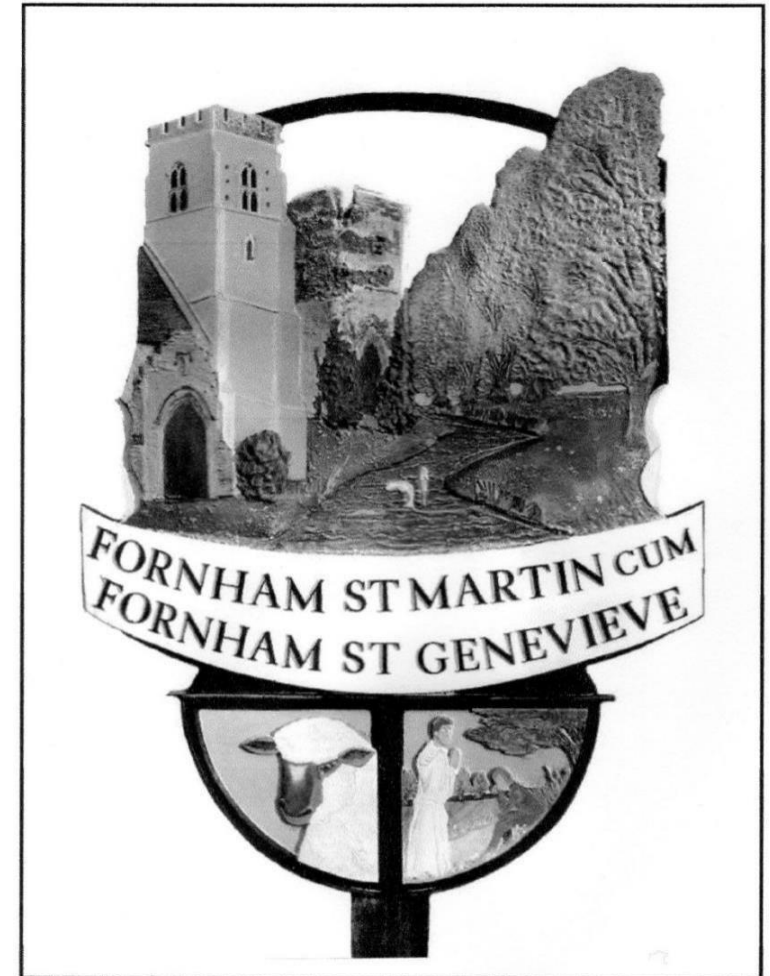


# Fornham Bugle

**Disclaimer Notice.** Fornham Bugle accepts all articles, notices and advertisements in good faith. We cannot be responsible for the veracity of submissions, nor liable for the quality of goods or services advertised. If you are considering using the services of any advertiser, we advise that you satisfy yourself as to the quality of goods and workmanship being offered prior to commencement of the work, and before any payment is made. Fornham Bugle reserves the right to decline an article or advertisement and may also discontinue publication of an article or advertisement without either warning or explanation, where applicable giving a partial or total refund of any payment{s} made. When publishing articles sent in by members of the public, we wish to make clear that in no way does it mean that Fornham Bugle agrees or concurs with any views or opinions expressed therein.



The Parish Council on behalf of all parishioners would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation, the work carried out by the volunteers who organise and distribute the Bugle.



**June/July 2024**

Newsletter Number 135

**For advertising**, or for any article for inclusion in The Bugle contact the Bugle Compiler via email at:

[buglenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:buglenewsletter@gmail.com)

or on our website:

<https://fornhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net>

**Delivery:** Peter Forster

**Enquiries:** Tell No: 01284764723

**Please note:** The deadline for articles to be included in the **Septemember/August 2024** issue of The Bugle is Noon on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**.

## ADVERTISING

The Bugle is a free publication to all residents of Fornham St Martin and Fornham St Genevieve. There are six editions per year.

Our advertising rates are £75.90 per 1/2 page (85x115mm) for 6 editions. £151.80 per full page (180x115mm) for 6 editions. 10% discount is offered to advertisers located within the two villages. For further information please contact the Bugle Compiler email your enquiry to [buglenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:buglenewsletter@gmail.com) Supply logos in JPEG format and text as Worddoc, please

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CONTACT	DETAILS	NUMBER
<b>Anglian Water</b>	Emergency (Reporting leaks etc)	03457 145 145
<b>Cinema</b>	Cineworld, Parkway, BSE	0330 333 444
<b>Councils</b>	West Suffolk District Council	01284 763233
	Suffolk County Council	0345 606 6067
<b>Electricity</b>	UK Power Networks (Power Cuts)	0800 316 3105
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>POLICE/ FIRE/ AMBULANCE</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>GAS</b>	If you smell gas, think you have a gas leak, or are worried that carbon monoxide fumes are escaping from an appliance, please call the free Gas Emergency Services line immediately.	0800 111 999
<b>Police</b>	Contact your local police in England Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland less urgent than a 999 call.	<b>101</b>
	Crime stoppers	0800 555 111
<b>NHS</b>	Free-call single <i>non-emergency</i> number medical helpline operating in England and Scotland.	<b>111</b>
<b>Hospital</b>	West Suffolk Hospital, BSE	01284 713 000
<b>Samaritans</b>	Bury St Edmunds	0845 790 9090 Charges apply <b>116 123 Free Phon</b>
<b>Transport</b>	National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50
	BSE Bus Station	01284 702020
	Bury Taxi	01284 766777
<b>FSM Village Hall</b>	Lynne Quelch <b>fornhamhall@aol.com</b>	07552 061489



**SHARPY THE SPARKY**  
DOMESTIC ELECTRICIAN

- All domestic work undertaken
- Extra sockets and lights
- Fuse board upgrades
- New installations
- Garden power and lighting
- Extended warranty available
- Rewires

**Fully Registered & Approved Part P Contractor**

Call or email Matt to arrange a free no obligation quotation.

**ELECSA**  
Approved Contractor  
Part P  
www.elecsa.co.uk

Tel: 01284 765590  
Mobile: 07702 715722  
Email: sharpythesparky@hotmail.co.uk



Page	Contents
2	Advertising information
5	Village hall contact details
8	What's on in FSM Village Hall
9	Thursday Stickers
13-15	Church News
16-17	Submitted Article
18-21	Sweet treats or Sweet threats
23	FSM Ladies Club
24	Highways Reporting tool
29	PC Information
31	Useful Telephone Numbers



**WILL FORD - DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL FENCING**

Call for advice or a free quotation on 07733078575 or 01284 768582  
or email: fordfencing@hotmail.co.uk



**Leon Brown Arb-Agri  
Contracting LTD**  
Tree Surgery Services

Fully qualified professionals with over 17 years experience

- Dead Wooding & Crown Lifting
- Chipping
- Crown Reductions
- Felling & Dismantling
- Hedge Cutting
- Site Clearance Works
- Woodland Management
- General Ground Maintenance

leonbrown.28@hotmail.co.uk 07552393830 01359408521  
leonbrownarboriculturalservices.co.uk

**YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL ELECTRICIAN**

**City & Guilds** **Lee Jardine**   
Electrical Services

- All Domestic Electrical Work
- Rewires/New Installations
- New/replacement lights and sockets
- Electric Showers/Hobs and Ovens
- 24 Hour Emergency Call Out
- Landlords Compliance Certificates

Tel: 01284 361 986 Mob: 07444 272 472  
Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

## PARISH COUNCIL

**John Borrett (Chairman) - Fornham St Martin** Tel: 01284 747140  
**Michael Collier (Vice Chair) - Fornham St Genevieve**  
Tel: 01284 704851

**Penelope Borrett - Fornham St Martin** Tel: 01284 747140

**Paul Butler - Fornham St Martin** Tel: 01284 760119

**Naomi Steward - Fornham St Martin** Tel: 01284 489

**John Rushman- Fornham St Genevieve** Tel: 01284 701511

**VickyBright, CiLCA**

**Fornham St Martin-cum-St Genevieve Parish Clerk**

**Tel: 07712 232920 Email: fsmsgpc@gmail.com**

Any parishioners wishing to raise an issue or add an item to the agenda, should contact the Parish Clerk between 9:30am-2:30pm or between 6pm-7pm Monday evenings. Please be aware that the Clerk does not work on Tuesdays!

**Parish Office: 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP287LT (Appointment only).**

**The Parish Council meets on the SECOND MONDAY of each month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall (with the exception of August & December).**

**West Suffolk/County Councillors**

Rebecca Hopfensperger - Telephone 07876 683516

Sarah Broughton - Telephone 07929 305787

**MP - Telephone 01284 752311 -**

[jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk)

**Suffolk County Council - [customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk)**

**West Suffolk Council - Telephone 01284 763233**

**[customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk)**

## Fornham House Caring is at the heart of everything we do

Fornham House care home in Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds offers a warm, homely environment, providing quality nursing, residential and dementia care on a permanent and respite basis.

Fornham House offers a range of lounges and relaxation areas, where many social activities take place and are complemented by patio and garden areas for outdoor relaxation. There are generous rooms, some ideal for couples and all with en-suite facilities. Fornham House's range of private and communal spaces provide residents with the necessary facilities for a quality life in later years. Our brand new **purpose-built extension** has 17 en-suite rooms suitable for those living with dementia. Our extension provides modern fittings throughout, yet exudes a cosy atmosphere, in keeping with the tradition of Fornham House. All rooms are fully furnished, however we encourage residents to bring with them items of furniture and personal possessions so that their room can be a true 'home from home'



Why not speak to our Home Manager to arrange a viewing appointment? Our team is always on hand to discuss your care needs and the lifestyle we provide



tel No 01284768327 address Fornham House

Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 1SR.

## Contact details for the Village Hall for: a club meeting, exhibition, or private party

Please contact:

**LYNN QUELCH on 07552 061489**  
Or email [fornhamhall@aol.com](mailto:fornhamhall@aol.com)

## Whist Drive Club

Starting promptly at 7pm and finishing before 10pm on a Friday evening, held in Fornham St Martin Village Club. The Whist club is eager to invite anyone interested in playing "Progressive Whist". No partner is required. The entry fee is £3.00 (+ £1.00 for optional raffle) with a break for light refreshments included in the entry fee.

**MARTYN WEBB  
PLUMBING SERVICES**

Fully Qualified & Insured Plumber, Over 30 Years Experience  
No Call Out Fee, No Job Too Small, Reliable and Friendly Service

PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS, MAINTENANCE and REPAIRS,  
COMPLETER BATHROOM REFURBISHMENT, WALL & FLOOR TILING,  
ALL TYPES OF SHOWERS FITTED

RADIATORS \* CYLINDERS \* IMMERSION HEATER PUMPS \* BALL VALVES \*  
SYPHONS \* TAPS \* SERVICE VALVES \* WATER SOFTENERS \* SINK UNITS  
\* COLD WATER STORAGE TANK

Telephone : 01284 852554

Mobile : 07864 712055

Email : webbtm88@hotmail.com

**Malcolm Jeffery  
Community Funeral Celebrant**

My name is Malcolm, and I am your local community funeral celebrant living locally in Manners Road, Fornham St Martin. I can conduct religious, semi-religious and non-religious funerals and have over 20 years' experience.

When the time comes, I'll phone you and help you to prepare the funeral for that special person via phone, email or zoom. I can give advice and guidance or follow the plans you have in mind. I have conducted funerals at the Crematorium, Woodland Cemeteries and at the Cemetery Chapels followed by a burial. I am also happy to plan visits in advance of your loved ones passing, if you would like this to happen.


My contact details are below.

07988 770022

malcolmjeffery@mail.com

mjeffery.co.uk



  
**FULLERS MILL**  
one of Perennial's gardens

## Vacancy – Bothy Assistant

### FullersMillGardens,WestStow

FullersMillGardensareseekingacafé/shopassistant to join their

small friendly team

Wed1-5.30pm Fri,Sat&Sun10am-5.30pm

**The Role-** Assist with the smooth running of the café/shop.

Delivering excellent customer service, you will welcome visitors to the site, serve refreshments, takepayments andhandlecash. You'll ensurethefood areas are of the highest possiblelevel of cleanliness and hygiene, ensuringstartand end of dayprocedures arecompleted.

£10.42perhour.Jobdescription and application:

[www.perennial.org.uk](http://www.perennial.org.uk)

### **FORNHAM ST MARTIN CUM ST GENEVIEVE PARISH COUNCIL S.137 DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

The Parish Council has a pot of funds that allows them to give donations to Community Groups and Organisations, to assist them with their running costs etc.

Due to the Pandemic, we realise that manygroups have been unable to meet for some time, therefore if your group is now in a position to meet again and you need assistance with any running costs associated with this, please contact the Clerk;  
fsmgpc@gmail.com to apply for a donation

**A1CARS**  
(SUFFOLK) LTD  
24 hour Taxi, Executive and Coach Service  
Reliability, punctuality, safely,  
comfortably and on time serving  
Bury St Edmunds and  
surrounding villages



**COACH & MINI BUS  
AIRPORT TRANSFERS  
EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

**T: 01284 766777  
E: book@a1cars.co.uk  
www.a1cars.co.uk**

**TWINN ACCOUNTANTS LTD**

We offer an efficient and professional accountancy service at a very competitive rate.



✓ Accounts and tax returns for Sole Traders, Partnerships and Limited Companies.	✓ Construction Industry Scheme
✓ Self-Assessment	✓ Bookkeeping and Management Accounts
✓ VAT returns including MTD	✓ Tax Planning
✓ Payroll Services	✓ Company Secretarial Services
	✓ Training on Xero and QuickBooks

Tel: 01284 787616      Email: info@twinnaccountants.co.uk  
www.twinnaccountants.co.uk  
Suite 4, East Barton Barns, Great Barton, IP31 2QY

**All accountants are not the same... we promise!**

**LotsofCare**



## Your Independence, Your Choice: A Little or Lots of Care AT HOME

### Empower Home Living

Our mission is to support you in living comfortably AT HOME. With Lots of Care, experience the empowering blend of independence and personalised assistance.

### Unique Care Approach

Discover care that stands out from the rest. We provide the support and attention that other care agencies often overlook.

### Tailored to Your Needs

Flexible care that caters to your needs, whether you require care for a brief visit or an extended period, precisely tailored to you whenever you require it.

### On-Demand Care

Need assistance for just an hour, or for weeks? No problem. Choose the flexibility of 1 hour here or there, or a longer period of care - our services are designed to fit seamlessly into your life. We can even provide cover for you if you require a break from caring for a loved one, whether you stay at home or take a holiday

### Our Service includes:

**Personal Care  
Medication  
administration  
Companionship  
Over Night Care  
Dementia Care  
Live-in Care  
Respite Care in Your  
Home  
Affordable Rates**



Call us today to find out more:

**01284 334 481**

www.lotsofcare.co.uk | info@lotsofcare.co.uk

## What's on in Fornham St Martin Village Hall

### Weekly

Tuesday	10:00 am to 12 noon	<b>Mums &amp; Toddlers</b>
Friday	7pm-10pm	<b>Whist Drive Club</b>

### **\*\*TermTimeOnly**

### Monthly

1st Mon	10:00am to 1.00pm	<b>ChainReaction</b>
1st Tues	2:00am to 4:00pm	<b>Jazz</b>
1st Thurs	10:00am to 4:00pm	<b>Patchwork</b>
2nd Tues	10:00am to 4:00pm	<b>Textiles</b>
3rd Mon	10:00am to 12 noon	<b>Probus Ladies</b>
3rd Wed	7:30pm to 9:30 pm	<b>Ladies Club</b>
Thurs	10:00am to 4:00pm	<b>Patchwork</b>
3rd Fri	12noonto 4:00 pm	<b>SpinnersandWeavers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10:am to 4:00pm	<b>Quilters</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10:00am to 4:00pm	<b>Textile</b>

### *Occasional meetings*

*Parish Council, Village Hall Committees*

*If you would like to book the Village Hall for a club meeting, exhibition, or private party, please contact **for bookings and enquiries***

***Lynne Quelch, 07552 061 489** [fornhamhall@aol.com](mailto:fornhamhall@aol.com)*

*or **Maureen Hockett, Committee Chair, for information 07887 778 353***  
*[maureenl.hockett@aol.com](mailto:maureenl.hockett@aol.com)*



### **Culford Pre-Prep & Nursery**

Discover the wonderful opportunities that await your child.

Join us at [culford.co.uk](http://culford.co.uk)



**Culford**

**Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool:-**

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

The Highways Reporting Tool allows you to report a new defect and monitor the status of existing

reports, such as; blocked drains, Cycle lane/tracks & public right of way issues, damaged drain/manhole cover, vegetation and mud on the road, flooding on a road or pavement, missing/damaged barriers or guardrails, missing/damaged or obscured signs, missing/ faded road markings, Potholes& Pavement defects, trees/hedges affecting the highways or footways.

Do not report a highways problem online if:

- it poses an immediate danger to public safety  
call 0345 606 6171.
- it's on a trunk road in Suffolk  
call the National Highways Information Line on 0300 123 5000

**THURSDAY STITCHERS**

Do you sew, patchwork, cross-stitch, appliqué , crochet or knit? We do. If you would like to join a happy, sociable group of ladies on a Thursday in Fornham St Martin Village Hall we would be happy to have your company.

We are open between 10.00am - 3.00 pm. Or just part of that time if it suits you best.

Come and meet us and see what we do, have a coffee with us and bring a friend if you wish. Just phone Catherine Buxton 01284 762149 or email [cathbux@icloud.com](mailto:cathbux@icloud.com) or Sue Yates 02184 700532 or Jacky Ives 01284 769755 for more information or just pop in.

**Talented writers**

Do YOU want to publish a piece of fiction or non-fiction in the Bugle Newsletter? Like a poem, article or a short story. If you want to publish something or have any queries

Contact the Compiler at:

[buglenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:buglenewsletter@gmail.com)

## Computer Help

PC, Mac, Server or Tablet support in your office or home.  
A rapid response from a qualified IT professional.

- laptop and desktop repairs, speed up your system
- cyber security, cloud systems, network setup
- data recovery and virus removal
- improve wifi, smart TV, phone, tablet etc
- individual tuition

**Gage Computer Services** (01284) 277876  
www.comphelp.co.uk      steve@comphelp.co.uk

 Est. 2003      

D&T

TELEPHONE: 01638 728497  
MOBILE: 07799 671010  
daleparker59@yahoo.co.uk

DALE PARKER EST 1989

LANDSCAPE GARDENER • TREE SURGEON

- block paving and natural stone
- patios ● decking ● turfing
- seeding ● fencing ● grass cutting
- hedge cutting ● clearance
- maintenance ● tree topping
- tree felling ● tree lopping
- dead wooding ● stump removal
- garden waste removal
- paths and driveways

**FREE ESTIMATES  
FULLY INSURED  
REFERENCES SUPPLIED  
IF REQUIRED**

## Fornham St. Martin Ladies' Club    By Janet Petch

The meeting of the Fornham St. Martin Ladies' Group took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2pm instead of the evening.

It was "Ladies Day at the Races" and there was a variety of hats and fascinators worn. Twenty squares of paper tokens were given to each member to place as bets on 5 different races (tea cup, sugar bowl, milk jug, tea pot and teaspoon stakes)

Freddie Chenery (bent Fred) acted as bookie and other members of the Committee were stewards and the bookie runner! 6 pink soft pigs operated by batteries represented horses. Odds were given, bets placed and the final winner for the afternoon was the person who had acquired the most "tokens".

A lovely range of refreshments were provided and the committee were thanked. It was a fun afternoon and was greatly enjoyed.

New members are very welcome. Please contact 01284 767372 or 01284 766098 for further information

## 'I'm in PAIN!' Can Chiropractic help me?

### Your initial visit will include:

A consultation with the Chiropractor

A thorough spinal examination with Orthopaedic & Neurological tests

A confidential report of findings

An explanation of our treatment programme if we determine Chiropractic can help you.



**abbey**  
chiropractic  
caring for you is our business.  
6 Glastonbury Road Bury  
St Edmunds, IP33 2EX  
**01284 706570**

**Stowmarket**  
Chiropractic  
7 Stowupland Road, Stowmarket,  
IP14 5AG  
01449 612620

**Call TODAY for an appointment**

**Please visit our website for further information**

**[www.abbeychiropractic.com](http://www.abbeychiropractic.com)**

Registered with The GCC, RCC, SCA & BCA

## HOUSE GUARDIAN AVAILABLE FOR RURAL HOUSE-SITS IN THE BURY ST EDMUNDS AREA Goingawayforanextendedstay?

Want your housesafe,secure,andlived inwhileyou'reaway?

I'm an experienced and trusted house-sitter living in Cockfield and now available

for long-term house-sits in 2024.

**If you want peace of mind while you're away, get in touch for an initial chat:**

Tel: Jo07834538838 Email: [info@joburnett.com](mailto:info@joburnett.com)



## Would you like to be the Local Recorder for:

The Suffolk Local History Council runs a Recorders Scheme throughout Suffolk. We administer a network of volunteers to ensure that the '*present*' is adequately recorded at local level for the '*future*'.

A Recorder will note significant happenings in their parish and collect their local parish magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings. At the end of each year, they are asked to submit a short report summarizing the activities of their parish. The reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and available to future researchers together with the collected items.

If you are interested, please look at the Recorders Pack by visiting [www.slhc.org.uk](http://www.slhc.org.uk) to acquaint yourself with the guidelines of the scheme. You do not need to be a historian; you do not need any qualifications other than an interest in your parish. In return you will receive a copy of the SLHC Newsletter and be invited to the annual conference specifically for Local Recorders. To volunteer to help in this important work, please contact [recorders@slhc.org.uk](mailto:recorders@slhc.org.uk)



## **Calthorpe and Edwards**

### **Educational**

### **Foundation 2023/24**

The Foundation helps young people from the parishes listed below with a grant for studies in Further Education. This means University, Further Education College, Medical School and similar establishments. It excludes courses that could have been obtained at School.

The Governors limit assistance initially for a maximum of three years and to no person over 25 years of age. The period may, at the Governors' discretion, be extended a year at a time when appropriate, but not beyond the age limit. The grant is paid in three termly instalments and for the year 2023/24 it was £300 pa. Keith Boswell is the Chairman and Rosemary Boswell is currently the Clerk. All Governors who represent Villages are volunteers and attend one meeting in September when new applicants are considered and the Clerk is given details of the new year's grant. The Clerk prepares the cheques which are countersigned by the Treasurer or another designated Trustee. There are 2 groups of villages, the Inner Group and the Outer Group. If funds are limited, then students from the Inner Group take precedence.

Inner Group:-

Ampton, Ingham, Great and Little Livermere,

Timworth. Outer Group:-

Culford, Fornham St Genevieve, Fornham St Martin, Great Barton, Ixworth, Troston, West Stow, Wordwell.

It's not just at daybreak that birds sing, of course. Individual birds will have a sing, often around noon, after a good few hours feeding. They'll try to out-sing any 'rival' noise; my resident robin often tries to drown out my lawn-mower with his explosive song. As the daylight fades and feeding opportunities close down there is usually a shorter general chorus, carefully calibrated to leave enough energy to get them safely through the night. Later in the summer, when the nesting season has ended, the dawn chorus gradually peters out and days dawn silently. Birds concentrate instead on building up their energies so they can get through the winter, or like the lucky ones amongst us, fly off to somewhere warmer.

## Homecare

in the heart of your home



**Hartewell**

HOMECARE

From our office in Bury St Edmunds, we can help you stay in the home that you love.

With as little as a 30 minute visit, night care or live-in support, our experienced carers can help you remain independent at home.

**Call us on 01284 636 681**

[www.hartewellhomecare.co.uk](http://www.hartewellhomecare.co.uk)

So why sing at daybreak? Firstly, it's not yet light enough for serious feeding. Insects won't be flying until the day has warmed up a bit; caterpillars will still be hidden away. With no sun to create warm up-draughts winds frequently die down overnight, so songs travel further on the still air, giving your song more impact and reach. Then there's the lack of human competition. The day dawns with little traffic noise and human commotion.

Incidentally, many birds use our soundscape for inspiration

You'll hear starlings adding a ringtone or an emergency siren to their repertoire. The problem for the dawn-singer, though, is that all the neighbours are singing as well. Everyone tries to sing louder and, just like diners in a busy restaurant, they end up hoarse and exhausted from the sheer effort of making themselves heard. So, after giving it their all, hungry birds gradually drop out of the chorus and turn instead to the business of feeding themselves and their nestlings.

Currently there are 3 students from Ingham, student from Ampton and 2 from Great Livermere. There are 6 students from Fornham St Martin, 14 from Great Barton, 5 from Ixworth, 2 from Troston and 1 from Wordwell.

For more information contact Mrs Rosemary Boswell: phone 01284728199 or email: boswellrg444@outlook.com

## **CHURCH NEWS by David Yates**

Our early Spring Book Sale Coffee and Cakes is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May (at the time of writing) and we look forward to welcoming everyone. With particular thanks for all those donating books, and of course refreshments. The 100 Club winners in June are: - 1<sup>st</sup> £30 Monica Gardner no.98; 2<sup>nd</sup> £20 James Robinson no.20; 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Margaret Perry no.36  
And in July they will be: 1<sup>st</sup> Terri Miles no. 11 ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Groom no.7 ; 3<sup>rd</sup> Maurice Gill no.44.  
Thanks again to everyone in the 100 Club supporting the church in this way.

The Bells Project is progressing well, with sufficient funds now to continue and complete this huge restoration (principally to replace the defective old Oak bellframe with a new steel one).

The support, with grant applications and volunteer labour by the Suffolk Guild of Ringers (especially locally Neal Dodge and Alan Moulton) is enabling works to be gradually carried out. Now the 6 bells have been taken down and transported to the Bell Hangers, Nicholsons, in Dorset, to be cleaned and tuned. We hope and expect the sound of the bells to be ringing out again later this year, after many years silent due to Diocese restrictions.

We are delighted to have a new wooden cross for church, made from the old Oak timbers removed from the tower as part of the Bells Project. Made by the Bacton Community Workshop, under Malcolm Johnson and Patrick Bond, to a very suitable and innovative design by Malcolm.

Our grateful thanks to them, and it is nice to have it made from timbers that have been in the church for some 200 years. It was blessed by Revd Alison at the Palm Sunday service.

The funeral and burial of Alan Groves, a long-standing member of the church, was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

You'll be wanting his food-gathering skills as well as his genes in order to give your offspring the best chance of thriving. When you clap eyes on him the bright colours and healthy state of his plumage will seal the deal... or not. Birds rarely sing close to their nest though because that would draw unwanted attention to the chicks.

For the male bird the song also serves to warn rivals and announce that he possesses the territory. It's an "I'm the boss here - don't mess with me!" message, so what sounds like a melodious treat to our ears may be a string of foul threats and curses from the territory-holders's point of view. If the singing isn't strong enough, competitors will often try to muscle in. An interloper's louder and longer song will often be enough to expel the previous tenant with minimal physical confrontation. And any bird finding a feeding territory with no resident singer knows it has struck gold.

starting patchily, then growing in the number of singers and the loudness of their combined chorus until it becomes that riot of sound you will no doubt be hearing around dawn, if you sleep with the window open. Officially, National Dawn Chorus Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May but while in nesting mode birds sing even into July.

So why do they do it? It's mainly, but not exclusively, the males who sing and the song seems to be multi-purpose. To begin with, it needs a strong pair of lungs and lots of stamina to keep belting out a song, so the song tells others a lot about the fitness of the singer. If he has the strength to sing so well he must also be good at finding food. If he keeps singing from the same spot it shows he's in control of a territory where he's finding plenty to eat - and that bodes well for your chicks if you decide to choose him as your mate.

The joyous occasion of the wedding between Catherine Janes and Miles Corner will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Easter seems a while ago now, but just to record, we were pleased to see many in attendance for the Palm Sunday and Good Friday services. The Easter Sunday service was held at Fornham All Saints this year.

At the Sunday Service on 14<sup>th</sup> April, Revd Sylvia Bareham was pleased to officiate and celebrate her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of being ordained a priest. This was followed by wine

and cake! Similarly, Revd Marianne Atkinson joined

us on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to celebrate her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Taken for granted now but it was a great struggle and achievement for women priests to

be able to be ordained. By the decision of the Church of England, in 1994, this was granted. Bishop Martin is to hold a celebratory service for all such women priests in Suffolk at the Cathedral on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

I was pleased to join many fellow Suffolk Churchwardens in the Cathedral on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May,

for the Choral Evensong with Bishop Martin. As a thanksgiving service for all the churchwardens in Suffolk, in appreciation of their work and diligence in supporting our respective parish churches.

Which we can only do of course with the support of each of our Parochial Church Council members. At the time of writing the annual Christian Aid Collection Week has just started, with the usual little red envelopes dropping through letter boxes throughout the village- thanks to a small group of volunteers. Christian Aid is made up of some 40 denominations all actively supporting the poor and destitute abroad with so many in situations of poverty and starvation. We hope our contributions will help, and thank all those who are donating. Looking ahead, our annual meeting will be held on 22 May, to elect the Parochial Church Council for another 12 months!

## **Sweet treats or sweet threats? By Alan Leigh**

As you read this we are deep into the birds' peak period. Over late winter and early spring they have been getting themselves into peak condition and have grown smart new plumage. They have thrown themselves into establishing territories, finding mates and building nests of all kinds, from the wood pigeons' minimalist scrawny pile of sticks to the long-tailed tits' intricate construction - a ball of moss, lichen and thousands of feathers, recycled from other birds, all held together with stretchy spider silk, allowing it to expand as the chicks grow. Achieving all of this requires a lot of organisation, co-operation and sheer graft. We'd probably use social media. But what about birds?

Well, in a way birds also employ their own social media. They have a rich visual and elaborate body language, expressed through plumage colour and pattern. But a key aspect of the birds' social media is something humans find charming, a fitting subject for poets and soppy songwriters. I'm referring to birdsong.