



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



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Parish website;

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

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CHURCH WARDEN ~ Tim Rowe	07775 872742
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MENDLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE	01449 767722
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All adverts are placed in good faith, and the publishers cannot undertake responsibility for work carried out. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however, we reserve the right to refuse inclusion; to edit or amend as we think appropriate.

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 August issue of your Newsletter



Schools out - and with it - the rain! Although the rain was desperately needed let's hope we get the return of some summer sunshine this month. This month the Middy celebrates the opening of its extended track and you can now experience a ride of almost 2 kilometres through Suffolk countryside pulled by a Victorian steam engine! Whether you will be holidaying this month, or not, have an enjoyable August.

Cally (Editor)

Village defibrillators



As reported last month, there are now 2 defibrillators in the village: one at the entrance to the village hall and one on the external wall next to the large gates at Greenacres Park, Mill Lane. They are both easily accessed and in well lit areas, with instructions on how to use them next to them.

Dates for the Diary

August

Saturday 2nd

Sunday 3rd

Saturday 16th

Monday 25th

September

Wednesday 3rd

Sunday 28th

December

Wednesday 10th

Sunday 14th

Middy Line Extension Opening weekend

“

Family Friendly Market Stowmarket Market Place

August Bank Holiday

Return to school for Wetheringsett Primary

Harvest Festival 10:30 in the Church followed by
Harvest Lunch in the village hall

Wreath making workshop (details tbc)

Community Carols in the church

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

Deadline for copy 15th of every month

Brockford Sidings Dog Park

A fun and secure place to exercise your dogs in the countryside!

Bring your own dogs' toys or make use of our supplied agility equipment.

Park inside the field so no need for a lead! Shelter for rain cover and a clean water tap for dog bowls and washing your dog off also available.

Bookings online only at:

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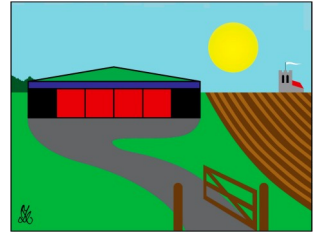
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

TONY ALSTON

01449 766231

dialstonltd@outlook.com

Debenham Shed



At the Shed we continue to undertake community projects. Pictured below is a “rocking llama” being made for E.A.C.H., along with a rocking dog. We have also made radiator covers for The Bank at Eye (www.thebankeye.org) and will be making some enclosures for outside signs.



Come to our stall on **Saturday 2nd August** from 9-11am with the Debenham Green Team outside the Lion pub, and talk to us about anything which needs a repair.

Our next Workshops (10am-2pm) are:-

- **Friday 12 September** tbc
- **Saturday 8 November** Christmas crafts and cards

Our shed is unusual in having a good contingent of women members, many of whom specialise in crafts. If you are interested in attending any of our workshops 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. Registered Charity 1212367

*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.***



There have been complaints from those using the footpath leading from Griffin Lane in Brockford Street and alongside the field running parallel to it, of dog fouling recently.

Please, clear up after your pooch, other dog walkers are having to clear up after you to avoid treading in the mess!

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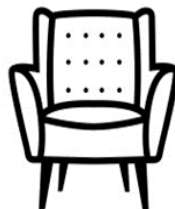


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South Hartismere Benefice

AUGUST 2025



Sunday 3rd August
The 7th Sunday after Trinity

Thorndon
Gislingham

10.30am
10.30am

Worship for All
Holy Communion

Sunday 10th August
The 8th Sunday after Trinity

Stoke Ash
Thornham Parva

10.30am
10.30am

Worship for All
Holy Communion

Sunday 17th August
The 9th Sunday after Trinity

Mellis
Thorndon

10.30am
10.30am

Worship for All
Holy Communion



Gislingham

10.30am

to include commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day

Worship for All

Sunday 24th August
The 10th Sunday after Trinity

Yaxley

10.30am

Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 31st August
The 1st Sunday after Trinity

Wetheringsett

10.30am

Benefice Holy Communion

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Contact:



facebook

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>

Collective Worship Theme: Respect

It's been a busy end to the term at Wetheringsett Primary School, here are just some of the things we have been doing...

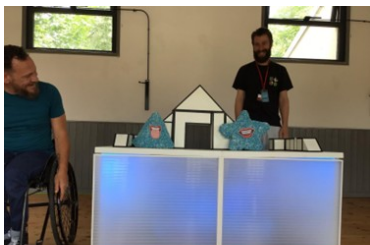
Door Step Theatre Company Visits

Doorstep Theatre, a touring company from the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds, visited the school. They performed 'A Square World' for our youngest class, a touching story of three friends and an unexpected change that leaves one of them out in the cold. Together

they decide to redefine the rules of the square world in which they live and soon discover their lives won't be square ever again!

After the performance the children were able to make their own differently shaped characters.

For the older two classes, they put on a performance of the Olive Branch, a story of compromise and adaptation performed through dance and acrobatics. The children watched it open mouthed!



A huge thank you to our Friends team who raised the money to pay for these wonderful experiences for the children.

Sports Day



The children, staff, parents, families and friends, all enjoyed sports day. They all joined in with enthusiasm and showed fantastic teamwork and physical skills. Each team took on a wide range of exciting activities to earn points for their team



and then competed in flat races against other teams. The atmosphere was electric and a fantastic day was had by all.

The school community was proud of each and every child. A huge thank you to Mrs Duff and Mr Norman, our sport's coach from Kicks and Tricks, for organising such a fabulous day. Also to our wonderful friends who provided some well-needed refreshing drinks and snacks.

Huge congratulations to the winning Green Team

Alice the Musical

The KS2 children performed 'Alice the Musical' to a packed village hall. It was a fantastic production, made even



better with lighting, sound and staging from Colin, Sue S, Sue R and Roz from Curtains Up. The staff (and some of the staff's parents !) helped make some clever props. Parents and guardians provided some brilliant costumes. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part and supported us.





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£100.00 for a full day (incl. the evening)



Our Leavers



On the 22nd of July, we said goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they moved on to the next stage of their school life. They have been a fantastic example to our younger children and all performed to their full potential in their SATS. We wish them all the best for the future. They and their families will be missed by all at Wetheringsett C of E Primary School. We know that they will maintain the progress and levels of achievement they showed at Wetheringsett at high school. Shine bright in Year 7!

Laura Beardsell-Moore

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Friends of Debenham Library

Suffolk
Community Libraries

Please note our new telephone number **01728 587102**. All telephone numbers for libraries have recently changed.

The **Reading Quest** returns for this summer with some changes following feedback from last year. We are grateful to our volunteers who help with this. If you can help with registering children and their progress through the scheme, please speak to our library staff.



Two **free** events are planned for families and children later in the year, sponsored by the Friends: -
Saturday 30 August: a talk on marine biology for children, by local resident Andrew Donnelly. Adults may enjoy it too!

Saturday 13 September: a storytelling event with Gerry Donlan (Bards Aloud). Tea and cakes will be available, and certificates for the Reading Quest will be given out to children.

Greetings Cards are for sale in the library at £2.50 each, in aid of Debenham Library. Stock up while they last!

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.

School Corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School).

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 587102

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/libraries/debenham/



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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 7 July 2025

Solar Powered Speed Signs – two further permanent speed signs are due to be installed in the village, one at Hockey Hill and the other Brockford Street south. These have been purchased with the assistance of locality funding totalling some £5600 from District Councillor Andrew Stringer. Many thanks were recorded to Cllr Stringer and to parish councillor Mrs June Weir for arranging the purchase and installation of the signs. The mobile speed sign will continue to be used in the Wetherup Street/Park Lane area.

Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau – a donation of £100 was agreed to the Mid Suffolk CAB based in Stowmarket in appreciation of the service they are able to provide Wetheringsett residents should the need arise.

Cemetery Grasscutting – a new contractor has been engaged by the Parish Council to continue grasscutting in the cemetery. This will be on a similar basis as previously involving up to 5 or 6 cuts per growing season plus some strimming.

Summer Solstice Afternoon – 21 June – a contribution of £250 had been made to the summer solstice event from the parish council. The meeting commended the Village Hall volunteers and helpers for the very successful event. There have been many requests for a repeat next year. Looking ahead, the Village Hall Committee would be very pleased to hear from volunteers willing to help again next year, please do contact the Village Hall Committee or Parish Clerk if you can help. Contact details on back page of the magazine. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Play Area – Cllr Alderton reported an application has been made to the lottery fund for new swings at the play area. A decision on the application will take some weeks.

Trees – Cllr Mrs Aldred reported that young sapling trees should be available again during the autumn. These are available to residents. Details of availability will be reported when known.

Footpaths – reports of dog fouling is ongoing, particularly the green verges along Park Green and the footpath towards the Middy. Your parish councillors would remind all dog owners to consider other users of the village footpaths and please clear up after your dog, this is a health hazard to adults and children. Dog waste bins and emptying have been provided throughout the village at a cost to parishioners, please do use them.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4 August 2025, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall. All welcome

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with the rest of us— or just something you would like to
'get off your chest'

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(Please refer to Disclaimer on page 2)

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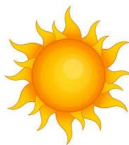
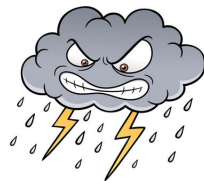
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Weather or Not?

As I write, we are enjoying, or suffering, our third half inch of rain since February. Those who can remember, we compare to 1976 when we had no rain from 28 March- 28 August.



The hot spells have resulted in the Cedars pool maintaining a temperature of nearly 90°F most of the time, and some bookings from 8am till 8pm. It is not just families with children; more people doing 'lengths' although few claim 120 in half an hour. We don't charge, so keep it up till Christmas!



Our campsite and dog park see steady usage. Many people judge their excursions by looking at the sky at 5pm on a Thursday! I

encourage all Friday arrivals of the bar and Cafe at the Middy, and the Cedars Pantry for Saturday breakfast. My philosophy is use it or lose it and it is good to have these facilities in our parish.

As for our holiday carriages, these people are going abroad, and/or deciding at the last minute.

GREEN MAN

Forestry & Tree Care

Horse Logging

Tree & Hedge Maintenance

Health Report & Advice

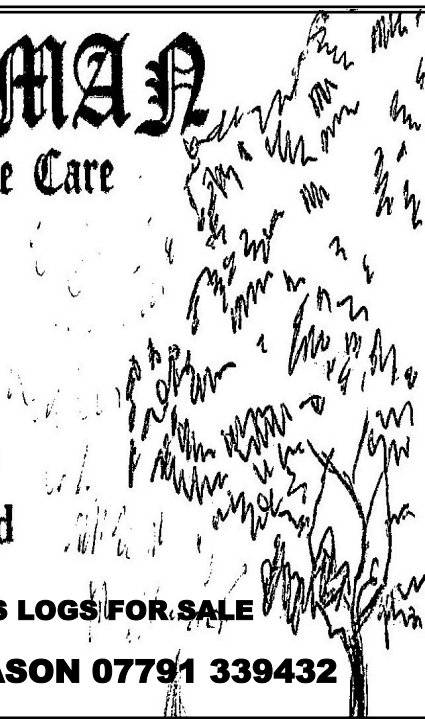
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Event: Extension Opening
Venue: Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
Dates: 2nd & 3rd August
Opening Times: 10.30 - 16.30 each day
Middy Extension Opening Approved -
Public Opening 2nd & 3rd August

The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway is pleased to announce that following the submission for a Transport & Works Act Order, the application was approved on the 21st February 2025 by the Secretary of State for Transport.

This means is that the Middy can operate trains over the full length of its line, already laid, subject to various existing planning permissions and to maintain and operate the level crossing over the public footpath as required by the Office of Road & Rail.

The opening weekend for the public will be 2nd and 3rd August.

The extension will give visitors a return ride of almost two kilometers in the Middy's Victorian 4-wheeled steam hauled trains along the original track alignment through countryside served by the MSLR between 1908 and 1952. This is more than double the length of the previous Middy ride and will give passengers a real feel of train travel during the early part of the 20th century, especially as the terrain is, in railway terms, either side of a marked dip, so in both directions, there is plenty for a steam engine to do.



In the meantime the Middy team has to organise the training of footplate staff's 'route learning' programme, not as easy as it might seem (think of water moving up and down in a steam locos boiler due to dips on the line), and MSLR staff who will be responsible for the secure operation of trains over the level crossing.



MSLR volunteers are also on with preparing the groundwork for the planned 'destination' station, Aspall Halt. This may not be ready by the time trains begin running, nonetheless the main attraction is the ride through the open Suffolk countryside.

This development will make the Middy a great railway journey for Suffolk and, particularly for the younger generations, to experience a real rural railway.

This weekend the MSLR is open from 10.30 to 16.30. Tickets are the normal £12.00 adult, £6.00 child under 16, family (2+2) £30.00 and concessions over 65 £10.00. Tickets will be available through the web site and at the ticket office on the day.

John Reeve marketing@mslr.org.uk 01986 798019.



SAVE THE DATE

We have two further events planned for the Church and village this year



*Sunday 28th September
Harvest Festival at the church
followed by Harvest Lunch in the
village hall*

*Sunday 14th December
Community Carol Service*





Wetheringsett Manor

Wetheringsett Manor School News

Wetheringsett Manor School have now just broken up for the Summer Holidays.

Over this term we have had the students doing their GCSE exams and we have also had a number of trips which have been running. We had a successful expedition for the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and we joined together with some other schools within our Trust to allow them to achieve this. Since then we also had a couple of trips out to Thorpe Park and Pleasurewood Hills, along with trips to the zoo and Jimmy's Farm. We wish all the students and staff a restful break and look forward to their return in September."



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challenges alone and that everyone deserves access to high-quality, independent advice.

Every day, we hear from people facing a wide range of issues. That broad perspective gives us a unique insight into the real-life challenges affecting our communities.

During 2024/25 we saw an evolving landscape of client engagement and the ongoing challenges faced by those seeking assistance, helping 4,051 clients and dealing with 21,495 issues for those clients.

The top 5 issues we handled were:

- Benefits and tax credits
- Utilities & communications (which includes energy)
- Debt
- Housing

Financial services & capability

We remain committed to involving clients in shaping our priorities and ways of working and are deeply grateful to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, whose compassion and commitment continue to make a meaningful difference on the lives of local people.

Looking ahead, we are particularly focused on reaching people who are not currently using our service, including those in more rural areas. We want to understand whether they know how to access support and what they believe our priorities should be.

If you would like to be a volunteer with Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk, either as an adviser, receptionist or trustee, then please email office@midsuffolkcab.org.uk. We’d like to hear from you.

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

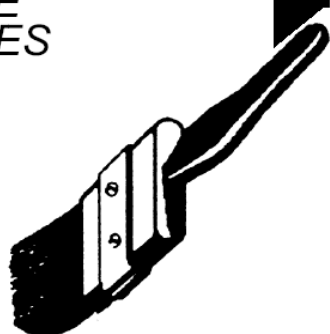
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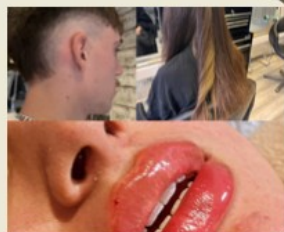
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County & District Councillor : Cllr Andrew Stringer	Andrew.Stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk		01449 780339
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