighted to welcome children from the Reception class at St Edmund's Primary to join us for the service and they had also been busy making angels to hang on the tree so it was a great joint effort.

All the children were then given the very important task of decorating the tree on behalf of the residents and staff at the Depperhaugh Care Home. The children were delighted to be able to do this - a special relationship has been formed between Little Lambs, St Edmund's Primary School and the Depperhaugh, with letters and cards being sent back and forth.

The value in this connection works all ways - the children have been talking about old age and loneliness and it helped them focus on how to bring a smile to the older generation; and the residents at the care home were thrilled to receive cards and letters from the children.

Little Lambs will be continuing to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and

the third or fourth Wednesday of each month (it will always be two weeks after the Tuesday meeting). The Tuesday sessions are from 12.30 - 2.30 pm (don't forget to bring your packed lunch), and the Wednesday sessions from 9.30 - 11.30 am. The Reception and Nursery children at St Edmund's primary are hoping to be able to join us for some of these sessions and it will be lovely to be able to continue to create these links.

Our meetings in February and March are on Tuesday 4th February, Tuesday 4th March and Wednesday 19th March. There will be no Wednesday meeting in February as it will be half term.

For further information please contact Caroline at cabbott364@gmail.com

Caroline Abbott



BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

**1st TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
12.30 - 2.30 pm**

**3rd or 4th WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
(ALWAYS 2 WEEKS AFTER
TUESDAY MEETING)
9.30 - 11.30 am
Term time only**

**Tuesday, 4th February
Tuesday, 4th March
Wednesday, 19th March**

The Pavilion, Hoxne Playing Field IP21 5AD

CRAFTS/SINGING/PLAY

**Babies and under 5s are welcome but you must
be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

**For further information e-mail
cabbott364@gmail.com**

St Edmund's Primary School

December was a very busy time for St Edmunds Primary!

Our youngest pupils performed their 'Wriggly Nativity' to two packed audiences! Their confidence shone through and they were so happy in all of their roles.

The school also received their OFSTED Report from the recent inspection. The report was very positive and welcomed by both staff and parents as a true reflection of the everyday work of St Edmunds.

The school held their celebration of Christmas service at St Peter and St Paul's Church. Pupils read poems and prayers they had written, many songs were sung by the school and staff performed a Christmas poem, as well as all Year 5 and 6 pupils performing a number of pieces of music using their brass instruments. Many of the families packed the church and it was a great way to end the term.

2025 has begun and there is a lot to look forward for the school. Our oldest pupils are off to the London Science Museum - this is a very exciting opportunity for all the pupils. Carbon monoxide workshops are planned across the school - an important aspect of everyday life that we feel is important to educate our children about.

Our Pupil Responsibility roles continue to flourish with pupils leading both whole school assemblies and events. These will focus on Chinese New Year, Mental Health week and looking at both Road Safety and staying safe online.

As always we welcome visits from the local community - please get in touch with the school on 01379 668283.

Simon Lea, Academy Head

St Edmunds Primary School

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

We would like to invite you to come and visit our school. We work collaboratively to create an environment which provides the best opportunities for all of our learners

- ✓ See our school in action
- ✓ Meet our wonderful staff and pupils
- ✓ Get your questions answered

For More Information
Call : 01379 668283
Email : office.stedmunds@consortiumtrust.org.uk



TREE MENDERS



Environmental Arboriculture



TREE SURGERY.
HEDGE CUTTING/LAYING.
FIREWOOD.



TREE PLANTING.
TREE FELLING.
STUMP GRINDING.

Free Quotes and advice.
treemenders@yahoo.com
www.treemendersnorfolk.co.uk

Established 2004. Fully qualified and insured.
01379 853070 07905 750070



» CLEAN & FRIENDLY SERVICE

» FULLY INSURED

» SMOKE TESTS

» INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

» CCTV INSPECTIONS

» COMPETITIVE RATES

PLEASE CALL 01986 799175 ICS

REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

LESTER MAYES

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Friendly, local service*
- Carpet & fabric protectors applied*
- Moth treatments available*

01728 660186
07867 681571



Automotive Repairs

Unit 4
Corner Green Farm
Wingfield Green
Wingfield
IP21 5RE

Servicing
Diagnostics
Air-conditioning
Brakes
Exhausts
Tyres
Wheel Alignment
MOTs

Phone:
07769 968160
01379 388378

www.jrautomotiverepairs.co.uk
Email: enquiries@jrautomotiverepairs.co.uk

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

- INSTALLATIONS • EMPTYING • SERVICING •
- REPAIRS • DRAIN JETTING •
- DRAIN CAMERA SURVEYS •
- DRAINAGE WORKS • DIGGER WORKS •



LENNY JOLLY 07905 794221

www.septictankservices.co.uk



Hoxne Garden & Social Club

Another gardening year over and we can start looking forward to spring and another cycle of planting, tending, pruning and harvesting. Although it will be a while before we can get out there and really get stuck in, this is a good time for planning, sitting in the warm with the seed catalogues and also to clean and service tools etc.

On the Garden Club front, unfortunately our November talk was cancelled due to the speaker being ill and at such short notice we didn't have time to organise a replacement.



The good news is that the talk on Owls has been rescheduled for **16th October** this year.

The Christmas get-together in December went very well with Peter Webster's excellent quiz and an amazing array of food brought and shared by members.

In January Stacey Cronley-Dillon is giving a talk about honey bees.



The club have been asked to help prune and tidy the Community Orchard on Wittons Lane, which will take place on Saturday 18th January.

On **20th February** Jim Paine will return and give a talk titled 'Closer to nature: a Wilder Garden' and on **20th March** we will hold our AGM with Cheese and Wine.



Our April talk will be by Jane Steward from Eastgate Larder talking about reviving the medlar.

Wishing you all a productive and enjoyable gardening year.

Jeanette Lerwill
jeanette@lerwill.com

Hoxne Phoenix Group

I start my report by wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

Inspirational speaker Jenni Baker entertained us all whilst effortlessly making four truly impressive floral displays in November.



During the same month we ventured off to the Sandringham Craft, Food and Gift Fair. With a chilly wind blowing, the plethora of hot chocolate and mulled wine stalls came to our rescue. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

Our final speaker for the year was Gill from Ruby Grace Candles (Brome). How wonderful to have such special products available on our doorstep for everyday use.

We will be welcoming Carol Spenser in January - 'My accidental (and often hilarious), forty year career in the AbFab world of fashion PR, journalism and TV presenting'. What a great start to the new year!

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday, 11th February**.

A date for your diary is **Wednesday, 14th May**. We will be visiting **East Ruston Old Vicarage** via Wroxham Barns. Entrance and transport will be arranged. The cost will be £35 per person. Members, family, guests and neighbours are all welcome. For further information please email me.

I'll end on two housekeeping matters. We made £320 profit from our **Race Night** in October. We donated £270 to the Waveney Food Bank and £50 to the Hoxne village hall as a contribution to the new projector. In addition, we have decided that our nominated charity for 2025 will be the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The Phoenix Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the lounge of Hoxne village hall. We also meet monthly for a local walk and again for a coffee and chat. New members and guests from Hoxne and surrounding villages are always welcome.

Daphne Cook
daphnec.cook@yahoo.co.uk

R GRITTON

Professional Decorators
High quality, reliable service

**For all your interior and
exterior requirements**

Telephone: 01379 586768

Mobile: 07766 982600

Traditional Oak Carpentry

Carpentry Repairs

**New Oak Homes
and Extensions**

Garden Structures

Condition Reports

3D Design Service

01449 768817

www.traditionaloakcarpentry.co.uk



Catholic Parish of
The Most Holy Trinity
Church of St Henry Morse
Shelfanger Road, Diss IP12 4DX
Parish Priest: Father Alex Anaman
Tel: 01379 642914
parishpriest@holymtrinitydiss.plus.com

Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6pm
Saturday: 10am
Sunday: 10am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.30pm
No Mass Monday, Tuesday or Thursday

Please check the website and newsletters
for Mass times on Holy Days
Confession: Saturday 10:45

Contacts:

office@holymtrinitydiss.com

alex.anaman@rcdea.org.uk



Debbie Corbyn Counselling

Person Centred Support
for
All Ages

07935 122685
debbiecorbyn9@gmail.com

- Anxiety • Stress • Low Mood • Feeling Lost
- Low Self Esteem • School Anxieties • Behaviour
- Anger Management & Attendance

Over 20 years experience

Soil Association Member AG25612



Anglian Organics
Organic Fruit & Veg

Delivery to your village every Wednesday

Mobile 07748 156953

Email for produce list

anglian.organics@outlook.com



**CRYSTAL
CLEAN**

Specialist Cleaning Services

Carpet Hard Floor Upholstery

07984 648 296 ☎ 01379 678 806

info@crystalclean.services

www.crystalclean.services

NCCB
NATIONAL CLEANING CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATE MEMBER 2009

Hoxne Heritage Group

hoxnehistory.org.uk

On Tuesday 18th of February Hoxne Heritage Group members will meet at The Swan in Hoxne at 7.30pm to chat and discuss all things relating to the history of the people of Hoxne and the local area; houses, past and present, interesting local finds and historically interesting artefacts. The general public are welcome to sample a trial members' meeting or two without joining the group. We are actively recruiting new members and will welcome your thoughts and ideas for the coming year.

Bulmer Brick and Tile Company

On Tuesday 18th of March our series of talks continue at the village hall in Hoxne. This time we are pleased to welcome Peter Minter of Bulmer Brick and Tile Company. In the words of Peter Minter, "My father, Lawrence Minter, took over this brickworks in 1936 when he was thirty-five. It had been here for hundreds of years, with the earliest evidence dating from 1450, and it was a typical local brickworks. His uncle, FG Minter, was a builder in London and my father was brought up by him as a surveyor."



Examples of Banham Bricks, originally made in Hoxne at Banham Brickworks

*Link to the Banham Walls talk:
[Banham Walls Talk | HHG PDF Viewer](#)*



"Before my father could get established, the war came along and shut the place down. There were thirty-five or thirty-six people working here but a lot got called up and we went down to about six or seven men. We made land drainpipes for the Ministry of Supplies, and that was what kept us going. Those men were old or infirm, but they kept the skills alive."

"I was taught by those skilled men who had been born in the nineteenth century and brought up as brick makers. Without realising, I learned all the old secrets of brick making but it was only when I knew that this was the direction of my life that I decided I had to save it and started using the old techniques that had been forgotten rather than the new. This is what makes us unique."

"I have spent my whole life working here and I probably know more about making bricks than anyone alive. The business has changed and yet it has not changed, because the essence is the same."

"When my father reopened after the war, everything was already beginning to change. There was so little trade in brick-making that he got into the restoration business."

As usual, this talk will start at 7.30pm and will cost £5 at the door (or just £3 for HHG members). The bar will be open from 7pm and all members of the public are welcome.

To learn more and possibly to become a member of the Hoxne Heritage Group please visit our website at:
www.hoxnehistory.org.uk

On the website you will find a host of useful and interesting facts, information and photographs and will learn much more of the fascinating history of Hoxne and surrounding villages. Or pick up one of our new pamphlets at the village hall, where you will find details of joining without having to go online. The cost of joining HHG is very modest at just £10 per year.

Rob Hooker, Publicity Officer
hoxnehistory.org.uk

HOXNE CHRISTMAS SNAPS



Carol service with Village Voices choir



Christmas Tree Festival

This year our Christmas Tree Festival in the church was as successful as ever. Once again through the splendid efforts of many local groups and individuals we were able to have a full array of trees and decorations in place for the annual carol service.



1st Fressingfield Scouts, with their tree

A significant amount of time and effort goes into the planning and execution of the event and as ever we are indebted to the regular tree team without whom the festival would not take place. In addition, this year a special thank you goes out to Gill Carter who, in a busy life, took the time and trouble to carry out a much-needed complete refurbishment of all the display boards.



Finally, thank you to everyone who came along to visit the church and give us such encouraging feedback. It really makes it all worthwhile.

David Hyde
davidjhyde@btopenworld.com



**Daily Care
Suffolk
Ltd**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXTRA CARE AND SUPPORT
TO HELP YOU REMAIN INDEPENDENT
WITHIN YOUR OWN HOME AND COMMUNITY?**

Daily Care Suffolk (previously known as The Daily Care Agency, established 2005) is a locally based, small and friendly team of carers providing the local community with trustworthy and reliable home care for the elderly.

**ARE YOU A CARER?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE?**

We are currently recruiting kind, caring individuals in this area. Previous experience is an advantage but not essential, as full training and mentoring will be provided.

***WE TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING TIME TO CARE,
AND OFFER INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT
TO OUR CLIENTS.***

You will have the opportunity to:

- * Work flexible shift patterns
- * Be paid above the living wage rate, with mileage pay and paid travelling time between clients
- * Be part of a small and friendly team.

For further information, please contact:
01379 388438 or 07535 077081
or email: OFFICE@DAILYCARESUFFOLK.CO.UK

HIGH BANKS
ATHELINGTON ROAD, HORHAM, EYE, SUFFOLK IP21 5EH



Boxing Day Tug-of-War

The Maynard Trust

Support for educational needs

The Trust is there to be used. Its funds are available to all who live in Hoxne, irrespective of age, who might have difficulty in meeting the costs of educational need. Grants are given subject to funds being available by the Trust.

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Maynard Trust:

30th April 2025

for the May/June Trust mtg.

Just write or email (preferably the applicant rather than a parent or guardian) to:

Richard Giffin (Trustee)
54 Low Street, Hoxne
IP21 5AS

richard.giffin@yahoo.co.uk

Please include an email address for quick correspondence.

CORNER CLASSICS & ENGINEERING LTD AGRICULTURAL & AUTOMOTIVE

SPECIALISTS IN CLASSIC CAR AND TRACTOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION



OPEN
MON-FRI 8-5 PM
SAT 8-12 PM

VISIT THE SHOP FOR

- A RANGE OF LAWN MOWERS AND OTHER GARDEN EQUIPMENT (SOLD & REPAIRED)
- HYDRAULIC HOSE & PTO STOCKISTS
- FABRICATION/ PARTS
- LUBRICANTS, OILS & ANTI FREEZE



07735207494

JAMIE@CORNERCLASSICS.CO.UK

LAXFIELD ROAD, STRADBROKE, SUFFOLK IP21 5NL

*How about a stroll around
Mellis Common,
followed by a visit to
The Mill @ Mellis,
homeware & furniture
store?*

We went on a trip to Mellis Common, having heard it was a good place for a walk. What I hadn't expected to find was probably the best homewares shop in this area. It's a unique, family-run business, full of items that look as though they've been chosen with real care. It's huge, full of beautiful furniture and interesting things for the home, with a Clearance hall. We bought a sofa in the sale; there were also lovely leather handbags, prices reduced by 25%, which I managed to resist.



Here is an extract from Suffolk Wildlife Trust's description of Mellis Common:

"While many great commons were enclosed and lost forever, Mellis somehow escaped this fate and now provides a glimpse of what large parts of the county used to look like. If the land itself is the same - the Hodgkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk depicts an outline of the Common that is entirely recognisable -



the same is also true of the management techniques used to look after it. Farmed by the common-rights holders using traditional hay cutting and grazing for centuries, the Trust continues to manage it in largely the same way today, ensuring the site retains its fragile blooms and abundant wildlife. In summer rare plants such as green-winged orchid, sulphur clover and adder's tongue fern flourish, while the abundance of small mammals also makes the site a favourite hunting ground for barn owl and tawny owl.

"Once a source of clay for building, the Common is awash with ponds and wet depressions that add to the variety of plant and animal life, including great crested newts. The western end of the Common is botanically poorer due to the fact that it was ploughed and farmed more intensively during World War II but is still culturally interesting. Residents tell stories of how local children would police the gates that used to enclose cattle, earning pennies from the passing traffic.

"A good place to start any walk around the Common is from the village's eye-catching red phone box, now complete with stained glass windows, but it is worth noting Mellis is no ordinary reserve. This is not a place of tracks and trails, but a living breathing farmed landscape to be explored and enjoyed - something captured so beautifully by the village's most famous resident, the late, great Roger Deakin."



Mobile Barber & Hairdresser

Affordable prices

All in the convenience
of your own home

Tel: 01379 384186 / 07982 538252

Dapperanddivine24@gmail.com

Computer Repair & IT Support

Fast, Friendly and Understandable

PCs, Laptops, Printers,
Tablets, Virus Removal,
Tune Ups & Upgrades,
Broadband Problems,
Networks etc.

Home User or Small Business
We Can Help You!

Hexpek.it

07908 222428 - 01379 668150

www.callthecomputerguy.co.uk

Fressingfield Scouts

The Scout Group closed over the Christmas and New Year break and aside from a few small maintenance and cleaning projects the Leader team had a break. That said, most teams will have spent a bit of time planning and organising the programme for 2025. Apart from Section evening meetings and activities there will be our Group Camp in early May to organise, the County Scouts Water Activities Weekend in late May, and our local Jamboree, Norjam, at Norfolk Showground in the summer to attend. The Leader team will also have a training and teambuilding weekend during half term in February.



For the end of term both Scout Troops and the Explorers spent an energetic evening bouncing on trampolines at Jump in Diss and the other Sections had parties at their final sessions.



Other activities have included Wolves Cubs tubing at the Ipswich dry ski slope, Warrior Beavers making peppermint creams, Tigers Cubs making

presentations about their various hobbies, Pioneer Troop Scouts' younger members making flagpoles in a mini pioneering session, and resuscitation as part of first aid training for Explorers.

On one particularly memorable evening Pioneer Troop members were challenged to protect a fresh egg from a 3 metre drop onto concrete. The older members each made a plan, selected and brought in the materials then teamed up with younger members to build the protection. Methods included filling a cardboard box with the filling from a pillow and putting the egg in the middle, wrapping the egg well then



Fressingfield Scout Group

Quiz Night

Hoxne Village Hall
Saturday 15 March

7.30pm start

Teams of up to six

Bar and Raffle

Bring a picnic for half time!

(No alcohol please as bar will be open)

£6.00 a head



To book email

michaelknightshoxne@gmail.com

or phone 01379 668060

protecting the packet with balloons, and putting the egg in a Tupperware box surrounded with flour. Incredibly all 7 eggs survived - the learning for the evening was that planning and preparation pays off!

Our Santa Run went very well with around 26 entrants of all ages running

around the village. The finish line was at the village Christmas market at the Sancroft Hall/Fox and Goose yard where we ran a few stalls and a barbeque. Several people came and spoke to us and it was good to hear so much positive comment about the Scouts. Sincere thanks to everyone that supported us on the day.

We were pleased to provide and decorate a Christmas tree at both the Weybread and Hoxne Church Christmas tree festivals (see photo, p23).

Continuing the fundraising theme, Pioneer Troop are again running their Pop-Up Pancake Café at the HQ on Shrove **Tuesday 4th March** from 6 to 7.30 pm. If you fancy going out for your pancake this year, please come and support us. We are also organising a quiz evening at Hoxne village hall on Saturday 15th March.

Finally, a message from Andrew, our Group Lead Volunteer:

"It's been a great year at 1st Fressingfield Scout Group. We have grown in number, offering more activities and more opportunities to more young people. We need your help in 2025; we have a strong team of leaders and adult volunteers but we have a growing waiting list of young people wanting to join the adventure. We need more adults to join our supportive and experienced team."

"Email me: gsl@fressingfieldscouts.com for more information"



New Reeding Woods

The winter sun was shining as I walked through the woods in early January. The ground was water-logged and the pond full. The sound of water running in the ditches brought to mind the weather saying "February fill dyke". Crab apples, now all fallen from the trees, lay in pools of water throughout the meadow by the pond. After the dry summer I tried to be grateful for the wet and mud. Looking up at the winter branches bare against the sky changes your perspective.

The alder was looking stunning with its deep purple male catkins and smaller red female catkins. Last year's cones were still hanging and the new buds were

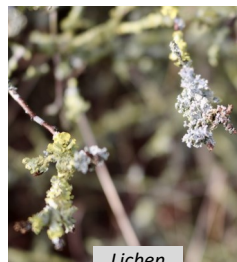


Alder catkins

starting to show purple and pointed on the twigs. The hazels also had silvery green catkins standing out at the edge of the ride. The white papery bark of the silver birch caught my eye as I walked. At ground level the mosses are

thriving around the base of the trees, enjoying the damp and shady conditions. Higher up on the branches, lichens were catching the sun and adding a spot of colour to the edges of the path.

A squirrel was busy in the oak at the entrance to the meadow but would not stay still for a photo. The sloes are going over but some rose hips still showed red in the hedge. A brambling flew into the woods from the adjoining field, distinguished from a chaffinch by its bright white rump.



Lichen

In the bare branches it is easier to spot last year's nests, some still looking neat and tidy though damp. Hopefully the bird boxes will be used this year and possibly the owl box as well.

Walking in the meadow always lifts my spirits and I hope that it will be enjoyed by all who visit this year. Winter should be on its way out and spring arriving when you read this.

If you are interested in joining the New Reeding Woods Group and getting hands-on experience of improving our local environment and enjoying outdoor activities, please contact our secretary Penny Conway on 07495 875299.



Brambling



Spring Flower Open Garden

Sunday 23rd March

11am to 4pm

**The Old Coach House,
The Street, Brockdish IP214JY**

Adults £4 children free accompanied by an adult

**2 acres of woodland and gardens
leading down to the river Waveney**

**Teas and Refreshments available.
Jams, Craft Stalls, Tombola**

Dogs welcome on leads

In aid of:

**East Anglia Air Ambulance; St Elizabeth Hospice;
Prostate Cancer UK; PACT animal sanctuary
and local charities**

Jackie and John Spooner

Nick Fulcher

Plasterer & Floor Screeder
FREE ESTIMATES

Telephone 01379 642979

Michael Bloomfield Electrical Services

Part P Compliant



All Domestic & Commercial work
Fuse boards, Fault finding
New wiring / re-wiring
Testing & Inspection
EICR

07590 507307

www.bloomfield-electrical.com

Ed's PLAICE

Traditional Fish and Chips

- Wednesdays: serving from 3 - 7pm
PULHAM MARKET, The Green
- Thursdays: serving from 4 - 7pm
HOXNE, The Playing Field Pavilion
- Fridays: serving from 4 - 7pm
WORTHAM, Common

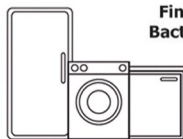
Tel: 01379 741967

Mob: 07904 231006

Doug Aiken part of

DK Appliances Ltd

**Domestic Appliance Repairs,
Sales of New and Reconditioned Machines**



Finbows Yard, Station Road,
Bacton, Stowmarket IP14 4NH

**Telephone:
01449 780398**



SCOTT REGAN

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Professional, clean & qualified service

- Industry standard certificate issued with every sweep
- Brush & HEPA filtered vacuum • Power sweeping
- Chimney cowl fitted • Tar removal from chimney
- Full public liability insurance

Tel: 01379 678881

Mob: 07962 207846 / 07740 008456

Email: info@scottreganchimneysweeping.co.uk

www.scottreganchimneysweeping.co.uk



SCOTT REGAN

WINDOW CLEANING

- All domestic & commercial windows cleaned
- Inside and outside cleans available • Builders first cleans • Solar panels cleaned • Fascias, soffits & gutters cleaned • Conservatory roofs cleaned
- Patio & driveway cleaning also undertaken
- Full public liability insurance

Tel: 01379 678881 Mob: 07962 207846 / 07740 008456

Email: info@scottreganwindowcleaning.co.uk

www.scottreganwindowcleaning.co.uk



JD Tree Services

& COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT LTD

- Tree removal, felling or reduction
- Site clearance
- Hedge cutting
- Stump grinding
- Chipping
- Waste removal

**Professionally trained, fully insured,
friendly service**
Call today for a free no obligation quote

City & Guilds
NPTC
Qualified

tel: 01379 671285/07736 311782

email: info@jdtrees.co.uk

web: jdtrees.co.uk

Checkatrade

Harleston Choral Society



We're now well into our 25th anniversary year, singing Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, which will be the highlight of the year at our Summer Concert on 28 June, with the choir of Harleston Sancroft Academy.

It's never too late to join us. We're a friendly community choir and we welcome everybody (especially potential Tenors), whether or not they've sung in a choir before, and there are no auditions. We meet for practices on Monday evenings from 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Free parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS) car park almost opposite.

We have lots of events to celebrate twenty-five years of wonderful music and we hope that you'll enjoy them with us.

Please see our website: www.harlestonchoral.org.uk for more information about HCS (and our 25th anniversary), or from Caroline Rodbourne, caroline@rodbourne.org.uk 01986 782545 or Jo Curry, jo.curry@sky.com 07768 544005

University of the 3rd Age

Harleston & District u3a would like to invite you to the second of our 2025 monthly talks:

Fleeing the Red Terror

19 February, 2.00 pm
St John's Church, Harleston.

Ron French, a Beccles u3a member, will be talking about the flight of a wealthy young family from the depredation of Lenin's campaign of political repression and executions in Soviet Russia, carried out by the Bolsheviks.



Visitors welcome, admission £3.00 including refreshments.

For further information please visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/harleston or contact Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

Suffolk Libraries – Mobile Library Routes

Denham & Wingfield Calling every 4 weeks on **Thursdays**

Next stops: **6 February & 6 March**

Wingfield, Vicarage Road layby (near Church Road): 10.50-11.05am

Denham post box: 11.25-11.35am

Syleham, Brome & Oakley Calling every 4 weeks on **Tuesdays**

Next stops: **4 February & 4 March**

Syleham, Wingfield Road (Junction with Weybread Road): 11.45-11.55am

Brome & Oakley village hall: 12.15-12.30pm

ACORN TREES

Professional advice & work

TREE SURGERY

Crown Reductions

Section Felling

Dead Wooding

Felling

Hedge Management

Garden Work

Landscaping

Fencing

ADAM PICKESS

Merrist Wood College

City & Guilds Tree Surgery

Full public liability insurance

FREE ESTIMATES

Telephone: 01379 588122

Mobile: 07776 235006



**DISS SELF
STORAGE**

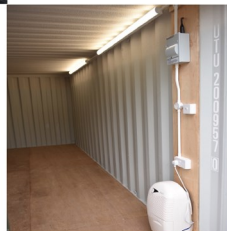
07757 689988

www.DissSelfStorage.co.uk



**For all your
Commercial &
Personal
Storage Needs**

**Also Click &
Collect Boxes
& Packaging**



**DAN TO EARTH
ELECTRICAL**

dantoelectrical.co.uk

COMMERCIAL, DOMESTIC & INDUSTRIAL

Covering the whole of Norfolk & Suffolk,
by choosing Dan To Earth Electrical Ltd.
you can guarantee a reliable, well-priced
and high-quality service.

**Danny Lamb
Electrician**

**Horham, Suffolk
danlamb@live.co.uk**

07756 204 354



01379 384 889

HANDYMAN SERVICES EYE

All manner of repairs
improvements & general building
works undertaken large & small.

Friendly reliable honest work.

Please call Mark

07818 088080

01379 871399



**Safe & Sound
Hygiene and Pest Control**

For ALL your Domestic
and Commercial Pest Control

No obligation – Free Survey / Quotes

Call us to discuss your pests

01379 788865

safeandsoundhygieneandpestcontrol.co.uk

Waveney Heritage Centre

Brockdish IP21 4JP

During February and March the Heritage Centre will be open for the radio museum on the last Sunday of the month from 10am until 3pm. Our collection of vintage audio equipment is expanding and changing all the time, so if you have not visited for a while then come and have a look.

Our first talk of the year is on **26th March** at 7.30pm, when Robin Twigge will be offering some insight into working in the hospitality business, entitled '60 Years of Hospitality, or 60 years of being Patiently Hospitable'. He is currently owner of the Swan Hotel in Harleston. Entrance will be £5.00 unless of course you are a member of the centre when it will be £4.00.

For the diary, make a note that in April on Wednesday 9th at 7.30pm there will be a talk by Chris Wisken and Gordon Lascelles, entitled 'Call The Fire Brigade', looking at the various forms of the local fire service in Harleston over the last two and a half centuries.

The centre also welcomes enquiries about local history in the Waveney valley, so if you are undertaking research on your family or relative then we may be able to help.

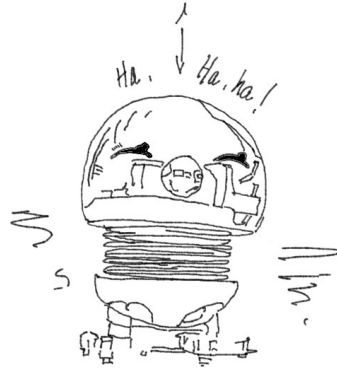
Remember, we are still looking for new volunteers. Contact our website for details.

Chris Parkin
www.waveneyheritage.com

Flash Fiction

by Wingfield resident, France Demetriadi

THE HOPTIMIST WITH "H"



On a recent trip to Denmark I discovered the Danish design through a little "Hoptimist". Simple, minimalist and eye-catching, there he was, standing on a shelf in "Illums" department store waiting for me.

All dressed in shiny silver, he was reflecting the beautiful festive lights of Christmas.

He was smiling at me with his eyes. He was standing on a spring to bring optimism and laughter to all.

And when I gently touched his round head he started laughing even more, spreading joy and good humour.

**I LOVED HIM STRAIGHT AWAY
AND DECIDED TO BUY HIM FOR
MY DEAR SON'S BIRTHDAY**

France Demetriadi

GRAHAM BORRILL

★

THATCHER

COSY COT HECKFIELD GREEN
HOXNE EYE SUFFOLK IP21 5AB

TEL : 01379 668 777 MOBILE : 07960 254 537

Email : grahamborrill@yahoo.com

HOXNE SERVICE STATION
Servicing and Mechanical
Repairs

MOT preparation
Welding repairs

Tel: 01379 668307

QUOVE ACCOUNTING

Creative **Accounting.**
Dynamic **Accounting.**
Efficient **Accounting.**
Innovative **Accounting.**
Positive **Accounting.**

Contact us

hello@quove.co.uk
01284 845120
quove.co.uk

3 Brickfields
Business Park,
Woolpit

Flexible Accounting.
For business
and personal
accounting
solutions.




the good funeral guide.

**No matter what size
your budget**

Our compassion is constant

 **Rosedale**
FUNERAL HOME

We are a family business and promise to provide exceptional care and a truly personal 24 hour service, when you need it most.

Diss **01379 640810 (24 hrs)**
Harleston **01379 853999 (24 hrs)**
www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk

K.G. READ & SON
PLUMBING & HEATING
CONTRACTOR

- BOILER INSTALLATION, SERVICE & REPAIR.
- OIL TANK REPLACEMENT.
- BATHROOM & SHOWERS INSTALLED INCLUDING CERAMIC TILING.

MARCUS READ
01379 668328
07710 757334
ORCHARD HOUSE,
HECKFIELD GREEN, HOXNE

LOCAL BANKING HUBS

BARCLAYS			
Eye - The Library, 6 Cross Street, IP23 7AB	Wed	09.30-13.00	14.00-17.00
Diss - The Corn Hall, 10 St Nicholas Street, IP22 4LB	Mon-Fri	09.30-12.00	12.30-15.45
Framlingham - Post Office, 8 Riverside, IP13 9AG	Mon, Tue, Wed	09.00-12.30	13.30-17.00
Harleston - Banking hub, 8a Thoroughfare, IP20 9AX. Friday is the Barclays day.	Mon-Fri	09.00-17.00	
HALIFAX			
Harleston - Banking hub, 8a Thoroughfare, IP20 9AX. Tuesday is the Halifax day.	Mon-Fri	09.00-17.00	
Diss - The Corn Hall, 10 St Nicholas Street, IP22 4LB	Wed	09.30-15.30	
HSBC			
Diss - a proper bank. 1 Mount Street, IP22 4QD	Mon-Fri	09.30-15.30	
Harleston - Banking hub, 8a Thoroughfare, IP20 9AX. Thursday is the HSBC day.	Mon-Fri	09.00-17.00	
LLOYDS			
Harleston - Banking hub, 8a Thoroughfare, IP20 9AX. Wednesday is the Lloyds day.	Mon-Fri	09.00-17.00	
Diss - The Corn Hall, 10 St Nicholas Street, IP22 4LB	Thu	09.30-15.30	
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER			
Diss - Tesco's car park (mobile service), Victoria Road, IP22 4JN	Tue	10.15-12.15	
Harleston - Banking hub, 8a Thoroughfare, IP20 9AX. Monday is the Nat West day.	Mon-Fri	09.00-17.00	
Stradbroke Post Office , which is in the library, offers the usual PO banking services to customers of all banks. Court House, Queens Street, IP21 5HG	Mon, Tue	- - - - -	14.00-17.00
	Wed	Closed	
	Thu	09.00-13.00	14.00-17.00
	Fri	- - - - -	14.00-17.00
	Sat	09.00-13.00	

UNDER ONE ROOF

THE COMPLETE HARD LANDSCAPING SERVICE

DRIVEWAYS, NATURAL
STONE PATIOS, DECORATIVE
WALLING, WATER FEATURES,
ENTRANCE GATES & FENCING.

PRESSURE WASHING CLEANING
OF PATIO AND DRIVEWAYS

FULLY INSURED FAMILY
BUSINESS WITH
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

FOR A FREE NO PRESSURE
QUOTATION PLEASE CALL
MARK ON 01379 677027 OR
07768 636618

G.G. EVANS

Pest Control Services

07795 177695

01379 608932

info@ggevens.co.uk

**MOLES, RABBITS,
WASPS & MORE**



B.C. GODDARD

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR
PAINTER, DECORATOR
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Call Brian for a free quote on

01379 388174

or mobile

07759 956627

bcgoddarduk@outlook.com

T. L. PLANT HIRE

*If you are in a hole...
...we'll dig you out*

MINI &
MICRO DIGGERS

DUMPERS • BREAKERS • MIXERS
TELEPORTERS • SMALL PLANT
SCARIFIERS • TURF CUTTERS
WACKERS • ROTAVATORS
STRIMMERS
TOOL HIRE

**07881
642232**

tom@tlplanthire.co.uk

Bridge House, Denmark Hill, Palgrave, Diss IP22 1AB



Diggers can be provided with operator, if required.

Michael Last Landscapes

HARD and SOFT LANDSCAPING
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING

07342 880254

01379 669006

last.michael@btinternet.com



Mid Suffolk

I've really struggled with my money and have already spent too much on Christmas. I also recently got caught out by a free trial on an app that rolled into a paid subscription. Even without this though, it feels like every month I end up in overdraft. How can I keep track of my spending better?

Lots of people will be feeling this way right now, and it can be difficult to stay on top of things like online subscriptions. But there are steps you can take to be more in control of your money.

Firstly, draw up a budget. Remember to include all of your general spending, and any other bills you have to pay. Be realistic about what you'll need for essentials like food and travel. If your income fluctuates, use bank statements, benefit award letters and Universal Credit journals to plan your budget each month.

Your bank should be able to tell you what regular payments you have. If you find subscriptions you don't want, contact the company in question to cancel them. In future, before signing up to anything, make sure you know what you'll get, for how long and what it'll cost. If you do use any free trials, set a reminder a week before the free period ends so you've time to cancel it if you want to. Keep evidence of any subscription cancellations in case you need it in the future.

If you've been relying on your overdraft lots this year or turned to credit cards or Buy-Now-Pay-Later, it's understandable if this worries you. Always prioritise paying your rent, mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first though, because not paying these has the most serious consequences. If you're having trouble managing your debts and paying bills, contact Citizens Advice for support.

Our website has an income checker where you can see if you're getting all you're entitled to, such as benefits or government grants:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> and then search: 'Check if you can increase your income'.

Everyone's circumstances are different, particularly when it comes to managing personal finances. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in-depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships.

You can contact us by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.

Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.

SUNDOWN
GUITARS

**Set ups, Servicing
Re stringing and Repairs
Accessories & Spares**

Chickering Corner Farm, Hoxne IP21 5BT
Please phone to discuss your requirements
or to make an appointment

07958 758 602

CHRIS HOWARD
PLUMBING AND HEATING

- ◆ All household plumbing
- ◆ Oil and gas boiler installations
- ◆ Hot water cylinder installations
- ◆ Water softener installations

**Local, professional
and reliable service** **Free non committal quotes**

07749315908

chrisjhoward5@googlemail.com

www.chrishowardplumbingandheating.co.uk

Parish Council Reports

Please see page 2 for Parish Council contact details and website addresses.

Hoxne

Shreeves Farm Housing Development

By the time you read this Mid Suffolk Council as the planning authority for this area will have made a decision on the Shreeves Farm development at the end of the Denham Road, Heckfield Green. This proposal for 40 new houses was expected, being part of the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan voted for and approved in a local referendum held last year. Although it does not have the power to block planning applications, Hoxne Parish Council does have the ability to scrutinise planning applications, large and small, giving recommendations as to whether the planning application should go ahead, sometimes specifying certain conditions. It is, however, Mid Suffolk Council that make the ultimate decision. Therefore on reading this Hoxne Parish Council will have also studied the Shreeves Farm development making its own recommendations or proposals. All planning applications in the Mid Suffolk Council area can be seen on their planning portal website.

Parish Orchard

On Saturday 18th January some of your parish councillors, along with a group of volunteers, were busy tidying up the parish orchard in Heckfield Green. This is a public area open to all and as the names suggests contains a selection of fruit trees. Some of these, along with other shrubs, were carefully pruned and the invading undergrowth cut back. Hopefully, as spring arrives this will make for a much pleasanter area in which to spend some time.

Village Spring Clean

In a similar vein, the Village Spring Clean is due to take place on **Sunday 23rd March**, 10.00am start at the village hall. A team of volunteers will go around the village picking up litter ready to be collected the following day by the refuse collection service. If you would like to volunteer to take part, please contact

the Parish Clerk via the parish council website.

Parish Council Vacancy

Finally, there is still one vacancy on the parish council in order to bring it up to full strength. If you would like to join Hoxne Parish Council then further details on how to do so can be seen on the council website: hoxne.onesuffolk.gov.uk

Chris Parkin
Chair, Hoxne Parish Council

Syleham

Councillors met on the 6th November and discussed the need to produce an emergency plan for adverse weather including flooding, snow and high winds. Councillors were also updated on the proposal for the Syleham Heritage Walk - a five mile circular walk around the village celebrating Syleham's historic buildings and sites and marking the 850 year anniversary of Earl Bigod's surrender at The Cross at Syleham. The Parish Council part-funded the costs of new swings at J's Meadow which have now been installed.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **5th March** at 7.00pm at Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall.

Wingfield

Wingfield Parish Councillors held their Parish Council meeting on the 20th November. Key issues discussed included: the replacement of damaged village signs; a proposal to install 'Welcome to Wingfield' signs on the village entry roads; planting trees on common land; and the proposed development of a wind turbine at Prairie Field, Stradbroke. Councillors have asked Octopus Energy for more information on how the turbine will affect Wingfield residents. Councillors approved funding for an additional defibrillator in the village and a small grant towards the cost of maintaining village planters. For more details of what was discussed visit: www.wingfieldparishcouncil.com

Lesley Hastie
Chair, Syleham & Wingfield
Parish Councils



Door-to-door, dial-a-ride service into local towns;
 Weekly members' outings
 throughout the year;
 Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for February 2025:

Mon 3rd	Lunch at The White Horse, Stoke Ash - Fare £8.00
Thurs 6th	Diss Pound Stretcher and John Doe's - £8.00
Mon 10th	Taverham Nursery Centre - £18.00
Mon 17th	The Range and lunch at The Copper Beech - £18.00
Thurs 20th	Lunch at The White Hart, Roydon - Fare £8.00
Mon 24th	Cherry Lane Garden Centre - £8.00

Borderhoppa Outings for March 2025:

Mon 3rd	Lunch, The Four Horse Shoes, Thornham Magna - Fare £8.00
Mon 10th	Thetford Town and Garden Centre - £15.00
Mon 17th	Lunch at Billingford Horseshoes - Fare £8.00
Thurs 20th	Brunch at The Good, Bad & Hungry, Wingfield - Fare £8.00
Mon 24th	Stowmarket Town - £15.00
Mon 31st	Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich - £15.00



GOLDBROOK
BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY
 Nuttery Vale, Hoxne, Suffolk IP21 5BB
 Telephone 01379 668267
info@gbkac.co.uk

**Proudly owned and run by
Sara & Don Warren**

Please feel free to pop in and meet us,
we will be happy to show you around



"Our Team"

OPENING TIMES

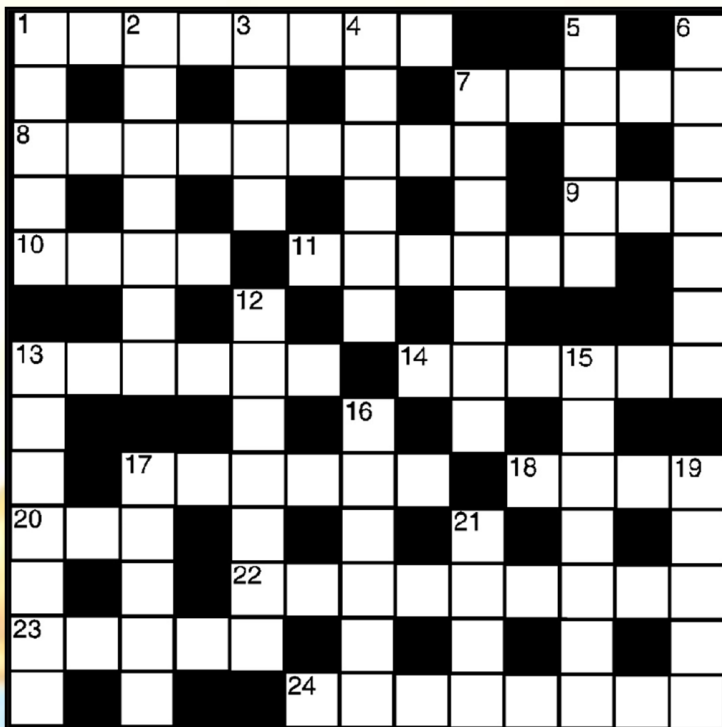
Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 12 noon
and 3.00pm - 6.00pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays
9.00am - 12 noon

Crossword Puzzle No. 163

To enter the crossword competition, send* your solution to the editor for a chance to win £20. The winner will be the first correct entry picked at random from those received by **Saturday, 8th March** at the latest. Please add your name and address to entries.

*You can email a photograph or scan of your entry to:
vvsuffolk@live.co.uk



Across

1. Restrict the scope of a broken train set (8)
7. Pointer for a toxophilite (5)
8. World wide film studio (9)
9. Drunkard so tipsy in part (3)
10. Wave a wand at daybreak (4)
11. Consents to mixing grease (6)
13. Short lived insect could possibly take to the air (6)
14. Not as pretty as Cinderella (6)
17. Healthier mechanic (6)
18. Sadly a lass in trouble (4)
20. Sailor espied in starlight (3)
22. Cruel like the tin man (9)
23. Imagine something decorative (5)
24. Prenuptial suggestion (8)

Down

1. Squadron cut to a smaller group (5)
2. Make tracks for transport system (7)
3. Aide had a thought (4)
4. Junior officer flies the flag (6)
5. Large number are repulsive (5)
6. Birdsong no longer on social media (7)
7. Hypersensitivity to a gallery (7)
12. Make smudgy by cloth falling apart (7)
13. Mother's petty quarrel with a dog (7)
15. Ailment mostly found in silliness (7)
16. Mend a broken rapier (6)
17. In the lead on seaside promenade (5)
19. Untangle sails to use for rope (5)
21. Tread on annoying pest (4)

The winner of crossword puzzle no.162 was: P Conway

Answers: Across: 7. Candid 8. Eights 10. Rightly 11. Shrug 12. Ewer 13. Nosey
17. Radar 18. Tact 22. About 23. infancy 24. Cheery 25. Retain

Down: 1. Scarlet 2. Snigger 3. Mirth 4. Minster 5. Short 6. Usage 9. Pyromania
14. Pasture 15. Gainsay 16. Staying 19. March 20. Rover 21. Often



Cowhams

"For today's automotive demands"



Scan or visit
www.cowhams.co.uk

01379 388 999
enquiries@cowhams.co.uk

Waveney Tree Specialists Ltd

Your local tree surgeons, based in Hoxne, covering
East Anglia. Established in 2008.
Accredited, Fully Insured & Qualified.

We specialise in both domestic and commercial
works and offer the following services:

Tree surgery and felling
Tree & Hedge reshaping and pruning
Disease and storm damage
Stump removal

For a free no obligation estimate, contact us on

01379 668636 or 7990 801388

E: info@waveneytrees.co.uk

W: www.waveneytrees.com



EDITOR

Lesley Balian

Blackberry Cottage, Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AH

Tel: 01379 669221

E-mail: vvsuffolk@live.co.uk Website: vvsuffolk.co.uk

DEADLINES

Issue	Copy Date
April / May	8th March
June / July	8th May
August / September	8th July
October / November	8th September
December / January	8th November
February / March	8th January

ADVERTISING

If you would like to place an advertisement,
let us know and we will contact you

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

Dawn Lodge, 5 Cross Street,
Hoxne, Eye IP21 5AJ

Tel: 01379 668521 E-mail: dlodge@talktalk.net

DISTRIBUTION

Sally Dudley and teams of distributors in each village