

Fynn - Lark News

MAY 2025



THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

The recent passing of Pope Francis and the reaction to it has shown that there is no shortage of religious sentiment across our planet. The commitment to religions other than Christianity in this country, has only served to underline the contrast with the steep decline, at least until very recently, in support for our national church, the Church of England. Yet the Church of England is architecturally embodied in some of the finest ancient churches in the world. We all need to generate more positivity about their future in our midst.

The local history that these churches represent, and the wonderful buildings that they are, combine to make them worth preserving in themselves, even if the numbers of actual worshippers shrink. It is all too easy to retreat into nostalgic inactivity, and allow them to fade away. These are wonderful old buildings, most of them still in reasonable condition. They should be regarded as assets not liabilities. For them to be utilised to

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

the full extent of their potential, we need vision as to what that potential could be, and plan for the buildings' future accordingly.

That is the challenge facing local communities across the country. Locally, our own churches are facing that problem in different ways. All, in their own ways, are embracing the idea that this is THEIR problem, not somebody else's. If we value what it is that makes a village, then the church is part of it, and we all need to actively investigate the alternative uses of our church buildings, get involved, and help to be part of that necessary change.

Congregations in most village churches continue to decline, in line with the ever-increasing secularisation of our society, and the weakening of conventional Christian faith. The older members of the population, often more grounded in routine religious practices, continue to provide the ever-weakening back-bone of our congregations. Young people may attend church for a few years if they grow up in a church-going family, but they otherwise have reduced exposure to what is still, for better or for worse, the established religion of our country. Some worshipping styles fare better than others.

For many village churches we are now at a point where keeping the buildings open in the present format simply as a place of worship has become unrealistic. It is arguable whether the shrinking of congregations stems solely from the apparent national decline in the belief in God. Many non-Churchgoers believe in some concept of God and adhere to Christian beliefs. Their pursuit of these beliefs may not be strong enough to get them to Church on a Sunday, or they may feel that Christian worship practices are old-fashioned and out of touch with this modern age. Because they meet in ancient buildings, this can encourage the view that God and religion are themselves ancient and dated, concepts which belong to the past. This is one good reason for adapting our Churches to accommodate people in a more user-friendly environment and to make them available for wider community uses. Our Churches need not be museums. They can be made more accommodating to those attending, without losing their inherent beauty, architectural value, or the sense of history behind them.

It seems that a majority of people still recognise and love the history of our old buildings. There are rightly laws to protect them. But, even while acting within those laws, we can both upgrade the facilities and improve the ambience in a way which will increase the users' experience. Whether the church is fully operational, shared with the non-practising community or just managed as a beautiful building, it is still a community asset, integral to the history and character of the village.

More people need to get involved. Not just those who go to church. Churches are landmarks. They often stand in the centre of villages. Their towers can be seen from miles around. While not abandoning the original purpose of these fine buildings, let's rethink their significance and usefulness in a more secular world. The alternative is closure and inevitable structural decline.

Parishes themselves have traditionally been the grassroots nurturing the wider church. That seems no longer to be the case. That said, all villages have their elected representatives, their Church officials, those who attend church, helpers, volunteers, families with memories and loved ones buried in the churchyards, residents who still value the church as part of village life. Then there are those who couldn't care less. The fate of grand buildings, as of much else, is all too often decided by majority momentum. We need majority momentum to value the future of our churches. The weight of apathy is not easily counter-acted.

Anthony Sheppard and Norman Porter

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NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I was informed recently of an incident occurring locally involving a small group of friends who each lived on their own and were concerned that if something happened, they were very vulnerable. So, they agreed to send each other a text message each day before 12:00. If anyone failed to do so it would likely indicate that they were in trouble. This carried on for months until one morning one member failed to send a message. Immediately the nearest member popped round to check on the situation and found that he could not get access to the flat where the person lived. He managed to access the key via the key safe and found the person in bed in a sort of coma. The saviour realised that the person concerned was diabetic and there was a jug of sugar solution next to the bed. After administering some of the sugar solution the person came round and realised that the intruder had saved a life through friendship. What a simple but effective way to protect vulnerable people. Why could we all not help our neighbours in a similar way? If you feel you want to help in some way why not let me know, and if I get a significant response to this, I will convene a meeting to chat over and progress the idea. E-mail me on alangamble06@gmail.com There are many non-intrusive ways to keep in touch effectively so let's discuss.

Please, I would like to restrict the response to start with to Little & Great Bealings. Outside this area we can help by informing interested parties of any outcomes and possibly organising

another meeting for the wider community at a later date.

Alan Gamble

HISTORY CORNER

- USAF AIRFIELDS IN WW2

This item seems to be very relevant to the times we live in. For two reasons. Firstly, the celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day reminds us of the indispensable role of the United States in winning that war, and of the huge contribution made by that country to ensuring that the evil of Nazism was defeated. Secondly, we cannot fail to notice the contrast that this WW2 involvement, with the sacrifice of so many men, offers to the economic and geopolitical chaos that this same nation is now causing across the planet. Nor can we fail to be reminded of the fickleness of history, as of nations – and of the instability of so much that we can so easily take for granted.

Britain in the mid-1940s has been compared to a giant aircraft carrier. More locally, before the start of WW2 there were 5 airfields in Suffolk. By the end of the war there were 32, as compared with 37 in the much larger county of Norfolk – all taking advantage of the relatively flat East Anglian terrain, and its strategic position facing the nazi-occupied continent of Europe. All these new airfields had to be constructed. Some 60,000 men were involved, many of them black engineer regiments arriving from a still-segregated United States. Each airfield is said to have cost around



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£90,000 at contemporary values. 6 trains a day are said to have been coming from London, carrying rubble from our bombed-out capital city, all recyclable into hard-surfaced runways. There were very significant airfields close to our now peaceful villages, offering local inhabitants sights and sounds which would now seem to be from another world.

The nearest local airfields were: Martlesham, initially used, during the Battle of Britain, by the fighter planes of 356 squadron, and then US bombers. Debach was specially constructed to take yet more US heavy bombers, as was Framlingham. In fact, that airfield is at Parham, but it was deemed that the word "Framlingham", the nearby town, would sound more distinct across the airwaves. The rumble of departing and returning bombers – if they had survived the raids into the heart of Germany – filled the East Anglian air, particularly in the latter months of the war, as the RAF and USAF tried to bomb Nazi Germany into submission.



There were social impacts. Gum and candy were readily on offer to local children. Nylon stockings could impress the local girls. Fraternisation with the local population, war-weary allies, was inevitable. Racial segregation was carried out into the local communities, but, overall the United States servicemen did their best to engage with the local population, already battered by having been at war for three long years.



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Debach airfield was on our doorstep. It was built over a two-year period and not fully used until the D-Day landings in 1944. There was accommodation for almost 3000 men, mostly in Nissen huts. The 493rd Bomber group was commanded by Colonel Elbert Helton and came to be known as Helton's Hellcats. The early days were not without incident – the runways were shorter than the pilots were accustomed to. Initially B-24 Liberators flew from the base. Then B-17 Flying Fortresses. 157 missions were flown. 41 aircraft went missing in action. 234 personnel lost their lives. The last mission was on 20th April 1945. When the Americans left, very soon after peace had been proclaimed, Debach was used as a POW camp and then as a facility for displaced persons.

Responsible for policing all this, was local Constable, PC Moody, depicted in a wonderful display at the former base, alongside a host of other exhibits, including vehicles, weaponry, medical facilities, mock-ups of an ops room etc. For those who remember the war: a must-visit – remind yourselves how things once were. For those born subsequently – a visit is an education in itself. The Museum is open on the last Sunday of the month from April through to September. Private visits can be arranged.

Email 493bgdebach@gmail.com website: www.493bgdebach.co.uk.

As we lament the changed role of the USA in world trade and politics, the commemoration of VE + 80 is a time to contrast the present state of affairs with the massive sacrifice of US men and machines, alongside our own losses and those of our other allies some 80 years ago. That should not be forgotten. It goes hand in hand with our being able to celebrate peace in Europe 80 years after it was joyously proclaimed.

FYNN VALLEY WALKS GROUP

DAWN CHORUS WALK – SATURDAY 10TH MAY

Many of you have said how much you enjoyed this walk previously, so it is back for the fourth year running! Join us for our early morning 'Dawn Chorus' walk around Bealings, to enjoy the sights and sounds of the countryside at daybreak.

The dawn chorus begins at least half an hour before sunrise, which is at 5.08 a.m. in Bealings that morning, so we will set off at **4.30 a.m.** from the village hall car park. The walk is approximately 4 miles long and will take us along riverside meadows to a beautiful country churchyard resplendent with wildflowers, down quiet country lanes and through the densely wooded area known locally for generations as 'Birds Hill', where there is always an abundance of bird life to be seen and heard.



The return part of the walk takes in sweeping views across the Fynn Valley, and we then pass through grassland and fields alongside our two Bealings rivers - The Fynn and the Lark - before returning to our starting point.

Depending on what we see, hear and how long we linger to look at the wildlife on the way round, the walk should finish at approximately 6.30 a.m.

Parking is available at the village hall by kind permission of the trustees - please park at the far end of the car park, away from the village hall. We ask you to please park and gather as quietly as

possible at this early hour, to minimise disturbance to local residents.

There will be sausage or bacon baps, tea and coffee available for walkers in All Saints Church at the end of the walk, priced at £5, with all proceeds going towards All Saints Church, Little Bealings - many thanks to two of our volunteers, Liz and Peter, for helping to make this possible.

We hope you can join us to share the delights of a spring dawn once again in our lovely Suffolk countryside.

NATURE NOTES

– GORSE

At this time of year our heathlands are ablaze with the bright yellow flowers of gorse. Gorse, also known as furze, is a spiny, evergreen shrub with bright yellow, pea-like flowers. Because it is prickly, sometimes unsightly when not in bloom, and seems to grow where it likes, it can often find itself uprooted, cleared away, or burnt as if it were an invasive weed. At this time of year though, we glory in its splendour, its irregular banks of bright yellowness in harmony with the springtime yellows of primroses, dandelions, daffodils, wallflowers. It is in bloom from early in the year until June.



The plant is high in protein, nectar/pollen, and provides habitat, shelter and food for various wildlife, Exmoor ponies – sheep too - birds and insects, bees, butterflies, moths and caterpillars. Hardy small birds

such as the Dartford warbler and the stonechat love to perch atop the bushes and proclaim their ownership of the territory.

Gorse can be used as a windbreak for cattle. Gardeners may even plant it deliberately, as it is a hardy coastal plant, tolerating exposure, drought, and sea winds.

Historically, we are told that gorse has been used as fuel. Surprisingly, the flower's distinct vanilla-coconut aroma and an almond-like taste seem to make them edible too -in small quantities. It seems that they can be eaten raw on salads or pickled like capers – best check this further before you try it!

The plant has inspired poets such as:

Lessons from the Gorse

- by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Mountain gorses, ever-golden,
Cankered not the whole year long!
Do ye teach us to be strong,
Howsoever pricked and holden
Like your thorny blooms, and so
Trodden on by rain and snow,
Up the hillside of this life, as bleak as
where ye grow?

OR

The Wild Common

- by D. H. Lawrence

The quick sparks on the gorse-bushes are
leaping
Little jets of sunlight texture imitating
flame;
Above them, exultant, the peewits are
sweeping:
They have triumphed again o'er the ages,
their screamings proclaim.

The sight of gorse may be glorious – the picture was taken by the banks of the Deben near Waldringfield - but its visual beauty is off-set by its prickliness, a prickliness which benefits both landowners and the wildlife species which enjoy the protection offered by gorse.

FIRST SIGHTINGS (Do contribute to this item, as seems appropriate – first cuckoo etc!)

6th April First reported sighting of 2025 swallow in Culpho. On the same day the first reported sighting of an orange tip butterfly in Great Bealings. Peacock butterflies have been around for some time now.

On Good Friday: a red kite, soaring along in the skies above Great Bealings churchyard.

WHEN IS A QUARRY ...

... NOT A QUARRY?

I have often wondered what goes on at Sinks Pit and was delighted to be able to visit in March and see for myself what goes on just a few miles down the road from our village. Ben Wale and I ventured over at the invitation of the senior leadership given our interest in gardening, the environment and biodiversity. We had heard rumours of woodlands and bee hives hiding behind the workshop and learned so much about what Tru7 Group are doing.



The first thing we learned is that the site hasn't been used as a quarry for very many years, long before the current owners took over. Now, it is used mainly to recycle products to sell to local builders

and for hire of equipment that companies need to build houses and other structures in the area. There's also a giant machine used to supply cement mixers and a crusher for breaking down stones which are then screened using mainly recycled water. The materials are then separated so they can be bought locally rather than being trucked into the area from further afield.

Ben and I were particularly interested in the work that is being done to enhance biodiversity, some of which is included in recent government regulations for businesses like Tru7 Group, such as making all cement production and every litre of diesel bought fully carbon offset, but other elements are just good things to help keep our earth in better shape which the company has voluntarily implemented.



Two examples are the woodland area and the bee hives. The woodland area--which is just to the left as you enter the site--has been created with the assistance of a local ecologist.

Mud piles and bat boxes are in the works to attract more wildlife to the area. Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be consulted to ensure that the area is properly maintained and optimised to attract all sorts of creatures.

In addition to the woodland, Tru7 Group owns lots of non-industrial land around their HQ in Kesgrave, and in one area they are creating their very own Bee Colony!

They currently have 4 beehives by unused silt ponds which are surrounded by a wildflower meadow. The company hopes to link up with others to help create the Bee Superhighway which is already underway in Rushmere and other surrounding villages. Bee Expert, Steve Barrett is overseeing the hives and

perhaps one day there will be locally made honey sold in farm shops nearby!

Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend and Ben Wale

QUIZ NIGHT BEING HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BEALINGS SCHOOL

Join the Friends of Bealings School (FOBS) for their inaugural fundraising quiz night on Sunday 11th May 2025 (7pm) at Playford Village Hall. It promises to be a fantastic evening of spirited fun and rivalry, teasing your brain cells over 8 rounds of testing trivia. Teams can be made up of 4-6 players, with tickets costing just £5pp. On the night there be a bar, homemade cakes, raffle, and lots of prizes to be won.

By supporting this event, you will be helping FOBS to raise vital funds for resources, activities and experiences that enhance the education of the children at Bealings School. The next specific fundraising project is to help create an amazing forest school space, along with

purchasing specialist equipment to support this.

Tickets: Everyone in the community is welcome, but please note that spaces are limited. To reserve your table, please email event organiser Matthew Coward, mcoward@live.co.uk or call 07793273213.

Raffle donations: We are on the hunt for prizes to include in our raffle, including bottles, chocolates, gift sets, vouchers, and anything else you can think of. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Matthew on the details above.

Round sponsors: Each of the rounds in the quiz is available to sponsor by an individual or local business. Each round can be sponsored for £10 with multiple mentions being given on the night (if you so wish). This is a great opportunity for a local business to support a charitable cause, whilst getting some good exposure in return. If you would like to sponsor a round, please contact Matthew on the details above.





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BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL – MAY 2025

MONDAY PILATES May 12 th , 19 th	19:30 - 20:30	Helen 07889 907615
TUESDAY PILATES May 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th	09:30 - 10:30	Caroline Boggon 07850683196
TUESDAY BALLROOM DANCING May 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th	18:00 – 20:00	Teresa Jay: 07929 310480
WEDNESDAY DANCE CLASS May 7 th , 14 th , 21 st	09:30 – 12:30	Debbie Watkins-Jones: 07711 161522
WEDNESDAY CARPET BOWLS May 7 th , 1 th , 21 st , 28 th	14:00 – 16:00	Kathy Price: 01473 621419
FRIDAY DANCE CLASS	09:30 - 12:15 May 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	Debbie Watkins-Jones: 07711 161522
FRIDAY PILATES May 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	12:30 - 15:15	Kelly Steventon: 07919 377855

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BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL

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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

Mrs Dee Knights, Dunure, 39 Avocet Lane, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SF Ips 624240
clerk@greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Bridget Tanno, 2 Rosery Cottages, Lower Street, Great Bealings 0797025778

ST MARY'S

- Churchwarden's Notes

Easter is the season of new life, in so many ways. The role of Easter in the church calendar reflects everything that is going on in the natural world – in the Northern hemisphere, at least! Certainly, in this tiny little patch of the planet here in Bealings. Once again, we find ourselves on the threshold of spring, summer, warmth, new growth, and new opportunities.

LOOKING BACK

Easter itself was celebrated in a special "Light into darkness" service in the church. As dusk gathered outside, the service began, in a darkened church, with readings taken from the biblical descriptions of the world's beginning. When night had finally fallen, the congregation processed outside, to witness the lighting of the fire set up between the main entrance and the new gates. The Easter fire was confined incongruously within an incinerating dustbin.

Amidst increasingly roaring flames and unpredictable smoke the symbolism of light was carried forth from the fire and passed on to candles borne by those present. Proceeding back into the church, the lights then blazed forth, amidst a flurry of bells and clanging instruments. Other elements of the service reflected new life, completing the symbolism, and duly

enacting and celebrating the central message of Easter.



Difficult though that central Christian message may be for mortal minds to comprehend, the service had a wider resonance. We all need to find hope reawakened in a world which has been looking increasingly dark. With the Woodbridge choir present, fine music to uplift spirits, and a cheerful social mingling at the end, there was indeed much evidence of new beginnings. Long may that continue.

REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Our architect's plans are being considered and further refined, all with the objective of combining the needs of a 21st century church with the affordability of meeting them.

.CHURCHYARD

We are pleased to note that the four ancient limes close to the church gate have been duly made safe – one



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completely felled, three others pollarded.

There appear to be plans for the rest to be dealt with at a later date. The major consequence is that visitors will be much less at risk from falling branches, or, indeed, entire trees. We are grateful to the Grundisburgh estate for making this happen. The spoils of the operation are a large pile of logs, offered to the church, so we can exchange them for appropriate donations to church funds, and a pile of wood chippings which could well be of interest to gardeners on the same basis.



Sadly, one of our picnic tables has collapsed, and has similarly been converted into firewood.

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 4th May: 9.30 am. Holy Communion.

Thursday 8th May: 7.00 pm. Short service with prayers, following the national peal of bells at 6.30 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. (See FOGBC below)

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, 9am to 12.30pm; Thursdays and Fridays 9am

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

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

By way of celebrating this occasion, there will be an exhibition of pictures and documents on display in the church, recalling those times. There are documents relating to Great Bealings in wartime, and personal memories.



CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS.

If you would like the lights to shine forth for personal celebrations/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)

VE DAY + 80

A COMMEMORATION

– THURSDAY 8TH MAY

- 4-30 ONWARDS

Please note that there will be a national peal of bells at 6.30 on Thursday 8th May. This will celebrate 80 years since VE Day. St Mary's, Great Bealings will join in with that peal.

Those who would like to bring along and share memories, souvenirs or pictures of those war-time years, and of eventual victory, are warmly invited to do so before the bell-peal at 6.30. Anyone still present at that time will be offered the chance to ring the bells, and so to be part of the celebration.

Vera Lynn will be singing along in the background, plus strains of Karl Jenkins' *Requiem for the Fallen*.

A glass of fizzy and a portion of cake will be on offer.

It is hoped we can fit in a short service, with prayers, at 7.00, for anyone wishing to stay on until then.

The time will come – before very long – when there will be no-one left to talk from personal experience about those historic times. Make the best of these last opportunities and commemorate what so richly deserves to be commemorated – VE Day, 80 years on.



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PLUS: Calling all youngsters! Great Bealings and beyond!

3-30 - 4-30: The churchwarden – who was actually alive throughout those war years!
- will be on site between 3.30 and 4.30, after school, ready to talk about aspects of WW2 to any young people who would care to come along, with teachers or parents. Appropriate quizzes, pictures etc. available. Soft drinks and healthy nibbles too!

GREAT BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held in

Bealings Village Hall

Wednesday 21st MAY 2025

commencing at 7.00 p.m.

All residents are welcome to attend and hear of the Council's work over the last year and discuss any issues. There will be a range of topics, including: flooding; use of WhatsApp to provide information to residents, especially in relation to emergencies; speedwatch; and the contribution of the village to the monitoring of the water quality of the River Deben and its tributaries.

We hope that you will be able to join us.

All community groups are also invited to attend and give a report on their activities. Please contact the Clerk before the meeting if you would like to give a report.

Light refreshments, wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting and before the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** which will immediately follow.

For further information please contact:

Dee Knights, Clerk

Tel: 01473 624240

clerk@greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

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LITTLE BEALINGS

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

revgaryjones1985@gmail.com

07714 614095

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Wendy Cook

clerk@littlebealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

07731 456133

PCC SECRETARY

Toni Cornish

lbpcsecretary@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of matters considered at the Parish Council meeting held on 7 April 2025

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K Price, County Councillor Eliane Bryce and District Councillor Colin Hedgley were absent from the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

Cllr H Saagi and Cllr M Wilson: Other Registrable Interest as Trustee of Bealings Village Hall in Agenda item 9.1 request from Village Hall trustees for CIL money for new blinds.

A resident spoke during the Public Participation Session about planning application DC/25/0972/ARM – New Family Dwelling, Grove Cottage, The Street, Little Bealings.

SINKS PIT COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Cllr I Ransome attended the meeting and reported that East Suffolk Council Environment Protection were re-evaluating the original noise abatement notice and whether a second investigation is required due to complaints arising from the west of the site.

The Work of the Sinks Pit Community Liaison Group is coming to an end and ESC EP would like complaints to be handled as 'business as usual.' However, not all complaints are received directly to TRU for immediate investigation. Cllr I Ransome suggested that a separate entry into the Fynn Lark News would remind all local residents on how to report complaints and that this would possibly be a joint LBPC/TRU entry. It would also be useful if ESC EP contributed to this entry.

SIZEWELL C TRANSPORT FORUM

Cllr I Ransome raised questions about the level crossing in Little Bealings that is due to be closed during November, December 25 and January 26 and how this will impact the Village. Included in the Sizewell rail project there is an option to build an acoustic barrier along the line behind properties in Martlesham Road and Beacon Lane. The Parish Council were not informed of the original planning application for this and were not invited to comment.

The Sizewell C Project does not include work on the Little Bealings level crossing or track. Network rail has not said what works they intend to do during the closure. Cllr I Ransome will attend the next meeting.

DEBEN CLIMATE CENTRE

Cllr I Ransome spoke with a representative at the Deben Climate Centre who test the water quality in the rivers Fynn and Lark and their latest report has been circulated. He asked if the Parish Council were interested in getting involved? Cllr C Cheeseman said that he believes that the water quality varies depending on how much rainfall there had been. The Parish Council did not feel a presentation was required.

DEVOLUTION

There is now lots of information coming through to the Parish Council about Devolution. Cllr I Ransome said that SALC are due to publish some more user-friendly information that could be used on the Parish Council website and that they are going to send out a questionnaire. Cllr I Ransome and the Clerk would fill out the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

CLERKS FORUM

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council will be liable to Employers National insurance from the start of the new financial year. She is due to start her CILCA course on 16 April.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A draft copy of the Neighbourhood Plan had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr H Saagi reported that the Angela Cobbold Hall had been booked for the 10th of May and that the eight-week consultation period will begin. It was **RESOLVED**: To accept the Draft Neighbourhood Plan once the minor corrections had been made.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATIONS

DC/25/0753/FUL|Construction of rear single storey flat roof extension, single storey flat roof porch and remodelling of bay to front. Minor internal alterations. The Weald Martlesham Road Little Bealings Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 6LX.

It was **RESOLVED**: That there was no objection to the development.

DC/25/0972/ARM|Approval of Reserved Matters of DC/24/0689/OUT - Outline Application (All Matters Reserved) - New single family dwelling with associated amenity space and car parking space. DC/25/1046/FUL|Retrospective Application - temporary siting of caravan/mobile home during building operations for a period of 1 year |Grove Cottage The Street Little Bealings Suffolk IP13 6LT.

The Parish Council agreed that the new plans for this development were much improved. It was **RESOLVED**: That there was no objection to the development.

UPDATE ON APPLICATIONS

Cllr I Ransome reported that the development at Woodside, Martlesham Road is due to go to the referral panel on 8 April.

DC/24/4508/DRR (Discharge of Requirement 39 (Rail Noise Mitigation Plan) of Sizewell C Development Consent Order| Rail Noise Mitigation Plan East Suffolk Line Little Bealings To Sizewell Suffolk).

The Parish Council had not been

consulted on this application. A new access road has been built to the site, however the Parish Council has been unable to ascertain who is using the site and for what purpose? It was **RESOLVED**: Cllr I Ransome will follow up with East Suffolk Council Planning.

FINANCE

CIL Request – Village Hall.

The PC had received a request from the Village Hall to use CIL money to purchase new blinds/curtains. After seeing the three quotations requested the PC were happy to approve payment for the Blinds/Curtains.

CIL Request – Notice Boards

That the Parish Council were happy to approve the use of CIL money for new notice boards. And, that the Clerk will write to the property owner to get permission to change the notice board on the wall in The Street.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be on Monday 12 May 2024 in the Angela Cobbold Hall.

Please visit our website for further information, including reports, draft and approved minutes of Parish Council meetings:

www.littlebealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Wendy Cook – Clerk to the Council

07731 456133

clerk@littlebealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

ACH News

COMMUNITY LUNCHEES

Tuesday 1st. April was a special occasion for Yvette & Alan (Nod) Robinson as they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. The golden theme was reflected in the menu, Fish and Chips, Lemon Cheesecake, followed by Ferrero Rocher supplied by Yvette. Once more, Sandra Banham made a delicious cake iced, with a wonderful spray of flowers that echoed those of their wedding.



The cake also marked six years since the buying of the hall. The table was laid with gold napkins and special flowers arranged by Tracy Herrington. The following day was Sandra's birthday, and she also had a cake to celebrate the occasion.

On a sad note, we heard that Roy, one of the regular guests had died. He regularly came each month with his carer from Ipswich. He particularly liked being part of a village community as it reminded him of his childhood.

The next Community Lunch will be on Tuesday 6th May 12.30pm, during the time of the celebrations for the anniversary of VE Day. Dressing up optional!

The menu will echo the food of the 40s with

Bangers & Mash,
Fruit Crumble

and features

Evaporated Milk and Camp Coffee!

Booking....01473 620213

pandvcarr55@gmail.com

Time for Tea will continue with Cream Teas on the third Sunday of the months of May, June & July

No need to book...just turn up and enjoy!

OVERNIGHT BOOKINGS

The Hall hosted two sleep-overs in April, one for the Rangers and one for the Grundisburgh Brownies. Both were very successful events.... enriching experience for both age groups. The Rangers then walked into Woodbridge for a series of activities and the Brownies enjoyed crafts and games. Both leaders expressed their gratitude, and the young people asked when they could come again!

More information for the Brownies can be obtained from Sharon Proctor...
grundisburghguiding@gmail.com

and for the Ipswich and Woodbridge Rangers from Jess Shire....www.girlguiding.org.uk

The Hall will also be used overnight on 24/25th April as a stop-off point for walkers taking part in The Pride of Suffolk 100-mile walk. Details of event is on their website

<https://ldwa.org.uk/2025Hundred>

ACTIVE IN MIND AND BODY.....

◆The Library Van has returned to the Car Park at the Hall.

The next opportunity to use this valuable resource is on Thursday 8th May 2.15-2.45 p.m.

◆There is now an all-age Karate Club every Tuesday 6.30-7.30 p.m.

More details contact 07852724569 or 07778877283.

◆Tap Dancing Class continues every Thursday 10.30-11.30 a.m.

More details contact 07778746315.

◆Foot Clinic and Coffee Morning every six weeks on a Friday morning.

Next session from 10.00 a.m. on 6th. June Appointments 07712448775

◆Gardening Club

At the meeting on 26th March carefully selected short films were shared on the big screen with many ideas and helpful tips for the spring season in the garden.

Margaret and Roger hosted the evening, which was both a happy and informative social event.

New to Bealings.... want to get to know people?

Friday Evening Social 7-10.00 p.m.

Monday Knit and Natter 1.30-4.00 p.m.

Both offer a very warm welcome-just turn up and chat!

NEWS FROM KESGRAVE AND FYNN VALLEY CHURCHES

'BLESSCHOOL!'

May, the time when we are at the very beginning of Summer. Winter is definitely over. Farmers are sending their cattle out into the meadows.. Young love is beginning to blossom and the whole world has a Spring in its step.

It seems as if in May every person, every animal, and every plant has been given permission to get a little bit fresh and frisky. The days are longer, the sun (hopefully) shines brighter and we can all breathe out and enjoy life just a little bit more.

Well, most of us can. The madness that I find myself succumbing to in May is a different sort of Spring Fever.... Hay Fever has been the bane of my life since I was a teenager, and I am absolutely convinced that the reasons why my O Level and A Level results were poorer than expected was not due to laziness on my part but that I spend six weeks a year with eyes streaming and doing industrial-size sneezing.

This does have its humorous side however, as friends find it quite funny to say 'Bless you' to a vicar when, when they come to church, I'm the one who goes around pronouncing a blessing on people!

Saying 'Bless You' is not something that only vicars can do though. Pretty much everyone I know would not mind having a few more blessings in their life and would appreciate the care of others. Most of us do so every time we say 'goodbye': a word which comes from the Old English phrase 'God by you' a mini-prayer for protection.

Maybe each one of us could get into the habit of intentionally being a blessing to people we meet, whether they sneeze or not. Heaven knows we all need it.

And if you feel that you'd like an 'official' blessing pop along to any of our churches and one our team of vicars would be more than happy to do that for you.

Bless you

Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin

Find out more about our services at askesgrave.org

Tune in to Rober Dunger's show on Suffolk Sound every weekday just after 7.30 a.m. for #PauseForThought from Andrew Dotchin



CHURCH SERVICES

St. Mary's Playford: first and third Sundays in the month at 10.00 a.m.

All Saints Little Bealings: second and fourth at 10.00 a.m., and 10.00 a.m. on Wednesdays followed by the Café.

All are welcome at our services.

Reverend Gary Jones

ANGELA COBBOLD HALL

EVENTS

MAY

Monday 5th	1.30 - 4 p.m.	KNIT AND NATTER
Monday 5th		‘VICTORY IN EUROPE’ 80th Anniversary Celebration Champagne Bar, Smoked Salmon, Cakes, Drinks. 7.30 p.m. Music & Entertainment Free Entry but please reserve your seat on 01473 735153 or <i>margaretroseboom@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Tuesday 6th	12.30 p.m.	VE CELEBRATION COMMUNITY LUNCH To book please ring 01473 620213 or email: <i>pandvcarr55@gmail.com</i>
Tuesday 6th	6.30 - 7.30 p.m.	KARATE CLASS
Thursday 8th	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	TAP DANCING
Friday 9th/16th	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	SOCIAL FRIDAY Licenced Bar Snooker, Darts, Table Tennis, Chess, Board Games, Subbuteo
Sunday 18th	3.00 - 5.00 p.m.	‘TIME FOR TEA’
Friday 23th	7.15 p.m.	FISH & CHIPS Please place your order beforehand on 01473 735153 or <i>margaretroseboom@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Friday 25th	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	SOCIAL FRIDAY
Wednesday 28th	7.30 p.m.	GARDENING CLUB ‘CHELSEA SPECIAL’
JUNE		
Friday 6th	10.00 - 12.00 p.m.	COFFEE MORNING & FOOT CLINIC To book an appointment please Ring Charlotte on 07712 448775
Friday 6th	7.30 p.m.	‘A GOLDEN TREASURY OF POETRY’ An evening of best loved poetry, from the nursery onwards. You are invited to bring along your favourites to read and share. Free Entry. Refreshments and Bar

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revgaryjones1985@gmail.com

07714 614095

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Wendy Cook

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07867973504

PCC SECRETARY

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

07787535398

eileen@luxfarm.co.uk

MARIAN HEDGLEY

After 15 years as the clerk to Playford Parish Council Marian decided to retire to pursue other challenges. She was due to leave her post at the end of March but it was actually the second week in April before she had handed over to the new clerk.



The parish councillors clubbed together to present her with a beautiful Olive Tree and a bottle of Prosecco to thank her for 15 years of amazing service to the parish and we would like to wish her all the best for the future.

PLAYFORD WI

We prepared our tastebuds for Easter with an informative and interactive chocolate tasting session run by Sarah Jane at our April meeting. Thoughtfully she also provided an alternative 'flavoured crisps' tasting/identification quiz for those off chocolate. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

On May 6th, we will welcome Phil Wiseman of 'Tools with a Mission' to hear about their 'local to global' model of a circular economy: saving tools from UK landfill; providing local volunteering opportunities to refurbish equipment; sending it to Sub-Saharan African countries equipping individuals to transform their lives and communities. A list of the gardening/building/haberdashery tools and materials accepted as donations (and not accepted) can be found here: www.twam.uk/donatetools. **This meeting is open to everyone in the community.** Refreshments will be provided at 7.00 p.m. followed by the talk; free entry, Playford Village Hall.

At our June 3rd meeting, we are delighted to have arranged for the East Anglian Air Ambulance to provide CPR training. A campaign for better awareness of what to do in such an emergency is this year's National WI resolution. **We have a few spare places on this free training to offer Playford residents** - please reserve a place **in advance** by email to playfordwi@gmail.com This is an hour long session, beginning at 7.00 p.m. at Playford Village Hall. Refreshments provided.

CELEBRATE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN PLAYFORD

Get together with friends and neighbours on 21 June for a walk to the mere in the afternoon followed by refreshments, games and a quiz at Playford Village Hall.

More details to follow nearer the time

PLAYFORD HAS ITS OWN SID ... AT LAST

After a couple of years of sharing a SID (Speed Indicator Device) with neighbouring parishes, Playford Parish Council finally took delivery of their own equipment.



The money raised to purchase the SID came from, in the main, the local Community Partnership and SAVID, the Safer Village Driving pressure group. The Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham and Carlford and Fynn Valley Partnership was started in 2019 by the previous council and has been instrumental in providing match funding and main funding for hundreds of deserving and important projects across the East Suffolk area, including a number of road safety programmes. SAVID, meanwhile, has ten participating

parishes and continues to campaign on road safety issues throughout the local area, funded by grants from member parish councils and the Community Partnership.

Cllr Hedgley, member for Carlford Ward and Community Partnership representative said, "At the beginning of the Community Partnership scheme, started by the previous administration, I was dubious about the outcome, but after six years it has been a resounding success."

The idea of SAVID was started in a Debach garden room in 2014 by a resident, Cllr Colin Hedgley and Cllr Tony Fryatt (since retired) and it has grown into an effective pressure group for road safety.

The photo shows the Playford SID in place in Butts Road, Playford with the Playford Parish Council Chairman, Ben Evans, the Clerk, Marian Hedgley (recently retired) and District Councillor Colin Hedgley.

As luck would have it at the very moment the photo was taken a speeding car went through the village!

ST MARY'S

It's been a vibrant and heartwarming couple of months at Playford Church! We kicked off March with a hugely successful quiz evening at the beginning of the month — a brilliant night full of fun, laughter, and some surprisingly tricky questions. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.

We then rounded off the month with a

lovely coffee morning, where there was no shortage of good company, tasty cakes, and cheerful chatter. It was a wonderful way to end March and a lovely reminder of the warmth and friendship within our community.

The churchyard has also been looking particularly beautiful recently. First came the snowdrops, followed by a cheerful burst of daffodils, and now the gentle colours of blooming primroses — a truly uplifting sight that's brought joy to many visitors and passersby.

Looking ahead, we're very excited about our upcoming evening of music on Friday,

6th June 2025, featuring not one but two local groups: Wildflower and Maggie & Stan. They'll be performing a delightful mix of folk and pop songs, promising an evening full of charm, talent, and toe-tapping tunes. More details to follow soon but do make a note of the date — it's sure to be a wonderful night!

Finally, our regular church services in May will be held on Sunday 4th May and Sunday 18th May. As always, everyone is very welcome.

Jon Fieldsend, Churchwarden
07713164349

PLAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held in

Playford Village Hall

Wednesday 7th MAY 2025

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

This will be immediately followed by:

The ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Light refreshments, wine and soft drinks will be served.

ALL WELCOME

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BINKY

Binky had always been interested in birds ever since he spotted a penguin flying from his house to the local pond. He immediately went round to his local bookshop and purchased the i-spy book of British birds. He spent years keeping his eyes open for a Great Auk but never spotted one, accepting the fact that it was very rare to spot one in East Suffolk anyway.

But he liked to think of himself as one of the county's great ornithologists, or twitcher as he preferred ever since he was asked by the local Women's Institute to give a talk on his subject and was introduced by the Chairman, Mrs Violet Spring-Onion, as "our foremost gynaecologist." She was, needless to say, 102 years old and had just received a "telegram" from the King wishing her a happy birthday. From that moment she was insufferable and un-sackable, much to the chagrin of Lady Primrose Burnt-Toast who had never been Chairman and thought she should be. But the story of the police raid on the AGM is for another time, suffice to say it ended with a Ms Mary Smiff becoming Chairman, the first time they had ever had a divorced single mother who lived in a council prefab and dropped her H's.

(rumour had that that's not all she dropped either, but modesty forbids).

Anyway, Binky the twitcher decided after all these years that he should manufacture and erect a bird table in his back garden. His wife, Indigo, suggested that perhaps it may be easier to purchase one from e Bay or Amazon at minimum cost. She said that from a completely selfish position after spending twenty- five years married to an idiot and do-it-yourself disaster graduate. But Binky would have none of it and went out to his shed with a grand plan. Now as readers will know who have lived through the last sixty years or so, "Grand Plans" always fail. Sometimes through bad luck but usually through incompetence. After three days of measuring, sawing, nailing and adjusting, Binky emerged from his shed with what can only be described as a flat piece of wood on a stick. The grand plan had to all intents and purposes embraced the second failing mentioned earlier.

However, Binky made a hole in the lawn in his back garden and inserted the bird table pole making sure everything was firm and level. He then spread the table with a packet of wild bird food, purchased from his local garden centre at the knockdown price of £1 for one ounce. (Or 34.3495 Grams for Europeans or anyone under 70).

Binky then retired to his kitchen, sat near the window and waited for the first bird to avail itself of Binky's feast. After two hours a robin fluttered onto the edge of the bird table and started pecking at the pile of seeds and nuts. Slowly and almost imperceptibly, the bird table started to lean one way. Not that the Robin noticed, but Binky, in moving his head slightly to the left in order to keep the table horizontal in his line of sight, started to accept that something may be wrong. His wife, the gorgeous and dainty Indigo, had few qualms and immediately shouted at Binky "You incompetent idiot, your bird table cannot even take the weight of one little bird." Binky was deflated. Indigo was livid. As ever Binky thought the only way out of this was to tell Indigo a joke. "Well," said Binky "Why do birds fly south in the winter?". His wife looked at him, regretting the moment she agreed to marry him and regretting this moment even more. "Why" asked Indigo. "Because it's easier than walking," laughed Binky. It was a long time before he laughed again.



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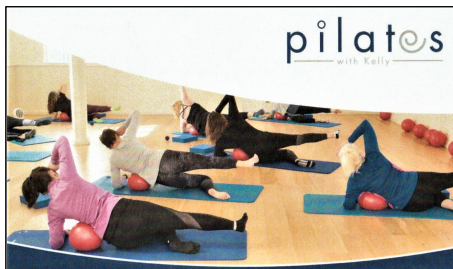
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CULPHO

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

John Ager, 8 Postmill Close, Grundisburgh IP13 6UU

01473 735541

CHURCHWARDEN

Richard Garnham, Cherry Box Cottage, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TT

01473 738139

CULPHO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

BRIDGE AND CHARITY EVENT FOR MARIE CURIE

The above event was a huge success resulting in excess of £2.000 for the Marie Curie charity. The team of Culpho residents and friends led by Lynn Chapman provided the catering including a sit down meal together with wine or soft drinks. Their efforts were rewarded with a surplus of £1.022.72p. This sum was divided between Culpho Church who received £800 and Culpho Music £222.72p

CHURCH SERVICES @ ST BOTOLPH'S CULPHO FOR MAY

May 25th Evensong @ 3.00 p.m.

May 28th Holy Communion @ 9.30 p.m.

Richard Garnham

Churchwarden

CULPHOMUSIC

'TRAVELLING COMPANIONS'

The beautiful voices of Birdsong - an 8 strong all female singing group returns to St Botolph's Church Culpho on Saturday 10th May at 7.30 p.m. The group is joined by another Culpho friend Stevie Wishart. Stevie will play her Hurdy Gurdy - a mesmerising sound.

Seat reservations £10 from: culphomusic.uk cmp0601@hotmail.com/07925251802

'AUSTRIAN ADVENTURE'

Robert Smissen, Rebecca Scott-Smissen and Juliet Welchman at St Botolph's Church Culpho, Saturday 17th May - Open Rehearsal from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. all welcome and free of charge. Sunday 18th May concert at 3.00 p.m.

The wonderful sound of Violin, Viola and Cello will transport us through time to Vienna and beyond. The programme will include music by Schubert, Fuchs and Mozart.

Seat reservations £10 from: culphomusic.uk cmp0601@hotmail.com/07925251802

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 Direct 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/contact-us/police-connect-sign>

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

May 2025

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

BEALINGS

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

BALLROOM DANCING	VH	Tue	7.30 p.m.	<i>Teresa Jay 07929310480</i>
CARPET BOWLS	VH	Wed	2.00 p.m.	<i>Kathy Price 621419</i>
DANCE CLASS	VH	Wed	9.30 a.m. .	<i>Debbie Watkins-Jones 0711161522</i>
	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.	<i>Info Contact 01473 623133</i>
LIBRARY	ACH	Thu	2.15 - 2.45(every 4th Thu)	<i>07809594685</i>
PILATES with DID!	VH	Mon	7.30 p.m.	<i>Helen 07889 907615</i>
PILATES	VH	Tue	9.30 a.m.	<i>Caroline Boggon 07850683196</i>
PILATES	VH	Fri	12.30 p.m.	<i>Kelly Steventon 07919377855</i>
READING ROOM	ACH	Sat	10.30-12.30or by arrangement	<i>Info 01473 620213</i>
Books for all ages, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs etc to borrow. Drop off for FIND donations.				
SNOOKER	VH	Any day	<4 hours	<i>Margaret Wilson 07769195132</i>
SOCIAL EVENING	ACH	Fri	7.00 p.m.	<i>Info 01473 735153</i>
			Licensed bar, pub games etc. and other events	
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING				<i>Margaret Wilson 07769195132</i>
			:	<i>bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com</i>
YOGA	VH	Sat	9.30 a.m.	<i>Caroline Boggon 07850683196</i>

PLAYFORD

PH: Parish Hall

ART CLUB	PH	Thu	10.00 a.m.	<i>Mary Spillett 01394 385295</i>
LIBRARY		Thu	1.50 – 2.05 (every 4 weeks)	
			mobile library at phone box	<i>07809594685</i>
MILK		Tue, Thu, Sat		<i>Dairy Crest 747272</i>
NEWSPAPERS				<i>DC Patrick Newsagents 01986 874305</i>
PARISH HALL BOOKING		Book on line:		<i>bookings.playfordvillagehall@gmail.com</i>
				<i>or contact via voicemail 01473 487215</i>
PILATES	PH	Wed	7.30 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.	<i>Julie Gorevan on 07702 883245</i>
WI	PH	Tue	7.30 p.m.(1st in month)	<i>Sue Bruce 738265</i>

May 2025



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JUNE 2025 NEWS

Contributions for the May 2025 News to be submitted by:

5.00 p.m. Tuesday, 20th May

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 31st May.**

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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