

Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish website;

<http://wetheringsettcumbrockford.onesuffolk.net/home/>

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The newsletter is produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that any errors may be corrected in future editions.

Welcome to the April 2025 issue of your Newsletter



Lots of lovely things about Aprilnow officially Spring time, with all the glorious colours that that brings, and we have the warmer weather and Easter to look forward to.

Wetheringsett school start their Easter break on 4th and return just after Easter weekend on 22nd.



We have a wonderful recent addition to the village, which I believe many of you have already visited - 'Cedar's Pantry'; a café and farm shop with local crafts and crafting materials for sale. I believe there are plans for further developments there - watch this space! Well worth a visit if you haven't already been.

Wishing them every success.

Have an enjoyable month

Cally (Editor)



SPRING VILLAGE LITTER PICK Saturday 26th



Meet at Wetheringsett Village Hall at 9.45am. Volunteer help from parishioners would be much appreciated. Children to be accompanied by adults. Equipment will be provided, litter picks, high viz vests and waste bags –

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES.

Dates for the Diary

April

Tuesday 1st

Saturday 26th

Sunday 20th

May

23rd & 24th

All Fools day

Village Litter Pick

Easter Sunday

'Curtains UP' Murder Mystery evenings

Contributions from the village community for inclusion in the newsletter are welcomed

Deadline for copy 15th of every month

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Thanks! References available

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CURTAINS UP

Wetheringsett Village Hall

Cordially Invites You

TO

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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held March 2025

Community Litter Pick – this will take place on **Saturday 26 April 2025, meet 9.45am at the Village Hall**. Parishioners are invited to take part in this community event, equipment including litter pickers, some high viz vests, waste bags will be provided, please bring your own gloves, children must be accompanied.

Parish Council Vacancy – it was reported Mrs Elizabeth Cain had resigned her position from the Council. Many thanks were recorded to Liz for her time as a Councillor and Chair of the Parish Council, this has really been much appreciated. This leaves a vacancy for a councillor, Notice of the Vacancy will be provided by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Drainage and Sewage repairs – Church Street. The Chair was pleased to report Anglian Water had carried out maintenance to the sewage pump at Church Street, this will now hopefully stop the issues experienced by some parishioners in that area. In addition Suffolk CC had carried out repairs to the surface water drainage system in Church Street during the recent road closures. This will hopefully see an end to Church Street flooding during rainfall. If there are any ongoing issues please do let the parish council know.

Emergency Plan – as part of the s.19 flood report the Parish Council was required to update and produce a revised Emergency Plan. The Plan is now complete and many thanks were recorded to Cllr Mrs Kaylee van Zyl for revising and updating this plan, this had been much appreciated. A copy of the plan is to be produced for inclusion in a future copy of the Parish Magazine so as to ensure every household has a copy. When received please ensure the Plan is kept in a visible location in your household.

Annual Parish Meeting – this will be held on Monday 12 May 2025, 7pm at the Village Hall. The Council looks forward to welcoming parishioners to the meeting where village groups are invited to report on their activities over the last year and future events. Please do come along to support the village community.

Farm Shop and Café – members were pleased to receive a report on the opening of the Black Barn Farm Shop and Café at Cedars Hill. This will be a really welcome facility to the village, parishioners are encouraged to visit and support the shop.

Date of next meetings: Monday 7 April 2025 and Monday 12 May 2025 both at 7pm at the Village Hall, Wetheringsett. All welcome.

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Debenham Shed is now a charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), No. 1212367, which removes liability from individuals, allows contracts to be entered and enables Gift Aid on qualifying donations. Our future is thus on a surer footing.

Our next Craft Workshops are

- Sat 12 April: Workshop 10-2: Radio kit (Vince/Jonathan)
- Sat 10 May Workshop 10-2: Weaving

If you are interested in attending please email

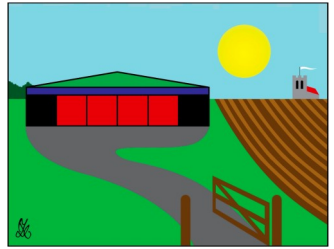
crafts@debenhamshed.org.uk or one of the telephone numbers below.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm, Fridays 10am-5pm and normally the second Saturday morning of each month. Membership by the year, half-year or PAYG.

Chairman: Rob Davies 07952 556152 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at www.debenhamshed.org.uk (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk . Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.

What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

Debenham shed is open to all adults.



April 1st—All Fools Day

To this day the BBC Panorama broadcast on April 1st 1957, remains one of the most famous and popular April Fool's Day hoaxes of all time. It is also believed to be the first time the medium of television was used to stage an April Fool's Day hoax.

The BBC told viewers that there had been "an exceptionally heavy spaghetti crop in Switzerland that year", due in part to "the virtual disappearance of the spaghetti weevil."

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest hoax generated an enormous response. Hundreds of people phoned the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this query the BBC diplomatically replied, "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best!"



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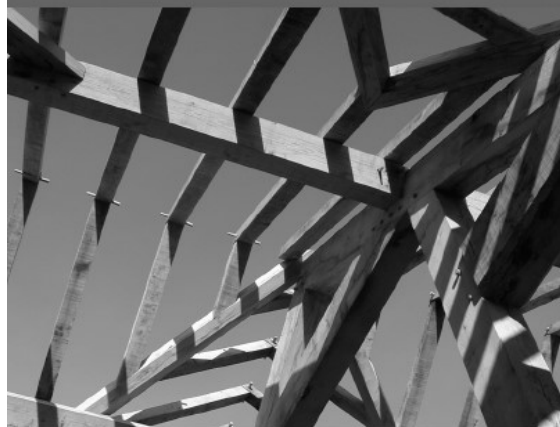
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Event: Easter Gala Steam Up
Venue: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
Dates: 20th & 21st April
Opening Times: 10.30 - 16.30 each day
3-loco Gala Steam Up for Easter weekend

The first big weekend of the 2025 season at The Middy, Suffolk's only standard gauge preserved railway, will be celebrated with no less than 3 locos in steam and working the trains during both Sunday 20th and Monday 21st April.

During Easter Weekend all the Middy facilities will all be open, including steam hauled rides in genuine Victorian 4-wheel coaches, MSLR museum, visits to the Restoration Shed, souvenir shop, café and the Middy real ale bar. Plus Easter Bunny hunts for younger visitors. The Middy will also be hosting the USAAF 34th Bomb Group's display again during 2025 and their museum will also be open this weekend.

And there will be a FREE shuttle bus service from and to Stowmarket mainline station during both days courtesy of the Eastern Counties Bus Preservation Group.

Visitors will also be able to see progress on the restoration of the railway's own locomotive, Hudswell Clarke 0-6-OST 1604 and LNER Y7 no. 985, resident with us in the Lottery Funded Restoration Shed.

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway offers a fascinating picture of what life was like on and around a rural railway during the early part of the last century. The Easter Steam Gala will be a great day out for families and railfans alike.

Standard entry prices apply: adults £12.00, children under 16 £6.00, families (2+20 £30.00, concessions over 65 £10.00. For more programme information visit www.mslr.org.uk



I've recently found myself living alone after the breakdown of my relationship. My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?

Here are some steps you can take to ease your financial worries:

1. **Single Person Discount:** Since you're now living alone, you can receive a 25% discount on your council tax. Make sure to notify your local council that you're the only adult in the household. Even if the person who left has been gone for some time, you're entitled to the discount from their departure date.
2. **Disregarded People:** If there are people living with you who are disregarded for council tax purposes (such as full-time students, under-18s, long-term hospital patients, etc.), it can reduce the number of people considered for council tax purposes, possibly leading to a discount. You can check online for a list of who counts as disregarded.
3. **Second Adult Rebate:** If there's another adult living with you who is on a low income or receiving certain benefits, you could be eligible for a 'second adult rebate,' which reduces your council tax.
4. **Disability Reduction:** If you or anyone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted for that disability, you might be eligible to have your council tax band reduced. For example, a band C property that's been adapted for a disabled resident could be re-banded to a band B property, which would lower your bill.
5. **Council Tax Reduction (CTR):** If you have a low income, you can apply for a Council Tax Reduction, which may lower your bill. The council will ask about your income and circumstances to determine if you qualify. If you've reached State Pension age, different rules may apply.
6. **Discretionary Reduction:** In cases of severe financial hardship, your council can offer a discretionary reduction, which can reduce or even cancel your council tax. You will need to provide evidence of your situation. If you're denied this reduction, you can appeal to a valuation tribunal, which could order the council to reduce or cancel your bill.
7. **Seek Help:** It's essential to communicate with your local council. If you're struggling, let them know as soon as possible. You can also reach out to Citizens Advice for assistance in navigating your options.

You can check out our website for more information on disregarded people, getting a second adult rebate and how to appeal a valuation on our website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>



Mid Suffolk

I'm worried about my debt and rising bills, and I want to know what support is available. Do you have any advice on managing rising costs and what to do if I fall into debt?

Rising bills and debt can be overwhelming, but there is support available to help manage the financial strain. Start by checking if you're eligible for benefits. Many people miss out on support they're entitled to, such as help for low-income households, those who are sick or disabled, carers, or individuals of State Pension age with a low income. Understanding the benefits available to you can provide immediate relief.

You may also qualify for reductions in certain bills. For example, if you're on benefits or a low income, you could receive a reduction in your Council Tax. Specific groups, like students or people living with a carer, may also qualify for discounts. If you have children, you might be eligible for free school meals, transport, or support with school uniform costs.

Your local council may offer additional financial support through schemes like the Household Support Fund, which can help with energy, water bills, food, and other essentials. Reach out to your local authority to find out what assistance is available.

To manage expenses, consider switching to a cheaper broadband deal, getting a water meter, or exploring discounted travel options. Using a budget tool, such as MoneyHelper, can help you track your income and expenses more effectively.

If you're struggling with debt, prioritise paying 'priority debts' like rent, mortgage payments, Council Tax, and energy bills. Missing these can have serious consequences. After that, focus on credit cards, payday loans, or other debts. Contact the companies you owe money to; they may offer repayment plans.

Remember, you're not alone – organisations like Citizens Advice or StepChange can offer guidance and support. Seek help early to get back on track.

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.

S.C. CLIFFORD

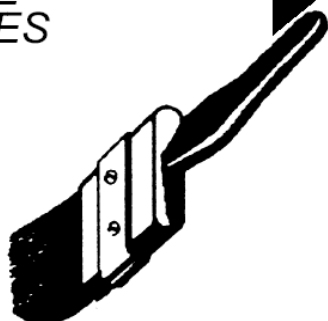
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Friends of Debenham Library



Despite widespread popular protests, Suffolk County Council's cabinet have made the decision

to "insource" Suffolk's libraries, taking control and operation away from Suffolk Libraries IPS who have run them on an increasingly tight budget for twelve years. It was Suffolk Libraries who rescued the libraries from SCC's ill-fated attempt to close the majority of libraries then, not the other way round. The Council have admitted that it will cost them at least £1.8m to make this change, and the arguments for it and the numbers that accompany it are entirely specious, in the view of the Friends, and are politically motivated. Suffolk Libraries had no intention of making cuts, but the wholly inadequate contract offered to them would have made reductions in staff and opening hours inevitable—which the Council blamed on Suffolk Libraries.

We are assured that there are no *current* plans to change opening hours or reduce front-line staff. When a regional mayor is elected and devolution takes place, the money is someone else's problem. Rest assured that at least for the time being, Debenham Library's hours and service will not be changing

Please note that the mobile library no longer stops at Debenham.

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, CDs and audiobooks, downloadable films/music/audiobooks/ebooks, free reservations.

The room is available for hire outside opening hours

Opening hours:



Tuesday: 0930 am –1300 pm Wednesday: 1500 –1930 pm
Saturday: 0900 am –1300 pm Sunday: 1200 –1600 pm

Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

Facebook: DebenhamLibraryAndFriends

Tel: 01728 861940

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

Newsletter Spring Term 2 Collective Worship Theme: Forgiveness

Here are some of the wonderful activities the children have been doing here at Wetheringsett...

Tractors in School:

As part of Suffolk Agricultural association's tractors into schools initiative, Farmer Sam from Broughton Hall Farm visited the school with his tractor. He showed the children a range of different photos that illustrated the changes in farming over the last 100 years. Each child got to sit inside the tractor and ask Sam farming questions that linked to their current curriculum subjects. A huge thank you to Farmer Sam for giving up his time to visit.



World Book Day



This year's World Book Day theme was 'Read Your Way'. Children enjoyed coming into school in the clothes they felt comfortable reading in and completed a 'Read Your Way' reading trail around the school. These included listening to audiobooks, reading e-books on an iPad, reading books in different languages, reading by torchlight in the blackout tent, using a magnifying glass to read miniature books, reading whilst exercising, lucky dip reading, outside reading, plus many more! It was great to see so many children enjoying reading for pleasure and having the

opportunity to show us how they like to read their way!

Banham Zoo Visit

Year reception to year four, had a super time visiting Banham zoo. We explored animal species and habitats, got up close and personal with a stick insect and cockroach and even had a ride on the zoo train.



Orienteering

Years 3-6 went to Hartismere High school to take part in an orienteering event with lots of other schools. They developed their map reading skills and stamina for running as they had a go at three different activities. The children had a great time and worked well in pairs and teams.

Red Nose Day

On the 21st Of March the children all came to school today wearing red for Red Nose Day, for a donation of £1. We have raised a total of £43.50 for Comic Relief.



Free Breakfast Club

We are one of 750 schools in the whole country that have been accepted onto a trial Government scheme, which enables us to offer a universal free Breakfast Club, to all our pupils from 22nd April, the first day of Summer term 2025.

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If you are interested in coming along, please contact me for further details: -

Amanda Wearing. Telephone: 01449 711674;

Email: atwearing@yahoo.co.uk



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**Wetheringsett cum Brockford
Church and Town Estate Charity**

Notice is given of the Annual Meeting of the Charity.

**This will be held on Tuesday 13 May 2025,
7pm at All Saints Church, Wetheringsett**

**THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – PARISHIONERS ARE VERY
WELCOME TO ATTEND TO HEAR ABOUT THE WORK OF THE CHARITY
or RAISE ANY QUESTIONS**

Agenda: -

- 1. Apologies and consent to absence**
- 2. Election of Chairman**
- 3. Report on Charity activities 2023**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. MEETING OPEN TO PARISHONERS**

Charity No. 209940

Sometimes Things Get Better.

Last year we had a water leak at the Old Station Yard, where we have wash facilities etc for the industrial Units.

Actually, it was a tap that ran full flow and would not turn off, BUT NO-BODY TOLD US !!

As a result, it flowed for at least 80 days and put 600,000 gallons (nearly 3m litres) down the drain, and now we have a bill for £5000.

I understand we (all?) have new meters, and I am told that if the water company registers an excess use overnight, they phone to say that one may have a leak.

So, things get better, but sometimes it is a year too late!

And perhaps in 2024, the clouds gave us 600,000 gallons too much too!

Usual Contributor.



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Stop Press : Further to the notice about the revision of the Electoral Roll for Wetheringsett Church, Please note that **Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the church or from our Electoral Roll Officer (Elizabeth Aldred)**. To be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, you must return the Application Form for enrolment to Elizabeth Aldred by the 1st of May. Elizabeth can be contacted on aldred.sons@gmail.com or Tim the Church Warden on 07775872742.

South Hartismere Electoral Rolls

This year all the parish churches in the South Hartismere Benefice (*Gislingham, Mellis, Stoke Ash & Thwaite, Thorndon with Rishangles, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Wetheringsett cum Brockford and Yaxley*) will need to draw up new Electoral Rolls. Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment not later than: 1st of May 2025

The new Roll will take effect on 14th May 2025.

Any lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the roll, if –

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Why should I request that my name is added to the Electoral Roll?

Being on the Church Electoral Roll is a way of demonstrating your willingness to help shape the future of the Church, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. It also enables you to participate and vote in the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**.

South Hartismere Benefice

April 2025 Newsletter



A message from Reverend David Mulrenan, Associate Priest of the Hartismere and Hoxne Deanery.

I've always been puzzled by why Easter seems to be, for the best part, ignored by the great British public, in favour of Christmas. Obviously, for children, there is the great attraction of Easter egg hunts and the "choc fest" that follows. For adults, it's a chance to have a few days off work just to spend that time in the DIY stores, sorting out the garden or decorating the front room! None of which appeals to me, I have to say!

Christmas is a great festival for everyone coming, as it does, in the middle of our dark winter nights adding gaiety and colour amidst the gloom. Yet, from a Christian perspective, it represents just the start of Christ's problems as he struggles, albeit purposefully, to get us to change our ways and look into His eyes to digest the joy of a meaningful life.

The difference between Christmas and Easter is all about the intrinsic meaning. Christmas represents the nativity, the birth of a child who would eventually turn the world on its head but where the real blockbuster story is told is at Easter. That is the time where the real reason for the incarnation is revealed. Christ's death, in all its brutality and injustice represents the greatest universal act of forgiveness ever witnessed and that all of us will find that there is a meaning to life and a place to look forward to experiencing when we die. A place where there is no pain, no sorrow, no grief and no loneliness... but at what cost? Just by letting Christ into our lives. In what way, you might ask? There are so many. Some are already subliminally letting this happen by the way they are, the way they act and interact with others, the compassion they show towards those they meet, by being a good neighbour, simple acts of kindness, charitable donations, community volunteering, lending an ear to those who are hurting and ultimately praying for those who need support. International diplomats would do well to study how they are acting at this distressing time for the world!

Easter, for me, tells such a greater story of hope and love and one which will last eternally. It also comes at such a great time of the year as we shrug off the yoke of winter to look forward to a period of growth and rebirth. Even the word "Easter" comes from the Celtic and Pagan, "Oestre, the Goddess of Light, who brings fertility with the spring." Many Christian traditions in this country have overlaid ancient Pagan rites. With life beginning to be seen again in our gardens and countryside, it refreshes us and gives us a new sense of that hope and anticipation. We need this and some!

But before we celebrate the joy associated with such an incredible event such as Jesus' resurrection, Holy Week presents us with a walk through a crescendo of betrayal and suffering and the humility of a condemned man washing the feet of his servants - a model of how we should treat others.

Good Friday gives our churches the chance to focus on the appalling ordeal that Christ went through. For us. But that is not the end. We have that mind-blowing celebration which has no peer in the Christian year. The joy of Easter Day.

So, if you have ever wondered why Christians feel so strongly about Easter. You may have questions. If so, why not come along and ask those questions at one of the many Easter services there will be and likely at a church near you. Whilst the pathos of Good Friday can be very telling, that consequent explosion of joy on Easter morning can be commensurately so uplifting.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

David



South Hartismere Benefice

APRIL 2025

Sunday 6th April <i>The 5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Thorndon Gislingham	10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion
Sunday 13th April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Stoke Ash Thornham Parva	10.30am 10.30am	Worship for All Holy Communion
Monday 14th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Tuesday 15th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Wednesday 16th April	Thornham Parva	7.30pm	Sung Compline
Thursday 17th April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Fressingfield <i>Deanery Service</i>	7.00pm	Holy Communion
Friday 18th April <i>Good Friday</i>	Stoke Ash Stoke Ash	2.00pm 3.00pm	Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 19th April <i>Easter Eve</i>	Yaxley	8.00pm	Easter Eve Holy Communion
Sunday 20th April <i>Easter Day</i>	Gislingham	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 27th April <i>The 2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	Wetheringsett Yaxley Thornham Magna	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Mattins

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am (not 17th)

Contact:



Reverend Debbie Nicholls – Rector
rev.d.nicholls@gmail.com 07762 116 335

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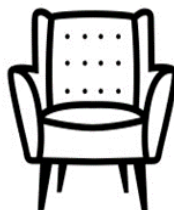
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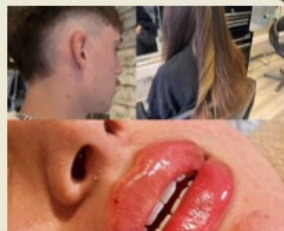
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(Please refer to Disclaimer on page 2)



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