

# OHSMag



THE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR  
ONEHOUSE, HARLESTON & SHELLAND

MAY 2026 —ISSUE 618

[ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk) - [www.facebook.com/suffolkohsmag](https://www.facebook.com/suffolkohsmag)

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## Editor's Letter

Welcome to the May edition of OHSMag.

May always feels like a turning point. The days are stretching out, gardens are bursting into life, and there's a renewed sense of energy around the villages. With two bank holidays and hopefully some warmer weather, it's a lovely time to get outdoors, catch up with neighbours, and enjoy everything our community has to offer.

This month's magazine is full of local news, events, and contributions – thank you, as always, to everyone who takes the time to share updates and ideas.

Whether you're planning a walk, joining a village event, or simply enjoying the longer evenings, we hope May brings you plenty of small pleasures and reasons to feel connected to life across our three villages.

Emma

[ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### *Circle dancing*

*Gentle (mostly!) dances to world music.*

*1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. £6/session  
2pm-3pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse  
No partner needed.*

*Jen Larner 07896 495574*



### **Next Mobile Library Visit**

**Friday 15th May**



**Northfield Road, 9:30–9:55am**

**Onehouse Church Room, 10:00–10:20am**

**Harleston Postbox, 10:25 –10:45am**

# Councillor Penny Otton's Report

## Thedwastre South

07545 423847 - penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk

### **Unitary Decision Announced by Government:**

On 25 March the government announced that it had chosen a three unitary model for Suffolk following the Local Government Reorganization process which will see upper tier authority Suffolk County Council and lower tier authorities like districts and boroughs abolished in two years. Last year the government asked Suffolk councils to submit proposals on how many unitary councils they thought the county should have in the future. Suffolk County Council submitted a case for a single unitary council (One Suffolk) whilst the district and borough councils submitted one for three councils, which was the option chosen by ministers. These plans will see the county split into three areas: Western Suffolk, Central and Eastern Suffolk, and Ipswich and Southern Suffolk, which includes the county town and Felixstowe. Elections for the new councils will be held next May, with the new councillors shadowing existing councillors until the new authorities are 'vested' from 1 April 2028.

**I have decided after 19 years to not stand again for election on May 7th. I believe, with all the new councils it is the right time. I have loved being your County councillor, even when things seem to not go the way we might want. I hope I have been a help to you and wish you all the very best.**

**Forest Road Footpath:** I cannot tell you how furious I am to be told that this is now being stopped due to access. SCC are now looking at alternative plans. I was hoping to leave you with at least a spade in the ground.

**Motion of Support for Survivors of Sexual Harm Passed Unanimously:** At council on 19 March, Liberal Democrat Ruth Leach, on behalf of my group, proposed a motion that the council release a statement of support for survivors of sexual harm and exploitation, on the basis that the near-constant media coverage of the 'Epstein files' was triggering for survivors of sexual harm of both genders, increasing the number of people seeking help. The motion also proposed that the council run a social media campaign

signposting people to Survivors in Transition, a local charity which provides support and advice, and write to the government advocating for funding for support services. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Extra funding for public rights of way:** On 24 March, Cabinet agreed to allocate an additional £3.9m of capital funding to repair structures on Suffolk's Public Rights of Way network. Structures such as bridges and boardwalks have a limited lifespan, and the council undertook a review to create a priority list of structures that need replacing or repairing in the next five years. The additional funding is needed because the amount of money usually allocated for these works is no longer enough due to the increased costs of building materials and labour, which have gone up 50% in the last five years. The priority list includes the Bailey Bridge between Walberswick and Southwold, the Fen Bridge over the Stour at Debenham, and Hempyard Bridge at Ixworth. If structures become unsafe for walkers the council has to close the Public Right of Way, with each closure costing £1,200 for a six month period (if a path was closed for a year, it would cost £2,400). The Cabinet also heard about the King Charles III Coastal Path, which contrary to national media reports, is not yet fully open: sections between Manningtree and Shotley Gate, and north of Southwold, will not be open until later in the summer.

**Libraries decision scrutinised:** At Scrutiny Committee on 11 March, last year's decision by the council to move the library service back in house was reviewed. Libraries' Friends Groups remain in place, with the funds they have raised for individual libraries staying separate from Suffolk County Council's funding. The meeting heard how Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Libraries had worked together to make the transition seamless for library users, although the transfer into council employment had placed a burden on library employees to undertake staff training, including on council platforms for IT, HR and procurement. In addition, the council had undertaken a restructure which had saved £340k in the 'central team'. No redundancies of front line library employees were made. During the meeting the council also laid out their plans to engage with library volunteers, governance systems for the new service and how the service would be celebrating the 2026 Year of Reading. The meeting also noted that borrowing of paper books was reducing, but that digital services such

as eBooks and audiobooks were continuing to grow.

**Support for care leavers:** On 5 March, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss services and support the council provides for young people in Suffolk leaving care. The council has to offer support to young people leaving care up to the age of 25, and at the most recent Ofsted inspection in June 2024 this was highlighted as one of the main areas where it needed to improve. Since the inspection, the council has worked to improve planning with young people who are coming up to leaving care, making sure more young people knew what support was on offer, and making sure that support was accessible for them as they prepared for independence. In addition, the council received a visit from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in April 2025 which focused on youth homelessness and found that the council needed to immediately review its pathways for care leavers presenting as homeless. In response to these findings, the council increased the number of advisors working with 17 year olds to prepare for leaving care, and making sure they are aware with the help they can get such as reduction in council tax, and the 'Family Business' model the council uses to provide apprenticeships and jobs for young people who have been in care. The council has also nearly halved the number of care leavers in unsuitable accommodation, although they are still planning more work in this area, particularly for care leavers in custody.

If you want to know more about what help the council provides for young people leaving care, you can find it here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/services-for-young-people-leaving-care>

**New Government funding for increasing fuel costs:** Suffolk County Council has welcomed the additional £1.7m funding announced by the government to support households in the county facing increased oil heating costs. The council already provides cash payments to help residents with the cost of living through the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund. This scheme supports a range of essential costs, including utilities and energy, and has recently been updated to explicitly reference oil heating following the national announcement. From 1st April, Suffolk County Council will transition from the Household Support Fund to

the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). This transition had already been planned prior to the new funding announcement, and will enable residents experiencing a financial shock or crisis - including sharp increases in oil heating costs - to continue accessing cash support via the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, using the same application route as before.

Residents can access information about this process and how to apply here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/suffolk-local-welfare-assistance-scheme>

**Parents urged to vaccinate against measles:** The council is urging parents and carers in Suffolk to ensure their children are fully vaccinated against measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox, following a resurgence of measles cases nationally over the past two years. The country has seen a return of measles outbreaks linked to falling vaccination uptake, and as a result, the UK recently lost its WHO measles elimination status. Vaccination rates remain below the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks, with almost one in five children starting primary school not fully protected against serious diseases. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases in the world and can lead to complications including pneumonia, meningitis, and brain inflammation. Health leaders including the Public Health team at Suffolk County Council have advised that parents and carers will usually be contacted by their GP practice when their child is due a routine vaccination, but if a child has missed a vaccine and is over 18 months old, these can be scheduled at any time by contacting their GP practice to book an appointment. If a parent or carer is unsure what vaccinations their child has already received, they can check their Red Book, the NHS app or by speaking to their GP practice.

**Vaccine for meningitis:** I have asked the director of public health what the situation is in Suffolk and can send you his reply

### **Social Media and Helpful Links**

Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@ SuffolkGLI) / Twitter

Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

Facebook - Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook

Website - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group: The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council — [suffolkgli.wordpress.com](http://suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

# Onehouse Parish Council

*For questions, ideas, or to raise a local issue, email [clerk@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

*Facebook: Search "Onehouse Parish Council"*

The Parish Council met on **Monday 13 April 2026** at **Trinity Hall**, covering a wide range of council business, community projects, and village updates.

**Apologies & Minutes:** Apologies were received from Cllr Boulter, and councillors agreed an extended leave of absence due to personal circumstances. The minutes of the March 2026 meeting were approved.

**Public Participation:** Residents from the Combs Lane caravan site thanked the Council for its support following approval of the planning application to change the site to residential use.

Concerns were raised regard road markings at the Union Road / Star Lane junction. Trinity Hall car park was discussed.

**Planning:** The Council considered two planning applications: One application received no comment. The other application was deferred to allow further discussion at the May meeting

Councillors also noted recent planning approvals, including the lawful development certificate relating to a caravan site.

**Finances:** All scheduled payments were approved. The Clerk presented the year-end financial report, confirming healthy balances and receipt of the first 2026/27 precept payment. The Council agreed transfer of unallocated CIL funds to the Neighbourhood Plan reserve, payment of additional Clerk hours worked, and minor IT and equipment costs, including email migration and replacement SIDS batteries (subject to payment arrangements),

**Footpaths, Environment & Assets:** Updates were received on:

- Footpaths and tree inspections, with no significant damage reported
- Poor footpath signage, which will be reviewed at a future meeting

Ongoing access issues regarding the Forest Road to Chilton Leys footpath, with further meetings planned. The Council also agreed to request a formal review of refuse collection arrangements on Northfield Road.

**Community Projects & Village Facilities:** Progress updates were received:

- The Neighbourhood Plan, good attendance reported at the recent community event, and a further meeting planned
- Delivery of new gazebos for community use
- The Rural Coffee Caravan, continues to be well attended and has supplied a laptop for attendees to learn how to access online community information, including the OHSMag
- Planning for the Summer Fete, now scheduled for 11 July 2026
- Works at Paupers Grave, including a new accessible gate and support for volunteers
- Installation of the new Onehouse village sign, now complete

**OHS Magazine:** Councillors discussed the future of OHSMag, noting that the June edition may be the last produced by the current volunteer editor. It was agreed that advertising be amended for a *paid* editor role.

A move to an online magazine platform would be taken forward.

**Communications & Next Meetings:** Routine correspondence from SALC, Suffolk County Council, and Mid Suffolk District Council was noted.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Trinity Hall  
on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.00pm,  
followed by the next Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.

**All residents welcome**

## 5 minutes with... Jan Robinson

*What inspired you to join Haughley Hoofers?* I have always been a keen dancer, but until the early 1990's had not come across Morris dancing, initially joining a group based in Hoxne. They performed 'Cotswold' (sticks, hankies and bells) clog dancing, 'North West', 'Garland', 'Border' and ran a children's team of Molly dancers too. I decided that one team wasn't enough for me, and in the mid 90's, joined Haughley Hoofers North West dancers and taught myself how to play the recorder so for both teams I now dance and play with the band.

*What's something local people might not know you offer - but should?* Morris dance has provided me with a busy social life. We form great friendships and feel part of a big family—I am never short of finding someone to attend a concert, ceilidh or folk festival with.. I have visited many new counties in England, and also enjoyed dance tours in Wales, France, Germany and Holland.

Haughley often perform for WIs or other groups, where they give the audience a brief history of Morris dancing, perform several dances and then invite the audience to take part. These sessions are always good fun and these visits are one of my favourite outings with the team.

*How would you describe your group in 3 words?* Friendly, happy, lively

*How would you spend your perfect day off?* My perfect day would be spent socialising. I volunteer at National Trust, Ickworth, I steward at the Corn Hall in Diss, I sometimes volunteer at The Food Museum. I help to organise and market events for East Anglian Traditional Music Trust including The Stowmarket Music Day every September. I also write articles for In Touch and The Flyer. As long as I am busy, getting a decent amount of exercise, meeting people and helping to make their day or evening more pleasant I am happy.



## News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

Representing Onehouse, Great & Little Finborough, Combs, Harleston and Shelland

**Devolution and local government reform:** The County Council elections will now be held on May 7th. There will be Unitary elections in May 2027 for 3 shadow councils for Suffolk to take control in 2028. Our villages will be within a largely rural area. The name and exact boundaries are yet to be finalised. Elections for Mayor of Suffolk & Norfolk will be in May 2028.

**Local Plan Call for sites:** I am repeating this item due to questions and misinformation circulating. The Council has published a map of all sites submitted for development - <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites>

No planning status is granted by submission. Sites do not benefit from any presumption of development.

**Recycling & Waste Collection:** The delivery of new bins ready for the rollout of Better Recycling is largely complete for our villages. When the scheme starts in June, Green bins will be for cardboard and paper, and the new blue recycling bin for plastic and glass containers, including Tetrapak cartons. The new food waste recycling bins will be emptied every week.

### **Grants for home adaptations - £1000 - £5000**

These are always available to help people and their families cope with the challenges of living at home with long term health conditions. Call 0300 123 4000.

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**councillor@matthissen.net - 07976 308128 or 01449 258894**

or write to me at 2 Brick Kiln Cottages, Barretts Lane, Needham Market IP6 8RZ

**Council telephone number - 0300 123 4000**

or drop in to see Council staff at the Ipswich Street, Stowmarket office.

Open Monday – Friday 54 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1AD

# The Food Museum, Stowmarket

May is a lovely time to visit the Food Museum, when the grounds begin to feel distinctly green and alive again and the museum's outdoor spaces come into their own. Set on the edge of Stowmarket, it's far more than a collection of exhibits – it's a living record of how food, farming, and community life have shaped us over the centuries.

Wander through historic farm buildings, orchards and allotments, and you start to understand how deeply connected the county is to the land. Seasonal planting in May brings early colour to the gardens, and there's often activity around traditional cooking and family-friendly demonstrations that make it easy to engage younger visitors.

Whilst work to repair and upgrade the medieval barn is in progress, meaning it is temporarily closed, what makes the museum especially appealing at this time of year is the sense of renewal. Suffolk's farming calendar is shifting into growth mode, and the museum reflects that energy beautifully – a reminder that food history is still being written in the fields outside its gates. For more information, visit their website, [foodmuseum.org.uk](http://foodmuseum.org.uk)





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## Where's Harley Onshell this month?



'Harley was busy playing hide n seek when the Coffee Caravan arrived. He missed out as I couldn't find him. He was upset as he really wanted to meet Bernie, he sulked with a pint of water cider and then passed out!

Before he did I got him in the attached photo! Honestly, gnomes! I'm not even sure if the others found him or he gave up and fell asleep!' *Miranda*



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# OHS Community Centre

**Don't forget to enter the Quiz this month, details on p. 14**

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OHS Fete will be held on Saturday 11 July at 2 pm on the playing field.

Plans are underway for the fete with our usual attractions including:

Games	*	Tea tent
Lots of stalls	*	Central arena entertainment
Live music	*	Car boot pitches

There will be another **princess** and **superhero** competition, as well as a **cute dog** competition. Entries on the day.

We are planning on having a seconds clothing sale in the main hall. Pitches £10.

Car boot pitches are welcome on the field. Pitches £10.

Business stalls are also welcome on the field. Pitches £20.

**If you would like to reserve any of the above,  
please call or message Jackie on 07825 432985.**

We are always looking for help so if you can man a stall, help set up or pack away we would love to hear from you!

**LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF OHSMAG  
FOR THE OFFICIAL FETE POSTER**

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## **Suffolk Mermaid Fish and Chip Van**



Find them in the Community Centre car park on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 5pm to 6:30pm.

Buy on the day or preorder via their Facebook page.

# Local History: Spikes Lane

Here we are, standing in the green lane that is sandwiched between Stow Lodge and Chilton Way. This lane is called Spikes Lane. "The Spike" was the common nickname for a workhouse, so this was the lane leading to the Spike. But where does this lane come from?



Explore Spikes Lane and you will find that it continues down the side of Chilton Fields to a thatched cottage, then it turns right and you used to be able to go straight to Nareys Garden Centre. But today we will need to walk down to the roundabout and up to Nareys.

Then you can pick up the lane going down the left hand side of the garden centre to Dagworth. It used to continue over the railway line and join up with the road that comes down the hill from Old Newton.

The 1834 Poor Law amendment act meant that tramps had to spend the night in the workhouse or otherwise be prosecuted as a vagrant if found outside overnight. By the time the sun was setting this lane would have a stream of tramps from those parishes served by this workhouse making their way here. In the cold wet months of the year, it was somewhere where they could have shelter and be fed.

They could elect to stay two nights if they wanted, but it was at the cost of one days work. The work included stone breaking and unpicking old ropes used on sailing ships. The fibres from these ropes and cables could then be used as caulking to seal ship's decks. These were not the sort of jobs that

the rest of the population wanted to do. Work houses ensured that their inmates were kept clean and fed. Many of the tramps were concerned about the security of their few valuables. The tramps would hide any personal items they had in the hedgerow beside the road leading to the workhouse. Then they would retrieve them the next day.

So the next time that you pass Spikes Lane on a grey afternoon just imagine all of today's walkers were those shadowy tramps looking for somewhere to get out of the rain. Dickens wrote about life in the workhouse in *Oliver Twist* and yes, it was hard, but it was an early attempt to look after the poorest members of our parish.

## Advertise your business here

For more information about advertising in the OHS Mag, please scan the QR code or email us at [ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Our cover image this month is reproduced with thanks to Mark Brewster. He said:

*'I took the attached photo of a peacock butterfly yesterday, I believe it's on plum blossom. There were a pair fluttering around the footbridge on the path which leads through to Harleston church. The butterfly was a little faded, but considering it would have emerged as an adult last summer, and will have since overwintered in a wood shed, another type of outbuilding, or somewhere similar, in a state of near-hibernation, it didn't look too bad. Its next task will be to mate. The females will lay a batch eggs on the underside of nettle leaves, and the yearly cycle will begin again.'*

# OHS Women's Guild

Most of our members joined in the Easter Bonnet competition, with so many imaginative and colourful creations, but Helen Barrett was voted the worthy winner.

Our new programme starts on April 16th with 'The Canary Girls' - a talk about the female munitions workers in WW1 and WW11, who were employed, at great cost, to their health and safety, it's sure to make us realise how lucky we are!

On May 7th, we have a favourite social event on our agenda, our Annual Dinner at the Golf Club.

May 7th is our 59th Annual General Meeting...(so plans will soon be underway for our 60th!!)

*Our group is currently full to new members, but we do run a waiting list. Any queries, please contact Margaret on 737602 or Gill on 736331.*



## Swift box update



Harleston parish chair' Andy Wilks has provided an update:

*'We have had a fantastic response to our offer of swift box sites and I have supplied over 20 boxes to residents which we hope will be installed in time for the swifts return in May. '*

If anyone else in Harleston would like a free swift box, please contact Andy Wilks via WhatsApp on 07793394600 or email and he'll get one to you: [andy@greenfarmhouse.co.uk](mailto:andy@greenfarmhouse.co.uk).

If you're interested in the Save Our Suffolk Swifts project, you can find out more here: [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swifts](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swifts)

# Happenings in Harleston

## LOTTERY

Many apologies for not collecting the lottery last month, but will be round again soon for Aprils lottery.

## PENNY OTTON

Sadly, we are losing Penny, our local Councillor as she has decided to step down, and retire from her position.

Penny has served us well for many years, and has helped our Community enormously with funding for so many projects over the years. She has always listened to our grievances, doing her very to bring these matters to the attention of the appropriate authority. She hopes that we will welcome Nicky Willshire as her replacement, who she has worked with for many years—but whoever you vote for, don't forget to vote.

## TEA AND SCONES

Ursula and Cath are hoping to hold a church fund raiser in Ursula's garden, 8 Haughley Road, on Monday May 25th - 2 clock onwards.

Tea, and strawberry scones, with (yes, I know I said that I wouldn't) a plant stall—maybe not so many plants, but we're working on that!! If anyone has any spare plants, these would be gratefully received.

I would like to thank so many of you who answered my call for plant pots. The response was amazing, as is usual with the residents in Harleston. One very kind lady came to see me, she said that she was sorry that she didn't have any old pots, so bought me some brand new ones..,how's that for kindness, it doesn't get any better.

I will ask Hilary to confirm details in her Round Robin if anything changes.

## COFFEE CARAVAN

We were so pleased to be back on the green for our meeting on 13th April, I think we had nearly a 'full house'. Bernie and the team bought their caravan for its first outing this year.

We look forward to a sunny summer of meetings on the green. As Bernie

said, it's the perfect pitch for them, as some of the coffee caravans have to have meet up in car parks and cramped spaces.

We are so lucky.

### LITTLE PIG CAKE SHED

Zoe would like to thank all in the village for the support that they have given to her "Little Pig Cake Shed". She confirms that her shed will be open from 10am til 7pm, every Friday until Sunday.

### ST AUGUSTINES

We recently had our annual Lily Week in the church and, as always, people were so generous with the donations towards the lilies in memory of their loved ones.

The church was open to visitors for a week (and the perfume was amazing) so people were able to see all their dedications beautifully displayed on the altar.

Newcomers will always receive a warm welcome to our Sunday services (especially the coffee and biscuits afterwards!!).

Don't forget, if you need me to include anything in 'Harleston Happenings' please give me a call

See you next month,

Ursula, 01449737845 / 8 Haughley Road



### **THREE VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING:**

WEDNESDAYS IN TRINITY HALL - 10:30am—12:00pm  
COME ALONG FOR WARMING COFFEE OR TEA & DELICIOUS  
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We look forward to seeing you soon!

# Stowmarket Eco Future Group



As I write, the space mission is heading for the moon.

The astronauts have reported back saying how beautiful the earth looks from space and that their overriding emotion was that we must look after it. They help us to appreciate what a unique place earth is, and how much we depend on it as our home. It is a good perspective to have because here on earth we so often take it for granted. It is of global importance that the earth remains a safe place to live and in many places governments and technology are working successfully together. Where that is not happening, it is important to keep reminding leaders of their responsibilities.

Our own personal responsibility is often more local. What we do in our own homes and communities is a vital contribution to the overall picture. “Carbon Copy” is a really interesting and encouraging website showing individuals, families and communities all doing their bit for the planet. It is intended to spark ideas about what we can do in our own locality. Find an idea that works for you and copy it! [Carbon Copy: Grow your Changeprint](#)

An important thing we can do in May is vote in the Suffolk County Council elections. Our local councils have a huge impact on our lives because they provide the wide range of services and the environment which we live with day to day. Protecting our county now and ensuring that it remains a safe and beautiful place for our children to live in is a vital part of that work. We are fortunate to have nine Green Party County Councillors already. In the face of accelerating climate change their influence is even more important. It is good to have representatives who recognise the importance of sustainability as they carry out their various roles.

Voting is a big responsibility: the opportunity to request a decent way forward and protest against poor practice. Please use yours.

## Collection of hard to recycle items:

2-4pm at Red Gables on **10th May**. The next Market Place collection will be 9:30–11:30am at Market Place on **28th May**

**Repair Café:** [stowrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stowrepaircafe@gmail.com) 2–4pm on **10th May**

<https://stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk> mail: [stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com](mailto:stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com)



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# Mission Direct trip to Lusaka, Zambia 2026

As many of you know, I have self-funded participating in charity building projects in Africa with Mission Direct for the last 3 years. I am returning this year to help build an educational facility in an orphanage in Lusaka, Zambia.

We desperately need funds for building materials. If anyone feels able, I would greatly appreciate donations to my JustGiving page:

**JustGiving page link:- [https://www.justgiving.com/page/liz-beale-3?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/liz-beale-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)**

Mission Direct has worked in Lusaka for many years, previously building a safe house for street girls which now accommodates more than 40 children. For many years we have also supported schools here – many of which are found in the compounds in and around the city which receive little or no funding and struggle to provide every child a full-time education.

Our building projects will focus on our Partner Community Schools, helping to improve health and sanitation and teaching facilities, by building toilet blocks and classrooms.

We also partner with organisations which help children living on the streets, encouraging them to return home or go to a suitable safe facility. Children can be helped into school and placed on rehabilitation programmes to help break substance addictions.

My sincere thanks, in advance, to anyone who can donate: all contributions are very much needed and appreciated,

**Liz Beale**





Little Owls have had a busy few months back and the children have enjoyed their usual fun.

The children have enjoyed Valentine, Mothers Day and Easter crafts.

Our team spent time cleaning and tidying the garden ready for our return on the 15th April. The garden is always so popular with the children, they love the ride on toys, water and sand. This summer we have a new mud kitchen for them to play and explore which I'm sure will be a big hit!



As always I want to thank everyone who gives their time up to keep this popular group running, without you I couldn't do it and also thank you to those parents and carers that come back every week. We're always looking for extra helpers on a Tuesday evening (setting the toys up) or at our sessions on Wednesdays. So if you want to become part of this lovely group please do get in touch on 07935966771.

Thank you  
Charlotte and the wonderful Little Owl team

## Nature notes: Spring into Summer

May is the month that I consider neither spring nor summer, but still delightful. We should avoid frosts now and see the May blossom that fills the hedgerows (what's left of them). The last month or two, we saw plum and cherry blossom followed by blackthorn. All perfectly timed for bumble bees and honeybees to get busy collecting pollen.

Now is a good time for spotting dragonflies and damselfly. The first will probably be the 'large red damselfly' although it is not very big, it is bigger than the scarcer 'small red damselfly'. My guess is that the first dragonfly spotted will be a four-spotted chaser or broad-bodied chaser: males will quickly establish and defend their waterside territory ready for females' emergence.



Many birds have nested now and are feeding their hatched chicks. Squirrels, magpies, and even woodpeckers will steal eggs or chicks from nests. I have seen crows sitting in a tree all day watching for bird activity that gives away the nest site. I have also heard a magpie mimic a toad croaking,

listen for a reply, then attacking the toad! Nature is cruel sometimes.

Please be aware that The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 warns dog walkers against allowing their dog to 'cause wild animals unnecessary stress or harm'. Young hares called leverets are particularly vulnerable at this time as they will stay perfectly still to rely on their camouflage for protection, but easy pickings for any predator with good eyesight or sense of smell. Nesting skylarks and other ground nesting birds are also vulnerable.

*For help identifying any wildlife email a photo to [goodfellowtrevor8@gmail.com](mailto:goodfellowtrevor8@gmail.com)*

# News from St. Johns

Well, Spring is definitely with us and, for those working, two bank holidays to look forward to! For hay fever sufferers not so good, but the gardens are so full of colour one cannot help but be happy and cheerful.

There are two Services in Church to look forward to in May. The George Ward Service on the 10th May at 11.00am will remember the 84th Anniversary of George's death. The chaplain of the 1331(Stowmarket) Squadron ATC, Jenny Ablett, will conduct proceedings. The young people of the ATC will take part as always. Standard bearers of different organisations attend to pay their respects too. George was born in 1923 and died in 1943. Up until recently a number of George's family attended the annual Service to remember and honour George. Everyone is welcome to attend and remember this young man who died on his way back from a successful raid over Dortmund. Bad weather forced the pilot to be diverted to RAF Leeming, but unfortunately the aircraft crashed and George was one of the crew who lost their lives. We will remember them and be forever grateful for the freedom we now have in our lives. God Bless you George.

On the 24th May there will be a Holy Communion Service in Church at 11.00am. Everyone welcome, at every Service, at Onehouse Church and we encourage you to stay for refreshments afterwards.

On Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm in the Trinity Hall the following three important Church meetings will take place:

Firstly, the short Vestry Meeting to elect Churchwardens. If you live in the Parish of Onehouse or are on the Church Electoral Roll (whether you live in the Parish or not) you will be able to cast a vote.

Following the previous business, the APCM, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, will commence to vote on members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council). You are welcome to stay to this short meeting, but you will only be able to vote if you are on the Church Electoral Roll (whether you live in the Parish or not).

Lastly, the full PCC Meeting to elect Officers for the next year and to complete PCC matters. Only PCC members can vote for the new Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer and a representative to the Deanery Synod. Visitors are welcome to attend but cannot vote.

### Call for photographs

If you have any photographs of life in Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland that you'd like to share, please send them via email to [OHSMag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:OHSMag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk) or via WhatsApp to 07775 924 457

Thank you



## Coffee Caravan

### Dates for your diary

Onehouse 10am-12noon, Harleston 1pm—3pm

Monday 11th MAY

Monday 8th JUNE

-

Monday 13th JULY

Monday 10th AUGUST

-

Monday 14th SEPTEMBER

Monday 12th OCTOBER

-

Monday 9th NOVEMBER

Monday 14th DECEMBER

## **Our Specialist Healthcare Professionals**

Within our Health Centre, we have a number of healthcare professionals, each with distinct roles and specialist skills. When you contact us with a medical request, we will assign you to the person best suited to help you.

### **Medicines Management Team**

- **Clinical Pharmacists:** CPs work directly with patients. They use their expert knowledge of medicines to assess and treat conditions. They have completed training to become independent prescribers. They work in the general practice team, supporting patients with long-term conditions and undertaking structured medication reviews with patients on multiple medications and complex health needs.
- **Pharmacy Technicians:** PTs complement the work of CPs, applying their knowledge of medicines in tasks such as audits, prescription management support, medication reviews, new patient reviews and medication changes after hospital discharge or referral.

### **First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs)**

Muscle and joint problems are very common, and a major reason people visit their GP. Quicker access to diagnosis and treatment, helps patients manage their conditions more effectively and recover faster, so they can get back to normal life quickly. Our FCPs help to reduce GP workload and reduce the need for onward referrals. FCPs help patients with musculoskeletal issues such as back, neck and joint pain by:

- ⇒ Assessing and diagnosing problems.
- ⇒ Giving advice on how to manage pain and improve movement.
- ⇒ Referring them onto specialist services if necessary.

### **Social Prescribing Link Worker**

Our Social Prescribing Link Worker helps with non-clinical needs, helping people improve their wellbeing. They connect people to community groups and services for practical and emotional support.

## **Stowmarket Methodist Church**

### **190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

#### **Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Stowmarket Methodist Church in Regent Street is celebrating 190 years of continuous worship and prayer in May.

Many Stowmarket residents will know the church from Sunday School, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides & youth clubs, we've done a lot of work improving our facilities in recent years.

To celebrate our Anniversary, we are holding an **Open Day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3.00pm.**

There will be lots to see,  
and we will be serving tea/coffee and cake to visitors.

On **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am** our **celebration Family Service** will be led by the Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District,  
Reverend Helen Hollands.

**A warm welcome for you at any time, do come and see us.**

# A thank you to the Paupers Graves volunteers

Onehouse Parish Council would like to extend sincere thanks to the Paupers Graves volunteers for their hard work in installing the new accessible access gateway at the Paupers Graves site.



This carefully planned and well-executed project has made the footpath easier and safer to use for everyone, improving access while preserving the character of this important local heritage area. From digging post holes to fitting the gate and finishing the surrounding path, the volunteers gave their time, skills and energy generously.

The finished gateway is a real credit to the team and a lasting improvement for parishioners and visitors alike.

Support like this makes a tangible difference to our shared spaces, and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again to everyone involved.

# Letter from Combs Rectory

And so we have reached the beautiful month of May. 'The Merry Month of May' is actually the title of a poem written by a Tudor playwright and a phrase which has also appeared in songs and as book titles since the late 1500's. However, with everything that's going on in the world at the moment, it can be a struggle to feel especially 'merry'. There are times when I hardly dare read the latest headlines because of the conflicts taking place throughout the world, and the effect these conflicts are having on ordinary people.

But as I drive around our benefice of seven parishes, what is bringing me great joy is the beauty of the countryside at this time of the year. Although the daffodils have been and gone, the bluebells have arrived as have the blackthorn and hawthorn. And then there's the blossom which always brings a smile to my face. Everything is greening up and a few days of warmer temperatures make a huge difference. More than anything, what the burgeoning of the countryside brings is hope. And hope, is something we could all do with more of at this time.

Within the church we now move on from Easter and towards the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the growth of the fledgeling Christian church. The Day of Pentecost, celebrated this year on the 24th May, marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, enabling the disciples to speak in many different languages and understand each other. It symbolised the breaking down of barriers and empowered them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Celebrating Pentecost can share a powerful message of unity and selflessness in the face of diversity and in these challenging times, perhaps that is just what we need.

With every blessing, Revd Sarah

## The Combs and Finborough Benefice

**Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland**

### Services in May 2026

**Rector:** The Rev'd Sarah Jenkins, The Rectory, 135 Poplar Hill, Stowmarket IP14 2AY 01449 676065

**Associate Priest:** The Rev'd Canon Pauline Higham, The Rectory, Woodland Close, Onehouse IP14 3HL 01449 771791

#### Sunday Services

Please use this link for all services held on Zoom - Meeting ID: 470 378 1299 - Password: Benefice

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4703781299?pwd=doep7y6JYxv0lIXsxROxnbezlda9ME.1>

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> May: The Fourth Sunday after Easter**

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom Meeting
11.00 am	All Age Worship	Combs

#### **10<sup>th</sup> May: The Fifth Sunday after Easter**

9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
11.00 am	The George Ward Service	Onehouse

#### **17<sup>th</sup> May: The Sixth Sunday after Easter, The Sunday after Ascension Day**

9.30 am	Patronal Holy Communion	Harleston
11.00 am	Family Communion	Combs
6.00 pm	Evensong	Little Finborough
6.00 pm	Compline	Zoom Meeting

#### **24<sup>th</sup> May: Pentecost, Whit Sunday**

9.30 am	Morning Worship	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
11.00 am	Morning Service	Great Finborough

#### **31<sup>st</sup> May: Trinity Sunday**

10.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Great Finborough
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#### Weekday Services

9.30 am on Wednesday	Holy Communion	Trinity Hall, Onehouse
10.00 am on Saturday	Morning Prayer	Zoom Meeting

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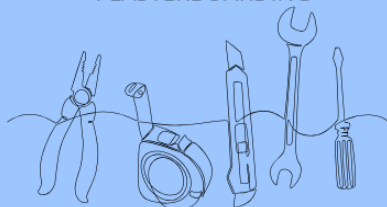


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