

OHSMag



THE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR
ONEHOUSE, HARLESTON & SHELLAND

SEPTEMBER 2026—ISSUE 621

ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk

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A Thank You to Everyone Who Made It Possible



As we reach the end of an era for the printed parish magazine, it feels fitting to pause and reflect on the remarkable community effort that has made it possible for so many years.

Producing a magazine may seem simple when it arrives through a letterbox each month, but behind every edition has been an army of volunteers and contributors giving their time, skills and enthusiasm. Articles have been written, events reported, photographs shared, puzzles created, notices gathered and pages carefully checked before going to print.

Others have worked behind the scenes to coordinate content, manage deadlines and ensure that each edition reflected the life of our three villages.

The journey did not end once the magazine was printed. Copies still needed to be collected, sorted, transported and delivered. In all weathers, throughout the seasons, volunteers have walked streets, travelled country lanes and called at homes to ensure that local news, information and stories reached every household. Their dedication has helped keep our communities informed, connected and engaged.

The magazine has achieved far more than simply sharing information. It has celebrated achievements, promoted local events, supported groups and charities, marked important

occasions and preserved memories that might otherwise have been lost. Above all, it has provided a shared thread linking the communities of Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland. While the way we access the magazine is changing, the spirit behind it remains the same. On behalf of everyone who has enjoyed reading its pages, we offer our sincere thanks to all who have contributed in any way over the years. Whether your involvement was large or small, regular or occasional, visible or behind the scenes, your efforts have helped create something that has been valued by thousands of readers.

To every writer, editor, photographer, organiser, distributor, supporter and volunteer, thank you. The printed magazine's legacy is a testament to community spirit at its very best, and it leaves behind much to be proud of.

The story will continue. OHSMag will remain the community magazine for Onehouse, Harleston and Shelland, bringing together local news, events, achievements and stories in its new online home. Contributions are always welcome and can be sent to ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk. We look forward to continuing to develop the magazine and helping it thrive in its new digital format.

www.hugofox.com/community/ohsmag-21235

Circle dancing

Gentle (mostly!) dances to world music.

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. £7/session

2pm–3pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse

No partner needed.

Jen Larner 07896 495574



Next Mobile Library Visits

Friday 4th September

Friday 2nd October



Northfield Road, 9:30–9:55am

Onehouse Church Room, 10:00–10:20am

Harleston Postbox, 10:25 – 10:45am

News from your District Councillor - John Matthissen

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

Floods and Droughts

As I write we are still in what is the worst dry spell in living memory, as well as the hottest. But a couple of years ago Mid Suffolk suffered its worst flooding. There are measures that most of us can take to lessen the impact of both, such as water butts to collect rainwater, bowls of water for wildlife, and a garden pond if there is space.

The larger responses must come from Government and the water industry, but locally land-owners, and not solely farmers, can also make changes that can help significantly. The best advice encourages keeping water in the landscape, and, working with councillors, Environment Agency and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, I intend to try and reconvene the meeting focussed on the River Ratt catchment, much of which I represent together with your new County Councillor, Matt Bentley. I am aiming for some time in October, but will be pleased to hear from anyone willing to get involved in projects to improve resilience of the land against both drought and flood.

Locality Funding Grants 2026/27

The 2026-27 Locality budgets is open for applications so I would

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

love to receive applications for funding from any community group in the ward.

Details can be found on the website <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/locality-awards> .

It is usually a good idea to contact me to discuss your application before submission. The new budget is available now, so let me know first of project ideas to benefit the communities. If it looks eligible to me, fill the form on-line and it will come back to me for a sign off.

Personal Note

I am having a hip replacement operation shortly, and am advised I will not be running around for a couple of months. I will try to deal with emails and phone calls, but in general will be forced to do less for a while.

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Happenings in Harleston

LOTTERY...

I'm almost to embarrassed to name the winner of last months lottery.

"Twas me!!

I hope that you all believe me, that it was all honest and above board.

VILLAGE PLANTER...

I would like to thank Marie, and several others I believe, for watering the planter while Trevor and myself were on holiday a few weeks ago. We really appreciate everyone who turned up with their watering cans.

Lots of people have been visiting the pump, with all sorts of containers to fill to water their gardens!! (although must stress, not good for drinking)

Some of you may have seen Mark with a water cart attached to the back of his (very ancient) bicycle, coming to fill up from the pump to water his vegetables on Shelland Road...a wonderful sight!!

We're so lucky to have the village pump on the green - couldn't manage the flower planter without it, that's for sure)

POST BOX TOPPER...

I think that Bev has excelled this month.

This time it was 'afternoon tea' on top of the post box and was possibly one of her best.

You can almost taste the strawberries and eclairs !!

FLOODING...

I don't think that I need draw your attention to the chaos caused by the Water Board over the past few weeks (months) It's reached epidemic proportions, and we still have more to come, a new leak springing up nearly every week, some repeats which had already been 'sorted' out some weeks prior.

I know that several of you have contacted Anglia Water, and, possibly like us, have received various responses and promises, from staff who have no authority, but promise that the 'manager' will call back. Well we all know now how that goes don't we!!!

Getting in and out of the village is a nightmare I'm sure you will agree, and so it may be helpful if, as many of you as are able, could telephone Anglia Water, stressing the need for some sort of strategy to deal with these ever increasing leaks.

We have drawn their attention to the fact that we have many vulnerable residents in the village who need to be able to travel to and from the village for appointments and treatment, and some maybe needing quite urgent help.

Anglia Water Telephone number03457919155.

COFFEE CARAVAN..

Remains as popular as ever. We have been so lucky this year being able to meet in the sunshine (but sit in the shade I see the trees!!)

Bernie is on holiday for our next meet up on September 14th, taking a well earned break, but hopefully Gill, myself and Hilary will organise it ourselves, providing teas, coffees and cakes, (maybe a speaker if I can get one or I might do a quiz with a prize!!!) All we ask is that those who can, bring their own chair, but don't worry, we can provide a few extras if needed.

Hope to see you all there.

ST AUGUSTINES HARVEST FESTIVAL 6th SEPTEMBER.

We welcome you all to join us for this special service, giving thanks for harvest, food and farming.

The biblical law originally commanded farmers not to reap to the edge of their fields - thereby leaving the leftovers for the poor to glean!!

Not applicable now thank goodness.

Instead, we welcome donations of food, tinned or fresh, which will be donated to the local food bank.

Please drop any donations off to Gill, (Daplelight bungalow) or myself, or telephone me and I will pick them up.

CHURCH RIDE AND STRIDE.

I have sponsor forms for anyone who would like to take up the challenge to ride, walk, whatever, for our church. At the moment we only have 2 volunteers. Money raised will be divided between St Augustines and Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

Having done it ourselves in the past, it really is a lovely way to spend a few hours.

ALSO..we need volunteers to sit in the church on a rota basis, to welcome visitors, sign their sponsor forms and offer light refreshments. Contact me on 737845.

By the time you read this, we shall have had our annual Pet Service on the green.

Will let you know next month how Rev Sarah fared!!

Sadly, this is my last report for the OHSMAG in its present form.

Thank you all for reading my ramblings!!

I shall continue with my report on line, but feel extremely sad that the magazine as we know it, has come to an end and that you won't all have access to the village news (gossip!)

Onehouse P.C. are trying to find a way which will enable everyone to somehow have access to a paper copy, but at the moment it seems unlikely.

There will be copies in the Community Centre and Trinity Hall for people to read, but don't see how that will work for us all in Harleston....we'll see how it goes.

We keep our fingers crossed that a solution will be found, but, as we all know, not every problem has a solution.

If you have any comments on this, or anything else, please let me know, and I will include them in the next OHSMAG.

Ursula 01449 737845



THREE VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING:

WEDNESDAYS IN TRINITY HALL - 10:30am—12:00pm
COME ALONG FOR WARMING COFFEE OR TEA & DELICIOUS
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EVERYBODY WELCOME

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Seasonal Kitchen: Apple & Blackberry Crumble

September brings a bounty of apples and blackberries, making this simple crumble the perfect seasonal treat. We are very lucky to have lots of blackberry bushes in our three villages, and now is the perfect time to pick them.

Ingredients

- 4 cooking apples, peeled and sliced
- 200g blackberries
- 50g caster sugar
- 175g plain flour
- 100g butter
- 75g light brown sugar

Method

1. Heat oven to 190°C (170°C fan).
2. Place washed apples, blackberries and caster sugar in an ovenproof dish.
3. Rub butter into flour until it resembles breadcrumbs, then stir in brown sugar.
4. Sprinkle over the fruit.
5. Bake for 35-40 minutes until golden and bubbling.

Kitchen Tip: Freeze surplus apples ready for winter crumbles and pies.

September brings one last taste of summer's harvest.

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or email us at ohsmag@onehouseparishcouncil.gov.uk



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History of Onehouse by Stephen Horne

In the beginning

It is tempting to think that just because we have no ring of stones that no one was here in the stone age. Stone age groups travelled through Onehouse ,Harleston and Shelland but we cannot see anywhere that they stayed for long. The earliest groups were following the wild animals through the landscape.

But Archaeological work has shown that the area was frequented by man well before the year 1000. Those archaeological digs that preceded our new housing estates going in are helping to fill in the gaps.

Stone Age man was hunting in the valley surrounding the stream running out to Rattlesden, some hand chipped flakes of flint found on the Hopkins Homes estate could be where hunters were sharpening arrowheads. But they could also be where an early farmer had sharpened a flint axe to chop down some more trees. Those early farmers cleared much of the oldest traditional tree cover. Other digs have suggested that most of the natural forest and scrub had been cleared before the Saxons had arrived. Recent archaeology shows an agricultural landscape with tracks and ditches right across the landscape from this time. Early farmers cleared the area and created their farms and these early farms are where we later created our villages.

Iron Age

Following the stone age the population moved over to using more iron. Again our parishes have shown some traces of this world. But again the items found were in isolated pieces suggesting that they were dropped by people on the move. The earliest farmers were busy putting in ditches and hedges to contain their livestock. The archaeology reports show a wide scattering of ditches and enclosures to keep livestock. The Gipping valley over the hill was the place where most people lived in the area.

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Stowmarket Eco Future Group



Mid Suffolk Green Party Evening Socials are held monthly at Fred's Bar on the third Tuesday of the month.

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place from 21st September to 4th October. This year the focus is on making sure that tea growers and harvesters get a fair wage for producing our daily cuppas. See website for more information. If possible, please make an extra effort to buy a fairtrade item. **If Fairtrade is a special interest for you, please get in touch by email as we are considering a project that you may wish to help with.**

I want to be wrong! I would love the climate change deniers to be right, that there is no emergency, and everything is normal. It would cross a lot of things off my to-do list as there is nothing to do. I will look extremely foolish for worrying, but no real harm done.

But if I and millions of others worldwide, and a huge percentage of the scientific community are right and we take no action,

Collections of hard to recycle items (list adjacent) will continue at our monthly Repair Café but September will be our LAST Thursday Market Stall. This is because many of our items are now recyclable in the new bins. The final market stall collections is Thursday 24th September.

The Repair Café is held on the 2nd Sunday of the month (13th September) at Red Gables 2-4 pm including recycling collection
stowrepaircafe@gmail.com

then the consequences are extremely serious. Rapidly escalating temperatures and prolonged drought are causing premature deaths amongst the vulnerable, food shortages, raised prices and continued loss of land, property and nature to wildfires and extreme weather events. I wonder if you know people who have been directly affected this summer?

I recently visited Churchill's War Rooms in London with a friend; they are part of the Imperial War Museum. The visit left me thinking about how people respond to crises. Normal life was under threat, and politicians and workers had no idea what the outcome would be, but they kept going.

There was no precedent or pattern to follow because they had never faced such a situation before. What they did achieve was a "war effort", with many people working together and doing their bit. The population accepted rationing and shortages to help protect what they valued. My belief is that protecting earth needs a similar effort. Please join us.

Stella Davis SEFG

HARD TO RECYCLE ITEMS COLLECTED:

Blister packs, Coffee pods – plastic and metallic (not mixed), Pet food pouches (empty, clean & dry), Spectacles (no cases), Plastic make up containers, Mobile phones, batteries, Bicycle inner tubes.

(pet food pouches can also go in Tesco soft plastic bin, Tesco also has a make up container collection point. Batteries also recyclable at any supermarket and Argos)

2026-27 Autumn / Winter Flu and COVID Vaccination Campaign

In line with government guidance, the main 2026-27 autumn / winter flu and COVID vaccination campaign commences on 1st October.

Eligibility for a Flu Vaccination:

- Aged 65 years and over;
- 18 – 64 years at clinical risk;
- Those in long stay residential care homes;
- Carers of elderly or disabled persons;
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals;
- Frontline workers in a health and social care setting.

Eligibility for a COVID Booster:

- Residents in a care home for older adults;
- All adults aged 75 years and over;
- Patients aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

At Woolpit Health Centre we will kick off the campaign with two large clinics as follows:

Saturday 3rd October COVID and Flu for patients over the age of 75 years ONLY

Wednesday 7th October Flu ONLY for eligible patients under the age of 75 years

We will then plan smaller clinics for patients unable to make these dates. Eligible patients will receive an invitation via a mobile phone text or by letter, depending on how they have consented for us to make contact. There may be occasions where patients of the same household have different appointment times. In this event patients can attend together at either time, without the need to inform us. Housebound patients will be notified of their vaccination date by telephone.

During this busy time, we try hard to minimise disruption to our core primary care services, protecting our Care Navigators so they can

remain focused on supporting patients who need triaging into urgent and routine appointments. During the season our small, dedicated vaccination team handle large numbers of telephone and email enquiries.

Request to Patients: Please wait for your invitation.

Upon receipt please only contact the team if you need to change your appointment or cannot use the mobile phone booking link.

Our preference is for email contact as this keeps the phone line free and is an efficient way to communicate. Please email:

woolpit.covid19queries@nhs.net

If you need to phone our dedicated vaccine line, the number is 01359 243933.

Finally, we ask you please to be patient, whichever way you contact us we will get back to you. There is no need to leave multiple messages, this only slows down our responses. Be reassured, we have plenty of vaccine and plenty of appointments.

We look forward to another successful vaccination season.

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September Gardening Corner

Coping with Dry Conditions

After a dry summer, September is a great time to help your garden recover while planning for future droughts.

- Water deeply once or twice a week rather than little and often.
- Add a layer of mulch around plants to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- Keep mowing to a minimum and raise the mower height to reduce stress on lawns.
- Collect rainwater whenever possible for use during dry spells.
- Consider planting drought-tolerant favourites such as sedum, lavender, salvia, echinacea, verbenas, rosemary, and ornamental grasses, which provide late-season colour with minimal watering once established.

Gardener's Tip: If a plant has silver, grey or waxy leaves, it's often a good indicator that it can cope well with dry conditions





Messy Harvest!!



Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Saturday 12th September

10.30am to 12.00pm

Crafts, Stories, Songs and Food

All ages welcome, primary age children and younger welcome with their parents/carers

Places must be booked by emailing

revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

Letter from Combs Rectory

In the church September is traditionally the month for harvest festivals and there are seven taking place across our benefice churches this month. But why do we have them?

These services in church are a celebration of the food grown on the land and thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are held worldwide and are very ancient. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food and Christians are reminded of all the good things God gives them. In schools and in churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service and after the service, the food that has been put on display is donated to the Stowmarket Food Bank.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

Our Harvest Festivals this month take place as follows:

6th September	9.30am	Harvest Festival, Harleston
	11.00am	Harvest Festival with Bring and Share Lunch, Combs
13th September	9.30am	Harvest Festival, Shelland
	11.00am	Harvest Festival, Great Finborough
20th September	3.00pm	Harvest Festival, Little Finborough
27th September	9.30am	Harvest Festival, Buxhall
	11.00am	Harvest Festival, Onehouse

I do hope you'll be able to join us at one of Harvest Festival services taking place across the benefice as we give thanks for the harvest being safely gathered in.

The Combs and Finborough Benefice

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

Services in September 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=doep7y6jYxv0lIXsRQxnbezIda9ME.1>

6th September: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom
9.30 am	Harvest Festival	Harleston
11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Combs

13th September: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am	Harvest Festival	Shelland
9.30 am	Patronal Sung Eucharist	Buxhall
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse
11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Great Finborough

20th September: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Harleston
11.00 am	Family Communion	Combs
3.00 pm	Harvest Festival	Little Finborough
6.00 pm	Compline	Zoom

27th September: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am	Harvest Festival	Buxhall
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Onehouse
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough

Weekday Services

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

All Welcome! Whether you are a regular worshipper or a visitor to our churches this Sunday, you will find a warm welcome at any of our services

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