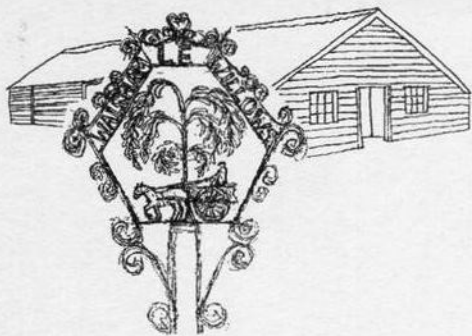


WALSHAM OBSERVER



MARCH 2026



Walsham-le-Willows

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THE WALSHAM OBSERVER

MARCH 2026

No 674

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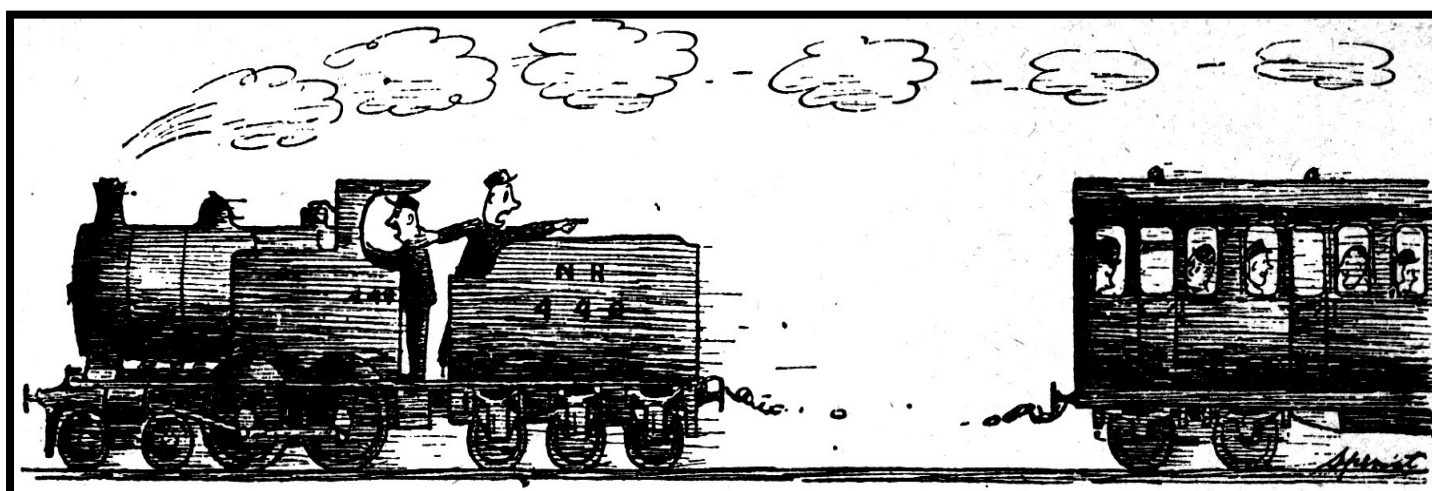
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THE MOBILE POST OFFICE

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EDITORIAL

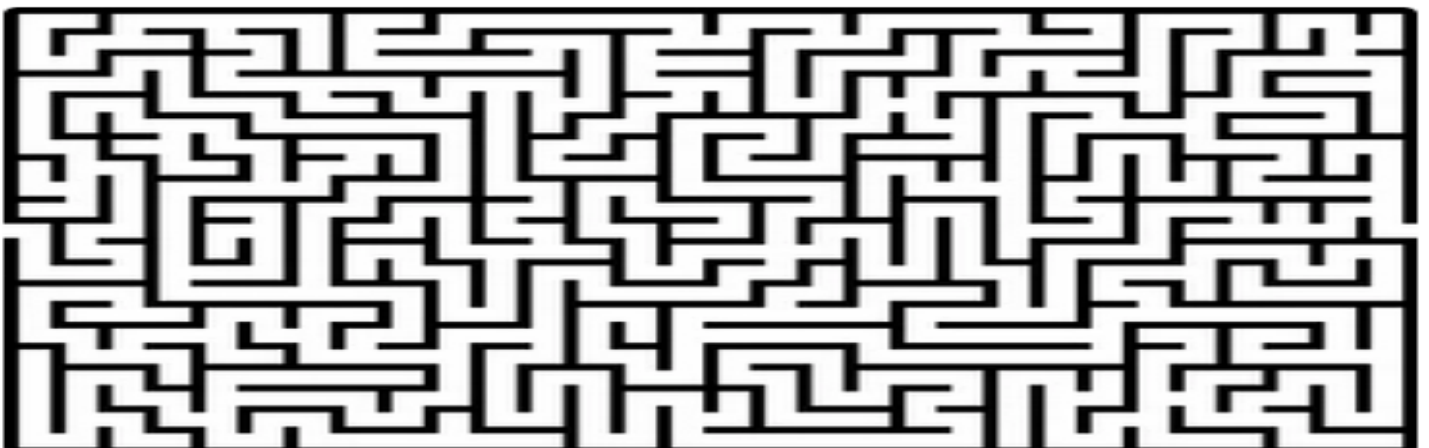
Like many others, during the past two weeks, we have been fascinated by the Olympics spending quite a few hours in front of the television watching the accident-defying antics of the Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Aerials and Big Air. How long do the contestants spend honing their jumps before they actually have the confidence to try them over the solid snow surface. It was amazing to see so few serious accidents. There was also the considerably less dangerous competition of curling. By the end we had just about got the hang of it - understanding what the 'hammer' was. I just wondered how good the participants are at snooker, since there was much to do with oblique impact in the sport. Some people may wonder what has happened to the aging Nissan that provided our occasional motorised transport. Let's just say that it was ferried away recently, and we are now trying to get to grips with a slightly wider automatic; both still groping for the gear-shift. Still we're getting there, as we are, slowly, adjusting to other advances in technology - had thought of using a new desktop publishing program to produce this issue, but have yet to see its advantage. Maybe with a little more familiarity I will make the transfer!!

So there you have the news on how life is developing for your editor, and are wondering how such a halfwit can produce the village's magazine!

But down to the business of assisting you in finding entertainment in the village for this month. Firstly there is a golden opportunity for the 'gamblers' to exercise their 'skill' of defying the odds at the green baize, when the **Sports Club** are holding a **Poker Night on Saturday 7th at 7.00pm**. The **History Group** are coming out of winter hibernation with their first meeting of the year, on Wednesday 18th, when the delayed talk about **The Vikings** will be taking place, in **The Priory Room at 7.30pm**, as well as their **AGM**. **Walsham Picturhouse** are showing **Love Sarah on Friday 20th 6.30pm in the Village Hall**. Do have a look at **page 18** to find full details, including menu. The next day, **Saturday 21st**, the **Sports Club** are back in action with their popular **Irish Night 7.00pm**. For full details have a look at **page 20** and the Sports Club website.

If by this time in the month you feel that you might have had enough, the **Parish Council** are holding their **Question Time meeting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th**. If you are at all interested in finding out what might be happening in, and around, the village in the not too distant future do make every effort to attend. There is the inducement of refreshments!

So there you have it; the ridiculous to the sublime, and then back to the ridiculous below.!!



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers play a vital role in preparing for and responding to emergency events. Volunteering not only supports immediate needs but also promotes a culture of shared preparedness and helps build a stronger, more resilient community. As we continue to face natural and man-made emergencies, such as flooding, severe weather and wildfires, the role of volunteers remains indispensable.

To date we have recruited 43 volunteers from across the village. This network of volunteers is ready to undertake various practical roles to support our community before, during and following an emergency.

This year we are hoping to recruit more volunteers for the following roles:

- **Rest Centre Volunteers**, who receive training to help set up and run a rest centre, a safe space for residents who have been evacuated from their homes.
- **Monitoring Volunteers**, who observe and monitor events in their location. They are the “eyes on the ground” providing information and updates on the ongoing emergency across the village.
- **Volunteers with Specialist Skills and Resources**, who have professional skills and equipment, such as tree surgeons and 4x4 response vehicles.

Volunteers receive training, information and support to ensure they feel confident and competent. We also have a volunteer WhatsApp group, keeping us connected so that we can respond quickly and stay updated.

If you would like further information or you are interested in becoming part of our village volunteer network and want to make a real difference when it matters most, please contact us by emailing:

cllr.ann.brookes@walshamlewillows.gov.uk

cllr.ian.bartholomew@walshamlewillows.gov.uk

Walsham le Willows Parish Council



MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

After a quiet January the February Community Lunch saw nearly 40 attend which was a record number and proved yet again how important this monthly event is to our community. The next one is scheduled for Monday 9th March. Add to this the success of our regular Thursday coffee mornings which continue to be very well attended and enjoyed by all.

All our regular fitness activities were ongoing during February though some were interrupted by the half term break.

The next Picturehouse presentation takes place on Friday 20th March and the film will be 'Love Sarah' and the menu will be 'pie and mash' with a vegetarian option, tickets available to pre-book at the MVH coffee mornings.

Memorial Village Hall village hall garden - Gordon our volunteer gardener who has done a wonderful job with the garden over the last few years is retiring in August so we are looking for a replacement so if you have any interest please contact any member of the committee.

Rob Matthews

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WALSHAM –LE-WILLOWS

CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

This half term will see us celebrating World Book Day, Science Week and Red Nose Day. Pupils were pleased to welcome Adrian Ramsay to our school this week. He spoke to the children about his role as a Member of Parliament, explaining how he represents local people and works in Parliament to make decisions and improve communities. The children asked a range of thoughtful and confident questions and it was a valuable opportunity for pupils to see how their voices and ideas matter in the wider community.

Our theme for Collective Worship this half term is 'Hope' and we will be exploring what this means to us all as well as learning about Lent.

The children in Caterpillar class will be looking at 'What Happens When I Fall Asleep?' and exploring nocturnal animals and writing information text about their discoveries. They will also research the moon and planets as well as write bedtime stories.

Those in Ladybirds are focusing on 'Moon Zoom' and will be reading the story 'Beegu'; they will then look at character descriptions of aliens and write about Helen Sharman who was the first UK astronaut. In science they will look at the properties of everyday materials.

The topic for children this half term is 'Heroes and Villains' where they will read fairy tales with alternative features, find out about countries and cities of the UK and explore good deeds that changed the world in history.

Grasshoppers have been finding out about 'Dynamic Dynasties' and made and cooked spring rolls as part of their DT cookery lesson. In art, they have fine-tuned their calligraphy skills and have been learning about Hinduism, exploring key beliefs, important festivals, and how Hindus live out their faith in daily life.

The children in Cricket Class are continuing to learn about how people lived in the Victorian era and the differences between those who were more affluent than others. In maths. they will be learning about ratio, decimals, fractions, and the links between decimals and percentages.

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

SEARCHING FOR WORDS

O	V	N
R	E	E
T	A	K

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 come past.

Get 50 words and you are doing well.



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CITIZENS ADVICE

My council tax bill is due in March, and I'm dreading it as it seems to rise every year. My income hasn't increased, but everything else costs more, leaving very little left over. I'm worried about how I'll cope if my payments go up again.

Many people are feeling the same pressure as bills increase. You're not alone, and importantly, support is available.

Some people are entitled to council tax discounts depending on their circumstances. Your bill may already include an automatic reduction, or you can contact your local council to check if you qualify.

If you're the only adult living in your home, you should receive a 25% single person discount. When councils calculate how many people live in a property, certain people are not counted. These are known as "disregarded people" and include under-18s, student nurses, apprentices, and others. You can find the full list on the government website: www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay.

If someone has recently moved out, it's important to tell your council, as this could change your eligibility. Any discount you're entitled to can be backdated to the date they moved out, even if you inform the council later.

If you're on a low income, you may qualify for a Council Tax Reduction. This applies whether you're working or receiving benefits, although having other adults living with you can affect how much support you get. Only one person in the household needs to apply. The council will assess your income and circumstances and issue an updated bill if you're eligible. You can apply via www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount.

Extra support may also be available if you've reached State Pension age. The rules differ depending on whether you or your partner receive certain benefits such as Universal Credit, income-related ESA or pension credits. Details are available at www.gov.uk/state-pension-age.

Even if none of these apply, councils can sometimes reduce or cancel council tax through a discretionary reduction if you're experiencing severe financial hardship. This is available even if your immigration status restricts access to public funds.

Council tax is a priority bill, so it's important to stay in contact with your council if you're struggling. Citizens Advice can help you explore your options and find a way forward, without judgement, and alongside you every step of the way.

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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At Woolpit Health Centre we are proud to operate a 'total triage' model. Every patient access request, whether online, telephone or walk-in, is clinically assessed and triaged by our 'on the day' GP team. A senior GP mentor who is always available to guide clinical decisions.

Requests are prioritised based on their level of urgency, then assigned to the healthcare professional best suited to meet individual needs. This may result in an urgent or routine call or appointment or self-care/signpost to other services.

In the 12 months since we switched our online request service to Anima, we have received over 45,000 requests, an average of 175 per day (Monday – Friday). Approximately one third of these requests are completed by our reception team on behalf of patients who telephone or walk-in.

Andi, our new Virtual Care Navigator!

On Thursday 5th February 2026 we launched a new automated system called Andi, designed to help improve how we manage patient requests and phone calls.

Andi is a Virtual Care Navigator and has been created by the same team behind Anima. We will be trialling over the next 3 months.

What is Virtual Care Navigation?

When you call the surgery, instead of waiting in a queue, you can speak to Andi, who will ask you questions, take down your request and send it to the triage team for review.

Benefits for Patients

- No need to wait in a call queue.
- A quick and easy way to submit your request.
- Fast and efficient triage.

Benefits for the Health Centre

- Frees up staff time to focus on patient care.
- Helps us manage requests fairly and efficiently.
- Reduces waiting times and phone line pressure.

A quick note: Andi isn't a robotic sounding voice – he sounds quite natural! This may feel a little unusual at first, but we encourage you to give it a try.

Woolpit Health Centre

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Hello to you all. What a lovely day it is, hopefully we'll see more of the sun as we move into March and Spring.

The Memorial Village Hall will be open from 12.30pm on Monday 9th March 2026. Lunch will be Chicken Curry and Rice with Naan bread, Onion bhajee, Vegetable samosa and Mango chutney served at 1pm. There will be a choice of Curry, either a mild Korma or a medium Tikka Masala followed by Lemon Meringue Pie.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

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To most of his clients,
He wasn't the Wizard he was.

What is revealed at low tide in Melos in the Wirral?



WALSHAM LE WILLOWS AND DISTRICT W.I.



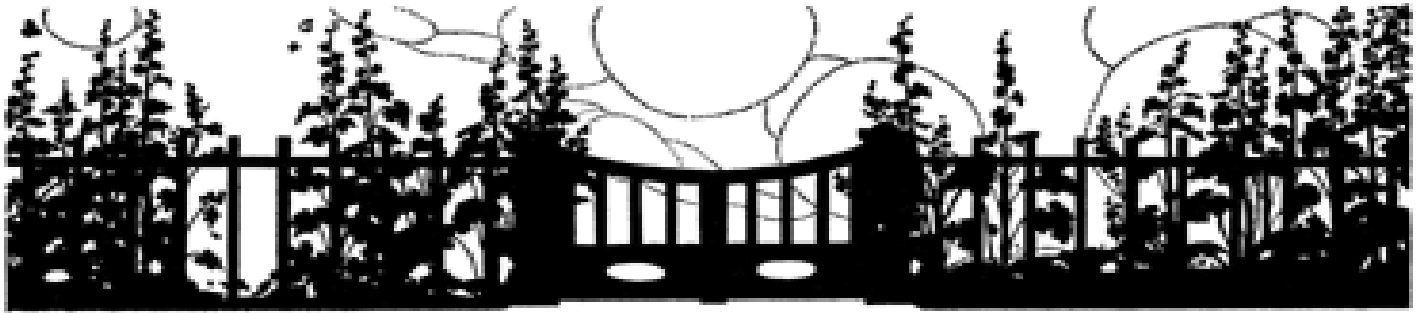
February: A Journey with Glass, with Michelle Russell

Members had a very interesting talk at the February meeting from Michelle Russell about her hobby of glass decorating. A four-day course led to her being totally hooked on glass, so voluntary redundancy from her job was happily received and she could pursue her hobby full time. Michelle demonstrated the three main techniques of working with coloured glass: leadwork, copper foil and glass fused in a kiln. She also gave us a brief history of stained glass in English churches and cathedrals. (Kimbolton in Cambridgeshire has the only Tiffany stained glass window in England.) Items made by Michelle were offered for sale, then members' time was followed by a quiz and a raffle.

March meeting: The History of Food, and the Great English Tea Ceremony on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Priory Room.

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

Judith Harlow



STANTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



I wish to thank Pat and her helpers at Walsham sports club for recently allowing me to hold a raffle at a bingo evening and to all those who kindly donated prizes. As a result, £201.00 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

The county AGM was at the Community Centre in Needham Market on Saturday 31st January 2026. After many years at this venue the decision was taken to hold future meetings in Elmswell. community centre.

We held a coffee morning on Saturday 21st February 2026 at the church rooms in Stanton. There will be a full report of this event in the April edition of the observer.

A date for your diary is Tuesday 26 May. The branch will be holding a fish and chip supper in the Cock inn Stanton.

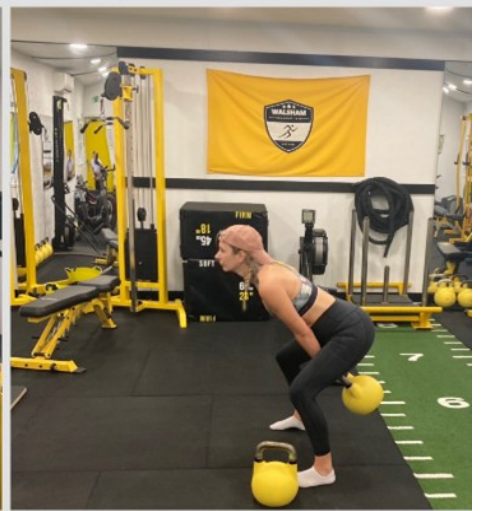
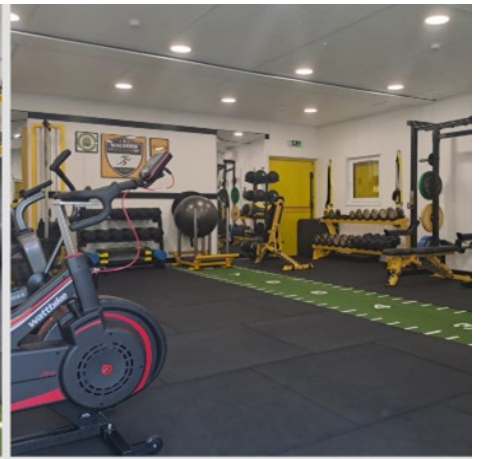
At the time of going to press branch funds totalled £1588.25p

The next branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March in the Cock Inn Stanton at 8pm.

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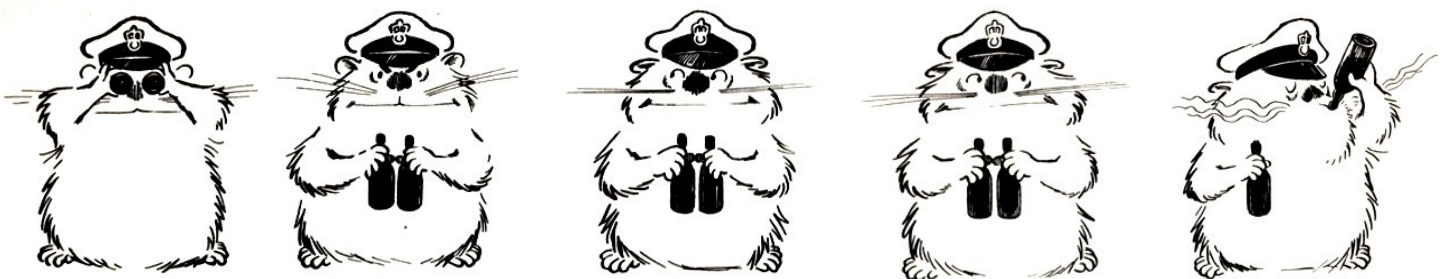
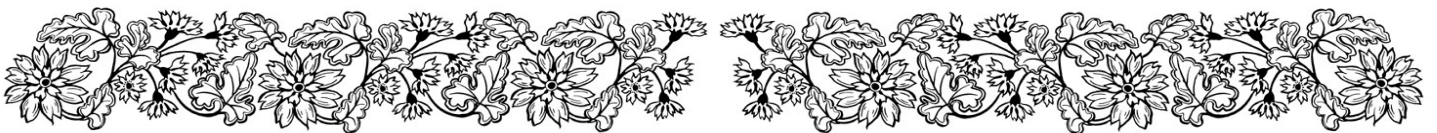
HIGHLIGHTS OF DAMP DARK FEBRUARY

The dark mornings, the constant rain, the squelchy mud and the depressing news all made February, this year, seem endless and something to get through rather than enjoy but we did have two highlights worth recording in the pages of the Observer:

Our Pop Up Curry evening on Saturday the 7th was a total joy to be a part of. The food was great of course, the company exceptional but the highlight was the brilliant and charming Kate Elliot, the head gardener at Columbine Hall in Stowupland, as she recounted her life with pictures and in words that left us spellbound. Her modesty, her knowledge and her determination shone through as we learnt how, starting as a naïve sixteen-year-old, she was given the chance to shape and build a garden over a thirty-year period that will be an inspiration in all for years to come. Well worth a visit if you get the chance and if you get a chance to meet the wonderful Kate then that would be an absolute bonus. They have an open day in aid of St Elizabeth's Hospice on the 26th of April or check out their website at www.columbinehall.co.uk

Then on Friday the 13th we were honoured to have Adrian Ramsay our Green Party MP visit the wood and we were able to show him around and tell him how our lovely community woodland came into being and how it too will be an inspiration for years to come. Adrian, with help from Evelyn and Lacey from the school, planted one of two rare Black Poplars that we have been fortunate to get a hold of. One of the great rarities of the arboreal landscape is the (genuine) Black Poplar. This is a product of a rather strange sex-imbalance which makes reproduction very difficult, and having wood which is very useful, so trees have been felled. To help overcome this problem, and the possible disappearance of the species from East Anglia, a group of volunteers from the Suffolk Tree Wardens Network have been propagating new stock by taking cuttings from proven Suffolk trees, (it all involves DNA testing). Some of these cuttings are now ready for planting, and we have been very fortunate to get two 1m high plants and they are now set in the ground against the ditch running along the western side of the Jubilee Wood, one at each corner. These trees will eventually reach to a height of 30m and live for 200 years and we hope they will be a further inspiration to Evelyn and Lacey and their school friends as they all grow up together in our lovely community.

*John Stebbing secretary to the Walsham Wild Woods group
john@architectatwork.co.uk*



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WALSHAM HISTORY GROUP

March Talk: Viking Age East Anglia

Walsham History Group talks return once again on Wednesday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Priory Room. Hopefully, it will also bring us kinder weather and hosts of golden daffodils for our delight.

Our first speaker of the year is Dr Richard Hoggett, historian, author and heritage consultant. I know that many of you were disappointed when we had to cancel his talk last November, but he kindly offered to re-schedule. His talk on 'Viking Age East Anglia' will explore the evidence of the Viking presence in East Anglia, from the invasion of the Great Heathen Army along with the martyrdom of St Edmund.

For 2026 we are presenting a programme of nine talks on a range of diverse subjects, both local and from a wider historical context. This year, our talks will include the 'The Sutton Hoo Burial Ship Reconstruction' currently taking place in Woodbridge and explore Regency era fashion, including clothing worn by Jane Austen's characters Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. We will also be holding our usual Spring Walk on Sunday 27th April, when weather permitting, we invite you all to join us for a ramble through our delightful countryside.

Our forthcoming meeting is also our Annual General Meeting (AGM), however, we always endeavour to keep it very short. The existing committee will all be standing for re-election, but there are only five of us and there is always more to be done than we have the capacity for, if we are to ensure that the rich and varied history of Walsham le Willows is preserved for the benefit of future generations. If you would like to join us and stand for election and then please contact me at frances.jenner@hotmail.com or on 01359 259242. You will be most welcome. You don't have to be good at history. As a committee we need members with different skills and talents, so please consider joining us.

If you have never been to a History Group talk then why not come along and see for yourself? We have around 80 members and are a thriving village group with attendees from Walsham and surrounding villages. You don't have to be member as visitors are always welcome. We serve refreshments and as someone said to me recently, 'It's great value for money and a good evening out'.

We hope there will be something to suit all interests in our forthcoming programme, which this year includes some highly respected returning speakers, such as Sarah Doig and Adrian Tindall. If you would like further information on our forthcoming talks then please see the programme in this edition of the Walsham Observer or look on the Walsham Village website www.walsham-le-willows.org under the 'History' section, or look out for our bright yellow posters around the village advertising our forthcoming events.

Annual subscriptions will be due at our April meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.

For further details please contact

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



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DIARY OF EVENTS

MARCH			JUNE		
Sat 7th	Poker Night		Wed 10th	WI Pakenham Water	
	Sports Club	7.00pm		Mill Visit	Time TBC
Wed 11th	W.I. History of Food		Wed 17th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		St Mary's	7.30pm
Wed 18th	History Group		JULY		
	Priory Room	7.30pm	Wed 15th	History Group	
Fri 20th	Love Sarah (Film)			Priory Room	7.30pm
	Village Hall	6.30pm	AUGUST		
Sat 21st	Irish Night		Sat 8th	Horticultural Show	
	Sports Club	7.00pm		Village Hall	2.30pm
Wed 25th	Parish Council Questions		Sun 30th	Open Gardens	All
	Village Hall	7.30pm	Mon 31st	Weekend	Day
APRIL			SEPTEMBER		
Wed 8th	WI Sign Language		Wed 16th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	7.30pm
Wed 15th	History Group		OCTOBER		
	Priory Room	7.30pm	Wed 21st	History Group	
Sun 26th	History Group Walk			Priory Group	7.30pm
	Six Bells	10.30am	NOVEMBER		
MAY			Wed 18th	History Group	
Wed 13th	WI Annual Meeting			Priory Room	7.30pm
	Priory Room	7.30pm	DECEMBER		
Wed 20th	History Group		Tue 8th	History Group	
	Priory Room	7.30pm		Priory Room	7.30pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Tue 10th March
9am till 10.30am

TEA AND TOAST TUESDAYS
IN THE PRIORY ROOM

Roots and Shoots

Sun 1st March
10am till 11am

For more information please contact Revd Catriona on 07525920307
or revcatrionabrinkley@outlook.com

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A Walsham Memorial Village Hall Event

Friday 20th March - Doors open at 6.30 pm

Supper served at 7.00 pm - Full paying bar available throughout the evening

A cinema evening with supper

Menu - Pie and Mash
(and vegetarian option)*

Ice cream tubs also available at £1.00 (all proceeds to Charity)

Tickets in advance from the Community Council Thursday Coffee Shop (pre-book)
£12.50 per head to include meal and film
(card payments accepted)

* please advise any food allergies at point of booking



WALSHAM History Group
presents



VIKING EAST ANGLIA

Dr Richard Hoggett

Also our AGM

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH AT 7.30PM

PRIORY ROOM, WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS

Members Free Visitors £5.00 Refreshments

By what name was Samuel Clemence better known?

WALSHAM LE WILLOWS VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

Programme of Events 2026

Date	Talk/Event	Speaker
Wed 18 th March 7.30pm Priory Room	Viking Age East Anglia: explores the evidence for the Viking presence in East Anglia, from the invasion of the Great Heathen Army and the martyrdom of King Edmund.	Dr Richard Hoggett Historian, author and Heritage Consultant
Wed 15 th April at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Wardrobe of Mr Darcy and Miss Bennet, fashion in the age of Jane Austen: a detailed examination of regency fashion, both men's and women's, using replica clothing and accessories.	James and Sarah Deering
Sun 26 th April 10.30am	Spring Walk – meet at the Six Bells	Walsham History Group
Wed 20 th May at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Sutton Hoo Burial Ship Reconstruction: find out more about this amazing project to build a working replica of the 7 th century burial ship.	The Sutton Hoo Ship's Company
Wed 17 th June at 7.30pm St Mary's Church	A Brief History of Piping and Pipers of the Great War: find out how the pipes work, where they came from and how they were used to such great effect! With demonstration.	Doug Grant
Wed 15 th July at 7.30pm Priory Room	Suffolk on the Home Front: the effect of WW1 on the county's people.	Sarah Doig Historian and author
Sun 25 th and Mon 26 th Aug	Walsham Open Gardens - no meeting	
Wed 16 th Sept at 7.30pm Priory Room	Victorian Rural Women: reveals stories of grit, determination and grinding poverty endured by these almost invisible women	Charlotte Paton Historian and author
Wed 21 st Oct at 7.30pm Priory Room	Shardlake's Norwich and Kett's Rebellion: celebrating the Norwich of CJ Sansom's best-selling novel Tombland and looking at the story of Kett's Rebellion in the summer of 1549.	Paul Dickson Historian
Wed 18 th Nov at 7.30pm Priory Room	An Extraordinary Man: explores the life of Walter Guinness, Lord Moyne of Bury St Edmunds	Adrian Tindall Historian and author
Tues 8 th Dec at 7.30pm Priory Room	The Tudor House Revolution: how dwellings of the period evolved and what present day medieval houses would have looked like in their original form.	John Walker Historian

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





WALSHAM SPORTS CLUB EVENTS FOR March & April

Sunday Night Bingo

1st, 15th and 29th March
12th and 26th April
7pm start

Poker Night

7pm Saturday 7th March
Cash Prizes to be won
£20 per person
£10 rebuys until 9pm.



Irish Night

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7pm Saturday 21st March
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WALSHAM LE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 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, Mecrow, Roberts, Tuck and Winch.

ALSO PRESENT: County Cllr. Fleming; District Cllr. Winch

1. OPENING STATEMENT (if any required) & MEMBER'S APOLOGIES
 - a. No apologies received.
 - 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 14th January 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. No members of the public were present.
5. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS FOR INFORMATION & QUESTIONS
 - a. County Councillor Fleming
 - County Cllr Fleming advised that government funding for public transport in Suffolk is confirmed for three years. This funding will enable the continuation and expansion of new services introduced over the past two years, her understanding being that the 73 bus service will continue. It was advised that Bardwell bus group were active regarding the continuation of funds previously granted for the 70 and 73 routes. District Cllr. Winch advised that Great Ashfield are bidding for money for a bus and that all bids will be considered on merit. County Cllr. Fleming to check with Joanna Spicer.
 - County Cllr. Fleming advised that a decision on transfer to a unitary authority is due to be made by March with structural changes to abolish the existing County and District councils expected by July. By autumn of 2026 the necessary orders will take effect to allow the establishment of the new unitary authorities, pushing shadow elections to May 2027. The two administrative authorities will work as shadow authorities until the mayoral election which is expected to take place in 2028. Adult social care and public health will be regional responsibilities.



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- Cllr. Fleming noted the hearings for the Norwich to Tilbury energy supply development have commenced and the significant impact on land use with regard to ecology, battery storage sites and solar farm capacity.

b. District Councillor Winch

- Cllr Winch was asked about the delay to the new bus shelter to be provided by SCC and reported that it had gone out to contract and that a survey was being undertaken regarding concerns from the contractors about the impact of tree roots from the closed churchyard on the installation.
- Cllr Winch also advised that there is a delay by SCC contractors with upgrading of the footpath between the Wild Wood and the Sports Club as weather has to be dry. But the section next to the Wild Wood was due to be done. The contractors are being pressed for a commencement date.
- Cllr Mecrow noted that he thought that the statement about sewage sludge contaminants approved by MSDC and reported by DC Winch in his report, made sweeping generalisations. He will follow up outside the meeting.
- Cllr. Belson enquired about DC/25/01874 - Outline Planning Application – DC Winch advised that the planning authority is waiting for highways to confirm a date for site visit which will be advised to the PC 2 weeks before the planning committee meeting.

6. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS & ACTION LOG REVIEWS

a. **Traffic Group** - Report noted and proposals considered as follows:

- i. **P1** - That the PC continues to press ahead with our speed reduction application as an individual parish. It was clarified that the slight amendment to include the extension of the 20mph limit on Wattisfield Road would not slow the process and that to try to include anything else at this stage might be risky with regard to the outcome of the proposal as a whole. Therefore, the proposal was approved with the slight amendment as per the map updated by Highways and no further additions.

(Cllr. J. Winch noted a recent approach from the national 20's Plenty project inviting joint working on progressing calming proposals but that it was thought that engaging with this now might delay progress on our own proposals which are just about to go the highways authority for approval).

P2 – That the PC request the landowner on the west of Summer Road to cut back hedging to facilitate village gate and improved signage. This could be extended to include all field frontage to reinstate the verge. It was agreed that in the first instance the Clerk would write to the contractor to confirm that they could undertake this as part of the village gate installation works.

P3 - That the PC prepare to seek funding from County Cllr Fleming or District Cllr Winch for the new financial year (2026/27) for Summer Road measures. This was approved but payment to SCC and scheduling of the work was delayed slightly until the funding has been secured.

P4 - That the PC make an application to Gardens Weekend for signage for new gates with name of village on one side and possibly reference to a 'village of gardens' on the other. It was decided instead to ask for funding for a new speed indicator device that will be needed as part of the project.

b. **Community Emergency Plan Group (CEP)**

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There was no report but Cllr Brooks noted that the time of the meeting for the desktop exercise on 13th March in the Memorial Hall from 13:30 and is expected to last approximately 2 hours.

- c. **Flood Mitigation Group** – Cllr Winch proposed that timing/make up of any future Landowner Flood Mitigation Group catch up is discussed and agreed upon. It was decided that this may need a bit more time and might be best done in August/September when landowners who are progressing plans for mitigation measures have had time to do so. Cllrs. Belson and Mecrow to speak with landowners known to be progressing mitigation measures.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, LICENCING, ENFORCEMENT & RELATED MATTERS

- a. Neighbourhood Plan Review (NP) - standing item

The PC will be informed of sites put forward for consideration to MSDC.

- b. 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 **The Parish Council Had No Objection**

- c. 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 **The Parish Council Supported This Application**

- d. APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/00536 Proposal: Householder Application - Two storey side and rear extensions to dwelling Location: 16 Palmer Street, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3BZ **THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO COMMENT**

- e. APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREE(S) IN A CONSERVATION AREA - DC/26/00491 Proposal: Application for works to tree in a Conservation Area - T26 / T27 T34 Limes 10m re-pollard back to previous pollarding line Location: Maltings House, The Street, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AZ **Made No Comment**

- f. 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 **The Parish Council Made No Comment**

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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/25/05632 Proposal: Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Cherry (T1) Location: 4 Summer Road, Walsham Le Willows, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3AH **MSDC Does Not Wish To Object**
 - b. APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/25/05059 Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Works to the right-hand side and rear of the cottage in order to improve drainage in the ground around the cottage. This will involve digging a new 'French' drain, removal of some hard render, damp proofing measures and re-rendering internally and externally. There will be no change to visible appearance of the Cottage, internally or externally. The works on the exterior are below ground level. This will reduce some recurring internal damp issues in one corner of one room in the cottage. That room is around 3 feet below ground level at the rear reducing to 1 foot below ground level at the side towards the front. Location: Willow Cottage, The Street, 1124 So signed by the Chair at the meeting of 10th December 2025 Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AA **MSDC Granted This Application**
 - c. APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL - TELECOMMUNICATIONS - DC/25/05405 Proposal: Application for determination of prior approval for additions to electronic communications code operator network under Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2 Part 6 Class A for Proposed ARQIVA Smart Metering 1No. OMNI at 21.3m mean mounted on 20m street works pole. Proposed ARQIVA Smart Metering 1No. GPS Antenna AT 4.15m mean mounted on street works pole. Proposed ARQIVA Smart Metering 1No. 3G OMNI Antenna AT 4.15m mean mounted on street works pole. Proposed ARQIVA Smart Metering Equipment Enclosure to be installed on a Root Foundation. Proposed ARQIVA V Mesh Fencing with 1.0m wide Access Gate. Proposed ARQIVA 1No. Concrete Bollard. Location: Walsham-le-Willows Sports Club, Summer Road, Walsham le Willows, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 3AH **MSDC Granted This Application**
9. FINANCE & AUDIT & COUNCIL ADMIN
 - a. The bank reconciliation for period ending 31st January 2026 was approved and signed.
 - b. The accounts awaiting payment summary and invoices were approved for payment. (Appendix 1) with the exception of the payment to SCC (2390.00) for traffic calming measures which is to be delayed until we have formal approval of grant funding.
 - c. Internal control checks 2025/2026 were all signed and approved for audit.
 - d. Agree on the cost centre/code structure for the new accounting system as presented was approved with a few alterations.
 - e. The direct debit mandate for Scribe subscription, was approved and signed by two councillors for submission by the Clerk.
 - f. The SALC Internal Audit letter of engagement for 2026/27 was approved.



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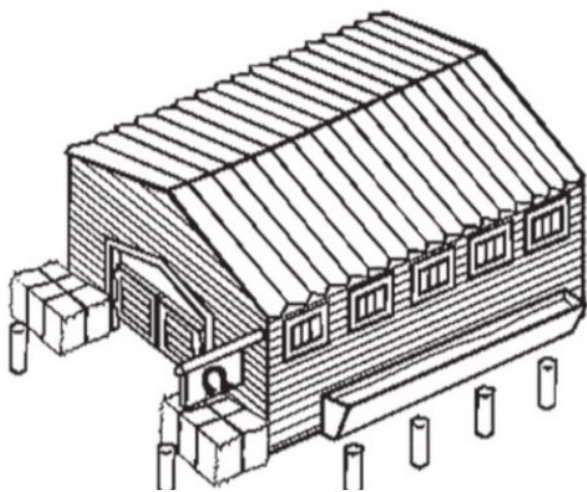
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10. CLERK ACTION LOG, COUNCILLOR REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE (if not dealt with elsewhere)
- Clerk's action log – nothing outstanding that is not in hand. Annual Play Area working party will convene at the play area on Saturday 21st March at 10am. Cllr Brookes will do an assessment against RoSPA report before then and report back.
 - Consideration was given to suggestion by DC Winch, in response to Bus Services Consultation, that a joint exercise with Badwell PC be conducted to ferry passengers to Stanton bus stop to gauge demand given the expiry of current bus timetable in 2026/27. After some discussion and a counter proposal it was decided that District Cllr. Winch would bring back a more specific proposal after discussing again with Badwell PC.
 - Dates for spring litter pick was agreed as 14th – 22nd March. Clerk to publicise.
 - The running order for the annual question time event to be held on 25th March from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall was agreed. Cllr Winch to update poster. Clerk to publicise.
- 11 OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN/NOTE FOR NEXT AGENDA
- Next Parish Council monthly meeting - 11th March 2026 7pm – Memorial Hall
 - CEP volunteers Desktop Exercise - 13th March 2026 1.30pm to 3.30pm – Memorial Hall.
 - Annual Meeting of the Parish (Question Time) – 25th March 2026 from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall
 - Cllr Brookes noted that the tree stump had been cleared from the stream.
 - Cllr Tuck noted the still missing timber retaining walls to the stream. Clerk to chase again.
 - Permissive footpath bridge repairs costs for next agenda.

Meeting Close @ 21:00



WALSHAM OBSERVER SUDOKU

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

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!

APPENDIX 1

Payments for Authorisation FEBRUARY 2026

#	Payments OUT	Amount	Description
1	Local Authority Technology CIC	£496.80	.gov.uk website including Zoho email and cloud workdrive
2	Suffolk County Council	£2,390.00	Approved traffic calming measures Summer Road Not approved due to timing of funding.
3	MultiSigns	£60.00	New footpath sign (payment required in advance of printing)
4	Scribe	£298.80	Accounting software subs (set up for 2026/27)
5	Premier Play Solutions Ltd	£720.00	Safety matting for slides at play area
6	SCC	£170.00	Village gates Licence
7	Memorial Hall	£27.00	Hall Hire monthly meeting
8	Parish Council Employee	£709.02	Remuneration
9	Nurture Landscapes	£223.25	December – grass cutting stream and play area
10	Unity Trust Bank	£7.00	DDR Monthly Service Charge
11	Scribe Accounts	£37.20	DDR Monthly Subscription
	TOTAL	£2,749.07	
#	Payments IN & Other Payments/Transfers	Amount	Description
1	SCC	£500.00	Locality Grant for Play Area matting

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

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FROM ST MARY'S

March always feels like a threshold month. The days begin to stretch out, there is a hint of warmth in the air, and little signs of life start to push through the soil. We are poised between the quiet barrenness of winter and the joy and colour of spring. This year, that sense of transition sits beautifully alongside the season of Lent, as we make our slow and thoughtful way towards Easter at the beginning of April.

Lent is often described as a journey, forty days of reflection, prayer and preparation. It can sound rather sombre, and sometimes we imagine it as something to be done alone: giving something up quietly, thinking deeper thoughts, trying a little harder. But the Christian journey has never been a solitary hike across an empty landscape. From the very beginning, Jesus called people into fellowship. He gathered disciples around a table, walked with them on dusty roads, prayed with them and taught them that where two or three gather in his name, he is present among them.

There is something profoundly important about that gathering. When we come together to pray, to eat, to talk, even simply to sit in companionable silence we are reminded that faith is shared. We strengthen one another. We become, in the truest sense, community.

With that in mind, there are several opportunities across the benefice this March to journey through Lent together.

Our Lent Group is meeting weekly in different places across the benefice. These sessions are gentle spaces for conversation, questions and reflection. You do not need to be a Bible scholar or even entirely sure what you believe. You simply need to be willing to come along and explore. There is something rather lovely about discovering that others are asking similar questions and walking a similar road.

On the 11th March, we will gather in the Priory Room for our Lent Lunch. Everyone is warmly invited to join us for a simple lunch and relaxed conversation. Lent traditionally calls us back to simplicity, and sharing a modest meal can be a surprisingly powerful reminder of gratitude and fellowship.

Just before Mothering Sunday, the Priory Room will once again be filled with glue sticks, coloured paper and cheerful concentration as we hold our Children's Craft Club. This is a chance for children to make gifts for the special people in their lives, mums, grandmothers, carers, godparents, or anyone who nurtures them. It is always a joyful occasion, and it reminds us that love is shown in small, thoughtful acts.

And beginning this month, every Friday evening at 6pm, we will start the weekend with a short evening prayer service. In the busyness of life, that quiet pause can be a gift a way to lay down the week that has passed and step gently into the days ahead. You would be most welcome to join us, whether regularly or just occasionally.

May our journey through Lent prepare our hearts to greet the joy of Easter with renewed hope. With every blessing,

Revd Catriona



MARCH CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Service	Church	20th March		
1st March	2nd of Lent		6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
8:00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	22nd March	5th of Lent	
10:00am	Roots & Shoots	Walsham	9:30am	Holy Communion	Badwell Ash
11:00am	Family Service	Walsham	11:00am	Holy Communion	Wattisfield
4th March			3:00pm	Evensong	Westhorpe
2:00pm	Lent Group	URC Wattisfield	25th March		
6th March			2:00pm	Lent Group	Badwell Ash
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham	26th March		
8th March	3rd of Lent		10:00am	School Easter Service	Walsham
8:00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	27th March		
9:30am	Holy Communion	Westhorpe	6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
11:00am	Songs of Praise	Walsham	29th March	Palm Sunday	
11th March			9:30am	Benefice Service	Finningham
12-2:00pm	Lent Lunch	Priory Room	1st April		
13th March			2:00pm	Lent Group	Westhorpe
6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham	2nd April	Maundy Thursday	
14th March			6:00pm	Reflective Service	Badwell Ash
10-12:00pm	Mother's Day Craft	Priory Room	3rd April	Good Friday	
2:00-4:00pm	Mother's Day Craft	Finningham	10:00am	Easter Egg Hunt	B Ash/Lang
15th March	Mothering Sunday		6:00pm	Lent Evening Prayer	Walsham
8:00am	Holy Communion	Walsham	5th April	Easter Sunday	
9:30am	Holy Communion	Finningham	9:30am	Easter Service	Westhorpe
18th March			9:30am	Easter Service	Langham
2:00pm	Lent Group	Finningham	11:00am	Easter Service	Walsham



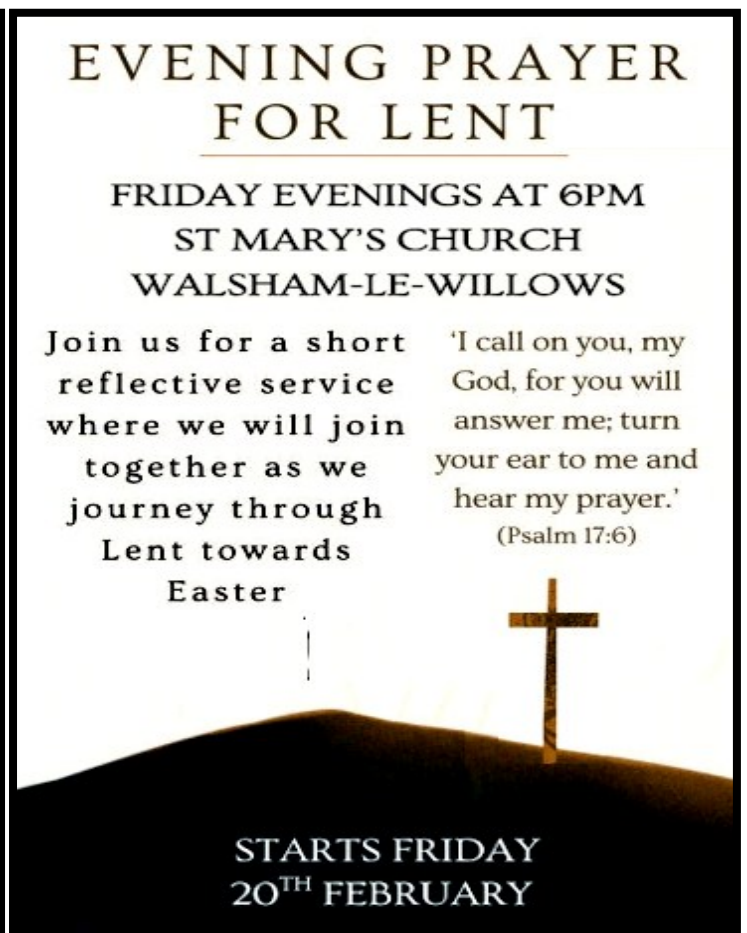
Mother's Day CRAFT WORKSHOP

Join us to make gifts for the special people in our lives for Mothering Sunday. We will be making cards, flower posies, decorating cakes and lots more. Refreshments will be available. Please bring an adult to stay and help you craft

14th March 2026

10am - 12pm: The Priory Room Walsham
2pm - 4pm: St Bartholomew's Church, Finningham

For more information please contact
Rev'd Catriona on 07525920307
revcatrionabrinkley@outlook.com



EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH
WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS

Join us for a short reflective service where we will join together as we journey through Lent towards Easter

'I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.'
(Psalm 17:6)

STARTS FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY



GREEN DILEMMAS



Are We Ignoring Potential Biosecurity Risks to Livestock Farmers?

UK farmers face a wide range of regulations and laws covering the treatment of animals, food safety, consumer standards and the protection of the environment. One issue that most people agree on is that it doesn't make sense to allow any imports to have lower standards than exist in the UK as this just undermines our own farmers and poses risks to citizens.

A key area of this legislation relates to food biosecurity standards and the need to maintain strict, science-based controls to ensure food safety and prevent the spread of diseases.

Avian flu is difficult to entirely eliminate as it is spread by migratory birds over wintering in the UK from countries where Avian Influenza is highly active. Two cases of bird flu or Avian Influenza (HPAVI - H5N1) were recently reported locally. As a result, protection zones were put in place by DEFRA.

Foot and mouth and African swine fever are mainly transmitted by contaminated meat so in theory outbreaks can be controlled with strict border controls.

There have recently been confirmed cases of foot and mouth in Germany, Hungary and Slovakia. The single confirmed case in Germany in January 2025 is estimated to have cost one billion euros. The 2001 outbreak in the UK resulted in the culling of nearly 6.5 million animals and cost about £8 billion (at 2001 prices).

African swine fever is a highly contagious viral disease that affects pigs and wild boar. There have been recent outbreaks in many Eastern European countries but there has never been a major outbreak of swine fever in the UK.

However, there is a significant and glaring problem of illegal meat smuggling partly due to the higher cost of producing high quality meat in the UK. The volume of illegally imported meat seized at Dover has increased 20-fold in the last 3 years. Illegal meat imports are now being found in food establishments in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

The illegal trade appears to be driven by smuggling gangs using a range of small producers in countries like Romania. The meat is being transported in unsanitary conditions in unrefrigerated trucks by drivers who are on the road for multiple days. If the driver is apprehended in the UK, they have their meat confiscated but there are no further consequences, and they are free to try again.

The NFU and some MPs have been highlighting concerns about this illegal trade. Unless a more coordinated and stronger set of enforcement rules are introduced, we are likely to be running a major biosecurity risk.

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In which country would you find a Kawa-Kawa shrub?

WILDLIFE IN MARCH

If you notice holly berries left on branches at the end of winter, it is only female holly trees that have them in the first place, you have come across the private larder of a Mistle Thrush. This is a bird that jealously guards its own berry supply to see itself through the winter months. Any other bird that dares spend too long in 'its' tree is chased away and subjected to a volley of agitated rattling calls. Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Robins, even Woodpigeons and other Mistle Thrushes all get the same treatment. Though holly is a particular favourite, a Mistle Thrush will also defend other sources of fruit, such as yew, hawthorn or mistletoe, the plant after which it is named. Sadly, the species has been added to the UK's Red List of threatened birds, due to a sustained population decline over the past 50 years.

The first butterfly of the year always lifts the spirits, and it's often a Comma Butterfly. This butterfly seems to glow orange in the low light sunshine, instantly lighting up any March day. On closer inspection, the upper wings are a rich mix of oranges and browns, which complete the insect's ragged wing outline, brilliantly impersonating an autumn leaf. In fact, the butterfly is named for the small white mark on the underside of its hind wing, but you'll need a clear view of a resting individual to see this well. Commas are seen so early in the year because, like Brimstones, Peacock butterflies and small Tortoiseshells, they hibernate as adults. All it takes is a bit of March sunshine to lift the air temperature, and the hardy insects begin to stir from their winter resting places in hollow trees or among tree roots or piles of brushwood. Nectar is still in short supply in March, but Primroses and Catkins are both popular with freshly emerged Commas. These butterflies also love to bask in the warmth, for example on the sunny side of a tree trunk.

Marsh marigold is like a massive version of Lesser Celandine, whose cheerful, bright yellow flowers are such an uplifting sight of Spring. Both species are in flower by March and belong to the Buttercup family, but they favour different habitats. Whereas the Lesser Celandine is found in all kinds of open woodland, often on banks or beside paths, the Marsh Marigold likes its feet wet. It thrives everywhere from ditches and marshes to flooded woodland, and is an excellent choice for garden ponds. Frogs like to hide among its tangle of huge glossy green leaves. It was once known as kingcup and has an unusual structure. Curiously, its half-a-dozen or so regal golden 'petals' are actually sepals. Ordinarily, a flower's sepals hang low beneath the petals, which are the showiest and most colourful part of the plant – marsh marigold, however, is entirely petal-less and so the sepals do the job instead!

Angie Bennington



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BOWLS CLUB REPORT

Since the last edition there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes with a view to not only getting the Club ready to participate in the various Leagues that commence on April 27th but also to ensure the long-term future of the Bowls section by growing the membership and encouraging participation from all ages within the village.

At our recent Committee meeting it was announced that the 2026 season will see a number of sponsors come on board including a main sponsor which is fantastic news and is very much appreciated throughout the Club.

There will be a more detailed update on this next month.

We are also looking to hold a Friday night Social Roll Up from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and potentially a Saturday morning session from 10am to 1pm which would hopefully attract families to the Green so that the next generation of Bowlers can be brought through.

Further details will follow in the next edition.

The kitchen area improvements are now complete which has given the Clubhouse a more modern feel and we will see the benefits of this as we go through what looks like being a very busy season so many thanks to all those involved in getting this across the line.

For those who couldn't make it to the Clubhouse for the signing on session as per the previous edition and who would like to sign on for the 2026 season, we can send Membership forms to you so please contact either of the following if you require one:

Adie Cole - Treasurer *adiecole35@gmail.com* 07908 170238

Angela Whiting - Secretary *angelawhiting5@gmail.com* 07498 283503

I mentioned in the last edition that the Bowls Club were sponsoring the Walsham v Fakenham football match on Saturday 7th February but, unfortunately, the persistent rain led to the match referee postponing the game on the Saturday morning.

This did not, however, deter the majority of Bowls Club members and guests from attending as planned, so with that contingent, along with those watching the ITFC game plus the First team squad fitting in a training session due to the match call off there was a great atmosphere in the clubhouse.

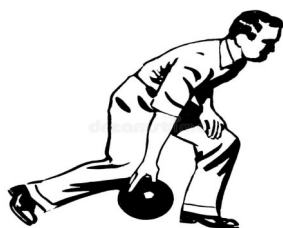
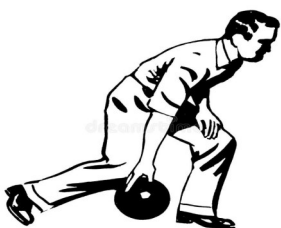
To further entertain the assembled crowd Trevor Pollard arranged a Q and A session with First Team Managers Chay Budd and Ian Hubbard plus Captain Sam Nunn with Club Chairman Mike Powles also taking the stage.

All in all, a variety of topics were discussed which was a great way of bringing different sections of the Club together and giving an insight in how the Football side of things function so thanks to Trevor for setting this up at such short notice.

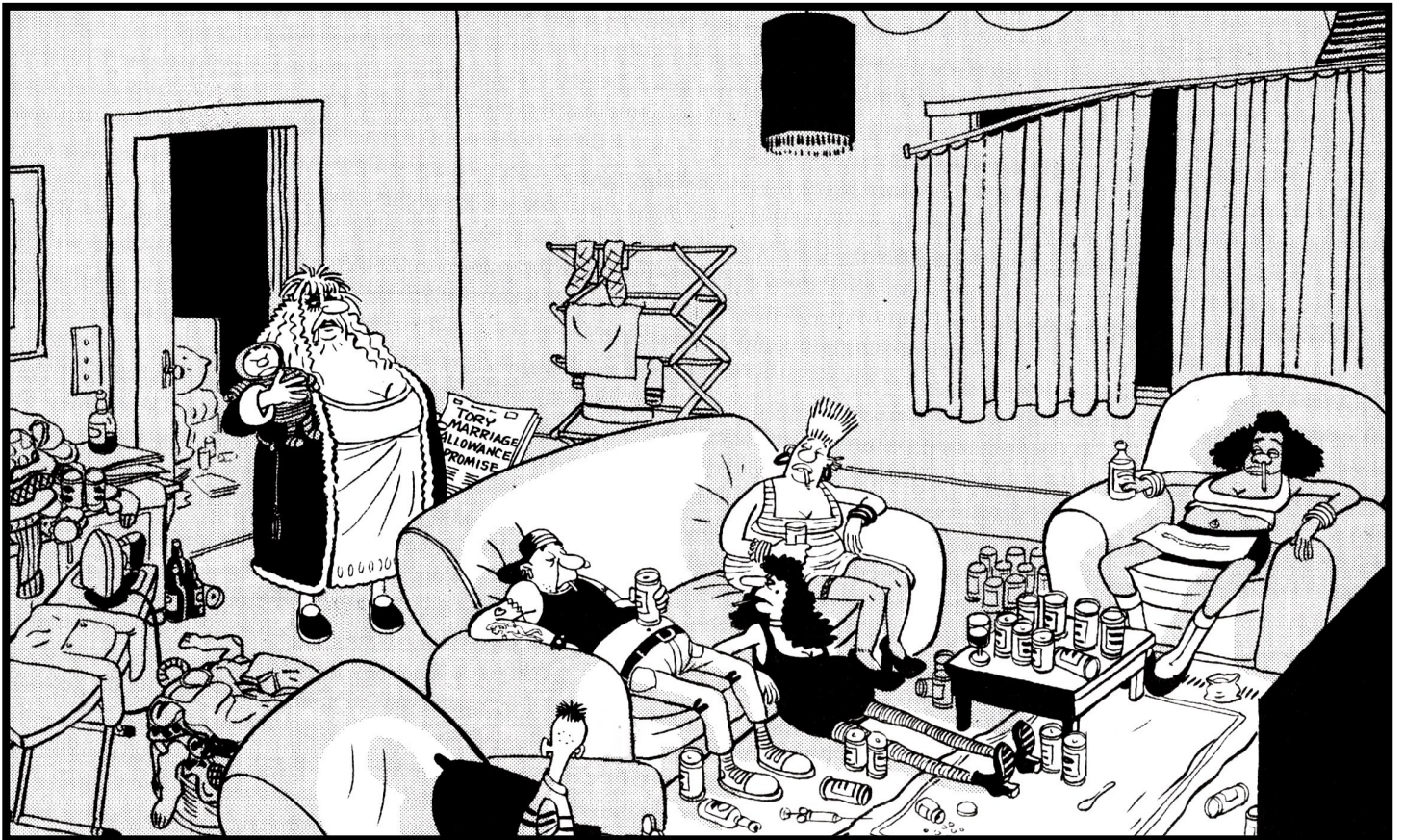
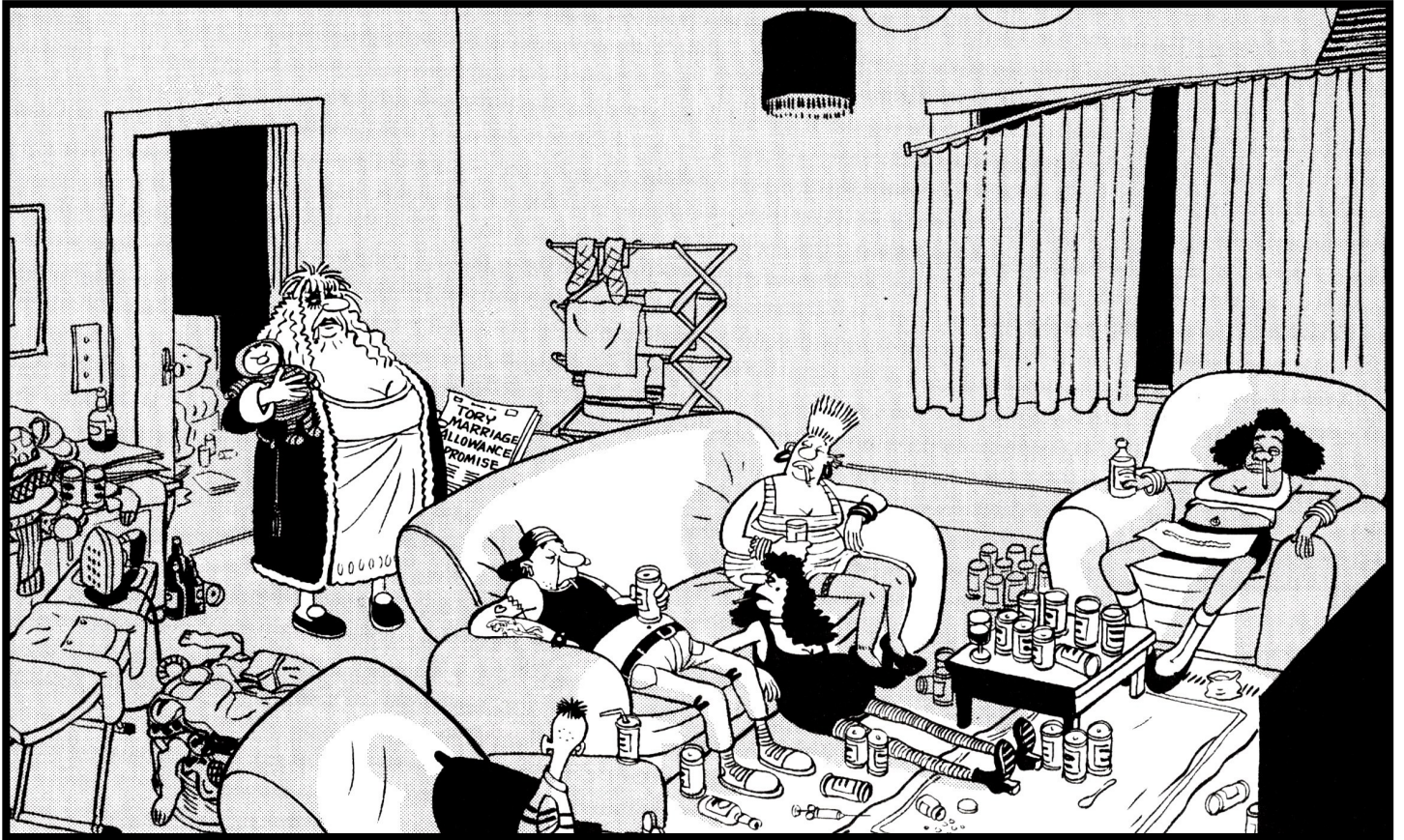
The Fakenham match was rearranged for Tuesday 24th February Kick so hopefully the weather was a bit kinder this time.

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

Adie Cole



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



There are ten differences between these two pictures, see if you can find them before these people are off their heads!

What is the common name for Medusa, Stheno and Euryale?

FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

Football

The weather has played havoc with the fixtures but the First Team managed to get two league games in since my last report. They lost 4-2 at home to Woodbridge Town and had captain Sam Nunn sent off for being adjudged to have been last man. Substitutes Kyran Cooper and Ryan Gibbs were our goalscorers.

We then drew 0-0 at Stowmarket Town despite having Reece Manchester sent off for two bookable offences.

The Under 23s lost at home to Debenham. Barnaby Hunt was our goalscorer.

The Under 18s lost their latest match 3-1 at AFC Sudbury.

Finally the Veterans lost their latest league game 2-1 away to Hadleigh United.

Forthcoming Home Fixtures for March

First Team

Tue 3rd v Heacham 7.45 pm

Sat 7th v Mulbarton Wanderers 3pm

Sat 14th v Ely City 3pm

Under 23s

Sat 28th v Brantham Athletic 3pm

Veterans

Sun 1st v Ipswich Wanderers 2pm

Under 18s

Thur 12th v Felixstowe and Walton United 7.45 pm

Thur 26th v Leiston 7.45pm

Gordon Ross

Walsham le Willows Question Time

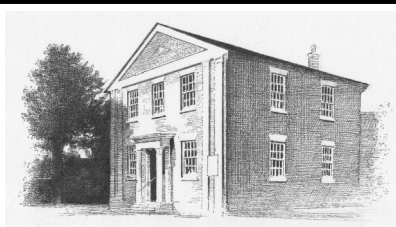
Wednesday March 25th from 7:30 in the Memorial Hall



Everyone is welcome to come along to ask questions, voice opinions or share ideas. We will focus on - traffic calming - the call for housing sites - the bus service - flood mitigation'

There will be a brief update on each area followed by questions and informal discussion. There will also be opportunities to raise any new concerns. We hope to be joined by Richard Winch, Mid Suffolk District Councillor, and Jessica Fleming, Suffolk County Councillor.

Light refreshments will be served.



Walsham Congregational Church

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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?

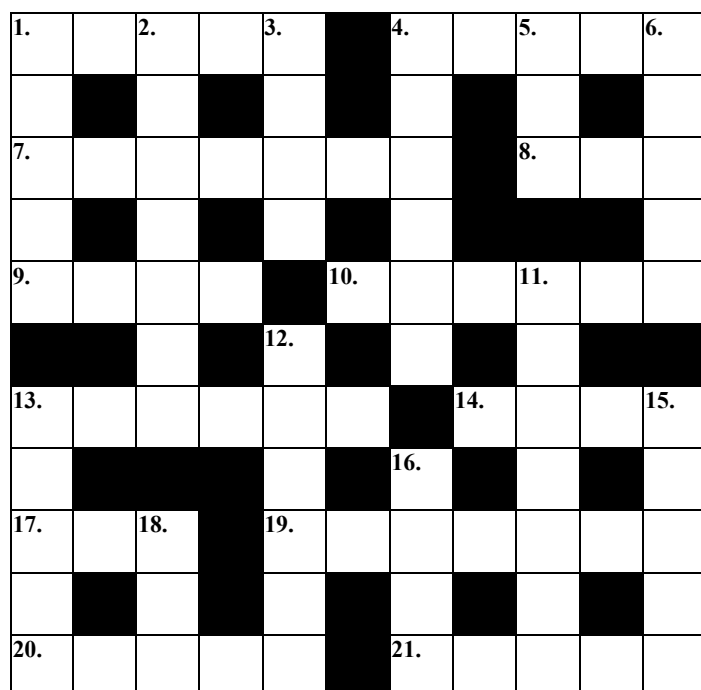
**As usual, we look forward to the ministry of guest preachers from
across the United Kingdom:**

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)

WALSHAM OBSERVER CROSSWORD



13. Such a pal is setting up a dance hall. (6)
 14. It's a neat way to see the mountain. (4)
 17. This pub can be found in Innsbruck. (3)
 19. It's said that psychologists get smaller. (7)
 20. Pulled along with the idea of marriage. (5)
 21. Sample how Utah, for example, might be changed(5)

Down

1. Such a desire to go out for a spin. (5)
 2. It's really a pleasant drink. (7)
 3. Is this really an annual agreement? (4)
 4. Desire to arrange where I live. (6)
 5. Simple tax on a container. (3)
 6. What the bookies offer to get level. (5)
 11. Grades of sailors may be the same. (7)
 12. Fail to see in poor visibility. (6)
 13. Such a run is required for a newspaper. (5)
 15. Maybe I'll find the passage. (5)
 16. Is such toughness found on country roads. (4)
 18. It seems they knew about the fresh product. (3)

Across

1. It's in hard ice you will find it risky. (5)
 4. Maybe give a writeup of the show. (5)
 7. Goes forward with raids on design. (7)
 8. It is secure in the seventies. (3)
 9. The vile live arrangements were wicked. (4)
 10. Decorates with sand or some other way. (6)

IS THIS A DIGGER WHICH I SEE BEFORE ME? With apologies to William Shakespeare

Is this a digger which I see before me?
 Roadworks again. When will it ever end?
 Those temporary lights, familiar story .
 Of rush-hour jams that drive us round the bend.

I feel the signs of stress, of deep
 frustration. I look again; if only it could be

A digger of the mind, a false creation,
 But sadly it's the real thing that I see.

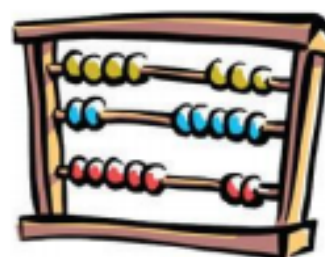
It's humid and my blood pressure is rising,
 The light goes green,
 AND THEN GOES RED AGAIN!
 And now there are strong words -
 hardly surprising -
 Proceeding from this heat-oppressed brain.

I cannot blame the workmen for such trouble,
 They're only players on this messy stage,
 But as I feel the pace of my heart double
 Oh, how I long to vent my roadwork rage.

*By Judy Rose From Mummy Said the 'B' Word
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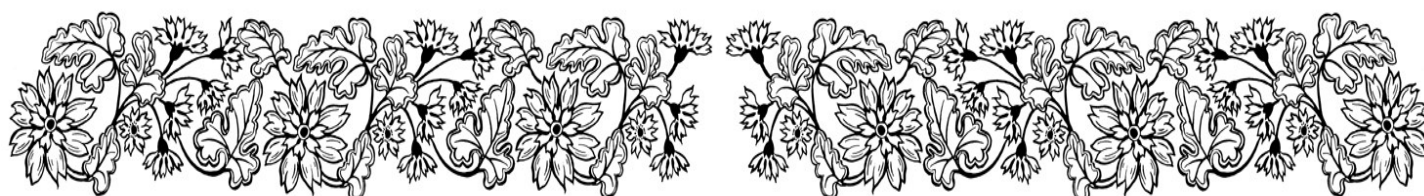
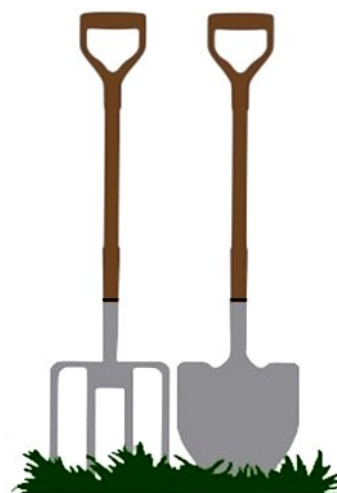
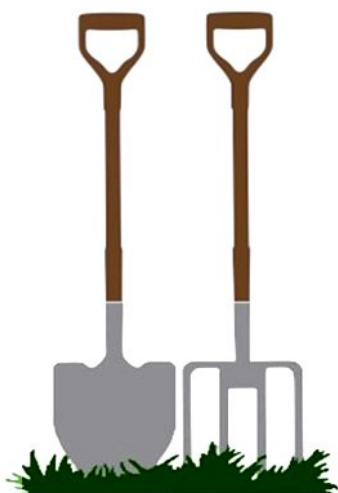
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Algernon: Oh Esmeralda do come to
the Parish Council's
Question Time with me!

Esmerelda: When and where?

Algernon: 7.30pm on Wednesday
March 25th at the
Memorial Hall.

Esmerelda: All right, as long as you
take me out to supper first!

MORE OR LESS

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

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

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

LIMERICKS II

There once was a lady named Ferris,
Whom nothing could ever embarrass.
‘Til the bath salts one day,
In the tub where she lay,
Turned out to be Plaster of Paris.

is it me or the nature of money,
That’s odd and particularly funny.
But when I have dough,
It goes quickly, you know,
And seeps out of my pockets like honey.

Which sport is played on the biggest pitch?

ALL THE ANSWERS

Page Bottom Quiz

1. Blue, 2. Bergen, 3. A Marchioness, 4. Bosworth Field, 5. Major,
6. Beau Brummel, 7. Monaco, 8. Abraham Lincoln, 9. A calf, 10. A petrified forest,
11. A maker of girdles, 12. Bela Lugosi, 13. Argentina & Uruguay, 14. Ostrich,
15. Madrid, 16. Henry VI, 17. Mark Twain, 18. The RAF, 19. Huge Bombs,
20. Show jumping, 21. A Lodge, 22. Alaska, 23. Eleven, 24. Eat it (apple),
25. The Pennine Way, 26. The Bible, 27. The Home Guard, 28. Stevie Wonder,
29. Cygnets, 30. Petroleum, 31. James Joyce, 32. Snoopy, 33. The collar-bone,
34. New Zealand, 35. Barrister, 36. Catherine the Great, 37. Six feet,
38. The Gorgons, 39. Popeye, 40. Peace, 41. Rowing, 42. Maundy Thursday,
43. Horse Guards Parade, 44. Clocks, 45. Duke of Wellington, 46. Polo,
47. Cartilage, 48. On the moon, 49. Graham Greene

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

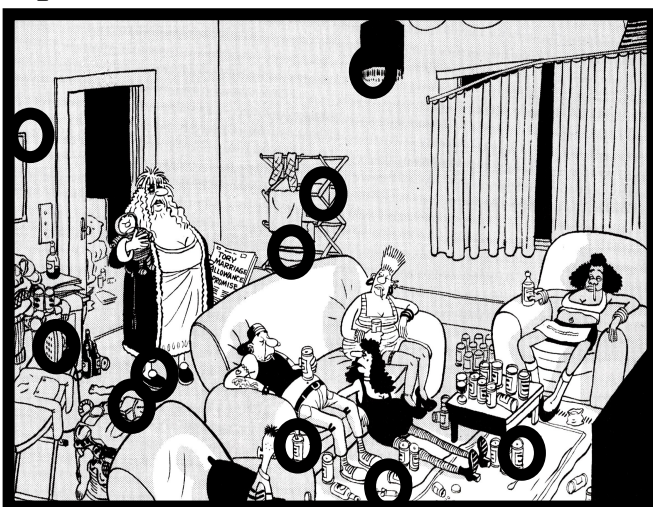
Crossword

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

More or Less

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

Spot the Difference



Searching for Words

Are	Art	Ate	Ear	Eat
Eaten	Eater	Eek	Era	Eta
Eve	Even	Ever	Kart	Keen
Ken	Near	Neat	Neater	Nee
Neo	Nerve	Net	Never	Orate
Ore	Oven	Over	Overt	
Overtake	Rake	Rat	Rate	Reek
Ret	Roe	Rove	Take	Taken
Taker	Tar	Tare	Teak	Tear
Tee	Teen	Ten	Tree	Trek
Trove	Vear	Vee	Veer	Vet
Voe	Overtaken (56)			

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Community Council Secretary
Rob Matthews 07564 906848

Police
Suffolk Police 01473-613500
Stowmarket 01473-383400

Neighbourhood Watch

Rev. Catriona Brinkley 07525920307

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

UK Power Networks 0800-0294285

British Telecom
Customer Service 150
Line Faults 151

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

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Walsham Wild Wood
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Women's Institute
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Pétanque
Graham Portlock
graham.portlock@pm.me



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.’**