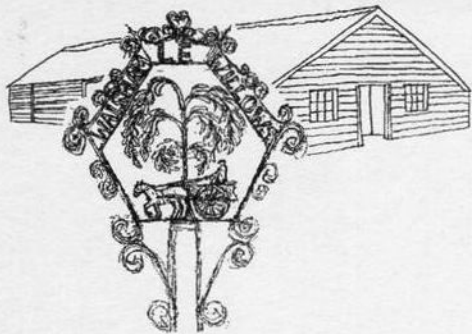


# WALSHAM OBSERVER

**MIGHT THIS ACCIDENT  
RESULT IN A SAFER  
SUMMER ROAD?  
See Page 5**



**MARCH 2024**



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Located in the refurbished red telephone kiosk outside the Memorial Hall this AED has been registered with the East of England Ambulance Service and can be accessed via a digital keypad. The access code can be obtained by simply dialling 999 and asking the Ambulance Service. For reference purposes the location postcode is IP31 3AA.



# THE WALSHAM OBSERVER

**MARCH 2024**

**No 660**

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# EDITORIAL

To misquote Abe Lincoln; *'You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time'*. I sometimes fool myself into believing that the last option applies to the editions of the Observer, but hope that, at least, the former two options apply. There should be something for everyone in this edition, which I have had to 'jemmy into' its fifty-two pages.

You will see, on **page 5** that events can move quite quickly at times, and it is to be hoped that there will be the beginnings of a positive outcome, at the start of this month, to a problem that has been around for quite some time.

With regards entertainment this month, it comes thick and fast. There's the **Sports Club's Irish Night on Saturday 9th**. If you missed the History Group's talk on **Female Fashion (1750 - 1850)** by James & Sandra Deering, last year, you have an opportunity to hear it at the **W.I.'s monthly meeting on Wednesday 13th**. The **History Group**, itself is coming out of hibernation with their **AGM and Whistlecraft talk** - which promises to be interesting - on Wednesday 20th. See page 15 for a little more information. On **Friday 22nd Walsham Picturehouse** presents another **Cinema & Supper evening**. As long as you have not over indulged on during Friday and Saturday you may well be able to enjoy an afternoon of **East Anglian Traditional Music** in the **Village Hall** on the afternoon of **Sunday 24th**. Then to round off an almost perfect month you can enjoy a the **Wild Wood's Easter Celebration** on the morning of **Saturday 30th**.

Of course if, if you feel like taking part in local affairs - which we all need to in the present 'climate', there is opportunity for you to do so this month, as there is a **Question Time with the Parish Council on Monday 11th** and then a further meeting on **Wednesday 13th to discuss matters relating to Flooding**. Even Mary Jane and I have been subject to flooding these past few days, so maybe none of us are completely isolated from the ravages of **Climate Change** and we shall have, increasingly, to work as a community in the face of this.

Another, exciting, way in which you can take part in Community Action is to participate in the **Annual Litter Pick from Saturday 16th till Thursday 21st**, but doubt that one is expected on all days. Just pick a time that suits you. You may be quite surprised what some people deposit, at random, around the vicinity. At one time there were lots of windblown copies of The Sun and Star, together with many empty cans of larger! There have been more exciting items such as ironing boards and exercise bikes, not to mention the once cherished items of furniture.

I received an email about Asian Hornets. Unfortunately readers of hard copy Observers will need to get on to the internet to see the danger in its full technicolour glory. Other information.

Other matters, which might encouraging discussion, could well be discussed in the Men's Shed, which is being 'launched' at the Sports Club. Maybe after putting the world to rights, after 'tea and a chat', the 'lads' might even put on tool belts and do some useful work around the building.



# HELP YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

## To Help You

On Monday 11th March from 6:30 to 8:30 Walsham does Question Time. This an opportunity for all members of the community to have a say in the priorities of the village for the year ahead. It is an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, participate in village improvements or just to find out more about the place where you live. We will report back on the priorities the village identified last year and how we are working to make the improvements you want to see happen. The District Councillor, Richard Winch (Green) and the Suffolk County Councillor, Jessica Fleming (Conservative) will also be there to answer your questions.

Soft drinks and nibbles will be served.

At our monthly regular Parish Council meetings there is always a Public Forum which gives an opportunity for people to raise concerns or bring current matters to the attention of the councillors. As we have two large projects ongoing, we are planning to use the Public Forum at the start of our next two regular meetings to focus on a particular issue of importance to the village community and to share more detailed information.

- **Wednesday 13th March 7:00pm** - we will be talking about and answering questions on the Flood Response and the Community Emergency Plan
- **Wednesday 10th April 7:00pm** - we will be discussing the work being done by the Community Traffic Group to address issues of road safety in and around the village

We would welcome your participation in any or all of these events. For any further information, email [parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org](mailto:parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org) or look at the village website <https://www.walsham-le-willows.org> or follow our Facebook page



## SPRING LITTER PICK



The Parish Council are looking for volunteers old and new, to take part in the Spring Litter Pick between 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March.

This now takes place across a full week to allow volunteers more flexibility to fit it this in with their own schedules and still be covered by the Parish Council's insurers.

Please contact the Parish Clerk, [parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org](mailto:parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org) | 01359 259 794, to register if you can take part again or would like to take part for the first time. Insurance cover only applies to those who have registered and read any guidelines and risk assessment..

Cllrs Mecrow and Roberts will hand out equipment as needed on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at the Memorial Hall.





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# SUMMER ROAD ACCIDENT

## **From Ian Campbell**

Highlighted within the Neighbourhood Plan was the issue of heavy vehicle traffic in Summer Rd being a narrow road with no footpath which is of worry to the Sports Club particularly in view of the number of youngsters who access the site on bikes and as pedestrians. Suffolk County Council have been engaged with this issue and although sympathetic and identified as needing to have a resolution, we again witness in the photo, further evidence of the problems caused as a lorry is recovered from the ditch on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. There simply isn't room for two lorries to pass at certain points and allied to the sodden verges and flooded roads due to drain and ditches not cleaned out, this is the sort of result.

Sadly, a young driver lost his life further up the Summer Road in the last couple of weeks and although the cause of that accident may have nothing to do with the road conditions, it is a further worry.

## **From Jessica Fleming (County Councillor)**

Your points concerning the dangers to users of the sports facilities from road traffic are well made. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss possible approaches for reducing risk in this area, construction of a walking route between the sports facilities and town centre as part of the LCWIP programme will greatly enhance safety when achieved however I understand that this is a slow process. Given plans for expansion at the Stanton industrial site the importance of controlling traffic around Walsham gains additional importance and can best be achieved through active participation in these planning decisions.

## **From Richard Winch (Mid-Suffolk District Councillor)**

This is last reply I received from SCC just before Christmas - "With regards to Summer Road that hasn't progressed as it isn't feasible to accommodate a route in the highway verge, we haven't had the opportunity to explore any creation on private land yet but will review that in the new year."

I think a meet up would be good and we could walk the route from the village.

I am trying to get the Sustainable Travel Officer from Mid Suffolk to join us as I think there maybe be elements of the plan that Mid Suffolk could help us with directly - otherwise I fear that given all the cost constraints at SCC it is unlikely to happen.

## **From Richard Martineau**

I tried to get Cayzer trustees to give a strip of their field opposite Mrs Williamson's house to provide for a footpath and I would give a similar strip in my field below the southern Summer Road Cottage. (This was soon after I had given a strip to allow for a footpath to the bridge on the cemetery bend.) One person had already been run over there.

I would still be happy to offer a strip of my field and I think that if the ditch in front of the northern Summer Road cottages were piped there would be space for a footpath above. I do hope something gets done this time

## **From Katherine Davies (Sustainable Travel Officer Mid-Suffolk District Council)**

We would like to arrange a site visit so that local stakeholders (including representatives from the sports club and the community traffic group) and Cllrs from parish, district and county can discuss the issues with relevant colleagues from Suffolk County Council highways and Public Rights of Way, and we can start to develop ideas for interventions and funding.

We are looking to schedule this site visit for the week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March,

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# WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS CEVC PRIMARY

This half term will see us celebrating World Book Day, Science Week and Red Nose Day so we have been busy in all areas of the curriculum and raising money and awareness for these charities and good causes. We also wore t-shirts to celebrate NSPCC Number Day and raised over £60, which is an incredible amount.

Our theme for Collective Worship next half term is 'Hope' and we have been looking at how we can be hopeful in different situations as we lead into Easter.

The children in Caterpillar class are reading a selection of bedtime stories, rhymes and poems and will be finding out about significant people in their lives.

The children in Ladybirds had a visit from a nurse and a soldier to tell them all about their jobs and how they look after us and protect us; the children loved seeing all the different equipment. In maths they are exploring length and height and in science investigating different materials that keep us warm and dry and why.

The children in Dragonflies are looking at fractions and decimals in maths and finding out about electricity in science. They will be making maps in geography and creating leaflets in English. They have recently finished a superb piece of River Thames artwork based on Monet, which they were very proud of.

Those in Grasshopper class are looking at fraction, decimals and percentages in maths. They will be finding out about important people from the past in relation to space exploration as well as learning about 'The Space Race' and writing a non-fiction journal in English.

The children in Cricket class are continuing their journey into Mexico and will be sculpting ancient Maya stelae from clay and writing myths and legends. They are also starting to think about using their skills in maths and English to translate this into their SATs practice. The children also had the opportunity to play UV dodgeball which was amazing to see – we managed to make the hall really dark to have the best effect!

If you wish to make an appointment to visit or would like more information about our school, please contact Mrs McGarr, on 01359 259319 or by e-mail [admin@walsham-le-willows.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@walsham-le-willows.suffolk.sch.uk) We would love to hear from you!

*Maxine McGarr*



## AVAILABLE ALLOTMENTS



The Walsham Allotments Association currently have one half-plot and two 'small plots' available for rent. (Please note that plots can only be rented by those who are residents in Walsham). If you are interested and would like to know more, please email: [walshamallotments@gmail.com](mailto:walshamallotments@gmail.com).

*Mel Wasley  
Joint Secretary*



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What name is given to the liquid part of blood?

# CITIZENS ADVICE

**Damp and mould is building up in our house as the weather gets colder. Our living room is the worst and there's a strong smell, so we've stopped having friends round. We're also concerned about our health. We've reported it to our landlord, but they haven't done anything. With six months left on the tenancy agreement, we're running out of options. What should we do?**

You've done the right thing by bringing this to your landlord. To work out if they are responsible, you'll need to find the cause of the damp and mould. This can take time unless there's a clear cause, like bad insulation or a leaking roof.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. The main types are rising, penetrating, construction, and condensation damp. It can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. Information on our website can help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Go to [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk) and search damp for more information.

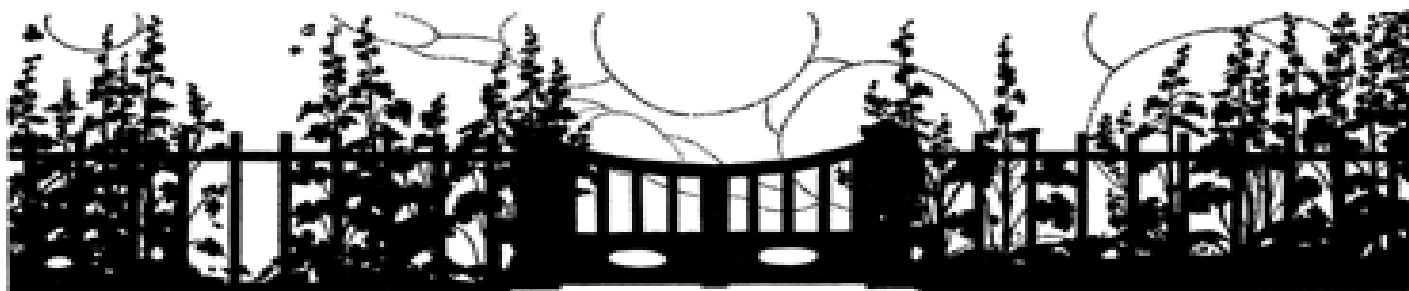
You should check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp. Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of those you live with. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if the window frames are rotting.

Condensation is a key cause of damp we're all familiar with. You should try and reduce extra moisture in your home, this will make it easier to show that your landlord is responsible for the damp. Extra moisture can come from portable gas or paraffin heaters, drying wet clothes or using a tumble dryer with no outside vent.

You may reach the point where you just want to get out of your tenancy agreement early, but remember this can be tricky and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

For example, you could get support from Safe Suffolk Renters, a Suffolk wide project to help improve relationships between landlords and private tenants. Contact them via their website [safesuffolkrenters.org](http://safesuffolkrenters.org). As a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

*Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](http://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.*





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**Hector:** So the rain's still with us!

**Lupin:** And it's April showers next month!

**Hector:** And then there'll be drought in the Summer!

**Lupin:** Oh for the good old days!





# WALSHAM LE WILLOWS AND DISTRICT WI REPORT



It seemed there was a new anthem at the WI meeting this month with Jerusalem replaced by a chorus of 'Staying Alive'. Simon from the St John's Ambulance took members through a very professional and thorough power point review of all that emergency first aid might entail in a moment of crisis. His aim was to familiarise us with what effort might be required in delivering the ten rhythmic chest compressions (and two rescue breaths) needed for resuscitation that fit so neatly with 'Staying Alive' (or sometimes 'Nelly the Elephant' we heard!) Hopefully this skill won't be used any time soon but perhaps we would all have more confidence should occasion demand. We also learnt the difference between a heart attack and heart failure and that a handy aspirin (300mg) might be useful first aid. Hearts figured again at refreshment time when our cup cakes sported green hearts for decoration these a symbol of the WI commitment to green issues and yes ...it was Valentine's Day. Thank you bakers!

*Jill Newell*



## STANTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



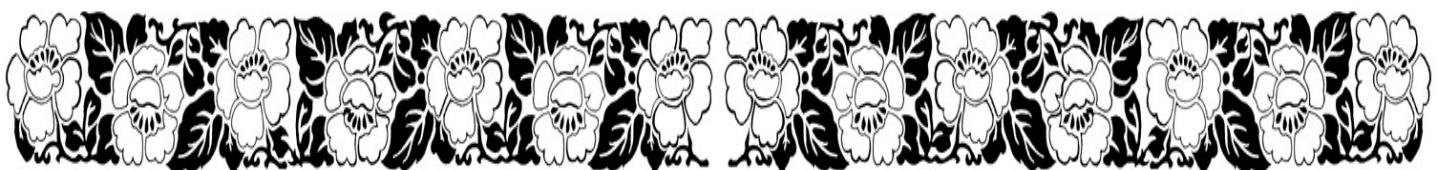
On 24<sup>th</sup> January at the funeral of Brian Bartrum our late secretary eleven standards were paraded one being from the Royal Signals which Brian served in for 22 years as well as many representatives from RBL branches within Suffolk.

At the County Conference held at Needham Market 27<sup>th</sup> January the Stanton branch received an award for the amount of money that had been donated to the county benevolent fund during the last financial year.

At a recent service held in St Mary's church in Bury for the laying up of the old County standard and dedication of the new one, thirteen County branch standards were paraded, guests included a representative for the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Air Vice Marshall The Honourable David Murray. Our own branch standard was paraded at these events by Ivor Bowden.

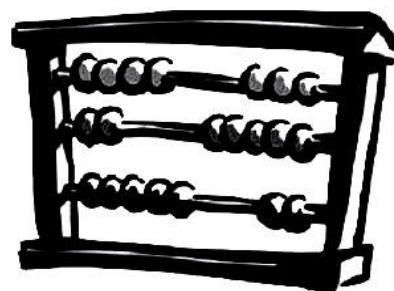
Our next branch meeting will be held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in the Cock Inn Stanton.

*Hubby Frost*



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# WALSHAM WILD WOODS'

## Easter Celebration

**Saturday 30th of March 10:00 am until noon**

Embrace the new season, do your bit for biodiversity, join in with a sing and enjoy some chocolate or a hot cross bun...

Following on from our extremely popular Pop Up Curry Night your next opportunity to support the Walsham Wild Woods is on at our Easter celebration. We will be exploring the woods and looking for signs of Spring. You can help foster biodiversity by making seed balls to help create wildflower areas in the new Jubilee Wood. We'll be scattering the seed balls by seeing how far we can throw them! Hattie, who has started a family singing circle at the Wild Wood, will be teaching a few songs in the log circle for children and adults to join in with so please come along and participate.

As always, children will be able to follow the Easter trail to find an egg and adults will be able to enjoy tea or coffee and Wooster's hot cross bun with family and friends.

We hope to welcome you to the Walsham Wild Woods for this very popular event.

You will find us just off Wattisfield Road, near the allotments...

We look forward to seeing you!

Donations welcome at the event

For further information, please contact Lorna

Contact: [mackinnonlorna@gmail.com](mailto:mackinnonlorna@gmail.com)



## COMMUNITY LUNCH



We were pleased to see you all last month and the buzz in the hall was good to hear. I can't believe it is nearly Spring and we have had such a mild winter so far, fingers crossed!

The Memorial Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Lunch will be Mariners' pie with a selection of vegetables served at 1pm, followed by Lemon meringue pie and cream. Tea and coffee to follow.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Please book a place, at £8.00, with Shirley on 01359 258532 by 5pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

*Shirley White*

## OGDEN NASH I

### The Camel

The camel has a single hump;  
The dromedary, two;  
Or else the other way around.  
I'm never sure. Are you?

### The Termite

Some primal termite knocked on wood  
And tasted it, and found it good.  
And that is why your Cousin May  
Fell through the parlour floor today.



# THOUGHTS FROM THE WILD WOODS

- Elsewhere readers will see a report on our curry evening with Patrick Barker who certainly provided food for thought. A few of them:
- They are experimenting with 'leaky dams' on streams to reduce downstream flooding, might we consider this in Walsham..?.
- Working with government and other agencies they take full advantage of grants, initiatives and subsidies. On a 35 acre farm, as part of a Government Stewardship Scheme, they grow no crops for the market but, with some voluntary community involvement, it remains a viable enterprise benefiting the whole area attracting rare and endangered species to its green and pleasant spaces. Simply looking after the land and the environment can provide an income for land owners.....interesting ?
- They are in the vanguard of an ever growing movement in the farming world that seeks to work towards a truly sustainable way of producing crops and animals. Twenty years ago they would have been thought of as outliers now they are part of a commercial regenerative farming resurgence which can surely be replicated.
- Our own local efforts in creating community wild spaces are a mere pin prick in terms of saving the planet but, they are a start, and they point in the same direction that people like Patrick are moving.
- If we can change the way the land is managed on our doorstep then we can really make a difference. If we are going to save the planet for our children and their children, then we have to get behind this movement. We have to move at speed and at scale to avert the climate and biodiversity collapse which will threaten our very existence as a species.
- We know that Mid Suffolk has a low tree coverage compared to other regions in the UK and MSDC is actively looking to support projects to rectify this situation. So is there more local land that could be used, with community effort, to increase the overall biodiversity of the parish, the district and the county for the benefit of us all?

*John Stebbing*



## MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

### 3rd March

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
9.30am	Communion	Westhorpe
11.00am	Morning Service	Finningham

### 10th March

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
11.00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham

### 17th March

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
11.00am	Communion	Finningham
3.00pm	Evensong	Westhorpe

27th March No Services

### 24th March

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
9.30am	Communion	Badwell Ash
11.00am	Communion	Wattisfield

### 31st March

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
9.30am	Communion	Westhorpe

### 7th April

8.00am	Communion	Walsham
11.00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham
11.00am	Communion	Langham

# WALSHAM HISTORY GROUP

## ‘Whistlecraft’

Walsham History Group returns on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Priory Room with a new programme of talks and events for 2024.

Our first talk sees the return of the entertaining Pip Wright, who delves into the colourful and enigmatic lives of the ‘Whistlecraft’ family, notorious for their involvement in poaching, murder, heavy drinking and intrigue. The family hailed from Rickinghall and Hinderclay and have achieved a sort of folk hero status within the local community. So, why not come along and find out more about this notorious family of rogues for yourself.

Membership fees are due at the April Meeting. Entry for guests is £5.00. This is also our AGM, but we promise to keep it short.

Contact: Frances Jenner 01359 259242 frances.jenner@hotmail.com



## LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP



The Priory Room was the venue for a life-drawing workshop on the rainy morning of 18<sup>th</sup> February. Katie Shipton, our teacher and Beth, the model had braved the torrential downpour and were all set up and waiting for us as we arrived.

The two-hour session was a great introduction to life drawing. Katie, a local artist, was able to give us lots of helpful direction in looking for light and shadow, vertical and horizontal lines that could be imagined running through the model’s body and angles and spaces that we could see within the pose.

Each member of the group produced a selection of drawings to take away. I was really pleased with my work. I have never had the opportunity to do life drawing before and I know that I have not mastered it by any means but, through Katie’s guidance, I achieved much better results than I thought I would.

It was a most enjoyable morning. Coffee, tea and homemade cake were on offer to fortify us, and I think we all left the session feeling that we had produced work that we could be proud of.

Look out for further workshops. We all asked Katie if she would be doing another session and she said she hoped to organise another one soon.

Contact Katie Shipton for workshop information at thetradingpoststudio@gmail.com.

*Judy Wild*

## OGDEN NASH II

### Song of the Open Road

I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree.  
Indeed, unless the billboards fall  
I’ll never see a tree at all.

### What’s the Use?

Sure, check your lower limbs in pants;  
Yours are the limbs, my sweeting.  
You look divine as you advance -  
Have you seen yourself retreating?

# FULL HISTORY PROGRAMME

Date	Talk/Event	Speaker
Wed 20th March Priory Room	<b>AGM &amp; Whistlecraft</b> The true story of the poachers of Rickinghall,	Pip Wright Speaker and author
Wed 17th April Priory Room	<b>Regency Lowlife in Bury St Edmunds</b> True stories of misdemeanours, crimes and punishment taken from the Bury Court records.	Kevin Pulford
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30am	Spring Walk – meet at the Six Bells	Walsham History Group
Wed 15th May MVH	<b>Capturing and convicting the Brighton bombers.</b> A personal insight into bringing the Brighton bombers to justice.	Paul Jordan Retired Forensics Officer with the Metropolitan Police.
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June St Mary's Church	<b>Saints, sinners and symbolism</b> This talk and tour of St Mary's will focus on how the present church has evolved over the past 1000 years..	Walsham History Group
Wed 24th July Priory Room	<b>An Introduction to Historic Building Myths</b> Exploring the folklore and archaeology of historic buildings.	Dr James Wright FSA: Buildings archaeologist, author, film, TV and broadcaster.
28th & 29th Aug	<b>Walsham Open Gardens</b>	
Wed 11th Sept MVH	<b>No Roses on a Sailor's Grave</b> tells the story of John Henry Phillip's search to locate a lost Second World War shipwreck to fulfil a promise to the last survivor of its sinking. Accompanied by footage from the award-winning PBS documentary <i>No Roses On A Sailor's Grave</i> and excerpts from <i>The Search</i> .	John Henry Phillips: award winning archaeologist, and presenter of Channel 4's 'The Great British Dig'
Wed 16th Oct Priory Room	<b>Using Tithe and Enclosure Maps</b> Find out how these maps can be used to explore the topography, history, land ownership and occupation of our parish.	Vivienne Aldous University of Suffolk.
Wed 20th Nov Priory Room	<b>Tales of Supernatural Suffolk</b> An illustrated talk of strange occurrences and hauntings according to local folklore.	Stephen Poulter
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec Priory Room	<b>Christmas Unwrapped</b> A Christmas celebration unwrapping the history of the festive season through carols, songs and traditions.	Michelle and Ian Wright and the History Group

**Venue: The Priory Room unless otherwise stated. Please check.**

**Contact: Frances Jenner on 01359 259242 or frances.jenner@hotmail.com**

Which actress played the title role in the 1983 film 'Silkwood'?

**16**





# WALSHAM PICTUREHOUSE

presents



A cinema evening with supper on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Keeping Mum** is a 2005 black comedy drama written and directed by Niall Johnson and starring Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith and Patrick Swayze. A pastor (Atkinson) becomes preoccupied with writing and fails to notice that his wife (Scott Thomas) is having an affair with Lance (Swayze) and that his children are up to no good! Then the new housekeeper (Smith) comes along and decides to sort out these and other problems in her own unique and hilarious fashion. For full details of the evening see page 24

*Mike Cousins*



## THE WALSHAM WILD WOODS POPUK CURRY EVENING

A memorable evening, 70 local people coming together to enjoy each other's company, eat fantastic curries of such variety and flavour that you wouldn't imagine and sitting in the Memorial Village Hall transformed for the evening with trees, lights and total good cheer. A rolling loop of photographs projected onto the wall showing how 'from little acorns mighty oaks do grow' in the way in which the community wild spaces in the parish have developed. The food served and enjoyed, the plates cleared, a brief update on progress with the Jubilee Wood before being introduced to our guest speaker.

As many of you will know, Patrick Barker helps run his family farm over at Westhorpe as well as managing other land in the area. Whilst it is, and has to be, a commercial enterprise they try to work with nature rather than against it. A total of 12% of the land area of the farm is dedicated to environmental and regenerative projects of one sort or another. Hedges, trees of course, thickets and scrub, ponds, wildflower strips and headlands, ponds, water courses and wild areas attract a massive variety of flora and fauna which Patrick is recording as the years go by. In addition to this they have significantly reduced their inputs in terms of pesticides and herbicides and they work with nature to reduce the damage from 'unwanted guests'. Their ploughing regime is much reduced as they drill directly into the stubble of a previous crop and in doing so the health of the soil is improving year on year. The reduction in the use of fossil fuels and nitrates is of course a cost saving to the business and a benefit to us all in terms of climate change, biodiversity and water quality.

Patrick, in his 'spare' time, is a keen ornithologist and we were all intrigued to see and hear about the results of his work with Barn Owls in the area.

A lovely evening, a big thank you to The Steering Group, our guest and those who attended and who made it such a special evening.

*John Stebbing*

# Stuart Walker

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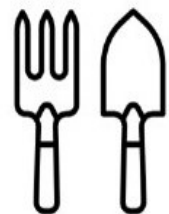


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is available to hire for private functions.

For bookings or further information, please contact:

John Boulter 07908 010555 [johnboulter@yahoo.com](mailto:johnboulter@yahoo.com)

# EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRUST

Last October EATMT held a very successful afternoon of entertainment in Walsham Le Willows Memorial Hall. The event was such a success that we have booked the hall again for March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Have you ever wondered about what went on in East Anglia before the delights of the screen captured us? East Anglian Traditional Music Trust (a charity) hold some keys to the past in our area. The Trust collect, archive and perform music, song, dance, and stories which have been passed down through generations. We are constantly looking for ways to share these treasures and capture the interest of new audiences.

In your Memorial Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> March there will be Suffolk and Norfolk step dancers, tales told in dialect, and music and songs from a variety of musicians. We will bring our jig dolls along for you to have a go at making them dance.

This will be an informal afternoon where you can sit back and enjoy the entertainment. However if you have a story to tell or wish to sing or play please see our compare on entry, we will be thrilled to include you.

**On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> we will be opening the Memorial Hall doors at 1.30, giving you time to get a cup of tea and a cake and get seated comfortably. We begin at 2 pm and bring the afternoon to a close at 4 pm.**

Entry is free, although any donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a raffle and a small charge for teas, coffees and cakes.

We look forward to seeing you at our event and hope that it wets your appetites to learn more about East Anglian Traditions and Music.

For more details about the Trust take a look at our website [www.eatmt.org.uk](http://www.eatmt.org.uk), email [info@eatmt.org.uk](mailto:info@eatmt.org.uk) or ring 07495 054669.



## IN A PICKLE WITH SOME JARS



I have a large number of glass jars, suitable for Picklers, Preservers and Jam Makers of all ages, which I am reluctant to put in the recycling bins because I hope that someone can use them. There are different sorts but a large number of smallish jars 7cm across and 8cm high and an even larger number of larger jars 8cm across and 17cm high.

Let me know if you are interested in all or some of them and I will deliver them to your door.

John Stebbing 07831 325610  
[john@architectatwork.co.uk](mailto:john@architectatwork.co.uk)





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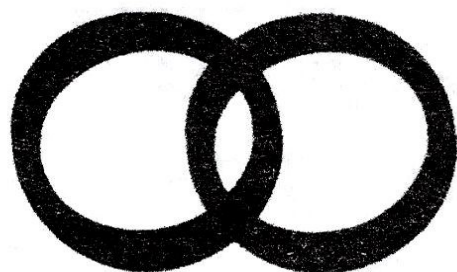
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# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS INSECT?



The UK is under attack from an invasive insect! The **Asian Hornet** (*Vespa velutina*), also known as the **Yellow-legged Hornet**, is a predatory species of hornet indigenous to Southeast Asia, which arrived accidentally in France in 2004. They have since spread throughout Western Europe and have now been found in the UK. They are designated a **Notifiable Invasive Species** and must be reported if seen or captured.

The best way to do this is via the “Asian Hornet Watch App”, available free for iPhone and Android. The report will be relayed to a local Asian Hornet Team member (most likely me!) for confirmation. The nest will then be found and destroyed by government officers from APHA.

## Why should we be concerned?

The Asian Hornet is voracious and will eat nectar, wasps, bees, flies, butterflies, spiders, caterpillars, fallen fruit and carrion. They are such efficient hunters that they will completely suppress all insects within 1km of their nest! Honeybees are a favourite prey and they will devastate an apiary if they find one. Not surprisingly beekeepers are keen to repel these invaders but we should all do our bit to help, because **all our native insects are at risk**.

## What can we do?

Download the app. Be alert. You may hear one before you see it - its wing buzz is loud and low. Report any sightings.

## Asian Hornets are black, with yellow legs (socks).

Do not confuse them with native insects, particularly the European Hornet (which is predominately brown and not a problem, despite being bigger and scary-looking!) - See the graphic below.

If we can find them now, we can eliminate them but if we fail they will gain a foothold and then we will never be able to stop them.

*Greg Monaghan*

**Note: To report a sighting go to [www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport)**

## WALSHAM OBSERVER SU-DOKU

	6	1					3	
				2	4		6	
		2						9
			9					4
	5		4	6	2		7	
1					7			
7						3		
	2		8	3				
	9					6	8	

For the uninitiated, the rules of Sudoku are very simple.

Each row, column and large square must contain the numbers 1 to 9 inclusive.

It's as simple as that, but you must apply logic to find which number goes where.

So, beginner or expert, happy hunting!



## **WALSHAM SPORTSCLUB EVENTS FOR MARCH & APRIL**

### **Sunday Night Bingo**

3rd, 17th & 31st March  
14th & 28th April  
7pm Start in the clubhouse.

### **Quiz Events**

Friday 15th March. Ned's Quiz.  
Friday 29th March Sharon's Quiz Night  
For each one there are teams of up to four people  
£2.50 per person

**For further information phone  
Julian 07597340273**



## **WALSHAM LE WILLOWS SPORTS CLUB**

presents

## **AN IRISH NIGHT**

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Saturday 9th March

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Tickets £7 (In advance)

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# DIARY OF EVENTS

MARCH		MAY	
Tue 5th	Flower Power Meeting Sports Club 10.30am	Wed 8th	W.I. Annual Meeting Priory Room 7.45pm
Wed 13th	W.I. Female Fashion Priory Room 7.45pm	Sun 12th	History Gp Spring Walk Six Bells 1030am
Wed 20th	History Group AGM Priory Room 7.30pm	Wed 15th	History Group Village Hall 7.30pm
Fri 22nd	Cinema Evening Village Hall 6.30pm	JUNE	
Sun 24th	East Anglian Music Trust Village Hall 1.30pm	Wed 12th	W.I. Wild Wood Visit Wild Wood 7.45pm
Sat 30th	Easter Celebration Wild Wood 10.00am	Wed 19th	History Group St Mary's 7.30pm
APRIL		AUGUST	
Wed 10th	W.I. Floral Arrangement Priory Room 7.45pm	Sun 25th	Open Gardens All
Wed 17th	History Group Priory Room 7.30pm	Mon 26th	Gardens Weekend Day
		SEPTEMBER	
		Wed 11th	History Group Village Hall 7.30pm

## WALSHAM & DISTRICT W.I.

### Female Fashion History 1750 - 1850

James & Sandra Deering

Wednesday 13th March at 7.45pm

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

Ladies are able to attend 2 meetings free of charge before joining.



## THE MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post Office will still be coming to the  
Village Hall Car Park on Thursday mornings  
from 11:00am till Noon till further notice.

# WALSHAM PICTUREHOUSE PRESENTS

## 'Keeping Mum'

Friday 22nd March – Doors open at 6.30 pm

Supper served at 7.00 pm

Paying bar available throughout the evening

### **A cinema evening with supper**

Menu - home cooked Boeuf Bourguignon,  
creamy mash and veg

Tasty vegetarian option\*

Ice cream tubs also available

at £1.00 (all proceeds to Charity)

£12.50 per head to include meal and  
film (card payments accepted).

\* please advise any food allergies at point of booking



Tickets available from 01359 258698 or [mike@mcousins.com](mailto:mike@mcousins.com)

**A Walsham-le-Willows Memorial Village Hall Event**



**Walsham History Group**  
*presents*



## **WHISTLECRAFT**

*A tale of poaching, murder,  
heavy drinking and intrigue in  
Rickinghall, by Pip Wright.*

*Also our AGM.*

**Wed March 20th 2024, 7.30pm**

**Priory Room, Walsham-le-Willows.**

*Members Free Visitors £5.00 Refreshments*



# WALSHAM le WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 commencing at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

*[Informally approved. Formal approval, at the next meeting with any corrections]*

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Bartholomew, Belson, Brookes, Mecrow, Roberts, Tuck, Winch.

**ALSO PRESENT:** District Councillor R Winch & 2 members of public

1. OPENING - including Statement, if any
2. APOLOGIES  
County Councillor Jessica Fleming. No consents required.
3. DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests
  - a) Declarations of pecuniary, local non-pecuniary interest(s) incl. personal interests in items on the agenda including any gifts of hospitality – None received.
  - b) To receive declarations of lobbying for planning matters on the agenda – None received.
4. MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated)
  - a) Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
  - b) All actions agreed at last meeting were checked and had been completed.
5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS - to receive written reports
  - a) District Councillor Winch
    - Cllr Belson asked about the proposal for investing some of the reserves in a number of projects to benefit the community and for reassurance that this would not put the council in financial difficulties. Cllr R Winch was able to confirm that the proposed expenditure would in no way threaten the council's financial strength.
  - b) County Councillor Fleming
    - Cllr Belson noted that Cllr Fleming's report referred to work soon to take place on the Stowlangtoft Bridge and that the Parish Council will be invited to attend the working group meetings.
    - Cllr Mecrow noted information from the West Suffolk planning portal re the air quality issues that need to be addressed in Great Barton and the potential impact on traffic through other villages. Clerk to circulate link provided.
    - Cllr J Winch raised the issue of available locality funding from Cllr Fleming's budget for the current financial year. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from Westcotec for a new solar powered speed indicator device for Wattisfield Road and submit this to Cllr Fleming.
    - The response from SCC Community Liaison Engineer, Josh White and Cllr Jessica Fleming re the request for Chevron signage on the Summer Road bends near Chapel Road. Cllr Roberts noted has since been observed that there are





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## QR Codes for Reports from Item 5



District Councillor's  
Report



County Councillor's  
Report

many young people visiting this area which was the site of a fatal accident recently, and parking on the verges. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways (copies to Hepworth, Wattisfield and Stanton asking them to support) to request that:

- o temporary warning signage of visiting pedestrians could be erected at this location
- o the 'Slow' signage could be reinstated
- o central road markings are repainted
- o that chevron signage is erected to indicate the sharp bends

6. PUBLIC FORUM - To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance about items on the agenda and Walsham le Willows in general. **Two members of public were present.**

a) A resident of Elm Drive enquired as to what information the Parish Council had about the purpose of drone flying over the site between Elm Drive and Grove Road including the measurement of the streets behind the site. Cllr Belson advised that the Parish Council currently had no information and that any planning application that may arise would be advised to the clerk in first instance and that the Parish Council would then discuss at the following meeting at which residents would be welcome to express their views in the usual way. Immediate neighbours may also be advised directly but this is not a requirement on the planning authority. Cllr Belson was able to advise that the recently adopted neighbourhood plan did not designate any sites for development but that it had been anticipated that this site might be put forward at some point and has addressed how it and similar sites might be developed. Cllr Belson also advised that for any site of more than 5 dwellings, the developer would need to draw up a masterplan before submitted an application.

b) A resident wished to draw the attention of the Parish Council to the inappropriate nature of the retrospective planning application DC/24/00519 in a conservation area before this was considered for comment.

b) Cllr J. Winch proposed that the March meeting is promoted for focus on the Flood Response and Community Emergency Plan and the April meeting for focus on Traffic Management Proposals and encouraging members of the public to come along to discuss. This was unanimously approved. Clerk to arrange for public notices.

7. FLOOD RESPONSE

a) Cllr Winch gave an update. Two evidence documents (stream, bridges and 'run-off, ditches, drains and culverts) almost completed and will be presented for approval at next meeting with proposal that these are immediately circulated to relevant agencies to raise profile ahead of request for this information by SCC. It was noted that Walsham le Willows has been prioritised 13 of 48 communities in Suffolk identified for flood investigations. It has been advised that in normal circumstances 3 such investigations are undertaken and completed annually. SCC are diverting resources to try to speed this up following the October flooding.

b) The notification by email about the substance seen floating on surface of the stream outside Millar's Bridge had been followed up and it was ascertained that



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this was sawdust and resin from the felling of a large number of leylandii just a little upstream. It is probably now cleared following rain on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The Clerk was asked to report again the drain outside Clarkes which although now flowing properly into the stream along the culvert, has sunken further into the road. Already reported by residents (reports 450701 & 452355). Reported again.

Also to report the bad potholes that have opened up again on the Badwell Road at Four Ashes corner. These had already been reported by 2 residents and have been given a 20 day priority for resolution (reports 449941 & 450258). Reported again.

#### 8. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN (CEP)

Cllrs Brookes and Bartholomew reported that although they are still waiting for the formal guidance that is being updated by SCC, good progress has been made with productive meetings and discussions with SCC Emergency Planning Unit. The draft document prepared by Walsham PC was praised by the officers as a possible model for all CEPs but once SCC have completed their task of preparing a guidance template we will need to retrospectively ensure that our CEP aligns effectively with the SCC plan. In the meantime, the interim report will be presented as a live document, for approval and adoption as a policy statement at the next meeting. Work will continue on next version (volunteers will need to be identified and emergency supplies need to be identified and stored).

#### 9. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Matters relating to development of the Shepherds Grove site: Nothing other than estate agent seems to be promoting heavily even though the application has not yet been granted.

b) APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/24/00519 Proposal: Householder Application- Erection of new willow screen fencing and wooden pergola over small garden hot tub (retention of) Location: 1 Vine Cottages, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ

PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTS FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

We would like to lodge our objections to this application in the strongest terms possible. Our main points of objection are :

1 The proposal has a significantly detrimental impact on the Walsham le Willows Conservation Area. Objective 1 of the village Neighbourhood Plan is “to ensure that all new development enhances and respects the existing character of the village”. This development does neither. It is also in a highly visible position and is clearly seen by both pedestrians and motorists as they pass through the Conservation Area; it is a blemish on a street scene dominated by old cottages and listed buildings.

2 The proposal impacts adversely on a Non-designated Heritage Asset. Vine Cottages have been designated as “the remains of a group of buildings once standing around a yard”. Their value lies in their attractiveness as a group, but also as an example of a pattern of development found in several places in the village, where a group of 2 or 3 or 4 dwellings were built around three sides of a courtyard with the fourth side opening onto the road. A good example from the village is NDHA 6 – Barn Cottage and South Side – this shows very clearly how Vine Cottages should appear and the extent to which the proposed development



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has completely masked an attractive and very interesting facet of the built environment in Walsham.

- 3 The choice of building materials lacks imagination and has resulted in structures which appear temporary and, even after just a few months, shabby. The Design Guidance which forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan states that in assessing the building materials that are proposed we should start with these three questions : what is (are) the distinctive material(s) in the area; does the proposed material harmonise with the local materials; does the proposal use high-quality materials ? The proposal clearly fails this test.
- 4 The installation of a hot-tub has resulted in recurring examples of anti-social behaviour. Experience has now shown that the “holiday cottage”, “the weekend away” and access to a hot-tub has led to very noisy, boisterous and at times offensive behaviour taking place outside, a few metres from the village street and immediately next to neighbouring properties. Unfortunately, those involved in such behaviour are only resident here for a few days, are unlikely to return to the village, and appear to show little or no respect for the permanent residents.
- 5 The development has resulted in a serious loss of amenity value for people living in this part of the village. Neighbouring properties have found that access to light has diminished, outlook has been severely curtailed, and the noise and disturbance has greatly increased. It is difficult to over-estimate the negative impact that this development has had on this immediate part of the village.

It is very regrettable that this development went ahead without either consultation or the appropriate planning application. Events have however shown quite conclusively that such a development is inappropriate for this location and is highly detrimental to both the built environment and the social environment. We urge that this application be rejected.

- c) APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL - AGRICULTURAL TO DWELLING  
- DC/24/00473 Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling (Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Convert barn to form 1No Dwelling. Location: Cobbold, West Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AP

PARISH COUNCIL IN SUPPORT THE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE WITH CONDITION THAT A 30MPH LIMIT IS APPLIED TO WEST STREET

The reasons for this condition being sought is that the site does not meet the criteria for connectivity to the main village and in particular for safe use by pedestrians and cyclists. This stretch of road currently has the national speed limit in spite of having a series of sharp bends and no footpaths whilst at the same time the area has growing residential use. There is a history of accidents on this stretch of road including a fatality, vehicle damage and damage to property from vehicles leaving the road. There are regular near misses for vehicles meeting oncoming traffic including HGVs crossing the carriageway and it is currently very unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists due to vehicle speeds. In addition, the pattern of land drainage/run-off is such that it





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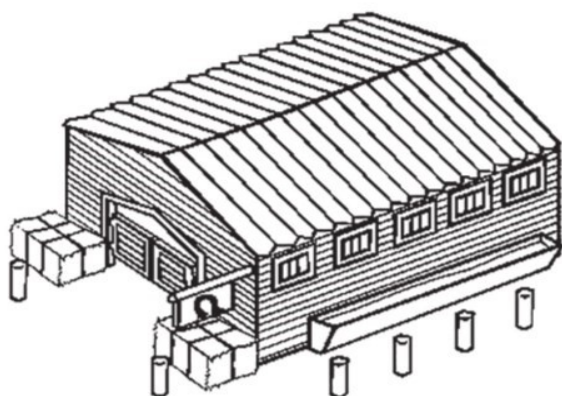
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or Joseph Light, 07970 549019,  
[joseph.light@sentry.co.uk](mailto:joseph.light@sentry.co.uk)

creates regularly flooded roads in this location which then create treacherous conditions with the onset of freezing temperatures.

10. PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority) for noting only

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/23/05490 Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension (following demolition of garage and porch) Location: 12 Wattisfield Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3BD MSDC GRANTED PERMISSION

11. ASSET MAINTENANCE REVIEWS

a) Cllrs Winch and Brookes (Bus Shelters ): Clerk was asked to make enquiries of local contractors and seek quotes for work proposed in report.

b) Cllr Tuck Village Sign (Village Notice Board, Dog Fouling Signage, Horse Riding Signage). All ok apart from village noticeboard which needs some attention. Cllr Tuck will make enquiries with a contact he has in the village.

c) Cllr Bartholomew (Play Park Equipment). See agenda item 12a)

d) Cllr Mecrow (Street Lights & Litter Pick Equipment). Mainly ok. Some issues with ivy growth on posts in The Causeway; Acorns signage needs removing; and one post cover (Townhouse Road) needs repairing currently held on with tape. Clerk to enquire if this is covered under extended annual maintenance contract with SCC.

e) Cllr Belson (Dog & Litter Bins, Grit Bins). The grit bins are all currently full and show no signs of being used. As they are now all sited at priority 1 and 2 routes for gritting by SCC they no longer meet the criteria for siting and refilling and so seem to be unnecessary. Cllr Belson proposed they were removed and this was approved. Clerk to make enquiries with SCC re removal.

f) Cllr Roberts (Speed Gun, Ride on Mower, Strimmer, 2 x Speed Indicator Devices (incl batteries and housings), Exhibition Boards, SID solar panel and battery, Solar Panel for SID, Leaf sweeper, New Strimmer). All ok.

g) Clerk (Street Orderly Barrow, Projector, Litter Pick Signage, No Access Signage, Litter Picker Stick, Post Box, Xerox Printer) All present and O.K.

12. PLAY AREA – consider any matters arising.

Cllr Bartholomew proposed that final decision be made to address the high-risk rating from the most recent RoSPA report of the defective wooden poles on the large swing. x2 posts on rope swing need replacing. Clerk to make enquiries with Premier Play Solutions.

13. FINANCE & AUDIT

a) Bank reconciliation for period ending 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was approved for signature.

b) Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices for payment (Appendix 1) were approved for signature.

14. CLERK & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) To consider and receive the updated action log for any matters of concern/note. Clerk asked for assistance on identifying new dwelling for count against application since the figure established in the Neighbourhood Plan. This record was updated. Applications for new dwellings will now be added as they are granted to keep this record to date for easy reference.



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- b) To consider anything relating to Parish Council Objectives 2023/24, nothing of note.
- c) Clerk's appraisal date with Cllrs. J Winch and Bartholomew was agreed as 28 March 3pm onwards. Exact time to be agreed.
- d) A request from booking manager for the Memorial Hall to change September 2024 meeting date from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday to Thursday was approved. Clerk to amend notices and advertising.
- e) Enquiry advised by Clerk re moles in closed churchyard was considered, along with quotes previously circulated. Clerk was asked to contact 2BorderPestControl as the best option from the 5 quotes obtained.
- f) To consider and receive email correspondence re 'deposit' in stream at Millar's Bridge. This was dealt with under agenda item 7. No action required.
- g) To consider and receive any other matters of concern/note for next agenda.
- Cllr Mecrow alerted Councillors to the consultation on the proposed move of the Bury Records Office in case anyone wishes to respond.
  - Cllr Mecrow referred to upcoming litter pick. Cllr Roberts to send blank map for re-drawing to Cllr Mecrow.
  - Cllr Roberts had been approached about a complete Observer archive currently held by a resident. Cllr Roberts will respond and make further enquiries.
  - Cllr Bartholomew noted that a CIL funding bid for the installation of solar panels on the Memorial Hall is being presented to MSDC for approval on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
  - Cllr Winch invited comments asap on the first draft of proposals from Walsham Community Traffic Group (previously circulated). These will be considered for incorporation into the document before the Annual Question Time meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March.
  - Cllr Brookes asked when Council wished for her contact to attend to brief Councillors on planning processes. Cllr Brooks will ascertain availability and select date when most councillors can take part.
- h) Meeting Closed 21:30 - Next Meeting – Annual Question Time 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 6.30 – 8.30pm - Memorial Hall.
- Next regular meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 7pm in Memorial Hall.

## APPENDIX 1

### Payments for Authorisation February 2024

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Nathanael Landymore	£289.43	Closed Churchyard maintenance, leaf clearing, petrol
2	Memorial Village Hall	£27.00	Hall hire Jan PC meeting





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# GREEN DILEMMAS

## What's Happening With Recycling?

The proportion of our household waste that goes to recycling grew from 11% in 2001 to 42% in 2022. However, in recent years the level of recycling has stalled and we missed the target of 50% by 2020.

The government has at last clarified its proposals for recycling though most of the implementation won't happen till after the General Election. The overall objective is to standardise recycling across England and to encourage manufacturers to have more sustainable packaging.

Under these plans every local authority in England will collect garden waste, food waste, glass, metal, plastic, paper and card. There also has to be a general waste removal once a fortnight. The dry recycling, including glass, will all use the same recycling bin. The main change for us in Mid Suffolk, is that all food waste can be collected and recycled instead of going to landfill. It should be noted that some local authorities already provide this service.

In Mid Suffolk, the plan is to introduce a weekly food waste collection from April 2026. Households will be provided with food waste containers which will be emptied from your doorstep like the normal bin collection.

At the same time the range of items that you can put in the recycling bin will be increased to include glass bottles and jars, and cartons.

Flexible plastics such as bread bags, plastic films etc will follow a year later. At the moment you need to take plastic film to a supermarket if this is to be recycled.

This will mean that in Mid Suffolk from 2027 most day-to-day items can be recycled via the recycling bin. Larger or specialist items will still need to go to a recycling centre. The same rules are being applied to businesses as well as for schools and hospitals. From 2025 businesses will be obliged to follow the recycling principles and will have their recycling collected in the same way as a household.

In parallel, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is being rolled out. This is an environmental policy that requires producers to pay a tax which reflects the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce throughout the lifetime of a product. The annual cost of recycling is about £1.7bn and businesses rather than taxpayers should be picking up this cost. This in turn should result in a reduction in packaging and a move to more sustainable options.

*Richard Winch*

## SEARCHING FOR WORDS

M	O	D
E	T	E
D	A	R

Starting with any letter and moving horizontally, vertically or diagonally, see how many words of three letters or more you can find, using each letter only once in each word.

There should be one nine letter word which might have taken the gloss off a bit.

Get 55 words and you are doing well.



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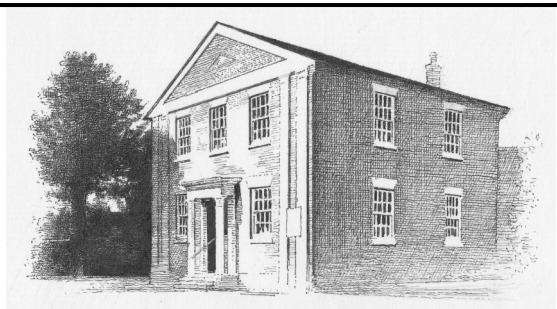
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# WILDLIFE IN MARCH

This is the month that Spring is on the way, the Spring Equinox falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Time to start thinking what jobs need to be done and what plants we are going to put in our gardens. The wildlife is starting to awake from its wintry slumber once again. The birds are feeding and singing more again. We are also entering the breeding season for the birds, and it is not too late to put up some nesting boxes. Most birds will have already been in search of nesting sights since as early as January, but for some birds such as the Blue Tit they will have been searching even earlier than this. Look at what species of birds you have in your garden, you can buy bird boxes specifically for those species of birds or you can buy multi-species bird boxes. You can set up several nesting boxes to increase your chances of someone moving in. The position of the bird box is important, birds like the nesting boxes to be either facing North or North-East, this protects the young from the sun, wind and rain. Allow a clear flight path to and from the nesting box, and help by providing food and water nearby. Birds also like it when they have vegetation or a climbing plant covering the box for extra protection from the elements and predators. You can even get bird boxes that have cameras inside that you can link up either with you phone or your TV. I have just got one and I am hoping to see chicks this year, feathers crossed! You can also help with nesting material, try collecting some moss and leaving it nearby, last year I found that the Blue Tits especially liked collecting my pet rabbit Toby's fur I left out for them.

It is not just the birds that are more active, hiding away in vegetation and leaves you may come across one of our reptiles, the Adder. It is possible to see them about as early as February but March is when they become more active. We have four native species of reptile, the Adder, Slow worm, Common lizard and the Grass snake. All our reptiles are cold blooded so need to bask in the warmth of the sun to increase their body temperature before becoming fully active. If you wish to try and spot one of these reptiles check south facing slopes on warm sunny mornings. Adders are mildly venomous, and are not usually aggressive unless they are provoked. Be careful if you are walking in Adder territory especially if you have a dog, if a dog gets bitten it can have serious health implications. March is also the month you may see in the distance on the fields or running across the road, the Hare. Hare's are nearly twice the size of a wild rabbit, they have longer ears, reddish brown fur and long powerful back legs. These hind legs make the Hare capable of reaching speeds of 45mph, making it possible to outrun most pursuers and they will also run in a zig zag to outwit predators. Hares live a solitary life, living entirely above ground, they sleep and breed in depressions in the ground known as 'forms'. Spring is the main breeding season for them, although they will breed from February to September. The mad March boxing that you will see is either two males known as a 'jack' showing who is more dominant or a male and a female known as a 'jill' showing she is either not ready or testing his determination. The gestation period is between 42-44 days, the young known as 'Leverets' are born fully furred and with their eyes open, they are also born being able to run from predators. Mum will put each baby in its own grassy form and will visit only once each night to allow them to suckle. The Leverets for the rest of the time will lay low and still to avoid detection. Hare's can produce 3-4 litters a year and there will be 2-4 young in each litter.

*Angie Bennington*



## **Walsham Congregational Church**

The Street, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk. IP31 3AZ

Church Secretary (John Landymore)

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### **Easter Meetings**

**Services are at 7.30 each evening of Easter week (25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March)  
&**

**Easter Sunday at 11.00am & 6.30pm**

*(Refreshments to follow each evening.)*

**It is our pleasure to invite you to our series of special meetings this Easter. We have been holding the 'Easter Convention' for almost 70 years and, if you have never been, why not join with us this year?**

**As usual, we expect guest preachers from across the United Kingdom, including Andrew Stewart (Assistant Pastor of Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland), Darren Cadapen (Pastor of East Dulwich Tabernacle Baptist Church, London) and Stephen Holland (former Pastor of Westhoughton Evangelical Church, Lancashire)**

---

**You do not need to normally attend a church or be a Christian to come but, if you are interested in hearing about the true meaning of Easter and the life-changing message of the Christian Gospel, we would be delighted to see you. The message of Easter which is central to the Christian Faith and to the history of mankind, and an understanding of the death & resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ can answer our souls' deepest questions. If you normally worship with us, elsewhere, or nowhere at all, you would be made most welcome, so please do come and hear this wonderful, eternal message of Love, Sacrifice and Forgiveness that can give us Peace with God.**

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**Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)**

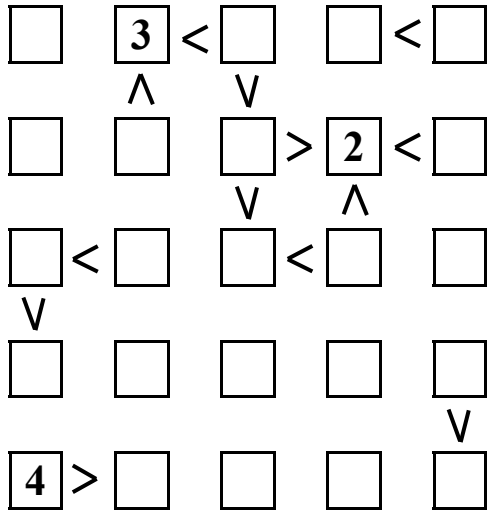


# WORTH THE DRIVE

In Waveney  
a country road  
forever winds  
'twixt high hedged banks,  
by solitary homesteads  
which no parish seems to claim,  
by fields of rich brown plough  
stretching towards  
horizon's woodland fringe,  
past mysterious  
shades of dark and light  
in a sun illumined  
roadside copse.  
But, on your life  
do not ignore  
the double muddy tracks  
which leave the grassy  
centre quite intact  
and take you on to

sheep grazed pastures  
by the river,  
past lofty trees  
and uncleared scrub,  
seemingly a place unloved.  
But if in February  
you chance this way,  
just sideways glance  
beyond the pretty village church  
and be entranced,  
be rooted in your boots,  
marvel at their furthest drift,  
so very many snowdrops  
tumbled everywhere  
you care to look;  
snowdrops heralding our spring.  
They are so worth the drive.  
*Rob Barber*

## MORE OR LESS



The numbers 1 to 5 should appear in each row and column.

The greater and less signs indicate the relative size of adjacent numbers.

## OGDEN NASH III

### The Pig

The pig, if I am not mistaken,  
Supplies us sausage, ham and bacon.  
Let others say his heart is big -  
I call it stupid of the pig.

### The Turtle

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks  
Which practically conceal its sex.  
I think it clever of the turtle  
In such a fix to be so fertile.

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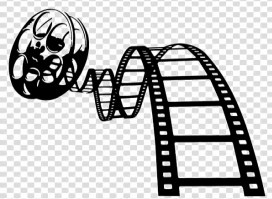
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**STANTON VILLAGE  
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**Friday 8th March at 7:30pm**

**QUARTET (12A)**

**Maggie Smith, Billy Coolly and Michael Gambon**

At a home for retired musicians, the annual concert to celebrate Composer Giuseppe Verdi's birthday is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, an eternal diva and former wife of one of the residents.

**Tickets on the door, adults £5.00—under 17's: £3.00**

**Tea/coffee and refreshments**

**Future films will be shown on the second Friday of each month.**

**Next film is**

**SONG FOR MARION on Friday 12th April**



# SPORTS CLUB REPORT

## Football

The first team thrashed Brantham Athletic 5-1 away despite being down to 10 men for the final 40 minutes of the match. A brace from Charlie Norman and strikes from Ethan Garcia and Charlie Iglesias plus an own goal accounted for our goals. Their next match saw them come from 2-0 down to beat Hadleigh United 3-2 at home. Terrific strikes from Ethan Garcia and Scott Chaplin plus a superb header from Reece Lanchester accounted for our goals. Unfortunately, they then lost their next home game 1-0 at home to Downham Town. Their latest home fixture saw them win 3-0 against Woodbridge Town with all the goals coming in the second half. Only Mckensie-Vince opened the scoring with an excellent finish. Then captain Jack Brame made it 2-0 before Charlie Norman concluded the scoring with a contender for goal of the season.

The under 23s have reached the semi-final stage of the Suffolk Senior Reserves Cup with a 5-1 thrashing of Long Melford. A brace from Tarek Elomri plus strikes from Will Hubbard, Owen Walton Ross and Salvador De Noronha accounted for our goals. Their latest league game saw them thrash Wivenhoe Town 5-1. A brace from Owen Walton Ross and strikes from Harvey Hubbard, Reon Huckvale and Jesse Wyatt accounted for our goals.

The under 18s have lost their last two matches at home to Histon and away to Royston Town respectively.

The Vets have lost their only match of 2024 3-1 away to Coplestonians.

## **Forthcoming Home Fixtures for March.**

### **1st Team**

Sat 2nd v Soham Town Rangers 3pm

Sat 9th v Newmarket Town 3pm

Sat 23rd v Fakenham Town 3pm

Sat 30th v Sheringham Town. 3pm

### **Vets**

Sun 3rd v Hadleigh United 2pm

Sun 17th v Ipswich Vale Exile Reserves 2pm

### **Under 23s**

Tues 5th v Thetford Town 7.45pm

Tues 12th v Lakenheath 7.45pm pm

Sat 16th v Halstead Town. 3pm

Tues 26th v Long Melford 7.45 pm

### **Under 18s**

Thur 7th v Newmarket Town 7.45pm

*Gordon Ross*

## MEN AT WORK?

The Sports Club are looking to start up a Men's Shed which would let like minded people get together, have a coffee and chat and, maybe, do some jobs around the club or get involved in some DIY. It will be driven by people who join so the way it functions will be dictated by what the participants feel is suitable.

The Club is also looking for volunteers who like to work outside with the current team members keeping things neat and tidy; usually on a Tuesday but that is not set in stone.

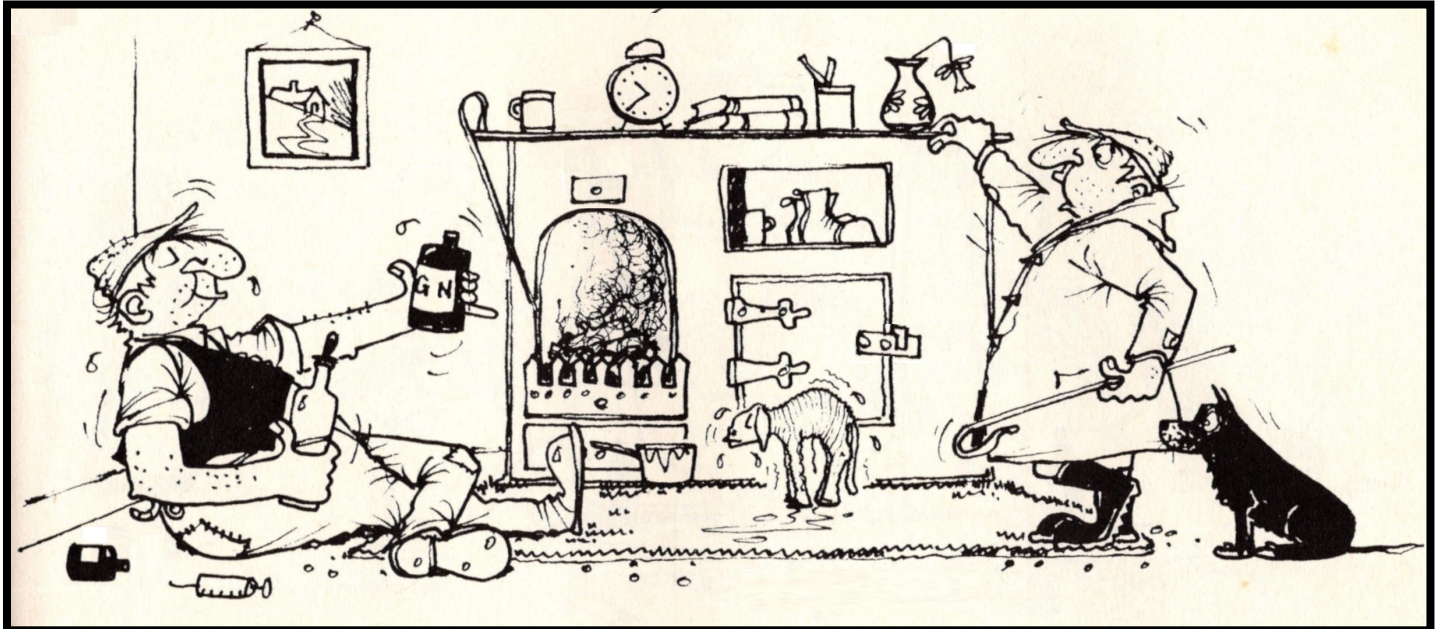
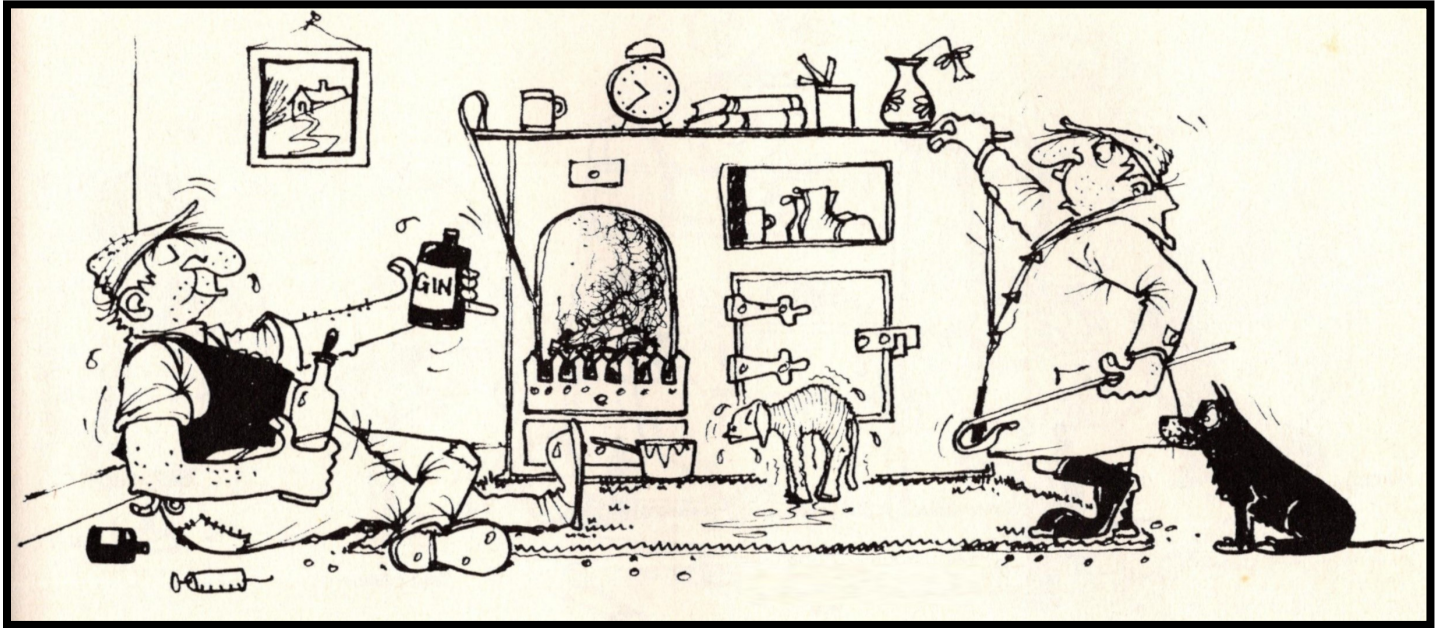
To chat about any of the above please ring **Mike on 07379 089890** or email your interest to **mike.powles@walshamsportsclub.com**

*Mike Powles*





# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



*There are ten differences between these two pictures, see if you can find them all before the poor inebriated soul passes out.*

## TONY FISHER PLUMBING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

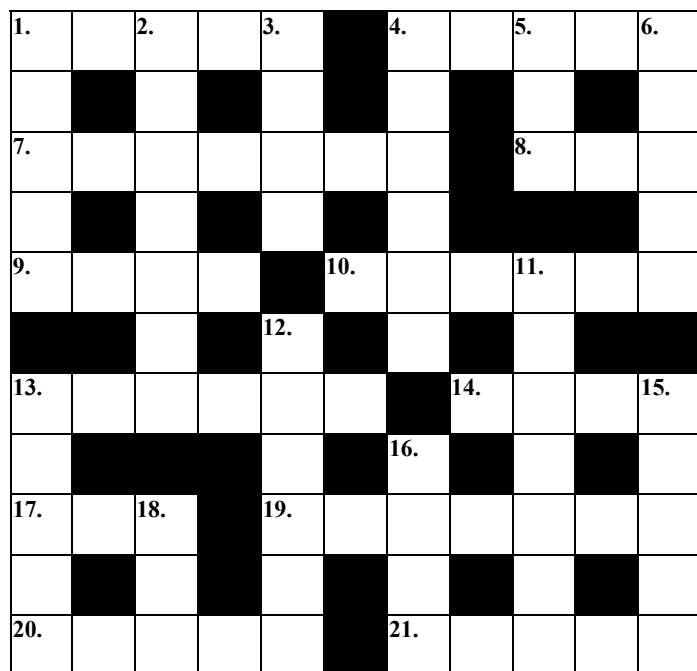
24Hr Emergency Callout    Burst, Leaks, Blockage, etc    Bathroom/shower installation  
Tanks/cylinders/radiators    Tiling floors/ walls    Painting & Decorating  
General DIY jobs    Garden maintenance

Tel: 01359 242556    Mobile 07758 327743

Reliable & friendly service

'Schnozzle' was the nickname of which American entertainer?

# WALSHAM OBSERVER CROSSWORD



10. Wild weather trumps fancy desire. (6)  
 13. Is the sole right obvious? (6)  
 14. Such a gem for Nobby no mates. (4)  
 17. Writer in an impending drama. (3)  
 19. The drug will delight. (7)  
 20. Illumination in the slightest surroundings. (5)  
 21. Guide the bullock. (4)

## DOWN

1. Can it be saved for breakfast. (5)  
 2. Go off on one when straying. (7)  
 3. Headgear for the gangster. (4)  
 4. We spent it yesterday to have the being found. (6)  
 5. Joint found in the illegal shipment. (3)  
 6. Devout worship to spread it about. (5)  
 11. Set back for a substitute. (7)  
 12. Can an insect be made to take part in this activity? (6)  
 13. Sounds almost like a transaction method of the pope. (5)  
 15. This is the level in the player's postscript. (5)  
 16. The God of the Thames for a while. (4)

## ACROSS

1. Quartet finished in Bach collection. (5)  
 4. The true spirit is found in backstreet hostels. (5)  
 7. Assist with a musical group. (7)  
 8. Sounds like the father might be average. (3)  
 9. Require to find the dene altered. (4)



## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The two new dance classes for Mondays are proving a success while all other activities continue in March as usual.

The Community Lunch held on Monday 12th February was well attended and the next one will be held on Monday 11th March. The Thursday coffee morning continues as usual to be well attended. . .

Events during March include our next Picturehouse presentation 'Keeping Mum' on Friday 22nd March after which we shall have a break during the summer months starting again in September.

On Monday 11th March from 6.30pm the Parish Council will hold its annual question time in the Memorial Hall where all are welcome to come along and voice opinions. The Spring litter pick will take place between 16-21 March equipment needed will be handed out on Saturday 16th at the Memorial Hall.

*Rob Matthews*

## REGULAR

### MONDAY

Community Lunch Village Hall  
2nd Monday 12:45pm  
Walking Football Sports Club  
8:00pm till 9:00pm

### TUESDAY

Walking Netball Sports Club  
10:00am till 11:00am  
Pilates Class Village Hall  
1:30pm till 2:30pm  
Walking Football Sports Club  
2:00pm till 3:00pm

### WEDNESDAY

Pilates Classes Village Hall  
9:00am till 10:00am  
10.15am till 11.15am  
Yoga Sports Club  
10:00am till 11:30am  
Positive Steps Sports Club  
11:30am till 12:30pm  
Wednesday Wanders Sports Club  
11:30am till 12:30pm  
Carpet Bowls Sports Club  
2:30pm till 4:00pm  
WI Meeting Priory Room  
7:45pm Second Wed of the Month

## EVENTS

Parish Council Village Hall  
(Public Meeting)

7.00pm Second Wed of the Month

### THURSDAY

Coffee Shop Village Hall  
10:30am till 12.30pm

Post Office Van Village Hall  
11:00am till Noon

Yoga Sports Club  
1:15 pm till 2:15pm

Walking Football Sports Club  
2:00pm till 3:00pm

Pétanque Sports Club  
2.00pm till Bouled Out

Walking Netball Sports Club  
6:00pm till 7:00pm

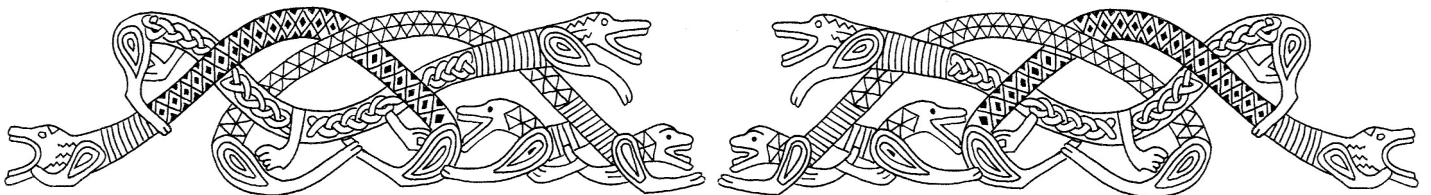
Community Yoga Priory Room  
7:15pm till 9:15pm

### FRIDAY

Cardio Tennis Sports Club  
12noon till 1:00pm

### SATURDAY

### SUNDAY



## OGDEN NASH IV

### Family Court

One would be in less danger  
From the wiles of a stranger  
If one's own kin and kith  
Were more fun to be with.

### Reflection on the Fallibility of Nemesis

He who is ridden with conscience  
Worries about a lot of nonscience  
He without benefits of scruples  
His fun and income soon quadruples.



# ALL THE ANSWERS

## Page Bottom Quiz

1. Muskets, 2. Tina Turner, 3. The Catcher in the Rye, 4. Sri Lanka, 5. Paris,
6. Daphne Du Maurier, 7. The Twist, 8. Plasma, 9. Boston, 10. Erich Honecker,
11. Cassius Marcellus Clay, 12. Capricorn, 13. Puccini, 14. Iraq, 15. Butch Cassidy,
16. Meryl Streep, 17. Geese. 18. Pestilence, War, Famine and Death, 19. Vesuvius,
20. Frans Hals, 21. Lake Geneva, 22. The Ohm, 23. Leo Delibes,
24. Short Take Off & Landing, 25. Women's badminton, 26. Ray Bradbury,
27. Goose, 28. The Red Baron, 29. Adonis, 30. Kuwait, 31. Parmesan,
32. The Everly Brothers, 33. Latin, 34. Nylon, 35. Leon Trotsky, 36. Salisbury,
37. Charlemagne, 38. Croesus, 39. Lillehammer, 40. Lake Ontario, 41. Overture,
42. Palladium, 43. Dr Zhivago, 44. Jimmy Durante, 45. St Helena, 46. Mike Myers,
47. Dionysus, 48. Crete,

### Sudoku

5	6	1	7	9	8	4	3	2
9	3	7	1	2	4	5	6	8
4	8	2	3	5	6	7	1	9
2	7	6	9	1	3	8	5	4
8	5	9	4	6	2	1	7	3
1	4	3	5	8	7	2	9	6
7	1	8	6	4	9	3	2	5
6	2	5	8	3	1	9	4	7
3	6	2	4	9	8	1	5	7

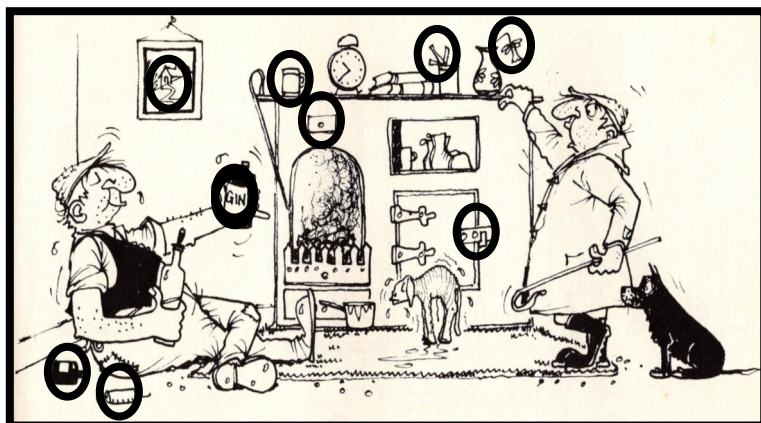
### Crossword

B	A	T	C	H		E	T	H	O	S
A		A		O		N		I		P
C	O	N	S	O	R	T		P	A	R
O		G		D		I				A
N	E	E	D		S	T	O	R	M	Y
		N		I		Y		E		
P	A	T	E	N	T		O	P	A	L
A				C		I		L		A
P	E	N		E	C	S	T	A	S	Y
A		A		S		I		C		E
L	I	G	H	T		S	T	E	E	R

### More or Less

5	3	4	1	2
1	4	3	2	5
3	5	2	4	1
2	1	5	3	4
4	2	1	5	3

### Spot the Difference



### Searching for Words

Art	Ate	Atom	Dare
Dared	Dart	Darted	Date
Dated	Dater	Dead	Dear
Demote	Demoted	Derate	Derated
Deter	Doe	Doer	Dome
Domed	Dot	Dote	Doted
Doter	Ear	Eat	Eater
Emote	Emoted	Era	Eta
Meat	Meet	Met	Meter
Metre	Mode	Moderate	
Mote	Ode	Rat	Rate
Rated	Read	Red	Redo
Ret	Tad	Tar	Tare
Tared	Tea	Tear	Teared
Ted	Tod	Toe	Toed
Tome	Trade	Tread	

**Moderated (63)**

## **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Community Council Secretary**  
**David Murray 01359-258646**

**Police**  
**Suffolk Police 01473-613500**  
**Stowmarket 01473-383400**

**Neighbourhood Watch**

**Surgeries**  
**Ixworth 01359-230252**  
**Stanton 01359-251192**  
**Botesdale 01379-898295**  
**Woolpit 01359-240298**

**Parish Council Chair**  
**Richard Belson 01359-258868**  
**richardbelson@btinternet.com**  
**Parish Council Clerk**  
**Kevin Boardley parishclerk@walsham-le-willows.org**

**Anglian Water**  
**Emergencies (24hr) 08457-145145**  
**Accounts 0800-919155**

**Eastern Electricity 0800-7838838**

**British Telecom**  
**Customer Service 150**  
**Line Faults 151**

**District Councillor**  
**Richard Winch 07931709486**

**County Councillor**  
**Mrs Jessica Flemming 01449-711065**

**Suffolk County Council 03456-066067**

**Member of Parliament**  
**Jo Churchill 0207-2198487**

## **VILLAGE ORGANISATION CONTACTS**

**Allotments Group**  
**Mel Wasley / Debbie Licata**  
**walshamallotments@gmail.com**

**History Group**  
**Frances Jenner 01359-259242**  
**frances.jenner@hotmail.com**

**Horticultural Show**  
**Debbie Licata 01359 259686**  
**debbiewatson2916@gmail.com**

**Sports Club**  
**Mike Powles 07379089890**  
**mike.powles@btconnect.com**

**Walsham Wild Wood**  
**Lorna MacKinnon 01359 259140**  
**mackinnonlorna@gmail.com**

**Women's Institute**  
**Pippa Baxter 01449781757**  
**pippabaxter2@gmail.com**

**Community Yoga**  
**Julia Dunncliffe 07980 476 140**  
**dunncliffej@hotmail.com.**



# **WALSHAM LE WILLOWS VILLAGE HALL**

The Community Council committee  
welcome you to the

**MVH Coffee Shop  
In the Garden and the Hall**

**Open every Thursday**

From a time of 10.30am to 12.30pm

The Post Office van is there

From 11:00am till 12:00pm

**Come and enjoy a chat and  
A cuppa and a bite  
Just for 'a couple of quid.'**