

The Creeping St. Mary Newsletter



**Northern Lights reflected in a puddle
10th October
*photo courtesy of Juliet Davis***

Volume 43/6 December 2024 January 2025

REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS

n.b. always check with individual organisations for changes

Church services and other events carols, toy and gift service etc.- p. 15 & 16

Parish Council monthly meetings - page 5

Social Club, Friday Bar - Village Hall last Friday each month (not December) ,

CSM Womens' institute - Village Hall - second Wednesday each month - p. 25

Mobile Library - p. 26

CSM Primary School Term dates - p. 21

Village contact details - pages 34 & 35

Lilley's Wood Winter Work parties - p. 26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Council meetings

Thursdays: 28th Nov '24 and
23rd Jan '25

SOCIAL CLUB see p. 14

December

12th - Soup lunch

noon to 1.30pm

14th - Children's Christmas

party 2 to 4.30pm

20th - Themed Party

January 2025

18th - Competitive jigsaw

puzzle night

24th - Friday Bar

February 2025

28th - Friday Bar

March 2025

22nd - Annual quiz night and
fish and chip supper

WOMENS' INSTITUTE

18th December table
arrangement workshop 2-4.



EDITORIAL

We can finally start the countdown to the big day. Anyone with children (and some adults!) find it hard to keep the lid on when Christmas goods have been in the shop for months. However Advent is a good time to start (except cakes, puddings and sloe gin which ideally were done last month). Advent calendars can be started - simple ones with windows are a delight.

Christmas present buying comes to the top of the list but hopefully more and more people are not succumbing to excessive spending on novelty items even when they can afford to - Citizens Advice on p. 31 reminds us to budget carefully to avoid financial as well as indulgence headaches in the New Year. One idea we follow in our family has been "Secret Santa" where names are put in a hat and the budget for each (with set limits) goes on one person, making it possible to buy something more meaningful or expensive - perhaps more kind to the planet than a host of cheap gifts. This year we may opt for a joint activity rather than individual gifts - the main joy is getting together to mark the passing of the year.

More and more people are thinking about the wider issues of what they buy - see p. 29 for a story of how one family went right off plastic!.

Part of Christmas is taking the time to make things - WI are offering a session on table decorations on 18th December. A wreath, made with natural materials gathered on a winter walk is always satisfying - see p. 36 for all the 38 footpaths and bridleways the Village has available.

There are a host of Christmas activities to join in with arranged by the indefatigable Social Club.

Sadly we no longer have Rev. Philip Payne's thoughts on what Christmas is about; historically it was getting together to celebrate surviving the cold of winter and looking forward to a bright new year - surely this still applies!

A convivial Christmas and New Year to all.

As ever, thanks are due to my co-Editor Kathryn Martin and everyone else who does so much for the village and sends in material and especially photos to make the magazine a true community effort. Gipping Press not only print but deliver the magazine to David Haynes up in the Village who gives it to the distributors to get the newsletter to your door. Finally of course, the advertisers who keep the newsletter afloat - please support these local businesses.

Joan Hardingham co-Editor

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior

(the next being 15th of January for the February/March edition - Easter etc.)

Please adhere to this - it is most stressful having late entries or cancellations as it can take ages reorganising the pages on the computer - Joan

Number of words: one page is 400 densely packed words; 350 - nicely spaced with sub-headings and paragraphs; a very small photo/logo takes up 30 word-spaces.

Please continue contributing your great articles and photos



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Dawn Boon 07739012015

CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Jacks Green Triangle – Survey Results

Thank you to those few who expressed their view in relation to the triangle of land at the junction of Jacks Green Road and All Saints Road as to whether you would prefer this to become wild, or kept cut.

All responses received favoured the area being cut and following further discussion at the last meeting of the Parish Council, this is what was voted in.

The Parish Council are aware that this piece of land is currently in need of maintenance, with many weeds coming through. The Parish Clerk has liaised with the developer of the Ruby Homes development on Jacks Green Road, who we are aware seeded grass on the triangle following the repositioning of the road and access point to the development. The developer confirmed that they would return and re-seed again when it was the correct time of year to do so.



Blacksmiths Field

Following the successful installation of the Zip Wire and Basket Ball Hoop/surface, which were suggestions made during the survey conducted earlier in the year, the Parish Council would not be considering any more additions to the field at this time.

Projects Community Infrastructure Levey (CiL)

The Parish Council continue to receive CiL money to spend on projects in the village. Project(s) are listed below.

Project(s) that the Parish Council have completed:

- Provision of Zip Wire – Blacksmiths Field (CiL money used)

- Provision of Basket Ball area - Blacksmiths Field (CiL money used)

(CiL) money earmarked:

- Repair works to Church Vestry roof

(CiL) money donated:

- Repair works to the church wall

- Contribution to the lounge refurbishment at the Village Hall

Projects that the Parish Council are currently considering / investigating are:

- Additional parking for the school – this is ongoing and proving to be difficult, but the Parish Council will not give up!

- Speeding in the village there is a Community Speedwatch Team operating and two Speed Indicator Devices in use.

- Works to the pond on All Saints Road – this is ongoing

- Dunches Lane – improvement works to enable provision of a circular route for all the use from Low Lane

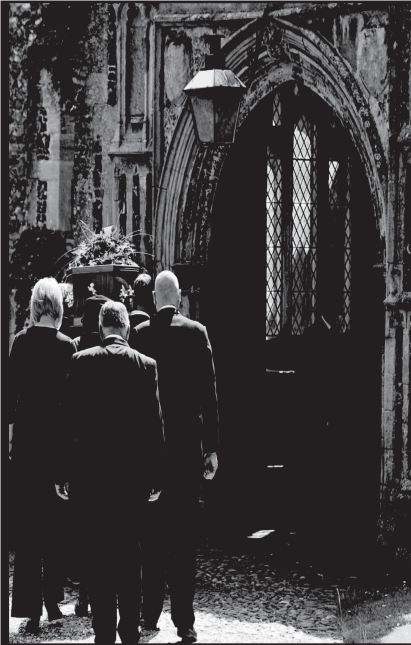
Public Footpaths

Whilst out walking, if anyone sees any issues with Footpaths please report them to Councillor Jo Mitchell on 07733 0297019 or email:

jobird23@aol.com Or report them at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-issue>

Next PC meetings: Thurs 28th Nov '24 and 23rd Jan '25 – All Welcome!

Details of forthcoming meetings and copies of Parish Council Meeting minutes can be found on the village web-site. If you have any concerns or queries to address to the Parish Council, please contact Jennie Blackburn, Parish Clerk by e-mail @ clerk@csmmpc.co.uk or phone 01449 721369 (answer phone) or come along in person to the next meeting.



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Report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

SCC is set on major investment to protect Suffolk from flooding SCC will invest another £1.5 million for flooding prevention work. SCC calls on Flooding Minister, Emma Hardy MP demanding the government step up and plug the funding gap. Examples of the kind of projects that could be delivered include:

creating flood water retention ponds in land above villages and green spaces within communities to capture water and slow the flow into residential areas.

Installing flood doors and non-return valves on drains to stop water entering

properties that are particularly at risk of flooding. Help landowners with advice and guidance, especially those with responsibilities to maintain ditches and streams on their properties (known as 'riparian ownership'). bolstering Suffolk Highways' resources to maintain the County's roads.

Despite limited resources and budgetary challenges facing all county councils, we have managed to find extra money to tackle flooding and propose investing a further £1.5 million to deliver work identified in our investigations. This complements £2 million a year invested in drainage repairs and improvements funded from the Department for Transport maintenance grant. The county has

cleared 96% of highway drainage gullies- more than 111,000. This involves lifting the iron grates and sucking up the debris that has washed off the roads

There have been more than 3,500 emergency call outs for flooding related incidents – an unprecedented number. This includes pumping an estimated 2.5million litres of water from the roads, removing 53 tonnes of debris and clearing 121 fallen trees

Government's new housing targets must put infrastructure first

Suffolk County Council has raised concerns in its response to the government's proposed reforms for planning policies for England. In particular, it expresses fears about the lack of clarity around infrastructure, such as schools, transport, waste and community facilities when new housing developments are approved. . This is simply not sustainable – infrastructure must be delivered in a timely manner. The onus must be on the developer to confirm how infrastructure will be delivered. SCC secures Section 106 contributions as well as funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy from district councils - but this is to maintain a baseline level of service rather than make a positive overall improvement .

Have your say on SCC budget

Suffolk County Council is seeking feedback from residents, businesses and community organisations as it prepares its budget for the next financial year. The council has launched an online consultation to explain its



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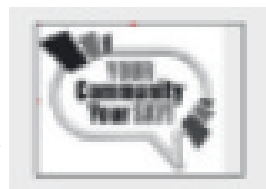
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Matrimonial Matters

current financial position and give Suffolk residents an opportunity to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities. The consultation is from Friday

1 st November to Monday 16 th December 2024. To participate,

visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget



Suffolk Highways unveils new gritting fleet named by county's young people

With winter approaching, Suffolk Highways has welcomed 38 new gritters to replace its existing fleet, including Kieran McSpreader, Albert Brinestein and Morgan Freezeman. The new gritters have a digital operating system with the latest route map planning software, ensuring they are winter ready to keep Suffolk's roads safe and moving in the event of ice or snow. A competition to name the gritters was launched at this year's Suffolk Show, with winning entries including Salty, Gritty McGrit Face and Grit Britain, being unveiled during a recent ceremony in Ipswich. There are also multiple Suffolk-related names in the fleet, such as Spread Sheeran, Lizzie Gritzzini and Grit Rhys Jones in recognition of some of the county's famous residents. They are not the only celebrities to be honoured, as Gritney Houston, Spready Mercury, Keanu Freeze, Lewis Caploughdie, and David Attenbrrrrr are set to grace Suffolk's roads in the coming weeks and months. Further information on winter maintenance carried out by Suffolk Highways, including which roads are gritted, can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/check-which-roads-are-gritted.

Council to offer interest-free loans to make homes more energy efficient

SCC will offer interest-free loans to help make residents' homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps will all be possible with loans of up to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of 7 years at 0% interest. The

£3 million project will be open to homeowners across Suffolk from November, but you can register your interest now at Lendology. Making homes more energy-efficient helps retain their heat and use less energy, meaning homeowners can save on their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions.

For more information and to register your interest in an interest-free loan, visit Lendology's website..

www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/initiatives/solar-together-suffolk

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741

email: matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

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**see page 35 for details.
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and Needham Market Town



This post on MSDC is shared between
Ross Piper (left) - Green Party
ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07928512581 and
Terry Lawrence - Liberal Democrats
(and Mayor of Needham Market)
terry.lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk
7928 512599



Distrcit Councillor's report from Terry Lawrence

Locality award.

A small award was made to Stowmarket Model Railway Club on the basis they also extend their meets into the ward. Baylham Village Hall have also received a contribution towards their renovations and Creting ST Mary monies for additional chairs in the village hall. An award has also been made to the Scouts to assist in the purchase of another shipping container at Crowley Park for storage initially during the rebuild of the scout hut on the Camping Land. Needham Market Entertainment Company have also had a small award to assist with their flood damage recovery project. I still have 11% of the annual locality award budget remaining to the financial year end in April next year. The deadline to submit applications is the 21st March 2025 and the 28th of March 2025 is the last date for processing those payments. Remember locality awards can not be used to fund monies already spent.

Parking

Unfortunately my current work load at Needham Market Town Council has not allowed me to consult the High Street businesses but it remains on my to do list.

Waste Collections

To meet new government legislation, Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have endorsed plans for improved recycling from 2026, alongside already agreed plans for weekly food waste collections starting at the same time. Glass and cartons such as Tetra Pak – which currently have to be taken to Suffolk's recycling centres and bottle banks - will be included. Plastic film would be incorporated from 2027. This additional recycling, combined with new weekly food waste collections, will have a significant impact on recycling rates, allowing over 58% of the waste now put in black rubbish bin to be recycled instead. A separate bin, box or bag will be provided for paper and cardboard. This separation, known in the waste industry as 'twin-stream collections', would ensure this isn't affected by other items in the bin, improving its recycling value and quality. Unusable or expired items that residents will also be able to put in their food waste bin, include:

- leftovers: meat, fish, and bones
- tea bags and coffee grounds
- bread, pasta and rice
- eggshells and dairy products
- fruit and veg peelings

This reduced amount of general rubbish, in particular food items which are most likely to cause bins to smell, means the councils will move to more cost-effective three-weekly rubbish bin collections from 2026. However, the councils' waste team will be sympathetic to those with exceptional needs on a case-by-case basis, such as those with larger families, with medical needs or no available space for the new bins.

Community Rail Partnership (CRP)

Mid Suffolk District Council is supporting the formation of Greater Anglia's new Community Rail Partnership for the Ipswich to Cambridge rail route.

The aim of the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) is to help develop and promote rail services along this key regional rail corridor, helping to align the evolution of services in line with local needs. There are already a number of successful CRPs across the Greater Anglia network which have all helped raise the profile of rail services and supported improvements to stations, trains, and timetables, as well as build stronger links with local communities. The new Ipswich to Cambridge CRP will look to replicate that positive impact, focusing on the communities served by trains along the line (Ipswich, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Elmswell, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Kennett, Newmarket, Dullingham and Cambridge).

Mid Suffolk District Council will provide funding for the CRP alongside Greater Anglia, Suffolk County Council, the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority, West Suffolk Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Cambridge City Council.

Trees and Wild Flowers Scheme

Since 2021, MSDC have been providing free trees, hedging and wildflower seed to applicants across the district, where doing so will deliver benefits both to biodiversity and the public. This has led to the planting of hundreds of trees, thousands of metres of hedges and thousands of square metres of wildflower meadows. All this helps us to meet our aims for increasing tree cover and supporting wildlife across the district. The scheme is continuing and we are able to take applications at any time of year, though of course, delivery of plants and materials to successful applicants will be dictated by the appropriate time of year for planting.

Details on the scheme, the application form and guidance notes can be found here: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/trees-and-wildflowers-scheme>

If you, or any community groups, schools, etc. in your town or parish, is considering a planting scheme to benefit wildlife, ideally on land that is publicly accessible, now is a great time to submit an application to allow planting to take place over the next few months. Schemes we have supported in the past include: woodlands, Street trees, Hedgrows, Community orchards, Trees in parks and open spaces and wildflower meadow creation and enrichment. We are particularly keen to support schemes that help connect up existing habitat or benefit wildlife in our towns and villages, in more urban settings. We are happy to work with you or any applicant to provide advice on what might be the best approach for the site. If you are interested in applying and want to find out more, please get in touch, biodiversity@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk or simply submit an application.

District Councillor's report from Terry Lawrence

CREETING ST MARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Once a year in May the organisations below report to the Parish Council at a public meeting. These are published in the newsletter over the following year to show all the many village activities.

The Chairman of the Parish Council (June/July edition)

The County Councillor (June/July edition)

The District Councillor/s (August/September edition)

The Village Hall Management Committee (August/September edition)

The Newsletter (October/November edition)

The Social Club (December '24/ January '25 edition)

The Primary School

The Church - St. Mary's

The Welfare Charities (December '24/ January '25 edition)

The Womens' Institute

The Blacksmiths Field (August/September edition)

The Parochial Church Council

ANNUAL REPORT FOR CREETING SAINT MARY WELFARE CHARITIES

During the year ending December 31st 2023 there had been a total of eleven retirement grants made to members of the village community. Three student grants were made and a grant assisting with travel costs for a special needs student. A grant was also made to assist in purchasing a riser / recliner chair for a person with mobility health concerns. Income for the year was £6249 with an expenditure being £4710. The accounts were independently audited by Mrs. Frances Hammond in March 2024. The statutory annual return was submitted electronically to the Charity Commission March 11th 2024

Paul Stephenson JP (Chairman Creeting St Mary Welfare Charities)

CREETING ST MARY SOCIAL CLUB REPORT FOR APM 2024

The Social Club has again had a very successful year with many achievements. The Friday bar opening on the last Friday of each month continues with occasional guest singers, karaoke, bingo and a social guest Elvis and is well attended. The Coronation Weekend featured a barn dance, royal scarecrows and a field fayre all of which went very well and featured in a special 4 page colour spread in the newsletter funded by a donation from MSDC. The spring and autumn saw a return of the soup lunch programme, with 25 or so regular attendees, mainly but not all from our senior community members. The Fireworks event, funded by the PC, and led once more by Kathryn Martin, featured a spectacular display and saw an excellent turnout with first class catering. Thanks to the many who helped with this event. Christmas events were repeated this year with a sold out children's party with entertainment, Santa and his elves attending. A most enjoyable adult 80s themed party was held close to Christmas. This year Jacqui Mann again ran a fantastic Quiz Night with a fish and chip supper provided by the Moving Plaice from their van. The volunteer bar team have also supported a range of events for village residents and nearby locals including birthday parties, wedding celebrations and wakes. The Club Committee has established a small charity fund with profits from some of our events through the year which allows us to assist in making Christmas more enjoyable for a few local families with limited resources as well as some other events. We are looking at improvements to the bar area and stock room which should aid the bar staff in the performance of what at times can be very hectic roles. We hope that our many events have not only been enjoyed but also helped to provide opportunities for acquaintances to be made and for our ever growing community to be enhanced as a result. Huge thanks to the committee and the many volunteers who have enabled our programme to be delivered.

Lisa Nobes SC chair



CREETING ST MARY SOCIAL CLUB

Diamond Jubilee Hall

www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/social-club/social-club-news/
open to residents of the village and surrounding area

The licence only allows alcohol sales to members!

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE - Forms available from William Barnes

CSM_SocialClub@outlook.com or tel.: 07771 814651

event details are sent to members by email and Facebook

Social Club Events Programme

Social Club events programme to February 2025

(All events at Village Hall unless indicated otherwise)

29th November Friday Bar 6.30pm to 10.30pm

12th December Soup lunch midday to 1.30pm

14th December Children's Christmas party 2pm to 4.30pm

20th December Themed Party 7pm to 10.30pm

18th January Competitive jigsaw puzzle night 7pm to 10.30pm

24th January Friday Bar 6.30pm to 10.30pm

28th February Friday Bar 6.30pm to 10.30pm

William Barnes Social Club Secretary

PIZZA & PUZZLE EVENING

Saturday 18th January 2025 7pm - 10pm

Creeting St Mary Diamond Jubilee Hall

Come and pit your wits against fellow teams to see who can complete the jigsaw puzzle first! Entry is £10 per team of 4-6 people

The bar will be open and there'll be a visit from a pizza van during the evening! Limited places so don't delay!

Contact jacqui mann: 07885 468751 or email jacqui_mann@icloud.com

Annual Quiz Night

Saturday March 22nd 2025.

Our popular annual quiz with fish and chip supper will be held on Saturday March 22nd 2025. PLEASE Hold the date and watch out for further details.

The Diamond Jubilee Village Hall

Run by the Village Hall Management Committee volunteers (more welcome!).

Janet Mayell is Chair, William Barnes, Treasurer and Sue Haynes, Secretary.

Our website accessed from the village website

www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/village-hall/whats-going-on/

The Hall is to hire: There is a large hall, (capacity 100) with a newly refurbished bar in a smaller lounge plus a well equipped kitchen (all of which can be hired separately). WIFI, ample tables and chairs, toilet facilities, an outside patio, large car park and access to Blacksmith's Field.

Bookings: tel. 07849 817488 csmbookhall@gmail.com

Committee Secretary: Sue Haynes - 07780303512

email: creetingjubileehall@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

The Benefice of North Bosmere

The Churches in this Benefice are: Coddendam, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Crowfield, Earl Stonham with Stonham Parva, Gosbeck, Hemingstone, Stonham Aspal with Mickfield.

For information contact Liz: northbosmerebenefice@gmail.com

for Creeting St. Mary - Glynis Clint - 01449 720740

For all service details see the *Ten Village News*

Creeting St. Mary - St Mary's Church

Services

Please look at the notice board at the front gates and in the South Porch for services and times in the Benefice.

Winter opening hours.

The Church is now open on a Sunday from 11–3 pm. Any other time please contact me and I will be very happy to open the church up for you.

Section 12 meeting.

The eagerly awaited Section 12 meeting took place recently, chaired by Archdeacon David. Members from each church in the Benefice met to discuss further plans to secure the appointment of a new Vicar. The job will be advertised in Spring 25 with interviews to follow.

Remembrance Service and School Remembrance service.

We had two services this year, the Sunday service led by Henry Stamford and organist Diane Hurt finished with a roll call around the war memorial. The School service, again led by Henry was held on the Monday, 11 th November. Children from the school visited the war memorial and left a wreath of poppies and their own hand made poppy wreath.

Maree's Craft day.

The vestry was buzzing, with lots of people coming to buy crafts for Christmas and the home. Thank you to everyone who helped.

To Come

Toy and Gift service- Sunday 8 th December at 11 am.

All unwrapped gifts will be passed on to the Family Refuge in Ipswich.

School Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 7 th December, 11 am —2pm.

Carols - Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm taken by Henry Stamford.

The benefice choir led by Ian Galbraith will be participating in the service and afterwards there will be refreshments with mulled wine and nibbles. Please join us for this festive service.

Joint Benefice service.

This will take place in our Church on Sunday 29th December at 10 am .

Spring Afternoon 'Songs of Praise' - Sunday March 2nd - a service for everyone in and around the benefice. Time to be confirmed. Music will led by David and the 10 Village Band. Refreshments afterwards.

Glynis Clint - 01449 720740.

Church Services at Creeting St Mary and Creeting St Peter

- 1 December 9.30am Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
- 8 December 11.00am Toy and Gift Service Creeting St Mary
- 22 December 11.00am Holy Communion BCP Creeting St Peter
6.30pm Carol Service with Choir Creeting St Mary
- 24 December 6.30pm Carol Service Creeting St Peter
- 29 December 10.00am Benifice Holy Communion Creeting St Mary
- 5 January 9.30am Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
- 12 January 11.00am Morning Prayer BCP Creeting St Mary
- 19 January 11.00am Holy Communion BCP Creeting St Peter
- 26 January 11.00am Morning Worship Creeting St Mary
- 2 February 9.30am Morning Worship Creeting St Peter

Suffolk Historic Church Ride and Stride 2024

This year's event, raising money for the Historic Churches Trust, took place on Saturday 14th September and after a chilly start it turned into beautiful day. Anthea and I headed out on our trusty bicycles a little after 9am and after checking in at Creeting St Mary Church we headed in an easterly direction. We managed to visit 25 wonderful churches, all unique and with such amazing history and so many that I hadn't been to; Helmingham was very grand with lots of impressive figures, Hoo was where Ronald Blythe's Akenfield was filmed and Boulge was really very remote, situated down a very long track! We eventually arrived at our last place of worship, Woodbridge Quay Church just before 5pm and then we had to find enough energy to pedal home before the sun set.

We arrived home tired but happy and very grateful for everyone's support, with all your generous donations we were able to raise £1189! This money will go a long way to help keep our cherished churches alive for the benefit of us all.

I would also like to say a big thank you to David Haynes who kindly collected a portion of donations for me and for his sterling efforts over the last 20-plus years in pedalling and raising funds for this charity and for his orchestrating a smooth transition in passing over the role to me as I take the handle bars and pedal into the future.

Thanks again and looking forward to riding next year with your support.

Ben Caisey

See centre page photo.



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CHRISTMAS FOOD FAYRE

Sat. 30th - Sun 1st Dec 10-3pm

With Christmas Carols & Mulled Wine on Sat at 11am

MEET THE ARTIST & LATE NIGHT OPENING

View our new exhibition in the cafe by local photographer Mike Howlett
With cheese & wine & late night opening in the farmshop & craft units

Fri 6th Dec 5:30-8:30





Ride and Stride Church Fundraisers: last stop of the day at Woodbridge Quay Church *photo courtesy Ben Caisey*



**A favourite walk on the River Gipping
*photo courtesy Joan Hardingham***

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Brilliant Fireworks! - *photo courtesy Juliet Davis*



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**Jaqui Mann and friends setting the standard
for the Christmas Themed Party**



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CREETING ST. MARY VOLUNTARY-AIDED CHURCH SCHOOL

We are in full preparation for Christmas now, with nativity plans coming together, crafts being made and the excitement building! In amongst all that we have had a visit from a local fire engine to see Oak class as they have been making fire engines in D.T. A very fun and informative visit! All of the pupils walked up to the church on Remembrance day to celebrate and reflect at the memorial there. We have also joined in with Children in Need, with children wearing spotty clothes for the day. As a school we raised over £140! At the end of last half term, 23 of our older class travelled over to Herefordshire for a 4 night residential, at Oakerwood. They all took part in numerous activities across the few days, including zip lining, climbing, pizza making, high ropes, team building and paint balling. Everyone had a wonderful time, and came back full of memories! Thank you to our 3 amazing members of staff who went on the trip too. We have had a Be Bright, Be Seen day as the clocks have changed and walking/travelling to school becomes more problematic. Our Junior road safety officers took on the responsibility of the day, organising a poster competition and promoting bright clothes to be worn on these dull afternoons and evenings. Our class pages on the website are regularly updated, you can find more information and pictures of what the children have been up to. Lastly, we have the PSA Christmas Fair on Saturday December 7th from 11am-2pm in school. Festive fun for all, whilst



raising money for our school'

Felicity Knights
Admin Assistant

School Head Mrs. Christine Friar
school telephone 01449 720312
office@creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk
www.creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

Xmas holiday
20th Dec- 6th Jan2025
Half term week w/c 17
February 2025

Suffolk Libraries Mobile Library

Route 13 at Creeting St. Mary

On Friday every four weeks

Whissell's Farm at 11.20-11.30 and
outside 30 All Saints Road at 11.35- 45

Dates for 2024:

20 December - for January onwards check the website Tel: 07955193623
www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries/ipswich-mobile-library-route-13
You can renew titles on line at Suffolk Libraries



Needham Market Library

The old Middle School music room in School Street, Needham Market IP6 8BB

Monday Closed

Tuesday and Thursday 1000 – 1300, 1400 - 1700

Wednesday 14.00 - 19.00

Friday 14.00 - 17.00

Saturday 10:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00

Sunday 1100 - 1600

Out-of-hours book return box -not large books!

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help@suffolklibraries.co.uk

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



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Creeping St. Mary village newsletter is
delivered 6 times a year to over 400
households

with many new households moving in.

see page 35 for details.

It includes an introductory editorial
insertion (discretionary) of up to 100
words

CREETING ST. MARY WELFARE CHARITIES.

Charity number: 207445

Providing assistance to Village residents and sometimes outside, in financial need by reason of age, illness, unemployment or for education. Possible grants are: annual grants to state pensioners; the relief of general hardship; maternity costs; funeral expenses and pendant alarms. No repayments are needed, nor are they means tested.

STUDENT GRANTS

If you are 18 and in Further or Higher education you can apply annually for your course. Provide information on the course and College or University.

GRANTS FOR STATE PENSIONERS

A monetary grant once a year, payable at the end of the year. Previous recipients will need to apply again.

All applications for grants are treated in the strictest confidence.

TRUSTEES: (New volunteers are welcome!) Mr. P Stephenson (Chair) 01449 722868 Mr. David Blackburn (Hon. Clerk); Rachel Craggs, 07590825564; Mrs. P. Day 01449 720057; Mrs. K. Martin 01449 720491.

Please make enquires to the Clerk of the Trustees

Mr. D.Blackburn, 1 All Saints Road, IP6 8NF Telephone 01449 721369

STOWMARKET & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

PROBUS CLUB is a group of the retired & semi-retired who meet monthly for lunches & social activities in Stowmarket. Probus have branches all over Great Britain. Our branch meets on the first Tuesday of every Month in the Royal British Legion Stowmarket at 10:30 am.

After morning coffee we relax & listen to a guest speakers. followed by a two-course luncheon provided by 'KELLYS KITCHEN'

PREVIOUS TALKS SCHEDULE

NOV 5th Sean Hedges-Quinn SCULPTOR (Latest Roy Hudd)

DEC 3rd Before our Xmas lunch we will be entertained by

The Fantastic 'WESLEY UKULELE BAND'.

LUNCH OUT - 14th AUGUST -two-course lunch at the Lodge Resturant Nr Ipswich.

A Suffolk County Tour (with Commentary)11th Sept with a Carvery Lunch.

PLEASE COME & JOIN US & MAKE LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS

True Friends:

***As I count my blessings, there is one thing that rings true,
I'll always be grateful, for the friends I found with you !***

CONTACT president@stowmarketprobus.co.uk or phone Keith 07395080975

Chris Bingley

Needham Market and District Horticultural Society

Needham Market Community Centre, IP6 8BB

Meetings are once a month usually on the first Thursday at 7.30pm in the Burton Room, with occasional outings to see gardens and an annual supper in October. Membership is annual at £12.50. Guests are £4 per meeting.

**We will not have meetings in December or January.
The next will be the first Thursday in February 2025**

Guest are welcome to join occasional meetings for £4 a session.
For details: please email –Pam sec.hortsoc@gmail.com or call 01449 723704 or come to a meeting.

Hazel Mackintosh. 01449 720753

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Contact Anne 07766 830977

Creeting St. Mary Women's Institute

Jubilee Hall, Creeting St Mary IP6 8NF

Meetings are at 7.30pm 2nd Wednesday of the month.



Another busy and successful year. 2024 welcomed four new members. We have had a wide range of interesting speakers and have seen the start of the ladies at lunch club, where members are able to try out the local cuisine. The new dabble days are popular where members enjoy learning new crafts along with tea and cake. In April we celebrated our 77th Birthday with about 20 members had afternoon tea at Roots and Shoots. In June we held our annual garden party - a beautiful afternoon attended by members and guests, with the competition being "decorating a flowerpot" with the winner using a craft picked up from one of our dabble days. August saw our annual outing to Corn Craft. We will be finishing the year with a Christmas meal, and also a Christmas flower arranging workshop hosted by one of our members. Wednesday 18th December 2-4 pm. Cost £6. visitors welcome

Why not join us in 2025 for one of our upcoming events:

January 8th - Defib and Resuscitation First Aid

February 12th - Truth About Clothing

March 12th - RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve

April 9th - 78th Birthday Celebration

May 14th - My life in Bali

June 11th - Garden Party

July 9th - Marquetry

August 13th - Outing

September 10th - Bell Ringing

October 8th - A Christmas Cello

November 12th - AGM and Baking Competition

December - Christmas Celebration

Join us for any event we always welcome new members, please contact Trilly, 07535788289 trillyann47@gmail.com or follow us on Creeting St Mary's WI new Facebook page

Be a Local Recorder for CREETING ST MARY

The Suffolk Local History Council runs a Recorders Scheme. we ensure that the 'present' is recorded at local level for the 'future'. They would note significant events and collect the parish magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings and submit these to the Suffolk Records Office. There is a Newsletter and an annual conference. www.slhc.org.uk contact recorders@slhc.org.uk



LILLEY'S WOOD

This small piece of land ex-agricultural land (adjacent to the River Gipping near Needham Lake), owned by the CSM Parish Council, is now home to abundant wildlife including a good display of purple pyramidal orchids and rare chalkland flowers. A management plan put forward by Suffolk Wildlife Trust has advised the removal of invasive alder saplings and brambles overshadowing the wild flower areas. Work parties convene to clear the dormant vegetation between October and March. Additional volunteers are always welcome

The area is special for wildlife and plants which like the chalky soil - unusual in the area. Please limit disturbance and keep dogs under close control as the dense vegetation is ideal for nesting birds - then hopefully the Turtle Doves may return.

Lilley's Wood Work Parties

By the time you read this our working parties will have completed two early winter sessions following the end of the growing season. The main works this winter involve cutting out self-seeded young trees in the clearings of the wood to keep these areas clear for the wild flowers, trimming back the scrub for the same reason and trimming our recently laid hedges on the perimeter of the wood. Later in the winter we intend to set up some new seats kindly provided by the Parish Council to allow time to be spent relaxing in this little wildlife haven and enjoying the sun, the breeze and the bird song. If you would like to join one of our working parties please do get in touch. Home-made cake and refreshments come with every attendance!!

William Barnes (wbarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk) tel.: 07771 814651

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

For a list of the 38 rights of way in the village see:

<https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/footpaths-and-bridleways/>

Feedback is needed to ensure they remain usable; please report issues to Cllr Jo Mitchell (see contacts pages)

Walking with your dog

Please help wildlife by keeping them close to avoid disturbance.

Keep them out of water if they have flea treatment and dispose of waste in a bin as this may contain medications harmful to many wild creatures.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/pet-owners-help-wildlife>



WILDLIFE TIPS

What a joy to watch the jostling at the bird feeder on a cold winter day. But ... and there always seems to be a 'but'... this is actually a place where disease can spread negating all the good done: search for Trichomonosis on RSPB or BTO websites. This horrible and fatal ailment is spread, particularly in Greenfinches, through shared food and water. The advice is to have small bird feeders and water containers - essential in winter - which are emptied quickly so do not go mouldy and bleached between refills.

Joan Hardingham

FARMING NOTES

After a long autumn of mild but relatively wet weather, the first real signs of winter have finally arrived with a few days barely exceeding zero centigrade and some sharp frosts. The lack of frost and of cold days so far has meant that the ground has remained quite warm and so lawns have continued to grow and late summer flowers such as chrysanthemums continued to display well.

Most farmers aim to put in a good part of their annual cropping in the autumn, cultivating the fields as soon as harvest is over and then drilling the fields with the seed for new “winter” crops which will germinate and then grow up to show a fresh green colour across the field before becoming relatively dormant during the depths of winter. This autumn establishment means that the plants develop their root systems and so are ready to grow on well in the spring as soon as days grow longer, the sun gains in strength and the soil warms. Many farmers have been frustrated that the frequent short periods of rain and the misty mornings have meant that the soil has stayed wet and so for long periods has been too sticky to drill the crops – as most of you know, farmers are rarely happy!! Just at the moment most farmers have very good reason to be discontented as the same factors that caused the cost of living crisis have also hit farming with fuel, labour costs and most supplies much more expensive while crop prices have fallen over the last two years because of grain surpluses elsewhere in the world. The reality of climate change is also having a big impact. Now that winter is arriving some farmers have already started cutting back hedges and clearing ditches.

At College Farm we leave our hedges alone until as late in the winter as we can as the berries in the hedges are a great food source for birds and the foliage provides very welcome shelter for birds, mammals and insects, nearly all of which are in decline. While walking about you may also have noticed that the shooting season has commenced. Not all farmers support or undertake shoots but the ones that do are quite audible. Fieldfares and redwings are now beginning to arrive in flocks from the depths of Russia – watch out for these chatty birds as you walk the footpaths and many of the blackbirds, robins and other birds in your gardens have also crossed the North Sea to winter in our milder climate.

William Barnes

Suffolk Tree Warden Network (STWN)

Tree wardens champion trees and hedgerows - to tackle climate change, loss of biodiversity and providing ‘corridors’ for wildlife. Suffolk has only 8% tree cover (London - 20%). STWN offers free locally-sourced tree and hedgerow plants. 30,000 trees have been planted in the last 4 years.

It helps Community Tree Nurseries and works with the Woodland Trust, The Tree Council, County, District & Parish Councils

www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk. secretary@suffolktreewardens.org.uk



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We are volunteers who care about wildlife, its beauty, diversity and importance to everyone. We support the Trust's aims and vision for a Living Landscape - with all Wildlife Sites forming networks of linked-up habitat.

We look after local wildlife reserves: Work parties maintain Combs Wood at Stowmarket and Bonny Woods at Barking.

Local SWT reserves Bonny Wood, Combs Wood, Bradfield Woods Bulls Wood. Mickfield Meadow, Black Bourn Valley,

SWT Magazine is delivered to local members, saving postage'

We run talks and events at the Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ 7.30 pm Admission £3.00.

To check event updates see www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events

Contact :John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

Stowmarket Eco-futures Group (SEFG) **Red Gables Ipswich Rd, Stowmarket IP14 1BE**

REPAIR CAFE 2nd Sunday each month: 2-4pm

clothes or bicycles - don't bin it - repair it!

TERRACYCLE RECYCLING STALL

4th Thurs. each month Stowmarket Market, 9.30-11.30

BUT NOT IN DECEMBER the next is 4th Thursday January 23rd 2025

Collection of clean items for recycling - usually put in the domestic waste bin and go to landfill: coffee pods, clean pet food pouches; plastic toothbrushes (not tubes), floss containers; wrappers; crisp packets, pens, Tetra Pack Cartons

OR - BETTER STILL - AVOID PRODUCTS IN DIFFICULT-TO-RECYCLE CONTAINERS!

Eco Café Dates to be arranged

Going Zero, by journalist Katie Hughes – is the story of one family's change to zero waste. This started when an outdoor bean bag chair burst its cover and flooded their garden with tiny polystyrene balls which were impossible to clear up. It was a total wake-up call and led to dramatic changes in their lifestyle, starting with a ban on plastics in their home. Recent Climate events - floods in Central Europe, Bangladesh, Valencia in Spain and hurricanes Helene and Milton in Florida - millions of people being directly impacted by climate change. So what is the wake up call for each one of us that will lead to changes in our behaviour? Plastics use has led to micro plastics being present in water and soil- things that we depend on for life. Loss of nature is happening faster than ever before and threatening our own survival. "Eco groups" are often criticised for being alarmist, but we are just the messengers, the facts speak for themselves. Big changes are needed in human activities, and fast. At the season of New Year Resolutions, let us all think hard about what we can do. Stowmarket Eco Future Group exists to encourage, inform, and take action together. Tough changes are better made in company.

ecofuture@gmail.com stowrepaircafe@gmail.com

contact Stella Davis 07599 398866



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newsletter is delivered 6 times a
year to over 400 households
with many new households moving in
see page 35 for details.**

**It includes an introductory editorial
insertion (discretionary) of up to 100 words**

The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and often borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it.

Consider who you are buying gifts for, what other seasonal expenses you have, and how much you can realistically afford to spend. Keep receipts, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something.

Remember that household bills may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts. Pay priority debts first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website. It's especially important to check if you're eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which will now only be paid to those who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Our office will be closed between 24 th and 27 th December and 1st January. Our Eye and Needham Market outreach services will also not be available on Friday 20th and Friday 27th December.

We advise on debt, employment, benefits and family law.

Contact Tel: 01449 742477 or 676060 or use the form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/

Consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 or ask an online adviser

Stowmarket address: 5 Milton Rd. South, IP14 1EZ - opening hours are Mon-Thurs 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Needham Market Community Centre Fridays 9.30-12.30 no appointment needed.

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USEFUL NUMBERS -(cribbed from the Earl Stonham Recorder!)

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Police, Fire. Ambulance 999
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 Unit 01473 265321
Suffolk Police HQ (Non Emergency)
 01473 613500
Suffolk Police Direct 01473 613997
Suffolk Fire & Rescue
 (Non Emergency) 01473 588888
Environment Agency Incident
 Helpline 0800 80 70 60
Environment Agency Floodline
0345 988 1188

Suffolk County Council
 0345 6066 067
Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC)
 0300 1234000
 Election information - above option 7
Gas 0800 111 999
Electricity (Power Cuts) 105
 Emergencies) 08007 838 838
Anglian Water 03457 145 145
Essex & Suffolk Water 03457 820 999
Suffolk Link 01449616000
Dial A Ride (Optua Transport)
01449 614271

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Editors of the Creeting St. Mary Newsletter:

creetingnewsletter@gmail.com

Content: Joan Hardingham, Alder Carr Farm,

Liaison with contributors and advertisers: Kathryn Martin,

Advertising: Jennie Blackburn 01449 721369

clerk@csmmpc.co.uk (Advertising rates and deadlines see the next page)

Distribution: David Haynes 07729505291



Creeting St Mary Parish Councillors

Sue Haynes (PC. Chair) - 07780303512

Hugo Craggs (Vice-Chair) - 07815137228 (Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) /Sustainability)

Jan Palmer 01449 723997 (Blacksmiths Field / Play Equipment)

Roger Coton - 01449 721526 (Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC))

Lesley Plummer - 01449 720359

Phil Piper - 07923489436

Jo Mitchell - (Footpaths) 07733 0297019 or email: jobird23@aol.com

There are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk : Jennie Blackburn - 01449 721369

or email: clerk@csmmpc.co.uk Meeting agendas and dates are on the village noticeboards during the week prior to the meetings, and also on the website:

<https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/parish-council/>

Creeting St Mary Website

www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Clerk Jennie Blackburn at clerk@csmmpc.co.uk

The 3 village notice boards are located at:

the Village Hall, St Mary's Gardens and Jack's Green.

The old phone box at Jack's Green contains maps, information and a defibrillator and the notice board at the entrance to Alder Carr Farm has a foot path map.

Diamond Jubilee Village Hall

Janet Mayell (Village Hall Management Committee Chair) .

To hire all or part of the hall: contact 07849 817488 csmbookhall@gmail.com

Creeting St Mary Social Club: csm_socialclub@outlook.com.

William Barnes, (Secretary) 07771814651

Lilley's Wood Work Parties monthly meetings

contact William Barnes 07771 814651. wbarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk

Creeting St Mary Footpaths - Details of village footpaths - Jo Mitchell

<https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/footpaths-and-bridleways/>

Report footpath issues to the County Council:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way->

Highway Issues - for potholes or road dangers.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/>

Creeting St Mary Welfare Charities

Mr. David Blackburn ,1 All Saints Road, CSM, IP6 8NF 01449 721369

Suffolk County Councillor for the Thredling Division: Matthew Hicks

Tel: (01728) 628176 ; matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk ; Twitter: @HicksCllr

Mid-Suffolk District Councillors:

Ross Piper -ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk 07752 504093 Green Party

Terry Lawrence - terry.lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk 07928 512599 - Lib Dems.

Mid-Suffolk District Council - all services 0300 1234000

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

patrick.spencer.mp@parliament.uk - replacing Dan Poulter

Creeting St. Mary Primary School - Head Mrs. Christine Friar

school telephone 01449 720312, office@creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

www.creatingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

Priest-in-Charge North Bosmere Benefice which includes CSM

Rev'd Philip Payne, has retired. For more info email Liz:

northbosmerebenefice@gmail.com

St. Mary's Church

<https://www.creating-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/parish-church/>

volunteers: Glynis Clint 01449 720740

Parochial Church Council

PCC Secretary: Hazel Minter - 01449 722148

Treasurer: David Haynes - 07729505291

Suffolk Libraries mobile library tel: 07955193623

Defibrillators

Diamond Jubilee Village Hall IP6 8NF and Phone box at Jack's Green IP6 8NA

The Newsletter is delivered bi-monthly to 410 houses in Creeting St.Mary

Newsletter deadlines: the 15th of the month of:

September - October/November edition - fireworks and Christmas events

November - December/January edition

January - February/March edition i.e. Easter

March - April-May edition - i.e. Easter if its late

May - June-July edition i.e. all those early summer events

July - August-September edition - summer holiday events

Advertising Costs

Deadline 15th of month previous.

One insertion (depending on space)

Full page - £30

1/2 page - £20

1/4 page - £15

Series of 6 adverts:

Full page - £150 (inside)

1/2 page - £100.

1/4 page - £70

colour adverts by arrangement

plus a piece on your business (approx 100 words) per year

