The Creeting St. Mary Newsletter



SPECIAL EDITION!!!
HALL CENTENARY QUIZ
(Part 1)

Photo courtesy Yaelle Ridley

Volume 45/3 June and July 2026

VILLAGE DATES AND EVENTS

(All events at Village Hall unless indicated otherwise)

Social Club Events:

Saturday 6th June	Wine Tasting	7pm to 10.00pm
Saturday 14th June	College Farm Open Garden	11am - 4.30pm
Saturday 20th June	**The Big Lunch (SEE BACK PAGE) ALL DAY!**	
Wednesday 24th June	Coffee Morning	10am - 11.30am
Friday 27th June	Friday Bar	7pm - 10.30pm
Sunday 19th July	World Cup Final	7pm - 10.30pm
Thursday 30th July	Coffee Morning	10am - 11.30am
Friday 31st July	Friday Bar	7pm - 10.30pm

Parish Council meeting: 25th June 2026

CREETING ST MARY SOCIAL CLUB

Diamond Jubilee Hall

www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/social-club/social-club-news/
open to residents of the village and surrounding area.
The licence only allows alcohol sales to members!
MEMBERSHIP IS FREE - Forms available from William Barnes CSM_SocialClub@outlook.com
or tel.: 07771 814651

Good times at the Village Hall!

If you haven't been to the village hall lately, you're missing out on some really good times. Over the last couple of months, it's been the place to be, thanks to our awesome coffee mornings and Friday bar nights.

Every month, folks from all around gather for our coffee mornings. Imagine walking into a room filled with the smell of freshly brewed coffee and the sight of delicious cakes and scones just waiting to be devoured. It's not just about the treats, though—it's the perfect chance to catch up with neighbours, share a few laughs, and maybe even make some new friends.

And then there are the Friday bar nights. Talk about a great way to kick off the last weekend in the month. Whether you're into beer, wines, spirits, cocktails or just a good wholesome soft drink we've got you covered and all at club prices. The nights are always lively with chat and laughter. It's the perfect spot to relax and make new friends or just chill with the regulars .

People are loving it, and the positive vibes are spreading with the new villagers. With all the enthusiasm in the air, we're already working on new plans to keep the Social club interesting, and we couldn't be happier about it. So, if you haven't joined us yet, come on down and be part of the fun! You'll be glad you did!

Andy Pallant

EDITORIAL

Phew it's hot! After we waited for the end an eternity of cold wet weather and seas of mud, now we have the opposite extreme. I'm sure the farmers could use some rain, but it was nice to get out into the garden to do some jobs – the same as pretty much everyone else in the village.

It was a good excuse to get away from the news, which all seems so bleak. I am very much not a political person, but I was reminded of a scene in my favourite Shakespeare play *Richard II* where the gardeners compare their work to that of government.

> *Why should we, in the compass of a pale,*
> *Keep law and form and due proportion,*
> *Showing as in a model our firm estate,*
> *When our sea-wallèd garden, the whole land,*
> *Is full of weeds [?]*

In other words, what's the point of keeping our little patch tidy when the kingdom is a mess? Well I got a small answer to that this week when I attended, in my role as your faithful editor, the Creeting St Mary Annual Parish meeting. I found it humbling to see these people, many of them busy, giving up their time to dedicate themselves to improving all the things that make the village tick. Roads and road-signs, speed limits and drains and bollards, litter and bins, grants and donations, the Hall and the Social Club and the school and the church. It's beautiful, so this week I want to thank the Parish Council not only for supporting me but for all they and other volunteers do for us.

Now here's another way to avoid the grim news on the telly: you can do the Village Hall Centenary Quiz! Over three editions we are setting a total of 100 questions to mark the century of the village hall. The first batch of 30 questions are here on pages 15-17. All you have to do is drop your answers by email to me or at a special email address Csmvhquiz@gmail.com, or I am told there will be a box at the village hall where you can drop your paper answers. The best answers will go into a draw at an event later in the year, and there is a generous prize of a £30 voucher for the winner! It's a great way to celebrate the hall, and we're all looking forward to more events to mark the occasion later in the year. So, fingers on buzzers, starters for ten… good luck!

Steve Matthews

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS SPACE FOR £100 PER YEAR.
Creeting St. Mary village newsletter is delivered six times a year to over 470 households - with many new families moving in.
See page 35 for details.
It includes an introductory editorial insertion (discretionary)

CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Looking for New Councillors
Please note – The Parish Council still has a vacancy should anyone wish to join. You would be more than welcome! For more information on what is involved please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk

Daffodils
Since the last Newsletter when residents were asked if they wished to be part of the daffodil spectacle, a few requests have been received. Requests are still being encouraged, so if you have a frontage and would like some bulbs in September please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk or Cllr Hugo Craggs – 07815137228.

Dunches Lane
Following the completion of works (stage 1) to Dunches Lane, the Parish Council plans have come to a halt whilst flooding issues are being investigated. In order for Dunches Lane to become part of an accessible circuit with The Lords Highway and Low Lane, for walkers and cyclists, the excess water causing the lane to be swamped in wet weather is proving to be a difficulty. With the help of the District Council and County Council works hope to re-commence in the future.

Speed Limit – Creeting Bottoms
The Parish Council are using some of their CiL money to pay for the reduction in speed limit at Creeting Bottoms, which is currently 60mph. With the help of County Cllr Matthew Hicks the Highways Department have approved the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph from the A140 to where the 30mph starts on All Saints Road. Unfortunately, 30mph was refused as it did not meet the criteria, but the Parish Council felt that 40mph was better than 60!

Provision of Bollards
The Parish Council have had installed two bollards at the entrance to Blacksmiths Field. These consist of a permanent one at the pedestrian access and a locked one that can be dropped, at the vehicular access. These are to help deter unauthorised encampments following Stowupland's and Stowmarket's problems last year.

<u>Projects</u>

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

Project(s) that the Parish Council have completed:
Provision of bollards at entrance to Blacksmiths Field to deter unauthorised encampments
Village Sign Refurbishment

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continued from p.4

Provision and installation of 'Children Walking to School' flashing signage
Works to Dunches Lane to improve accessibility and usage (stage 1)
Provision of Zip Wire – Blacksmiths Field
New Gate to Blacksmiths Field
Provision of extra benches - Blacksmiths Field, including concrete bases
Provision of benches - Lilley's Wood, including concrete bases
Provision of Basket Ball area - Blacksmiths Field
Hay cut and removal – Blacksmiths Field

(CiL) money earmarked:
Repair works to The Old School Room (Vestry) roof
40mph Speed limit from Creeting Bottoms to All Saints Road

(CiL) money donated:
Repair works to the church wall
Contribution to the lounge refurbishment at the Village Hall
Donations to The River Gipping Trust – for maintenance work on the footpath in the parish of Creeting St Mary
Re-surfacing of school playgrounds

Projects that the Parish Council are currently considering / investigating are:
Additional parking for the school – this is ongoing and proving to be difficult, but the Parish Council will not give up!

Public Footpaths
Whilst out walking, if anyone sees any issues with Footpaths please report them to Councillor Jo Mitchell on 07733 0297019 or email: jobird23@aol.com Or report them at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-issue Thank you.

Next meetings – 25th June 2026 and 10th September 2026. All welcome!

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

CREETING SAINT MARY WELFARE CHARITIES
APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE

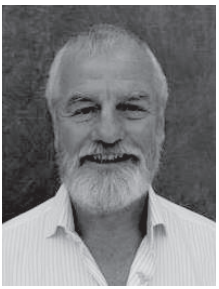
The Creeting St Mary Welfare Charities provide a range of grants to local residents. For more information, please look at our web page:
https://creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk/creeting-welfare-charities/;
Whilst the trustees will consider each application on its individual merits, it has adopted a residency qualification for eligibility for financial assistance, that requires an applicant to have lived in the area administered by the charity (principally Creeting St Mary), for a minimum of two years prior to making an application.

Mid Suffolk District Councillors

for Badley, Baylham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Darmsden, and Needham Market Town



This post on MSDC is shared between Ross Piper (left) - Green Party
ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07928512581 and
Terry Lawrence - Liberal Democrats
(and Mayor of Needham Market)
terry.lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07928 512599



Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Report for March 2026

Recycling update.

The new recycling regime is due to start in June 2026.Mid Suffolk currently only recycles 42% of waste and is not in the top 150 Councils in the UK. This is the biggest change in recycling in decades, and the plan is to move recycling rates into the above 60% range.

The delivery of new bins ready for the rollout of Better Recycling has now started. This means the delivery of a new blue recycling bin and the new food caddie and food recycling bins.

The bins are:
- Food waste
- Green recycling bin – paper and card
- Blue recycling bin – glass, plastics, tetrapaks i.e. non paper recycling;
- Black bin – refuse bin



Planning system

Mid Suffolk's housing target has increased from 535 per annum to 734 (an increase of 37%). If you include a 5% buffer this amounts to a requirement of 15,414 for the period from 2024 to 2044, although 5,475 of these are in the current identified supply. Owing to the change in government housing targets it is vital to create a development plan that meets government targets or we end up with a planning free for all which is what happened 5 or 6 years ago.

As part of this process the Council carried out a call for sites. The published map of all sites submitted during the Call for Sites exercises.
https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/call-for-sites

Note: This is not a list of preferred development locations. Sites do not benefit from any presumption of development. Submissions will now be assessed against planning policy, constraints, evidence and deliverability criteria.

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Council Housing

Mid Suffolk has c.15% of Council Houses that do not meet the Decent Homes standard. We are planning to invest £19m in our Council Housing stock this year alone. Mid Suffolk was successful in obtaining a £1.5m government grant to supplement the £2m already committed by the council to install energy saving measures in social housing.

This work not only helps lower income households by delivering warm and energy efficient homes, but also lifts tenants out of fuel poverty by helping to save money on energy bills.

Work is well underway to tackle the 100 council properties with the lowest EPC (energy performance certificate) ratings by adding a range of improvements, including cavity and loft insultation, new windows, PV panels and air source heat pumps. The Council has also built about 250 new Council houses in the past 3 years.

Temporary accommodation

Demand for temporary housing in Mid Suffolk rose by over 100% since 2020 and there are currently over 60 households in temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk. Mid Suffolk propose to increase the acquisition of temporary accommodation in Mid Suffolk by up to 30 units. This is to provide better standard accommodation and save the Council money on temporary accommodation.

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Pylons

National Grid's plan for more pylons in the Suffolk countryside should be halted, leading councillors from Mid Suffolk District Council have told a public hearing (11 February). National Grid proposes 159km of new overhead lines between Norwich to Tilbury, with the route cutting through the Suffolk countryside.

Mid Suffolk has called for a delay to the project so other options can be considered and costed – such as an undersea route or undergrounding of the entire length of the project. They cite serious concerns about the impact on the environment, communities and businesses. This is consistent with the position taken as under previous governments.

Nature recovery budget.

Mid Suffolk District Council has allocated a budget of £1.8m to support nature recovery. This covers: Grant funding for communities; Grant funding for river catchment and landscape; Habitat creation, management and monitoring on new sites; recovery; Pond creation and restoration; Tree planting; Meadow management; Public engagement and awareness / Schools programme.

Cosy Homes

Cosy Homes is an energy efficiency initiative dedicated to making private sector homes in Mid Suffolk warmer, more economical to heat and more environmentally friendly. Residents need to meet certain criteria but any works are done free. The initiative aims to help residents in the district improve the energy efficiency of their home - which will help them save on energy usage and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Cosy Homes scheme has been extended to include solar panels as well as insulation measures.

New REACT team now live

The two-person "respond, enforce and clean team" - or REACT – has been set up to patrol litter hotspot areas in the Mid Suffolk District Council area. It will be funded by £360,000 from the council-owned Gateway 14 development.

Introducing REACT operatives mean reactive cleansing incidents, such as fly tipping, and our scheduled work, aren't competing for resource and time. According to the latest figures released by Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), local authorities in England dealt with 1.15 million fly-tipping incidents last year, an increase of 6% from those reported in 2022/23. In Suffolk, there were a total of 4,099 incidents of fly tipping reported in 2023/24.

In the area of Mid Suffolk District Council there were 399 reported incidents, with the majority of them being on highways.

Mid Suffolk budget and Council Tax.

Mid Suffolk District Council is increasing Council Tax by 2.99%. About 8% of the total Council Tax bill is attributable to Mid Suffolk District Council and this % has been reducing. For context for a Band D property the increase attributable to Mid Suffolk is about £5.23 per year or 10p per week.

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone 0300 123 4000

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County Councillors' Report for the Thredling Division

Council budget protects frontline services amid rising costs and demand

Demand pressures, particularly in adult and children's social care, are expected to add £32.2 million to the council's costs next year. As a result, around 77 pence of every £1 the council spends will go directly towards services for people, including public health. The remaining 23 pence in every £1 will fund all other services, such as fire and rescue, highways and waste management, alongside the staff, infrastructure and technology that support service delivery across the council. To deliver a balanced budget, councillors approved £46.5 million of savings.

These will be achieved through service improvements, more efficient ways of working, and a reduction in employer pension contributions, made possible by the strong performance of the council's pension fund. This reduction in employer contributions will not reduce employees' pension benefits. Councillors also agreed a 4.99% increase in the county council's share of Council Tax, comprising a 2.99% general increase for county-wide services and a further 2% Adult Social Care Precept to help meet rising care costs.

For households, this means weekly Council Tax bills will increase by £1.23 to £25.90 for a Band B property – the most common in Suffolk – and by £1.58 to £33.30 for a Band D property. Alongside day-to-day spending, councillors approved a revised three-year capital programme, reduced from four years to reflect local government reorganisation. The programme will continue to fund essential projects such as school expansions and infrastructure improvements, while also investing in improvements to bus services, public rights of way, and cycling and walking infrastructure.

This has been one of the toughest budgets this council has ever had to set. Government funding has gone up only slightly, and, because that increase is below inflation, in real terms we are receiving less. That puts even more pressure on our ability to protect essential services. We have made the reluctant decision to increase Council Tax. We know residents are facing their own pressures, but the government's finance settlement assume councils will raise Council Tax to the maximum. If we don't, we risk losing vital grant funding, and that would force even harder decisions. Even with those challenges, we have set a responsible and realistic budget that protects key services and continues to invest in Suffolk's future.
The budget papers can be viewed at committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk.

Council remains opposed to pylon project, as application submitted

Primarily, the county council maintains that offshore and undergrounding solutions should be priorities for the scheme, not 114 miles of pylons cutting through countryside, sensitive landscapes and communities in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Previously, SCC has formally and strongly requested that National Grid pauses the Norwich to Tilbury proposals, to allow for effective consideration of offshore alternatives.

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The application for the Development Consent Order - essentially planning permission - was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) by National Grid on Friday 29 August. PINS has 28 days to determine whether or not to accept the application. Should it be accepted, full details of the project will then be published, with the six-month Examination period likely to begin in early 2026. If consent was then granted, construction could begin in 2027. In its current guise, the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project is not suitable. The less damaging alternatives, such as offshore transmission or high voltage direct current undergrounding, have never been fully considered. Such a significant and impactful project should not be determined simply for being the cheapest and fastest solution. The Hiorns Report concluded that proposals were premature and would not be needed until the mid-2030s. We have highlighted the need for numerous local mitigations, issues around airfields, construction traffic, public rights of way, removal of existing pylon lines, the list goes on.

Suffolk County Council confirms decision to bring Library Services back In-House

Suffolk County Council has brought back under its care all 45 libraries. This will ensure continued access to high-quality, community-focused library services across the county. As part of this move, the council plans to keep all 45 libraries open, maintain opening hours, create job security for all frontline staff and secure a sustainable future for Suffolk's library services. In addition to continuing its core library services, the council is investing £200,000 in mobile libraries, with a further £157,000 for new books and to replace public computers in libraries across Suffolk. Libraries have long been at the heart of Suffolk's communities. They are essential spaces for learning, connection, and support, and the council is committed to ensuring they remain hubs that bring people together. SCC envisions libraries becoming even more integrated into the wider community, serving as convenient access points for a range of essential council services. This includes providing information and support around Adult Social Care, offering health and social care services, facilitating Family Hub activities, and promoting digital inclusion. Libraries are more than just places to borrow books—they are community spaces where people can access vital services, learn new skills, and build connections.

Suffolk's once-in-a-generation, state-of-the-art fire control room goes live

Delivered in just 18 months, the initiative involved building a brand-new contact centre from the ground up, recruiting and training an entirely new team, and implementing bespoke configurations tailored to all the communities in Suffolk. The new control room, powered by cutting-edge technology from Motorola Solutions, now serves as a future ready, cloud-enabled hub for managing critical 999 emergency calls across the county. The new control room includes several helpful new features that will support Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service in responding to emergencies more effectively.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division
Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

CHURCH SERVICES
The Benefice of North Bosmere

The Churches in this Benefice are: Coddenham, Creeting St Mary, Creeting St Peter, Crowfield, Earl Stonham with Stonham Parva, Gosbeck, Hemingstone, Stonham Aspal with Mickfield. For all service details see the *Ten Village News*.
For general information contact Liz: northbosmerebenefice@gmail.com
for Creeting St. Mary - Glynis Clint - 01449 720740

Church services at Creeting St Mary and Creeting St Peter

Sunday 7 June 9.30am	Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
Sunday 14 June 11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP Creeting St Mary
Sunday 21 June 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Creeting St Peter
Sunday 28 June 11.00am	Holy Communion Creeting St Mary
Sunday 5 July 9.30am	Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
Sunday 12 July 11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP Creeting St Mary
Thursday 16 July 9.00am	School Leavers Service Creeting St Mary
Sunday 19 July 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Creeting St Peter
Sunday 26 July 11.00am	Morning Worship Creeting St Mary
Sunday 2 August 9.30am	Morning Worship Creeting St Peter

There may be some changes to this, so please check on the weekly Notice sheet. Thank you.

St Mary's Church News

Church news.

Services. Our services in June are on, Sunday 14th at 11am and a Communion service on Sunday 28th June at 11 am. For more information please look on our Facebook page.

Tea afternoon. Thank you to everyone who supported, helped, donated at our recent tea afternoon. The Old School room/Vestry was packed and everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments and time together. The money raised at the tea afternoon will be added to our the Vestry /Old School Room roof appeal .

Safeguarding. Please contact Glynis Clint if you are concerned for yourself or another person for help and advice.

Village News

Coffee mornings. The next coffee morning will be in the Village Hall at 10am on Wednesday June 24th. Please come and join us for delicious refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere. All money raised helps the Vestry /Old school room fund.

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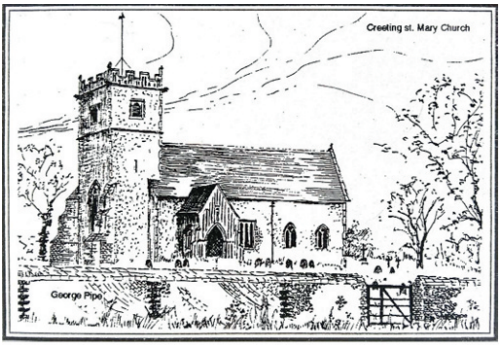
Suffolk Day and Big Lunch, Saturday 20th June beginning at 10.30 am in the Village Hall. The day begins at 10.30 with coffee and cakes. There are activities and food throughout the day, something for everyone to enjoy. Please see the poster on back page.

Glynis Clint - 01449 720740



Enjoying the sunshine outside the flint wall next to the Vestry/Old School room on Saturday 2nd May at our tea afternoon.





Scan here, to make a regular or one-off donation via the *Parish Giving Scheme*, a simple and secure way that you can give to our church today.

Spring Litter Pick Report – April 2026

Sunday 19th April was a gorgeous sunny day – perfect for a litter pick! We had a fantastic turn out this Spring with familiar faces as well as new volunteers; some families even turning it into part of their day out! The good news is that generally, there were low levels of litter throughout the Village, and it stayed dry and sunny for the duration of the pick.

A huge thank you goes to our volunteers who turned up on Sunday to help – your support really is appreciated. A big thank you also goes to those individuals who did some litter picking before and after the official litter picking day – once again, your time and devotion to keeping the village tidy are most welcomed.

If you would like to be part of the next Litter pick then put Sunday 4th October into your diaries. See you in the Autumn

Marié





Path clearance in Creeting St Mary – April 2026

We have started to clear some of the overgrown pathways on the walk down into Needham Market just beyond the A14 bridge. With loppers at the ready, overgrown branches and brambles growing into the path of pedestrians were 'shaved' back some mowing was done to expose the original pavement giving pedestrians a clear path to use. Hopefully if the good weather continues, we will be able to do a little more clearance work further down the road.

BEFORE



AFTER



Adam and Marié

We would like to thank Roots and Shoots for the flowers they have kindly donated to us for the Hall planters. They will be a colourful addition to the front of our hall and this gesture is much appreciated.

- Chris Bingley

You Grow It, I'll Mow It!

Grass Mowing
Hedge Trimming
Strimming
Turfing
Fencing



Call Nigel (01449) 721025

THE VILLAGE HALL - CENTENARY QUIZ

Welcome to Part 1 of our special quiz to celebrate the centenary of the village hall!

We will be setting 100 quesitons over this and the next two editions. There will be a draw for all the successful participants later in the year, and the winner will receive a voucher for £30.

All you have to do is send your answers to Csmvhquiz@gmail.com, or to me, or you can pop paper answers into a box which will be located at The Village Hall (for a few days after publication). We hope you enjoy it - good luck!

CREETING ST MARY

1. In what year was the Village Hall built?
2. What was the name of the public house that used to be along All Saints Road in Creeting St. Mary?
3. Name the three churches that existed in Creeting St. Mary?
4. Where are the remains of the Creeting St. Mary Windmill, built in 1796, now located?
5. The oldest part of St Mary's Church – the south doorway – dates from which century?
6. Other than the River Gipping, what is the name of the small watercourse that flows through the Parish of Creeting St. Mary?
7. Creeting House was built in 1863 – what was it first used for?
8. What are the plants depicted on the village sign?
9. What purpose was the church vestry used for until the year 1871?
10. What is the name of the mysterious Anglo-Saxon chief who gives us the "Creeting" in Creeting St Mary (CLUE!: Editorial April May edition!)

contd on p.16

contd from p.15

1926

11. Which iconic children's character first appeared in a book by AA Milne, published in 1926?
12. Who was the British Prime Minister during the General Strike of 1926?
13. Which famous mystery writer disappeared for 11 days in December 1926?
14. Which American actor and filmmaker, known for his silent comedies,released *The General* in 1926?
15. Which Scottish inventor demonstrated the first television system in 1926?

SUFFOLK

16. Which Suffolk town is famous for its 'Scallop' sculpture by artist Maggi Hambling?
17. What is the name of the large estuary that separates Suffolk and Essex?
18. Which Suffolk town is known for being the burial site featured in the Sutton Hoo archaeological discovery?
19. Bury St. Edmunds is named after which Anglo-Saxon king and martyr?
20. Which famous English composer, born in Aldeburgh, wrote the opera *Peter Grimes*?

NATURE

21. What famous TV presenter, naturalist and "national treasure" was born in the same year that the Village Hall was built?
22. What wild fruit which you can see in blossom around the village includes varieties prunus cerasifera and prunus spinosa?
23. What hard sedimentary rock made mainly from silica, formed millions of years ago inside chalk deposits, is commonly used for churches and other buildings in Suffolk?
24. What weather system is associated with calm fine conditions?
25. What type of deer, the UK's smallest species, can commonly be spotted in Suffolk woodlands?

PICTURE ROUND

"Where have I seen that?" - where can you find the local landmarks on the page opposite? (qs 26-30).

To book the Hall just visit the Village website at www.creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk for more information, or email csmbookhall@gmail.com

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contd from p.16



26



27



28



29



30

photos courtesy Juliet Davis

"SUMMER TIME...."







Page sponsored by Alder Carr Farm

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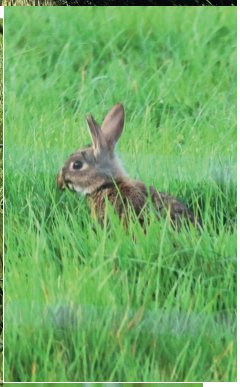
photos pp.17-18 courtesy Juliet Davis, Neil Harvey, Christine Bingley, Yaelle Ridley

".. AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY"













Summertime
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high.

Oh, your daddy's rich
And your ma is good lookin'
So hush little baby
Don't you cry.

One of these mornings
You gonna rise up singing
Yes you'll spread your wings
And you'll take to the skies.

But till that morning
There's nothin' can harm you, yes
With daddy and mammy standin' by

- George Gershwin, 1934

Page sponsored by Suffolk Trees & Hedges

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Farm Shop & Butchery, Cafe & Crafts

Brimming with the finest local & artisan food & drink, including our own multi-award winning Alder Tree ice cream



The Courtyard Cafe - Open daily
Garden Centre with Plants by Katies Garden's
- Country Studio Gifts - Pettersson Pottery - Pauline's Sugarcraft
William & Herbert - Vintage & Antiques





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



Summer Term 2026
13 Apr— 20 July
Summer Half Term
25 May—29 May

Spring is springing here at school and we are in the midst of the final full term of the school year. We're practising for Sports day on May 22nd, and spending lots of time at the newly established allotment at the end of our field. The PSA have worked so very hard to get this up and running and it looks amazing. We also have a garden showing at the Suffolk Show at the end of May, if you're visiting come and say hello!

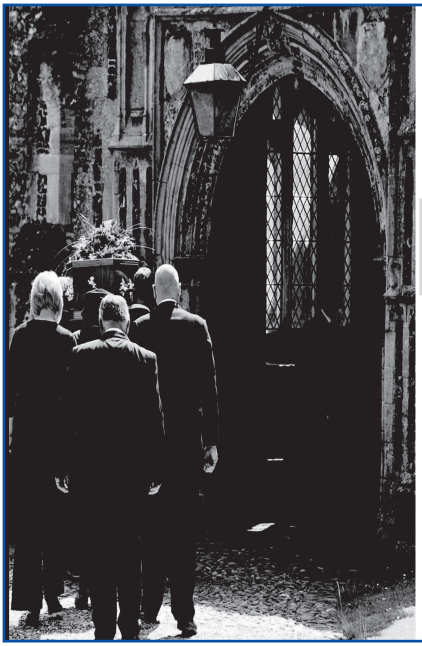
We have the Ash and Oak class sleepover coming up before the half term break where we have several of our littlest ones staying the night at school, with a few adults too. It's a special night and one they all look forward to. At the other end of the school, our Year 6s have been working hard and recently sat their SATS exams and will be rewarded with a day out in June to celebrate! High School is edging closer for them, but they are so ready for the change.

Chestnut Class have been studying Anglo Saxons and Sutton Hoo, as well as writing poems about Beowulf. Oak class are looking at castles and are looking forward to a day in June when we will be having a group visiting at school to add to their knowledge and experience. Look out for lots of Medieval Castle residents wandering through the village!

The Summer Fayre is coming up soon, Friday June 19th on the school field. Everyone is welcome, and there is always a lovely atmosphere and plenty of ways to contribute!

We updated our website recently, but this is the best way to stay in touch with what we do across the school.

Please email the office if you can help contribute to our children's school experience, with donations, help, resources or support.



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4 Teachers Close IP6 8BW Tel: 01449 539922
suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

Opening Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00
Wednesday	14.00 – 19.00
Thursday	10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00
Friday	14.00 – 17.00
Saturday	10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00
Sunday	11.00 – 16.00
	suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

Regular events and activities:

- **IT drop-in session:** Wednesday 14.00 – 16.00
- **Baby Bounce and Tot Rock:** Thursday 09.45 – 10.30. Stories, songs and rhymes for babies and toddlers
- **Stay and Play group for parents and babies/toddlers:** Thursday 10.30 – 11.15
- **Knitting and Crochet group:** 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 14.30 – 16.30 This group cannot accept any more new members as it has outgrown the meeting room.
- **Top Time:** Friday 14.30 – 16.00. A social group for older people with a variety of activities.
- **Story Time and Crafts:** Sunday 11.15 – 13.15. A fun session of story time and craft activities for children

Suffolk Community Libraries - Mobile Library

Route 13 at Creeting St. Mary Village Hall at 11.30-11.50
On Friday every four weeks:
Fri 5 Jun 2026, Fri 3 Jul 2026, Fri 31 Jul 2026
You can renew titles on line.**suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk**





Needham Market Garden Club

(Needham Market and District Horticultural Society)

Burton Room, Needham Market Community Centre, IP6 8BB

During April and May our meetings have been participative, with members demonstrating their expertise and breadth of knowledge of gardening and plants.

We held our first "Gardener's Questions" event in April; thank you to Committee members and the audience for an informative evening. In May, David Golding, a volunteer Master Composter sparked a lively discussion on what can and can't be composted. A good proportion of Garden Club members are already 'composters' and will gladly share their expertise with anyone interested in giving it a go.

Our June meeting on Thursday 11th, will be to Helmingham Hall with a visit to their beautiful gardens followed by tea (and cake)! The visit is open to non members; meet at the car park at 2pm.

The Club will have a plant sales stall at Needham Market Raft Race on Sunday June 7 from 2pm and we will be at the Community Centre on June 21 where refreshments for the Open Gardens are being served from 10am to 4pm. Drop in if you need advice or want to meet our friendly members.

On Thursday July 2nd, Catherine McMillan will talk about Gardening for Beginners. This will be an ideal event for those wanting to learn more, who are new to the area or need some ideas and support to develop their garden.

We take a break in August.

All meetings take place in the Burton Room, Needham Market Community Centre IP6 8BB at 7:30pm.

Hazel Mackintosh 07596 083221 or email: sec.hortsoc@gmail.com

COLLEGE FARM - OPEN GARDEN DAY

Caroline and I are opening our garden at College Farm again on Sunday 14th June from 11am to 4.30pm – this time in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice. We will be very pleased to see you if you are able to come along. £5 per adult on the gate with under 16s and students free. All proceeds to the Hospice.

We have been working hard to pamper our plants despite the dry spring and aim to have a spectacular display of flowers and foliage in our half acre of gardens. As usual, there will be tea, coffee and cake, a plant stall and a raffle with some lovely prizes, all coordinated by our excellent team. In addition to the garden, there are a variety of field walks accessible and we very much welcome well-behaved dogs. While we will be very pleased to see some rain we are optimistic that the day will be warm and sunny!!

William Barnes



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Suffolk Tree Warden Network

Tree wardens champion trees and hedgerows - to tackle climate change, loss of biodiversity and providing 'corridors' for wildlife. Suffolk has only 8% tree cover (London - 20%). STWN offers free locally-sourced tree and hedgerow plants. 30,000 trees have been planted in the last 4 years. It helps Community Tree Nurseries and works with the Woodland Trust, The Tree Council, County, District & Parish Councils.

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

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

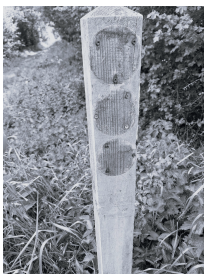
We are volunteers who care about wildlife, its beauty, diversity and importance to everyone. We support the Trust's aims and vision for a Living Landscape - with all Wildlife Sites forming networks of linked-up habitat.
We look after local wildlife reserves: Work parties maintain Combs Wood at Stowmarket and Bonny Woods at Barking.`
Local SWT reserves Bonny Wood, Combs Wood, Bradfield Woods Bulls Wood. Mickfield Meadow, Black Bourn Valley,
SWT Magazine is delivered to local members, saving postage'
We run talks and events at the Village Hall, Stowupland, IP14 4BQ 7.30 pm Admission £3.00.o check event updates see www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events
Contact :John Thompson - 01449 676471 - swtstowmarket@gmail.com

LILLEY'S WOOD

Now that we are well into spring, there are no working parties at Lilley's Wood. Instead, we are allowing nature to flourish after all of the works over the winter. If you have any free time do take the opportunity to walk westward along the banks of the river Gipping from the car park by the Duck and Teapot café until you have passed the Needham Market sewage works. Then on your right is Lilleys Wood. Over the next couple of months there will be a good variety of wild flowers including orchids to see. There will be lots of bird song plus butterflies and moths. Our working parties will restart in October when summer is at an end. If you would like to be notified of working party dates please do email William Barnes on wbarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk.

William Barnes

Footpaths in the parish







No doubt many of you enjoy walking the footpaths round the parish, particularly in good weather. It is a shame, for those who do, to see that there has been a pattern of destruction of the wooden footpath signs and of the yellow badges, each of which help those unfamiliar with our paths to know which tracks can be followed. We do have a possible description of a person who may well be the offender. Please do watch out and report back any activity that you see. Hopefully, in time, we can put up new signs without the risk of this pattern of destruction being repeated.

William Barnes

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

For a list of the 38 rights of way in the village see:
https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/footpaths-and-bridleways/
Feedback is needed to ensure they remain usable; please report issues to Cllr Jo Mitchell (see contacts pages)
Walking with your dog Please help wildlife by keeping them close to avoid disturbance. Keep them out of water if they have flea treatment and dispose of waste in a bin as this may contain medications harmful to many wild creatures.
https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/pet-owners-help-wildlife

NATURE NOTES

We have recently being going through a great period of the year, with hedges and trees coming into leaf, successions of flowering from blackthorn through hawthorn to crab apple, dog rose and viburnum. Huge numbers of migrant birds have returned to our shores to nest and raise their broods including warblers, swallows and swifts. We have swallows nesting at College Farm for the first time. Many of you will have noticed is that after a fairly wet winter, spring has been very dry and sunny. A good question is whether the climate around Creeting St Mary really is changing.

As the weather changes from day to day and week to week, it can be hard to pick out patterns. To get a better picture I have looked at the recorded weather at Wattisham, only a small number of miles away. The Met office publishes average weather statistics by month for two 30 year periods; from 1961 to 1990 and from 1991 to 2021. Such long periods provide a reasonable foundation from which to see whether any trends emerge. For those interested in the natural world these stats are significant. What has happened?

In relation to temperature, average daytime high temperatures and average night-time lows by month have consistently risen by between 0.5 and 1.0 centigrade. That may not sound much, but when considered as a %, the average daytime high has risen by nearly 9%. The average second-period high in July is 22.24c against 20.75c. Hours of sunshine are up. Winters are consistently milder and summers hotter. Days of air frost fell from 55 to 41 – a 25% fall. Perhaps surprisingly, rainfall increased from 568mm to 623mm in the second period, a 6% increase. More rain was falling in the mid-summer and autumn and less in the depths of winter. While the higher rainfall might appear significant, with warmer days, the rate of evaporation will be higher so the level of moisture in the ground through the summer to sustain the countryside and farmer's crops will have diminished and the risk of wildfires in dry periods started to increase. Average monthly windspeeds has not been converted into annual averages, but typical monthly windspeeds have dropped in just about 0.5 to 1 mile-per-hour for most months through the year, around a 10% average drop indicating more periods high pressure and fewer storms. Have these trends continued? More next time.

William Barnes

Let's help Hella's Stall! You can support her efforts by passing on to her surplus plants or produce and buying too!



Fifteen years ago I had a surplus of sweet pea flowers and thought I would see if anyone would buy bunches for a few pence with any money raised to go to the St Elizabeth Hospice. They sold, and they sold very rapidly. That motivated me to set up the stall I now have which I am sure you will have seen, just over the river, beside the Hawks Mill. A group of about 30 people now regularly give a wide range of items, some generously growing plants and vegetables, and making marmalade and chutney specially to be sold on the stall. Every penny that goes into the money pot goes to the Hospice usually within a few days, with the total so far over the years now standing at just under £26,000. The generosity of people is wonderful, both giving items to put on the stall and buying things, often giving over the marked price. Thank you to all that have contributed to the success of this stall. **- *Hella***

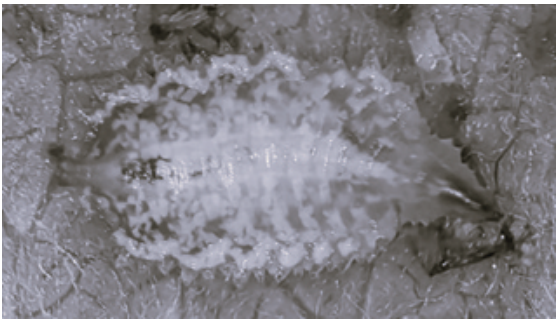
The Garden Army



Glaring at the horrid mass of "bluebug" aphids happily feeding under a curled apple leaf, I noticed a yellow grub wriggling among them. It was actively pouncing on the aphids with its fangs and sucking them dry.

In a matter of hours it has cleared all the aphids from the leaf- so I carefully returned it to the tree. It is the larva of a Hover Fly.

Hover flies are the unsung heroes of pollination. They pollinate more flowers than the domestic Honey Bees that usually get the credit. There are 280 species in the UK with different life cycles and we can help them too, In some species the larvae grow up in wet areas particularly with dead material like leaves - e.g. around ponds, compost heaps and in tree rot holes.



Dead stuff is good. You can make a Hover Fly "lagoon": a tub with dead leaves, grass and twigs just covered with water and kept wet. Sometimes the adults hibernate and need dry, undisturbed places like log piles, dead leaves and hollow stems, Leave these undisturbed you will be rewarded with an army of pollinators and pest-fighters.

Joan Hardingham

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citizens advice Mid Suffolk

I've found myself in a really difficult financial situation and I don't know where to turn. I was made redundant recently and now I'm finding it hard to keep up with my bills and am getting into debt - what can I do?

Money problems can feel overwhelming, but the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to face this alone. We know that times are incredibly tough for lots of people right now, and Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward.

Make sure you've been paid everything you're entitled to by your former employer. You can check what your rights are on the Citizens Advice website.

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, free budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can help you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs. Before you start, try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips, debit and credit card statements or bills, and receipts for things you usually pay for in cash. Make sure you include all your expenses, for example money you spend on your partner or family.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, you can find out how to get help with your bills as well as what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

Please don't ignore bills or letters about money that you owe. You should collect and organise all debt-related documents to create a comprehensive list of all your debts. It might feel overwhelming when you see everything written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're taking action to sort things out.

If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. Take a look at the Citizens Advice website for more information about what bills to prioritise and how to manage debts. You can then speak to the organisations you owe money to – they might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments.

Whatever your situation, you don't have to face this alone - get in touch with a free support service like us at Citizens Advice. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support and explore all the options for dealing with your debts.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us. Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Stowmarket Eco-futures Group

https://stowmarketecofuturegroup.co.uk
Email: stowmarketecofuture@gmail.com

The next market stall collection is Thursday 25th June. We also collect items at the *Repair Café - 2nd Sunday of the month (14th June) at Red Gables 2-4 pm plus REPAIR CAFÉ stowrepaircafe@gmail.com

UPDATE ON ITEMS COLLECTED:
Blister packs, Coffee pods – plastic and metallic (not mixed), Pet food pouches (empty, clean & dry), Fruit nets, Tetra packs (empty, clean & flattened), Bicycle Inner Tubes, Spectacles and cases, empty make-up containers, Laptops and tablets with their charger (for parts), Batteries. (Please now take your soft plastics to Supermarket recycling points, thanks.) BLISTER PACKS – we collect the packs that are mixed plastic and foil. Some blister packs now are all foil and if so, they can be put in your home recycling bin. The recommendation is that they are bundled and wrapped in a piece of foil rather than thrown in loose.

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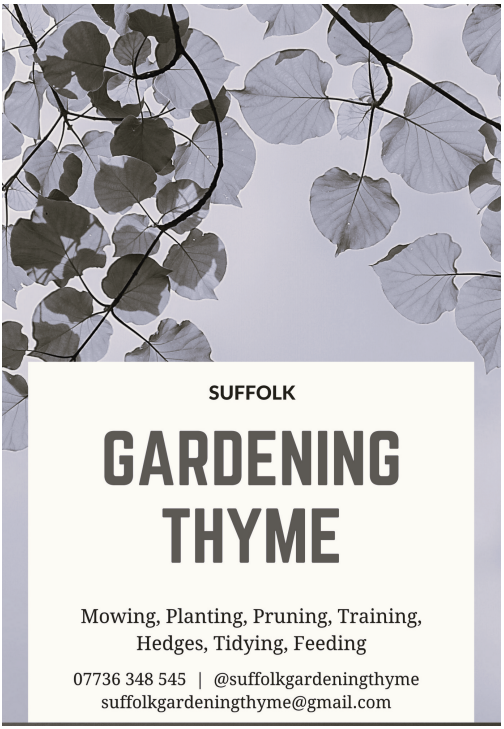

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Suffolk Police HQ (Non Emergency) 01473 613500

Suffolk Police Direct 01473 613997

Suffolk Fire & Rescue (Non Emergency) 01473 588888

Environment Agency Incident Helpline 0800 80 70 60

Environment Agency Floodline 0345 9881 188

Suffolk County Council 0345 6066 067

Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC) 0300 1234000

Election information - above option 7

Gas 0800 111 999

Electricity (Power Cuts) 105

(Emergencies) 08007 838 838

Anglian Water 03457 145 145

Essex & Suffolk Water 03457 820 999

Suffolk Link 01449616000

Dial A Ride (Optua Transport) 01449 614271

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

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(Advertising rates and deadlines see the next page)
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Creeting St Mary Parish Councillors
Jan Palmer (PC. Chair) - 01449 723997
Hugo Craggs (Vice-Chair) - 07815137228 (Community Infrastructure Levy CiL)
Roger Coton - 01449 721526 (Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC))
Lesley Plummer - 01449 720359
Marié Broodryk (Village Hall Management Committee) - 07949 510898
Jo Mitchell - (Footpaths) 07733 297019 or email: jobird23@aol.com
Ariane Droogmans - 07588 138838
Karen Buckle – 07587 179423

Parish Council Clerk : Jennie Blackburn - 01449 721369
or email: clerk@creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk. Meeting agendas and dates are on the village noticeboards during the week prior to the meetings, and also on the website: https://www.creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk

Creeting St Mary Website
www.creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk
Contact the Parish Clerk Jennie Blackburn at clerk@creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk

The 4 village notice boards are located at:
the Village Hall, St Mary's Gardens and Jack's Green and at the top of the pedestrian steps at Alder Meadow, Flordon Road
The old phone box at Jack's Green contains maps, information and a defibrillator and the notice board at the entrance to Alder Carr Farm has a foot path map.

Diamond Jubilee Village Hall
Janet Mayell (Village Hall Management Committee Chair) .
To hire all or part of the hall: contact 07849 817488 csmbookhall@gmail.com

Creeting St Mary Social Club: csm_socialclub@outlook.com.
William Barnes, (Secretary) 07771814651

Lilley's Wood Work Parties monthly meetings
contact William Barnes 07771 814651. wbarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk

Creeting St Mary Footpaths - Details of village footpaths - Jo Mitchell
https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/footpaths-and-bridleways/

Report footpath issues to the County Council: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-

Highway Issues - for potholes or road dangers.
https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue/

Creeting St Mary Welfare Charities
David Blackburn ,1 All Saints Road, CSM, IP6 8NF 01449 721369

Suffolk County Councillor for the Thredling Division: Matthew Hicks
Tel: (01728) 628176 ; matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk ; Twitter: @HicksCllr

Mid-Suffolk District Councillors:
Ross Piper -ross.piper@midsuffolk.gov.uk 07752 504093 Green Party
Terry Lawrence - terry.lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk 07928 512599 - Lib Dems.

Mid-Suffolk District Council - all services 0300 1234000

Creeting St. Mary Primary School - Head Mrs. Christine Friar
school telephone 01449 720312, office@creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk
www.creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

Priest-in-Charge North Bosmere Benefice which includes CSM
Liz Ince: northbosmerebenefice@gmail.com

St. Mary's Church
https://www.creeting-st-mary.suffolk.gov.uk/parish-church/
Church Warden: Glynis Clint 01449 720740

Parochial Church Council
PCC Secretary: Ron Clint 07775421009
Treasurer: Shane Finbow 07708920243

Suffolk Libraries mobile library tel: 07955193623

Defibrilators:
Jacks Green Road – IP6 8NA – ///slack.curry.hostels (What3words)
Village Hall – IP6 8NF – ///gear.putts.hope (What3words)

The Newsletter is delivered bi-monthly to 470+ houses in Creeting St.Mary
Newsletter deadlines: the 15th of the month of:
January - February/March edition i.e. Easter
March - April-May edition - i.e. Easter if its late
May - June-July edition i.e. all those early summer events
July - August-September edition - summer holiday events
September - October/November edition - fireworks and Christmas events
November - December/January edition

Advertising Costs	Series of 6 adverts:
Deadline 15th of month previous.	Full page - £150 (inside)
One insertion (depending on space)	1/2 page - £100.
Full page - £30	1/4 page - £70
1/2 page - £20	colour adverts by arrangement (plus
1/4 page - £15	a piece on your business 100 words)

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6.30 – 9.30
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8.00 – 10-30
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