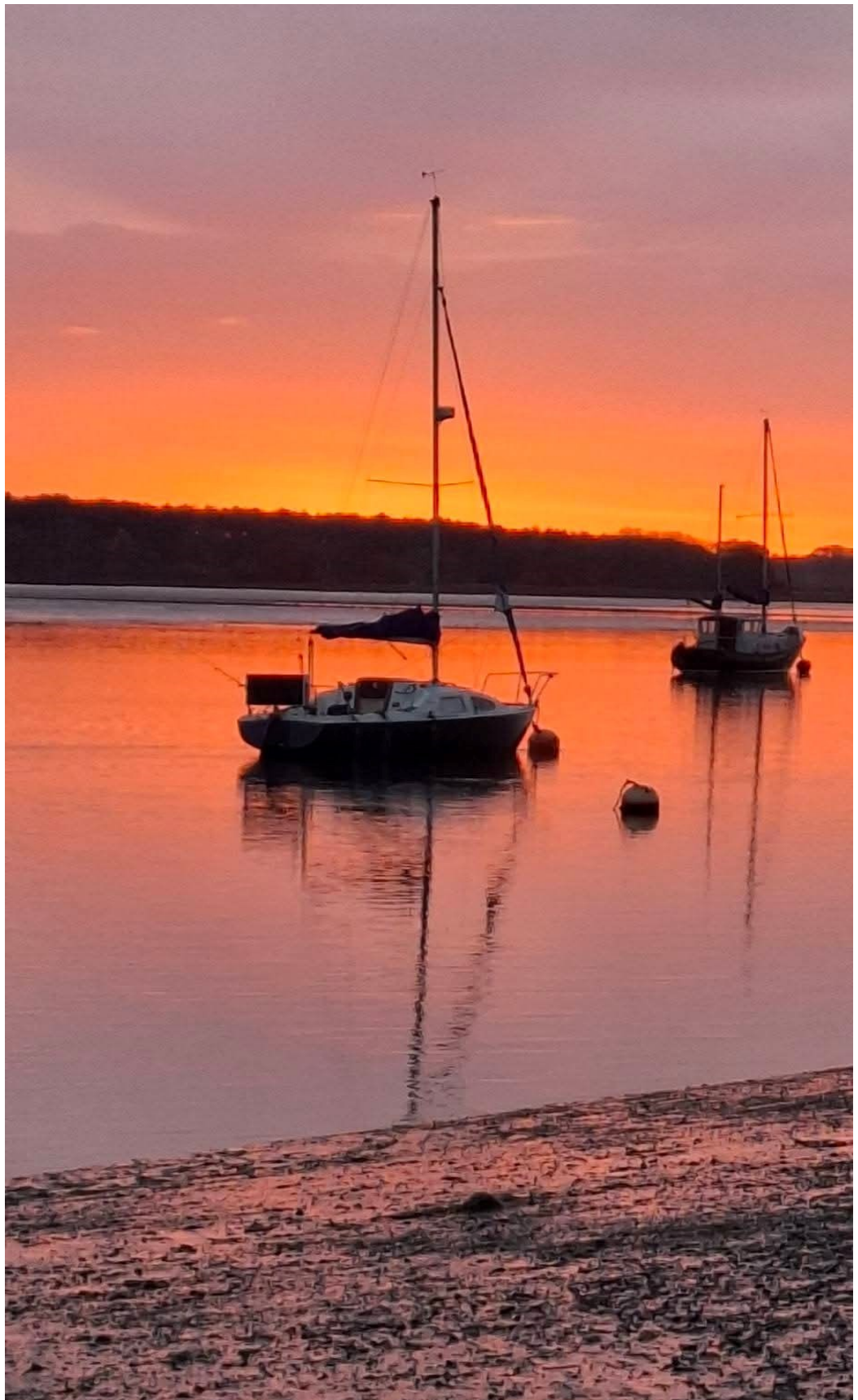




No.90 — Winter 2025



Photo—T Dickerson—Waldringfield Resident

MARTLESHAM HEATH SURGERY

Patient Participation Group (PPG) News

As we approach the end of 2025, it's a good time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2026. There have been many positive developments across our practice, and we're delighted to share some highlights.

In August, **Martlesham Heath Surgery** received a "GOOD" rating from the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)**. The inspection took place during the early stages of our building redevelopment, making this achievement especially rewarding.

PPG members played an important role by sharing patient views and experiences with the CQC inspection team.

Building Improvement Works

Building improvements are well underway at **Martlesham Heath Surgery**, with the first phase already delivering two additional clinical rooms. Over the coming months, further enhancements will be made to the reception and entrance areas. This long-term project has benefited greatly from the input and feedback of our PPG members.

Martlesham Heath Surgery & Embrace Medical Centre

The two practices work closely together sharing key team members along with partners. This year has seen a deepening of the PPG relationships between the two practices, with **Embrace Medical Centre** PPG members assisting at the **Martlesham Heath Surgery** vaccine clinics this autumn. PPG volunteers helped meet and greet attendees, and we received wonderful feedback about the friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Community Engagement

In November, clinicians from **Martlesham Heath Surgery** and **Embrace Medical Centre** hosted a *COPD Education Event*, giving patients the chance to ask questions, check inhaler techniques, and try practice devices in person. It was a great opportunity to get advice, support, and practical tips to help COPD patients breathe easier this winter.

Looking ahead, both practices and PPGs plan to host more community events in 2026.

Get Involved

If you'd like to learn more about the PPGs or are interested in joining, please contact us:

MartPPG@gmx.com

Alternatively, you can leave your name and contact details at reception in an envelope marked "For the PPG."

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful festive season.

Warm regards,

Tony Willmott

Update on Brightwell Lakes—December 2025

Cllr Ian Kay & myself have continued to attend the Brightwell Lakes Community Forum (BLCF) to which the residents of Brightwell Lakes are now invited to attend. It was very interesting to hear the views of the residents, who will take on an increasingly prominent role in the group moving forward. It is estimated that between 50–60 homes are currently occupied.

Here are some of the main headlines.

The New School

Suffolk County Council (SCC) are now in the final stages of discussions with a preferred choice of Academy. It will provide a 420 place, mainstream, 4 to 11 mixed primary school, with a 60 place Early Years (EY) setting on site. Both the school and the EY will have the capacity to expand further if needed. The space allocated for an on-site Secondary school provision will be “ring-fenced”, but in response to demographic forecasts it will not be built for the foreseeable future. SCC has decided that in the meantime Kesgrave will take secondary pupils as *“it has expansion capacity and strong cycling links”*.

GP Provision

Discussions are ongoing with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on extending Martlesham Surgery, with community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding from the development being directed towards expanding local surgeries.

Key planning updates

The Reserved Planning Applications (ARM) for several parcels of land have been submitted and can be viewed on the ESC planning portal – most recent at the time of writing - DC/25/3774/ARM

This application is for parcel W2 in the NW sector of the development. The site includes the Heritage Park (part of the sustainable alternative natural green space (SANGS) provision) at its centre. The application includes a total of 178 homes of which 45 are to be affordable (fewer than agreed in the overall affordable homes delivery requirement). If this erosion continues there will be a significant shortfall by the completion of the development.

Please contact myself or Cllr Kay if you would like us to raise at the next BLCF a particular issue or comment that you might have regarding any aspects of the development.



A brief update on the nearby land owned by Bloor Homes

Most residents will be aware that Bloor Homes have acquired land for a large, 1300 dwellings, new development on the Foxhall Road opposite the waste & recycling complex. At the time of writing there is no planning application but it is anticipated to come forward as a speculative application. We will update residents if and when this happens.

Cllr Janet Elliot



Waldringfield Wildlife Group presents

The **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** and **Biodiversity Strategies in Suffolk**

An illustrated talk by Jen Burlingham
Norfolk & Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership Manager.

**13th
Dec**



Saturday 13th December 2025

at **Waldringfield Village Hall**

School Rd, Waldringfield IP12 4QP

Doors open at 10.45am for **11.00am start**

Admission: Non-members – £5.00 includes refreshments. No charge for paid up members.



The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Norfolk and Suffolk was created by Suffolk County Council working with Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership. It is part of a nationwide move to create the space and connectivity needed on land and sea for nature to thrive, recover and be resilient.

After a three phase period of consultation the local strategy is soon to be launched for implementation.

The WWG invite you to join us in finding out more about the biodiversity strategies planned for Suffolk and to look at the opportunities we have to engage in the restoration and enhancement of the county's unique habitats.



Please also note that this talk is preceded by the WWG business meeting at 10.00am and followed by members bring and share Christmas lunch.

All enquiries to Linda Wilkins on 07788286482 email: Linda.thequay@btinternet.com



Warm Welcome Afternoons for Winter 2025/26

The weekly Warm Welcome Afternoons have got off to a flying start this season but there's always room for new guests!!

We are be open from 2pm to 4.30pm every Wednesday afternoon during the winter months from late October 2025 to mid March 2026, with a short break over the Christmas period.

The last session of 2025 is on December 17th and we will start again on January 7th 2026

We look forward to seeing again our regular guests and also welcoming residents who may have more recently moved to the village.

There is no charge and everyone is invited.

This is possible because of the grant that the the Parish Council receives from East Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Community Partnerships and from the great support of the team of volunteer hosts – so a BIG THANK YOU to all of the team.

If you would like more information please contact Janet Elliot via janet.elliott@btinternet.com

Thank you very much for your support.

Cllr Janet Elliot



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life

Felixstowe
Peninsula





Waldringfield Sailing Club

Established 1921



The main racing activities of the Club finished in mid-November with the culmination of the Freezer series for our regular classes of boats. As ever we have been blessed with some excellent sailing weather during the season, along with some challenging days.

In September we held the annual Cartoon Trophies Weekend with variable wind conditions. Five races were sailed over two days; there were sixty-seven entries in nine different fleets of boats. Most of the sailors were local, but we did also have several visiting competitors from as far away as Surrey.



The Club's newly acquired fleet of Firefly dinghies for Team Racing have been put to good use and will continue to be used periodically over the winter months. Several of the younger sailors who have tried this for the first time have given positive feedback. Team Racing sharpens tactics and sailing skills and is prevalent amongst the type of sailing undertaken at university. A team represented the Club at the Eric Twinn Youth Team Racing Championships in October with some encouraging results.

The Club held its AGM in the Village Hall at the end of November, and many members are now eagerly anticipating the arrival of Santa with his selection of fittings, paints, sails etc. for the updating of their vessels for next season. The main Club activities resume around next March.

William Sudell, Club President



All Photo—Alexis Smith

Waldringfield Parish Council
Councillor Vacancy
**We need members of the
community to join us!**



Waldringfield Parish Council has a vacancy for the role of Councillor, for which all members of the community are welcome to apply. When vacancies arise, Parish Councils may fill the vacancy through the process called Co-option. We are seeking to fill our vacancies through this process.

Parish Councillors are first and foremost members of the local community. We have a wonderful and vibrant village and look to have representation from all areas of the community. The role is varied and enables local people to use their skills and experience to enhance the work undertaken by the Council for the benefit of the community. We do lots of things – so there are lots of opportunities to contribute!

Some of the things the Council does in Waldringfield:

- We provide amenities, such as benches, the village sign and grit bins
- We manage the playing field and its equipment
- We organise community events, such as fetes and the Warm Welcome coffee afternoons
- We produce a quarterly newsletter
- We organise litter picks
- We represent the community to other levels of government on issues such as planning and highways

In terms of time commitment, Councillors are expected to attend the monthly meetings of Council (on the second Tuesday of the month) and some work outside of the meetings.

The Council wishes to invite interested people to contact the Clerk for an information pack, which details eligibility and application requirements. We also encourage applicants to visit www.beacouncillor.org.uk for more information.

Additional Note: Successful candidates if co-opted, would serve until the next elections in 2028.

The Council is committed to achieving a balanced composition of Councillors that reflects the Waldringfield community.

If you are interested – please contact the Clerk:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley - Clerk

Post: Low Farm, Ipswich Road, Waldringfield, Woodbridge IP12 4QU

e-mail – pc.waldringfield@googlemail.com **phone:** 01473 736475

Your Parish Councillors:



Ian Kay (Chair)
Janet Elliot (Vice Chair)
Serena Gold
Colin Reid
Sue Quick
Jonathan Ramsay
Robert Forsdike

To contact the Clerk:

Jennifer Shone-Tribley

Low Farm, Ipswich Road, Waldringfield, IP12 4QU

Telephone: 01473 736475

E-mail: clerk@waldringfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and held on the second Tuesday of the month, in the Kennedy Room at the Village Hall—starting at 7:30pm unless otherwise notified.

Next meetings: 09 December 2025; 13 January and 10 February 2026

Community Thermal Imaging Project

Funded by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership



At the time of writing I'm pleased to say that we, Robert Forsdike & myself, are about to carry out our initial thermal imaging surveys of homes in the village. All the appointment slots for 2025 have been filled but more will be available during January 2026.

In just a 20 -30 minute visit you could learn where heat is escaping from your home and how to insulate it better, leading to reduced energy bills, lower carbon emissions and a warmer home.

We will interpret the images with you on site and we anticipate being able to email you the images after our visit. We can't advise you on what specific

measure you might take but we can provide information on various potential solutions ranging from easy & cheap DIY to boiler upgrades/replacements etc. and the government grants currently available.

To book, email us with your preferred dates between January 8-21 to:

janet.elliott@btinternet.com

NB If you requested a slot in December but didn't get an appointment we will automatically carry you forward to January.

* *"The Thermal Imaging Project is funded by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership which brings all Suffolk councils together to better equip Suffolk for our changing climate. The Partnership is loaning out thermal imaging cameras for Parish Councils to use in their area. "*



Saltmarsh



Common Blue on Church Field

Biodiversity Action

“We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means

A quote from E.O. Wilson, biologist and entomologist considered “father of biodiversity” and author of Half Earth.

Biodiversity

A term that refers to the variety of life on Earth. It covers all living things, the places they live and their interdependency. So round here, that's species of animals, plants, fungi, and all microorganisms in habitats of waterways, marsh, woodland, heaths, farmland, towns and villages.

You don't need reminding how special our corner of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is in terms of its wildlife, and we all have our favourite things to spot in our landscape. Biodiversity Action Plans (commonly abbreviated to BAPs) are documents that identify ways to increase biodiversity in a given area. Within and around Waldringfield we are currently actively identifying and mapping important habitats, wildlife corridors and veteran trees within the wider group of parishes adjacent to the River Deben. We hope to extend this work to survey local sites to establish which important species are present. We share our findings with established expert bodies to inform their research.

Some things you can do

- Join our West Deben Parish Cluster group and take part in the survey work.
- If you have a pond, meadow, woodland or site of interest, invite us to carry out a wildlife survey and obtain free advice on how to manage it.
- Garden for wildlife, create a pond, leave piles of twigs & leaves, let the grass grow and provide
- Protect our rural landscape's “Dark Skies” from light pollution by keeping lights low and closing blinds to keep light inside at night.

Sue Quick, Chair—Greener Waldringfield—info@greenerwaldringfield.com

VILLAGE HALL WINTER TALKS

All talks—£5 (under 18s foc) with refreshments

Friday 5th December 7.30pm

John Ogden - FROM WARE TO ETERNITY: THE WORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

John Ogden of this parish read History at Durham and served in the Armed Forces for 34 years before becoming the Armed Forces Commissioner for Suffolk. Many will remember the detailed and powerfully moving exhibition about the local casualties of war mounted by John and his wife Caroline in the centenary year of the Armistice. This evening he will tell the story of how one man's vision in 1915 has developed into a global organisation responsible for the upkeep of over 1 million graves and 23,000 cemeteries, including their outstanding architecture and horticulture.



CANCELLED — Friday 9th January 7.30pm

Sir Sherard Cowper Cole - due to conflicting schedules Sherard is unable to attend

Friday 6th February 2026

Richard Atkins: Tea with Fibonacci

Friday 6th March 2026

Andy Beharrel: The Weather Forecast



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER

10.00AM - NOON

TEA/COFFEE AND CAKE

Waldringfield Village Hall

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE; STALL HOLDERS& MAYBE MORE!

Each person attending will be given a free glass of mulled wine and a mince pie while stocks last!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: CHRIS LYON - 01473 736291



***PLEASE NOTE, THE JANUARY COFFEE MORNING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2026 ***

Waldringfield Church Field Trust

The Church Field is looking very colourful at the moment in autumn shades. Please take a walk round and enjoy the lovely spectacle of shrubs and trees in their autumn colours.



Photo—C Fisher-Kay

Two Wild for Wildlife events have been held since the last update. These involve Suffolk Wildlife Trust, our own Waldringfield Wildlife Group and over 20 children attending from the village. These are described in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. 'Homes for wildlife' was the theme. The second event was a bit rainy but all enjoyed it and a splendid bug hotel was made from natural materials.



Bug hotel —photo C Fisher-Kay

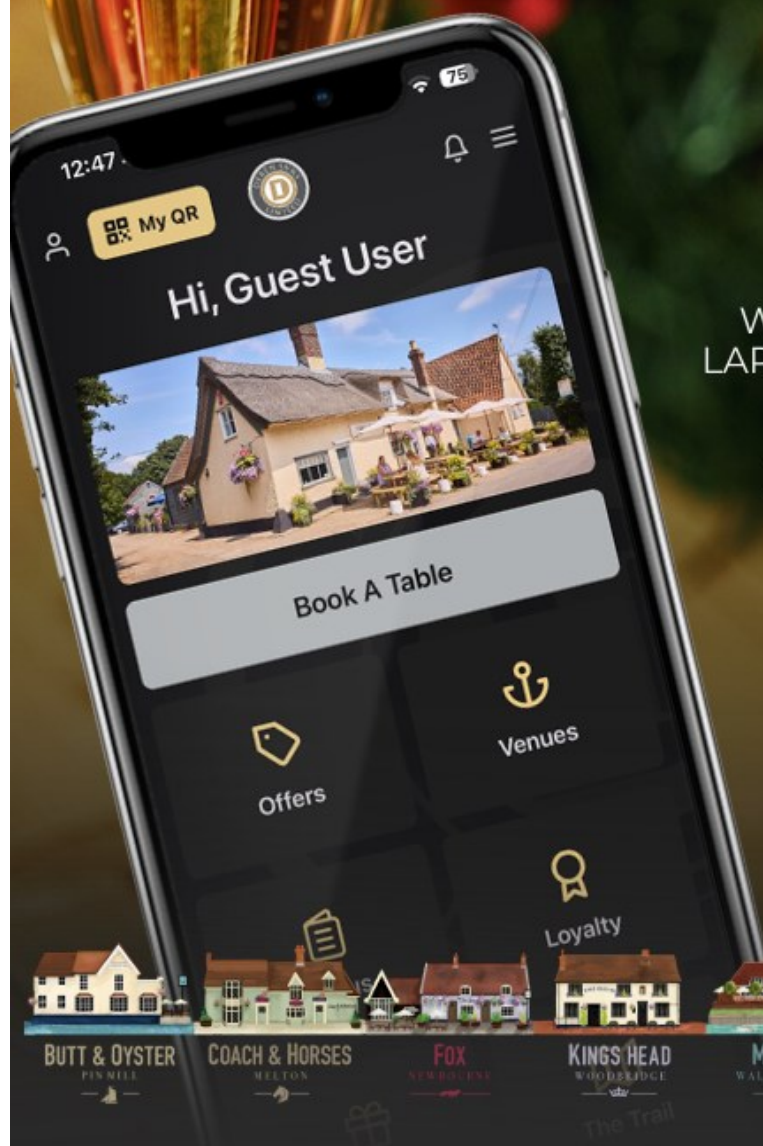
The annual general meeting of the Church Field Trust will be held in the **Kennedy Room of the Village Hall on Monday 1st December**. As usual there will be an update on the use and maintenance of the field for the last year with reports from the chair and the treasurer. There will be the opportunity to join the committee for residents of Waldringfield Parish who are over 18. In the event of more than three people standing there will be an election. For this reason we need to know in advance if more than three people are standing. Other members of the committee are appointed by various village organisations including two by the Parish Council.

If you would like to join the committee and become a trustee please contact me for an application form. You will need to have a proposer and seconder and submit the form 2 days before the meeting. After the meeting mulled wine and mince pies will be served. All welcome!

Christine Fisher Kay



DOWNLOAD THE **DEBEN INNS** *App*



FESTIVE TABLE BOOKINGS

FOR UP TO 50% OFF FOOD IN
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

WINE WEDNESDAY OFFER BUY 2
LARGE GLASSES OF WINE AND GET
THE THIRD FREE

FREE GLASS OF PROSECCO ON
YOUR BIRTHDAY

LOYALTY SCHEME

VIEW ALL OUR MENUS

LOCAL DOG WALKS

KEEP UP TO DATE
WITH EVENTS NEAR YOU



Waldringfield Wildlife Group presents

Grasshoppers and crickets

Identification and conservation in a changing climate

An illustrated talk by Dr. Tim Gardiner
Essex county recorder for grasshoppers and crickets.

Saturday 7th February 2026

at Waldringfield Village Hall
School Rd, Waldringfield IP12 4QP

Doors open at 10.45am for **11.00am start**

Admission: Non-members – £5.00 includes refreshments. No charge for paid up members.

Dr. Tim Gardiner, Essex county recorder for grasshoppers and crickets (Orthoptera), introduces this fascinating group of chirping and jumping insects. Learn all about the species you can find in Suffolk and their conservation in a changing climate. Tim will have copies of his latest book, *The Grasshoppers of Essex*, for sale (£10) on the day. This book has all the species you will find in Suffolk and how to identify them.

Please also note that this talk is preceded by the WWG business meeting at 10.00am



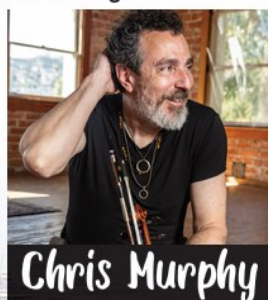
All enquiries to Linda Wilkins on 07788286482 email: Linda.thequay@btinternet.com



DATES FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY

JANUARY **FRI** **30th**

New Street Market,
Woodbridge



Chris Murphy

MARCH **SAT** **21st**

Waldringfield Village Hall



**Christina Alden
and Alex Patterson**

OCTOBER **SAT** **3rd**

Waldringfield Village Hall



John Ward Trio
supported by The Quaynotes

Tickets are on sale now for **Chris Murphy** in January. Chris is a wily, charismatic performer and a virtuoso of the violin. His solo shows feature a kaleidoscope of music genres, including blues, bluegrass, folk country rock, and other world music.

To buy tickets go to:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/newstreetprojects/1936875>

Tickets for March 21st and October 3rd will go on sale after Christmas.
All enquiries to: Simon Couchman 07515 385550. Email: simoncouchman@hotmail.com



News from Waldringfield All Saints Church

Recently, David and I met at the church to measure up the proposed site, and sketch out a design, for the new memorial garden. During our conversation David drew my attention to an interesting feature of the building that I hadn't really noticed before.

On the stone sill of the narrow 13th century window, on the south wall of the church, you will find there is a hole stopped up with a cork.

From the outside one can make out a blocked aperture beneath this window. We think this once served as a low-side window, through which a bell was rung at the climax of the daily Mass, and people who were unable to come into the church, such as lepers, could still join in with the worship.

Perhaps the hole in the sill was put there so that the communion wine could be served to those observing from outside. I'm no expert, but whilst the hole dates back hundreds of years, I think that cork could be a more recent addition.

Autumn Leaves

Many thanks to the volunteers who cleared the fallen leaves away from under the trees at the bottom of the churchyard. This year we will leave them piled up by the boundary to rot down. I think this is preferable to having a bonfire like last year, which smouldered and smoked away for 5 days!



PCC looking for new members

This year one of our longstanding members of All Saints parochial church council decided not to stand for re-election. So, we welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to become a member of the council.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church property, buildings, and the churchyard, the financial affairs of the church parish, and promoting the mission of the Church within the local community.

If you'd like to know more please contact the Church Warden, Anne Parkinson on 01473 736697.



Festive Events

The Craft Group Coffee Morning

Tuesday 9th December

10 am-12 pm

Christmas Stall and Christmas Hamper Raffle

in aid of St Elizabeths Hospice

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 14th December

6.00 pm

Choir led by Richard Atkins



Church Services

Prayer Services

Occurring every first Sunday
of the month at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion

Occurring every third Sunday
of the month at 10.30 a.m.

For further information go to: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2027/>

If you can't make it to one of our services, do remember that the Church is always left open for anyone who needs a quiet space for contemplation and prayer.



Waldringfield History Group

Researching History can be full of surprises. Our Chair, Alyson, was recently rehearsing in the Church Rooms and saw this picture of Rev'd Trevor Waller (our then Rector) and his Great Aunt Mary Jane Waller just before her 100th birthday. She died a couple of months after this picture was taken. This was a picture, not in our collection. It would seem that after WWII, Messerschmitt diversified to build cars.

Duncan Moncrieff of Hemley was the local Agent for these cars, and he sold one to Rev Trevor Waller, & one to Cyril Sutton. We believe this one was a Messerschmitt KR200 or *Kabinenroller* (Cabin Scooter) commonly known as a Bubble Car. Revd Trevor Waller also used this car to drive him and his wife between services on Sundays.

A similar picture appeared in the local papers celebrating Mary Jane's 100th Birthday with the Headline

"Waldringfield Centenarian enjoys modern means of transport"

A timely letter has also been found by a local in the Sunday Telegraph 9 November 2025 and forwarded to us. It was from Kit Clark (Trevor's daughter):

SIR - My father was a parson. His early sermons were long, but my mother told him that they should last no longer than five minutes. After 10 minutes, she would start rattling her collection and moving prayer books around.

He produced some excellent short sermons.

Kit Clark
Waldringfield, Suffolk



Picture of Ref Trev and the Messerschmitt 'Bubble' Car in 1957

We meet from September to March in the Kennedy Room at the Village Hall usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.00 p.m. **But** our next meeting will unusually be **4th December 2025** and will hopefully include a visit from one of the Detectorists who attended the Tideline exhibition in the summer. (please note this is the 1st Thursday). We plan to produce another talk in the Spring after the end of the Winter Talk series. The WHG website www.Waldringfieldia.com, contains much of our research although some is only available to members, but becoming a member is very simple and costs only £12 per year. Come and join us for a meeting.

For more information please contact Hon. Sec Margaret Lake or Chair Alyson Videlo - waldringfieldhg@gmail.com

Wild for Wildlife!

During the last week of the school summer holidays our young Wildlife Explorers gathered on Church Field to make more homes for nature. This was the second of the three Suffolk Wildlife Trust Forest School events planned for 2025. At the first event children made three stag beetle stacks which are nicely settling in at Church Field.



At the second event the children made bird and bat boxes which they took home to put up in their gardens. All children decided to take their boxes home, but some were made to put up in the village. The children learnt about bats and that their numbers were going down in our world. That they are very cool and need our help and one way to help some bats is by creating more spaces for them to live by making bat boxes. These replace the nooks and crannies in old homes and barns that are taken down, or trees that are cut down.



The children really enjoyed making their own bird boxes. They understood that a great way to help birds and to attract them to our gardens is to build bird boxes, which only they can go in – not predators-so it keeps the chicks safe. And also, to put them where there are no cats!

During the October half term week almost thirty children came along with their parents and grandparents to make even more homes for nature. This time they helped to make a large mini beast mansion in Church Field and some children made hedgehog homes to tuck away in their gardens. To make a mini beast mansion lots of different material was needed to provide a variety of habitat for different types of bugs and insects inside the mansion. Some examples of materials the children used included:

Dead wood, an increasingly a rare habitat, essential for the larvae of wood boring beetles. It also supports many fungi. Hollow stems such as bamboo canes and reeds make good nesting sites for solitary bees; stones and tiles provide habitat for amphibians, and straw and hay provide habitat for invertebrates to burrow in and find safe hibernation, dry leaves offer homes for many invertebrates and loose bark is for beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice to lurk under. Dry sticks are good for ladybirds to hibernate in. A mini beast mansion is a good way of providing habitat for many bugs and insects in one place.



Building the mini bug mansion involved the children carrying wooden pallets, reeds, straws, tiles, and wheeling in barrows cones, sticks, dead wood, straw, dry leaves and small logs to the chosen site to build the mansion. It didn't take long with so many helping hands undaunted by the rain, everyone carried on.

There was a lot of hammering in nails to make hedgehog homes and sawing bamboo and reeds to make Solitary Bee bundles for bees like Mason Bees to nest in both ends. The children were really inspired. Several children said that they really liked helping nature and enjoyed being outside in nature.

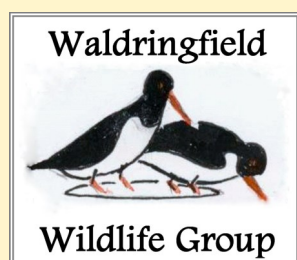
This was the last of the three events organised for 2025. Many thanks to Waldringfield Wildlife Group, The Church Field Trust, Charlie Zakss Engagement Officer for Suffolk Wildlife Trust and her Forest School team of volunteers and to Waldringfield Residents who helped gather the huge amount of organic material we needed to make the huge mini beast mansion. And to all the parents and grandparents who brought the children along to support their learning about nature and wildlife.

Funded by Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscapes, Community and Conservation Grant and Donations from the families.

Linda Wilkins, Waldringfield Wildlife group



**Suffolk & Essex
Coast & Heaths
National
Landscape**



LOW FARM
COTTAGES & CAMPING

**Do you have guests coming to
visit?**

Low Farm Cottages are open all year-round - In Waldringfield!
We have **five** 1 and 2 bed cottages located at the entrance to the village!

01473 736475—www.stayatlowfarm.com

{Sold Out 24th and 25th December 2025}

We offer a 10% discount to Waldringfield residents!

Visit our website for photos, availability and
booking information

A Tree Warden Writes

This year there are very heavy crops of many fruits from acorns to apples. We have gathered lots of seeds to grow for future trees. The Suffolk tree wardens swing into action again supplying packs of trees and hedging to plant. Over 20,000 trees are being distributed from Great Barton to be collected by tree wardens from all over Suffolk. We will be collecting our allocation too. I have applied for them based on requirements within the parish. If you would like to be on the list next year please contact me to discuss this. I also have a limited amount of young trees I am growing on to fill in gaps in hedges.



Waldringfield: a picture from 2011 – can you identify where this is? —Photo C Fisher-Kay

In winter the tree wardens will be occupied with maintaining the newly planted hedges and trees plantings during the winter – it is very important to look after the trees and hedging after they are planted by checking them, removing guards where no longer needed, reducing competition from weeds and replacing dead plants.

We are also using methods from the Woodland Trust Ancient and Veteran tree Guide to assess trees within the parish which are ancient or important and record these. Anyone interested in helping record trees is invited to get in touch.

I have been commenting on planning applications through the year, assisting the Parish Council where required. In particular we have been keeping an eye on what happens at Brightwell Lakes. The planting plans have to some extent been modified to include more native species, which they seemed reluctant to do at first. The original glowing description of the proposed development emphasised its benefits to wildlife and providing food through the planting of native species. So hopefully they will manage to achieve this eventually.



*By the River Orwell- has this tree had enough?
Photo C Fisher-Kay*

Within the village there are some very fine sights of autumn trees and shrubs but it is depressing to see hedges disappearing to be replaced by fences. It should be the other way round! Please get in touch with your requests for young trees and hedging, such as Oak, Hornbeam, Rowan, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Crab Apple and so on. If you are planting please make sure your trees and hedges do not dry out in the summer. There has already been very low rainfall for months and possibly next year might be even drier.

Christine Fisher Kay 01473-736384



Waldringfield

BAPTIST CHURCH

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 7th at 6pm

Modern Carols by Candlelight

Sunday December 14th at 6pm

Traditional Carols by Candlelight

Sunday December 21st at 10:30am

Christmas Nativity Family Service

Sunday December 21st at 5pm

Traditional Carols by Candlelight (with Christingle)

(FAMILIES TO COME WITH CHILDREN AT 4PM TO MAKE THEIR CHRISTINGLE)

Christmas Day Service

at 10:15am



Newbourne Road
Waldringfield, IP12 4PT

www.waldringfieldbc.org.uk

Update from Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP

These parish newsletters are always an important opportunity for me to share the work that I am doing in Parliament, on behalf of Suffolk Coastal – and, most importantly, to let you know how I am taking forward opportunities to campaign for change on issues that matter to us locally.

Over the past few months, I've been working to champion change on rural road safety, particularly on road safety around our primary schools.

On almost every school visit I make, I hear the same concerns time and time again - from teachers, parents, and students - about the dangers children face just getting to and from school each day.

From speeding traffic on 60mph roads right outside school gates, to unsafe crossing points and roads that were never designed with children in mind, these are everyday realities that simply aren't good enough. Since I began campaigning on this issue, I've been more determined each day to ensure that good road safety - and ensuring children can get to school safely each day - should be a basic right.

In September, I invited children from Bucklesham Primary School down to present our constituency petition to Number 10 Downing Street. But in many ways, this petition was just the beginning of a campaign that I'll now be taking forward nationally.

In November, I'll be presenting my own "Ten-Minute Rule Bill" to Parliament, which will begin a national campaign to call on government to take steps to enshrine in law measures to improve the safety of our roads around schools. Young students, parents, teachers, parish leaders, and our communities see the dangers around our schools every day – at drop off and pick up. Yet when their concerns are raised, they are too often met – at best - with shrugging shoulders. And I've heard some pretty terrible justifications as to why there has been a lack of desire to tackle these issues – citing that we're a county that puts road users first, or that it needs to be parental responsibility.

Like many people, I worry that action will only be taken once the most unimaginable tragedy occurs. Road safety – or rather, people's and children's safety – is, to me, such a core principle that we should all be able to demand action on. It shouldn't be party political. In fact, it shouldn't really feature in politics at all.

Over the next few months ahead, you'll hear more from me about this work – in Parliament and locally. If there are stories or experiences that you'd like to share with me about this important issue – to help shape my work and campaign, please do get in touch via jenny.riddellcarpenter.mp@parliament.uk.

Hedgehog Corner

The recent request for hedgehog sightings or other records had a good response. Hedgehogs have been seen several times recently (September) in gardens in Hemley and in Newbourne. Evidence of hedgehogs (poo) was spotted in gardens either side of Cliff Road in Waldringfield. Also one was seen at Waldringfield Heath in about May. So they are still around. Nevertheless the decline is worrying.

However, lots of work is going on to try and improve things for hedgehogs and research to find out why they have declined so drastically in recent years. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society leads the way with links with Hedgehog Street, where you will find lots of advice about how to help hedgehogs.



Photo—C Fisher-Kay

One of the main issues is fragmentation of habitat. There are at least two reports this year of hedgehogs killed on the road in our parish. If hedgehogs are roaming around gardens as seems to be the case, linking up the gardens with easily accessible through routes might enable them to forage without having to cross roads or go out in the open where they might be exposed to predators. They can use the wild odd corners of the garden to forage, to hide and make nests for resting in the day time – they do not always return to the same nest at night and will use different nests for hibernating and the mother hedgehogs will construct a special larger nest when about to give birth.

Hedgehogs are threatened by the large amounts of dangerous litter left about – see the recent litter clear along the Ipswich Road! Empty cans and broken glass bottles, netting and baler twine in which they can become entangled, all are hazardous for hedgehogs trying to find the insects and invertebrates they need. Last summer was very dry which means less insects around and many crops where the hedgehogs might explore to find food are sprayed with insecticides. The strips of vegetation at the bottom of hedges should be a good foraging ground for these harmless small animals but if all the weeds are pulled out (domestic gardens) or the land is ploughed right up to the boundary hedge if there is one, these old foraging places are eroded. Also strimmers are very dangerous to hedgehogs which tend to roll up into a ball and not run if danger threatens.

As winter comes around please think about how a hedgehog would get into and out of your garden or piece of land, and how it would shelter, hibernate or find food and water during the year.

For more information, advice and videos try <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/hedgehoggardening> or <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

Christine Fisher-Kay



Waldringfield Village Hall Trust

Regular users of the Village Hall will have seen various improvements over the last few months, including new racking in one of the two stores, a new shed and a new kitchen hatch. The Deben Hall has also been repainted in preparation for new curtains. We hope you like the improvements and we do value your feedback.

We are delighted that East Suffolk Council have awarded us a grant of £2,500 to improve the disabled wc and install a new locking mechanism to the main entrance door, similar to the one at Waldringfield School. This is intended to prevent the current practice of people wandering in off the street to use the Hall's toilets and, on occasion, the kitchen. These works will be taking place over the winter months.

We are grateful to those volunteers who have come forward to help show hirers how the hall works and to offer support at major events. The first volunteer training session took place this month led by Louise Brearey and Joyce Forsdike. We plan further training sessions and new volunteers are always very welcome to join. Please contact me if you are able to devote the odd hour or two to help out.

The AGM of the Village Hall Trust took place in October. The Committee for the current year 2025/6 comprises myself as Chair, Joyce Forsdike, Amanda Sims, Louise Brearey, Marian Bradley, Sarah Wood, John Nayler, Tony Lyon, Nigel King and Serena Gold as the Parish Council representative. We have a good range of skills and life experiences which makes for positive and balanced discussions. It has been a huge pleasure to have chaired the committee for the past five years and to see the Village Hall so well used by the local community and admired by visitors. However, I feel it is now time to hand over the reins to someone who can lead the Village Hall on to the next chapter, and I will therefore be resigning as Chair and as a member of the trustees at the next AGM in 2026. We are therefore seeking one or more new committee members and a new Chair. The Village Hall was built by the village for the village and if it is to continue to thrive we do need new people to come forward.

Philip Hall, Chairman

Waldringfield Village Hall Trust

chair@waldringfieldvillagehall.co.uk



THE GAS SHOP

FELIXSTOWE

We now install, service and repair OIL BOILERS!

You can expect our usual first class,
industry-leading service.

Including, but not limited to:

- Over 35 years' extensive heating experience
- Office open 6 days a week, phones usually answered within 3 rings
- 24/7 emergency call out for our regular customers
- Fully trained technicians
- Includes new nozzle every service

Servicing cost just: £195 inc. VAT

Give us a call today on **01394 670903** to book your service

www.thegasshop.co.uk



I'm Recyclable! Please place me in the blue recycling bin when you're done reading me