



THE BUGLE

FORNHAM ST MARTIN & FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE NO. 148

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve

Parish Councillors

John Rushman (Chair)

Brandon Mahon (Vice Chair)

Paul Butler

Linda Leong-Son

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Parish Clerk

Justin Hook

clerk@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk
01284 598128

Other Representatives

Rebecca Hopfensperger
(District & County Councillor)

07876 683516

Sarah Broughton
(District Councillor)

07929 305787

Peter Prinsley
(Labour MP)

peter.prinsley.mp@parliament.uk

Meetings

The Parish Council meets at 6:30pm in the Village Hall, on the second Thursday of each month, except August & December. Please check the village notice boards for any date changes.

Website

www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

The deadline for articles for The Bugle August - September issue, will be 20th July 2026.

Dear Villagers

by Justin Hook, Parish Clerk & Bugle Editor

I'm afraid I have to start my piece with some rather sad news. Cllr Clive Last sadly passed away recently. After battling ill health for a while, he opted to stand down as Chair at the June meeting, but promised to support council as long as he was physically able. Sadly 'life' had different plans, and our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and those close to him.

I think that all Cllrs would agree, that Cllr Last did an absolutely incredible job in his time as Chair, working relentlessly to bring back order and drive efficiency and positivity. His dedication to the cause was second to none and his achievements whilst in office have set the precedent for council moving forwards.

I personally enjoyed working with Cllr Last immensely – his no nonsense approach clashed slightly with local government policies and procedures, but in the end, it meant that things got done. Box ticked, move on! I am not only going to miss his excellent leadership and his huge wealth of local knowledge and connections, but also his friendship, and encouragement.

He invested a lot into our Parish Council and our villages, and so in his honour, we endeavour to continue those good works, under the guidance of Cllr Rushman and Cllr Mahon who have taken on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

On a very much lighter note – the case of the mystery lawnmower is solved. A resident claimed ownership, having left it out with a "FREE" sign, they were happy in the thought that somebody had taken it to make use of it. It seems whoever took it, potentially had different motives. Anyway, it still sits on my drive whilst we find a new home for it, but it has also been put to good use by a volunteer who set about trimming along the river path to help make that more passable – thank you!

The new mowing contract is in place, and the villages and especially the playing field is looking very much smarter for it. In time, Tom and the team at AWFM will begin to push back some of the other areas of overgrowth, but it's also worthy to note that WSC have been doing a great job cutting the roundabout and areas around it, and that SCC have been out recently cutting the verge edges.

We now have some potential dates circulating for further volunteer sessions and I have some projects in mind for the team. Please let me know if you'd like to be a part of the group – even if you can just spare a couple of hours!
Email clerk@fsmg-pc.gov.uk

We have received some great feedback regarding the newly improved bus stop opposite Oak Close, where the shelter was made deeper, adding longer sides (one with a window to spot oncoming buses), and also a bench so you can sit whilst waiting for a bus. Thanks to Matt and his team at MJL Building Services for the works. The bus stop at the top of Barton Hill is also back in use after two panes had to be replaced in quick succession.

The gates to the playing field have been sanded and treated and all of the ironmongery painted. Thanks to Will of Ford Fencing for re-setting the post and to Susan of Lilylife Home Maintenance for doing the works to the gates – all looking fab. Susan is scheduled to repaint the play park soon, after doing such a great job at the Fornham All Saints play area – looking forward to seeing ours looking shiny and smart again – to match the bright new rope bridge. Whilst speaking of the park, we've had to remove a section of the trim trail that failed its safety inspection. If anybody has any ideas for this now empty bed of bark chippings – let us know!

If you like apples – the fruit trees around the playing field are looking great, some heavy with apples and soon some ripe plums... Let's make use of them before they all fall or go foul. If anybody has any great recipes to share – be great to include some in future issues!

Still waiting on news of our new bend sign for the dangerous bend between St Genevieve and Culford – it's being manufactured to order (but could probably do with a chase to be fair). And the new solar VAS unit has arrived. Although the new unit works well in the sun... I DON'T, so myself and Cllr Mahon are waiting for some cooler weather to install the new machine and switch some of the old units around.

Thanks to those who responded to the Community Governance Review, and council's plans to merge with Fornham All Saints Parish Council. I previously mentioned that this went before WSC for consideration and was received favourably. The public consultation seems to have gone well too, so watch this space...

With regards to the wider Local Government Reorganisation and governments decision to move to 3 unitary authorities in Suffolk, there is much confusion over this, now that the 'new' Suffolk County Council administration have challenged the decision. Nobody knows yet what that might mean to the planned schedule. For further details, see **www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk**

The government's proposals to potentially repurpose RAF Barnham Camp to house a large number of asylum seekers continues to cause controversy. West Suffolk Council have expressed their concerns at the proposal, and created the below pages where they will share latest news and updates.
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/barnham-raf-camp.cfm

As always, lots of great things happening in the village hall and the church. If your club or group isn't represented, then let me know and we can make sure it is included moving forwards.

We continue to do our best to include articles about other local services that may be of interest to help keep you healthy, active, warm and safe, as well as providing help if you are struggling financially or in rented accommodation.

I say it every time, but if you have something you'd like to write about, or an idea to share, then we'd love to hear from you too!

As always, feedback, ideas and suggestions for the magazine welcome...

thebugle@fsmmsg-pc.gov.uk

Questions or issues in or around the village, send these to the Clerk...

clerk@fsmmsg-pc.gov.uk

Dates For Parish Council Meetings

August - no meeting (*unless planning*)

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December - no meeting (*unless planning*)

****Please note the new time of 6:30pm****

All meetings will be held in the Village Hall unless otherwise advised on the meeting agenda which will be posted on the village notice boards at least three clear days before each meeting.

(*excluding Sundays & Bank Holidays*).

Agendas can also be found on the Parish Council website.

www.fsmmsg-pc.gov.uk

For all communication, please email the Clerk in the first instance.

clerk@fsmmsg-pc.gov.uk



PLEASE
NOTE:
Council meetings
are normally on the
second Thursday of
the month, NOW
at 6:30pm

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council - May 2026 Meeting & AGM

Councillors present: John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB), Brandon Mahon (BM) and Linda Leong-Son (LLS).

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), Stuart Turner (ST) from All Saints Resort (ASR), David Yates from the church (DY) and 7 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Council to elect Chair.
Cllr Last was nominated as Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Last as Chair and for the Clerk to confirm the appointment with him, reviewing at the June meeting.
2. Council to elect Vice Chair.
Cllr Rushman was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Rushman as Vice Chair.
3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.
Cllr Rushman completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Clerk signed it.
4. Council to appoint a Responsible Financial Officer.
Council resolved to appoint the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.
5. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Clive Last, County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
6. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
7. Approve and adopt the two sets of minutes from council meeting held on 9th April 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
8. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
Full report included in the APM.

Elections

You will have already read/seen that Suffolk County Council is now run by a Reform administration the makeup of the council is as follows:-

Reform UK - 41 seats
Green Party - 13 seats
Conservative - 9 seats
Labour & Co-operative - 3 seats
Liberal Democrats - 2 seats
Independents - 2 seats

We will have our AGM on 21st May where the leader, deputy leader and the cabinet of the council will be announced.

LGR

One of the large jobs that the new administration will have to get to grips with is the formation of the three unitary councils that will make up Suffolk in 2028, this will mean transition arrangements of services from one council to three including the disaggregation of county wide services such as adult and children's social care and highways. They will also need to look at the parish/town council role in the unitary set up including what powers may be devolved to parishes in the new structure and also what to do with Ipswich with regards to its structure as at the moment there is no town council in place. There were plans for cross party work parties to deal with this but as yet I am unsure as to what the plans of the administration are. Elections for the new unitaries who will act in a shadow form for a year will take place in May 2027 providing the timetable is kept to.

An update to LGR is that the new leader of Reform UK has announced that they plan to legally challenge the decision on LGR, you can only legally challenge the process of LGR and this is a very high bar to reach and not the decision on one or three, so we will see how the detail plays out.

Highways

We now have a new highways engineer covering the area its Matthew Fox his email is matthew.fox@suffolkhighways.org.

9. PUBLIC FORUM 10 minutes.

Resident raised that the verged were overgrown.

The Clerk advised that he was in the process of arranging a new grass cutting contractor.

10. Planning applications.

Council to consider the following planning applications;

- i. DC/26/0167/FUL ****RE-CONSULTATION** to include Amended location and block plan (drawing no. 001 A) / BNG metric / BNG statement**
Planning application - single storey rear extension to create new golf clubhouse facility with external paved terrace at ground floor level and a paved terrace at roof level.
All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
Council resolved to support this variation.
- ii. DC/26/0198/FUL ****RE-CONSULTATION** to include - Amended location and block plan (drawing no. 001 A) / Amended proposed floor plan and elevations (drawing no. 003 C) / Parking Overview Statement**
Planning application - a. infill extension below existing first floor gymnasium b. single storey curved link extension to health club spa.
All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
Council resolved to support this variation.

11. Finance.

Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments totalling £4,834.72**
- ii. Council noted payments received for March – **Total: £40,410.84** (£13.08 interest / £38,000.00 precept / £2,397.76 grants for tools / pavement & hedges)
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of March – **Total: £67,352.16** (£2,184.51 current / £65,167.65 savings)
- iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for April**

12. End of year finance & audit.

- i. **Council resolved to consider, approve & sign Section 1 of the AGAR form**

- ii. **Council resolved to consider, approve & sign Section 2 of the AGAR form**
- iii. **Council resolved to review & approve the supporting statement and explanation of variances for audit**

13. Clerks update.

- i. Street signs School Lane & Oak Close
Oak Close completed, there was an issue with the name on the sign for School Lane causing a delay, but still in progress.
- ii. Volunteering group
Clerk to arrange further dates and a WhatsApp group.
- iii. Playing field gate
To be discussed under item 16.
- iv. All Saints Resort, walk around
Positive meeting with ASR, looking at changes made, as well as future plans/ideas.
Cllr Butler confirmed a great example of cooperation and working well together.
Suggestion that if the village doesn't share the vision, then an open day may do well to counter that.
- v. Meeting with Waste Hub
Second informative meeting, still waiting for application to be submitted – by summer.
- vi. Increased traffic on B1106
Clerk to liaise with Culford parish council.
- vii. Children's play area improvements
Clerk has already removed some broken panels and had a tidy up.
Swings, chains and rope bridge replaced earlier in the week.
Repainting scheduled for July.
- viii. Bend in road sign
Pole being installed 30th May, Clerk can then complete form for sign to be fitted.
- ix. Bus stop damage, Barton Hill
Clerk received a quote for £315 +Vat from Abbey Glass to replace the broken pane.
Damage was caused by WSC mowing team. Clerk has raised claim with WSC's insurance team.
Council resolved to appoint Abbey Glass to carry out the repairs.
- x. Lawn mower
Clerk advised that he cleared an abandoned petrol mower from the footpath between The Drift and the old Thetford Road. Police had no reports of a stolen mower.
Resident remembers it being outside somebodies house with a free/for sale sign.
Clerk will hold on to and dispose of if no news.
- xi. Hedges in Park Avenue
Clerk contacted Havebury about hedges blocking pavements in Park Avenue.
Havebury subsequently came and removed – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- xii. Internal audit
Scheduled w/c 15th June.
- xiii. Damaged grass verge at bottom of Barton Hill
Clerk has reported grass verge damaged during roadworks.

14. Councillors reports.

- xiv. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
Cllr Rushman handed the Clerk his visual inspection reports and conformed new swings and rope bridge looking good.
- xv. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
Cllr Mahon and the Clerk shared the full "Fornhams" VAS locations, with a proposal to

purchase one new solar VAS unit to replace the one by the village sign, which is to be repurposed on Barton Hill. Quotation received for £2,389.99 +Vat.

Council resolved to purchase the new solar VAS unit.

xvi. Asset risk register – Cllr Mahon

Cllr Mahon provided his report of findings on the asset risk register. No major issues to report

ACTION: Clerk to go through and create list of works and get quotes.

15. Grass cutting contract

Clerk presented three different quotes for grass cutting and maintenance in the village.

SCC and WSC have recently trimmed some of the verges and areas in the village that council were quoting to have tidied.

Council resolved to approve the £2,915.53 quote from AW-FM for 19 visits for the year, to cut the playing field, select verges through the village, the roundabout and roundabout entrances, plus maintain shrubs on roundabout.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with contractor to either requote or re-purpose costs if WSC continue to mow the verges.

16. Playing field gate

Council to discuss quote for £337.50 to sand and treat the memorial gates.

Council resolved to carry out these works, as planned preventative maintenance.

17. Playing field / football pitch hire

Council to discuss request to use/hire the pitch for Monday night football training sessions.

Council agreed with the idea in principle.

Action: Clerk to speak to the contact to understand specific needs, no. of cars, timings etc.

18. Playing field parking for the Garden Club

Council to discuss request for Garden Club to park on the field. Confirm dates.

Council resolved to approve use of the field on 2nd June for the Gaden Club.

19. Bus stop improvements opposite Oak Close.

Clerk presented a quote for £825 from the previous contractor, to extend the roof, and add one solid side, plus one part windowed side and a bench.

Council resolved to approve this quote.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain price to have old bus stop repaired and treated at the same time.

20. Community Governance Review

Council resolved to continue to support the combining to one authority for the three villages.

Council resolved that it should be called Fornham Parish Council as it rolls off the tongue easier and provides a shorter URL for website and email.

Council questioned what the quorate number would be for WSC's suggested 11 Cllrs, or Clerk's suggested 14 Cllrs.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate and advise.

21. Correspondence.

i. Sold sign in the village

Clerk spoke to agent and sign removed.

ii. Footpath up Old Thetford Road and along the back to The Drift. Residents concerned about tree & hedge clearing in the area. Planning application lodged but works begun Covered in APM, council to write to owner and contractor.

iii. Concern over mowing in the village and vandalism of wild areas

Clerk responded, simply mowing season has begun.

iv. Concern over bus stop vandalism

Covered under 13ix.

v. More thanks and appreciation for pavement clearing (Barton Hill to Bury)

Noted.

- vi. VAS battery – replacement required
Clerk has made contact with resident responsible – waiting to hear back.
- vii. Headstone in church
Clerk redirected enquiry to benefice office.
- viii. DY letter to SCC re: Tollgate junction
Noted.
- ix. Residents concern over spraying weedkiller in the playing field
Council noted that the same issue came up last year and to check minutes to see that person involved is licensed and approved.
Resident concerned 'allowed' doesn't mean safe.

22. Items to be raised on a future agenda.

- i. Trees & bushes along path around The Drift to the old Thetford Road
- ii. Spraying around the village and on the playing field
- iii. Churchyard – is there a plan for when the churchyard is full?

23. Date of next meeting.

Council resolved to move the June meeting to the 18th of June and the July meeting to the 16th of July.

Next meeting to be held on June 18th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed to the public 7.47pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 18th June.

Signed: *John Rushman*

Date: 18th June, 2026

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council - June 2026 Meeting

Councillors present: John Rushman (JR) Vice Chair, Paul Butler (PB) and Brandon Mahon (BM)

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), Josh Harris (JHa) from All Saints Resort (ASR), and 4 members of the public.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Council to elect Chair.
Cllr Last upheld his resignation as Chair, but his wish is to remain a Cllr.
Cllr Rushman was nominated as Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Rushman as Chair.
Cllr Rushman happy to meet with Cllr Last at any point to liaise on any matters.
Cllr Butler applauded Cllr Last for his dedication to council.
2. Council to elect Vice Chair.
Cllr Mahon was nominated as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.
Council resolved to elect Cllr Mahon as Vice Chair.
3. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.
Cllr Rushman and Cllr Mahon completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and the Clerk signed them.
4. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Clive Last, Cllr Linda Leong-Son and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.
5. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
None received.
6. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting & AGM held on 21st May 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.
7. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
New Local Plan is currently out for first stage of consultation. Some odd questions, like what shops would people like, but nonetheless, important for residents to have their say.

LGR - new administration has challenged LGR decision and letter of intent has been sent. SCC not publishing what or why, but Essex did, so can only assume along the same lines. Essex also challenging the decision well as the process. First letter expected to cost £15k. £200k has already been put aside for the judicial review - expect delays to already tight LGR rollout timeframe. Work is still continuing on the LGR process and planning, maybe not at same pace though. Norfolk has put a stop to any LGR work.

Bins - some households missing bins, others missed collections. WSC had a big lead on this, but still teething problems. Missing bins to be reported to Cllr Hopfensperger.

Clerk asked Cllr Hopfensperger for her input on item 16 iv.

Cllr Hopfensperger confirmed that because a formal complaint has been lodged, it removes her and Cllr Broughton from the process.

Suggest Clerk to ask exactly what answer the resident is looking for, as letter slightly unclear.

Cllr Rushman asked Cllr Hopfensperger for an update on the line painting on the bend in St Genevieve.

ACTION: Clerk to escalate report to Cllr Hopfensperger, to raise at meeting with Highways engineer.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.

Josh Harris from ASR shared two potential ideas they are considering;

Amphitheatre - based on the style of the Thorrington one, which was built in an old bomb crater. Small change to landscape, with a modest two tiers of stone filled gabion walls, with wooden seating on top, set in a grassy mound on disused part of the course.

Cllr Butler suggested increased cultural interest is good, but potential for noise complaints – were there planning conditions around noise & amplification / times / no. people etc. – ASR: planning would likely place constraints in terms of hours of operation.

BM advised more detail would be required in order to make a full decision – ASR: this would come with full planning application.

Resident raised concern over parking and the valley feel of the setting re: noise carrying – ASR: enough parking at the hotel, many spaces are cross utilised.

Land Train - to connect the hotel to the lodge site via the new path. Extension to this would potentially be to go into town, linking ASR with Bury St Edmunds and vice-versa. Already spoken to Highways as would need a license. Raises profile of the town and the resort. Not running all year round. Already presented to Bury & Beyond and BID.

Council agreed not really a council matter, more Highways, but appreciated the involvement. ASR currently looking at resolving the lighting conditions re: the new path.

Resident raised concern regarding parking at the lodge site.

Clerk confirmed cars parking outside individual lodges is not allowed under the appeal decision, and that ASR ought to be controlling this better to avoid further enforcement action.

Resident raised ongoing enforcement concern that the lodges continue to be used for commercial lets, not as holiday lets that the appeal decision was based upon.

Resident raised the suggestion for ASR to create a 5 year plan for the site, so that residents know better what is planned.

Cllr Butler encouraged ASR to consider the open day as previously discussed – perhaps best in September?

9. Planning applications.

Council to consider the following planning applications

- i. DC/26/0802/HH
Householder planning application - single storey extension to side of dwelling (following demolition of existing garage).
3 St Andrews Drive Fornham St Martin Suffolk IP28 6TR
Council resolved to support this application.
- ii. All Saints Resort to propose two new ideas to Council
 - Land Train from ASR to BSE
 - Amphitheatre for plays / performancesCovered under Public Forum.

10. Finance.

12 Council to consider and approve the following;

- i. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments totalling £6,017.74**
- ii. Council noted payments received for May – **Total: £18.16** (interest)
- iii. Council noted bank balances to end of May – **Total: £62,536.00** (£350.19 current / £62,185.81 savings)
- iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for May**
Clerk preparing VAT return for £1,624.14 to end of June 26.

11. Clerks update.

- i. Street sign School Lane
Awaiting replacement following name mix up.
- ii. Volunteering group
Clerk to arrange next date and WhatsApp group.
- iii. Playing field gate
Scheduled with play park repainting works.
- iv. Increased traffic on B1106
Clerk to liaise with Culford parish council.
- v. Children's play area improvements
Was scheduled w/c 23rd June, now pushed back. Clerk to meet with contractor to make a plan, might swap dates with FAS, as FSM could be done in school holidays.
- vi. Bend in road sign
Pole is installed, form completed for sign installation, awaiting install date. Pole set further back than expected.
ACTION: Clerk & JR to arrange to remove tree branches.
- vii. Bus stop damage, Barton Hill
Second pane smashed. Clerk arranged for both to be replaced together – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- viii. Lawn mower
Resident confirmed where the lawnmower had come from. Clerk to find new home – **ITEM CLOSED.**
- ix. Birds nests, The Drift / Old Thetford Road
Resident concerned even if no planning required, that birds and nests were disturbed. Concern that deer were tapped within new fence, but deer can easily clear a 4ft fence.
Council resolved for Clerk to write to the contractor and landowner to raise concern over seeming lack of care for nesting laws.
- x. Verge damage, bottom of Barton Hill
Clerk raised but SCC closed as doesn't meet criteria for work.
ACTION: Clerk to escalate report to Cllr Hopfensperger.
- xi. Football pitch hire
Clerk heard nothing further – **ITEM CLOSED**
- xii. VAS battery
Clerk reached out, heard nothing back - ongoing.
- xiii. New VAS unit
New unite has arrived, Clerk and Cllr Mahon to find date to install.
- xiv. Internal audit
All prepared and submitted – scheduled for this week.

12. Councillors reports.

- i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
Grass has been cut and looks good. Rabbit scrapes still a concern. Long bench has been tightened. Last trim trail item still needs cleaning.

- ii. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
New sign will provide traffic and speed data. David Yates still reporting cars direct to Police.
13. Bus stop improvements opposite Oak Close.
Council to discuss extra quote to make some simple repairs and re-treat existing shelter for an extra £350.
Council resolved the extra spend was higher than expected and to proceed without re-treating.
Council resolved a budget of £200 extra for the works, or for the volunteer group to tackle.
14. Community Governance Review
Reminder for all to have their say in the public consultation which ends 30th June.
Council resolved to proceed with Clerks suggested Cllr numbers of 6 for All Saints, 6 for St Martin and 2 for St Genevieve.
15. Grant applications
Council to discuss the following grant applications
- i. Thursday Stitches – towards running costs
Council resolved to approve a grant of £200.
 - ii. Church – £900 (as per 2025) towards general churchyard maintenance
Council resolved a grant of £1000.
 - iii. Village Hall – towards extra wall repairs by rear door (est. £2k)
Council resolved a grant of £1000.
16. Correspondence.
- i. Lawnmower
Covered under item 11 viii.
 - ii. Mowing & weed growth
Mowing contract now in place and verges cut.
 - iii. Birkdale Court street sign
Offending sign since been trimmed around.
 - iv. Street naming – unauthorised parish address alteration
Covered under item 7.
 - v. Spraying on the playing field
WSC do approve the use of glyphosate around specific items and edges, not blanket spraying.
Mowing contractor confirmed similar, although perhaps spraying could be tighter.
Resident confirmed Bury Town Council don't spray play areas and advised to check with WSC.
ACTION: Cllr Rushman to meet with the individual to discuss. Clerk to arrange.
 - vi. David Yates raised pavement issue in Lark Valley Drive with SCC
Noted.
17. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
- i. West Suffolk Local Plan – new details received and shared with Cllrs
 - ii. Waste Hub expansion – now submitted under DC/26/0891/HYB (council not notified yet)
18. Date of next meeting.
Council resolved to change the date of the July meeting to 30th.
Next meeting to be held on July 30th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.07pm.

At the time of going to press,
the July minutes had not been
finalised

All minutes from Parish
Council meetings
can be found on the
website, or by using
the QR code here



www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

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difference in your village?

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decisions that affect your
community?

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YOU!!**



To find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor, please email the
Parish Clerk **clerk@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk**

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council are still looking for new Councillors.

Our Parish Councillors:

- Are available for PC meetings, usually, the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm (with the exception of August & December).
- Attend occasional training sessions.
- Attend occasional consultation events and informative local authority meetings.
- Undertake any actions they volunteer for and are delegated to them from meetings.
- Receive and respond to PC emails in between meetings.
- May help with the village activities or events

You need to:

- Care about getting the best for your community.
- Have a willingness to represent your electorate.
- Want to make a difference.
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct.
- Register your interests.
- Have some time available and be committed and enthusiastic.

You must:

- Be a British Citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union;
- Be 18 years of age or over
- During the previous 12-month period resided in the council area;
or
- Have during the whole of the 12 months previous occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the council area;
or
- Have during that same period had your principal or only place of work in the council area;
or
- You can also satisfy the criteria to be elected if you have lived in the council area or within 3 miles of it for the whole of the 12 months previous

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION:

If you are interested in the vacancy for Parish Councillor, or would like more info, please email the Clerk clerk@fsmg-pc.gov.uk.

connecting **Communities**

rural transport



What could it be used for?

Social, appointments, study, shopping, work (you can book multiple return journeys in advance)

What is Connecting Communities?

Connecting Communities is for people traveling around Suffolk that don't have access to a regular bus or train service.

For more information or to book a journey

01638 664304

www.suffolkonboard.com/CC

Cheap

Fares are based on what a normal bus journey would cost

Flexible

Journeys can be booked online or by phone around your schedule

Convenient

Pick-up and drop-off from your door or a convenient location

Modern

Clean, comfortable and well maintained vehicles

**“A RAY OF
SUNSHINE,”
- BETTY**



**LIFE IS BETTER WHEN
YOU'RE SMILING**

Become a Befriending Volunteer – Make a Real Difference

by The Voluntary Network



Loneliness affects many people in our communities, but a simple act of friendship can change that. Befriending volunteers offer companionship, conversation, and connection to people who may otherwise feel isolated.

Befriending is about being there — sharing a chat, listening, or spending a little time together in person or over the phone. You don't need special skills or experience, just kindness, reliability, and a willingness to connect.

By volunteering, you can help someone feel valued and less alone, while also gaining a sense of purpose, new perspectives, and meaningful relationships of your own. Even an hour a week can make a big difference. If you're looking for a rewarding way to give back and strengthen your community, becoming a befriending volunteer could be the perfect opportunity.

How to Get Involved

Getting started is easy. Simply contact us to register your interest, and our team will guide you through the next steps, including a short application, training, and ongoing support. We'll work with you to match you with someone who suits your availability and interests.

Your time. Your kindness. Someone's brighter day.

jackie@thevoluntarynetwork.org

01638 608048

www.thevoluntarynetwork.org/befriending/how-to-volunteer/

Is your group represented in The Bugle?

We want to know what's happening in the villages, so if you want your group or organisation to be featured in this magazine, then please get in touch with the Editor for more information:

thebugle@fsmg-pc.gov.uk

Suffolk Connected by Suffolk Police

Get connected with what is happening in your local area, stay up to date and get involved in shaping what goes on where you live or work.

Suffolk Connected is an easy, free messaging service from Suffolk Police, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you.



Sign up to receive email updates about crime and suspicious activity where you live or work, crime prevention advice and updates from your local neighbourhood policing team. You'll also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood officers and have your say on local policing priorities.

**To sign up, visit
www.suffolkconnected.org.uk**



Calthorpe and Edwards Educational Foundation 2026/27

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 2025/26 it was £360 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. Payment will be by BACS and students will be required to provide their home address, email address and bank details.

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.

Currently there are 3 students from Ingham, 1 student from Ampton and 3 from Great Livermere.

There are 4 students from Fornham St Martin, 16 from Great Barton, 2 from Ixworth and 1 from Wordwell.

For more information contact Mrs Rosemary Boswell: phone **01284 728199** or email: **calanded24@gmail.com**

Village Hall Diary

Activity	Date	Times
	MONDAYS AVAILABLE TO HIRE	
Fibrefusion	First Tuesday	10:00am - 4:00pm
Teaming Up Jordan: 07555 603340	First & Third Tuesday	6:30pm to 9:00pm
Women Inspired	First Wednesday	6:45pm - 8:45pm
Ladies Club	Third Wednesday	7:00pm - 10:00pm
Mary's Quilters Mary: 01284 700101	Fourth Wednesday	10:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday Sewing Group	Every Thursday	10:00am - 4:00pm
Starz	Fourth & Fifth Friday	10:00am - 4:00pm
Whist chrisbird2370@gmail.com	Every Friday	7:00pm - 10:00pm
	SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES, GROUPS & GATHERINGS	

Party? Club Meeting? Exhibition?

If you would like to hire the Village Hall for your one-off or regular event, please contact:

Lynne Quelch

07552 061489 - fornhamhall@aol.com

or

Maureen Hockett, Committee Chair

07887 778353 - maureenl.hockett@aol.com

FORNHAM ST MARTIN CUM ST GENEVIEVE PARISH COUNCIL S137 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.

If your group would like to be considered for a donation, please contact the Clerk:

clerk@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

We'd love to hear from you!

Would you like to publish a piece in The Bugle newsletter?

A poem, a short story, an article on something you find interesting or a hobby you enjoy doing, a community event or project, a recipe?

Please contact thebugle@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

Church News

by David Yates

The last Book Sale Coffee and Cakes on 18th July was very well supported and it was good to see our regular readers and friends, with thanks to everyone donating fresh books, and cakes.

£740 was raised for vital church funds, but also important everyone enjoyed meeting up again, or maybe for the first time, choosing books from a choice of some 2500, as well as the delicious refreshments. Thanks to everyone who donated fresh books, and delicious cakes, sausage rolls, quiche, scones and some tasty filled buns.

The trainee bell ringers are really getting the hang of the art of bell ringing, as campanologists, under Bell Tower Captain Deborah Blumfield, with all its varying practices to keep in tune. Newcomers are welcome to try it out and join what is a very active and sociable county and national organisation and enable the bells to be rung by our own Band of Ringers when fully formed and competent for special occasions.

Now we have a set of 8 bells, they are becoming well known far and wide, and visiting bands regularly come to try them out, about 6 or so, so far, including from St Wilfred's, Calverley, West Yorkshire on Saturday 18th July from 2–3pm, towards the end of the Book Sale, so its musical bells while you buy and read, whilst enjoying refreshments.

Also visits from Oxford; St Oswald's, Durham, and a return visit by St Mary's, Barnes, London.

In Guild circles the First Peal of 3 hours with 5040 changes, known as St Martins Bob Triples, is a Mark of Achievement, by regular distinguished Guild of Suffolk Members who were greatly involved in the project, was celebrated on Sunday 12th July between 12pm and 3.0pm, starting just after we finished coffee after the service, which was a treat.

We now look forward to supporting the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, with their annual Ride and Stride on Saturday 12th September, all volunteers to ride would be welcome, to be sponsored (I suppose anything with wheels would be eligible) or sit in church to welcome riders from around the area and sign off their forms and provide refreshments.

A hot tip for those having reading difficulties reading the large print notices on all our different bins: **'plastic only'** means only plastic; **'paper only'** means no plastic just paper; **'garden waste only'** means only garden waste, not paper or plastic. Reading lessons are available if needed!

I know we are all still getting used to our multi-coloured bins, but putting plastic and pottery flowerpots in the green top 'paper only' bin, is not funny, and they were promptly removed.

The Council could refuse to empty bins that are 'contaminated' with the wrong type of contents.

Whilst on the subject of waste, no thanks to the lazy irresponsible person who let their pet deposit waste from its back end on the grass verge outside the church, next to the bus stop. It's a filthy anti-social, potentially medically dangerous, habit. How many signs do the Parish Council have to put up, to convince the small minority to stop it? **Bag it and bin it, please!** Or get reported and fined.

The 5 yearly 'quinquennial' maintenance required by the Diocese, after inspection and report by their architect, is due to commence shortly, fortunately no major repairs are required.

As I often say to visitors 'we didn't build it; we don't own it; but we are the present custodians to maintain the church in a fit and suitable condition, for future generations. Similarly, we hope to increase the energy capacity for possible future heating requirements, by UK Power Networks increasing the electric input to the building.

If you can help in any way, do get in touch.

The 100 Club winners are:

August	1st	£30	Fiona Barker no. 81
	2nd	£20	Catherine Buxton no. 47
	3rd	£10	Jackie Cooke no. 6
September	1st	£30	Joan Baker no. 55
	2nd	£20	Tim Claydon no. 58
	3rd	£10	Robbie Snazell no. 48

Thanks to everyone who supports the church in this way. Vacant memberships do become available occasionally.

Our next services, as shown on the notice boards are:

August 9th, 23rd and 30th, 10am

September 13th and 27th, 10am

All welcome, with coffee after.

Additional volunteers are needed for occasional flowers and cleaning and would be made most welcome.

With the magazine now two monthly, the next one after this is, October - November.

Benefice Pilgrimage Walk

22nd August 2026



Come and join us for a leisurely walk from Lackford into Bury St Edmunds. We will be stopping at:

- St Lawrence, Lackford
9am (meet from 8.30am)
- St Mary's, West Stow
10.30am
- St Mary's, Culford
11.30am
- All Saints, Fornham All Saints
1pm
- St George's, Bury 2.30pm
- St John's, Bury 3.30pm
- All Saints, Bury 4.30pm

You are warmly welcome to join us for a pilgrimage across the Lark Valley and North Bury Team Benefice. The total journey from Lackford to All Saint's Bury is around 12.6 miles (20.28km). The pace will be reasonably slow (2mph) to allow us to enjoy the beautiful churches and countryside along the way. You may wish to do it all, or journey with us for part of the route only.

We will start from St Lawrence church in Lackford at 9am. Please arrive at the church from 8.30am for a walkers' briefing and prayers. There will be several stops on the way for toilets and to refill water bottles. We plan to eat our packed lunches at Fornham All Saints. The route will be a combination of footpaths and pavements so will require comfortable walking shoes/boots and weather/nettle appropriate clothing.

To find out more information and fill out a registration form, please contact Sarah Gull, seg30@cam.ac.uk



Rural Coffee Caravan - Fornham All Saints

Wednesday 5th August, 2026 10am -12pm
Thingoe Lodge, Forge End, Fornham All Saints

FUTURE DATES

2nd September
7th October
4th November
9th December

FAS Village Hall
Thingoe Lodge
Thingoe Lodge
Thingoe Lodge

Check out
the website
for details of
dates in Great
Livermere

All Welcome! Simply come for some company and we'll put the kettle on for you, providing free tea, coffee, biscuits or cake, and plenty of cheer. Or come and chat with us to see if there are any concerns we might be able to help you find answers to. We have access to a raft of information on local activities, services and organisations to help you stay happy, healthy, independent at home, and more connected to others in your area.

www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

Please note visits may be subject to last minute changes due to extreme weather or unforeseen circumstances. We will give as much notice as we can, please check the website for updates.

August Bank Holiday bin collection days

Usual collection	Revised collection
Monday 31 August	Tuesday 1 September
Tuesday 1 September	Wednesday 2 September
Wednesday 2 September	Thursday 3 September
Thursday 3 September	Friday 4 September
Friday 4 September	Saturday 5 September



Fornham Garden Club

by Ian Robertson

On the evening of 9th June, Fornham Garden Club member James Robinson, treated members to an extremely interesting and informative talk on dragonflies which have been here for 300 million years. In all that time they have not changed much. The hotter the world is, the more oxygen they can absorb and some were about 70cm (28") in wingspan. James pointed out that dragonflies differ from damselflies in that at rest, the wings of damselflies are at 45 degrees angle and their eyes are at the sides of their head, whereas dragonflies cannot fold wings back and their eyes are at the front of their head.

Dragonflies have compound eyes with many facets which can process 300 images per second, increasing their reaction time. All four of their wings operate independently and they can also fly sideways and backwards making them incredibly strong fliers. They are prey to spiders and birds. Both dragonflies and damselflies are creatures of the sun and the first heavy frost will kill them; some dragonflies live for only one week.

Dragonflies feed in flight on anything smaller as they are completely carnivorous. They always come back to water to mate, where it must be at least 17 degrees and sunny. The male holds the female whilst she lays eggs so he can ensure only his sperm is used for fertilisation of her eggs. The eggs hatch to become larvae which some years later, emerge from the water to shed their casing, expanding the body and then inflating their wings, extending both body and wings. Most local species in Suffolk prefer smaller ponds with eg. irises, water lilies and oxygenating plants but it must be noted that fish will also eat dragonflies. It has been noted that dragonflies carry out "pre-flight checks" - they check movement of their head, legs and wings before taking off.

There are many species; for example with damselflies there is the Common Blue which prefers still or slow moving water and the Azure damselfly which likes sheltered places.

There are also several dragonflies such as the Common Emerald and the scarce Emerald. The list is long for these beautiful creatures and we count ourselves lucky if we can see them in our garden ponds, but ideally, NO FISH!

The Club's July meeting was a visit to RHN Plant Centre at Barrow. Members were warmly greeted and were told the history of Rougham Hall Nursery. They used to do a lot of showing of plants but now concentrate on the Barrow site, having moved 2 years ago from beside the A14 between Rougham and Beyton. The family run business is now in its 4th generation run by Kelvin (Dad), Yvonne (Mum) and Beth (daughter).

For further information about Fornham Garden Club please contact the Chairman on **07876 644611** or **ijfrob@gmail.com**. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Fornham All Saints Community Centre with refreshments raffle and chat from 7.00pm and the meeting commencing at 7.30pm.

Mobile Library Dates & Times

Every 4th **TUESDAY**

August 11th
September 8th
October 6th
November 3rd
December 1st
December 29th

Lark Valley Drive
12:00 – 12:30pm

For more information, visit the Suffolk Libraries website:

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk



New Small Electrical Recycling Points



Locations in Bury St Edmunds

Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Rd, IP32 7EE

Southgate Community Centre Car Park, Heron Road, IP33 2QA

Ram Meadow Car Park, Cotton Lane, IP33 1XP

Parkway Surface Car Park, Parkway North, IP33 3BA

Vinery Road Car Park, Vinery Road, IP33 2JP

The legacy of “make do and mend”

How the repair café grew out of a wartime idea

Next Repair Café

Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

Date: 12 September 2026

Place: Bridge Community Church, 68 Queen’s Road IP33 3EW

In 1943, during World War 2, the British Government introduced a clothing repair scheme called “Make do and mend” as cloth was in short supply. We don’t live in a world of shortages any more - Earth.org estimates that we produce about 92 million tonnes of textile waste every year globally.

Make do and mend was targeted at women using their mascot “Mrs Sew and Sew.” That targeting might seem dated now but remains good home economics to try to repair something rather than throw it away. No surprise that the Repair Café concept was invented by a woman, Martine Postma,

We’ve been running a Repair Café in Bury St Edmunds for three years. The next will be our 20th. From the very start, women have made up half of the team of volunteers, running the café, mending clothing, jewellery and electrical and mechanical items. One recruit is still at school, working towards her GCSEs and a career in engineering and campaigning for active transport (walking, cycling) for travelling to school.

Book in here <https://tally.so/r/3lyvqo>
or email repair.cafe.bse@gmail.com

Bin it? No way!





Free summer activities

For details of the HAF scheme
and free discretionary places
scan the QR code or visit
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/HAF



Funded by
UK Government

Paddle boarding and roller disco, among free summer activities

by West Suffolk Council

Acrobatics, roller disco, paddle boarding and pony care and grooming are among the free activities taking place in West Suffolk during the school summer holidays.

They are part of the national Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which is primarily aimed to support children who receive benefits related free school meals. It was set up to help support them during the school holidays when they may not otherwise get a hot meal.

But discretionary places are also available to other families who could do with a little bit of extra support at this time.

The Summer holiday programme of activities is Government funded and has been coordinated by West Suffolk Council on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

In total, the West Suffolk programme will offer more than 5,035 places held across 444 sessions. West Suffolk is working with 30 providers this Summer, six of which are new, to provide a strong mix of activities that will appeal to children and to teenagers up to and including the age of 16.

As well as acrobatics, roller disco, paddle boarding in Brandon and Newmarket pony care and grooming, sessions also include fitness, mindfulness, swimming, football, crafts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and more.

Families with children on benefits related free school meals should have already received information through their school or college about HAF. Booking is through an online platform called Eequ which details all the HAF activities across Suffolk.

www.eequ.org

Schools have also been given information to help any parents who cannot access online to book. If transport is an issue, Suffolk County Council may be able to help - families are asked to contact **HAFenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk**

Other families should contact the activity providers to ask about discretionary places. Contact details can be seen on the same Eequ link or through the council's #westsuffolksummerhaf26 posts on Facebook and Instagram. Discretionary places are limited and will be decided by Suffolk County Council on a first come first served basis.

Cllr Donna Higgins, West Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Families and Communities said: "We have a packed programme with new providers, new activities and plenty of free activities for children and teenagers to enjoy. While HAF is primarily aimed at children and teenagers who receive benefits related free school meals, I would urge families who could do with that little bit of extra support at this time to ask the activity providers about discretionary places.

"The Holiday Activities and Food programme is just one of the ways that we are working to help households across West Suffolk.

"We are committed to helping residents, including working households. Our Financial Inclusion Service is working alongside the charity and voluntary sector to help households save money and maximise their income.

"We are continuing to provide tax relief to low-income households in West Suffolk.

"Through our grant agreement with Citizen's Advice West Suffolk we are supporting work to help people who are struggling with money, heating costs, and more.

"And we are about to reopen our Thriving Communities Fund from mid-July, with grants awarded from the last round already supporting lots of great community led projects, including helping residents improve their finances, manage debts and save money on bills."

Cost OF Living
SUPPORT



infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving 

Explore Outdoor - Free Summer Holidays

Activities for Children and Families

by Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre & Abbeycroft

We're pleased to share an exciting range of free activities available over the Summer holidays for children and families who are eligible for Free School Meals. Please do share with any eligible families that you feel would benefit from these sessions.

- **Family Park Cooking (Families)** Families will take part in an outdoor cooking session over a campfire. Each family participating will receive a food box with ingredients for five healthy meals to prepare at home, along with recipe cards.
- **Adventure Days (Ages 8–14)** A full day of activities (8:30am–4:30pm) with breakfast, lunch and snacks, including axe throwing, archery, swimming, bread making, kite making, and more.

Activities must be booked via Eequ and are subject to a verification check.

Free places are primarily intended for children eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, however, we will also consider applications from young people who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (Pupil Premium – excluding KS1 universal FSM)
- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Refugee status

Below is a list of activities, locations and dates:

Adventure Days, Bury Leisure Centre

3rd, 4th, 11th*, 12th Aug

**with Additional SEND Support*

Family Park Cooking, Bury Scout Hut

17th, 18th, 19th Aug

To book any of the above activities please follow the link below:

<https://www.abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF/>

If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Explore Outdoor, Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre, Abbeycroft
01440 765122 | www.abbeycroft.org.uk



FAMILY PARK COOKING
AGES 8-14 YEARS

20th July - 28th August
Subject to availability
08:30-16:30

Parents and children take part in an amazing family day out with a wide range of activities including an outdoor cooking master class where you will cook a delicious lunch together. This Summer recipe will be perfect pizza pocket.

*Free for those eligible for free school meals or meet Suffolk County Council eligibility criteria
abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

FREE

Find Out More




Abbeycroft
Let's Love Life





ADVENTURE DAYS
AGES 8-14 YEARS

20th July - 28th August
Subject to availability
08:30-16:30

Come to life in the great outdoors this Summer and enjoy fire lighting and cooking in the wild, archery, axe throwing and swimming, and much more.

*Free for those eligible for free school meals or meet Suffolk County Council eligibility criteria
abbeycroft.org.uk/HAF

FREE

Find Out More




Abbeycroft
Let's Love Life



Help prevent homelessness through early reporting of tenancy issues by West Suffolk Council

Landlords of residential properties across West Suffolk are being encouraged to report tenancy issues early to aid a council in preventing homelessness.

West Suffolk Council has already helped successfully prevent 225 households across the district from becoming homeless in the year to 31st March. That's a 30 per cent increase in the number of preventions on the previous year.

During that time, the housing authority also reached out and worked with private sector landlords to reduce potential no fault evictions ahead of the first phase of the Renters Rights Act which came into effect on 1st May this year. The council has been supporting landlords and their tenants through the changes both through its work with Safe Suffolk Renters and through its West Suffolk Lettings Partnership which now manages close to 200 properties on behalf of more than 80 landlords.

Now West Suffolk is looking to further its dialogue with landlords so that it knows about any tenancy issues that they are experiencing long before they lead to eviction and homelessness. It has launched an online tool to through which landlords can report issues directly to the council.

www.westsuffolk-self.achieveservice.com/service/Landlord_referral_form

Cllr Richard O'Driscoll, Cabinet Member for Housing at West Suffolk Council, said: "I am very proud of the work that the Council has done to prevent homelessness for many West Suffolk households. We recognise that there are many reasons why tenancy issues arise. These can include a change to the tenant's circumstances, rent arrears, or a breakdown in communication between the tenant and their landlord."

"What we are asking is for the landlords of West Suffolk properties to tell us about any tenancy problems as early as possible."

"We may be able to help the tenant address the financial or personal issues, and by doing so preventing it from escalating to eviction. That then maintains the ongoing tenancy for the benefit of the tenant as well as the landlord who doesn't miss out on rent while advertising for someone new."

"But we are also realistic and recognise that in some cases the landlord will wish to pursue an eviction. We can advise the landlord on the next steps and ensure that they follow the correct procedures. That then gives us early notice that we may need to support the tenant in finding somewhere else suitable to live in order to prevent them from becoming homeless."

The move forms part of the wider approach of the council set out in its Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy which places a continuing emphasis on intervention and prevention of homelessness.

See - **www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housing** to view the strategy.



The 12th Rotary Classic Car Show

by Melanie Lesser

The Classic car show took place on Sunday July 12th in glorious sunshine on the lawns in front Culford Hall and raised around £40,000 for charity with possibly more to come.

The 12th Car Show organised by the Bury Abbey Rotary Club, had volunteer support from many other nearby Rotary clubs and local charities, it is now an established fixture in the Suffolk's summer calendar. With more than 40 car clubs and around 500 cars on display, attendees enjoyed a spectacular selection of vehicles gleaming in the sunshine. This year we had a fantastic range on display ranging from the 1906 classic Brasier to the Gordon Murray T50. The car owners enjoyed talking to the visitors about their cars, opening their bonnets and letting them sit in the driver's seat.



Attendees also enjoyed a wide range of food options, from Mexican cuisine to hog roasts, as well as local craft stalls situated under the trees in the lovely park. Many other local charities who also receive donations from Bury Abbey Rotary attended the event, offering visitors the chance to enter competitions, enjoy craft making and learn about the charity.

Club President Max Weatherby said

“This year I was delighted to spend time with some of our nominated charities, EACH and Brave Futures on their stands speaking with their volunteers and learning more about the amazing outreach work they provide us in Suffolk” This year, Bury Abbey Rotary were proud to support EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices), which provides essential care and support to children and families across the region. With three hospices in East Anglia, EACH relies heavily on community events like the Classic Car Show to secure funding - 85% of their income comes from public donations.

Katie McSweeney, EACH Community Fundraiser for Suffolk said

“Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped make this year's car show another fantastic success, especially Bury Abbey Rotary Club members, the neighbouring Rotary Clubs and Culford School.

Their generosity, together with the support of all the sponsors, volunteers and everyone who attended on the day, will make a genuine difference to our vital work.

It was wonderful to see the community come together for such a memorable event, and we are honoured to have been chosen as the main beneficiary once again. The incredible generosity shown over the last three years has raised an amazing amount, helping us continue to provide care and support for children, young people and families across East Anglia.”

The Senior Event Organiser Phil Peters said

“It’s a great example of the power of Rotary, from Bury Abbey Rotary Club. we’re extremely proud of the partnership we have with EACH and Brave Futures and sums up what Rotary is all about, in addition to the fellowship of working together as a team to put on the event.”

The other main beneficiary this year was Brave Futures which provides a specialist support service for children and young people up to the age of 18 who have experienced sexual abuse. Brave Futures has a dedicated hub in Bury St Edmunds supporting children and families throughout West Suffolk. They provide a safe, welcoming space where children and young people can begin to make sense of the confusion they feel and acquire the skills and tools, they need to manage the trauma they have experienced, rebuild their futures, and move forward from victim to survivor.

This year’s show was sponsored by Stratstone BMW Bury St Edmunds, Hazells, Krazy Horse, Rawlinson Bury St Edmunds, Classic Prestige Cars, Lacy Scott and Knight Auctioneers, Anglia Car Auctions, CARS Worldwide Transportation Services, STORIK Ltd, Abbey Security Services, Ernie’s Outdoor Living, Manchetts and Wheelcare.



Bury Abbey Rotary visit to see the Surgical Robot in the West Suffolk Hospital

by Melanie Lesser

Members of Bury Abbey Rotary Club ,Melanie Lesser, Deborah Blumfield and Ian Cox were invited by My WiSH to see the Surgical Robot part of the leading edge technology the Charity are Supporting at the West Suffolk Hospital. Mr Krashna Patel and other members of the surgical team at the Hospital showed the how the advanced technology works. To learn more about the My WiSH Charity Robot appeal please follow the link



www.mywishcharity.co.uk/appeals/robot/



Friday Care Tip: Understanding Dementia by Able Community Care

In the UK, an estimated 982,000 people are living with dementia, and around one-third of these individuals remain undiagnosed. The number of people affected by dementia continues to rise as people are living longer. In addition, approximately 70,800 people in the UK are living with young-onset dementia, where symptoms begin before the age of 65.

For anyone who has a relative with dementia, is concerned that they or a loved one may be developing dementia, or would simply like to learn more about the condition, The Dementia Guide from the Alzheimer's Society is an excellent resource. This comprehensive 96-page booklet can be downloaded free of charge or requested in printed form from the Alzheimer's Society website at www.alzheimers.org.uk or by calling the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Line on **0333 150 3456**.

The guide provides clear and practical information to help people understand dementia, including day-to-day coping strategies, ways to stay safe and well, and details of the support services and care options that may be available.

Written in an easy-to-read format and carrying the NHS symbol on its front cover, the guide is a valuable source of information for anyone affected by dementia.

About Able Community Care

Able Community Care is a specialist live-in care provider established in Norfolk in 1980, offering support throughout the UK and offshore islands. For our information pack, please call 01603 764567 or visit our website at www.ablecommunitycare.com.

To receive the Friday Care Tip each week as an individual or group, please email: info@ablecommunitycare.com

Advertising

For advertising, or any article for inclusion in
The Bugle, contact the Editor
thebugle@fsmg-pc.gov.uk

Delivery

Laurie & Donna Pott
01284 768784 / 07817 563655

Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the June
-July issue of is 20th May

East Anglian Air Ambulance gives fundraising update



East Anglian Air Ambulance

as rower backs Cambridge Air Base Appeal

East Anglian Air Ambulance has raised £2.6 million for its Cambridge Air Base Appeal thanks to the generosity of local people and businesses, who have got the campaign off to a positive start. The charity provided the update as a former patient urged everyone across the region to continue supporting the £8.2 million fundraising appeal.

Will Young, 34, received lifesaving treatment from East Anglian Air Ambulance when its critical care team attended him in 2024 – after he suffered a serious cardiac emergency while rowing on the River Cam.

Now, he is urging others to support the charity's biggest fundraising appeal to date and help ensure the continued future of the charity's lifesaving care across the region.

East Anglian Air Ambulance needs to urgently relocate and build a new air base in Cambridgeshire to work in parallel to its other base in Norfolk. The charity is set to lose its current home at Cambridge Airport, which is due to close in 2030.

Will's story... After university, Will returned to Cambridge in 2016 and quickly fell in love with rowing, competing at national level and racing at Henley Royal Regatta. However, in 2024, whilst out training with his coach, he suffered a suspected episode of Ventricular Tachycardia (VT) – a dangerously fast heart rhythm that can lead to cardiac arrest. His heart rate increased to 222 beats per minute for 20 minutes. Following further investigations at hospital, he learned that he had inflammation on part of his heart.

After a period of recovery, Will felt well enough to return to the sport he loved. However, while rowing alone early one summer morning on the River Cam, he suddenly began losing his vision, the strength in his arms went and he began falling towards the river.



Despite feeling so unwell, Will managed to row the 100m back to the boathouse and put his boat away. He went to rest on the second floor of the boathouse building.

“I’d never felt like that before,” said Will. “I felt weird and weak. I looked down at my chest and could see my sternum moving really fast. I put my heart strap on and, straight away, it showed my heart rate as 227bpm. I rang 999 and told the call handler I was having a serious cardiac event.”

A complicated riverside rescue... When paramedics from the ambulance service arrived, they recognised that Will was at immediate risk of cardiac arrest and requested support from East Anglian Air Ambulance’s Anglia Two (Cambridge) critical care team. Tasked by critical care car to the scene, one of the charity’s Doctors and Critical Care Paramedics cardioverted Will – delivering a controlled shock to his heart to try to reset it to a normal rhythm. It was necessary to do this at the scene as Will’s blood pressure was dangerously low and he was at risk of going into cardiac arrest at any moment.

Using advanced medication carried by the crew, they sedated him so they could carry out the cardioversion procedure. However, Will’s heart briefly stopped, so the crew needed to perform CPR until his heart restarted and he began breathing independently again.

The rescue was further complicated by the boathouse’s spiral staircase, requiring a carefully coordinated extraction over the balcony of the building involving collaboration from multiple emergency services. Will was then taken by land ambulance to Addenbrooke’s Hospital, accompanied by the East Anglian Air Ambulance team.

Reflecting on the incident, Will said: “I’ve always known about the East Anglian Air Ambulance, but only later became aware that it was a charity; something I think many people don’t know. The service they provide is unbelievably important – critical in fact. I have since been able to meet the team from East Anglian Air Ambulance – it was really cool to meet the people who saved my life.”

Dr Nicola Ebbs, Deputy Medical Director from East Anglian Air Ambulance, said: “At just 33 years old, Will faced a life-threatening situation, and thanks to the charity’s supporters, he was given urgent treatment and care at the scene. To see him now using his experience to support our new air base appeal is incredibly moving. People who have experienced first-hand the difference the service can make understand better than anyone why this appeal matters. Their stories help bring to life the impact that rapid, specialist pre-hospital care can have on patients and their families. We are immensely grateful to Will for lending his support to our campaign and for helping us raise awareness of the need for a new air base.”

Continuing Nicola said: “We’d also like to extend our thanks to everyone who has donated to the Cambridge Air Base Appeal so far. Together, we’ve made an incredibly strong start and have been humbled by people’s generosity. But this is only the beginning. There’s still a significant amount of money to raise. As we push on with our fundraising efforts, every gift and every piece of support will be gratefully received – helping to ensure our crews can continue to reach critically ill and injured patients, in the quickest time possible, when every second counts.”

East Anglian Air Ambulance relies entirely on charitable donations to provide its 24/7 critical care service across the region, as well as aftercare support for former patients and their families.

The Cambridge Air Base Appeal aims to fund the construction of a new and improved facility on land at New Shardelowes Farm, on the outskirts of the Cambridgeshire village of Fulbourn.

The new base will help ensure the charity can continue to deliver hospital-level critical care to patients in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Suffolk for decades to come. Without a Cambridge base, East Anglian Air Ambulance’s lifesaving service would be cut in half, leaving just one air base in Norfolk and dramatically increasing response times to people like Will facing life-threatening emergencies across the region.

For more information or to support the Cambridge Air Base Appeal, please visit: <https://www.eaaa.org.uk/cambridge-air-base-appealemergencies>.

About East Anglian Air Ambulance - Registered charity number: 1083876

We are East Anglian Air Ambulance. A charity providing lifesaving critical care every day of the year, across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Whether by air or road, we’re there for the most seriously ill and injured, when every second counts. Probably on the worst day of their lives.

We care deeply about the work we do and the people we help. Our specialist doctors and paramedics bring hospital-level treatment straight to the scene. From blood transfusions and pain relief to anaesthesia and emergency surgery we give patients the best possible chance of survival and recovery. We also provide vital aftercare, train people in lifesaving skills, and carry out clinical research to keep improving care.

1. East Anglian Air Ambulance is more than a yellow helicopter. They take the emergency department directly to the patient 24 hours a day.
2. Patients can be transferred, rapidly, to the most appropriate hospital for their needs.
3. East Anglian Air Ambulance’s operating areas cover Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk.
4. The charity works in partnership with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST), Essex and Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT), Magpas Air Ambulance and Norfolk and Suffolk Accident Rescue Services (NARS/SARS), BHECCS and BEARS to provide a comprehensive critical care service across the East of England.

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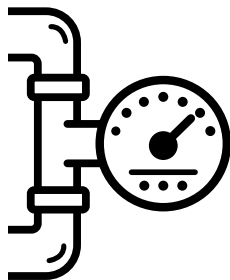
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