

Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford



Newsletter

July 2026

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish website;

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

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(Rector of South Hartismere Benefice)

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TOWNLANDS TRUST ~ Lynne Cockerton 01728 862001

PARISH FOOTPATH WARDEN ~ Rachel Leech

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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 July 2026 issue of your Newsletter



Well, we've had the Summer Solstice and unbelievably the nights are now officially 'drawing in!' July brings Wimbledon and seasonal strawberries; and the warmest month in the Northern Hemisphere on average. ...and has certainly begun with scorching heat this year!



Enjoy the month but don't forget the sun cream.

Stay cool everyone! *Cally (Editor)*

Dates for the Diary

July

See page 10 & 11 for all the great Middy 'days' this month

Adverts

The Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford newsletter is run on an entirely voluntary basis and is only made possible by the support of local firms and businesses, who pay for adverts placed. These payments meet the cost of printing, which is our one expense.

So, a big **THANK YOU** to all those placing adverts in the newsletter.....without you this local publication could not continue.

Colour Pages

You will have noticed that recent newsletters have featured some colour pages; a great enhancement to the publication, and although this, of course, adds to the printing costs, we have been pleased to be able to support the local initiatives regarding the village fete and the school colour run.

There are some logistical challenges with adding colour pages to the newsletter,but if you would like colour added to your entry please contact Bernie who will advise on costs.

As always we welcome any news items from the local community.

Thank you, *Cally, Bernie, Sue and Eddie*

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

Deadline for copy 15th of every month

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
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Friends of Debenham Library

Suffolk
Community Libraries

The **Book Group** are reading *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki this month. It is inspired by a true crime case: the story follows a male-dominated newsroom's only female journalist who investigates a convicted serial killer and gourmet cook, Manako Kajii, who seduced and murdered lonely businessmen using the transgressive power of delicious home cooking. They meet on Wednesday 1st July, 10.30am at Debenham Library. To register your interest in joining, please contact Maureen on 07507 802360 or ask at the library.

The mobile petting zoo **Our Animal World** returns to Debenham on **Wednesday 19th August** in the afternoon. This free event, funded by the Friends of Debenham Library, has proved very popular with families and children in the past, so put the date in your diaries/-gadgets/-calend-ars now! Booking arrangements will follow. We aim to have more free activities this summer. If you can help with the Reading Quest or would like to

Did you know....?

The Spydus catalogue system can tell you the value of books and other loan items you have borrowed since it was first used—December 2010. For one of our library assistants it is £44,930.82, or about £55 per week! What a saving using your library makes instead of buying books, ebooks and audiobooks

join the Friends in supporting your local library, speaking to the library staff.

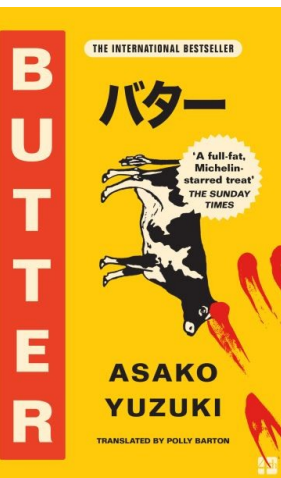
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The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

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

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Curtains Upreview

Yet again, Wetheringsett was treated to entertainment that would do credit to the West End!

'The Affairs at Medlers Top'; - a truly fun and engaging performance sprinkled with laugh-out-loud farce! The village hall transformed from the entrance to the stage—we entered a time-tunnel to the 1930s.

And what a crew, multi-tasking - from actors, to stage-hands, to waiters, to clearer-uppers (and anything else that needed doing in-between!)

For an extremely modest fee we were provided with a wonderful evening repast, or, for the matinee production, a delectable high-tea complete with embroidered table linen.

Well done, Curtains up. Can't wait for your next production.



The drawing room,
Meddlers Top



Curtains Up



A big ***Thankyou*** to everyone who came along and supported us in our recent production *The Affairs at Medlers Top* - and to everyone who helped in any way.

Without you - our audience, we wouldn't have a show, making all the hard work worthwhile, and we are very grateful for the continued support you give us. We introduced a Matinee for this performance and it was great to see so many come along and the tea was enjoyed by all.

We have all enjoyed a well-earned rest and are now back and starting to plan our next Production

December 2026

WATCH THIS SPACE MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

We have already had a lot of interest

We look forward to seeing you all very soon

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5th July - Steam Railway & East Anglian Practical Classics Day



The Easy Anglian Practical Classics Group Have been visiting us for nearly 10 years now. We will be pleased to see them again with an extraordinary collection of around 20 vehicles from yesteryear, even though some, at least, represent the move from rail to road transport in the middle of last century.

With the motor show of course all the

Middy facilities will be open and steam trains will be running though the day to the end of the extension opened last year. First train 11.00 a.m. then every 35 to 40 minutes.

12th July - Steam Railway Day

A day to enjoy all the Middy has to offer with steam train rides on our genuine Great Eastern Railway coaches, all well over 100 years old, pulled by a vintage steam locomotive, 110 year old Peckett saddle tank no.1370 'May'.

Trains run from 11.00 a.m. to the new station Aspsall Halt where visitors can admire the Suffolk countryside the railway was built to serve.

Middy volunteers will be in action to provide the vintage train rides and all the railway's facilities will be available including the Museum, Restoration Shed visits, Tea Room and the Middy Real Ale Bar.





Continued ..

19th July - Steam Railway & Suffolk Craft Fair Day

The original purpose of the Middy was to bring coal in and transport, usually agricultural, products out to the wider world. Until transport improved Mid-Suffolk mainly looked after its own needs making and/or creating answers to whatever was required to satisfy local requirements.

The Craft Fair will bring to the Middy purveyors of locally produced products and examples of skills of yesteryear plus, of course rides in our steam hauled vintage trains. Living history!

26th July - Steam Railway & Vintage Motorcycle Clubs Day

The annual visit by owners of some exhibition, but still running, early.



motor- bikes, many of which are contemporaneous with the running of the actual Mid-Suffolk Light Railway during the first half of the 20th Century. Examples from Ipswich, Norwich and Kings Lynn sections of the club are promised today.

A great opportunity to see the evolution of 2-wheeled motor transport, (optimum viewing

time mid-day), and take in the atmosphere of a rural railway of the period. And you can ride the trains as often as you like during your visit. Railway Museum, shop, tea room and real ale bar all open.

Standard entry prices apply for all July dates: adults £15.00, children under 16 £8.00, families (2+2) £38.00, concessions over 65 £12.00. Free parking and as many train rides as you like during the day.

For more programme information visit www.mslr.org.uk For more press information contact John Reeve marketing@mslr.org.uk 01986 798019/07776 243256

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

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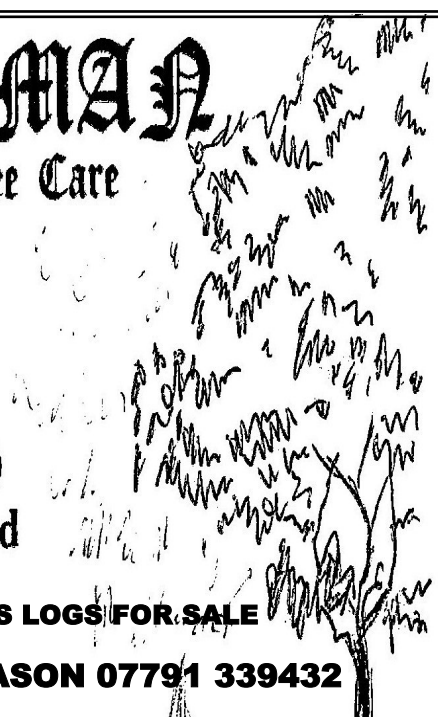
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Wetheringsett Church of England Primary School

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This term's value: Service



Not so much to report from school last month as we were busy with exams and assessments

Now they are all done we are looking forward to all the exciting school activities that July brings!

Watch this space for all the news in the August issue of the newsletter



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Mid Suffolk

I've recently had to give up work due to a back injury and I'm worried about how I'm going to cope with the drop in income. I'm not sure what benefits I can get - where should I start?

Lots of people miss out on benefits they're entitled to, so it's worth checking what you can get.

Claiming benefits also means you can get access to other financial help like cost-of-living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

To get started, you can use an online benefits calculator. For the most accurate answer, you'll need information about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. You can use the Entitledto benefits calculator (<https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>) or Policy in Practice version (<https://www.betteroffcalculator.co.uk/login>) for a detailed overview. The Turn2us online tool (<https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/>) can provide a quick idea of what benefits and other financial help you might be eligible for.

The main benefit available for most people of working age is Universal Credit. You should check if you can get Universal Credit if you're over 18 and under State Pension age you can check your State Pension age on the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>), and if you have less than £16,000 in savings or other investments. You can check if you're eligible on the Citizens Advice website.

If you're finding it difficult to work because of your injury, you might get more Universal Credit or not have to look for work. You'll need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions that you have a health condition when you claim Universal Credit and, if possible, submit a fit note. You can find out more on the Citizens Advice website.

You might be entitled to other benefits depending on your situation, like your age, if you're disabled or if you have a child. Some people can claim more than one benefit - for example, disability benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (if you're under pension age) or Attendance Allowance (if you're over pension age) and Universal Credit. These disability benefits aren't means-tested and can often be claimed in addition to other benefits like Universal Credit. Look at our website for more details.



Mid Suffolk

Continued ...

If your medical condition makes it difficult to work, you may also be entitled to the new-style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Check if you can claim ESA on our website.

If you pay council tax, you might be able to get a reduction in your bill. You can check if you can pay less council tax on the Citizens Advice website.

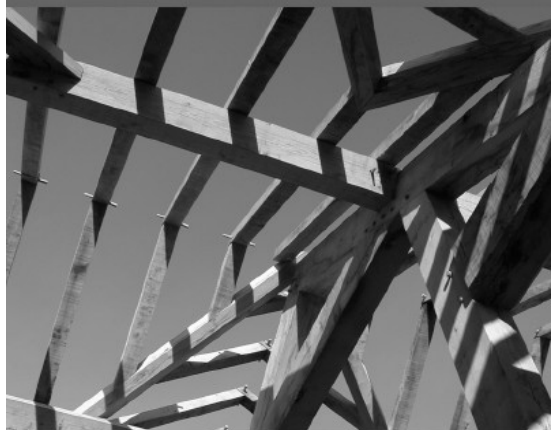
There is also help available if you don't have enough money to live on. You might be able to get extra money from the government, your local council or a charity. Find out more about the support you can get with the cost of living on the Citizens Advice website.

if you're still not sure, remember you don't have to face this alone. Our advisers can help to check what benefits and financial support you might be entitled to and help you find a way forward.

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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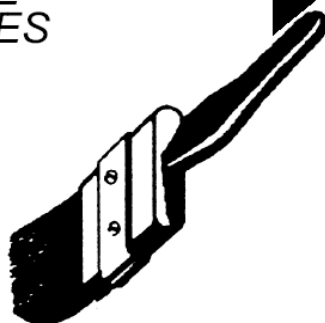
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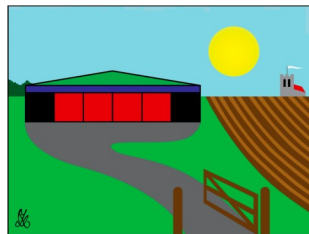
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Debenham Shed

You may have noticed there was a County Council election last month! A film crew visited Debenham on 8th May to film the local election count at Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre, and thanks to a fortuitous conversation with Nick Risby (former Radio Suffolk presenter) at a car club event, they also visited Debenham Shed. After hours of filming at the Shed, we only featured for a minute or so, but you can still see that minute in Sunday 10 May's BBC1 *Politics East* show at about 11 minutes into the programme: www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000dk0v/politics-east (still there on 7th June).



Meanwhile the production line for barn owl boxes have completed another ten—only 30 more to go!

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.***



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Wetheringsett cum Brockford Parish Council

Report of meeting held 1st June 2026

Solar speed sign – Wetherup Street. Agreement as to where the sign will be sited is ongoing. This should be decided within the next few weeks after which approval will be required from County Highways.

Local Plan - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are preparing a new local plan that will help shape the future of the districts. The Joint Local Plan will guide decisions on housing, jobs, infrastructure, town centres, the environment, transport and community facilities, helping to ensure that Babergh and Mid Suffolk remain attractive, sustainable and thriving places to live, work and visit.

Residents are now being asked to comment via a scoping consultation which is an opportunity for the District Council to gather views from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders on key challenges, opportunities and priorities for the future.

All feedback will be reviewed and used to inform later stages of the plan preparation, including draft policies and public engagement.

The consultation survey is open from -

Friday 5 June 2026 and closes at **5pm Friday 31 July 2026**.

The survey can be completed here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/scoping/>

Further information including FAQs and supporting documents can be found on the MSDC website at: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-scoping-consultation your views are important.

Better Re-cycling – residents should have received their new bins, if not received please email recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk. The [food waste video](#) is now available alongside a whole host of information on the MSDC website www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/future-changes-to-bin-collections

A calendar advising residents which bin is due to be collected on which day was included in the residents information pack or can be found on the MSDC website - waste collection page.

County Council elections - following the boundary changes Wetheringsett cum Brockford is now part of the Threadling ward. County Councillor Matthew Hicks was re-elected at the May County Council elections and will now be representing Wetheringsett. Thanks had been recorded to Cllr Andrew Stringer for his many years as the Wetheringsett County Councillor. Andrew will continue to represent Wetheringsett at District Council level.

Date of next meeting: **Monday 6 July 2026, 7pm at Wetheringsett Village Hall.**
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South Hartismere Benefice

JULY 2026

Sunday 5th July
The 5th Sunday after Trinity

Thorndon
Gislingham

10.00am Together @ 10
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th July
The 6th Sunday after Trinity

Mellis
Stoke Ash

10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Worship for All

Sunday 19th July
The 7th Sunday after Trinity

Thorndon
Thornham Parva
Gislingham **Village Hall**

10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm God and Play

Sunday 26th July
The 8th Sunday after Trinity

Thornham Magna
Wetheringsett
Yaxley

10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Welcome to Holy Communion
10.30am Worship for All

Telephone Church BCP Holy Communion is on Thursdays at 11.00am

Contact:



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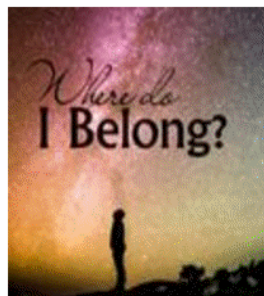
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthHartismereChurches/>

Quote of the month ~

*Spring being a tough act to follow, God created
June.*

Al Bernstein





Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12.

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Recently I enjoyed a recent visit to Bristol, a city closely associated with Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Brunel was a genius of the Industrial Revolution. He designed incredible things — including the SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Even today, they leave people in awe. But as I walked around the SS Great Britain, I found myself wondering. ... who remembers the people who built it? The ones who placed the 100,000 rivets. The ones who shaped and fixed the 1,000 iron plates that formed the hull. We don't know their names and never will. And later, walking across the Clifton Suspension Bridge, I had the same thought. ... Who remembers the workers who forged and fitted the 4,200 wrought iron chain links that still hold it up today? Again — we don't know their names. But here's the thing: their work mattered. Every rivet. Every plate. Every link. If even a small part had failed, the consequences would have been serious. They may not be remembered. They may never have been celebrated. But what they did was essential. And I think there's something deeply true in that for us. Because the Kingdom of God is a bit like that.

At one of our recent Sunday morning reflections, we considered our church and community as being a place where we belong. Our church is not a private members club; it is open to those who have faith and those who have none. But at the heart of the church is a simple truth — that every one of us matters. Every one of us has a place. Every one of us has a part to play. Not because of how visible we are, or how important others think we are, but because God knows us. He knows our thoughts, our actions, our words... and, most importantly, our worth.

Not all of us are called to be a Brunel, visible, celebrated, remembered. But all of us are called to be faithful in the part we're given. Some roles are seen, many are unseen, but none are insignificant. Think of the quiet acts of kindness, the faithful prayers no one else hears, the small jobs that keep things going, the encouragement offered at just the right moment. In every village these are the "rivets" and "links" and without them, things don't hold together.

"A place to belong" doesn't mean just being present or indeed feel that we need to be seen in church on a Sunday, it means knowing that you matter, and that what you do matters. Most of what happens in the church, happens faithfully every day of the week, the cleaning, the flowers, the preparation for TPlus, the cooking and baking, the pastoral visits, the silent prayers, as well as the administrative tasks. Even if no one else notices. Even if no one remembers your name. God does. He sees. He knows. And He uses every part and every person to build something far greater than we can see. So, the question isn't "Will I be remembered?" The question is "Am I being faithful in the part I've been given?" Because in God's hands, nothing offered in faith is ever wasted.

So, if you are looking for somewhere to belong on a Sunday morning, our doors are always open for you. If you have a particular skill in drinking tea and eating biscuits, I assure you, you will fit right in!

Tim
Church Warden and Lay Elder



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WETHERINGSETT VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Well, we had a very disappointing turn out for the Wetheringsett Village Hall Annual General Meeting last night, 15th June, but we went ahead as planned - as these things always do.

Colin Green, as Chair, provided a report confirming that although we are in challenging times, we are looking forward to a future of working with the Parish Council in a more structured way and encouraging more people to make use of the splendid facility that we have in our Village.

The Treasurer's report followed, confirming that we had made a small profit during the last 12 months and that, with the plans we have in mind, it should be possible to improve this further in the 2026/27 period.

Although the Hall looks in reasonable shape, there are several maintenance and improvement jobs - some small, some more urgent - that we need to tackle over the coming year. Keeping the Hall in good condition is a priority for the Committee, and we'll be working hard to make sure it remains a facility the Village can be proud of.

Next came the re-election of the Committee Members and Trustees. We were saddened that our Secretary, Hilary Green, has decided to step down. Our thanks go to her for the work she has carried out over the last few years.

The remaining five members of the Committee confirmed they were willing to stand again and are looking forward to the coming year. This does, however, leave us with an even smaller team to run your Village Hall and we would very much welcome some new blood to help keep things afloat.

The 'normal' meeting then followed, where we considered a number of ongoing maintenance issues, the level of bookings and potential Events for the future.

One item in particular was The Wetheringsett Windfall, which has received a great deal of support from the Village. It was agreed that we will go ahead and apply for the Registration required to launch this exciting community fundraiser.

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What is a Town? In Wetheringsett we have Town Lane, and the Wetheringsett Church and Townland Trust. Just short of Stowupland there is Town Farm.

It is the (very) Old English of 'tun or 'ton, emphasizing the concept of protection (from the marauding Vikings of King Alfred and King Edmund's era) rather than just a group of dwellings. So small communities would have built a wooden stockade or palisade.

I assume this would have been pre-Roman times. Then we had a period of civilisation with the Romans, followed by the Dark Ages from 410AD till 1066, although our history gradually became better documented through the 650years.

Germanic inference is to a garden boundary of a hedge. My garden hedge is a palisade as it is no stockade to the muntjac or rabbit. There is an Alston in Cumbria; perhaps I should re-name our farm, units and house as Alstown Farm?!

AJA

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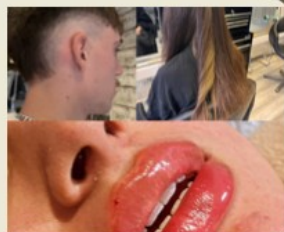
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Do you have anything 'to say'? Any thoughts you would like to share with the rest of us— or just something you would like to 'get off your chest'

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)

Village defibrillators



There are 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.

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Next visit: Thursday 16th July

WETHERINGSETT PARISH COUNCILLORS

<u>Parish Councillors</u>			
Cllr Darrell Howard CHAIRMAN	darrell.howard@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk	07733 262 224	
Cllr Stephen Alderton VICE CHAIR	stephen.alderton@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk		
Cllr Stephen Dodgson	stephen.dodgson@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk	07771 780 414	
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Cllr Tony Alston	tony.alston@wetheringsettcumbrockford-pc.gov.uk	01449 766 231	
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County Councillor: Matthew Hicks	Matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk	01449 780 339	
District Councillor: Andrew Stringer	Andrew.Stringer@midsuffolk.gov.uk	01449 780 339	
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