

Fynn - Lark News

JULY - AUGUST 2025



Gary Farmer

A COMMUNITY PULLING TOGETHER

HOW WE DEALT WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF STORM BABET – OCTOBER 2023

This update shows how a community pulling together, and yes, engaging positively with the appropriate authorities, can deal with potential disasters and work towards a positive outcome. The item is based on the update provided to Great Bealings Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May. It is an object lesson in how a community can respond to disaster. The pictures are a reminder of what had to be dealt with, and what we have done.

**Magazine for the Parishes of Great & Little
Bealings, Playford and Culpho**

This was the problem.....



Background: It is some 20 months since Storm Babet brought misery to at least 12 homes in Great Bealings, our village. Memories of the heartbreak, distress and material damage remain fresh in many minds.

The Parish Council engaged closely with Suffolk County Council, investigating in detail the causes of the flooding, and this report has now been published. It is available on-line, and the main conclusion is that Lodge Road Bridge could not cope with the volume of water passing through. The report stated that Storm Babet was a significant event, and states that there is considered to be ***“a low probability of recurrence.”*** Also remember that Babet followed an exceptional wet week of weather, further exacerbating its effects.

RESPONSE: Despite that low probability of recurrence, much has happened to prevent further flooding. The response was, to the credit of all involved, pro-active. There were two village meetings within a week or so of the event. The speed of response brought in, as attenders, the Flood Risk Manager at Environment Agency (EA) for East Anglia & Head of Environmental strategy for Suffolk County Council (SCC).. These two gentlemen - Aaron and Matt turned out to be our new best, most helpful friends. Local government is there to help. They certainly have and we thank them for that.

ACTIONS: Each house that suffered internal flooding of residential space can claim Property Flood Resilience grants a £5000 per property. We asked if we could pool those grants, and use them to fund an engineered solution which could prevent a repetition of the flooding, rather than just buying lots of flood boards and sandbags to try to keep the waters at bay if and when it happened again. We were told the scheme did not allow that. The funds could only be spent individually. This seemed counter-intuitive to us, so we lobbied the Sec of State for Environment to change the rules, luckily at the time that was Thérèse Coffey, a local MP, who agreed with us. She spoke to DEFRA, who immediately changed their rules. As a result of our initiative, they now positively encourage such community schemes.

OUR MAIN GOAL: we were looking for a long-term engineered solution. We knew that would not be a quick process. Using chainsaws, ropes and Paul Ward's digger & tractor we started doing what we could. We were convinced that a range of small changes would add up to greater result than the sum of its parts. Outcomes suggest that we were right.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE? Many blockages have been removed from the river, including numerous trees. There were huge ancient old trunks that have been blocking the river channel probably for decades. We dealt with the consequences of new ash die-back, and some collapsed garden hedges. With permission from our friends at the EA we removed an earth bank slippage downstream of Lodge Rd bridge, which had been severely restricting the flow away. We cleared vegetation for a further half mile downstream (with the kind permission of Mr Nigel Rolfe the landowner). Mr Rolfe also allowed us to remove a stretch of hedge on an earthen bank between 18" & 2' high and reinstated the ditch behind it. This bank had acted as a dam during the Babet flood, significantly increasing the height of floodwater. We have cleared reeds and Iris next to Southernhay. These had caused the river to silt up. The flow was further reduced. We also got SCC to finally clear all the drains in the village. Some were blocked full of detritus from field-water run-off. We also removed several blockages on adjoining land, between Lodge Road and Boot Street Bridges. We finally persuaded The Cranworth Estate to clear blockages right up to Boot Street. The tasks were multiple. We are grateful to landowners for all the permissions granted.

....and this is how we tackled it



FURTHER CHALLENGES: We were wading through plenty of administrative mire too, trying to engage all the relevant professionals to get something done to the road. We commissioned a topographical survey of all the houses BOTH sides of Lodge Road bridge, to ensure we had the most up-to-date picture of the relative heights along the roads. We then commissioned modelers to run hydrological models to quantify the difference that might be made between what we had done, and what we wanted to do. We met with Aaron and Sarah at EA, and they agreed to supply all their appropriate data and helped to both crop the required modelling distance and help scope it for us. This saved us many thousands of pounds.

CURRENT THINKING AND OUTCOMES: Now it is accepted that Babet was slightly worse than a 1% or 100 yr storm luckily 1% storms are a "norm for modelling" so comparison to Babet (or very close to it) is relatively easy. The final report has been received from the modelers, with some surprising and very good news: Our river maintenance work and removal of hedge and bank would, just in itself, reduce the potential flooding of a 1% storm by an average of over 15cms across the previously flooded houses. If we had a 1% or 100yr now – all but one house would stay dry– still

one too many! This is presuming no other works have been done to defend individual homes – so “as they were then”.

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE? To keep that final home dry, and future proof against a worse storm still (think climate change) additional work needs to be done, lessening the potential flood depth still further. Adding a combination of drainage pipes under Lodge Road, together with a lowering of the road height by 15cm would reduce potential total flood levels by 31cm. All homes would then remain dry. SCC have offered cover the £10000 cost of the design drawings. We also intend to engage with SCC, EA and The Cranworth Estate to look at reinstating and improving the bunds next to Boot Street Bridge. This slows and reduces the amount of flood water getting into the village section of the River Lark. We now also have the EA annually checking the river between the two bridges to enforce clearing of the river.

BENEFITS

When we have the final design installed, we will again run the model and use that to get EA to redraw the flood map. This will hopefully help restore house values. This will be of huge benefit to householders, but it should be noted that **only the residents who are contributing** to the costs will have their homes modelled regarding being removed from the flood plain map. The costs are considerable! But the benefits make it all worth the effort.

The wider village will also benefit in that Lodge Road should already be flood free after heavy rain – the flood on the blind bend has already been engineered out – increasing road safety and accessibility for all. **This project is going to be VERY expensive – if anyone else wishes to donate towards the cost PLEASE feel free to send any money to the GB Parish Council who are acting as bankers for the works.**

APPRECIATION: we wish to record our thanks to the various agencies and individuals who have helped us meet this challenge. All works are being undertaken with EA & SCC permissions, permits and approval. Our report has already been approved by the EA and now needs to be signed by SCC. We should then be able to secure all the £5000 individual grants. We additionally wish to thank the following: Mr Nigel Rolfe, local farmer, for permission to work on his land and to remove the hedge. Cllr Bryce & Cllr Hedgley for grants from their enabling budgets. Matt Hullis at SCC for support, guidance and a £10k grant towards design and Aaron Dixie at EA support, guidance, data & a grant towards the works, together with their teams who have shown great patience towards our efforts. Finally, Sue Prentice, Parish Council Chairman, together with the Parish Council. They have shown great support to all of us who suffered the consequences of flooding, and also taken on the responsibility of acting as our holding bank.

We are well on the way to an engineered solution, and we thank all those who have helped us along the very challenging way. Thank you all.

Rob Munn (edited) – co-ordinator-in-chief

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NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

SAFER VILLAGE DRIVING 'SAVID'



'SAVID' marked its 10th anniversary in June and thanked volunteers from all Fynn Lark News' villages for their activities over the years. ESC, SCC Highways and Suffolk Police

were also acknowledged.

The consortium was created in 2015 by neighbouring parish councils to give a bigger voice and more effective responses to the problem of rural speeding and now comprises 9 villages. ESC District Councillor Colin Hedgley is a founding member of SAVID representing Great Bealings and was further thanked for his concluding tenure as Treasurer. Results include securing over £10k in grants to purchase Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). As a result, both Little Bealings and Playford are amongst those villages who have progressed from none, to sharing, to each having their own SAVID-funded device. These positively remind drivers of the safe speed but also regularly record speeds over 50mph in 30mph routes (over 40mph in the 20) through these villages. Separate police activity in May highlights both Charsfield and Little Bealings as members with significant speeding traffic. Input from residents of Little Bealings and Culpho via SAVID have helped inform councils of speeding concerns and responses.

SAVID's next community meeting is on 11th September 2025 at Martlesham Parish Room 6.30 p.m. All welcome. suffolksavid@gmail.com

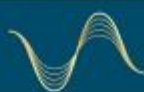
HISTORY CORNER

REMEMBERING THOMAS CLARKSON

Thomas Clarkson was born in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, in 1760. After winning a Cambridge University prize for an essay on slavery in 1785, he travelled to London and joined the anti-slave trade movement. Clarkson became its chief researcher and was responsible for gathering evidence on the brutality of the slave trade. This information was passed on to William Wilberforce via the Abolition Committee. (Clarkson's diagram of the slave ship Brookes is still one of the most enduring images of the slave trade.)



Ill health in the 1790s forced him to withdraw from the campaign for nearly a decade. His return in 1804 helped Wilberforce get the abolition bill passed by Parliament in 1807. William Wordsworth subsequently wrote a sonnet



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in honour of his efforts and Clarkson wrote his own account of the abolition of the slave trade in 1808. Clarkson then turned his attention to the ending of transatlantic slavery, and was joined by younger men such as Thomas Fowell Buxton MP. He was in poor health when the Emancipation Act was passed in 1833 and retired to Playford near Ipswich, where he lived until his death in 1846.

(from 'Exciting Holiness'- *The Calendar of Saints of the Church of England*)

JOSIAH WEDGWOOD AND THOMAS CLARKSON

The Wedgwood medallion was the most famous image of a black person in all 18th-century art. Josiah Wedgwood, Britain's renowned potter, was a man of conscience, deeply interested in the consequences of the American War of Independence and the French Revolution.



His friendship with Thomas Clarkson - abolitionist campaigner and the first historian of the British abolition movement - aroused his interest in slavery. Wedgwood copied the original design by the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade as a cameo in black and white.

The inscription *Am I Not a Man and a Brother?* became the catchphrase of British and American abolitionists. Medallions were even sent in 1788 to Benjamin Franklin who was then president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

The image was widely reproduced on domestic objects like crockery and became popular on fashion accessories. According to Clarkson, gentlemen had the image inlaid in gold on the lid of their snuffboxes. Of the ladies several wore them in bracelets, and others had them fitted up in an ornamental manner as pins for the hair. At length, the taste for wearing them became general; and thus fashion, which usually confines itself to worthless things, was seen for once in the honourable office of promoting the cause of justice, humanity, and freedom. Although the kneeling black figure is docile and supplicatory (reflecting nothing of the frequent fierce rebellions by enslaved people in the New World plantations), the image nonetheless helped to galvanise support for the abolitionist cause. Benjamin Franklin declared that the medallion's effectiveness was equal to that of the best written Pamphlet, in procuring favour to those oppressed People.

(All contributed by Rev Canon Andrew Dotchin)

ARTS ARENA

Here's something new for you. An Arts/ Cultural feature. We'd love to include more items on the same lines. This month we offer you a write-up of a *Suffolk Open Studios* Event, one which took place in Great Bealings. Open Studios is a county-wide event. In Suffolk over-all, around 200 artists participated. A free brochure gave details of all the locations. In this specific event, organised by The TAGS, (Textile Art Group Suffolk) a dozen or so artists came together on two June weekends to display their widely assorted talents (weaving, spinning, textiles, design, painting, crochet, collage, embroidery, papermaking, basket-making) at Annesley, a wonderful venue offered by Judy Chestnutt, helped by her daughter, Moyra, coming all the way from Brighton.

These pictures give an idea of the range of talent, as of medium, on show for visitors to enjoy. It was an uplifting way of spending a couple of hours, talking to and watching creative people at work



This magazine carries very few write-ups of local concerts, displays, exhibitions. Not that there is a shortage of cultural activity. Trying, as we do, to include all aspects of life in the area we cover, we would like to publish more items with a cultural theme. We do hereby invite reports, reviews etc. of any local artistic/cultural event which the writer thinks may be of interest to readers. Pictures too!

Please use this report as an incentive to let us know about other similar occasions which can show that cultural life in these parts is alive and thriving.

And remember that Open Studios is an event which takes place every year.

NATURE NOTES

IN PRAISE OF THE HUMBLE LICHEN

Many florae demand to be looked at. Lichen, on the other hand, we barely notice, even though it is to be found in many places. It comes in many different forms. There are some 20,000 different varieties. Take a closer look. Lichen comes in multiple shapes, colours and sizes. Make a point of looking out for it. It's all around you. It also plays a valuable role in any ecosystem.

What are lichens? Lichens are not plants. They may have tiny, leafless branches and be flat leaf-like structures, growing crust-like, adhering tightly to a surface. They are bizarre organisms and no two are alike. They are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms: a fungus and an alga.



Lichens do not have roots that absorb water and nutrients as plants do., but like

plants, they produce their own energy by photosynthesis. When they grow on plants, they do not live as parasites. Lichens may be long-lived, with some considered to be among the oldest living things.

Lichens enable algae to live all over the world in many different climates. They also provide a means to convert carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through photosynthesis into oxygen. We all need this to survive. Lichens add amazing colour and texture to landscapes. Lichens are to be found from sea level to high alpine elevations, in many environmental conditions. They can grow on almost any surface. They are abundant growing on bark, leaves, mosses, or other lichens and hanging from branches. They grow on rock, walls, gravestones, roofs, exposed soil surfaces, rubber, bones, and in the soil. Lichens have adapted to survive in some of the most extreme environments on Earth: arctic tundra, hot dry deserts, rocky coasts, and toxic slag heaps. Certainly, you will find them in many places in the Fynn-Lark valleys.

Why are lichens ecologically important? Lichens are a keystone species in many ecosystems. They colonise bare rocks and initiate soil formation. They contribute to the nitrogen cycle by converting atmospheric nitrogen into nitrates, which are beneficial to other plant life. They provide food and shelter for various invertebrates and are nesting material for birds. They are highly sensitive to air pollution, making them good indicators of air quality. Lichens are formed by a symbiotic (interdependent) relationship between a fungus and a photosynthetic organism. This allows them to thrive in harsh environments where either organism alone couldn't survive. Lichens can protect trees and rocks from extreme weather conditions. Lichens have been used in traditional medicine for various purposes. Some lichens are edible and have been used as food or fodder for animals. Lichens produce natural dyes used in textile processing. Certain lichens are used in

the production of cosmetics and perfumes. Lichens have been investigated for their biological activities, including antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant properties.

All in all, lichens are far more useful than most of us would think. Far from being humble, unassuming, hidden away, they play many unappreciated roles in the natural world. They deserve greater respect. Look more closely, and you may be surprised at what you discover. Please send us your pictures of any particularly unusual lichen you may come across.

Warning note: Lichens can also play a minor but horrific role in nature's red-in-tooth-and-claw 'carnival'. There are lichen-mimicking insects. Beware! The lacewing, a predatory larva camouflages itself as a lichen, by adorning its body with lichen bits. The lichen disguise conceals a formidable predator. If successful it will morph into a small but beautiful winged insect with gossamer net-veined wings. Unrecognisable from the creature featured in this illustration.



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DOREEN SHILLING 1935~2025



Doreen Shilling was a resident of Little Bealings for over 65 years. Daughter of Dorothy and Cyril Button, her childhood was spent in Falkenham and Kirton. Dorothy worked 'in service' and Cyril was a farmhand at nearby 'Paul's Farm.' Doreen had a younger brother Raymond, and sister Eileen. The Kirton home was more modern, but the loo was still in the garden, and the weekly bath took place by the kitchen fire. Doreen enjoyed school life, playing for the hockey team, learning Esperanto and becoming Head Girl at her Trimley school.

On leaving school, Doreen worked in admin at Frederick Corders in Ipswich, which meant staying at their hostel. In her early twenties, at a dance at Felixstowe Pier Pavilion, Doreen met Russell Shilling, then still in the RAF, and in 1959 they married at Kirton church. In 1960 their first son Ian was born, followed by Andrew in 1963. On returning to work after her childcare years, Doreen worked at County Hall for Suffolk County Council, being one of those responsible for child school transport.

Doreen and Russell spotted their dream home in an Ipswich Estate Agents window, and ended up spending the rest of their lives in Little Bealings, where Doreen lived for 65 years, and with the

same next-door neighbour throughout. As one of Sandy Lane's first residents (when the lane was definitely very sandy), she took to the area well, with other young families close by, including the Cook's, Kerrisons, Potkins and Busby's. When her sons came along in the early sixties, post-natal assessments were carried out at the Angela Cobbold Hall, where Doreen also attended the 'Mother's Union.' In those days Little Bealings had Mrs Hill's village store, Mr Hill's car repairs and Dunnett's coal merchants. A chimney sweep and taxi service were run by Mr and Mrs Barber respectively, and of course there was the Admiral's Head, run by Mr and Mrs Boggis. The Boggis family also ran a haulage business too, with large brown lorries in and out of Sandy Lane every day. Daily buses into Ipswich were also appreciated, as were weekly deliveries from bakers, (Betabake) butchers (Co-Op), and even Corona soft drinks and a laundry service.

The new bungalow had a large front window, allowing Doreen to see passers-by, whether locals or strangers. A bonus during her later years when she didn't feel like going out much or tending to the front garden, she was always pleased when a friendly neighbour turned and waved. Doreen always seemed to know the goings on in Sandy Lane, Richard's Drive and Michael's Mount, but she wasn't looking on the day a grocery van came rolling down Richards Drive, sending her gate and brick pillar tumbling. The driver was making a delivery and hadn't fully engaged the handbrake - fortunately, nobody was in the way.

After Russell retired, Doreen encouraged him to join Bealings Carpet Bowls Club. Though apprehensive at first, the club made him feel welcomed and it proved a positive turn in his later life, and later on Doreen herself joined, making friendships and enjoying some successes too.

A thread of positivity ran through Doreen's life, no doubt reinforced by her love of yoga, which she practiced weekly in Ipswich until her late seventies. After she was widowed and retired from Suffolk County Council, she knew social activity was a must, joining Bealings Carpet Bowls club and enjoying friendships, and a few successes too. She also enjoyed volunteering at the primary school for many years (until Covid), going in weekly to listen to the children read, playing a part in the school community where her sons were educated, as well as her cousin Roland Button, decades earlier. She also regularly cleaned the brasses in All Saints church.

In 2020 while volunteering for Woodbridge library, Doreen met John Forrest, also of Little Bealings. They went on to enjoy a great partnership together with many happy times, holidays and family occasions. Doreen and John enjoyed Bealings village life, attending school events, local social gatherings, and taking an interest in local affairs. Doreen was lucky to have known a few neighbours since they too had moved in, in the early sixties.

John, and Doreen's family, pass on their thanks to the many local friends and neighbours who attended Doreen's funeral and sent their well-wishes.

DEMENTIA GOLF PROGRAMME GIVEN BOOST WITH NEW BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP



An initiative in Woodbridge, designed to support people living with dementia through the game of golf, has been given a massive boost this month after securing the backing of a growing local business.

All About Hearing, a leading hearing care company with clinics in Ipswich, Woodbridge, Framlingham and Woolpit, has agreed a new sponsorship deal with Seckford Golf Club to support their twice monthly, 'Fore Get Me Not Golf' programme.

The programme provides a safe, inclusive, and social environment where individuals affected by dementia can continue to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of golf.

THE LINK BETWEEN HEARING LOSS AND DEMENTIA

This partnership is especially meaningful in light of the growing evidence linking hearing loss and dementia. Untreated hearing loss has been identified as one of the most significant modifiable risk factors for cognitive decline. When hearing is impaired, the brain works harder to interpret sounds, often at the expense of memory and thinking. Over time, this added strain – along with the social isolation that can come with hearing loss – may increase the risk of developing dementia. Supporting hearing health is therefore a vital part of supporting brain health.

For more information about the Fore Get Me Not programme, contact Seckford Golf Club at www.seckfordgolf.co.uk

We are very grateful to Farran Douse who provided this report, and to all the other volunteers engaged in this fantastic project.



The Deben Climate Centre has developed a network of over 40 volunteer citizen scientists including residents, landowners and farmers who sample the river on a regular basis at up to 30 locations on the Deben and its tributaries, the River Fynn and Lark. Here volunteers sample the Lark, in Grundisburgh and Great Bealings and the Fynn in Henley, Witlesham, Tuddenham, Little Bealings and Playford, as well as in Martlesham once the rivers have merged.

There are a couple of mini-laboratory hubs, including here in Great Bealings, where we do testing for E.coli bacteria, phosphates, ammonia and nitrates; these facilities are operated by volunteers with testing expertise and some samples are shared with researchers at the University of Suffolk for further analysis.

There is now a significant amount of data tracking pollution levels which give us a better idea of the state of our rivers. Levels fluctuate but unfortunately the Lark is rarely within the range deemed safe for bathing.

Our findings are now being published on www.debenclimate.org and public.tableau.com and are being shared with stakeholders such as Anglian Water, The Environment Agency and interest groups involved with the River Deben and its catchment. This engagement has led to improvements being made at a few sewage treatment works, including phosphate stripping technology, but it is clearly much slower than might be desired.

In addition to the monthly water sampling, two volunteers have had training to monitor levels of Riverfly species as part of a national scheme, www.riverflies.org. We sample the riverbed and count numbers

of 8 specific species that have been selected as having complimentary sensitivity to pollutants in the water. Once levels have been established at a particular site, a sudden drop in expected numbers can indicate a pollution incident and help the Environment Agency trace the source.

Although it sounds as if our river is receiving plenty of monitoring, please do keep your eyes open when walking near the river or past the Boot Street sewage works. Our STW is old and treated water is discharged into the Lark. When the sewage works malfunctioned earlier this year, spraying well beyond the bounds of the works and onto the footpath, it was reports from the public that got it fixed. If you notice anything unusual, please do ring the Anglian Water reporting number on the notice 03457 145145, and also contact Parish Councillor Regan Scott so we can track any ongoing issues.

And on a different note,

We are delighted that one of the organisations who will be coming to the Village Fete and Dog Show on 31st August Fete is the Community Tech Hub CIC. This is a non-profit making organisation whose aim is to advance local and general awareness and ability to cope with the digital revolution. One of their priorities is to promote scams awareness, and they are happy to share their expertise on this topic and many others, with visitors to the fete.

For further information visit www.communitytechhub.org

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Leah also offers adult classes on Tuesday evenings.



All classes are all back to normal and if you would like to join, just contact Leah for more details.on 01473 735880.

GREAT BEALINGS

RECTOR

Father Nigel Prior, St Mary's Rectory, 11 Church Street, Woodbridge. 01394 610424

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

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PCC SECRETARY

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PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARISED NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21st MAY 2025

FLOOD PREVENTION UPDATE

Rob Munn (RM) presented an update report on the progress made regarding future flood prevention in the village. Much practical work has been carried out which has already substantially reduced the risk of flooding to properties. It is proposed to install drainage pipes under Lodge Road to reduce the flood plain. RM expressed thanks for the support and guidance received from many people in particular Matt Hullis at SCC and Aaron Dixie at the Environment Agency. A full copy of the report is attached to these minutes on the PC's website. Colin Hedgley (CH) congratulated Rob and his team for their work. Sue Prentice (SP) specifically thanked Rob, Paul Ward, David Munn and Steve Condon on behalf of the village and said that this is good news for all

WHATSAPP GROUP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Rachel Lamb advised the meeting that it is planned to set up a village WhatsApp communication channel for notifications in respect of any emergency situations. Residents will be invited to join. A full explanation of what can be done and how it will work will be circulated in due course via the E-Newsletter and Fynn Lark News. It is felt that this will be the most effective way of prompt communication.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – REVIEW OF YEAR

SP summarised the work that the PC has undertaken during the year including the Gov.uk Domain and new website, Planning matters, Neighbourhood Plan, Emergency Planning and Village Fete, plus issues regarding roads and speeding. She read in full the report provided by Farran Douse which describes the contribution made by Farran, and other volunteers in towns and villages, to the wide-ranging study of water quality in the River Deben and Fynn Lark valleys. It is an excellent example of citizen science and SP thanked Farran for her continuing and valued contribution to the programme. A full copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these minutes on the website.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Reports have been received by County Cllr Elaine Bryce, District Cllr Colin Hedgley (CH) and District Cllr Dan Clery. All have been circulated to Parish Cllrs and are attached to the minutes on the website. CH verbally recapped the last 12 months and mentioned the proposed Westerfield quarry, Suffolk beaches, increased number of Parking Apps and contactless payment for parking, fraud team activity, the Well Bus which visited some towns and villages, Operation Camouflage which will run again this year, and the results of the two by-elections. He detailed the grant payments he has made recently to Great Bealings, and he mentioned the current Devolution proposals and outlined some of the ways this may work.



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COMMUNITY REPORTS

Village Hall Trust– Peter Prentice (PP) presented a report for the Bealings Village Hall Trust. He thanked the two Parish Councils for their donations, also the two District Cllrs, together with all other donators and supporters of the various events. The roof and doors project severely reduced reserves, so an expensive expansion and hard surfacing of the carpark was put on hold. However, in April, Andy Mayhew volunteered his time and digger free of charge to resurface the car park with road planings which cost £600. PP thanked him for his generosity. He summarised the other events that have been held and the essential work that has been carried out. He expressed thanks to Keith Beaumont and Margaret Wilson for their invaluable assistance and mentioned that there are currently vacancies for Trustees. The full report is on the PC's website.

Fynn-Lark News Report – A report had been submitted by Norman Porter (NP) and was read by the Clerk. The magazine is continuing to thrive and is regularly over 40 pages. NP discussed the financing problems and thanked the individuals, advertisers, Parish Councils and village organisations for their support. He also thanked the large team of volunteer helpers and paid particular tribute to Tim Llewellyn for putting it all together, and Peter and Vicki Carr for their efficient distribution process. The full report is on the PC's website.

SUMMARISED NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST MAY 2025

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Sue Prentice (SP) was elected as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-

Vice Chairman and Tree Warden

– John Carter-Jonas -elected subject to acceptance at next meeting,

Village Hall Rep – Trevor Harris

Environmental Officer (to cover footpaths and rivers) – Regan Scott (RS)

FUTURE OF BEALINGS COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Rob Munn explained that the CIC is not an entity that will exist forever. However, it needs to remain for the time being until decisions are made by SCC and the Environmental Agency to obtain grants. SP said that the PC will have to liaise with Little Bealings PC re siting of the culverts. A Sub-Committee of the PC will need to be set up for the PC to take ownership of the asset for insurance purposes. Once more information is known, a proposal will have to be drawn up to put to Zurich as to how it might work.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

DC/25/1733/FUL – Land at Lodge Road – Change of use of land from agricultural to an enclosed dog exercise field - The PC resolved to support this application

Decision Updates – no further decisions have been made. **DC/25/0547 & 0548 – Bealings House**, are still awaiting decision by ESC.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

SAVID/SID – CH reported that SAVID has no funds available to contribute to a replacement SID for Boot Street, and the Community Partnership have now ceased funding road safety aspects.

Other Highways matters – RS commented that the road signage on Boot Street is totally inadequate. CH said that SCC have no money for such improvements.

Footpaths - FP12 – is closed at the footbridge, which is severely damaged

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

RS has had correspondence with Anglian Water (AW) about high levels of Phosphorus in the River Lark. Monthly tests are carried out by AW on outfall quality but the sewage station GTBEST near Boot Street is not capable of treating Phosphorus. RS will be following up this matter with AW

REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

The following documents have all been reviewed and were approved and accepted by Cllrs:

Model Code of Conduct – amended 2022, Freedom of Information – Model Publication Scheme – amended 2021, Model Standing Orders – updated 2025, Risk Assessment – 2018

The Financial Regulations have recently been updated and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Adoption of Sexual and Harassment policy 2025 - It was resolved to adopt this policy

AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

Ten payments were authorised for Clerk's salary and PAYE for May and June, annual donation to Bealings Village Hall and Fynn Lark News, Clerk's Working from Home allowance and office expenses, SALC annual subscription and Councillor training fee.

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25–

This was accepted by Cllrs

Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

- This was approved and signed

Accounting Statements 2024/25 and Certificate of Exemption – These were approved and signed.

Precept – The complete annual precept of £8,600 has been received

Annual Bank Reconciliation – This was approved and signed.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK MEMBERSHIP – the PC will no longer receive the weekly bulletins and the Funding Digest unless we become a member at an annual cost of £52.50 + VAT. Cllrs agreed that these are useful, and it was agreed to pay the membership fee.

GRUNDISBURGH TECH

a request has been received for a financial contribution as it is open to residents of Great Bealings. This was declined as there is no provision in the budget for such expenditure and SP commented that they have received funding from the Community Partnership.

SUMMARISED NOTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The applicants for Planning Application DC/25/1971/LBC explained the details of their plans for The Boot, which have the approval of the LBC officer at ESC.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DC/25/1971/LBC – The Boot, Boot Street – Listed Building Consent – Formation of bathroom to first floor dwelling and associated work - After hearing the details explained by the applicants, Cllrs resolved unanimously to support this application.

(i) DC/25/1962/FUL and (ii) DC/25/1963/LBC – Rosery Farmhouse, Lodge Road

(ii) Demolition and replacement of former cowhouse to form ancillary accommodation to main farmhouse including an annex

(ii) Listed Buildings Consent – Demolition of existing cow-house range of outbuildings within former farmyard (with replacement building proposed)

Cllrs expressed the view that the applications will enhance the appearance of the site, with a very sympathetic design including the use of traditional Suffolk

weatherboarding cladding which complements the existing buildings. They resolved unanimously to support both applications.

The public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes on any item on the agenda in the Public Participation session. Full draft and approved minutes of the Parish Council are available on the Council's website. The agenda is published approx. a week in advance of a meeting.

Dee Knights – Clerk 01473 624240

Email:

clerk@greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website:

www.greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

GREAT BEALINGS EMERGENCY WHATSAPP GROUP

The events surrounding Storm Babet led Great Bealings Parish Council to review its emergency planning system. We have a document containing useful information which can be accessed via the Website but discovered that this may not be the most helpful way of accessing information that cannot readily be found via search engines. To bridge the gap, the Parish Council has set up a Community WhatsApp Group, the Great Bealings Emergency Channel. It is being administered by the Chairman, the Clerk and two parish councillors, any one of whom can send messages to all members of the Group providing them with information of a serious nature and which will be of assistance to people living in Great Bealings.

It is not intended to be a replacement for Facebook or other means of sharing non vital information. Neither is it a chat group, and members cannot send replies. Privacy of Group members is assured;

names and other contact details are not shared within the Group. Membership is open to all.

If you would like to become a member of the Great Bealings Emergency Channel you must have WhatsApp installed on your phone. **It is free.** Once you have done this, simply **text** 07543 453557 and ask to join the GBPC Emergency group.

We are intending to have the system up and running from the 1st September. It would be helpful if people could send their requests before then so that everyone can receive the introductory message and information that might be of assistance in an emergency. People can join the Group at any time but may not be able to access information that has already been shared.

Anyone wishing to provide information to the Parish Council should continue to use the existing means of communication, including emailing either the clerk or chairman, either case @greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

ST. MARY'S

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

With three quick-fire Bank Holidays now as good as behind us, we are fully launched into summer. The grass is growing again, albeit slowly, given the lack of rain. The butterflies are back. The bees' nest in the brick wall to the left of the gate is hyper-active. Beware. The possibility of outdoor services again becomes a reality.

It is a cruel irony that the church has been dealing with a spate of funeral arrangements at this time of early summer and new life. That said, it does remind us of how important a role the church can play on these occasions.

We are still working with the architect on plans for developing the back of the church, but it is a slow process to gather together all the necessary documents and

to finalise what it is which best suits our future purposes.

LOOKING BACK

PATRONAL SERVICE – ST MARY'S, WOODBRIDGE

We have two Patronals a year – one in Woodbridge, one in Great Bealings – at different times. The first Benefice Patronal of the year, in Woodbridge, was on June 1st. Great Bealings was well represented – and our representatives warmly welcomed. There was also a Bealings presence at the very good Bring and Share lunch afterwards.

FUNERAL OF NIGEL STEED

Nigel and Cilla used to live in Ivy Cottage, Boot Street. Nigel and his family have long since moved away, but daughter, Nicola (now Baylis) was married in St Mary's Church, as were her parents. The family had roots in the village, even though they had moved away, with Nigel becoming a solicitor in Ipswich.



He was well known locally, and the church was packed, with some 150 people attending, many coming from some distance. Alongside his professional interests, Nigel was a keen and talented sportsman. He played hockey until late in life, representing the national over-60s. Those attending his funeral came from many walks of life, and the church had been set up with appropriate flowers, for this special occasion. The wake followed, after the family had attended the cremation service, at Seckford Hall Hotel. Village churches are special places on occasions such as this.

BURIAL OF ASHES – PETER AND FRANCIS JARVIS -6TH JUNE

This turned out to be far more consequential than expected. Holly and Hector Saunders came all the way down from Ayrshire to bury the ashes of Holly's parents, who had once been resident in these parts. They had remembered it as one of the happiest times of their lives. The name Jarvis rang a bell – and indeed, a family member had been Rector here just after the war. Also, within the family set up was the name Crane – former residents at Bealings House – the carved vestry partition is in their memory. So – historically much came together, and we were able to chat at length. Even more surprising: Holly's husband, Hector, stepped forward when introductions were made and said: "You taught me French and hockey many years ago." And indeed, I had. The fabric of history is complex and intricate indeed. The ashes are now buried within a few metres of the Crane grave. Back home, amongst friends.

CHURCHYARD

The funeral of Nigel Steed necessitated full use of the over-flow Car Park. It was good to have it in reserve, and we are very grateful to contractors DJ Carter for ensuring that it was cut back, and all the stinging nettles dealt with a couple of days before the service – working on Bank Holiday Monday. Thank you, Dan and John.

SERVICES FOR JULY and AUGUST

Sunday 6th July: 9.30 a.m.

Holy Communion with hymns

Sunday 20th July: 10.30 a.m.

Morning Prayer

– lay-led – Norman and Virginia Porter

Sunday 3rd August: 9.30 a.m.

Holy Communion with hymns

Sunday 17th August: 10.30 a.m.

Morning Prayer

– lay-led. Alison and John Davis

Do check up on the Woodbridge website for other possible services.

Parish Office: this is the hub of activity and communications for the United Benefice. Linda is our Parish Administrator. The Rector too, can be contacted through this office.

Tel: 01394 388820 – and Linda's office hours are: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

St Mary's House, 11 Market Hill, Woodbridge IP12 4LP.

*Norman Porter. Churchwarden
nhp@rillcott.co.uk*

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS.

If you would like the lights to shine forth for personal celebrations or commemorations please drop a note in to Norman Porter, Rill Cottage, Kiln Lane with payment, explaining why you would like the church floodlit, so that it can be recorded in the FLN, for posterity's benefit. If urgent, a holding email nhp@rillcott.co.uk will do the trick, with payment to follow.

FRIENDS OF GREAT BEALINGS CHURCH

(in partnership with Friends of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge)

QUIZ NIGHT. SATURDAY JULY 5TH

We invite you to take a particularly close look at the advert for the Quiz Night on July 5th in the Village Hall. There are two very worthy beneficiaries of the evening: East Anglian Air Ambulance and Great Bealings Church. For lovers of Quizzes this looks good, and on home territory. Many thanks to Sam Ellingham for organising this and for thinking of us. Happy Quizzing.



Saturday 5th July



Arrive from 7pm for a prompt 7:30pm start.



Bealings Village Hall, IP13 6LH



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Quiz Night



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PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

revgaryjones1985@gmail.com

07714 614095

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Wendy Cook

clerk@littlebealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

07867 973504

PCC SECRETARY

Toni Cornish

lbpcsecretary@gmail.com

ACH NEWS

On 25/26th May the Hall was a stop off point for the many walkers undertaking the Suffolk 100 mile walk. The Hall remained open throughout the night as weary walkers paused for refreshments before completing the last few miles back to their starting point at Rushmere.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

As always grateful thanks to everyone who made this a happy social occasion, setting up, washing up clearing up etc. Bunches of Summer flowers from Tracy Herrington made the Hall look inviting and posies were delivered to Gina Mutimer and Betty Slim who are not well at present.

The next lunch on 1st July will be Pick & Mix Salads and Desserts.

The menu for the lunch on 5th August is yet to be decided.

Bookings 01473

620213

pandvcarr55@gmail.com

TIME FOR TEA "CREAM TEAS"

These will be from 3pm on Sunday 20th July and on Sunday 17th August the profits will go to the Breast Cancer Now appeal.

FRIDAY SOCIALS

On Friday 6th June Carl Cornish celebrated a special birthday. In spite of showers everyone enjoyed the barbecue cooked by Chris Cheeseman. Drinks and cake gave everyone the opportunity to congratulate Carl and wish him a Happy Birthday.

The following Friday 13th June Margaret & Roger Roseboom organized an evening of poetry, giving people the opportunity to read their favourite poems and share the memories associated with

them. Refreshments were served and enjoyed on this special evening.

HERB BED



The herbs are flourishing by the steps leading to the Reading Room door. Feel free to come and cut some for home use. There is Rosemary, Thyme, Sage, Mint, etc.

LIBRARY VAN @ ACH CAR PARK

2.15-2.45 p.m. Thursday 3rd July

KNIT & NATTER GROUP

At the Angela Cobbold Hall on Mondays between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Everyone welcome.



It is a group of people that meet up, who like knitting, crochet or needlework. Some bring other crafts so, it's not just knitting. We have

some very interesting discussions about various things. Also hearing about our world travels or a special event we have arranged or attended, maybe just some item one of us saw in a newspaper or magazine. All whilst creating our master pieces, though mine are very simple, to

some of our group.

Though we are all really happy to help anyone who wishes to learn. We enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with some delicious cakes sometimes we have some wonderful Cheese Scones. We always have something temptingly tasty, that a member has brought to share during the afternoon.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

If you wish to contact us. Phone Eileen 01473 623133 or phone or text Yvette 07501127273

CLARKSON WEEK is Saturday 28 June to Sunday 6 July 2025

A WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATING SUFFOLK'S MOST IMPORTANT ANTI-SLAVERY CAMPAIGNER:

THOMAS CLARKSON - THE REBEL FROM WISBECH AND HERO OF PLAYFORD

Just outside the entrance to St Mary's church in Playford is a large obelisk which some historians describe as Suffolk's most treasured National Monument. It stands in memory of Thomas Clarkson who was the driving force behind the movement to abolish the Slave Trade. While his work was often overshadowed by the parliamentarian William Wilberforce, Clarkson was the person in the abolitionist movement who worked tirelessly to promote the cause. During his time collecting evidence against the slave trade, he travelled 30,000 miles on horseback, the equivalent of 52 years of the daily trip to and from Primary School, and on those journeys, he was often assaulted and beaten by slave traders.

His chief tool to encourage people to support abolition was a treasure chest in which he gathered all sorts of fine African produce to support his argument that trade with Africa for its produce could be just as profitable as capturing and selling her people into bondage. His chest also included some of the instruments slavers used to torture their captives. This chest is on display at the Wisbech & Fenland

Museum¹ where Clarkson grew up and has been featured in the BBC 2 programme 'Inside Culture'.²

This year the PCC of Playford Church are offering a whole week of activities to mark Clarkson's remarkable achievements and help visitors realise the extent to which Modern Slavery still blights the lives of people living amongst us.

There will be a free showing of the film '*Amazing Grace*' on Saturday 28 June in Playford Village Hall; join us at 6.30 p.m. for hot dogs and popcorn with the film starting at 7.00 p.m. The movie focuses on the work of William Wilberforce and includes a short appearance of Clarkson himself.

Any proceeds from the sale of refreshments and the raffle will go to support the work of Playford Church.

During the week of 28 June to 6 July, Playford Church will host an exhibition of pictures and texts about Clarkson's work along with some modern artefacts from Africa. The church is kept open during daylight hours for all who want to visit this free exhibition. The week culminates with a special service in thanksgiving for Clarkson's fight against slavery which will be held in Playford Church at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 6 July to which all are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.

This year we have added a challenge to local school children so that they can make their own contribution to Clarkson's memory. We are asking that they visit the obelisk during Clarkson Week and recite the poem *The Rebel from Wisbech* by the famous rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah.

Any child who can show proof of having done so, by means of a note from a teacher, parent or carer, will receive a free badge which is a replica of the design used on medallions that Josiah Wedgwood (also an abolitionist) produced and sold to raise funds for the cause.

Also, on Saturday 5 July at 10.00 a.m., the Fynn Valley Walks Group are organising a walk of around four miles in

length, in and around Playford and the lands which helped to fund Clarkson's campaign. Starting at Playford Church there will be stops along the way to enjoy the views of the countryside and listen to parts of the life stories of Clarkson and other abolitionists. The walk will end with light refreshments in Little Bealings Church and then a short walk back to Playford Church. We expect this walk to be very popular and to ensure you can join please book a place by sending a request by email to john.wittgreffe@btinternet.com titled 'Clarkson Walk 5th July'.

To end

Copies of the poem The Rebel from Wisbech by Benjamin Zephaniah are available in Playford church for any children who would like to attempt the challenge and try their hand at reading it

at the obelisk. There may even be a free badge available for them as well...

Pax et Bonum

*Rev Canon Andrew Dotchin (tssf)
Vicar of Kesgrave, Little Bealings Playford*

*For further details please contact:
The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin (tssf)
The Vicarage, 18 Bell Lane, Kesgrave,
IP5 1JQ ☐ (07814) 949 828 ☐
revdotchin@gmail.com*

1 The Museum have produced a suite of free materials about Thomas Clarkson for Schools to use:

<https://www.tellinghistory.co.uk/clarkson-teaching-reasources>

2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08w52h0>



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EVENTS

JULY

Monday 2nd 1.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m. **KNIT AND NATTER**
(& every Monday)

Tuesday 1st 12.30 p.m. **COMMUNITY LUNCH**
(+ 5th Aug. & 2nd Sept.)
To book please ring 01473 620213
or email: pandvcarr55@gmail.com

Tuesday 1st 6.30 p.m.-7.30 p.m. **KARATE CLASS**
(& every Tuesday)

Thursday 3rd 10.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m. **TAP DANCING**
(& every Thursday)

Friday 4th 7.00 p.m.-10.00 p.m. **SOCIAL FRIDAY**
(& every Friday
unless an event on)
Licenced Bar
Snooker, Darts, Table Tennis,
Chess, Board Games, Subbuteo

Friday 18th *From* 10.00 a.m. **COFFEE MORNING & FOOT CLINIC**
(& 5th Sept.)
Appointments for Clinic ring
Charlotte on 07712 448775

Sunday 20th *From* 3.00 p.m. **CREAM TEAS**
& 17th August
All profits go to Breast Cancer
Now. No booking necessary.

AUGUST

Tuesday 5th 12.30 p.m. **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

(+ all other regular events)

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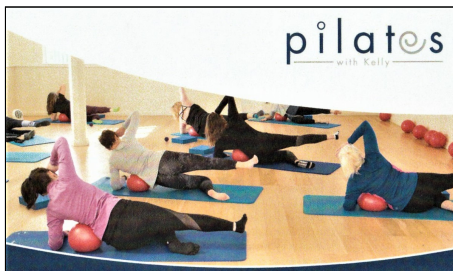
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PLAYFORD

PRIEST IN CHARGE

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07714 614095

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Wendy Cook

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07867 973504

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs. Eileen Stennett, Lux Farm, Playford Road, Playford

07787 535398

eileen@luxfarm.co.uk

PLAYFORD VILLAGE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

WHAT IT IS AND WHERE TO FIND IT.

Playford Parish Council is pleased to inform residents that we now have a Community Emergency Plan. This has been developed in conjunction with both the Government and Suffolk Council initiative to help people in “understanding local risks and knowing what resources they have available to help minimise the impact of an emergency on their community.”

The Playford Parish Community Emergency Plan does 2 things:

Provide risk assessments for potential hazards – with details on what organisations can assist in an emergency.

Provide details of the team of local volunteers who have offered help and assistance (such as running the rest centre, loaning equipment) should an emergency occur.

The rationale of having a plan in situ, is to ensure that we as a village can help ourselves and our neighbours, should the emergency services be overwhelmed and unable to attend immediately (as, for example, during Storm Babet or 1987 hurricane).

The plan can be found on the village website: *<https://playfordparish.gov.uk/playfords-emergency-plan/>*

There are also reference copies in the Village Hall kitchen and the Church porch.

You can also sign up to the village mailing list and emergency notification list at: *<https://playfordparish.gov.uk/parish-council/village-mailing-list-signup/>*

You may also be interested in reading the following:

Government advice:

<https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies/>

Suffolk Resilience Forum: *<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/>*

Thank you.

PLAYFORD WI

'BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS'

With 80% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occurring in the home, it's reassuring we had strong community interest in the free CPR/Defib training by East Anglian Air Ambulance in June. Attendees - aged 16 to 86 - learnt about the role any of us might play in the crucial 'chain of survival' and the DRSABC mnemonic of emergency actions to follow (see chart in photo). Everyone is advised to:

- * know the nearest defibrillators (search: defibfinder.uk) &
- * get used to the 'what3words' app to give a precise location.



We are very grateful to Andrew, Simon and Julian from EAAA for their expertise in the hands-on training.

'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' has just been voted by the national WI as a new campaign on the immediate action bystanders can take to triple the chances of saving a life. Currently only 1 in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests survive in the UK: in Norway where community training is widespread it is 4 in 10.

We were also briefed by Ursula on Playford's new Emergency Plan which she has kindly coordinated. It asks residents to 'be prepared' and therefore resilient as a community in case of unexpected events. Read it now on playfordparish.gov.uk, or a printed copy in the Village Hall (kitchen) and Church.

At our July 1st meeting we'll welcome Suffolk Fire Brigade; August 5th it's our annual social Boules tournament with local WIs; then it's a 'member's choice' meeting on 2nd September. Visitors always welcome: Playford Village Hall, 7.00 p.m. playfordwi@gmail.com.

FOLK AT ST MARY'S

On Friday, June 6th, Playford Church was filled with the joyful noise of folk music as we were treated to performances by two outstanding groups: Wildflowers and Maggie and Stan.



The crowd enjoyed a fabulous evening of traditional folk songs, some of which were very familiar to those of us in the audience who sang and clapped along! The prosecco and wine were flowing and the cheese platters, along with homemade quiche, flapjacks and cupcakes went down a treat!

We are so grateful to the musicians, to the bakers--Corinne Fear, Oliver Clarkson -Fieldsend and Jos Saunders--and to the Playford Church Parochial Council Members for putting on a wonderful event. It was lovely to see the church full of music lovers from over the fields and further afield and we were able to raise £400 towards the upkeep of our beloved church. The groups--along with some additional friends--would love to return in December and we are delighted that we will have another chance to enjoy their lovely singing, story-telling and general merriment.

BINKY AND CO.

Binky loved holiday time. It conjured up in his mind all the previous happy times he had experienced on the beach making sandcastles and jumping in front of the rolling waves and dodging the sewage.

Then of course he got married and everything changed. Packing became a weeklong bore of decision and compromise. Indigo making all the decisions and Binky all the compromises. He could never work out how his suitcase was half full of Indigo's clothes and 'must read' books which never got read. He had once put his foot down and demanded that she took two suitcases instead of just one to which she flew into a hissy fit and asked how on earth she could be expected to haul two large suitcases up and down platforms. She then went on a nostalgic story regarding the demise of the station porter and how she nearly married one who, on Euston Station gave a really big push in his efforts to get her through the carriage door. (The poor man had to take a week off work with a torn muscle.)

Binky had heard the story many times before and often wondered what had happened to that chivalrous porter. (In fact, he lived happily in a Kentish Town basement with his wife and seven children). They don't make porters like that anymore.

Eventually the big day came, and the couple set off for Ipswich Railway Station. (Notice I say Railway Station and not Train Station. A Railway Station is a station on the railway. A train station is a station on a train, we normally call that, the buffet car. Don't complain about President Trump and then speak his language).

Anyway, they both caught the right train, and all went well to Liverpool Street, Binky taking the opportunity to have forty winks whilst his wife gabbled on about nothing in particular oblivious to all those around her. That included the young woman opposite, talking at the top of her voice on her mobile phone about her friends' periods and yet unborn child (Yes folks that actually happened to me on a train from Portsmouth to Waterloo---author.)

On their arrival at Liverpool Street, Indigo drew the wrath of half the carriage passengers as she struggled to get through the door with a suitcase in each hand. However, a size 9 army boot gently nudged her and soon eased the situation as poor Indigo went flying across the platform with the sound of half a dozen "Cheers corporal" ringing in her ears.

However, they soon sorted themselves out and got onto the Underground and onto the Elizabeth Line for Heathrow. Binky did have to give credit to Indigo - she was very good with getting across London. In no time at all they were at the airport. "First thing" said Binky "A nice cup of tea."

They sat down in the café lounge area; happy they had got this far without any serious mishap which would have been Binky's fault anyway. It always was. They finished their tea and made their way to the airline desk. It was hot, humid, uncomfortable and they were tired. Binky turned to Indigo, "I wish I had brought the top of the fridge with me." said Binky. "Oh, why?" asked Indigo. "Because that's where I left the flight tickets," said Binky.

Happy hols to all our readers.



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Walk our cycle between our local churches, learn about their history and enjoy their beautiful settings, rich in wildlife.

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Please contact Sally Lamb (Local Organiser for Playford) for more information and a sponsorship form at sallamb66@gmail.com or phone 07703 439262 or pick one up at the church. Alternatively you can visit shct.org.uk and follow the links to the sponsorship form.

Churches will be open between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m., **refreshments will be available** and a warm welcome.

*...Also **PEDAL and DRIVE**. If you have a classic car, drive between the churches and support the work of the Trust.*

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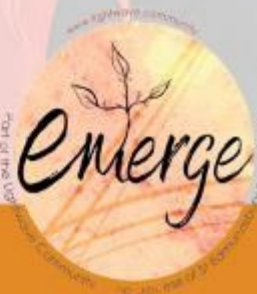
13th June

27th June

11th July



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Playford Pop-up Youth Group

Friday 3:45PM to 5:00PM
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All young people aged 10-16 years old welcome

Contact Ben Wale
for more information, or if you'd like to sponsor the group
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01473 738139

CULPHO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES @ ST BOTOLPHS, CULPHO FOR JULY

Wednesday July 23 rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday July 27 th	3.00 p.m.	Sung Evensong 3.00 p.m.

Richard Garnham

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH

'CHAOS COLLECTIVE' SUNDAY 20TH JULY AT 3.00 P.M.

Rebecca Scott-Smissen, Jane Carwardine, Rachel Ballard and Ivan McCready - 'Chaos Collective' will perform a wonderful selection of music including pieces by Dvorak, and Ravel.

Come and enjoy the mesmerising sounds and stay for Bubbles, strawberries and cream.

To reserve a seat (£10) contact Christine Pearce:

cmp0601@hotmail.com/ culphomusic.uk / 07925251802

We very much look forward to meeting you soon.

Christine , CulphoMusic

NEW TO THE VILLAGE?

Great Bealings: For a Welcome Leaflet please contact
Norman Porter on 735565 or nhp@rillcott.co.uk

Little Bealings:

Please see the parish website for information: www.littlebealings.onesuffolk.net

Playford:

For Information please see the parish website: www.playford.org.uk

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME - Services for those with Mobility Problems

This local Scheme is now up and running. If you need help with things like:

- lifts especially to doctors' surgeries and hospital appointments
 - getting prescriptions
 - minor domestic repairs, such as checking smoke alarms and changing light bulbs
 - short term help with pets
- phone 01473 345400 and leave a message – someone will call you back.

For those who need regular transport, the Coastal Accessible Transport Service is a charity which provides lifts. Tel 01728 830516 for details.

BEALINGS AND PLAYFORD NEWSGROUP

To be added to the growing number of residents who receive regular emails about local news, events and services send your email address to:

bealingsplayfordnews@googlemail.com

BUSES

Timetables for the 70 and 70A services serving the local area are available at:

<https://www.suffolkonboard.com>

LOCAL CRIME INFORMATION

The Police Connect scheme sends phone emails with the latest information on local crime, warnings about bogus callers, crime reduction advice and updates from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Sign up at

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/as/suffolk/police-connect/>

Report Anti-Social Behaviour call 111 (Police) or 03330162000 (ESC)

NEED TO REPORT A PROBLEM?

Road repairs and Maintenance – potholes, overhanging vegetation, signs, flooding, verge cutting etc – problems should be reported on line at:

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or by email to:

customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk. or phoning 0345 606 6171 In an emergency contact the police.

Public Rights of Way Footpath **problems** can be reported to Suffolk County Council

www.suffolk.gov.uk

Fly Tipping and Litter: Contact Suffolk Coastal Services on 01394 444000 or email www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

July 2025

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

BEALINGS

VH: Village Hall AS: All Saints ACH: Angela Cobbold Hall

BALLROOM DANCING VH Tue 7.30 p.m. *Teresa Jay 07929310480*

CARPET BOWLS VH Wed 2.00 p.m. *Kathy Price 621419*

DANCE CLASS VH Wed 9.30 a.m. *Debbie Watkins-Jones 0711161522*
VH Fri 9.30 a.m.

FYNN VALLEY WALKS AS Wed 10.30 a.m. Walks leave from the church

JOHN BELSTEAD SPORTS COURT

Subscribers <https://v2.hallmaster.co.uk/Diary/ViewWeeklyDiary/6622>

Non-Subscribers <http://bealingsvillagehall.org.uk> or Volunteer Administrator: 07925 181390

KNIT & NATTER ACH Mon 1.30 p.m.4.00 p.m. *Info Contact 01473 623133*

LIBRARY ACH Thu 2.15 - 2.45(every 4th Thu) *07809594685*

PILATES with DIDI VH Mon 7.30 p.m. *Helen 07889 907615*

PILATES VH Tue 9.30 a.m. *Caroline Boggon 07850683196*

PILATES VH Fri 12.30 p.m. *Kelly Steventon 07919377855*

READING ROOM ACH Sat 10.30-12.30or by arrangement *Info 01473 620213*

Books for all ages, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs etc to borrow.

Drop off for FIND donations.

SNOOKER VH Any day <4 hours *Margaret Wilson 07769195132*

SOCIAL EVENING ACH Fri 7.00 p.m. *Info 01473 735153*

Licensed bar, pub games etc. and other events

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: *bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com*

YOGA VH Sat 9.30 a.m. *Caroline Boggon 07850683196*

PLAYFORD

PH: Parish Hall

ART CLUB PH Thu 10.00 a.m. *Mary Spillett 01394 385295*

LIBRARY Thu 1.50 – 2.05 (every 4 weeks)
mobile library at phone box *07809594685*

MILK Tue, Thu, Sat *Dairy Crest 747272*

NEWSPAPERS *DC Patrick Newsagents 01986 874305*

PARISH HALL BOOKING Book on line: *bookings.playfordvillagehall@gmail.com*
or contact via voicemail *01473 487215*

PILATES PH Wed 7.30 p.m. - 8.15 p.m. *Julie Gorevan on 07702 883245*

WI PH Tue 7.30 p.m.(1st in month) *Sue Bruce 738265*

July 2025



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SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWS

Contributions for the September 2025 News to be submitted by:

5.00 p.m. Tuesday, 19th August

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 30th August**

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team.

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