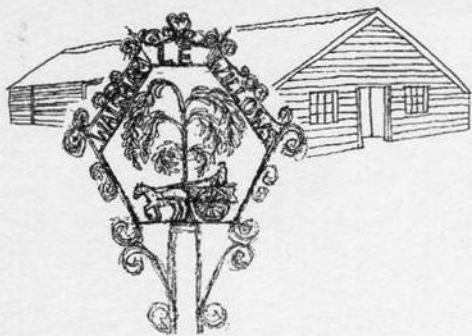


WALSHAM OBSERVER

**History Group Walk
Sunday 26th April
From The Six Bells at 10.30am**



APRIL 2026



Walsham-le-Willows

Memorial Village Hall

Hire Charges for 2026

All Day £150
Hourly £13.50

For Bookings and Enquiries
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(answerphone available)

or email

walshammemorialhall@gmail.com



Automated External DEFfibrillator (AED)

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

APRIL 2026

No 675

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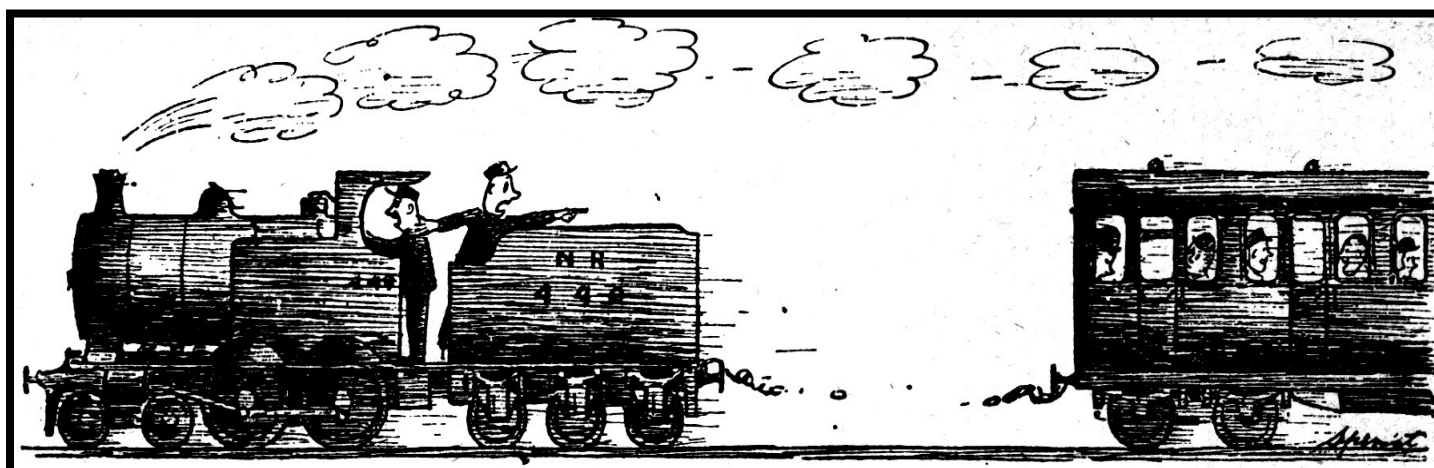
www.walsham-le-willocks.org

Contact telephone number: 01359 258698
(answerphone available)

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CONTENTS

Editorial	2	From St Mary's	29
Emergency Planning	3	April Church Services	30
Memorial Village Hall	3	Wildlife in April	31
Village Primary School	5	Sports Club Mews	33
Citizens Advice	7	More or Less	33
Royal British Legion	9	Bowls Club Report	35
Women's Institute	9	Observer Sudoku	35
Woolpit Health Centre	11	Football Report	37
Walsham History Group	13	Observer Crossword	37
Walsham Wild Woods	15	Congregational Church	38
Community Lunch	15	Spot the Difference	39
Music in St Mary's	17	Left to Right Maze	41
Diary of Events	19	Spring	42
Parish Council Minutes	21	All the Answers	43



THE MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post Office will still be coming to the
Village Hall Car Park on Thursday mornings
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The Priory Room

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John Boulter 07908 010555 johnboulter@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL

Trying to piece together this edition whilst assimilating the news from the Middle East as well as dealing with a self-induced earwig, hoping that things don't move too quickly before I can jot it down has hopefully not led to too many mistakes, either in construction or omissions, but if there are any, please be understanding!!

The first article came to me some days ago, but I trust that the providers have not got an infallible crystal ball and that it was just insuring against rather less earth shattering events.

But to look upon the brighter side, there are a few events taking place this month which I hope will not all pass you by.

By the time that you receive this edition the church **Easter Egg Trail** will be well under way, having started on **27th March and lasting till 12th April** (see page 29), but this should not be confused with the **Wild Woods Easter Trail on Saturday 4th April from 10.00am till 12.30pm.**

For those who would rather look straight ahead than looking downwards there is the delight of the **Music in St Mary's** starting on **Thursday 23rd April 12:30pm**, this month featuring the return of the popular Rococos, with their Feast of Baroque Music.

But before that on, on **Wednesday 15th April, at 7.30pm**, the **History Group** have another talk on **Fashion in the Age of Jane Austen**—almost left the advert out!! They then, not to be outdone by the Easter Trails and Hunts, a **Village Walk** on **Sunday 26th, starting off from The Six Bells at 10.30am.**

Phew!!



WALSHAM History Group
presents



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*A talk by James & Sarah Deering
with replica costumes!*

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL AT 7.30PM

PRIORY ROOM, WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS

Members Free Visitors £5.00 Refreshments

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Emergencies can happen in any form and at any time (day or night). Getting prepared and having a plan in advance means that you can deal with the emergency if it should happen.

A simple thing that you could do now is to write down important phone numbers on a piece of paper such as the number to report a power cut (105) and the numbers of anyone you might want to contact in an emergency.

With this in mind Suffolk Prepared have produced a useful “Household Emergency Plan” template which you will find as a centre page pullout in this month’s Observer.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of community emergency planning then please contact one of the following

Ann Brookes – 01359 259206 - cllr.ann.brookes@walshamlewillows.gov.uk

Ian Bartholomew – 01359 258349 - cllr.ian.bartholomew@walshamlewillows.gov.uk

Walsham le Willows Parish Council



MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

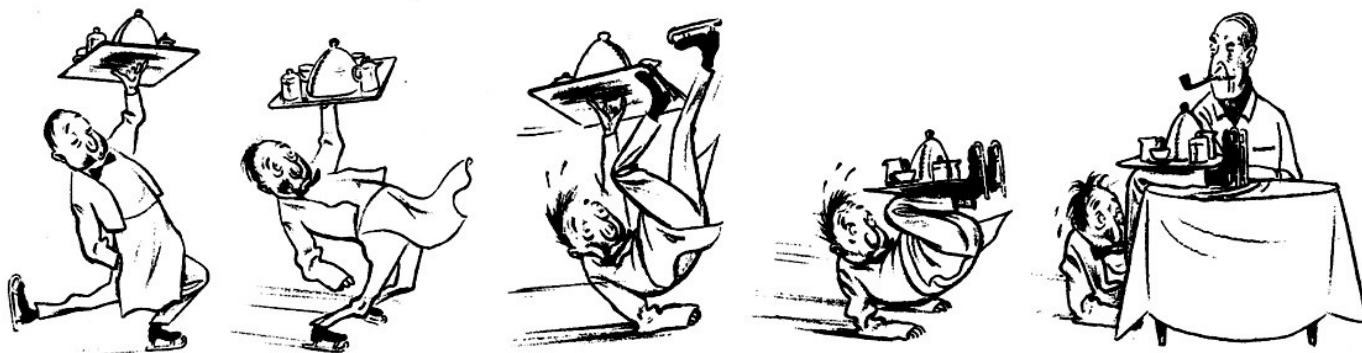
The Picturehouse presentation on Friday 20th March was very well attended with nearly 50 enjoying a supper of 'pie and mash' and the film 'Love Sarah'. We will now take a break for the summer and hope to start up again in the autumn.

With Easter soon to be upon us the start of April should be fairly slow in the Hall however our monthly Community Lunches continue to be a great success and the next is scheduled for Monday 13th April. Also, our regular Thursday coffee mornings seem to be gathering momentum with visitors from far and wide turning up to enjoy coffee, cakes and lunch.

All our regular fitness activities are ongoing during April though some are taking a two-week break covering school holidays over Easter.

All that remains is to wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Rob Matthews



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Which bird flaps its wings fastest?



WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our Masked Reader event for World Book Day was an absolute hit! Staff went to great lengths to disguise themselves with fantastic masks and impressive accents, leaving pupils (and adults!) completely puzzled. Many confident guesses turned out to be wildly wrong, which made the reveal even more exciting.

The game created a real buzz around reading, with everyone eager to listen carefully for clues and work out who was behind each disguise. A special thank you to Mrs Gange for creating the event and making it just like the TV show, which made it even more exciting for everyone involved.

Alongside this, pupils also enjoyed several 'Stop, Drop and Read' moments throughout the day, when everyone paused what they were doing to spend time reading.

Thank you to all the staff who took part and to the pupils who joined in the fun – it was a wonderful way to promote a love of reading across the whole school.

This year's Science Week theme has been curiosity and each class has been investigating, questioning and discovering in different ways. Here is a snapshot of what each class has been doing:

Caterpillars: Designed a moon buggy and explored what food might be able to grow on the moon. They also watched the NFU Education Live Quest and investigated the question, *"How do you train a sheepdog?"*

Ladybirds: Designed a moon buggy and watched the NFU Education Live Quest, exploring the question, *"What do the buttons on a tractor do?"*

Dragonflies: Investigated the question, *"Does toast always land on the buttered side?"* There was certainly a lot of toast made in the staffroom while they tried to find the answer!

Grasshoppers: Created colourful patterns using milk, food colouring and washing-up liquid. They also explored the question, *"Who can make the longest rainbow using a sock, soap and a bottle?"*

Crickets: Investigated how scientists work out the age of a shark. They also designed and made boats, testing how to build them so they could carry as many marbles as possible without sinking.

Our theme for Collective Worship this coming half term is Truthfulness and we will be finding out how important it is to be sincere and not hide the truth.

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 We would love to hear from you!

Maxine McGarr





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I bought a doll for my child recently. I thought it was manufactured by a well-known brand, but I suspect it might be counterfeit. How can I be sure and what are my rights?

You're right to seek advice about this issue, because counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous.

Fake children's toys in particular, including dolls, often don't meet safety standards and can pose choking hazards - poor manufacturing can mean small parts are easily detachable.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off, other times it can be harder to tell.

It's not just toys and games - things like clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can also be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality - like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging, blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try and get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase. If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund.

If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back. To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

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. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.



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STANTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



A coffee morning held during February raised £252.00. We thank all those who supported this event either by attending or by donating raffle prizes or cakes. A £50.00 donation has also been gratefully received.

"C" group will be holding a meeting on Thursday 2nd April at the Pykkerell Inn, Ixworth. It is hoped that representatives from all 7 local branches will attend.

We have arranged to have a car boot sale at the Recreation ground Stanton 8am -12 noon on Saturday 18th April. Cost £5.00 per car. Please contact 01359 251826 to book a pitch.

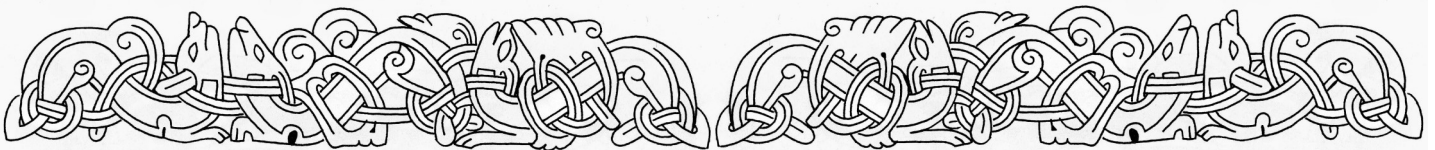
Saturday 25th April the RAF Honington Voluntary Band will be holding a concert in St Mary's church Bury St Edmunds 7.30pm. A retiring collection will be taken.

A date for your diary is Tuesday 26th May when we will be holding a fish and chip evening in the Cock Inn Stanton.

At the time of going to press branch funds totalled £2087.47p

The next branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th April in the Cock Inn Stanton at 8pm.

Hubby Frost



WALSHAM LE WILLOWS AND DISTRICT W.I.



***March: Table Manners, Cutlery and the English Tea Ceremony,
with Catherine Buchanan***

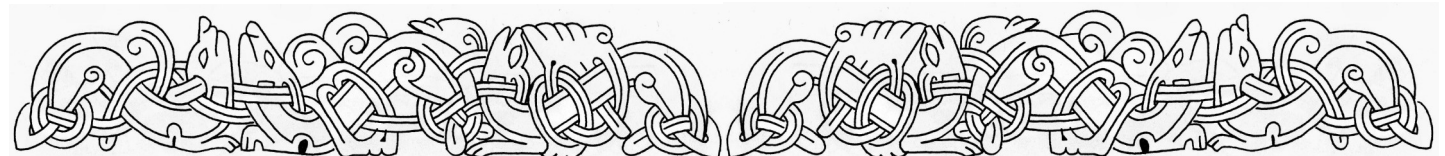
Catherine Buchanan amused members with her excellent talk on the history of cutlery and development of table manners. With a collection of fascinating and weird items of cutlery she lightly gave us many quirky facts. A demonstration of the etiquette of behaviour at a Victorian tea table ended her talk and members had fun trying to work out the use of the many items of cutlery.

April meeting: Introduction to Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language on Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Priory Room.

There will also be a Sales Table of Produce and Plants.

New members are always very welcome to come along and visit.

Judith Harlow





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Which former conservative MP became a liberal Prime Minister?



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NHS COVID Spring Booster Vaccination Programme

As we move into spring, we want to help our patients stay healthy and protected. COVID-19 is still with us, and for those at higher risk, a “booster” dose helps top up your protection.

Who can get the spring booster?

The booster is offered to the following people, who are most likely to get seriously ill from the virus:

- Aged 75 or over (or if you turn 75 by 30 June 2026).
- Living in a care home for older adults.
- Aged 6 months or over with a weakened immune system (for example, due to a health condition or treatment like chemotherapy).

Why should I get the booster?

Protection from previous doses or infections fades over time. Viruses can also change. An extra dose:

- Reduces your risk of getting very poorly.
- Helps you recover faster if you do catch it.
- Reduces the chance of needing to go to hospital.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Programme

From 1 April 2026, the eligibility criteria for this programme will change to allow people aged 80 years and over, and all residents in care homes for older adults, to receive the RSV vaccine on the NHS.

What is RSV?

RSV is a common cause of coughs and colds. Most people get it several times during their life.

It usually gets better by itself, but in some more vulnerable people it can lead to illnesses with serious breathing problems. These may need to be treated in hospital and can be life-threatening.

How to get your vaccinations

The national COVID spring booster programme starts on 13th April and runs through to 30th June.

Woolpit Health Centre has several large clinics planned in April and May.

Eligible patients will either receive an invitation by letter, or a text message with a link to book an appointment.

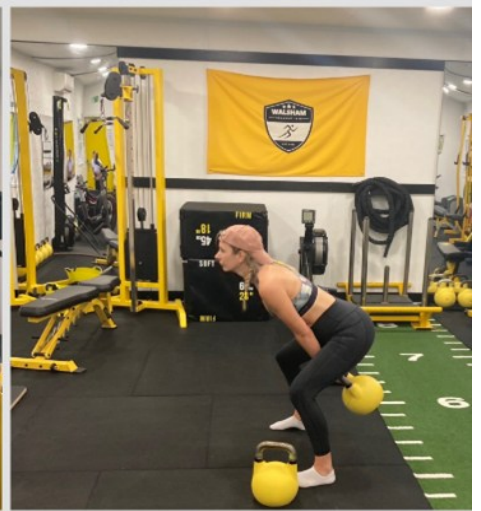
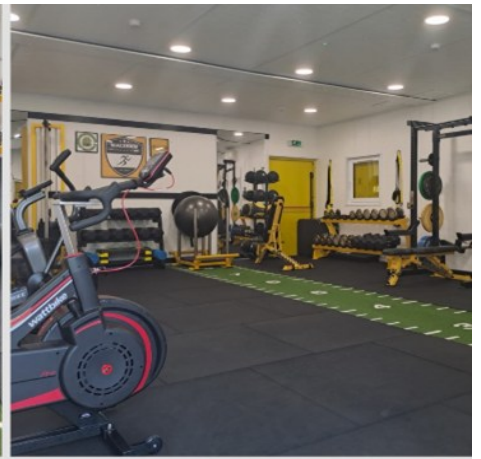
Housebound patients will be notified of their vaccination date by telephone.

Whilst the RSV vaccine can be given all year round, eligible patients will be offered co-administration of the RSV vaccine at their COVID spring booster appointment.





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WALSHAM HISTORY GROUP

The Wardrobe of Mr Darcy and Miss Bennett: Fashion in the age of Jane Austen

If you are a devotee of Jane Austen and all things regency, then this is the talk for you? Did you sigh and swoon at the sight of Colin Firth as Mr Darcy emerging from the lake after a refreshing swim, in the television series of *Pride and Prejudice*? Well, here is your chance to find out more about the type of clothing Mr Darcy and Miss Elizabeth Bennett would have worn, the fashions of the day and what inspired them.

On the 15th April at 7.30pm in the Priory Room we welcome once again James and Sarah Deering, who will be giving us a detailed examination of regency fashion, both men's and women's, using replica clothing and accessories. This is an evening not to be missed.

Membership fees of £15.00 are also due at the April Meeting. We are now able to take payment by card.

Members: free Visitors: £5.00

For further details please contact

*Frances Jenner 01359 259242
frances.jenner@hotmail.com*

Viking Age East Anglia

Our 2026 schedule started with an excellent talk by Dr Richard Hoggett about the Vikings in East Anglia. He traced their rise in influence from the initial landings of their Great Heathen Army on the East Anglian coast in AD 865, the efforts of the Anglo Saxons to make peace with them, to their increasingly violent raiding parties through Mercia and East Anglia. By AD 869 the Vikings were encamped at Thetford for the winter. They killed King Edmund, and "conquered all the land". It must have been a terrifying time for the Anglo-Saxons but gradually they began to integrate and after King Alfred signed the Treaty of Wedmore in 878, what later became England was divided up into Wessex and Mercia in the west, still governed by the Anglo-Saxons and the Danelaw on the east which was under Viking control. This was a political settlement and the Vikings started to settle in East Anglia. Thetford was their main town and scattered amongst the very Anglo-Saxon place-names ending in *ham* and *ton* (e.g. Walsham, Gislegham, Hopton, Beyton) that are so widespread in East Anglia we can still find those of Scandinavian origin ending in *by* and *thorpe* (e.g. Risby, Westhorpe, Ixworth Thorpe).

To find out more about the history of the Anglo-Saxon and the Viking eras in East Anglia you can download for free a recent report.

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<https://www.richard-hoggett.co.uk/files/BreckSoc/River%20Raiders%20Report.pdf>

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WALSHAM WILD WOODS



After what has felt like a very long winter, spring and the promise of warmer, brighter days is finally here!

It is such a joy to see the woodlands slowly coming back to life with new shoots and green leaf buds appearing wherever you look! Our photography competition continues throughout the year with all monthly finalists featured in our 2027 fundraising calendar. Entries are open to old and young alike and can feature nature, landscape, animals (including your pets!) and people - the only condition is that they must be taken in the Woods! So why not grab your camera or phone, head down to the Wild Woods and get snapping!!

We will once again be holding our annual Easter Trail in the woods on Saturday 4th April 10am-12.30pm, with a fun trail for the young and young at heart! As ever, we will be serving delicious Woosters Hot Cross Buns, teas and coffees and a chocolatey treat for the children. There is no need to book the Easter Trail, simply show up and enjoy! Further details will be posted on social media ahead of the event.

Rachel Robinson (Chairperson)
Wild Woods Steering Group
walshamwildwoods@gmail.com
07912 318 886



COMMUNITY LUNCH



Hello everyone, these lighter mornings and evenings make you feel so good. The Memorial Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm on Monday 13th April 2026. Lunch will be Spring Chicken Casserole with herby dumplings, mashed potato and seasonal mixed vegetables served at 1pm, followed by Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble with custard.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Please book a place, at £9.00p, with Shirley on 01359 258532 by 5pm on Thursday 9th April 2026.

Shirley White



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MUSIC IN ST MARY'S



The Music at St Mary's programme for 2026 kicks off on Thursday 23rd April at 12.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome back The Rococos, led by Alistair Cuninghame.

As their name implies, this will be an hour of delightful and relaxing Baroque music from a knowledgeable and entertaining specialist ensemble. Previous visits from The Rococos mean we know what high quality to expect.

As always, entry is free, and there is always the chance to chat to players over a cup of tea following the performance. Put it in your diary!

We are still waiting to confirm dates for recitals later in the year, so watch the Observer for details, or join our mailing list.

Matthew Lockyer



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DIARY OF EVENTS

APRIL					
Saat 4th	Easter Trail	10.00am	Wed 10th	WI Pakenham Water	
	Wild Woods			Mill Visit	Time TBC
Wed 8th	WI Sign Language		Wed 17th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		St Mary's	7.30pm
Wed 15th	History Group		JULY		
	Priory Room	7.30pm	Wed 15th	History Group	
Thur 23rd	Music in St Mary's			Priory Room	7.30pm
	St Mary's	12.30pm	AUGUST		
Sun 26th	History Group Walk		Sat 8th	Horticultural Show	
	Six Bells	10.30am		Village Hall	2.30pm
MAY			Sun 30th	Open Gardens	All
Wed 13th	WI Annual Meeting		Mon 31st	Weekend	Day
	Priory Room	7.30pm	SEPTEMBER		
Wed 20th	History Group		Wed 16th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	7.30pm
Sun 24th	Family Funday		OCTOBER		
	Sports Club	1.00pm	Wed 21st	History Group	
JUNE				Priory Group	7.30pm



THE BENEFICE OF BADWELL & WALSHAM

EASTER EGG TRAIL

EASTER HOLIDAY
27TH MARCH - 12TH APRIL

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WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS
AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY
WORD GAME**

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St Mary's Church, Walsham-le-Willows.

Once you've finished the trail post your form in
the box inside church to receive your prize.



WALSHAM SPORTSCLUB EVENTS FOR

April & May

Sunday Night Bingo

12th and 26th April
10th and 17th May
7pm start

Funday

Sunday 24th May at 1.00pm
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Music from Adam Thomas

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MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

Thursday 23rd April 12:30pm

Rococos

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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 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, Roberts, Tuck and Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: District Cllr. Winch

1. OPENING STATEMENT (if any required) & MEMBER'S APOLOGIES
 - a. Apologies received from Cllr Nick Mecrow. County Cllr. Fleming was also not present.
 - b. No consents required.
2. DECLARATIONS of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests
 - a. No declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda were received.
 - b. No dispensations were needed.
3. MINUTES - To Receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings (as previously circulated)
 - a. Minutes of meeting 11th February 2026 were approved as true and accurate record of the meeting for signature.
 - b. There were no outstanding actions from last meeting that were not in hand.
4. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (POF) – To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance with regard to items on the agenda and any other matters. **Two** members of the public were present.
 - Concerns raised about the increasing parking issues in and around Palmer Street and Staples Close that have hampered access by emergency services, bus and waste collection services, the latter being set to become even more frequent. It was suggested that this might be eased by utilising a section of the grassed areas, owned by MSDC, as parking lay-bys. It was acknowledged that this would not be popular with everyone and that previous suggestions of this sort raised issues with overhead power cables and underground drainage. District Cllr Winch asked if the views of other residents had been sought and was passed some information which showed some support and some opposition. DC Winch will follow up with the residents directly in more detail before taking the issue back to District Council. Highways would of course need to be involved in any proposals that may emerge. It was noted that the Staples Close grassed area is designated as an open green space in the Neighbourhood Plan.
5. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS
 - a. County Councillor Fleming not present and no report received.
 - b. District Councillor Winch
 - Cllr Belson asked if the funds noted as allocated for support with planning, covered modifications to Neighbourhood Plans. DC Winch was able to confirm

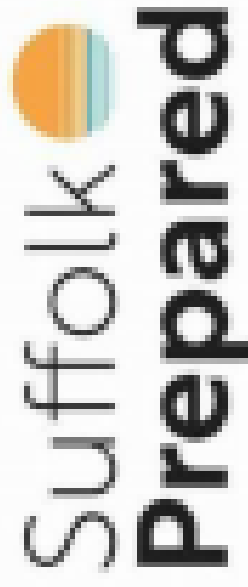
GET PREPARED 'GRAB BAG'

LOCATION OF BAG:

☐	Copy of Household Plan	☐	Battery powered or wind-up torch
☐	Basic Toiletries	☐	Food for babies and children
☐	First Aid Kit	☐	Food for special dietary requirements
☐	Mobile Phone and charger	☐	Canned or dried food, snacks
☐	Medication and details of prescriptions	☐	Bottled water
☐	Hearing Aids, glasses, contact lenses	☐	Pet emergency kit - food, equipment....
☐	Car and house keys	☐	Favourite children's toy or book
☐	Cash, credit cards, important docs	☐	Sleeping bag and spare clothing
☐	Battery powered or wind-up radio	☐	Notepad and pen

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Sign up to receive weather and flood alerts	@suffolkpolice @UKPowerNetworks
Follow local social media accounts	@Suffolk fire @CadentGasLtd
Check Community Facebook page	@suff_highways @AnglianWater
Check local notice boards	@HighwaysEAST @eswater



HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergencies can affect anyone anywhere with little or no notice. Being prepared can help reduce the impact on your lives and enable you to recover more quickly.

If you believe you may be in danger, in most cases the advice is **GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN**.

If there is any risk to life, call 999

Complete the following sections and keep it in a safe place where everyone in your household knows where they can easily find it.
(Can be adapted to suit your household's requirements)

HOUSEHOLD CONTACT DETAILS

Name		Name		
Mobile		Mobile		
Work		Work		

Name		Name	
Mobile		Mobile	
Work		Work	

GET PREPARED CHECKLIST

☐	If you are evacuated is there somewhere you can go? Friends, family?	
☐	If you can't contact each other, where should you meet/or who should you leave a message with?	
☐	If you are unable to collect children from school, who will do this?	
☐	If you are unable to take pets with you, who can accommodate/look after them?	
☐	If you are unable to collect medication/prescription/supplies, who can do this for you?	
☐	If you had to turn off water, gas, electricity or oil – where and how would you do this?	

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Organisation/Person	Contact Number	Organisation/Person	Contact Number
Work		Emergency Services	999
Doctor		Non-emergency Police	101
School(s)		NHS	111
Vel		UK Power Networks	105
House Insurance		Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Pet Insurance		Anglian Water	03457 145 145
Vehicle Insurance		Essex and Suffolk Water	08457 820 999
Council (social care, benefits, housing etc)		Suffolk Highways	0345 606 6171

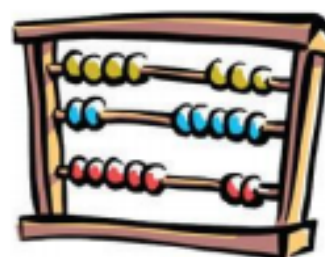
Tips:

- Keep grab bag in a safe place (everyone in household should know where it is)
- Make sure grab bag is practical and easy to carry
- Check the grab bag regularly to make sure it is appropriate for each season
- Check perishable items are still in date
- Visit [Suffolk Prepared website](#) for further information/advice



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that it does.

6. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS & ACTION LOG REVIEWS

a. **Traffic Group** - To note report and proposals:

P1 - That to prevent delays the Parish Council fund the traffic calming measures and locality funding be utilised after May 11th to support footbridge restoration on permissive paths. This was approved. Signage for the gates was considered. The name can be accommodated on narrower gates on either two or three lines (as on the Ixworth Road or Badwell approaches). Clerk will wait until gates in place before ordering.

b. **CEP Group** - no report received for publication with agenda.

- i. Cllr Brookes noted a good response from Observer ad for more volunteers.
- ii. Proposed a WhatsApp group specifically for those properties liable to potential flooding. Residents can be invited to join and share their telephone numbers for this purpose. This was agreed.
- iii. Master copy for the CEP to be reviewed and will be prepared for April meeting.

c. **Flood Mitigation Group** – no report received for publication with agenda.

- i. Clerk noted that stream timber defences had now been replaced. It will be checked to see if these have been bolted to one another to prevent them lifting in the event of another flood.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, LICENCING, ENFORCEMENT & RELATED MATTERS

a. Modifications to neighbourhood plan considered. DC Winch will gather more information on the sites put forward with regard to maximum units each could accommodate and will clarify if any resident consultation process is required in order for the Parish Council to put forward any particular site.

b. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/26/00710 Proposal: Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area - 1. Dismantle eucalyptus which is in danger of collapse due to rotting stump. 2. Reduce height of plum tree, ensuring health and continued harvest 3. Trim Yew Tree into a topiary ball 4. Reduce self-set Pussy Willow Location: Hillcrest, The Causeway, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AB **The Parish Council Made No Comment**

c. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/00809 Proposal: Householder Application - Installation of an Oil Storage Tank and external boiler to rear. Erection of trellis fence to side Location: White House, The Street, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AA **The Parish Council Made No Comment**

8. PLANNING OUTCOMES (decided by Mid Suffolk District Council, Planning Authority – to be noted)

a. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/26/00200 Proposal: Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 3 low side lateral limbs by 2.5 - 3 m. on neighbouring hornbeam tree Number on sketch plan TQRQM20619130338631 Location: The Beeches, Grove Road, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AD **MSDC Raised No Objection**

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- b. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/26/00010 Proposal: Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Reduce 2 low lateral limbs on 1 No. Beech (T1) by 2.5 - 3 metres Location: Beech Cottage, The Street, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AA - **MSDC Raised No Objection**
 - c. APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DETERMINATION - DC/26/00398 Proposal: Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A - Erection of General Purpose Agricultural Building for the storage of Hay Straw and farm machinery Location: Walsham Town Farm, West Hall Road, Walsham le Willows, Diss Suffolk IP22 1LY **MSDC Determined That No Prior Approval Was Required**
 - d. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/00232 & associated Listed Building Consent DC/26/00233 Proposal: Householder Planning Application - External alterations to reinstate external door on north elevation. Alterations to existing internal door and window on west elevation (now within the garden room) to form 2no. glazed internal French doors. To rear utility wing, new external door in former window opening and replacement of window and existing door. Location: Maltings House, The Street, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ **Listed Building Consent Was Granted**
- 9 FINANCE & AUDIT & COUNCIL ADMIN
- a. Bank reconciliation for period ending 28th February 2026 for was approved and signed.
 - b. Accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices for payment were approved and signed. (Appendix 1).
 - c. Footpath bridge repairs costs were considered, and it was decided to offer financial assistance to the landowner for this purpose. Grant funding application will be made to district Locality Budget for the new financial year but will now be delayed until May 11th due to the restrictions imposed by SCC local elections that will now be held in 2026 on the usual cycle.
 - d. Policy and Procedure reviews for the year, including the New 'Standing Orders 2025 Update', tailored by the Clerk, were approved. All references to sub-committees to be retained.
 - e. Cllr Bartholomew proposed that Council may wish to separate out Play Area on risk register as with the Closed Churchyard. Clerk to forward a draft for review.
 - f. Meeting by Cllrs Belson and Winch, with representatives of the Parochial Church Council with regard to closed churchyard maintenance costs was discussed. The PCC although unable to provide any funding were able to offer support in other ways. Clerk to draft a proposal based on current tasks completed which will then be considered by Cllr. J Winch and the Clerk before finalising and discussion with the PCC.
10. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere)
- a. Clerk's action log – nothing outstanding that is not in hand.
 - b. Agenda item with regard to Annual Question Time (AQT) included in error –

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this is for April meeting. The running order and approach for the AQT meeting to be held on 25th March, was discussed and agreed. It was decided that at the AQT would present what is known at this stage about the ‘call for sites’ by MSDC, and once more information has been gathered on the process going forward, a dedicated meeting will be held to consult with residents.

- c. Email correspondence between residents regarding the use of Avenue (from Grove Road) for works access was noted.
- d. Clerk proposed that before appraisal in April/May that contract of employment was brought up to date. It was decided that this was not necessary. It was agreed that one of the two councillors conducting the appraisal which be rotated each year so that all councillors are involved in this. Cllr IB and JW to complete again this year.
- e. Report from Cllr Brookes’ assessing play area maintenance required for the annual working party was discussed and agreed.

11 OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN/NOTE FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a. Cllr Brookes advised councillors of incident of indecent exposure that was reported to her. Police are aware and assisting the resident who witnessed this. Clerk to ensure that PC Gedney is aware.
- b. Cllr. Bartholomew noted the unwelcome increase in incidents of fly-tipping in the Memorial Hall car park the perpetrators having been recorded on CCTV.
- c. CEP volunteers Desktop Exercise - 13th March 2026 2-4pm – Memorial Hall
- d. Annual Meeting of the Parish (Annual Question Time) – 25th March 2026 from 7.30pm – Memorial Hall
- e. Next Parish Council monthly meeting - 8th April 2026 7pm – Memorial Hall

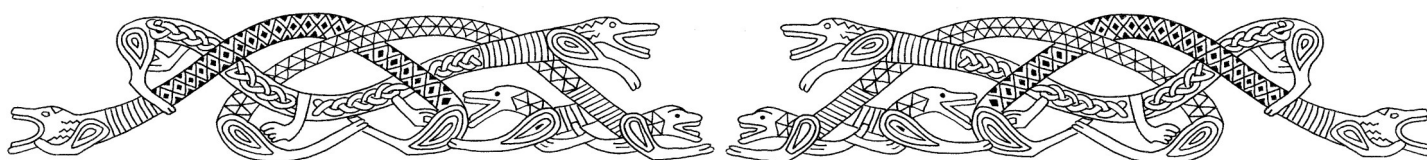
Meeting Close @ 20:50

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation MARCH 2026

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Memorial Hall	£27.00	Hall Hire monthly meeting
2	Nurture Landscapes	£223.25	January – grass cutting stream and play area
3	Parish Council Employee	£1,166.48	Remuneration
4	<i>Unity Trust Bank</i>	<i>£7.00</i>	<i>DDR Monthly Service Charge</i>
5	<i>Scribe Accounts</i>	<i>£37.20</i>	<i>DDR Monthly Subscription (March)</i>
6	<i>Scribe Accounts</i>	<i>£37.20</i>	<i>DDR Monthly Subscription (February)</i>
	TOTAL	£1,498.13	

Each invoice is scrutinised and signed in the meeting by two bank signatories before approval for online authorisation.





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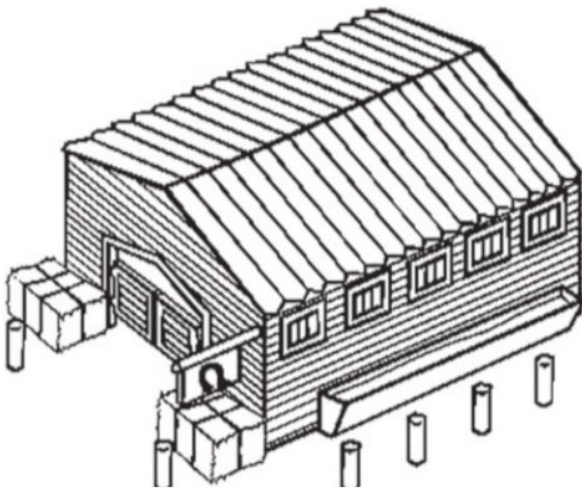


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FROM ST MARY'S

After what has felt like a long, grey, and wet winter, we might have wondered if spring was ever going to arrive at all. And then, almost suddenly, it arrives with bright blue skies, lighter evenings, and the first signs of colour and life returning all around us. The change lifts the spirit, bringing with it a sense of joy and the reassuring feeling that brighter days really are ahead.

Easter comes at just the right moment, echoing this same sense of hope and renewal. It is a celebration of new life, fresh beginnings, and the promise that light follows even the darkest times. In a world that can sometimes feel uncertain, the Easter message reminds us that hope is never lost, it is simply waiting to break through, just like spring itself.

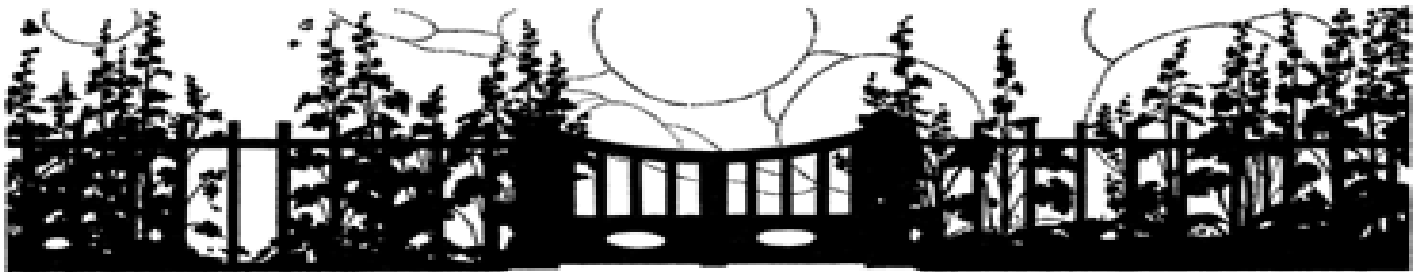
At the heart of Easter is the story of Jesus, whose death and resurrection bring a message of profound hope for us all. It speaks of love that is stronger than suffering, forgiveness that is freely given, and the promise of new life beyond what we can see. For Christians, this is the foundation of faith that through what Jesus has done, we are offered hope, renewal, and the chance to begin again, no matter our past.

You are warmly invited to join us for our Easter services in Walsham and across the benefice. Whether you are a regular member of the congregation or simply curious, you will receive a genuine and friendly welcome. Together, through prayer, music, and fellowship, we will celebrate the joy of Easter and the renewal it brings.

Wherever you may be this Easter, may your days be filled with hope, fresh starts, and the simple happiness that comes with spring bursting into life all around us.

With every blessing,

Revd Catriona



GORDON SCARFE

Jill and family would like to thank all the lovely people who sent cards flowers, messages and offers of transport, at the passing of Gordon. They have been such a comfort.

Thank you so much and God Bless you all.

APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Service	Church
29th March	Palm Sunday	
9.30am	Holy Communion	Finningham
2nd April	Maundy Thursday	
6.00pm	Reflective Communion	Baswell Ash
3rd April	Good Friday	
5.30pm	Evening Prayer	Walsham
5th April	Easter Sunday	
9:30am	Easter Service	Langham
9:30am	Easter Service	Westhorpe
11:00am	Easter Service	Walsham
12th April	2nd Sunday of Easter	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe
11:00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham
19th April	3rd Sunday of Easter	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Finningham
26th April	4th Sunday of Easter	
9:30am	Holy Communion	Badwell Ash
11:00am	Holy Communion	Wattisfield
6:00pm	Evensong	Westhorpe
3rd May	5th Sunday of Easter	
8:00am	BCP Holy Communion	Walsham
9:30am	Holy Communion	Langham
10:00am	Roots & Shoots	Walsham
11:00am	Family Service	Walsham
5:00pm	Songs of Praise	Finningham



ST MARY'S REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

With regret I am unable to do the Remembrance Poppies any more. The hard work that everyone put in was amazing. However they are very tired and the sheer volume is just too much. Maybe someone will have an Idea as we have so many talented people in Walsham .

Diana Turner

WILDLIFE IN APRIL

The weather is warming and Spring is here once more. Activity in the garden is increasing and one insect you may see fluttering by is the Brimstone Butterfly, which is one of our earliest to appear. Warm days stir it out of hibernation back in March and into April flying over gardens and along woodland areas and meadows looking for early flowers to feed from. While the male is a bright buttery yellow, the female is pale green but both look remarkably like leaves when at rest, which proves a useful camouflage from birds. Unlike many UK butterfly species, Brimstone numbers are stable and it has even increased its range northwards in recent years, potentially due to climate change. Brimstone caterpillars feed on Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn leaves and the next generation emerges in August.

An insect you will instantly know by the buzzing it creates is the Bee. One species you may see is the Tree Bumblebee. This species of Bumblebee is relatively new to the UK, first identified just over a decade ago in Wiltshire, arriving from mainland Europe. They have become more abundant throughout the country due to the installation of bird boxes which create an ideal nests for these Spring pollinators. They are easily identifiable by their tawny, black and white banding, quite different from the bright yellow of your traditional Garden bee.

Where do these insects look for their early nectar source? Tiny, frosty white flowers cover our hedgerows and are an important early source of nectar for bees and other insects. As the insects forage, they pollinate the flowers and by autumn these will have developed into tiny plum like fruits that we call sloes. The Blackthorn, as its name suggests, fiercely protects its wares with sharp spines up to 3cm long, sloe hunters beware. Blackthorn leaves are feasted on through the summer by a number of Butterfly and Moth caterpillars, including black and brown Hairstreaks.

There is an interesting Beetle you will find in the undergrowth or in our plants. There are four species of Oil Beetle found in the UK. Black, Violet, Rugged and Short-Necked. They are flightless Beetles which release oily secretions when distressed. Despite their name, the black and violet Oil beetles may have a black, blue or purple shine to their abdomen, identifiable only by the texture of their thorax. A female can be identifiable by her enormous abdomen which swells when she eats or is ready to lay eggs. These stunning insects have a one of the most complex life cycles of the insect world After hatching in the soil, the larvae of Oil Beetles must quickly find a food source, pollen being the preferred choice. Larvae position themselves in a spring flower, awaiting a Mining Bee to catch a ride on. They are then transported back to the nest where they munch their way into adulthood, before emerging with the other hatchlings to start the whole cycle again.

Angie Bennington



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SPORTS CLUB NEWS

As Spring is on its way and everything will look fresh and new I thought it might be time for a Sports Club update.

Starting with the Bowls Club pavilion which has had an external spruce up, including the benches. Inside the kitchen has been ripped out, including two walls. An open plan new kitchen has been installed and it looks very modern and clean with the new flooring. A great improvement! If you want to view it or try bowls please ring Trevor on 07768 124715. He will be pleased to hear from you.

The main football pitch has had the old Metal Halide lights replaced with new state of the art LED that should reduce electrical costs and help reduce our carbon footprint.

The LED video wall and audio, both inside and outside the pavilion, are up and running. A great asset that is already in use advertising events and showing the football score. How nice will it be seeing England's teams sweeping all before them in cricket and football, during various World Cups, on the big screen whilst sitting out in the sun.

The club extension, to give a new additional internal bar as well as an outside bar, is on order and due April/May to enhance the experience of using the club. This will make the club ideal for parties etc as the function room will have its own bar and can be private if required.

The gym extension is on order to make a fitness room and that will be an early summer addition, so not long to wait now.

One other small addition is a small shop we are making to sell ice creams, sweets and some club merchandise. The ice creams sound lovely on a hot summer's day (fingers crossed).

If you would like to pop down to see what is going on, please do call me on 07379 089890 as the club is there for everyone to use.

Mike Powles



MORE OR LESS

< <

∨

∧

2 < 4

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

< >

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

∧

∨

∨

∨

< 4

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BOWLS CLUB REPORT

We begin this month's update with a review of our successful Club Presentation night held recently at Thornham Horseshoes which saw several members and guests enjoy some fine food before Chairman Trevor Pollard introduced guest of honour Keith (Kipper) Crabbe who brought his unique sense of humour to the proceedings with various tales that kept everyone entertained with more than a few in attendance getting a mention!

The evening concluded with the Club competition winners from the 2025 season receiving their awards with recipients as follows:

	Winner	Runner-up
Men's 4 Wood	Adie Cole	Neil Bassett
Men's 2 Wood	Neil Bassett	Rob Matthews
Ladies 4 Wood	Angela Whiting	Margo Moore
Ladies 2 Wood	Angela Whiting	Sheila Mehl
Mace Handicap	Neil Bassett	Rob Matthews
Open Pairs	Winners Adie Cole & Ian Simpson Runners-up Rob Matthews & Margaret Hawes	
Open Triples –	Winners: Ian Toulson, Angela Whiting & Adie Cole Runners-up: Brian Randall, Sheila Mehl & Trevor Pollard.	

The previously postponed match between Walsham FC and Fakenham went ahead as planned on Feb 24th with several Bowls Club members in attendance as we were match sponsors and after a hard fought 1-1 draw it was decided to award the MOM award to Ethan Deeks.

The on-going work going to get everything ready for the new season continues with work on the Green about to enter a very busy period with the aim to open the Green by Mid-April so hopefully the weather will be on our side over the next few weeks.

There will be a full update in the next edition on previously mentioned Club sponsorship and the planned Social Roll-ups which would hopefully start toward the end of April.

We had a successful registration morning recently with a good number signing up for this season but for anyone else who would still like to join please contact either of the following:

Adie Cole - Treasurer email adiecole35@gmail.com Mobile: 07908 170238
 Angela Whiting - Secretary email angelawhiting5@gmail.com Mobile: 07498 283503

Carpet Bowls continues Wednesdays at the Sports Club with a 2pm start.

Adie Cole

WALSHAM OBSERVER SUDOKU

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

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!

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FOOTBALL REPORT

The First Team are still looking for their first win of 2026. The season has been scuppered by injuries to key players. The month has seen us lose at home to Heacham, for the first time ever, Ely and Mulbarton, whilst we managed to get a draw at home to Thetford Town.

The Under 23s haven't played a game this month and the Under 18s lost heavily at home to Felixstowe, but put in a much better performance at Needham Market despite losing 5 -2.

The Vets lost 3-0 at home to Ipswich Wanderers

Home fixtures for April

Sat 11th April v Haverhill Rovers.3pm

Come and vote for your player of the year.

Saturday 18th Under 23s v Woodbridge Town 3pm

Thursday 9th Under 18s v Needham market. 7.45 pm

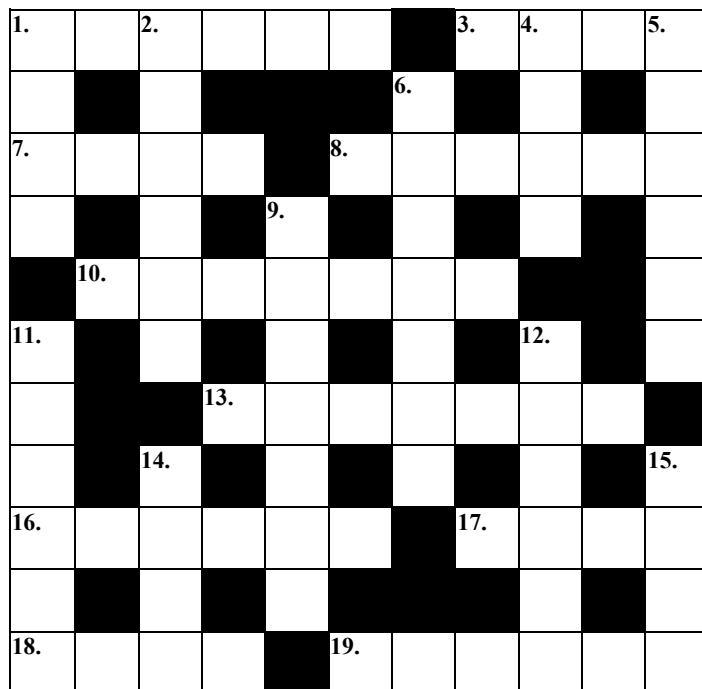
Thursday 30th Under 18s v Leiston 7.45pm

Sunday 19th Vets v Old Newton 2pm

Gordon Ross



OBSERVER CROSSWORD



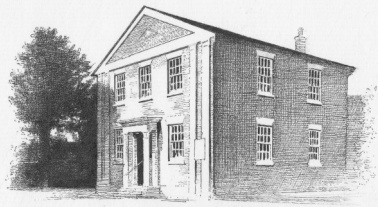
8. Write an article about a drink. (6)
 10. It's secret that the pirate will move around five. (7)
 13. It's really a serious force! (7)
 16. Just the game for on board ship. (6)
 17. Grumble about a change in Oman. (4)
 18. Sounds like a genuine dance. (4)
 19. The drapes can be made to go so wide. (6)

Down

1. It will indicate that one's getting tired. (4)
 2. The drinkers produce a poster. (6)
 4. Just the headgear for Robin. (4)
 5. This is the right snake for Monty. (6)
 6. Five set out to make it jolly. (7)
 9. Does it mean to be par? (7)
 11. Such a flower for the old car. (6)
 12. To caress the cox's nearest. (6)
 14. Feel the loss of a tree. (4)
 15. Arrange to have a meal with Miss Blyton. (4)

Across

1. Work out that it's six foot under. (6)
 3. He appears in the first chapter of the Bible. (4)
 7. My pals arranged to go to the mountains. (4)



Walsham Congregational Church

The Street, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk. IP31 3AZ
Church Secretary (John Landymore) 01359 - 258986

Easter Meetings 2026

Services are at 7.30pm each evening of Easter week

(Monday 30th March – Friday 3rd April)

&

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 the last 70 years and, if you have never been, why not join with us this year?

**As usual, we look forward to the ministry of guest preachers from
across the United Kingdom:**

Mon/Tues	Rev David McMillan	(Armagh Free Presbyterian Church)
Wednesday	Pastor Pooyan Mehrshaih	(Providence Chapel, Cheltenham)
Thursday	Rev Malcolm Watts	(Emmanuel Church, Salisbury)
Friday	Pastor Jonathan Davey	(Evington Chapel, Leicester)
Easter Sunday	Rev Stephen Holland	(Westhoughton, 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 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, Grace, and Forgiveness that can give us Peace with God.

**So then, faith cometh by hearing,
and hearing by the word of God.**
(Romans 10:17)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



There are ten differences between these two pictures, see if you can find them all before Grandma storms into the shop!

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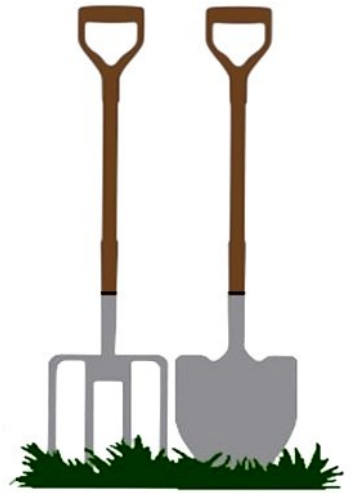
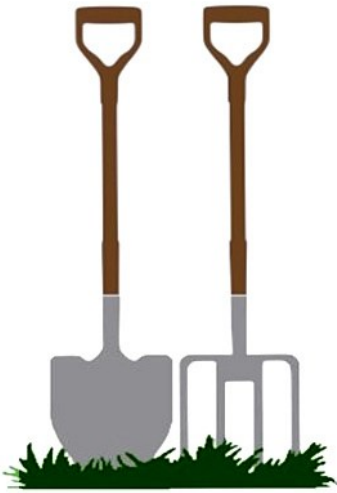
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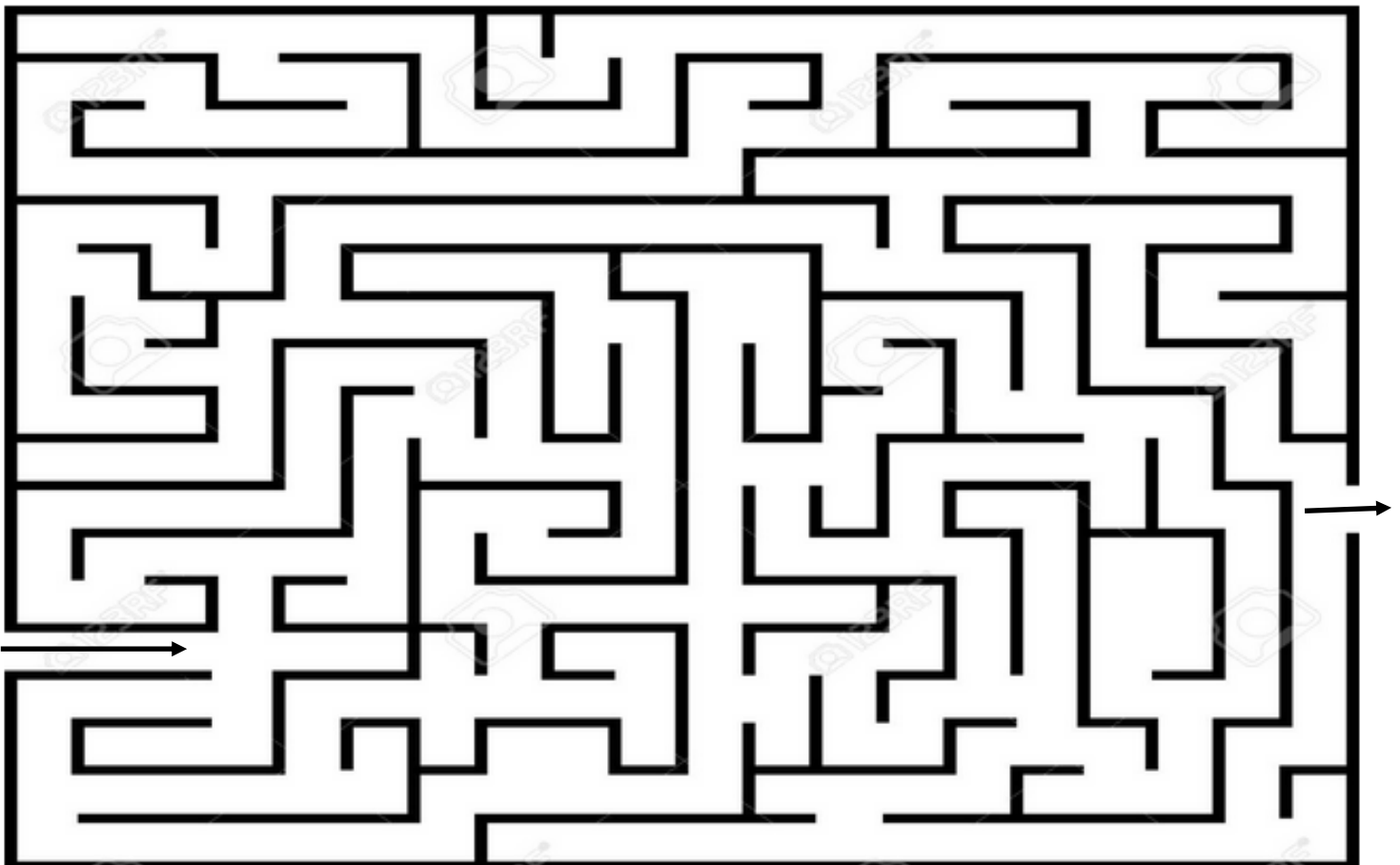
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LEFT RIGHT MAZE



REGULAR

MONDAY

Community Lunch Village Hall
2nd Monday 12:45pm
Simply Hatha Yoga Priory Room
7:30pm till 8:45pm
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
7:30pm Second Wed of the Month
Parish Council Village Hall
(Public Meeting)
7.00pm Second Wed of the Month

EVENTS

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

FRIDAY

Cardio Tennis Sports Club
12noon till 1:00pm

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

SPRING

Buds on the trees
Warmth in the breeze
To birdsong
I awaken.

I thought this might
Inspire a poem
But I was quite
Mistaken

ALL THE ANSWERS

Page Bottom Quiz

1. Albatross, 2. Five, 3. Westminster Abbey, 4. Humming bird, 5. Dorset,
6. An airship, 7. The white, 8. Great Britain, 9. Stall, 10. Gladstone, 11. Twelve,
12. Alcohol, 13. Islam, 14. Hyde Park, 15. The Ostrich, 16. The Pennines, 17. Stalin,
18. Red, 19. Boy Scouts, 20. Ultraviolet, 21. The farthing, 22. West,
23. Supermac, 24. Crane, 25. Sir Stafford Cripps, 26. Robert Browning, 27. The bat,
28. Alderney, 29. Salome, 30. Cliff Richard, 31. The ear, 32. Carnaby Street,
33. The Kinks, 34. Cancer, 35. The peacock, 36. Spain & France,
37. Porsche Spyder, 38. A shoe, 39. Pygia, 40. Sea areas, 41. 1940s, 42. Clothes,
43. Rasputin, 44. Hiccup, 45. Portmerion, 46. A tie, 47. France, 48. Jake LaMotta,
49. Poland, 50. Rice

Sudoku

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

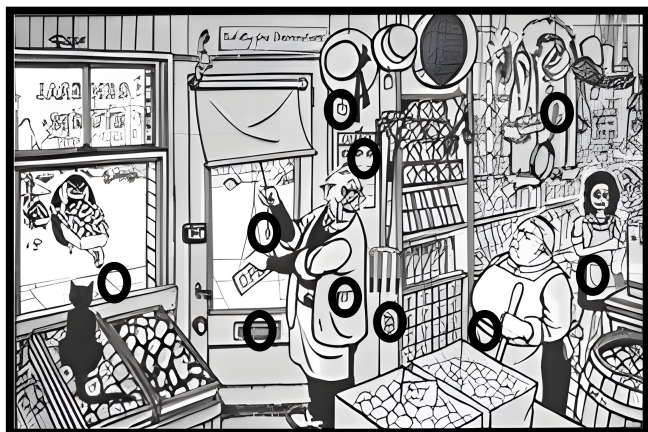
Crossword

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

More or Less

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

Spot the Difference



Searching for Words

Abed	Ado	Ale	All	Aloe
Alone	Bad	Bade	Bale	Baled
Ball	Balled	Balloon	Bead	Bed
Bell	Ben	Bend	Dab	Dale
Deal	Deb	Dell	Den	Doe
Dole	Doll	Don	Done	Eon
End	Lab	Label	Lad	Lade
Laden	Lea	Lead	Led	Lend
Lode	Lone	Loo	Loon	Nod
Node	Noel	Ode	One	

Ballooned (50)

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County Councillor
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Suffolk County Council 03456-066067

Member of Parliament
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adrian@waveneyvalley.greenparty.org.uk

VILLAGE ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Allotments Group
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walshamallotments@gmail.com

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

Horticultural Show
Debbie Licata 01359 259686
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Sports Club
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