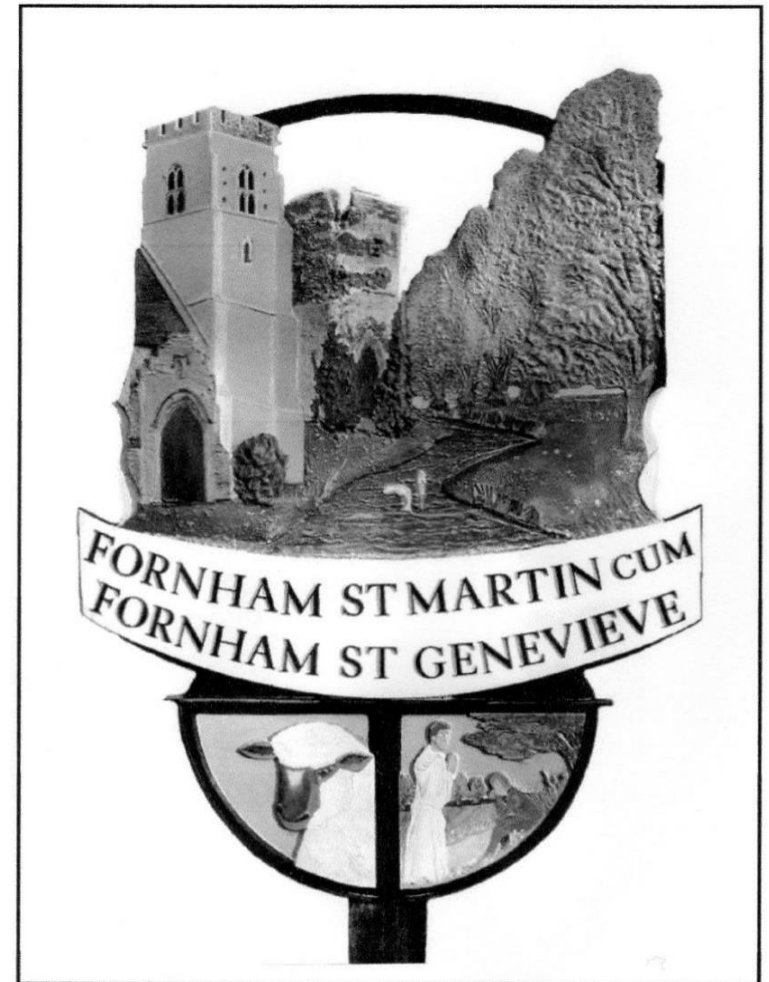


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The Parish Council on behalf of all parishioners would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation, the work carried out by the volunteers who organise and distribute the Bugle.

Fornham Bugle



April-May 2023

Newsletter Number 128

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

buglenewsletter@gmail.com

or on our website:

<https://fornhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net>

Delivery: Peter Forster

Enquiries: Tell No: 01284 764723

Please note: The deadline for articles to be included in the **June/July 2023** issue of The Bugle is Noon on **Friday 19 May**.

ADVERTISING

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

Our advertising rates are £75.90 per 1/2 page for 6 editions. £151.80 per full page for 6 editions. 10% discount is offered to advertisers located within the two villages. For further information please contact the Bugle Compiler, Meral Ahmed, email your enquiry to buglenewsletter@gmail.com

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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PARISH COUNCIL

John Borrett (Chairman)	Fornham St Martin	01284 747140
Michael Collier (Vice Chair)	Fornham St Genevieve	01284 704851
Simon Ely	Fornham St Martin	07775 089477
Frank Stennett	Fornham St Genevieve	frank@stennetts.co.uk
Penelope Borrett	Fornham St Martin	01284 747140
Peter Forster	Fornham St Martin	01284 764723
Paul Butler	Fornham St Martin	01284 760119
Vicky Bright,		
Fornham St Martin-cum-St Genevieve Parish Clerk		
	<i>fsmsgpc@gmail.com</i>	07712 232920

Any parishioners wishing to raise an issue should contact the Parish Clerk between 9:30am- 2:30pm Mon to Fri or between 6pm-7pm Mon & Thurs. Or email anytime. Parish Office: 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP287LT (Appointment only).

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

West Suffolk/County Councillors

Rebecca Hopfensperger - Telephone 07876 683516

Sarah Broughton - Telephone 07929 305787

MP - Telephone 01284 752311 - jo.churchill.mp@parliament.uk

Suffolk County Council - customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk

West Suffolk Council - Telephone 01284 763233

customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk -

You are warmly invited to attend
the
Annual Parish Meeting

To be held in the Village Hall, The Street,
Fornham St Martin, **IP31 1SW** at **7pm**
on **THURSDAY 11th MAY 2023**

If you wish an item to be discussed or you are a
community group or organization and you wish to
present a report at the meeting, Please contact the
Clerk before 3rd May 2023.

Vicky Bright, Clerk
Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish
Council 3 Scott Avenue,
Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
IP28 7LT
07712 232920
fsmgpc@gmail.com

SUMMARY DRAFT MARCH 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council

Councillors present: Cllr. J. Borrett (Chair), Cllr. M. Collier
(Vice Chair), Cllr. P. Borrett, Cllr. P. Butler, Cllr. S. Eley, Cllr.
F. Stennett & Cllr. P. Forster.

Also present: Vicky Bright, Clerk. Cllr. Rebecca
Hopfensperger WSC/SCC.

Public Forum:

2 members of public.

Residents raised concerns and objections in reference to
amended application DC/22/0051/FUL and urged Councillors
to object to the application; despite the proposed Pickle Ball
Court being removed from the application, residents still feel
the tennis courts are still too close the neighbouring houses and
previous planning had already been granted elsewhere on the
golf course which would be more suitable, the noise report did
not address noise levels from the view of properties in Birkdale
Court, no risk assessment has been carried out on the
10th Fairway and its proximity to the Lark Valley Drive
footpath

Local Authority Reports:

County & District Councillors:

Councillors discussed their concerns and frustrations in relation
to the LPA's planning process and their procedures relating to
Appeals and Enforcement. Cllr. Hopfensperger sympathised
and is trying to secure a Planning Officer to attend a Parish
Council meeting to explain the processes and procedures and to
answer questions and concerns raised by Councillors.

Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings: The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th February 2023 were adopted as a true statement and signed by the Chairman (JBo).

Planning

(For consideration):

DC/23/026/RM - Reserved matters application - submission of details under DC/13/0932/HYB the means of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for health, fitness and racquets club, including a permanent tennis dome enclosure holding three tennis courts, multi-use courts, BattleBox area, padel courts with cover, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, spa garden, lounge terrace, gym and studio facilities, 3 court sports hall, spa facilities, child activity area, lounge and food and drink uses, together with ancillary facilities, car parking, servicing, landscaping and associated works

Location: Land North West of Bury, Tut Hill, (Marham Park), Fornham All Saints

Resolved 23/03/5.01. It was agreed to support this application in principal, and it was noted that it is already in the West Suffolk Master Plan.

DC/23/0051/FUL – Amended - construction of two outdoor tennis courts. Location: All Saints Hotel, The Street, Fornham St Genevieve

Resolved 23/03/5.02. It was agreed to reiterate previous objections submitted in relation to other concerns noted, that are not in relation to the Pickle Ball Court and also to ask the applicant to reconsider installation of a noise barrier for the Tennis Courts.

The Parish Council Minutes of Meetings are in an abbreviated report format in the Bugle.

Full copies of Draft and Approved Minutes can be viewed on our website;

<http://fornhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net/parish-council>

or can be requested from the Clerk :-

by email ***fsmsgpc@gmail.com*** or by writing to The Parish Clerk, at **Parish Office: 3 Scott Avenue, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7LT.**

Village Hall News

Village Hall Management Committee

**AGM
on Thursday 13 April 2023 at 1900
in the Village Hall.**

It will last 30 minutes.



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The Clerk advised that any comments/objections submitted to the previous consultation, not related to the Pickle Ball Courts, would be considered by the LPA/Planning Officer, but residents should respond to this re-consultation if they still had concerns.

DC/22/1294/FUL- animal feed mill and associated development including ancillary offices, silos, warehouse, improved access route and parking. Location: Land off Compiegne Way, Bury St Edmunds (British Sugar)
Still Pending Decision. Cllr. Hopfensperger advised the LPA is awaiting receipt of further information from the applicant and there will be a re-consultation once this is received.

DC/22/1887/FUL - create access into All Saints Golf and Country Club. Location: Land off the Street, Fornham All Saints. - Still Pending Decision.

DC/20/0496/FUL - 68 lodges with parking, landscaping, waste and recycling areas and construction compound/maintenance area. Location: St Genevieve Lakes, Road from Bury Road to B1106, Timworth – Pending decision.

AP/22/0048/STAND – DC/21/2166/VAR Variation of condition nine of DC/16/2792/FUL to enable the site covering phase two to be occupied for holiday accommodation without a restriction on the length of stay for the change of use of park land to land for siting of 26 additional holiday lodges with access from B1106 - extension to previously approved application SE/05/02293;

construction of access road, parking spaces and hardstanding bases and associated landscape planting and infrastructure. Location: The Dream Lodge Group, Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision.

AP/22/0049/STAND – DC/21/2164/VAR- variation of condition five of DC/15/0662/VAR to enable the site covering phase one to be occupied for holiday accommodation without a restriction on the length of stay for a. change of use of land to nine hole pay and play golf course with changing room facilities and associated landscaping b. 26 timber lodges, manager's lodge and associated landscaping. Location: The Dream Lodge Group, Fornham Park, Fornham St Genevieve – Pending decision.

Update on Outdoor Gym application (All Saints Hotel) DC/22/1378/FUL & the Enforcement EN/21/0057 St Johns Plantation Trees. Cllr. Hopfensperger advised she had attended the Delegation Panel and had supported the Parish Council's objections, raising the following concerns:
The Planning Officers recommendation to approve favouring the applicant and not the residents,
No consideration or investigation of noise impact to residents and their properties,
The ongoing tree enforcement and the damage to the environment and the changes to the landscape
Visibility impact from the PROW.
The fact that it is a retrospective application, therefore any conditions of approval would need to be robust and would need to be monitored and enforced, with... ..



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Fornham House

Caring is at the heart of everything we do.

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

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



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



Fornham House, Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 1SR .
Tel: 01284 768327

mitigation in place before the gym is being used, to protect neighbours, not just the applicant! The Chair raised concerns again over the impact and damage to the Ancient Woodland. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Natural England regarding the outcome of the investigation by them as to whether the area is a designated Ancient Woodland.

Thanks were given to Cllr. Hopfensperger for her support.

Highways/Footpaths & Trees:

Update on Outstanding Highways Issues:-

- Russell Baron Road – An order has been made for Flowline to come out and cut the roots blocking the gully.
- Old Thetford Road PROW – This is scheduled to be cut this winter.
- The Cul-de-Sac sign at Russell Baron Road has now been replaced and the two street name signs are due to be replaced within the next two weeks.
- The Give Way signs at the roundabout have been cleaned. The Clerk has reported the damaged bench at the lay-by opposite Parklands Green to West Suffolk Parks Team and is awaiting their response. The Clerk was asked to report the bench at Barton Hill/Russell Baron Road junction to West Suffolk Parks Team too.

Update on Speeding & Police Enforcement - The Street & Barton Hill. The Clerk advised that following concerns from residents over speeding up Barton Hill, she had contacted the Police, who have responded to advise they will schedule some enforcement by the Camera Safety Team at the bottom of Barton Hill, going up the hill and also on the High Street by the Church... ..

The Clerk is to approach the Speed & Safety Team at SCC Highways to ask them to do a site assessment to determine if an extra post can be installed at the bottom of Barton Hill for the VAS Unit, to monitor traffic speeds going up the hill.

Parish Matters.

Update on Trim Trail Repairs / Bench Quotes

It was agreed to wait for the annual RoSPA inspection and then to take it up with the new Inspector, to determine which timbers need replacing on the Trim Trail.

The two benches (bottom of the field & adjacent) need re-staining, the Clerk is to get quotes for the work.

The installation of the overhead barrier at the field and the welding of the gate is to be carried out by the end of March.

Quotes for replacement glass pane for Bus Shelter at Barton Hill

Resolved 23/03/7.01. It was agreed to accept the quote from Moreton Hall Glass, for the supply & fit of 1no. pane of 6mm, clear, toughened safety glass - £251.00 + vat. The works to install the glass should be completed within 3 weeks.

Discuss the Coronation

The Clerk advised that Parish/Town Councils have no official role or duties for the Coronation, unlike the Proclamation. There is little funding available, however it has been confirmed that fees for road closures will be waived for the Coronation and Street Parties. It was suggested that residents decorate their homes with bunting and flags and hold their own picnics and

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Monthly

1st Mon	10:00am to 1.00pm	Chain Reaction
1st Tues	2:00am to 4:00pm	Jazz
1st Thurs	10:00am to 4:00pm	Patchwork ##
2nd Tues	10:00am to 4:00pm	Textiles
3rd Mon	10:00am to 12 noon	Probus Ladies
3rd Wed	7:30pm to 9:30 pm	Ladies Club
3rd Thurs	10:00am to 4:00pm	Patchwork
3rd Fri	12 noon to 4:00 pm	Spinners and weavers
4th Wed	10:00am to 4:00pm	Quilters
4th Fri	10:00am to 4:00pm	Textiles

Occasional meetings

Parish Council, Village Hall Committees

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

Lynne Quelch, 07552 061 489 fornhamhall@aol.com or

Maureen Hockett, Committee Chair, for information 07887 778 353

street parties. The Parish Council encourages residents to use the King George Playing Field, and a notice will be placed in the Bugle advising of this.

Finance & Policies:

Parish Council Bank Reconciliation from list of payments/receipts Resolved 23/03/9.01.

The bank balances and reconciliation of payments and receipts were received and adopted and initialled & signed as such by the Chairman. The bank account balance as of the 1st February 2023 is £21,498.51.

Cheques for signing and approval and to authorise payment of outstanding invoices.

Resolved 23/03/9.02.

It was agreed to approve payments of outstanding invoices as below and cheques were signed by Cllrs. M. Collier & P Forster.

Fornham VH

Reimburse duplicate electric contribution 002343	£327.53
Mrs D Pott Litter picker 002344	£132.12
Mrs V Bright Office Allowance 23/24 002345	£312.00
Mrs V Bright Mileage & expenses 002346	£9.38
SALC Payroll 002347	£54.00

Consider an Increase to the Village Hall Electricity Donation.

The Clerk reiterated the current donations given annually to the Village Hall; £500 towards upkeep and a further £500 towards electricity costs. The Clerk also advised that for the past 3 years the Parish Council had given a significant increase to their donation towards the electricity costs at the hall, to help subsidise loss of income due to the pandemic. It was discussed that the VH Committee need to be exploring all avenues for grants & funding that is available, and that they need to be securing the best possible energy tariff. Resolved 23/09/03.

It was agreed to increase the annual donation towards the electricity costs at the hall, for the year 22/23 and for the year 23/24, to be reviewed again in May 2024.

Consider a Donation to Celebrate the 850th Anniversary of the Battle of Fornham. The Clerk presented a request from the West Suffolk Council Heritage Officer; “a project to mark the 850th anniversary of the Battle of Fornham is being planned. Cllr. Beccy Hopfensperger has very kindly given £2800 of her remaining locality funds toward the project and we are keen to top up from other avenues.

The project:- Two sharing days for the public, a free one at Moyses Hall and another at Fornham All Saints Hotel (**Moyses one funded by Friends of the museum, and the hotel to fund £2000**)"cpf displays at Moyses Hall – including the two Fornham swords side-by-side for the first time. The second one kindly lent by the Hotel. (**funded by the museum**).

Resolved 23/04/23. Councillor's discussed the request and raised disappointment that this is the first the Parish Council and residents have heard about this project, before now. They were concerned that there has been no community involvement, and no input from residents of Fornham has been asked for. There was also concern that the Hotel is to be used for the venue, rather than utilising the community village hall within the village where the battle actually took place. The Clerk was asked to write to the Heritage Officer, Daniel Clarke, to express the parishes' disappointment and voice our concerns, and to decline the invitation to give a donation.

Discuss Elections 4th May. The Clerk gave a report on the timeline for elections and the nomination process. She is to forward information and links to the WSC Elections website page to all Councillors. The Clerk provided all Councillors with a Nomination Candidate Pack. The Clerk is to place a notice in the Bugle regarding the elections and how to stand, with the WSC website links and information on Voter ID.

Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agendas. None.

The next Full Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Thursday 13th April 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Village hall
ALL WELCOME

Muntjac are sometimes called "the barking deer" and maybe you've heard a single bark repeated over and over during the hours of dawn or dusk? This is usually territorial and if they see you they'll prefer to slip away quietly.

Away from humans, muntjac will graze anywhere they feel safe even if that's at the side of a busy road with traffic roaring by.

If you can tolerate the loss of a few garden flowers, why not just enjoy watching them?

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WHAT'S THAT PIGGY-LOOKING ANIMAL IN THE GARDEN?

People living in the Fornhams could find their gardens being visited by a spaniel-sized animal, brown/black in colour and with a back end not unlike that of a pig, just without the curly tail. Why's it in your garden? Simply, you're growing a food source and whether it's ivy, your favourite shrub or your beloved rose this little nibbler enjoys them all.

What is a Muntjac? <Muntiacus reevesi> is a deer, originally from Asia. The species escaped from Woburn Abbey some time in the 1940s & now established across southern England and creeping ever north and probably reaching the Tyne.

Females can get pregnant at any time of year, giving birth after about 7 months, to one or two kids. Of course being a mammal, the female will suckle the infants.

Male (buck) or female (doe?) A good sign is that the female has a broadly diamond or kite-shaped dark marking on her face whereas the male has a dark vee which joins the points from which the antlers grow. The bucks have short single spike antlers which they cast and regrow every year. They also have downward facing tusks growing from the top jaw which are used in fighting and if cornered by a dog or a cat, muntjac are capable of defending themselves - call your dog in if you don't want a big bill



CHURCH NEWS

We are very pleased to enrol Martin Richmond from Westley as our new gardener, to cut and trim the grass in the churchyard, it is important to keep neat and tidy, especially for visitors who may be tending graves. Slightly more expensive than before, but better than other quotes, although we are always grateful to those who donate regularly towards the upkeep, as well as the Parish Council with their annual grant. A new regular donor is from Poole, in Dorset, after visiting a family grave last Summer.

Neal Dodge from Culford, Public Relations Officer of the Suffolk Guild of Bell Ringers, is assisting with arrangements with Nicholson Bellhangers, and grant applications, with his invaluable experience with similar projects in other churches. He is suggesting a sponsorship scheme where parts of the bells and their fittings can be sponsored in a donor's name, such as £5000 for a bell with the donors inscribed plaque, £1000 for a wheel with donors inscribed plaque that the bell swings from, to £500 - £50 for clappers, bell rope, and pulley box to a stay. Further

details available and in church.

Funds raised, with grants, are on target to be able to have the existing 6 bells taken down in November, and taken to Nicholson's works in Bridport, Dorset, for tuning and refurbishment, whilst the old oak bellframe is removed and replaced with a new stronger steel one.

The 100 Club winners in April are:

- 1st £30 Chris Redfern no.85;
- 2nd £20 Jean Feakes no.39;
- 3rd £10 Janet Groom no.7.

And in May will be:

- 1st £30 Barbara Scarfe no.21; 2nd £20 Matt Killick no.70; 3rd £10 Sylvia Hilton no.45

Thanks again to everyone in the 100 Club supporting the church in this way.

We now have a Contactless Digital Giving Device in church, for those who don't carry cash, so they can flash their card, to make donations, which we hope many of our visitors will like to make use of.

As the donations box in church says, it costs some £400 a week to run services and maintain the church and churchyard, so all contributions are gratefully received.

Holy Week Church Services start with Palm Sunday on 2nd April, at Fornham All Saints this year, followed by Maundy Thursday at West Stow, 7pm, and Good Friday at Fornham All Saints at 2pm, then Easter Sunday on 9th April, here at FSM, 10am;



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For large bookings please contact our Events Team
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Talented writers

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

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Contact details for the Village Hall for a club meeting, exhibition, or private party, please contact

LYNN QUELCH on
07552 061489 or email

fornhamhall@aol.com

with the short services on Tuesdays 11th and 18th, all at 10am unless noted, as on the notice boards.

In May the 10am services are on Sundays 14th and 28th and Tuesdays 9th and 23rd.

All are welcome.

Our first Book Sale Coffee and Cakes for this year was on Saturday 18th February 10 – 3pm. Thanks to everyone who donated books and refreshments, all gratefully received and enjoyed, together with all the helpers and organisers, particularly new residents Sarah and Martin, as well as similar now experienced Pat and Dave. A marvellous £810 was raised for the Bells Restoration Project.

The next one is now on Saturday 17 June, a bit later than originally planned, due to staff shortages!

We will be holding another Quiz 'n Chips (with fish) by popular demand, on Friday 21 April, in church at 7pm. Please let Heather know if you would like to join us on 767372.

As with many others having similar staffing factors affecting us all, we now have fewer Flower Ladies to provide nice and colourful flower displays to brighten our services. If anyone would like to join this exclusive and dedicated group, with a simple contribution, no need to be an expert, do please get in touch, you will be most welcome. Flowers can be placed in church by anyone in memory of a loved one, by arrangement.

After saying farewell to Beryl, our joint Churchwarden for the last 5 years, over drinks and nibbles after the service on Sunday 22nd January, we hear from her that she and Jeff have settled in very well in their new flat in Weybridge, and she has sampled the local church, as well as other local activities, to keep them occupied, when family are not visiting, as now much closer. She is still taking the magazine to keep in touch, and still gives encouragement, from a distance!

A 1 bed cottage has become vacant in Hengrave and let by the Kytson Charity, for anyone in need. Contact Lynne Jardine 754190. Sole Surviving Churchwarden, at present, David Yates. 705157

Fornham Garden Club – Catriona Smart

At our March meeting, Zsuzsanna Serer gave an informative and interactive talk on Growing and Propagating Herbs. Zsuzsanna trained as a horticulturalist in Hungary, and now runs an Essex-based company called Spicesotic Plants, with a focus on tropical plants and orchids (spiceoticplants.co.uk); this is largely a small order business. We were given a brief introduction to the uses and properties of herbs, including culinary, medicinal, and as flavouring in soaps, oils etc. However, the main part of the talk was interactive and whether they were annuals, biennials or perennials. Some of the more unusual plants we

If you need assistance to complete an application for a Voter Authority Certificate, we can offer an in-person appointment at West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3YU. To arrange an appointment, please email elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk

or telephone us on 01284 757131.

Postal and proxy voters

Postal voters will not be affected and will be issued with their postal ballot papers as usual. You won't need to present any ID as your identification is verified by your signature and date of birth.

The deadline for completed postal vote application forms for the elections on 4 May 2023 is 5pm on Monday 17 April 2023.

If you choose to vote by proxy, then the person who you have trusted to vote on your behalf will have to take their own identification to be issued with a ballot paper.

The deadline for completed application forms to vote by proxy at the elections on 4 May 2023 is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

you have photo ID or if you want to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

The Voter Authority Certificate cannot be used as proof of identity for any other purpose than for voting. Once issued, the Voter Authority Certificate can be retained for use at future elections.

The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm six working days before polling day. For the elections on 4 May 2023, the deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April. Voters who do not produce a valid photo ID, or a Voter Authority Certificate, will not be allowed to vote on the day.

When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your:

- name
- address
- date of birth
- National Insurance number

You will also need to submit a photograph with your application. The requirements for the photograph are similar to the requirements for a passport photo.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request a paper application form, contact the West Suffolk Council Electoral Services team on 01284 757131 or email elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk

were shown and members were asked to identify several of the more unusual herbs by smelling/eating the leaves. Following identification, Zsuzsanna then went on to explain the method of propagation of the respective plants (seed sowing, cuttings and layering) and included woad, a plant traditionally used as a source of blue dye. This is a biennial and in the first year forms a low-growing cluster of leaves (the source of the dye), with the yellow flower spikes only appearing in the second year. If the plant is to be used for dye production the leaves must be harvested in the first year. It propagates by self-seeding. We were also shown angelica, another biennial which self-seeds. The seeds of this plant are very short-lived (2-3 months) and Zsuzsanna advised that commercially packaged, angelica seeds should be avoided as they may no longer be viable. Other plants we were shown and/or invited to identify included lemon balm, saffron, yarrow (a herb that sends out root runners, so can be separated easily to gain new plants), mint (we all know the perils of planting that herb in a border rather than a large pot!), wild garlic, and thyme.

A very enjoyable and entertaining evening!

Fornham Garden Club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Community Centre, Fornham All Saints. The next talks will be Elveden Farm (11 April; a very brief AGM will precede the talk) and Flower Farms (9 May). Visitors and new members are very welcome. Anybody with any queries should contact the Chairman, Ian Robertson (07876 644611).

Birds and Bees.

A new slot about the nature that we share our village with.

A migrant from Yorkshire, I've lived in the village since 1996. Over that time it's amazing how much our natural world has changed here in FSM, for example, the birds.

Back then who would have thought we would see buzzards, and now red kites, flying over our houses? Now they're here every day. Similar-sized birds, they can be told apart by their tails; the buzzard with a shorter fan-tail and the kite with its long V-forked version.

You'll hear the buzzard's catlike mew and the kite's longer whistle, too. Amazingly, although the buzzard hunts and takes carrion it's rather partial to worms! The kite hunts, too, but it's our roadkill that gives it the bulk of its diet.

Another noisy bird that has recently arrived is the noisy, screaming ring-necked parakeet. Despite its African and Indian origins it's rapidly establishing itself in the UK. Pest or welcome visitor? It remains to be seen.

The other side of the coin is the birds that were once common. House sparrows used to be quite localised, for instance in Oak Close's beech hedges...

- passport
- driving licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue Badge
- certain concessionary travel cards
- identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- biometric Immigration document
- defence identity card
- certain national identity cards

Only original documents are accepted; scanned images or copies will not be accepted.

Expired documents are accepted if the photo is still a current likeness.

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You need to be registered to vote before you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. When you register to vote, you'll be asked whether... ..

are resolved before the nomination papers are formally delivered by hand. They aim to respond to any of these requests by the end of the next working day.

Key dates

Following publication of the elections notice on **Wednesday 22 March 2023**, the deadline to deliver nomination papers is **4pm on Tuesday 4 April 2023**.

Registration to vote deadline - **midnight on Monday 17 April 2023**.

Receipt of postal vote applications deadline - **5pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023**.

Receipt of proxy vote applications deadline - **5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023**.

Voter identification (ID) requirements

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4. Voters must bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling station. You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following... .

f you are lucky enough to still have them and other hedge-nesters do keep an eye on them and be careful how you trim your hedges, avoiding the nesting period from February to the end of August. Perhaps you could plant a low tree or tall, dense shrub with the birds in mind?

As I finish this piece I've just noticed a party of six male blackbirds. Unusually for very territorial birds they landed together in the same tree. I suspect they've just arrived, probably after a long flight from Scandinavia and will soon split up looking for territories. Although my bird book says "Resident" blackbirds don't all stay put. Some just come here for the summer, some stay all year round and others overwinter with us and head south for warmer climes. I think I'd be in the latter group!

Next time: the crow family and bird feeding.

Alan

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 SYPHONS * TAPS * SERVICE VALVES * WATER SOFTENERS * SINK UNITS
 * COLD WATER STORAGE TANK

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Mobile : 07864 712055
Email : webbtm88@hotmail.com

FORNHAM LADIES CLUB

Rosemary Chenery

The meeting of the Fornham St Martin Ladies' Club was held at the village hall in February at 7.30.

We met as usual and the speaker was Paige Pope.

Apologies were received from J. Petch, M. Payne, K. Turner, M. Bonfield, V. Axton, H. Lancaster and H.

Bray.

Paige gave us a very informative talk in which she gave us lots of facts and figures about the Dogs Trust. The Dogs Trust was founded in 1891 by Lady Gertrude

Stock but at that time it was called The National Canine Defence League. In 1912 the First Shelter was opened

and during World War One the League defended its faithful friends by producing Doggy Gas Masks and

helping to pay for the Dog Licence for more than 12,500 dogs, which at that time was just seven shillings and six pence.

They adopted slogans, In 1937 it was Improve Dog

Safety in cars, 1967 it was non destruction – never put a dog down. 1978 A dog is for life not just for Christmas.

In 2004 The National Canine Defence League changed its name to become The Dogs Trust U.K and Ireland.

There were 14,000 Dogs and had 22 re-homing centres. Each year 69% of dogs were handed over by members of the public, 25% were strays, 3% born in the home and 3% illegally smuggled.

Parish/Town & District Elections – May 4th 2023

West Suffolk Council have published information on their website regarding the upcoming elections to West Suffolk Council and to Parish and Town Councils: Current vacancies and elections (westsuffolk.gov.uk). The nomination packs and guidance on the completion of nominations can be downloaded from the website.

West Suffolk Council will be publishing the notice of election on 22 March and receiving nomination papers between 23 March and the deadline of 4pm on Tuesday 4 April 2023. Nomination papers must be hand delivered to West Suffolk House in Bury St Edmunds between the hours of 9am and 5pm on any working day during the nomination period on an appointment system to ensure that a Deputy Returning Officer is available to receive the nomination paper. To book an appointment, just send an email to elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk with details of the preferred date and time and the area that nomination papers are being delivered for (i.e. the name of the parish/town) and they will confirm the appointment by email.

Between now and Wednesday 22 March, they will also be providing an informal checking service for nomination papers. The informal checks can be undertaken by scanning and emailing a copy of the completed nomination pack to elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk and helps to ensure that any issues or corrections required... ..

- Off-grid households.
- traveller households on authorised sites.
- households in temporary/supported accommodation

Can residents qualify for this and the ENERGY BILLS Support Scheme?

Yes, although if they aren't receiving the money for the schemes automatically, then they will need to submit separate claims.

How do people make a claim for AFP Alternative Funding?

People will need to submit a claim on the Government website

www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic There is also a government helpline open from 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday for anyone who requires help and support to make a claim or progress a claim.

The helpline number is **0808 175 3287**. The government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) will then carry out checks to confirm that the household isn't on the gas grid and hasn't received a payment through their electricity supplier. West Suffolk Council and Anglia Revenues Partnership will then complete final checks and make payments.

Applications will close on 31 May 2023.

The Snettisham home is just off the A11 at Attleborough. The home was opened in 1998 and was a boarding kennels and was rebuilt in 2001. In 2022 it rehomed 315 dogs and can house 50 to 60 dogs at any one time. It has 42 kennels, with a training hall, playgrounds, an agility paddock, enclosed woodland walks and a training centre. Rehabilitation – In Shrewsbury there is a home for old dogs, here they have foster carers where everything is paid by the Trust.

There is a Dogs School in St Neots which takes dogs into Schools for children training.

The Dogs Trust also help Homeless people with their Vets fees and help with the food for their animals.

There is also a Freedom Project Fostering Service. This is where you can foster a dog and often the people fostering decide to keep the dog.

Cost of Living Crisis – 50,000 calls for help to keep a dog, pet food banks and a Hope project for homeless dogs.

It costs £2,200.00 to care for a dog which is in care and £455.00 in Vet Fees.

You can support a Dog for £1.00 per week.

Membership is £25.00 or £12.50

The Dogs Trust have a Charity shop in Bury St.

Edmunds and are always looking for people to Volunteer to help the Trust.

Paige also showed us a video of the Snettisham Rehoming Centre of the animals, their surrounding areas and at play with their Carers.

The date of the next meeting is on 15th March at 7.30pm at Fornham St Martin Village Hall when the speaker will be from the St John Ambulance. New members are very welcome and for further information please ring either 01284 767672 or 01284 766098.

FORNHAM ST. MARTIN LADIES' CLUB

By Janet Petch

The Fornham Ladies' Group met at Fornham St Martin Village Hall at 7.30pm, 15th March 2023. Apologies were received from S. Hilton and K. Turner. The Secretary of the Group told of forthcoming events arranged. Trip to Cambridge, pick up points, Fornham St Martin Village Hall and Pigeon Lane. Times as yet to be arranged.

Names are needed for the June outing to Fullers Mill. A letter of thanks had been received from Paige Pope of the Dogs Trust for the donation received after her talk in February.

The speaker for the evening was Enid Gathercole, representing the St. John Ambulance. The talk covered various aspects the St. John Ambulance deals with, giving support to events large and small taking place. Enid also explained words that covered the order one should check when dealing with a sick patient... Eg. F. A. S. T. (dealing with a stroke) Face. Arms. Speech. Time.

Alternative Fuel Payment – Alternative Funding

which the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has now launched.

What is it?

The Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) is a government scheme offering payments of £200 to households that use alternative fuels to the gas grid as their main source of heating. This includes households that use **tank or bottled gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), heating oil wood or other solid fuel.**

Most households on alternative fuels will have already received this payment through their electricity supplier in February. But there are a small number of households that don't have a direct contract with an electricity supplier and so they will need to make a claim under the **AFP Alternative Funding** scheme.

Who is it for?

The government has advised that provided they can provide sufficient proof of address, receipt of fuel costs, and are not otherwise ineligible, households eligible for AFP Alternative Fund may include:

- park home residents.
- housing association, social and private tenants, and leaseholders, supplied via a landlord with a commercial meter.
- households in house boats on residential moorings
- households on a private electricity network, for example those supplied by a heat network.



Help an older person or a person with a disability, to remain safer in their home.

Since 2019 Able Community Care, a Norfolk, nationwide, Live-in Care Provider, has been offering older people and people with a disability, a free door sticker to deter unwanted callers.

It is a fact that older and vulnerable people are targeted by fraudulent traders, workmen and fake 'professional' people such as conmen advising they are from the Water Board, Gas Board, NHS Covid Dept., etc. As many people have told us, this sticker on a door does mean they walk back down the path.

To date we have given out nearly 80,000 door stickers and if you know of an older person who would like to have one, please email us at info@ablecommunitycare.com telling us how many you would like and the address to send them to.

We are happy for you to share this offer on your Facebook page or in your local magazine/newsletter.

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Tel. 01603 764567

Although the subjects covered were serious ones, there was much interaction between the audience and the speaker, which made at times a very relaxed evening enjoyed by all.

The St. John Ambulance does need new members as there are not so many volunteers as in the past. Mr Frederick Chenery will be the next speaker for April 19th, telling of his experience in taking part in the London Marathon.

New members are always very welcome. Please contact 01284 767372 or 01284 766098.

FORNHAM ST MARTIN CUM ST GENEVIEVE PARISH COUNCIL

S.137 DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Parish Council has a pot of funds that allows them to give donations to Community Groups and Organisations, to assist them with their running costs etc. We will be considering donations at our Annual Meeting in May.

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



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Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool:-

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

The Highways Reporting Tool allows you to report a new defect and monitor the status of existing reports, such as; blocked drains, Cycle lane/tracks & public right of way issues, damaged drain/manhole cover, vegetation and mud on the road, flooding on a road or pavement, missing/damaged barriers or guardrails, missing/damaged or obscured signs, missing/faded road markings, Potholes & Pavement defects, trees/hedges affecting the highways or footways.

Do not report a highways problem online if:

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