

# *Fynn - Lark News*

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024



## **Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild**

“See, the home of God is among mortals...they will be his peoples...He will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

We both express our heartfelt prayers for all those affected by recent flooding in the County and more locally. Enormous thanks go to all those caring neighbours who gave a helping hand to those worse affected and most vulnerable.

In the aftermath, whilst serious questions and concerns about future protection remain unanswered, work goes on to get everything back to some sort of normality.

All this brings home to us what we already knew: that climate change is not something to concern future generations but indeed our present one, and it must be tackled by every community and, together.

**Magazine for the Parishes of Great & Little  
Bealings, Playford and Culpho**

Our preparations for Christmas are equally urgent – to offer again a safe place for the Christ-child to both stay, feel safe and be welcomed, into our own hearts and ‘temporary homes. So many people put Christ away with the decorations rather than let him in to our lives.

The re-telling of the Christmas story through Word, Sacrament and Song in our local Churches, is full of this rich imagery of having ‘no room at the inn’ and yet having a mansion of rooms prepared for us. We not only have room to feel safe and warm, but also the opportunity to be inspired and energised for all the ups and downs of our pilgrimage and journeying: to find the Christ-child and let him enter in. The magic of Christmas is also the abiding truth of God-with-us, Emmanuel, who longs for us to know, love and follow him.

Please continue to pray for the troubled land and territory of Jesus’ birth, and for the gift of reconciliation between different cultures and faiths. This is the best time to turn the words we sing or sometimes sentimentalise, into something which frees us all from our inward-looking or parochial concerns into something bigger. Something which stretches our hearts and minds to discover a deeper and more inclusive picture of faith and outreach.

We wish you all a hope-filled Christmas for your families, neighbours and friends and that the love of God will make the New Year altogether more special and fulfilling. Emanuel - God with us.

*Revd Nigel Prior (Great Bealings) and Revd Gary Jones (Little Bealings & Playford)*



## **Pop up Youth group!**

Lightwave ‘Emerge’ are hoping to start a monthly youth group in Playford & Little Bealings.

We would like to hear the views of anyone aged 9 -16, by completing an anonymous online form, which should only take a couple of minutes (see QR code and link below).

Thank you!

Ben Wale (Lightwave) [ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org)  
<https://forms.office.com/e/zmvuzXGkUw?origin=IprLink>



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## NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

### SUFFOLK FLOODS

The FLN item on drainage which appeared in the October issue appears to have been timely, not to say prophetic. The whole local system of land drainage was put severely to the test by the probably unprecedented amounts of rainfall dumped on the Fynn/Lark valleys by Storm Babet.

We were not alone. In the wake of the storm many parts of Suffolk, particularly the Framlingham and Debenham areas, were badly flooded, with roads blocked and people forced to leave their homes. The two rivers which give their name to this Magazine were similarly put under severe strain, and that, combined with water cascading off the fields, plus poor field-drainage systems, led to significant flooding in various areas. At the peak time of flooding there was significant traffic disruption, as river levels rose very quickly and suddenly.

A public meeting was held in the Village Hall, attended by the EA, SCC, and ESC. The outcome of that meeting will be a report by the Environment Agency, and that will be the first step in identifying what can be done to protect us better in the future. We will publish the conclusions of the EA report when it is received.

The outcomes of that meeting are important, as they sign-post directions for future action, as well as offer important advice in the event of any reoccurrence of such flooding.

It is earnestly hoped that appropriate action will be promptly taken at all levels to ensure that the risk of any repeat of such an event is minimised, if not eliminated. There have been promising early signs that council and government money will be made available.

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*On behalf of the Editorial Team we  
wish you all a very Happy Christmas  
and New Year*



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## POP -UP PUB

On Friday November 10<sup>th</sup> the Pub popped up once again in our Village Hall, and was well supported. With proceeds going to the Village Hall repairs fund, that is good news, and we express our warmest thanks to those who work with such determination to make it happen – Sally Johnson and Helen Saagi.

## NATURE NOTES

### - OUR RIVERS

This Magazine takes its names from two local rivers, The Lark and the Fynn. The



Lark is only a few miles long, and has its source just the other side of Grundisburgh, but has a large catchment area. The Fynn, probably slightly longer, rises near Witnesham. Both rivers complete their short journeys as independent streams by spilling out, together, into the River Deben, close to Martlesham Creek.



As recent events have cruelly demonstrated, rivers are the Jekyll and Hydes of our ecological habitat. They can be the source of huge enjoyment, but they contain within themselves a lurking threat and danger to life and property.

On the plus side, rivers are the home of a wide range of wildlife: fish, including pike, tench, roach, eels, sticklebacks, which in turn attract fish-eating birds such as the kingfisher and heron, to say nothing of fish-eating humans, with rods and lines. How impoverished would our rivers be without



trout and salmon, with their incredible life stories. We love to see mammals such as the beaver, the otters, the water vole and all those smaller creatures such as caddis flies, damsel flies, various larvae, all those



fascinating creatures which skim and hover over and around water. Then there is the vegetation: water lilies, rushes, reeds – even the ill-reputed Japanese hogweed.

We love our riverside walks. We love painting them, swimming in them, boating on them, just gazing at them.

But rivers have a dark side. If they are not cared for, if human carelessness or negligence fails to respect their fragility, they can threaten us. Rivers need active management if they are to thrive, prosper, and fulfil the functions we would like them to perform. If we dump sewage in our

rivers, our plastic detritus, even our supermarket trolleys, if we fail to keep them flowing, fail to clear out the things that clog them up, then we prevent rivers from carrying out their age-old function, that of carrying our surplus rainwater out to the open seas. Floods have always been with us, but a combination of climate change and human negligence seems to have put our rivers and with them, ourselves, at risk. The answers to planetary concerns can so often begin close to home. We have two beautiful rivers. Let's do our little bit to keep them to be enjoyed, rather than allow them to become an ever-increasing threat. That could be one small local contribution to off-setting the effects of climate change.

## FREE TREES

Great Bealings Parish Council has a quantity of very young trees which are surplus to requirements.

We would like to offer these to any residents in any of the local parishes who can make use of them.

The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust and are offered free of charge, although a small donation would be appreciated which would be donated towards the repairs at the Bealings Village Hall.

The trees include oaks, beeches, hawthorn, hornbeam and silver birch.

Please contact John Carter-Jonas at: [jcarterjonas400@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jcarterjonas400@yahoo.co.uk)  
Telephone 01473 735255 or 07703 472222

(Please ask for JJ if texting or phoning)

## HISTORY CORNER

### - CHURCH GATES

Church gates come in a range of designs. Over the years they achieve great familiarity and local status, and secure a place in the affections of the local community. There is something historic about them, in that generations of villagers will have trodden the path through the gate, to services and commemorations and events so very varied in nature and content. When these gates reach the end of their serviceable lives, great thought has to be given as to how best to replace them.



Culpho church, being set in the heart of a very small rural community has had an appropriately rural gate – a five-bar gate, but a special one. A new gate is now sturdily, but also elegantly in place and fit to last for many years to come. Its story is well worth telling. It exemplifies the love and thought that go into preserving ancient village artefacts.



## CULPHO CHURCH – A NEW GATE

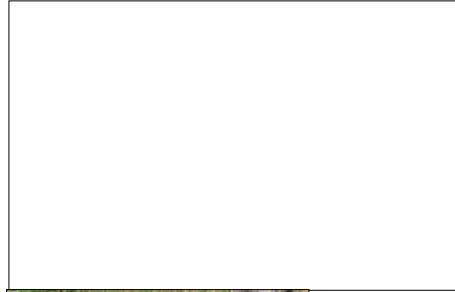


Over time, the wooden gate in front of Culpho Church went from being old, to being very old and this year, approaching falling-apart old. It had been repaired many times but now, the only way it could be rescued would be to replace whole sections of the structure. We decided that rather than patch it up for another season, it would be better to replace the whole gate. Hidden by the years of decay, there was evidence that a great deal of effort and skill had gone into making the gate and the wooden arrangement for the shoot bolt was most unusual.

Because of the design and quality of the gate, we felt that a replacement had to be a copy incorporating all the original design features. What started as a 'wouldn't it be a good idea' rapidly became far more complicated. The design of the gate was unique, so we were advised that we had to get a church faculty (planning permission) from the diocese. This process involved scale drawings, photographs, local consultation and of course, a project plan. Then there was the fundamental question as to who, locally could undertake the bespoke gate within a reasonable scale.

While making the drawings, we noticed

thought had gone into the finishing-off the original. The wooden enclosure for the shoot bolt prompted the question of why it was not a simple, metal latch. The hinge straps were clearly visible so why cover up the metal latch. To date, we have not found any other examples of this design.



After enquiries that resulted in responses ranging from "no" to "which year do you want it done by?", we approached Ashbocking Joinery who were happy to take on the project. They recommended that we use French oak, sourced from a single tree which would ensure that the gate would be uniform in colour and grain. The gate was removed, and the iron hinge straps were sent to be sand-blasted and powder-coated.

Hidden in the grass in front of the church noticeboard was a very decayed, low post with a piece of wrought iron, bent at right angle, slotted in the top. When we took up the post, we found that this had been the gate-retaining latch that had a counterweight and pivoted in a slot

through the post. The wrought iron latch was bent in several dimensions but was intact.

The mangled iron latch was taken to N&A Engineering at Martlesham who did an excellent job of straightening the latch and



cleaning off the years of corrosion. The old post for the latch had rotted away so we made a copy, using a piece of hardwood that came from my-keep-in-case-it-comes-in-useful store of wood. It was from my father's collection of timber, so it did come in useful! We put reflective strips on the post and sited it further back so hopefully it will not get run over again.

Having made the new gate, Ashbocking Joinery modified the badly worn bottom hinge and refitted the ironwork that had been powder coated. All the effort to copy the original paid off, as the gate fitted perfectly, and we are delighted with

the outcome. For now, the wood has been left untreated so that it will weather to a natural colour, blending in with the surroundings. Next Summer we will consider whether to apply transparent surface protection.

What started out in May as a 'wouldn't it be a good idea', finally came to fruition with the new gate fitted in October. Our thanks to Ashbocking Joinery and N&A Engineering for their invaluable assistance and advice. Apart from having the new gate, it is reassuring to know that this high-level craftsmanship still exists in Suffolk.

We are unable to accurately date the old gate and photographs taken in the past tend to be views from the East and not from the road. The gate might have been made at some time between 1930 and 1950 but if anyone has information that would help establish the date, please get in touch.

*Richard Garnham  
Churchwarden, St Botolph's Culpho.*



## 'SAFER VILLAGE DRIVING' - ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Colin Hedgley from Great Bealings and Mike Garnham for Little Bealings joined other SAVID ('Safer Village Driving') member villages, to take part in #RoadSafetyWeek 2023. SAVID Chair Pauline Procter said, 'We know speed continues to be a major concern in our villages and on rural roads'. Activities during Road Safety Week included community Speedwatch, Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) plus banners provided by the East Suffolk Community Partnership, to remind road users about their speed.

The next SAVID meeting will be on 15th February 2024, all welcome for more details contact [suffolksavid@gmail.com](mailto:suffolksavid@gmail.com).



Road Safety Week banner displayed at the start of the 30mph limit in Playford Road.

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## BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD NEWS

All the Trustees of Bealings Village Hall would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year

A HUGE thank you to all our volunteers who have helped throughout the year, supporting all the events and programmes in the Hall and helping maintain both the Hall and the John Belstead Playing Field

### WORKING PARTY: JOHN BELSTEAD PLAYING FIELD

The next working party on the Playing Field will be Saturday 13th January 09:30 - 12 noon, we'll be clearing paths, collecting more leaves and lopping branches/brambles from around the field and the Hall.

Everyone welcome, please bring any of the following: gloves/rakes/spades/loppers/secateurs.

Thank you. Please email [keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com](mailto:keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com) if you plan on helping

### ROOF & DOOR PROJECT



Here is the latest update from Bealings Village Hall. The last Pop Up Pub raised over £246 towards the Roof & Door Project and this coupled with a pledge from The Garfield Weston Foundation for £10,000 has now brought the total pledged / donated so far to **£53,300** - target £86,000, so we're over half way there!

More grant applications are being prepared, but your donations and profits from the fundraising events are paramount in showing local support. Also, completing the survey

sent out last year is another vital display of support, so if you haven't filled one out, you can scan the filled out form and email it to me at: [keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com](mailto:keith.beaumont13@btinternet.com) or pop it into the porch at Church Lodge, The Street, Little Bealings or at the Village Hall - a huge thank you to all who participate.

### POP UP PUB

The next Pop Up Pub is scheduled for Friday 19th January 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Food will be served from 6.00 p.m. - until we run out, and will be baked potato with a choice of toppings: beans/cheese/coleslaw/tuna mayo. Cost £3:00 for potato and 1 topping, extra toppings - £1

There will also be a raffle, so please bring your donations on the night - you could bring any unwanted Christmas gifts, or if you're doing Veganuary bring those milk chocolates, if it's dry January bring a bottle.

Look out for the reminder posters around the Villages and updates on the Bealings & Playford Newsgroup.

Volunteers to help are always welcomed !

**All profits go towards the New Roof & Doors Project**



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## BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL TRUST

### Needs YOU

**BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL TRUST CURRENTLY HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:**

**TRUSTEE** - Part of a small group of volunteers who oversee the running and viability of the Hall, John Belstead Playing Field and Sports Court, meeting 6 times per year for about 1½ hrs at the Hall.

**SECRETARY** - Takes minutes of trustee meetings and handles all correspondence and hall enquiries. FULL training will be provided, but a basic knowledge of computers is desirable.

**BOOKINGS SECRETARY** - Responsible for overseeing the booking and hiring of Hall facilities using an online booking system and some face-to-face inquiries. Ensures that invoices are generated and payment is made to the treasurer via BACS etc.

FULL training will be provided, but a basic knowledge of computers is desirable.

**TREASURER** - Responsible for accounting of funds and payment of bills, and banking of cheques and cash. Also, co-ordinates with Secretary on financial matters.

FULL training will be provided, but knowledge of computers and Microsoft Excel is desirable.

**VOLUNTEERS** - We need numerous volunteers to help run fundraising events such as Pop Up Pubs, Village Fun Days, and also to maintain the facilities in the Hall, on the Playing Field and Sports Court

If you could spare a few hours of your time to help keep this vital Community Facility open, please contact:

The administrator on 07768195132

Or email [bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com](mailto:bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com).

Or write to: Secretary, Bealings Village Hall Trust, Brimar House, Lodge Road, Little Bealings, Woodbridge IP13 6LH



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## **Leah Hinks' Pottery Classes at The Granary**

Ever been curious to try out pottery? Artist and experienced potter Leah runs two after-school classes on Wednesdays. The classes take place in her beautiful bright studio, and are perfect for children to explore their creative side.

Leah also offers adult classes on Tuesday evenings.



**All classes are all back to normal and if you would like to join,  
just contact Leah for more details on 01473 735880.**



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## GREAT BEALINGS

### RECTOR

Father Nigel Prior, St Mary's Rectory, 11 Church Street, Woodbridge. 01394 610424

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs Dee Knights, Dunure, 39 Avocet Lane, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SF Ips 624240

### PCC SECRETARY

Mr Eric Barnett, Southernhay, Lodge Rd, Great Bealings Ips 738803

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## ST MARY'S

### Churchwarden's Notes

#### WORDS AND ACTIONS.

Words can be reassuring, consoling, helpful, a cathartic sharing of human experience. There are times though, when mere words need to be accompanied by actions, insofar as action is possible. Acts reinforce the words.

How is that relevant in this piece? Well – think of prayer, so often promoted as a powerful tool in engaging a divinity creatively in our lives. Prayers are uttered at most church services and unite people in expressing earnest hopes for remedies to so many of the world's problems, as of our own personal problems.

How much more powerful is prayer when accompanied by action. Otherwise, prayer might be seen as just wishful thinking. Doing something to help people in trouble, rather than simply praying for them, maybe both, provides reinforcement. Turning up to offer physical help to a neighbour facing practical difficulties, rather than just expressing sympathy turns the thought into action. It is through such actions that a community demonstrates its health, strength and togetherness. We see human love and neighbourliness in action. Those are Christian values which, maybe increasingly subconsciously for many, still permeate the best of our

communities.

In the secular sphere, political manifestos, declarations of intent from grand Eco-gatherings of world leaders are all very well, and wonderfully aspirational, but they too, need to be translated into action. Sometimes they are, and communities, small and large, are so much the better for it. So maybe next time we have a kind, helpful thought, why not just ask ourselves whether it can be accompanied by an action?

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The annual ceremony of Remembrance, jointly organised by St Mary's Church and the Parish Council, took place at the War Memorial on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Some 20 people attended. Since our Rector was engaged with civic duties in Woodbridge, Churchwarden, Norman Porter led the ceremony, with introduction and prayers.

Two of the names on the War Memorial are those of Mutimers. It was therefore particularly poignant to have with us, to lay the wreath, members of the Mutimer family from Little Bealings, Francis and Liz. They were accompanied by the granddaughter of Laura Mutimer, sister of the four Mutimers who went to war, two of them never to return. It was Laura who had opened the War Memorial just over 100 years ago. No family had been more deeply affected by the war than the Mutimer family, so it was poignant and fitting to have them with us this year,

playing a leading role in the ceremony. Here is a picture of that original opening.



Refreshments were served afterwards in the church, and it was a good opportunity to share stories about recent events.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and health and happiness for the New Year. We particularly wish those who have been affected by floods a steady improvement in circumstances, and a warm, welcoming environment for the festive period. We also hope that you will soon all be back in the familiar comfort of your own homes. It has been a traumatic time for many, but this local community of ours has shown resilience and compassion, and let's hope that spirit of constructive neighbourliness will continue to serve us well in 2024.

To all: seasonal good wishes, and do come and join us in church at one or more of our Christmas services, even if you are not a regular. It's there to remind us of where the spirit of Christmas originated.

#### CHURCHYARD

Still dormant, resting, without need for pro-active care. There is plenty of wildlife to look out for though, so still worth a wander. The new gate, to be fitted directly in front of the North door, has arrived, and

will be fitted when manpower is available.

### SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

You are warmly invited to other Christmas Services in St Mary's, Woodbridge viz:

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 4.00 p.m.**  
**Crib Service and Christingle**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 11.00 p.m.**  
**Mass for Midnight**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**8.00 a.m. BCP Eucharist**  
**10.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. 11.00 a.m. Sung**  
**Benefice Eucharist**  
*followed by seasonal refreshments*

#### RECTOR'S "SURGERY"

We offer people the chance to invite our Rector into their homes so as to get to know him better, and vice versa. The regular day for this is Monday, either morning coffee or afternoon tea. If you would like to fix a future slot please contact churchwarden, Norman Porter [nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk), who is i/c the rota, and can offer possible future dates.

*Norman Porter. Churchwarden*  
*[nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk)*



### Advent & Christmas Services

#### Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

9.30am Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Eucharist with hymns

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 17<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am Morning Prayer with Reflection

#### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

6pm Poems & Carols for Christmas, followed by mulled wine in church (parking available, as usual, in the field behind the War Memorial)

#### Christmas Eve

10am Eucharist and carols. All welcome

GREAT BEALINGS  
ST MARY

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## PARISH COUNCIL

Summarised notes of the parish council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### REPORTS:

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELAINE BRYCE (EB)

A report has been received and circulated to Cllrs, and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COLIN HEDGLEY

A report had been circulated to Cllrs and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website. CH briefly spoke about the ESC annexe which is to be leased to SCC, the help available for households with prepayment meters, and the recent vandalism at the new toilets in Felixstowe. He also provided details of ESC's free parking scheme for Christmas shoppers.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DAN CLERY

Two reports had been circulated to Cllrs and a full copy is attached to the minutes on the website.

### STORM BABET

#### - PUBLIC MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, Great Bealings Parish Council hosted a meeting in Bealings Village Hall attended by approximately 100 people from Bealings and neighbouring parishes to hear about the impact and causes of the flooding on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, and to consider possible outcomes. Representatives attended on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA) and Suffolk County Council (SCC). Our local County and District Councillors were also present.

Aaron Dixey, the Environment Agency's Area Flood Risk Manager, said that large areas of East Anglia had experienced between 60 and 70 mm of rain falling during a 24-hour period on land which was already saturated from the above average rainfall during the previous few days. People reported much higher than usual run off from fields and rivers overflowing their banks.

Twelve houses in Great Bealings had water ingress to some extent. At the time

of the meeting six were still uninhabitable. Matt Hullis, Head of Environmental Strategy for SCC, said the over 700 (since confirmed as 750) homes across Suffolk had been reported as flooded, and well over 50 flood investigations were already underway. This compares with the 2 or 3 a year during the past ten years.

Heavy traffic through small villages was identified as a particular problem, as motorists tried to avoid blocked roads including the A12, which was flooded near Farlingaye School. People reported incidents of motorists: driving too fast, causing unnecessary spray; ignoring barriers erected by residents to prevent cars driving along blocked roads; and even attempting unsuccessfully to drive through very deep water, such that immediately to the west of Boot Street Bridge.

It seems unlikely, from the monitoring carried out by the EA, that Martlesham Sluice, which closes automatically at high tide, had any impact on the flooding in Great Bealings. Matt Hullis suggested that blocked highway drains were also unlikely to have been a contributory factor in Great Bealings because, had they been cleared, the water entering them would have fed into the River Lark.

### NEXT STEPS

SCC, with the assistance of the EA, will carry out a flood investigation under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 with a view to identifying a list of actions which could be taken by various people to reduce flood risk. Kate Lindsay, a Community Information Officer, had visited Great Bealings along with a colleague. They will work together with SCC and residents to get the best information they can. Everyone with any relevant information is asked to send it to the EA, together with photos and videos, via a survey form: <https://forms.office.com/e/WPfn1DAv8a>.

Following the flood investigation, the EA will produce recommendations which will have to be costed before they can be put

into effect. The time scale is likely to be 3-5 years to complete but remedial actions can be carried out in the meantime. The EA can grant permits where these are necessary for certain community schemes, such as clearing affected rivers and water courses. Applications usually take about 8 weeks to consider. (See Useful Information.)

The EA will monitor subsequent actions but does not have any enforcement powers other than in relation to rivers and watercourses.

The EA and SCC will speak to landowners regarding the reduction in flood risk. The Environment Land Management Scheme which is designed to encourage farmers to hold more water on their land may be a possible option.

Community Self Help Schemes such as the installation of depth gauges along roads which are particularly prone to flooding might help to deter motorists from driving along flooded roads.

The SCC Highways Reporting Tool (search 'Report a Flood in Suffolk') should be used for all flood related issues affecting roads and footpaths, regardless of the cause of the problem. This can include reporting heavy traffic trying to get through flooded villages and motorists speeding through flooded water etc.

**Everyone who might be affected by flooding should sign up to flood warnings and alerts.**

Flood Resilience was addressed by CH, who advised that doors make better barriers than sandbags. Better still are Floodsax which are sandless bags, which are stored flat until they are activated by pouring water on them. They will then last for about 3 months. Advice can be found in publications such as 'Property Flood Resilience,' accessible via the EA Home page and Homeowners Guide to Flood Resilience accessible via the internet on several websites.

Details of how to make a claim for payment and other useful information is on an information sheet attached to the minutes on the website.

#### **EMERGENCY PLAN**

CH stated that, although this was still relevant, in circumstances such as this, a paper-based system is not the answer. There is a need to explore on a District and County wide level, whether there is a more appropriate method that can be used. He will put this matter on the agenda for the next Community Partnership meeting in January. In the meantime, a WhatsApp group has been set up by a group of local residents who were most affected.

Regan Scott will make a Freedom of Information request to SCC to ascertain exactly what is in the new Highways contract with Milestone Infrastructure with respect to flooding prevention.

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**DC/23/2787/VOC – Barn C, Former Wood Barn Cottage site** – revised plans re variation of condition No. 2 of DC/21/1591/VOC. The PC resolved that there are no objections to this application.

**The following applications were supported:**

**DC/23/2887/FUL – Little Oaks, Lower Street** – single storey extension

**DC/23/3783/FUL – Seckford Rise, Seckford Hall Road** – single storey rear extensions, side garage/carport extension and various alterations to existing dwelling

**DC/23/0319/LBC – Seckford Hall** – Revised plans re erection of new dining hall extension and greenhouse

**DC/23/0363/FUL – Seckford Hall** – Revised plans re demolition of ancillary buildings and erection of new buildings

#### **Decision Updates:**

DC23/2127 – Land north of Lavender Cottage – application refused by ESC.

**DC/23/2788 – Barn C, Former Woodbarn Cottages** – heat pumps – application permitted.

#### **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:**

#### **REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

SP reported that this is currently with ESC who have to do some environmental

assessments before it can be circulated to residents for a formal consultation before being put to the Planning Inspector for approval.

#### **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

Draft Playford Neighbourhood Plan – the PC has no comments on this.

#### **HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

**SAVID/SID**– CH said that the SAVID AGM will be held this week, there are two more PCs wanting to join.

JCJ reported that the new SID has been erected and set up and is working fine. DPK confirmed that there are sufficient funds remaining to allow for purchase of a dedicated laptop on which to download the data, JCJ will pursue this.

JCJ said that there are now 4 spare batteries, brackets and a charger for an old-style SID which can be offered to other PCs. CH will pursue this.

#### **OTHER HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

JCJ said that there is no "bend sign" at the area of the SID and it would be ideal if one could be affixed to the SID post. CH will ask EB to raise this with SCC.

JCJ said that the gulleys are blocked on the stretch between Lodge Road and Brook House, he will report this on the SCC Highways reporting tool.

**Footpaths** – RS will report the broken stile and presence of barbed wire on the footpath from Hall Farm Road to St Mary's Church

**Environmental Issues - Trees** – JCJ has approx. 200 small trees that can be donated to residents and he suggested asking for a small donation to go towards village hall repairs.

#### **FINANCE AND ADMIN:**

**Authorisation of payments** – six payments were authorised for office expenses, Clerk's salary and PAYE for November and December, and the SID.

**Draft Budget** - The Clerk had circulated a draft budget which showed a shortfall of income over proposed expenditure of £270 if the precept remains the same. SP said the PC may also need some start-up funds for next year's village fete.

**Provisional Precept discussion** - The council tax base figures supplied by ESC had been circulated. Following the suggestion from SP re the fete, the Clerk will circulate some figures showing the impact of a small increase of the precept. A final decision will be made at the January meeting.

**OTHER FINANCE AND ADMIN MATTERS** - The Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed. Cllrs agreed to implement the recent national salary award for 2023/24 in respect of the Clerk's salary.

#### **DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2024**

**Held in the Committee Room at 6.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated**

Tuesday 9th January

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
in Village Hall at 7.00 .pm. – Annual Parish and PC Meetings

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July,

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

The public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes on any item on the agenda in the Public Participation session. Full draft and approved minutes of the Parish Council are available on the Council's website. The agenda is published approx. a week in advance of a meeting.

*Dee Knights – Clerk 01473 624240  
Email: greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk  
Website: www.greatbealings.co.uk*

**FRIENDS OF GREAT BEALINGS CHURCH** (in partnership with Friends of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge)

**CHURCHYARD BONFIRE GATHERING – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>.**

It was a close call whether to cancel the Bonfire Night on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, given the ongoing wet weather and the preoccupations of many residents with the aftermath of



the floods, or whether a boost to morale was needed. In the event, thanks to the perseverance and persuasive organisational skills of Sally Johnson, and strong support from our Rector, Father Nigel Prior, the evening went ahead, and some two-dozen people came together in and around the church to make the best of a brief break in the rain. Miraculously, enough dried wood and timber was brought along to produce a fine, non-smoky fire, and the positive effect on local morale was welcomed.

Our thanks to Sally for all her efforts in bringing us together, to those who contributed flammable materials, and to suppliers of sausages and soup. Those present seemed very much of the opinion that perseverance in the face of adversity and bad weather had been well rewarded by the positivity of the occasion.

**CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS**

There was flurry of Barnett birthdays towards the end of November, and this resulted in a mass floodlit celebration. We wish a Happy Birthday to them all: Sharon Barnett, James Barnett, Harriet Barnett, Ena Ayers and Eric Barnett.

The lights shone across the valley on the nights of Friday 24 & Saturday 25 November. With the family celebrating together, enjoying a very special meal out on the 25<sup>th</sup>, they will have seen the lights on their way home, shining through the dark silhouettes of the now almost leafless limes.

For Eric this was a particularly momentous occasion as he was celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Eric has given so much to our village, both as Chairman of the Parish Council, and as a long-standing member of the PCC, that he merits individual mention, and on this special occasion, retrospective thanks for many years of commitment to the affairs of this village. As Churchwarden, I have had frequent and particular cause to be grateful to him.

Thank you, Eric, most sincerely, from us all, and may you be blessed with good health for many years yet.

If you would like the lights to shine forth for personal celebrations commemorations please drop a note in to Norman Porter, Rill Cottage, Kiln Lane with payment, explaining why you would like the church floodlit, so that it can be recorded in the FLN, for posterity's benefit. If urgent, a holding email [nhp@rillcott.co.uk](mailto:nhp@rillcott.co.uk) will do the trick, with payment to follow.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>Denise Head</b> Partner/Solicitor &amp; Mediator T 01473 219282 E <a href="mailto:denise.head@bates-wells.co.uk">denise.head@bates-wells.co.uk</a></p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p><b>Christopher Mason</b> Head of Dispute Resolution T 01473 295524 E <a href="mailto:christopher.mason@bates-wells.co.uk">christopher.mason@bates-wells.co.uk</a></p> </div> </div>
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I can be contacted

**EMAIL:** [graham@gxgenealogy.co.uk](mailto:graham@gxgenealogy.co.uk) or [info@gxgenealogy.co.uk](mailto:info@gxgenealogy.co.uk)

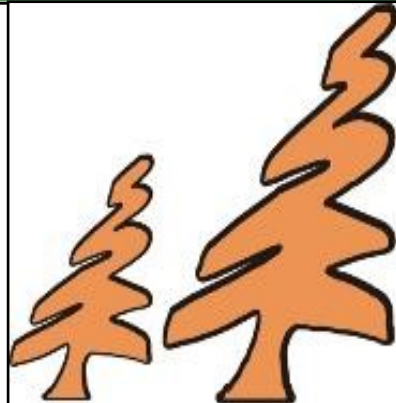
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## LITTLE BEALINGS

### PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

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07714 614095

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Carol Ramsden,

littlebealingspc@btinternet.com

07731 456133

### PCC SECRETARY

Toni Cornish

lbpcsecretary@gmail.com

07583 743695

## PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of matters considered at the Parish Council meeting held on 6 November 2023

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items on the Agenda in accordance with the Council's adopted LGA Code of Conduct and left the meeting as appropriate.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A Trustee of Bealings Village Hall spoke in support of the allocation of CIL funding to the Hall. A resident advised they had not objected to the Council considering the discharge of condition application (DC/23/3463/DRC) for the Admiral's Head. A resident commended the Council on its Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan and Neighbourhood Plan and commented on future work.

### SAVID and use of the speed indicator device

It was planned to display a banner in Playford Road during Road Safety Week (19-25 November). SAVID would be asked if SID data could be used to for deployment of Automatic Number Plate Recognition speed monitoring in The Street.

### LEVEL CROSSING GRIT BIN

This had been replaced and filled by Network Rail.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

There were two requests, including one for a review of supplied information.

### PAT TESTER

Two more organisations had asked to use the Council's s Portable Appliance Tester.

## IMPACT OF STORM BABEL IN LITTLE BEALINGS

Land had been flooded but no houses in the parish had been affected. The Council had directly contacted those residents considered likely to have been affected and circulated details via enews and on noticeboards asking for information and sending links for assistance. Details from Dr Poulter MP had also been passed on. The Council had contacted Anglian Water and proposed it update its Flood Assessment for the site of the new sewer pumping station in The Street. The Council noted that residents of Little Bealings had offered assistance at some flooded properties in Great Bealings, and the Angela Cobbold Hall had been opened, with supplies being provided by Tesco's. The Chairman would attend a meeting on 8 November, organised by Great Bealings Parish Council to discuss the flooding, as an observer.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DC/23/3657/VOC | Variation of Condition No.2 of DC/21/2505/FUL - Demolition of the existing High Rigg dwelling. Replacement with a new five bedroom country house with a new driveway and highway access - Change Condition 2 to remove and replace drawings: 4867\_: PA\_04D (Proposed Block and Landscape Plan) with PA\_04\_E (Proposed Block and Landscape Plan), PA\_05D (Proposed Site Plan) with PA\_05\_E (Proposed Site Plan), PA\_06H (Proposed Plans) with PA\_06\_I (Proposed Plans), PA\_07F (Proposed Elevations) with PA\_07\_G (Proposed Elevations), PA\_08B (Proposed Section Elevations) with PA\_08\_C (Proposed Section Elevations), PA\_09F (Proposed Context Elevation) can be omitted, PA\_10A (Proposed Gateway) with PA\_10\_B (Proposed Gateway) - Discharge of Conditions no. 5 - Detailed

scheme of landscaping - as per drawings PA\_05\_E (Site Plan), PA\_04\_E and PA\_10\_B, no. 12 - Details of area for refuse/recycling bins - as per drawings PA\_04\_E and PA\_05\_E, no. 13 - Details of discharge of surface water from development onto highway - as per drawing PA\_10\_B (Proposed Gateway), no. 18 - Details of filtered package sewage treatment plant - as listed on PA\_04\_E i.e. Klargestor Biotec BTA2 Gravity Discharge (unit is serving 6 bedrooms/8 persons discharging to ground, less than the requirement needed for a permit) | Former High Rigg Martlesham Road

There was no objection to the application.

DC/23/3463/DRC | Discharge of Condition 6 (refuse storage and presentation) of APP/X3540/W/21/3267667 (DC/20/3514/FUL) - Change of Use of a Vacant Public House to Residential Use | Admirals Head Inn Sandy Lane

ESC had approved the application following receipt of a revised plan.

DC/23/2887/FUL: Single-storey extension: Little Oaks, Lower Street, Great Bealings

The Council had returned a response of 'no comment' under established delegated authority.

### Appeal Against ESC Refusal:

DC/22/2630/FUL | Construction of 1no. new residential dwelling with detached garage in front of Marchwood | Marchwood Martlesham Road

The appeal had been dismissed.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A public consultation event would be held on 11 November. The consultant had commenced the Landscape Appraisal. The Council's grant application had resulted in £9,645 being received and the Council had purchased Parish Online mapping at a cost of £45 plus vat. The consultant's first invoice for £2,670 plus vat would be payable after the consultation event.

### PARISH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

It was resolved to adopt the draft plan and to contact SCC and the PCC to discuss improvements to Footpath 1A at the Church. District Councillor Hedgley

agreed to establish whether planning permission would be required for works.

### ESC POLLING STATION REVIEW

It was resolved that the current arrangements were appropriate.

### BEALINGS VILLAGE FETE 2024

It was resolved to respond to an enquiry by Great Bealings Parish Council and offer support and practical help for a Fete on 9 June 2024, with profits going to Bealings Village Hall.

### FINANCE

The second quarterly internal review had been completed and no issues had arisen. It was resolved to approve a Budget for 2024/25 which maintained the precept at the current level. The Asset Register, Asset Register Risk Assessment, and Business Risk Assessment were also approved.

Income had been received from Gt Bealings Parish Council (£10.16) for insurance of the shared village sign and ESC for the second half of the precept (£6,500) and further CIL funding (£1400.16). Expenditure for the Clerk's salary for November and December and PAYE, and payments for SALC Conference Attendance, website hosting, hire of Bealings Village Hall and the Angela Cobbold Hall, membership of SAVID and a donation to the Poppy Appeal were approved.

### DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Council will be on Monday 4 December 2023 in the Angela Cobbold Hall. It was resolved to alter the time of all meetings to start at 7.00pm. It was resolved to meet on:

8 January,

4 March (Annual Parish Meeting, followed by Parish Council Meeting)

13 May (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

1 July

2 September

4 November

6 January 2025

3 March 2025 (Annual Parish Meeting, following by Council Meeting)

If required by business to be transacted the Council would also meet on:

5 February

15 April,

3 June,

5 August,

7 October

2 December 2024

3 February 2025.

Please visit our website for further information, including reports, draft and approved minutes of Parish Council meetings:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

*Carol Ramsden – Clerk to the Council*

*07731 456133*

*littlebealingspc@btinternet.com*

## SINKS PIT UPDATE

A group of Little Bealings residents\*, supported by our MP and local government councillors, have been working to address noise, dust and light pollution emanating from Sinks Pit.

After a huge number of complaints, investigation and noise measurements, East Suffolk Council issued a noise abatement notice on TRU in September 2021

As a result, our MP called together the most senior leaders of East Suffolk Council (ESC), Suffolk County Council (SCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) when actions were agreed including:

- The EA to agree a Noise Pollution Plan with TRU.
- ESC, SCC and the EA to improve planning and enforcement processes.
- The formation of a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to drive positive changes. The CLG, chaired by our County

Councillor, meets quarterly.

TRU has employed a noise consultant, and an improvement plan has been agreed by the EA. Noise monitors have been installed at key locations and a dust particle spectrometer has been operating over the last summer.

Significant success has been achieved with more anticipated. Many improvements have been implemented, some physical such as noise barriers, and some organisational, including TRU now having a noise management policy built into in their corporate management system.

There is more to do. We need further noise reduction. Planning processes need attention – the new “Levelling-up and Regeneration Act” will have an impact on local governments relationships with their communities.

It can not be stressed too strongly how making complaints has made a key impact on this activity. We thank especially the ESC Environmental Protection team who will call out to witness your problems. Please help us by making your complaints heard through the following channels:

### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

*ics@environment-agency.gov.uk*  
0800 807060

### EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

*ep@eastsoffolk.gov.uk*  
03330162000

### SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

*planning.enforcement@suffolk.gov.uk*  
01473 265066

Note: email preferred, always include the word “complaint” and ask for a reference number

\*Sinks Valley Environment Protection Group (SVEPG) *svepg@btinternet.com*

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As 2023 draws to a close, it's time to look back on the Parish Council's year and what has kept us busy on behalf of residents. We started 2023 remonstrating with Network Rail over the unauthorised closure of the level crossing over the Christmas period. We continue to ask SCC to pass on to the parish the fine they levied and - after much tenacity – we achieved the donation of a new grit bin at the level crossing from Network Rail.

During the year we have felt the impact of the ESC planning policy which allows some development outside the established settlement boundary of the parish, with construction affecting residents on Martlesham Road. Consent now also exists for the conversion of some of the barns at the old Grove Farm buildings in The Street. Some will say that development brings new life to the village and should be encouraged; others are less sure, being concerned about increased traffic on our narrow roads and a loss of our rural character.

One outcome of the new development has been the receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from ESC, and we currently hold around £7,500 to spend on 'infrastructure' for the parish. This enabled us to react quickly to the Village Hall's urgent appeal for funds to replace a leaking roof and doors, and we have allocated £5,000 to this project. The outcome of our autumn survey asking residents where we should allocate other funding saw requests for footpath improvements, funding for our two community halls, traffic calming and community transport. We are taking these projects forward next year, starting by exploring improvement to the broken surface of the footpath through the churchyard – specifically mentioned by residents and also much used for school access.

Our footpath network is highly valued by residents, and we were able to secure a replacement footbridge from SCC for the

## CHRISTMAS

permissive path to Great Bealings quickly. Our enthusiastic Footpath Wardens were pleased to report that it survived the River Lark flooding there in October.

We have continued to work on traffic calming, with our shared Speed Indicator Device (SID) displayed around the village every other month at several locations, reminding drivers of the 20 or 30 mph limits. With our encouragement, SCC and the police have also undertaken speed monitoring and enforcement on Martlesham and Playford Roads. I am grateful to Councillor Mike Garnham for his work installing, moving and charging the SID and liaising with Playford over the shared use. Ideally, we would have our own SID and plan to look for a funding source – the cost being over £4,000.

Back in May we said goodbye to two parish councillors, Douglas Hunter and Denise Head, and we welcomed their replacements, Peter Carr and Kathy Price, into the role. Peter and Kathy have both joined our Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, along with Councillor Helen Saagi. Producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish will be a major focus of our work in 2024. We were pleased with the turnout at the initial consultation event held in November and we now have four residents joining the Councillors on the Group. We have secured grant funding for the Plan production and are working with our consultant on the next steps. Please do look out for consultations next year and help shape how Little Bealings develops. More information is on a dedicated Neighbourhood Planning page on our website:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/neighbourhood-plan/>

2023 has seen the Parish Council continuing its regular work for the village, responding to planning consultations and applications that impact on Little Bealings and listening to concerns raised by residents on a variety of topics. We are still pressing SCC to replace faded white lines and signs on our roads. You can also report highways problems – including

flooding - direct to them here:

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

I have continued to represent the Council at Sinks Pit Community Liaison Group meetings and attendance by SCC, ESC and the Environment Agency is having an impact on reducing the noise, dust and vibration that some residents experience from the site.

Next year residents will face major disruption for many months while Anglian Water installs the new sewer scheme for The Street. I met with Anglian Water in October, and we expect to have good communication with them during the works – although the impact will certainly be severe. We have set up this page on our website and will use the enews to update you:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/main-sewerage-scheme-for-the-street/>

Finally, conscious of the cost of living, we set our budget for next financial year and are maintaining the precept (our income paid via Council Tax) at the same level.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Do get in touch if you have any concerns the Council can help with.

*Ian Ransome  
Chairman  
Little Bealings Parish Council  
chairman.lbpc@gmail.com*

## ACH NEWS

### GARDENING CLUB

Since the last issue of the magazine there have been two Gardening Club meetings. One on the seasonal topic of the Autumn in October and one on Amazing Mazes in November. Both sessions were both fascinating and informative.

'Autumn' was portrayed in a selection of poems, read by members of the audience and practical information, on the big

screen, for Autumn/Winter colours in the garden. There was provision for some art work looking at items from the natural world. A very special evening master-minded by Margaret Roseboom.

November's presentation was by Sue Prentice who introduced us to the history and development of mazes and labyrinths. These date back to prehistory, with examples in Scotland, Ireland and South America. Mazes and labyrinths appear in many forms, including tiled floors in religious buildings and narrow grassy mounds defining the pattern. Mazes can be round or square and have a series of 'dead ends' to test the visitor, but labyrinths have only one twisting path to reach the centre.

There are many mazes throughout this country including Saffron Walden, where mazes are especially celebrated. Tracy Herrington brought some examples of shrubs used for creating the paths, from Katie's Garden Nursery. An opportunity followed to use printed sheets to create labyrinths, providing a fascinating challenge. Grateful thanks to Sue for sharing all her knowledge and research.

### COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Thanks to everyone who came and shared and helped with the November lunch. The season was marked with sausage casserole from Ann Tate's recipe in the Village Cookbook and Peter's Pumpkin Pie and also some special purple flower table decorations. These were chosen and provided by Tracy Herrington.



The colour was to celebrate Purple Tuesday, celebrated annually and globally on the first Tuesday in November, to promote accessibility and inclusivity for disabled consumers. The colour is also used to publicise the Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and purple poppies are in remembrance of all the animals who lost their lives in the Services.

The next **Community Lunch** will be on Tuesday 5th December 12.30 p.m. and will be a traditional Christmas Meal with Sandra Banham's Christmas puddings and Betty Slim's 'piggies in blankets' and stuffing together with mince pies from Tracy and Sally Herrington.

'Sense', The National Deafblind and Rubella Association (Charity No.289868) has been chosen to receive the profits from this event.

The **Community Lunch** on 2nd January will be a 'Left Overs Lunch' serving

Chicken Broth

Bread & Cheese

Baked apples stuffed with mincemeat.

Information and bookings for lunches, [pandvcarr55@gmail.com](mailto:pandvcarr55@gmail.com) 01473 620213

From 1st-20th December the porch at the ACH will be a drop off point for **FIND**...Families in Need. Food Bank (Charity No. 1106050)

NB There is now an email address for Ropeth/ Angela Cobbold Hall [ach.ropeth@gmail.com](mailto:ach.ropeth@gmail.com) This should be used for all matters concerning the Hall including enquiries and bookings unless otherwise advertised.

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- ♦ **Cutlery, crockery and glasses can be borrowed for home use**

**Further information, enquiries and bookings 01473 620213  
[pandvcarr55@gmail.com](mailto:pandvcarr55@gmail.com)**



## DECEMBER - JANUARY @ ACH

FIND.... Families in Need Food Bank....Charity No.1106050.... from December 1st to December 20th. there will be a collection point in the porch daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Products needed include tinned food of all kinds, Longlife milk, Jam, Sugar and Toiletries of all kinds. Christmas treats always appreciated.

<b>Monday 4th</b>	1.30-4.00 p.m.	<b>KNIT &amp; NATTER*</b> Refreshments
<b>Tuesday 5th</b>	12.30 p.m.	<b>COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>
<b>Friday 8th</b>	6.30-10.00 p.m.	<b>SOCIAL EVENING*</b> 'Food & Drink' and talk on the 'Sky at Night'
<b>Monday 11th</b>	1.30-4.00 p.m.	<b>KNIT &amp; NATTER*</b> Refreshments
<b>Wednesday 13th.</b>	7.30 p.m.	<b>GARDENING CLUB</b> Christmas Table Decorations
<b>Sunday 17th.</b>	3.00-5.00 p.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS TEA TIME*</b>
<b>Monday 18th</b>	1.30-4.00 p.m.	<b>KNIT &amp; NATTER*</b> Refreshments
<b>JANUARY</b>		
<b>Tuesday 2nd</b>	12.30 p.m.	<b>COMMUNITY "LEFT OVERS" LUNCH</b>
<b>Friday 5th</b>	10.00 -12 noon	<b>COFFEE MORNING</b>
		<b>FOOT CLINIC</b> Appointments Charlotte - 07712448775
	6.30-10.00 p.m.	<b>SOCIAL EVENING *</b> 'Food & Drink'

All Enquiries and Bookings [ach.ropeth@gmail.com](mailto:ach.ropeth@gmail.com) unless otherwise specified.

\*Light refreshments (snacks, tea, coffee) are available on request without charge to anyone attending these events (made possible by grant funding from Government / East Suffolk Council as part of the 2023 warm welcomes scheme).

### BEALINGS CLUB HOUSE

Activity Days in December/ January for children from Reception to Year 7

<b>Thursday 21st</b>	9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.	<b>Christmas Craft Day</b>
<b>Friday 22nd</b>	9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.	<b>STOP THE GRINCH DAY</b>
<b>Friday 29th</b>	9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.	<b>TWIXMAS PLAY SESSION</b>
<b>January</b>		
<b>Wednesday 3rd.</b>	9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.	<b>NEW YEAR PARK</b>

Details and Bookings: [www.bealingsclubhouse.uk](http://www.bealingsclubhouse.uk)



**EAST SUFFOLK  
WARM WELCOMES**

## You are warmly invited to attend any of our services and events at All Saints Church, Little Bealings

Sunday 3rd December	3.30pm	Make a Christingle Candle (no need to book)
Sunday 10th December	10.00 a.m.	Family Service
Thursday 21st December	7.00 p.m.	Christmas Carols (followed by mince pies and mulled wine)
Sunday 24th December	4.00 p.m.	Crib Service
Monday 25th December	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Service with communion
Sunday 14th January	10.00 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28th January	10.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Every Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Morning church service (approx. 20 mins)
	10:30 a.m.	Fynn Valley Walks (leisurely walks ~4 miles)
Every Saturday	10.00 a.m. -12.30.00 p.m.	Church open for visitors, coffee, chat, or private prayer by the sanctuary

Visit our website for further information  
<https://littlebealingschurch.onesuffolk.net/>



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# All Saints Church Little Bealings

## Christmas Services and Events

<b>Sunday 3rd December</b> <b>Make a Christingle Candle</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 10th December</b> <b>Family Service</b>	<b>10am</b>
<b>Thursday 21st December</b> <b>Christmas Carols</b> <i>(followed by mince pies &amp; mulled wine)</i>	<b>7pm</b>
<b>Sunday 24th December</b> <b>Crib Service</b>	<b>4pm</b>
<b>Monday 25th December</b> <b>Christmas Day Family Service</b> <i>(with communion)</i>	<b>10am</b>

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## PLAYFORD

### PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Gary Jones

[revgaryjones1985@gmail.com](mailto:revgaryjones1985@gmail.com)

07714 614095

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs. Marian Hedgley, The Coach House, Playford Mount, Great Bealings, IP13 6PH

Ips 738468

### PCC SECRETARY

Mrs. Eileen Stennett, Lux Farm, Playford Road, Playford

Ips 635236

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## PARISH COUNCIL

These are condensed notes of the proceedings of the Playford Parish Council meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2023.

A full version of the minutes appears on the website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Apologies for absence received from Co. Cllr Elaine Bryce - her written report is appended to the full minutes on the PC website.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Both Cllrs' full reports are appended to the full minutes on the PC website.

Dist. Cllr Colin Hedgley reported that ESC was working towards mitigating any future flood risks after the recent bad weather and that help for recent flood victims is available from government funding. The annexe at the East Suffolk House is to be rented out to SCC and improvements to Foxhall Tip are progressing. Please contact Colin if you have any problems, he could help you with.

Dist. Cllr Dan Clery reported the Green Party is still finding its feet, but they are building up new strategies and would welcome comments from the public via their website. They are not in favour of the Sizewell C project and want certain modifications agreed - they would also like to see an offshore hub installed to collect power from wind farms etc.

## ACTION POINT REVIEW

- No further progress with the unregistered footpath between Butts Road and Church Road – results of appeal still awaited.

- Boules Piste repairs – the anticipated team of volunteers is not available, materials will be costed and discussed at the next PC meeting and volunteers are being sought to undertake the work involved.

- Various trees fallen during the bad weather have been reported and are being dealt with.

- Drainage ditch in Butts Road is blocked near entrance to the village hall – clerk will contact East Suffolk Services to help.

- Blocked drain in Spring Meadow is to be reported.

See Action log appended to the Minutes on the website for more details of these items.

### EMERGENCY PLAN

Following the recent bad weather it has become apparent that an Emergency Plan is needed for Playford. This will be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

### FINANCE

Payments were authorised for the clerk's September and October salary, tax to HMRC and costs of warning signs for Church Lane were paid to SSP Direct. Invoice for costs of improving the bottle bank area is awaited. Budget for 2023-24

is on track and the bank reconciliation was agreed. Interest on the Business Premium account was received on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and the second half of the Precept was received on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023.

### HIGHWAYS

Highways' new contractor Milestone has awarded a higher priority for the works on C324 relating to traffic priority problems and drainage works - these should now be carried out sooner than expected, possibly early next year.

New signs delivered for Church Lane to deter wide vehicles will be installed as soon as practicable.

The possibility of Church Road being awarded Quiet Lane status is still being investigated.

The SIDs report was circulated showing data for October, recorded speeds were slightly increased following a dip in August (due to school holidays), but recent floods have also affected the figures.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be submitted to East Suffolk Council for consultation between 10<sup>th</sup> Nov – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2023.

### OTHER MATTERS

- A large amount of silt deposited in Church Road by recent flood waters has been kindly cleared for us.

- The WI has been awarded 500 daffodil bulbs to be planted in and around the village and these will be planted soon by volunteers.

- Two vacancies still exist for new councillors, but it is hoped that one may be filled soon.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Weds 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

*Marian Hedgley – Clerk 01473 738468*

*e-mail: [playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk)*

*website: [www.playford.org.uk](http://www.playford.org.uk)*

## PLAYFORD W.I .

We'd like to record our huge thanks to Sally Herrington, President and Liz Royle, Treasurer as they retire from their Officer roles. We're very grateful they are staying on the Committee welcoming new President Emma and Treasurer, Tracy, and that our Secretary Sue Bruce is continuing. At the AGM, all members, both new and long standing enjoyed a look back at what turned out to be a busy 2023 as we reviewed the year and made future plans.

Several of us also enjoyed a fun night out this month at 'Calendar Girls' performed by the Masque Players in Kesgrave, in aid of the Blossom Appeal (- and yes, they did, in the most stylish of ways!). We've one more outing to come to coffee at The Hold in Ipswich, recommended by a fellow WI.

Keeping busy, we have been successful in our bid to East Suffolk Council to take part in the 'East Suffolk Blooms' campaign, with a sack of 500 daffodils to plant around the Playford. We have identified several new locations to supplement the existing displays - keep an eye out come spring!

By popular request we will be making foliage wreaths and table decorations at December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Visitors are very welcome to join us at no charge - please just let us know in advance so that we have sufficient materials  
[playfordwi@gmail.com](mailto:playfordwi@gmail.com)

We'll also be decorating the village Christmas tree at the Village Hall in time and joining Lightwave to run seasonal baking activities at their festive event.

We'll be straight back into it with our first meeting of 2024 on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We wish all our members, the FLN team and readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## PLAYFORD ART CLUB

The club held its customary AGM, and its last session for 2023 on 30<sup>th</sup> November, and will resume its weekly two hourly meetings on Thursday, January 11th at Playford Village Hall at 10.00 a.m.

This will be the start of our 52<sup>nd</sup> year. Membership is still significantly down, with some members not returning following the Covid epidemic; so, we no longer have a membership Waiting List. However, besides new members, we did gain a tutor last year who has been guiding members in whatever painting discipline they chose. The club's programme covers three sessions each year based on school term times, a legacy from the club's origins of Suffolk County Council's adult education programme. The terms spring, summer and autumn are each of eleven weeks with one week off in each session for half-term. Subscriptions remain at £35 a term.

Should you be interested in joining us please contact our Chairman, Barry Fox at [foxb963@gmail.com](mailto:foxb963@gmail.com). We also created this year a Facebook page, in our name, with a gallery of paintings, which readers may find interesting. We are a friendly bunch of varying degrees of artistic skill and welcome visitors, so if you fancy a tea or coffee, please call in at one of our sessions. Of course, we would very much like to hear from you should you wish to join us; after all we were all beginners at one time; so, do not be shy please come along, we would love to see you.

## BINKY AND CO

Binky loved Christmas. Lots of good food, (not for him though, his wife did the cooking) but it was for everyone else and that's who he was thinking of. Others. The spirit of Christmas ran through his veins. Along with Gin and a couple of glasses of Cockburn's. Well, half a bottle usually on Christmas eve. He was well into the present-buying stage and Binky was always very generous with his gifts for friends and relations even though he did notice on more than one occasion that they did not reciprocate in quite the same way. But one must not be selfish thought Binky, onwards and upwards.

He was working down his list. A £100 voucher for Indigo at Marks and Spencer. He had long ago given up buying clothes for his wife. She was 24 stone and he always managed to buy something that was too big for her. Like last Christmas. The ex-USA army bell tent for example that he thought would make a good skirt, was met with a "Too big and that pole really was painful." Binky just sighed and thought, vouchers from now on.

His troublesome idiot son would get an adult colouring book same as last year. Although, again, bit of a fracas last year. Binky thought an adult colouring book would be a complicated colouring book for grownups. But no, it was an Adult Colouring Book if you get my meaning. Cough, cough, say no more. Indigo nearly killed him for that little misunderstanding. His friends down the pub would get their usual bottle of whisky. When I say whisky, I do not mean Scotch. I mean the finest whisky that is made in Gwelo township Zimbabwe. Binky bought fifty bottles on the internet five years ago for a knockdown price of £5 per bottle. The

milkman dropped them off with the eggs and milk one day. Apparently old milky was stopped by a chap in a Ferrari who asked him if he would do a favour and leave these fifty bottles with a Mr Binky and the Ferrari sped off like a bat out of hell. (Good title for a song there should anyone feel so inclined.) Luckily, Binks wasn't a whisky drinker. But his good pal down the pub, Rod Pushit, worked for Dyno-Rod so it was never wasted.

Anyway, this week was the week that Indigo sent Binks off shopping for the Christmas groceries. "Don't forget" said Indigo sternly. "I want a Mrs Tremblers Finest Country Christmas Pudding, nothing else will do, you can get them from Fleece-u-all supermarket." Binky fearfully acknowledged the instructions. He went to Fleece-u-all first of all, with the correct Christmas pud' under his belt that would give him confidence.

"Nah mate" said the well-spoken pimply youth on the "help" counter. "Nah, we don't get no call for those things anymore.

Unfashionable like." "Unfashionable?" queried Binky. "How can a Christmas pudding be classed as unfashionable at Christmas?" "Dunno mate, praps they will git them in for Easter, oo knows?"

Binky went home with the bad news. Indigo was livid. "Well, I suppose I will have to make my own then, you are useless Binky." Binky sighed. "I'm sorry Indigo" said Binky with as much faux remorse as he could muster. "Tell you what, I'll tell you a Christmas joke I heard down the pub last week." Indigo groaned.

"Well," said Binky, "Which famous playwright was terrified of Christmas?" Indigo sighed.

"OK tell me" "She said. "Noel Coward" said Binky triumphantly. It was at that point Binky started to wear a saucepan on his head. The colour was not of his choosing.

*(Binky wishes all his fans a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year)*

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**on 07929 310480**

***teresajay1@gmail.com***



## Can you help us make Playford a safer place to live?

We have the opportunity to create a Playford Speedwatch Team to monitor vehicles coming through our village. This scheme is proven, over time, to reduce speeds and will make Butts Road a safer road for walkers, cyclists, riders and children.

### Could you be part of our team?

Just 1 hour a day for 1 week, each month.

You can see more in the video at:

[www.suffolkroadsafe.com/speed-and-communities-2/safecam-and-community-speedwatch](http://www.suffolkroadsafe.com/speed-and-communities-2/safecam-and-community-speedwatch)

If you think you could help our village please email the Parish Clerk at [playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:playfordpc@hotmail.co.uk)

Thank you

**Christmas**  
The gift that never stops giving



**December 3** Making Bread for Communion  
Fresh bread to share at our special meal remembering Jesus. Playford Village Hall, 10:15-11:30am, with drinks & snacks

**December 10** Carols and hot chocolate  
Celebration for all ages, Playford Village Hall, 10:15-11:45am. Singing carols, Christmassy refreshments & games. Bring two photos of happy memories from 2023 to stick on a bauble shape and hang on the tree.

**December 17** Christmas prayer space  
Relaxed and informal, prayer for all ages, just come as you are, Playford Village Hall, 10:15-11:30am, with drinks & snacks.

**December 24** Instant Nativity  
All ages welcome to dress up and join in as a Nativity character at Playford Village Hall, 10:15-11:30am, with drinks & snacks

**December 25** Jesus' Birthday Gathering  
At Playford Village Hall, 10:15-11:15am. Bring a present to show!



For more details, please contact Ben Wale  
[ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ben.wale@cofesuffolk.org)  
07769183638



# Christmas at Playford

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.00 a.m.**

**Family Morning Service**

Followed by coffee & biscuits

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.00 p.m.**

**Carol Service by Candlelight**

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.00 p.m.**

**Midnight Communion**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day 10.00 a.m.**

**Christmas Morning Service (at Little Bealings)**

**2024**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10.00 a.m.**

**Family Morning Service**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 10.00 a.m.**

**Family Communion**



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## CULPHO

### PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

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01473 735541

### CHURCHWARDEN

Richard Garnham, Cherry Box Cottage, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh IP13 6TT

01473 738139

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### CULPHO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Thankfully as far as I am aware there were no households that suffered any damage from the recent storms, there was however much travel disruption with two routes out of the village impassable.

Culpho Music has enjoyed a successful year with one event on Saturday 16th December at 7.30 p.m. to close the year.

The title is **A WINTER WASSAIL** a Milton Concert performed by Peter Hamilton Dyer with Stephen and Jenny Cassidy.

Tickets @ £15.00 each available from Christine Pearce 07925521802 email [cmpp1601@hotmail.com](mailto:cmpp1601@hotmail.com) or [culphomusic.com](http://culphomusic.com)

The Christmas Carol service in St Botolph's will be on December 17th at 3.00 p.m. followed by mince pies and mulled wine always an enjoyable and social event.

We will be celebrating H/C on the 3rd Wednesday the 20th December at 9.30 a.m.

*Richard Garnham  
Churchwarden.*



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### FEBRUARY 2024 NEWS

Contributions for the February 2024 News to be submitted by:  
**5.00 p.m. Tuesday, 23rd January**

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 3rd February.**

**DISCLAIMER**  
The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Team.

Editorial Team email address: [fynnlarknews@gmail.com](mailto:fynnlarknews@gmail.com)

**Fynn - Lark News**

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