



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish website;

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

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PCC SECRETARY ~ Emma Morris	01449 766117
CHURCH WARDEN ~ Tim Rowe	07775 872742
WETHERINGSETT V C PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Headteacher ~ Imogen Wallis imogen.wallis@wvcpschool.com Head of School ~ Natalie Diwan mrsdiwan@wvcpschool.com Chair of Governors ~ Jo Pitt	01449 766215
PARISH TREE WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
TOWNLANDS TRUST ~ Lynne Cockerton	01728 862001
PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN ~ Elizabeth Aldred	01728 860482
RSPCA Suffolk Central ~ Ian Hendry	01449 767747
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE ~ Reporting, Info or Enquiries	101
MENDLESHAM HEALTH CENTRE	01449 767722
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DISCLAIMER

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 October issue of your Newsletter

Apologies for the lack of newsletter for September, due to unavoidable circumstances. We are now back on track and there is lots to read in this month's issue.



Set your
clocks
BACK
one hour
before
going to
bed
tonight.

The end of this month brings an end to daylight saving and what always feels like the proper onset of winter ..brrr! Let's enjoy the blackberry picking and autumn leaves kicking while we can.

There is an exciting new venture, organised by the Friends of Wetheringsett School - a village Autumnal Trail. Maps will be available from October 13th from the school and Cedars Pantry.

Saturday 25th October
(for Sunday 26th am)

Happy Hallowe'en everyone

Cally (Editor)

Dates for the Diary

October

13th - 31st

Saturday 11th

Saturday 18th

Sunday 26th

November

December

Wednesday 10th

Sunday 14th

Village Autumnal Trail

Macmillan coffee morning 9:30 –12 noon Village Hall

Jumble Sale 10 –12 Village Hall

Clocks 'Fall' back one hour—end of daylight saving

Wreath making workshop (details tbc)

Community Carols in the church



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 14th December
Community Carol Service



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

Deadline for copy 15th of every month



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Wetheringsett Village Hall **Newly refurbished**



**Bookings available
at weekends,
evenings
and holiday periods
Please contact Sue
Stannard
01449 767752**

Rates for hire of the Village Hall are:

£12.00 an hour

£50.00 for half a day (up to 5 hours) and

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



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

Don't let
your child to
break the law



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

Community Safety Notice: Use of Electric Scooters

It has been brought to our attention that an electric scooter has been seen being ridden along **Hockey Hill** and **Church Road** in Wetheringsett. While we understand the appeal of these vehicles, it's important to highlight that **electric scooters are currently illegal to use on public roads, pavements, and footpaths unless part of an approved rental scheme.**

In the spirit of **crime prevention and community safety**, we kindly ask residents to be aware of the following:

Rules for Privately Owned E-Scooters

Illegal on Public Land:

You cannot ride a private e-scooter on public roads, cycle lanes, pavements, or in parks.

Legality on Private Land:

You can only ride a privately owned e-scooter on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Consequences:

If you use a private e-scooter illegally, you could face a fine, penalty points on your driving licence, and your scooter could be seized by the police.

No Insurance: It is not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which is why they are illegal on roads.

We encourage everyone to help keep our community safe by reporting any concerns to the appropriate authorities. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all.

Stowmarket CPT (Community Policing Team)



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Friends of Wetheringsett Primary School

Jumble Sale

Saturday 18th October 10:00 - 12:00

Wetheringsett Village Hall.

DONATIONS WANTED:

- *Good quality, dry and clean clothing
- *Handbags
- *Belts, hats, scarves
- *Paired, clean, undamaged shoes
- *Jewellery

Are you planning a clear out of clothes ready for the change in season?
Have you got drawers full ready to go to the clothing bank?

Then why not donate your clothes to us?

Join us on Saturday 18th October
for our Jumble Sale fundraiser.

Refreshments and cakes available to purchase too.

**Donations to be delivered to the
village hall on Friday 17th October.**

Autumnal Trail

Monday 13th October - Friday 31st October.

We will be hosting our first village trail. Buy your map from

The Cedars Pantry, £1 per map and enjoy an Autumnal walk

around the village to find all the letters and reveal the Autumnal word

Return to The Cedars Pantry for a prize and whilst you're there, enjoy what they have to offer.

Maps will be available from Monday 13th October at Cedars Pantry
and Wetheringsett Primary School.

The trail will end on Friday 31st October.

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EMAIL: ecosweep@live.com

Wetheringsett Church & Town Estate Charity
Registered Charity No. 209940

Applications are invited from Wetheringsett Parishioners for funding from this local Charity set up for the benefit of local parishioners in need. An example of the financial assistance considered includes the following:

- Transport costs to school, college or hospital appointments
- Contributions to heating or electricity in cases of difficulty
- Contributions to medical equipment or therapy
- Essential equipment for school, college or university
- Community Group assistance

Applications should include a brief outline of your need, the amount applied for and where possible please provide quotes. The Charity may not be able to cover the whole amount as funds need to be divided equally but may be able to make a contribution towards the cost.

Applications can be sent in writing before 31 October 2025 to the Clerk at 23 High Street, Debenham, IP14 6QL or via email to wetheringsettctrust@gmail.com

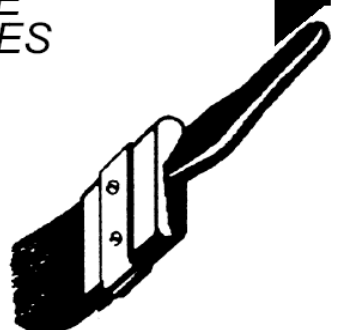
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Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk – We are the People's Champion

[I've seen lots of stories in the news about people being left out of pocket if events they've booked tickets for have been cancelled at the last minute. How can I get a refund if this happens to me?](#)

Keep an eye on the organiser's website and social media profiles for all the latest updates. You won't be entitled to a refund if you change your mind about going or realise you can't go anymore - but if an event is cancelled, your refund rights will depend on how you bought the ticket.

If you bought your ticket from an official seller and the organiser cancels, moves, or reschedules the event, you should get a refund. The official seller is the best point of contact to ask about how to get your money back. If you're having no luck getting a refund, check to see if the seller is a member of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR). If they are, you can use STAR's complaints procedure. STAR members should receive a refund at face value if the event is cancelled and the organiser has agreed to refunds.

You'll probably only get the face value of the ticket back - the amount printed on it. Some sellers might refund postage if, for example, the event is cancelled before the tickets are sent. If you had to pay any booking or card fees, you might not get those back. If the official seller isn't a member of STAR, check how you can solve an ongoing consumer problem with a business seller. You may also be able to get your money back another way, such as through your credit card company.

If you bought your ticket from a ticket-reselling website, refunds would depend on the site's terms and conditions.

If you bought from a private seller and the event is cancelled or rescheduled, then it is unlikely you will be able to recover your money. We still recommend you contact the seller.

Be aware of scams. Unfortunately, we've found that in these situations' scammers can prey on those who are affected.

If your event is cancelled and people or companies get in touch to offer their services to try to recover money on your behalf, be alert and make sure that you're looking out for the signs of a potential scam. For more information on getting a refund, take a look at the Citizens Advice website.

Citizens Advice—addendum:

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.

Grass Paddock to Rent

The Church Charity has a grass paddock to rent from October. It is just under two acres and situated at Brockford Green.

Anybody interested, please contact Tony Alston on 07788974169, text or phone.



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It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

and you're invited



Saturday 11th October

9:30—12 noon

Village hall



Tea, coffee, cakes
and bacon rolls

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



WETHERINGSETT VILLAGE FETE



WE have heard mutterings

around the village asking why we no longer have an annual village fete.

Well, whilst the village hall team are hardworking and enthusiastic, we are a small group, some of us who are still working either full or part time.

We would love to have a fete but cannot do it without help and support from the community we serve.

Therefore, we aim to set up a small group of enthusiastic villagers to organise a fete for next year and to galvanise the community to back the event wholeheartedly.

If you want to make it happen, please get in touch with **Colin on 07999480369** or **Hilary on 07519999265**. We are both on WhatsApp.

Please don't think someone else will do it, lend us your unique gifts and skills to make this a reality.

WE NEED YOU!

**We're by your side
every step of the way**



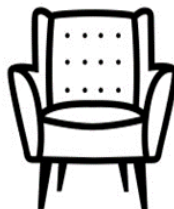
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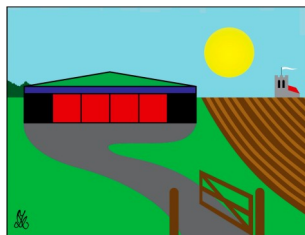
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Debenham Shed

At our stall on last month with the Debenham Green Team there were several enquiries about sharpening knives and garden equipment. Jonathan at the Shed offers this on a commercial basis at good rates—phone him on 07506 804902. Other enquiries included repairs to metal chairs, a Swedish sledge and light fittings. Although we aren't *The Repair Shop*, we can often help.



Repair, reuse, recycle!

Our last workshop of the year (10am-2pm) is:-

- **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.***



*My bank keeps pestering me to borrow money from them.
I wish they would leave me a loan*

*Have you ever played silent tennis?
It's just like normal tennis but without the racket*

*I'm trying to remember what the French word for white is...
But my mind keeps going blanc*

*Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot*

A VILLAGE HISTORY

This fantastic volume of 230 pages is currently out of print. It is a complete story of the Parish going back before William the Conqueror and most people in the parish have not read it, as many are new to the parish. i.e. been here less than the 25 years of this century! Actually, there is nothing post 2000, so we may need another chapter for the last ¼ century!

Tony Alston is researching for a reprint and when a cost is known, it will be for preordered copies, as we cannot afford to hold a big stock of unsold volumes.



Watch this space!

AJA



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Quote of the month

The Purpose of Propaganda is to make one set of people forget that other sets of people are human

Aldous Huxley





Celebrating the "Hallows" of Hallowe'en?

The sights, sounds and splendour of the Latin Mass for the Saints

**Saturday 1st November, 6pm
St Mary's, Thornham Parva**

Now we are in meteorological autumn, nights draw in, shop shelves fill with witches, skeletons and cobwebs, and the Hallowe'en season begins to stir. But long before pumpkins and trick-or-treating, this was the time of year when the Church turned its thoughts to the great company of the saints in heaven - the "hallows".

The English word "hallow" is still in regular use as a verb, but the occasion referred to as "hallow e'en" uses it as a noun - the eve of the feast of the "hallows", or Saints. The word derives from the Old English *Halig* - similar to the modern German *Heilige* (*Holy*). It is entirely coincidental that the saints depicted on the famous altarpiece at Thornham Parva are each also sporting a *Halo* - that's Greek (certainly to me!).

All Saints' Day, kept on 1st November, is one of the oldest and grandest festivals of the Christian year. It is a day to give thanks for those men and women who, through their faith and example, have shone as beacons of holiness. In the medieval imagination, the saints were not distant figures, but powerful companions and intercessors—friends in heaven who could bring our prayers before God.

The Middle Ages celebrated this feast with great solemnity and splendour: choral music rising to the rafters, clouds of incense, rich vestments and ritual, all within the glowing setting of parish churches lit by candlelight.

Following the success of last year's Mass for All Souls, Canon Paul Andrews will return to Thornham Parva on 1 November, along with the Schola Thornhamensis, to celebrate Mass for All Saints' Day, with authentic music, vestments and liturgy, in the perfect setting of our thatched medieval church and its world-renowned medieval retablo.

We invite all who wish to come and share in this unique experience—to step back in time, to savour the beauty of worship as our ancestors knew it, and to join the timeless celebration of the saints in glory.



South Hartismere Benefice

October 2025 Newsletter



I was recently buying my coffee at the Costa on Liverpool Street Station, presented my re-usable cup and my Costa card. 'Ah' said the assistant with heavy irony, 'your *loyalty* card'. She pointed out that my cup was from Starbucks, and had a cardboard sheath from Caffè Nero: 'I see that you are loyal to *all* your coffee shops,' she said.

It was a fair point, and it reminded me of a poem by the Victorian poet Ernest Dowson in which, lying in the arms of new lovers, he cannot suppress memories of his old love. At the end of each stanza, he addresses her: "I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! *in my fashion*." Clearly, he believed that even just thinking about her was a sign of fidelity; loyalty, it appeared, was an elastic concept.

Actually, the idea of a loyalty card is a strange one. Who is being loyal to whom? We are told that a major reason why supermarkets, in particular, issue them is to build up a picture of individual customer's buying choices, a picture which can then shape their marketing strategy. Amazon customers are often made aware of this, even without loyalty cards. Some years ago, when my grandchildren were very small, I realised that Amazon's idea of my tastes was:

Anglican liturgy - Wagner operas - disposable nappies

All this set me wondering whether loyalty is necessary a virtue at all. In the case of those who served the German Third Reich - to take an obvious, if extreme, example - giving unquestioning loyalty to party and state was not held subsequently to excuse complicity in war crimes. It is the object of the loyalty which is key. When the theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was associated with the plot to assassinate Hitler, he was clearly acting disloyally as a citizen, but (it could well be argued) in conformity with deeper laws of justice and humanity - if you like, in loyalty to the purposes of God.

When is loyalty unequivocally a good thing? Maybe only when it's experienced as unconditional love and faithfulness. One instance might be the uncompromising love of a parent for a wayward child - love that is not blind to faults, and is grieved by them, but which won't stop loving. Or perhaps it's the wronged partner in a relationship, who still finds the grace to love, despite what has happened, and despite the pain endured. I guess that what I am describing is how we imagine God - God who has no need of loyalty cards, because he knows us to the core, but whose faithfulness is unflinching, and who goes on loving us, despite, and despite, and despite...

Time for a coffee!

(Rev'd) Alan Harding



South Hartismere Benefice

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday 5th October

The 16th Sunday after Trinity

Gislingham

10.30am

Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

Thorndon

3.00pm

Harvest Festival and Re-commissioning of Elders

Sunday 12th October

The 17th Sunday after Trinity

Thornham Parva

10.30am

Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

Stoke Ash

3.00pm

Harvest Worship for All with refreshments

Sunday 19th October

The 18th Sunday after Trinity

Gislingham

10.30am

Worship for All

Mellis

10.30am

Worship for All

Thorndon

10.30am

Holy Communion

Thorndon

4.00pm

CONNECT

Sunday 26th October

The last Sunday after Trinity

Wetheringsett

10.30am

Holy Communion

Yaxley

10.30am

Holy Communion

Thornham Magna

4.00pm

Harvest Evensong

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Contact:



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

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

facebook

Having your Flu Jab at Mendlesham?

We will be there with our
fund-raising board..

Saturday 18th October



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Friends of Mendlesham Health Centre
(incorporating Bacton Surgery)



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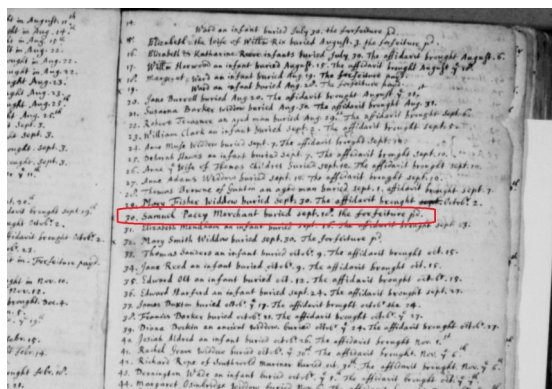
Friends of Debenham Library

Suffolk
Community Libraries

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

Are you stuck for a book to read? Have a look at the **Debenham Recommends** bookcase in the Library. These fiction and non-fiction books are selected by Friends and customers, with a short description of each one. If there's a book you'd like to recommend, write down the details at the library and why you liked it. You can also submit or read reviews in the library catalogue online.

Good news for genealogists, and anyone researching their family history: Suffolk's historic parish records from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich are now available to search online thanks to our partnership with Ancestry. Not only does it open up centuries of the county's history like never before, but it also preserves these irreplaceable documents for generations to come. Access is free of charge at all of Suffolk's libraries.



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
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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 4 August 2025

Parish Councillor Vacancy – a resignation from the Council was received from Mrs Elizabeth Aldred. Elizabeth has been a parish councillor for Wetheringsett for some 30 years but due to her other commitments felt unable to carry on in the role. Huge thanks were recorded to Elizabeth for all her time and work on behalf of the community, particularly her involvement with footpaths and trees.

Elizabeth has indicated she would be willing to remain as the village Tree Warden and Cllr Mrs Lizzie Drury has taken over as the Parish Footpaths Officer.

Notice of the Vacancy has been advertised in the village, if any parishioner, 18 years and over, is interested in joining the council please do speak to a councillor or contact the clerk – we will be pleased to hear from you.

Solar Powered Speed Signs – the two new speed signs have been installed and are fully operational, one at Hockey Hill and the other at the southern end of Brockford Street. Thanks were again recorded to Cllr Mrs June Weir for sourcing the equipment and grant funding and to the two Brockford Street parishioners for installing the signs and getting them up and running. On behalf of parishioners this was much appreciated.

Village Website – the village website is under re-construction by Cllrs Stephen Dodgson and Stephen Alderton. It is hoped the new website will be more informative and easier to manoeuvre. As well as parish council information it will include community groups. Please contact the parish council if your group has not been included, it is important to include as much information about the village as possible.

Mid Suffolk Light Railway – the Chair reported on his attendance at the opening of the extended railway line on behalf of the Parish Council. This had been a very successful event, the Chair wished the Middy every success, the enjoyment it was able to provide to parishioners and visitors was a credit to the village.

Wetherup Street – Cllr Barry Lacey reported on flood remedial work planned in Wetherup Street. This would include ditch clearance by riparian owners in the vicinity of the parish pond to hopefully prevent any further flooding in the event of heavy rain. Should the work reveal clearance of pipes flowing into the pond was required the parish council would arrange for the work to be carried out at the same time.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1 September 2025

Report of meeting in November newsletter



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Do you have anything 'to say'? Any thoughts you would like to share
with the rest of us— or just something you would like to
'get off your chest'

Please send your thoughts about any of the articles in the newsletter - or any other matter, to **wetheringsettnews@gmail.com**

(Please refer to Disclaimer on page 2)

Is the Climate Changing?

Of course it is, the scientists tell us. Not long ago the Thames used to freeze over regularly, for ice skaters to enjoy. Now the water is so 'impure' that the temperature would have to fall a long way to get icy! It seems that we used to have a weekly spell of this or that, but now we have months one way or the other. We have had 2 or 3 wet, mild winters, and now a summer that equates to 1976, for those who can remember.

All this is not good for farmers, and food producers. Our yields are markedly down, and we hear how the food price inflation is above other inflation indicators. Perhaps the Govt will encourage us to grow food crops rather than the blue flower mixes we see!

Unfortunately, our farm contractor passed away quite suddenly, and we have had to find a new tenant. He seems to have even bigger machinery; I hope this means he will do the jobs quicker, and be gone!

T.A.

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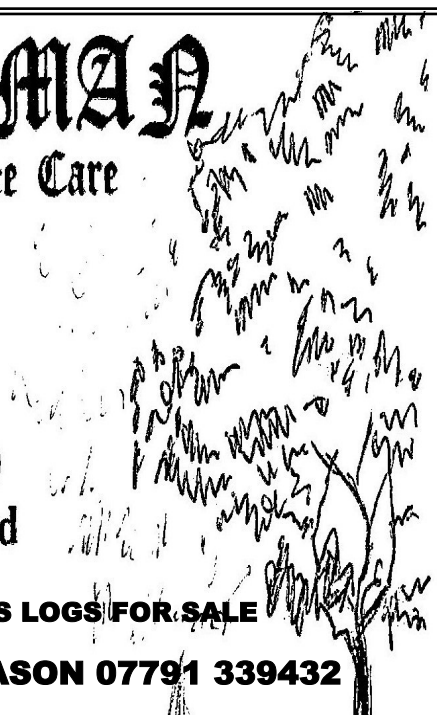
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The Middy extension is open

After years of planning and negotiation, the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway extension is open at last. Following the introductory ceremony on 1st August this year guests were given a ride along the extension in the MSLR's genuine Victorian 4-wheeled coaches, steam hauled by a 135 year old open cab locomotive, the 'Sir Berkeley'. The extension gives visitors a return ride of almost two



Photography - Michael Stenning

kilometres through the Suffolk countryside along the original track alignment 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. This development makes the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, always affectionately known as the 'Middy', a great railway experience for Suffolk,

particularly for the younger generations. MSLR volunteers are now on with building the planned 'destination' station, Aspell Halt, which will be ready to be opened for next season.





Hallowe'en jokes -

Why didn't the skeleton go to the Hallowe'en party?
Because he didn't have any body to go with

What's a ghost's favourite dessert? I-Scream!

Why did the headless horseman go into business?

Because he wanted to get ahead in life.



What did the ghost teacher say to her class
Watch the board and I'll go through it again!

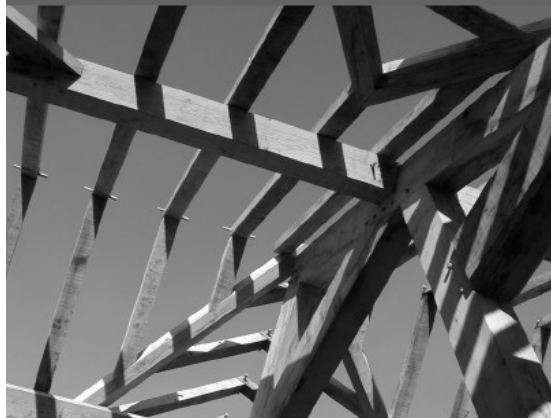
Why do witches ride broomsticks?

Because vacuum cleaners are too heavy



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Dog Fouling



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!

Michael Brame

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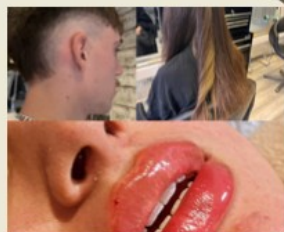
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Next visit: Thursday 16th October

WETHERINGSETT PARISH COUNCILLORS

<u>Parish Councillors</u>			
Cllr Darrell Howard CHAIRMAN	darrell.howard@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Stephen Alderton	stephen.alderton@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Stephen Dodgson	stephen.dodgson@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Mrs Rachel Leech	rachel.leech@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Barry Lacey	barry.lacey@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		01728 860273
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Aldred	elizabeth.aldred@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		01728 860482
Cllr Nigel Lingard	nigel.lingard@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		01449 766918
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Cllr Kaylee van Zyl	kaylee.vanzyl@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Mrs June Weir	june.weir@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Tony Alston	tony.alston@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		01449 766231
Parish Clerk: Mrs Lynne Cockerton	clerk@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		01728 862001
County & District Councillor : Cllr Andrew Stringer	Andrew.Stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk		01449 780339
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