

THE BUGLE

FORNHAM ST MARTIN & FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE VILLAGE MAGAZINE

OCTOBER -NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE NO. 149

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

Hello, and welcome to Autumn!

The cooler evenings and damper mornings are most definitely here, but I just had a few days away in the Peaks and it was beautiful sunshine as we climbed Ecton Hill and visited Thor's Cave, and still as we returned to our cottage and sat on the patio.

I want to start with a big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who have been making a huge difference around the village. Do read the separate article about what they've been up to, and consider if you'd like to join in.

And well done to Donna and team who separately organised a session on the playing field, to fill in the rabbit scrapes – it's looking much better (and safer) now thanks to her team with their spades and barrows.

Talking of the playing field, the play area has been treated to a lick of paint and will probably be finished by the time this issue is out – thanks Susan of LilyLife Home Maintenance – superb job on the equipment, benches and goal posts.

In terms of road safety – the new solar VAS is in situ on The Street and we re-purposed a couple of the other units to other locations. The new unit records speeds which we can pass on to the relevant authorities as needed – already it has clocked a car travelling out of the village (yes it catches data for both directions) at 80mph! What is wrong with people?!?

The bend sign between St Genevieve and Culford is ready for installation. We're awaiting a date get the sign fitters, tree surgeons and traffic management company all there at the same time, so that works can be carried out safely. We're also expecting the lines on that corner to be repainted soon.

An update on the Community Governance Review, and council's plans to merge with Fornham All Saints Parish Council… After the public consultation earlier in the year, this is now going before full council at WSC in a couple of weeks time for a final vote. If successful, it means that work can begin to start to map out the change, and plan for what one Parish Council will look like for the three Fornhams. Again, watch this space…

You may have heard though that the wider Local Government Reorganisation and the plan to move to 3 unitary authorities in Suffolk has now been paused. A decision made by central government, as it turned out none of the proposals put forward by any of the participating authorities met the guidelines regarding population numbers in the newly created areas. Confusion still remains over what will happen next, and a lot of time and money had been invested to

prepare for the proposed unitaries. See https://www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk/ for further details.

If you have something you'd like to write about, or an idea to share, then we'd love to hear from you!

As always, feedback, ideas and suggestions for the magazine welcome…
thebugle@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk
Questions or issues in or around the village, send these to 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

Dates For Parish Council Meetings

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).

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

Agendas can also been found on the Parish Council website.
www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

For all communication, please email the Clerk in the first instance.
clerk@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk

Volunteer Group

Did you know that we have a volunteer group in the village? Have you seen us out and about in our hi-vis jackets? Have you noticed where we've been working and the difference that it's made?

Sadly, with more and more cut-backs and monies being spent in other areas both at District Council and County Council level, the state of our paths, pavement edges, trees, hedges and bushes are all suffering from not getting as much attention as they used to.

Based on the success of the group over in Fornham All Saints, the Parish Council decided to set up their own volunteer group, in partnership with Suffolk County Council's Community Self Help Scheme. The Clerk did some training, provided by SCC, and the Parish Council bought a whole host of tools, which were then refunded by SCC.

So far we've had 4 sessions, and the amount of work achieved by just a handful of folk in just a few hours in incredible!

So far the team have;

- Skirted back (edged) the pavement from Park Avenue to Oak Close
- Trimmed the ivy off the trees on the B1106
- Trimmed the bushes and brambles back from the roundabout, down to Lark Valley Drive, opening around the bench by the bus stop
- Cleared the path in front of the church, skirting back the pavement
- Trimmed down from the playing field gate to aid visibility
- Trimmed the overgrown bushes on the pavement on The Street between the two Carnoustie Drive link paths, clearing the path on one of these links
- Scraped and swept the entrance to the parking area at the entrance to the Old Thetford Road
- Trimmed back the bushes inside the entrance of the Old Thetford Road
- Scraped back all of the mud and debris off the first stretch of the Old Thetford Road
- (And a different team has been out and filled the rabbit scrapes on the playing field)

It's such a great experience and feeling, working together and seeing the transformation that just a couple of hours makes, and then the sense of pride of achieving something good for the village that you live in - it's a real buzz.

The group is for all ages and abilities. Some jobs are pretty heavily labour intensive, but there are lighter jobs and always a need for somebody clearing up behind, or just watching the traffic and keeping an eye out for everybodies safety.

It's also been lovely interacting with folk as they pass by and say thanks or ask what were up to.

So can I encourage you to get involved? Have a think about how you might be able to help.

We've had a few Friday sessions, but may look to try other days to allow others to be part of the team.

Interested? See the ad on the next page for how to get involved. We have a WhatsApp group where we share potential dates - just ask to be added.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all our incredible volunteers!!











Fornham St Martin
cum St Genevieve
PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER GROUP

Would you like to help keep our village looking its best?

Our Volunteer Group meets regularly to help tidy and care for our village.

What do we do?

- Keep paths and pavements clear
- Remove weeds and overgrown vegetation
- Clear leaves and general debris
- Tidy communal areas
- Help with small jobs that make a big difference



NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Whether you can spare a little time regularly or just occasionally, we'd love to have you join us.

Come along, meet your neighbours and help make a difference in our village.

We meet regularly

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve

clerk@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk
01285 598128

Many hands make light work!

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

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

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), District Cllr Sarah Broughton (SB) and David Yates from the church.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
   The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.
   The Chair announced with great sadness, the passing of fellow Cllr Clive Last.
   The Clerk shared the piece prepared to the Bugle and all agreed that Cllr Last would be greatly missed, having made a significant difference in his time on council.
   DY expressed gratitude for all of the Cllrs on behalf of the village.

2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
   Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son both declared an interest in item 6i, being neighbours to the property.
   The Clerk noted the interest and advised Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son would not be able to vote on this item.

3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting held on 18th June 2026.
   Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.

4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
   DISTRICT: Significant ongoing problems with new bins and collections. If not reported withing 48 hours, it seems WASC don't have to come back. New doorstep calls planned, on homes that are noted not to be recycling properly.
   Extension to the waste hub – application now in.
   RAF Barnham Camp and proposal to house over 1250 male asylum seekers in a small village of less than 600 people with no infrastructure / services / connections. WSC have objected on various grounds, but fear central gov. will override.
   PB asked what the old Hyundai garage was to be, and how many more flats Bury needs?
   RH confirmed flats, and that WSC had objected to further flats, but was overturned.
   SB added that the lack of infrastructure has been raised and WSC are actively now looking at pinch points and taking this into consideration. Government has imposed increased in housing supply levels across West Suffolk.
   BM asked about provision for undocumented migrants.
   RH discussed section notices that prevent these homes in certain areas, and potential policy change to require planning for HMO's (currently allowed under permitted development).
   COUNTY: LGR Judicial Review still going ahead. Engaged KC is waiting for more information from SCC.
   At July full council meeting, the climate emergency was rescinded. No longer using terms 'net zero' or 'climate emergency,' preferring 'environmental stewardship' and looking at more practical solutions.
   Replacement lines for the Fornham/Culford bend have been ordered and placed on priority works schedule.

PB asked if a more robust or ridged paint could be applied?
RH to raise the question.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 10 minutes.
   DY raised that additional road markings not been added to Tollgate gyratory.
   RH suggested raising with Town Council.
   DY thanked council for the unexpected £1,000 grant towards church maintenance, stating that the churchyard is looking very tidy. Annual maintenance cost of circa. £2,500, split between Martyn Richmond and Green Scene.
   DY advised 3 upcoming funerals, reduces the number of vacant plots, with circa. 22 left and therefore the need for future burial plots likely in the next 5 years.
   Clerk advised there is no extra provision. In FAS the cemetery is run by a trust, who have secured a continuation plot.
   ACTION: Clerk to look into what is required in terms of provision.
   DY advised Rector has asked about using the field for funeral parking on 29th August.
   Council raised no issues.

   Councillors noted the use of the playing field recently for a football match. This wasn't a planned event, council had no knowledge of it and received no comments or complaints.
   ACTION: Clerk to look into insurance implications regarding such use, especially in relation to the rabbit scrapes and any liabilities.

6. Planning applications.
   Council to consider the following planning applications
   i. DC/26/1052/TPO
      Location The Agents House Fornham Park Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6TT
      TPO 157 (1991) tree preservation order - one Sycamore (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) fell
      Council felt that the decision ought to be left to the Tree Officer's expertise.
      With Cllr Rushman and Cllr Leong-Son not able to vote on this item, council would not be quorate, so a decision would be unlawful anyway.

7. Finance.
   Council to consider and approve the following;
   i. Council reviewed Q1 finance report – finances look healthy
   ii. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments, totalling £6,851.02**
   iii. Council noted payments received for June – **Total: £25.07** (interest)
   iv. Council noted bank balances to end of June – **Total: £56,543.13** (£232.25 current / £56,310.88 savings)
   v. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for June**
   vi. **Council resolved to remove Cllr Last from bank mandate and add Cllr Mahon**

8. End of year finance & audit
   i. **Council resolved to approve Internal Audit Report and Clerks report of audit findings, noting actions to be taken**
   ii. **Council resolved to approve effectiveness of Internal Audit**
   iii. **Council resolved to appoint Clerks preferred Internal Auditor, Vicky Waples for the 2026/27 period**
   iv. Council noted, some questions raised by external auditor, Clerk submitted successful responses, audit progressing to next stages

9. Clerks update.

i. Street sign School Lane
Posts since removed – Clerk to chase.

ii. Volunteering group
Various future dates proposed for August & September and WhatsApp group permissions being collected.

iii. Playing field gate
Complete **– ITEM CLOSED.**

iv. Increased traffic on B1106
No response from Culford PC, Clerk to try again.
RH suggested speaking to Graham Mateer at SCC.

v. Children's play area improvements
Works scheduled soon.

vi. Bend in road sign
Pole installed, sign on order. Clerk to chase.

vii. Birds nests, The Drift / Old Thetford Road
Clerk wrote to and spoke to contractor who supplied summary of works completed.
The Clerk shared the summary.
Council noted the summary and concluded that all works completed with due diligence **– ITEM CLOSED.**

viii. Verge damage, bottom of Barton Hill
Escalated to no avail **– ITEM CLOSED.**

ix. VAS battery
Council to note Matthew Kemsley replaced the battery at his own cost. Clerk offered to reimburse. Council very grateful **– ITEM CLOSED.**

x. New VAS unit
Clerk & Cllr Mahon waiting for cooler weather to move 2 units and install the new unit.

xi. White lines, B1106 bend
Covered under item 5.

xii. Grass cutting contract
New contractor in place, on quarterly billing. Village looking much neater already.

xiii. Meeting with sprayer
Clerk met with sprayer who has decided not to continue after years of abuse and being questioned.
Clerk confirmed council remains very grateful for all his works in the village, over many years and that council will support his decision and the other works that he carries out **– ITEM CLOSED.**
JR still wants to meet, to discuss potential planting around the field.
Clerk noted the trees that David had been influential in planting and maintaining were now bearing much fruit.

xiv. Trim trail cleaning
Last item now cleaned **– ITEM CLOSED.**

xv. Bus stop improvements – Oak Close
Works to improve, repair and retreat bus shelter complete – lots of positive feedback received **– ITEM CLOSED.**

xvi. Basal growth on trees
Clerk raised with WSC and SCC, but nobody willing.
PB asked does it do the trees any harm.
RH confirmed it helps keep the main tree healthy.
ACTION: Clerk to investigate who did this before.

xvii. VAT reclaim, made and received for £1,614.14

xviii. S137 payments
Payments made to Church and Village Hall.
Clerk speaking with Stitchers to find appropriate way to make payment.

10. Councillors reports.
    i. Weekly & monthly play park inspection reports - Cllr Rushman/Cllr Butler
    Council to receive updates from monthly report and Cllrs bi-weekly visual inspections.
    Nothing much to report.
    ii. Speeding in the village - Cllr Mahon/Clerk
    Nothing much to report. Future reports to include stats once new unit in place.

11. Trim trail high risk items
    Clerk has removed condemned section of trim trail, below ground level and made good.
    Suggestion was made to potentially add a bench, maybe planter and tree, in memory of Cllr Last. Councillors very much in agreement.
    ACTION: Clerk to look into options.
    Suggestion also made to move dog bin, so not first thing you see as you enter the park.

12. Community Governance Review
    Council resolved to approve naming of the new 'grouped' council The Fornhams Parish Council.
    Council resolved to approve Proposed Cllr numbers for the new 'grouped' council as 5 FAS / 5 FSM / 2 FSG.

13. Correspondence.
    i. Praise & thanks for the improved bus shelter
    ii. Suggestion to revisit quiet lane status (as previously looked at in 2020) for Mill Road, from the River Lark, across to Hengrave Road, over the junction to the A143
    ACTION: Clerk to speak to Matthew Fox (Highways) and RH.
    iii. Path opp. BMW overgrown & Russell Baron Road fencing
    ACTION: Clerk to identify landowner, or potential volunteering job.
    ACTION: Clerk to speak to WSC re: fencing.
    iv. Resident chasing replacement 30mph sign opp. Lark Valley Drive
    Clerk confirmed council had closed due to costs involved.
    v. All Saints Resort open day scheduled for Thursday 15th October

14. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
    i. Planting on the field, and memorial bench/garden idea
    ii. Cemetery / future burial sites
    iii. Playing field insurance

15. Date of next meeting.
    Next meeting to be the held on September 10th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.00pm.

To be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council, Thursday 10th September.

Signed: John Rushman Date: 10th September, 2026

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

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

In attendance: Clerk Justin Hook (JH), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH), David Yates (DY) from the church, Stuart Turner (ST) representative from All Saints Resort (ASR), and 4 members of the public.

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AGENDA ITEMS

1. Chair's welcome & apologies for absence.
   The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.
   Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Linda Leong-Son and District Cllr Sarah Broughton.

2. To receive any Declarations of Members' Interests.
   None received.

3. Approve and adopt the minutes from council meeting 30th July 2026.
   Council resolved to approve the minutes and the Chair signed them.

4. To receive County & District Councillors reports.
   COUNTY
   Government has made a U-turn on Local Government Reorganisation, after Judicial Reviews issued by Suffolk/Norfolk/Esses/Hampshire (all forming part of the Priority Program. New Secretary of State was advised they might lose the JR on the basis that their own criteria regarding size/population was not met. All counties in the Priority Program, population numbers were outside of the advised, making all areas 'exceptional circumstances,' with some areas as low as 360,000 vs a guideline of 500,000 – 1,000,000. First decision also went against advice of the Civil Servants.
   Lots of wasted time and money getting ready for 2027 election, now paused. Period of limbo for residents and staff alike. 2027 District elections will continue as planned on current boundaries. Expecting more news on way forward by end October.
   DISTRICT
   Call for sites complete for next West Suffolk Local Plan – some 368 sites identified – mostly speculative. Officers now to go through all sites by October and put forward recommendations for next plan. Spring will see consultation for any sites.
   Higham site proposed by Pigeon, for new town of 2,000 new homes (twice size of Marham Park), in small village of only 100 residents – but speculative at this stage.
   Resident Question: Does the village designation come into consideration? RH confirmed again, only speculative at this stage, but yes, all sites will be carefully vetted.
   Question: Any update on RAF Barnham? RH confirmed Home Office has put proposal forward, no decision as yet. WSC have responded with a firm NO.
   Question: Cllr has a property business and reports 85% residents experiencing issues with the new waste collection service. RH confirms shortage of staff has led to some confusion. RH and SB have asked for the process to be called in for scrutiny, as WSC were ahead of the game at one point, but things have gone quite wrong. Residents' patience is running out. Staff numbers are now up and things settling a little. BM reported Lark Valley Drive collections working well.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM** 15 minutes.
   Council to receive questions and issues on matters arising from the agenda and from the village.
   DY interested to hear discussions regarding cemetery provision / welcome guide and Tollgate interchange.
   DY raised ongoing issue of dog fouling on the grass in front of the church.
   ACTION: RH confirmed Clerk to speak to Andrew Hervey and copy her in, requesting signs.
   Resident raised concerns regarding planning application for amphitheatre at ASR. Application says not visible from highway or public right of way, and opening hours not relevant – both of which appear incorrect. Application focusses more on the physical aspect, nothing to do with what that facilitates or means. Comparison made Thorrington site, which has strict rules for times, days, months of use, but also in a woodland setting away from residential.
   No detail given to be able to understand fully the sites use. Lark Valley acts as a natural amphitheatre, as experienced when Krazy Horse night music can be heard at the hotel. What does this application lead to? What about golf ball safety? Not suggesting a NO, but asking council to object in its current form which is incomplete. Added to which, the nature of yet another application, which ought to be considered as a more holistic site wide master plan.
   ST would feed back to ASR the need for more details on the application.
   BM confirmed the application gives no answers to previously raised concerns and therefore a decision cannot be made without any information.
   PB agreed, not enough information for a decision.
   Resident suggested it would be better if applicant had provided all of the information with the application, instead of residents spending time and energy researching, filing objections etc.

6. Planning applications.
   Council to consider the following planning applications
   i. DC/26/1241/FUL
      All Saints Hotel The Street Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6JQ
      Planning application - open air amphitheatre
      Council resolved to place a holding objection, on the grounds that the application did not provide any detail in order to make an informed decision – no data regarding times / hours / frequency / numbers / whether amplified / lighting / parking etc.
   ii. DC/26/1189/TPO
      The Laurels Parklands Green Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6UH
      TPO 030(1960) tree preservation order - nine Sycamore, two Sweet Chestnut and one Ash (marked on plan) overall reduction of canopy by up to three
      Council resolved to a vote of NO COMMENT, in favour of the Tree Officer's decision.
   iii. DC/26/1189/TPO
      The Walled Garden Fornham Park Fornham St Genevieve Suffolk IP28 6TT
      TPO 157 (1991) tree preservation order - one Spruce (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) remove limb on north east aspect and reduce limb on north east aspect by up to two metres
      Council resolved to a vote of NO COMMENT, in favour of the Tree Officer's decision.
   iv. DC/26/1110/HPA
      17 Ord Road Fornham St Martin Suffolk IP31 1TB
      Householder prior approval - single storey rear extension which extends beyond the rear wall of the original house by four metres with a maximum height of 3.54 metres and a height of 2.10 metres to the eaves
      Council resolved to a vote of NO COMMENT, but the application has in fact been withdrawn.

7. Finance.
   Council to consider and approve the following;

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i. **Council resolved to approve authorisation for outstanding invoices & payments, totalling £7,340.58.**
ii. Council noted payments received for July/August – **Total: £2,201.39** (£378.00 insurance, £151.80 advertising, £1,624.14 VAT reclaim, £47.45 interest),
iii. Council noted bank balances to end of August – **Total: £50,964.63** (£206.30 current / £50,758.33 savings).
iv. **Council resolved to approve bank reconciliation for July/August.**

8. End of year finance & audit.
   i. **Council resolved to approve the External Auditors report & findings.**

9. Clerks update.
   i. Street sign School Lane
   Complete **– ITEM CLOSED.**
   ii. Volunteering group update
   Three more successful sessions, **next date Friday 18th September.**
   PB and DY praised the work of the volunteers.
   iii. Increased HGV traffic on B1106
   Response from SCC clearly laid out that there are no restrictions, just suggestions. Low numbers reported. Previous issues related to empty skip lorry noise at Culford Waste. No response from Culford PC **– ITEM CLOSED.**
   iv. Children's play area improvements
   Date for work to commence – 21st September.
   JR discussed idea of removing goal posts. Cllrs felt that they are still used for smaller kick arounds, and best to leave as is.
   v. New VAS unit
   Installed by Cllr Mahon and the Clerk **– ITEM CLOSED.**
   vi. White lines, B1106 bend
   RH suggested works scheduled to be completed by the end of October.
   vii. Bus stop improvements – Oak Close
   Ongoing.
   viii. Basal growth on trees
   Clerk made contact with Hartwood who have done the works previously. Trees privately owned, so would be right to get permission. Question raised why – purely cosmetic? Clerk advised easier for mowing and looks tidier.
   ACTION: Clerk to start by getting a quote.
   ix. Pavement opposite BMW
   Hedges have been trimmed **– ITEM CLOSED.**
   x. Fencing Russel Baron Road
   WSC have agreed to replace.
   xi. Bollard bottom Barton Hill
   Damaged bollard replaced **– ITEM CLOSED.**
   xii. Manhole opposite Fornham House
   Damaged manhole reported, SCC have placed cones over as temporary fix.
   xiii. Quiet lane Mill Road and across
   Ongoing.
   xiv. Cemetery requirements
   Clerk has identified that no provision needs to be made for further burials. But council can be mindful if any sites or opportunities arise.
   DY advised potential 4 years left until closed to burials, and has identified two potential

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DRAFT

Council resolved to match this £100 donation.
PB advised village planters looking great, many thanks to DR.

17. Welcome one-page leaflet.
    Council to review one-page welcome leaflet to replace welcome pack. To be delivered to new villagers with copy of The Bugle and the Lark Valley Magazine.
    ACTION: Cllrs and DY to feed back to Clerk any amends / improvements.

18. S137 updates
    Council resolved to make payment of Stitchers group grant direct to village hall to cover hire costs for September.
    Computer club currently stabilised.
    PB reiterated what an asset the Computer Club is for the villages.

19. NJC Salary Pay Award 2026/27.
    Council resolved to approve revised NJC pay scale for Clerk. Scale 27 increasing from £19.81 to £20.47 per hour, effective from 1st April 2026, backdated to that date.

20. Correspondence.
    i. Overgrown bushes opp. BMW, scooter puncture & thanks for clearing
       Landowner actually cleared this, Clerk saw no debris after complaints.
    ii. Pavement debris, Old Rectory to village sign
       Raised with WSC and since been swept.
    iii. Dead deer on pavement
       Raised with WSC and since been cleared.
    iv. Russell Baron road fencing
       Covered under item 9x.
    v. Kytson Road pavement
       Resident signposted to SCC reporting tool.
    vi. Tollgate interchange
       Resident signposted to Bury Town Council and SCC – this is not in the village.
    vii. Village Hall details in notice board
       Clerk created new sheet for notice boards to include church and village hall contacts.
    viii. Village shop
       Speculative email regarding requirements for village shop. Cllrs agree no harm in tentatively responding, referencing pub shop which was open for about a year, plus new Marham Park Coop, expected by year end.

21. Items to be raised on a future agenda.
    i. Merging with Fornham All Saints Parish Council – update and next steps.
    ii. Potentially merging The Bugle and The Village Voice in Feb 27 when both start their next advertising cycle, to include a review of advertising fees.
    iii. Village works, as identified in Cllr Mahon's review of assets, a quote has been received from Susan Pocklington for various works
    iv. Purchase of a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day and who should lay it

22. Date of next meeting.
    Next meeting to be the held on October 8th 2026, at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.21pm.

DRAFT

All minutes from Parish Council meetings can be found on the website **www.fsmsg-pc.gov.uk**

or by scanning the QR code

Do you want to make a positive difference in your village?

Would you like to influence decisions that affect your community?

Do you have innovative ideas, knowledge or skills that could benefit your community?



Become a Parish Councillor!

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS 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@fsmsg-pc.gov.uk.**



Rural Coffee Caravan - Fornham All Saints

Wednesday 7th October, 2026 10am -12pm
Thingoe Lodge, Forge End, Fornham All Saints

FUTURE DATES	
4th November	Thingoe Lodge
9th December	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.

Fornham St Martin
by Sarah Cooledge

I have been on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at Fornham St Martin since 2015 and this is the first time I have written the article for The Bugle.

Firstly I should like to say a big thank you to David Yates who has worked tirelessly for our church over more years than most of us can remember. He stopped being Churchwarden last year and at the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) in May, stepped down from the PCC. However David continues as Treasurer for which we are very grateful. Hopefully David and Margaret can enjoy more leisure time.

Curate We were very pleased to welcome Revd Jonathan Boast, our new curate in the Benefice, to his first Sunday service at Fornham St Martin after Ordination as Deacon the day before in the Cathedral.
He will be working under the guidance of Revd Dr Andy Miller.

Benefice Pilgrimage Rod and I really enjoyed the Benefice Pilgrimage Walk on 22nd August organised and lead by Revd Sarah Gull, assisted by Alex Hobbs from Lackford with Revd Jonathan Boast bringing up the rear helping any stragglers and ensuring safe crossing of roads. It was a dry and warm, not hot day. There were lots of different chats going on with people from the Lark Valley churches and villages, some from Bury St Edmunds, people of different Christian faiths and some of none. Some did the first part in the Lark Valley and some of us managed to get to the 3 town churches. After about 9 miles, tea and cakes at All Saints Church, Park Road, were very welcome.

Wedding On 29th August between Sarah Rudman and Harry O'Connor took place conducted by Revd Ali Miller. It was a very joyful occasion with 100 guests present.

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride 12th September Rod and I participated on foot. We visited both Fornham churches and continued to St George's and Northumberland Methodist Church before crossing over the A14 on the foot bridge and visiting all the central town churches making a total of 16! As I put on our Just Giving page "the Bike Ride was invented in Suffolk and has now been adopted across the country although we lead the table in terms of sums raised! Half the money we raise goes to Historic Suffolk Churches Trust and half will come to Fornham St Martin Church. The Trust has funded some of our Bells Project for which we are very grateful." We have raised £700 and are very grateful to everyone who donated and to those who sat in Fornham St Martin church and signed people in.

Book Sale with Christmas Stall The next Book Sale will be on Saturday 28th November with a Christmas stall. We look forward to welcoming you.

The 100 Club winners:

	1st	2nd	3rd
October	Richard Catton	Elaine Bonney	Kim Lockwood
November	Muriel Manning	Frances Harpley	Brandon Mahon

A membership has become available if anyone would like to apply, contact David Yates. It is a simple fun way of raising valuable funds for the church. As there are only 3 months left this year there is no subscription.
The annual £15 subscription is collected in January, and prizes paid out every month.

Sound system looking for a new home! FSM church has 2 speakers with stands and amplifier previously used for fêtes. If interested please contact David Yates.

British Legion Events

What's happening in Town?
All Welcome

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

October

- 24th BSE Poppy Appeal launch, short service in the Arc shopping centre with Veterans, Town Mayor Donna Higgins to receive the first Poppy, 10:00
- 30th Poppy Appeal collections in BSE; Town Centre, Rugby Club and the Football Club

November

- 4th West Suffolk College Remembrance Service 10:30
- 5th Town Centre Boer war wreath laying 11:00
- 5th Town Cemetery (WWI Memorial) 11:30.
- 6th Festival of Remembrance Drum Head Service, Apex. 19:30 (tickets required)
- 7th WSC Remembrance Service Abbey Gardens, Rose Garden 14:30
- 8th WSC Remembrance Parade & wreath laying Angel Hill & St Mary's Church Honey Hill, (10:00 Angel Hill wreath laying service, 10:30 march from Abbey Gardens to St Mary's, service starts 11:00, seated by 10:45

Volunteers needed for the Poppy Appeal **24th October to 12th November 2026.**

For more details Contact **nwolstenholme@aol.com**

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Village Hall Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th August 2026 in the Village Hall at 19.30.

Present:

Maureen Hockett	(Chair – Group Representative)
Philip Hockett	(Minute Taker - Elected)
John Sommerville	(Elected)
Nicky Warwick	(Elected)
Peter Freeman	(Treasurer – Elected)
Lynne Quelch	(Hall Manager)
Apologies:	None

Minutes of Last Meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2026 were read, approved by the Committee, and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

1. Lane remedial work. No further action required. We are awaiting heavy rain to see what effect the kerb raising by the council has had.
2. Parking. No improvement in the situation.
3. Electricity. The spreadsheet has been kept up-to-date. A thermostat lock has not yet been fitted as the existing cover is hard to remove and no further transgressions have occurred. Usage so far in the 2026 calendar year to the end of July is £978.
4. Independent Valuation of the Hall through Community Action Suffolk. This still needs to be progressed. **ACTION PF**
5. Window Cleaning. The search for a reasonable quote continues as quotes received so far look a little on the high side. **ACTION LQ**
6. Hall History This still needs to be updated. **ACTION PNH**
7. Policies. To be reviewed and updated as required. **ACTION MLH/PNH**

Treasurer's Report
The report of the treasurer was presented and reviewed. Income for the first four months of the year was £6,867, this includes £2,187 in a grant from Suffolk County Council for repairs to the flint work and £1,000 from the Parish Council for maintenance work.
Expenditure was £6,051 which includes £2,000 paid for remedial work on the flint work and £289 for the new trolley to carry the tables. The closing bank balance was £6,064.
It was agreed that the financial position would be reviewed at the end of the financial year if revenue continued at a low level, to see what, if any, measures needed to be taken.

Hall Manager's Report
We are still struggling to attract new users to the hall and have had no new enquiries during July. There is a very high degree of competition form the Newbury Community Centre on the Howard Estate. LQ continues to actively search for new groups.
The garden has been tidied up and the rear fence and gate painted. A new latch has been fitted to the gate. **ACTION LQ**
The yellow edging to the steps has been repainted too.
The metal edging strip for the kitchen counter has been ordered and will be fixed soon. **ACTION LQ**
The committee thanked Lynne for all the hard work she does for the Hall. It is very much appreciated.
Bin collections have been erratic. LQ contacted WSC to report the problem and explained that leaving the bin outside the Hall for any length of time resulted in people dumping inappropriate items. LQ wanted to learn which day the regular collection would be. They were unable to give a day and time. A response is still awaited.
The Table Trolley has not been a great success as some groups do not put the tables back after use.
LQ has moved the chairs to the outer side wall to stop people from propping the tables here.

Future Plans
None are currently planned. However, the list of those that will be considered if funding permits in the future is as follows:
1. A self-closing mechanism for the front door

AOB
1. During the flint work repairs it was noted that the fascia boards at the rear and front needed attention, certainly a repaint. It was agreed to get quotes for remedial work and also new fascias. We have received funding of £1k from the PC towards this work. **ACTION MLH**
2. MLH and PNH advised the Committee that after more than 14 years in various posts they would be retiring and, therefore, not standing for re-election at the next AGM.

Date of Next meeting
Thursday 3rd December 2026 at 19.30.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.15.

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

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@fsmsg-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

Bury St Edmunds Repair Café

Volunteer Spotlight: Derek Hall

Meet Derek Hall, the resident clock repairer at the Bury St Edmunds Repair Café! Now enjoying retirement after a fulfilling career in engineering, Derek spends his time in his home workshop, bringing clocks back to life. When he's not tinkering, you can find him tackling his endless home improvement projects, helping out with his grandchildren, or volunteering at his local parkrun on Saturday mornings.

Derek's fascination with clocks began at the tender age of five, when his grandfather gifted him a box of old clocks. He fondly recalls the hours spent disassembling them, even if reassembly proved to be a bit challenging! Over the years, he has become an associate member of the British Horological Institute, deepening his knowledge and skills.

Inspired by a TV series and a successful clock repair for a work colleague, Derek became involved in his local repair café. One of his most memorable projects was a beautiful carriage clock that, despite being in good shape overall, wasn't operational. Upon returning it to its owner, he was touched to hear that it was one of the items they would definitely save if they ever had a house fire. Thankfully, they hadn't shared that before the repair, or Derek might have approached it with extra caution!

Nowadays, when asked to repair particularly valuable items, Derek prefers to refer owners to accredited repairers. He finds immense joy in reviving mechanisms that have been silent for too long, although he jokes that some owners might curse him when their clock starts chiming at unsociable hours. Derek understands that the sentimental value of a clock—its history, its place in the home, and the sound of its chimes—often outweighs the mere function of telling time.

What Derek loves most about the repair café is the camaraderie among fellow repairers, the sharing of skills and experiences, and of course, the delicious coffee and cake!



If Derek's story inspires you, come along to the next Repair Café on Saturday, November 14th, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM at West Road Church.

For more information, follow us on Facebook!

connecting Communities

rural transport





What is Connecting Communities?

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

What could it be used for?

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

For more information or to book a journey

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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*

Share Your Memories - Help Us Celebrate 80 Years of Glasswells

What's your earliest memory of Glasswells? As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, we are inviting the local community to share their memories, stories and moments connected to Glasswells over the past eight decades. Whether it is a memory of your own or a story passed down through parents, grandparents, family or friends, we would love to hear how Glasswells has been part of people's lives over the years.



Perhaps you remember visiting one of our stores as a child with your family, choosing your first piece of furniture, furnishing your first home, or finding that perfect item that became part of your family's story. Maybe there was a member of our team who went above and beyond, a special occasion connected to Glasswells, or simply a moment that has stayed with you over the years.

For 80 years, we have been much more than a furniture retailer. We have been part of the homes, milestones and memories of generations of families across Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding areas. Founded as a family business, we have grown alongside the local community, building strong and lasting connections with our customers, colleagues and the many people who have been part of our journey.



Over the years, we have proudly supported local charities, community groups and organisations, strengthening the connection between Glasswells and the people and places that have supported us. Our history is not just about furniture; it is about the relationships, friendships and shared experiences we have built with generations of customers, colleagues and the wider community.

At Glasswells, we believe in caring about the communities we are part of because we live here too. Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding areas are more than just the places where we have our stores - they are our home. This is our little corner of the world, where our families have grown, our colleagues live and generations of customers have shared their journeys with us. Many members of our team have lived locally for many years, with colleagues past and present helping customers create homes while becoming part of the everyday fabric of the area. Supporting local organisations, community groups and initiatives has always been close to our hearts, because we believe a strong and thriving community benefits everyone.

Glasswells' history is about far more than furniture; it is about the relationships, friendships and shared memories built with generations over the years.



As part of our 80th anniversary celebrations, we are inviting customers, businesses and members of the local community to share their memories, stories and photographs with us. Every story helps bring our history to life and celebrates the role Glasswells has played in the community over the past eight decades.

Do you have a Glasswells memory to share? Visit our Facebook or Instagram "Share Your Memories" post and leave your story in the comments. We would love to hear from you and celebrate 80 years of memories, community and home together.

Facebook **@glasswells**
Instagram **@glasswells**

Step inside a Christmas Story at Rougham Estate this festive season

Every great Christmas begins with a story. This year, award-winning Rougham Estate invites visitors to become part of its own as the Christmas season opens from Monday 19th October, transforming the historic Blackthorpe Barn into an immersive festive journey filled with enchanting themed displays, thousands of decorations, seasonal food and drink, Christmas trees and weeks of festive inspiration.

As the story unfolds, the Estate will also welcome hundreds of artisan makers from across Britain during five spectacular Arts & Crafts Fair weekends, making it one of the country's most celebrated Christmas shopping destinations.

For many families across East Anglia and beyond, a visit to Rougham Estate has become the moment Christmas truly begins. This year promises to be its most imaginative yet, with visitors invited to wander through beautifully curated festive worlds where every room reveals a new chapter in the story.





George Agnew, owner of Rougham Estate, said: "Every Christmas has a story, and this year we've created one that visitors can quite literally step inside... Christmas has become a wonderful tradition for so many families who visit us year after year and we're looking forward to welcoming both familiar faces and first-time visitors."

A Christmas told in chapters
Visitors begin their journey in Once Upon A Time on Rougham Estate, where towering books, floating candles and rich Highland-inspired interiors create an enchanting scene of forest greens, deep navy and antique gold.

They then step into Christmas Pop, a playful explosion of colour, contemporary decorations, bold patterns and joyful festive styling designed for those who love a more modern Christmas.

The final chapter, The Hills Are Alive, captures the warmth of an alpine escape, blending Scandinavian simplicity with mountain lodge comfort through sage greens, warm reds, folk-inspired details and woodland textures. These are just three of the many themed Christmas collections visitors will discover throughout the Christmas Shop, with even more festive inspiration waiting around every corner.

Outside, the story continues in the courtyard, where families can visit an immersive Alpine Scene complete with a traditional chalet and cable car, creating the perfect setting for memorable festive photographs.

Five weekends to meet exceptional makers from across Britain
The popular Arts & Crafts Fair returns across five weekends from 14th November, bringing together over 100 talented designer-makers from all over the UK, with a different selection appearing each weekend.

Among this year's featured exhibitors are:
Blue and Gold Botanics from Derbyshire, creating beautiful botanical artworks using the historic cyanotype process with delicate hand-applied gold detailing.
Madeleine Tapp, based on the Essex and Suffolk border, whose atmospheric landscapes and waterscapes are inspired by peaceful moments in the natural world.

Christmas trees grown on the Estate
Christmas tree sales begin on Friday 20th November, with visitors able to choose from Rougham Estate's renowned Nordmann Fir Christmas trees, known for their excellent needle retention and quality.

The popular Pick Your Own Christmas Tree experience will also return, allowing families to reserve a tree growing within the Estate's plantations before it is freshly cut for collection. Dates will be announced shortly.

Festive flavours at Roots Café
Visitors can make a day of their visit by enjoying festive food and drink at Roots Café, which will remain open daily until 5pm (4pm Sunday) throughout the Christmas season.

This year the café team will introduce another limited-edition Rougham sausage with a festive twist, alongside seasonal specials and handcrafted festive drinks including the indulgent Black Forest Mocha.

Whether shopping, meeting friends or warming up after choosing a Christmas tree, Roots Café provides the perfect place to relax during a festive day out.

<u>Christmas at Rougham Estate 2026 dates for the diary</u>

Country Christmas Shop: 19th October – 22th December
Arts & Crafts Fair: Every weekend for five weeks:
14th/15th, 21st/22nd & 28th/29th November,
5th/6th & 12th/13th December
Pick Your Own Christmas Trees:
7th/8th & 14th/15th November
Christmas tree sales:
From 20th November
Roots Café
Open daily throughout the Christmas season until 5pm (4pm Sunday)

Located just three miles from Bury St Edmunds, Rougham Estate has become one of the East of England's best-loved festive destinations, attracting visitors from across the UK in search of Christmas inspiration, artisan shopping and seasonal traditions.

For further information visit **www.roughamestate.com**





Mobile Library Dates & Times

Every 4th <u>TUESDAY</u>

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



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Your bin collections are changing

Starting June 2026

Better Recycling IS COMING TO SUFFOLK

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- Cartons
- Plastic pots, tubs, trays, & bottles
- Plastic films

Food Waste



- Plate scrapings
- Meat (inc bones)
- Fish (inc bones)
- Fruit & veg
- Tea bags & coffee grounds
- Breads
- Pet food
- Dairy

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

Suffolk recycles

Get a free proposal to replace ageing heating systems with heat pumps & access a government grant for installation *by Suffolk County Council*

All of Suffolk's public sector organisations (including all of Suffolk's local councils) have come together to help residents in Suffolk replace ageing gas, oil or LPG boilers with a heat pump, combining a £7,500 or £9,000 government grant, depending on current heating fuel, with group-buying savings on installation.

Over the past few years, energy bills have been unpredictable, serving as a reminder of just how exposed household budgets can be to forces entirely outside our control. But now, Suffolk's public sector organisations are partnering with Switch Together, a community group-buying scheme, to help residents move away from ageing and inefficient heating systems.

Through the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, eligible homeowners can receive a grant of £7,500 toward an air source heat pump, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG. The grant is applied for upfront by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back or repay it.

The Boiler Upgrade Scheme is open to homeowners and small business owners who are replacing a fossil fuel heating system and hold a valid Energy Performance Certificate with no outstanding major insulation recommendations. It is not means-tested, so there is no income threshold to qualify. The scheme is scheduled to run until 31 December 2027.

Switch Together works by bringing residents together so that installers compete to win their business, securing better installation prices than most homeowners could negotiate alone. Once registered, residents receive a free, no-obligation personal offer, and their installer handles the grant application on their behalf. Switch Together's group-buying savings apply on top of the government grant.



Every installation is carried out by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accredited installer. Switch Together works only with MCS-accredited professionals, so residents are covered from the first quote to the finished installation.

Councillor Gerald Kelly, Chair of the Suffolk Councils' Environment Portfolio Holders' Group, said: *"This is a fantastic opportunity for Suffolk residents to explore a cleaner, more efficient and cheaper way of heating their homes. Through our partnership with Switch Together, homeowners can access trusted installers, exclusive group-buying savings and government grants worth up to £9,000, making heat pumps more affordable than ever.*

Registration is free and comes with no obligation, so I'd encourage anyone thinking about replacing an ageing heating system to sign up and see what's possible. Together, we're helping residents save money, reduce emissions and create a more sustainable Suffolk."

The grant amount: £7,500 for households currently heating with gas or electricity, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG. Switch Together's scheme covers air-to-water air source heat pumps, which provide both central heating and hot water.

Why an air source heat pump: they typically use three to four times less energy than a traditional boiler to heat a home, which can help lower bills over time. They spread heat evenly through the property, keeping every room at a steady, comfortable temperature even when it's cold outside. And because they don't burn fuel on site, they produce fewer emissions than a gas, oil or LPG boiler, for a cleaner, more sustainable home.

How Switch Together works: residents register free, with no obligation; Switch Together matches them with a trusted, MCS-accredited installer and a personal offer; and, if the resident chooses to go ahead, carry out the installation.

Residents of Suffolk can check their eligibility and register their interest at **www.switchtogether.co.uk**

This scheme is brought to you by Suffolk's public sector organisations as part of their work to create a more sustainable Suffolk. Find out more about Sustainable Suffolk and their projects at **www.sustainablesuffolk.org.uk**

About Sustainable Suffolk
Sustainable Suffolk is a partnership between all of Suffolk's public sector organisations, including local councils, that are working together to create a more environmentally sustainable county. Find out more about their work here.
Sustainable Suffolk was formerly known as Creating the Greenest County.

About the partnership
Sustainable Suffolk has partnered with Switch Together to give residents access to fair prices, vetted MCS-accredited installers and expert guidance on heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage and energy tariffs, at no cost to residents or the councils. IChoosr, an established provider of council-backed group-buying programmes across the UK, runs the scheme.

Are your parents, older relatives and older friends, ready for Winter?
by Able Community Care

Although summer may not feel quite over, autumn is the ideal time to start preparing an older relative for the colder months ahead.

Every winter, thousands of older people experience avoidable difficulties caused by cold homes, poor weather, power cuts, falls, and simple household problems that could have been prevented with a little forward planning.

A quick visit or telephone call now could make all the difference later.

A Simple Winter Checklist

- ✓ **Arrange a heating service**
  Make sure boilers, radiators, and heating systems are working efficiently before the colder weather arrives. Waiting until the first cold snap often means longer waits for engineers.
- ✓ **Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms**
  Check batteries and ensure alarms are working correctly. Carbon monoxide is colourless, odourless, and can be particularly dangerous for older people.
- ✓ **Check Winter Fuel support**
  Many pensioners are entitled to help with winter heating costs. If your relative receives Pension Credit or other qualifying benefits, ensure they are receiving all the support available to them.
- ✓ **Review clothing and bedding**
  Warm jumpers, thermal clothing, extra blankets, and a suitable winter duvet can help older people stay comfortable without relying solely on heating.
- ✓ **Stock the cupboards**
  Bad weather can make shopping difficult. Consider keeping a small reserve of long-life foods, bottled water, medications, pet food, and other essentials.
- ✓ **Check outdoor safety**
  Clear pathways of leaves, repair loose paving, and ensure outside lighting is working to reduce the risk of slips and falls.
- ✓ **Keep emergency numbers handy**
  A written list of family contacts, neighbours, GP details, utility companies, and trusted tradespeople can be invaluable during bad weather.

A Little Preparation Goes a Long Way

Winter can be challenging for older people, particularly those living alone or in rural and remote locations. Taking an hour or two now to check that everything

is in order can provide reassurance for the whole family and help avoid a crisis when the weather turns colder.

Sometimes the best care starts with a simple question:

“Is there anything you need before winter arrives?”

Bonus Winter Tip: If Mum or Dad are over retirement age, live alone, or have health or mobility concerns, contact their local Fire and Rescue Service and ask about a free Home Fire Safety Visit. Many services will check fire risks, test alarms and, in some areas, install smoke alarms free of charge.

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**

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

WOULD YOU, OR SOMEBODY YOU KNOW LIKE TO PLACE AN ADVERT IN THE BUGLE?

The Bugle is a free publication delivered to over 500 properties in the village every two months.

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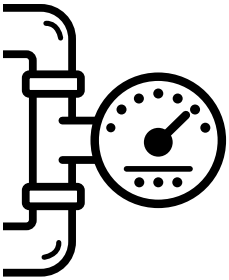
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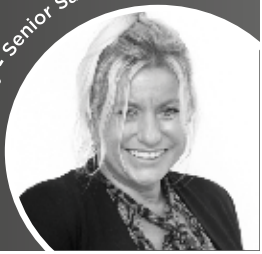
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Local Services & Useful Contacts

Organisation	Details	Phone No.	Comments
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