The Creeting St. Mary Newsletter

HALL CENTENARY QUIZ (Part 3)

Photo courtesy Juliet Davis

Volume 45/5 October and November 2026

VILLAGE DATES AND EVENTS

(All events at Village Hall unless indicated otherwise)

Social Club Events:

1st October	10.00 – 11.30	Coffee Morning
28th October	12.00 – 1.30	Soup Lunch
30th October	7.00 – 10.30	Friday Bar
6th November	6.00 - 10.30	**FIREWORKS NIGHT !!**
26th November	12.00 – 1.30	Soup Lunch
27th November	7.00 – 10.30	Friday Bar

Parish Council meetings: 22nd October and 26th November

EDITORIAL

As the nights draw in a bit I am feeling quite Halloween-y. I had a dig in Glynis' archives and found you some spine-chilling local stories - see pages 14-15. Fear not folks, it's all for fun (and apologies to Steve and Diana – I'm sure your house isn't really haunted...).

It put me in the mood to read some spooky literature. I thought about *Frankenstein*, but the story of an arrogant scientist creating a creature with artificial intelligence that turns brutally and tragically on its maker feels a little too realistic. So I turned back to one of my favourites: M.R. James.

Montague Rhodes James (1862 –1936) was a medievalist scholar born in Kent who presided as Provost of Kings College Cambridge, but he spent his formative years at Great Livermore near Bury St Edmunds. His atmospheric short stories of misty beaches, shadowy churches and cursed etchings and tomes made him famous as the creator of the "antiquarian ghost story". Many of his eerie tales are connected with his beloved Suffolk, most notably perhaps one of his most famous – *Whistle And I'll Come To You, My Lad* – is set in a fictionalised Felixstowe. I thoroughly recommend them: they are very British, old-fashioned in a good way, short (read one at bedtime!) and seemingly gentle but you'll find your spine tingling…

A further church-related ghostly treat will come at Christmas when St Mary's will be hosting a candlelit recital of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* on December 6th – see Glynis' report on p.12; and in less scary tidings Glynis shares exciting news on p.5 about brilliant progress in fund-raising for the vestry.

Don't have nightmares…

- Steve Matthews

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

It has been an incredibly busy and vibrant two months at the social club! From sunny afternoon BBQ's to cozy morning chats and lively weekend-starting cocktails, our community came together in a big way.

Here is a recap of the highlights from our packed summer calendar. We kicked off the seasonal festivities with a highly successful Friday Cocktails and Punch Night. Our volunteer bartenders served up a mix of classic drinks alongside our now signature Donna's Pimms Punch. It was the perfect way to unwind after a long week, meet new members and enjoy sunset on the patio.

Saturday two weeks later, the tempting aroma of grilled favorites drew a great crowd for our Saturday BBQ. The weather played along beautifully as members enjoyed perfectly grilled burgers, sausages and vegan burgers. Children played on the field while the adults caught up under the sun, making it a quintessential summer afternoon. Shifting to a more relaxed pace, our weekday Coffee Morning provided a wonderful opportunity for a quiet catch-up. Members gathered over coffee, tea, and an impressive assortment of pastries and cakes. It was a heartwarming event that truly showcased the supportive, close-knit nature of our club, giving neighbors a chance to chat and share stories. Our casual Friday Bar nights continue to be the absolute backbone of our social calendar. These evenings prove to be the ultimate low-pressure way to transition into the weekend. With a well stocked bar and a rotating selection of background music, members dropped in at their own leisure to share a pint and catch up on the month's news.

For the food lovers, our Saturday Brunch was a standout success. We traded the usual evening pub fare for a mid-morning feast featuring classic bacon and sausages baps and pastries. The relaxed morning atmosphere, complete with tea and coffee, offered a unique and refreshing way for families and friends to start their weekend together.

A huge thank you goes out to our social committee and the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the bar, at the BBQ, and in the kitchen to make these events happen. Thank you also to everyone who came out and brought such energy to our recent gatherings and it's great to see so many new faces, welcome to the club.

- Andy Pallant - Social Club Chair

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

Daffodil Planting
For those residents who would like their frontage to be included in the lovely array of daffodils next Spring please look out for the date in October, which will be advertised on the website, when you can help them to be planted. Cllr Hugo Craggs will meet those residents at the hall for the bulbs to be distributed.
If you would like to be added to the list please let the Parish Clerk know at clerk@creetingstmary-pc.gov.uk

Speed Limit – Creeting Bottoms
The reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 40mph at Creeting Bottoms continues to progress with the application at consultation stage.

Projects

Development in the village has slowed down which means that no further CiL money is expected to be received. Therefore, the Parish Council's CiL money has been somewhat depleted.
CiL money has been spent on the following projects:

Project(s) that the Parish Council have completed:
Repair of drainage grate at the front car park of the Village Hall
Provision of bollards at entrance to Blacksmith's Field to deter unauthorised encampments
Village Sign Refurbishment
Provision / installation of 'Children Walking to School' flashing signage
Works to Dunche's Lane to improve accessibility and usage (stage 1)
Provision of Zip Wire – Blacksmith's Field
New Gate to Blacksmith's Field
Provision of extra benches - Blacksmith's Field, including concrete bases
Provision of benches - Lilley's Wood, including concrete bases
Provision of basketball area - Blacksmith's Field
Hay cut and removal – Blacksmith's 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

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Public Footpaths *continued from p.4*

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 – 22nd October and 26th November 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.

VESTRY ROOF FUNDRAISING IN 2026

As many of you know, we were advised by the Diocesan Architect around 18 months ago that our lovely vestry building needed to have major roof repairs as a matter of urgency to avoid serious problems with the building.

Late last year we put together a fundraising team of Hazel and Bill Mackintosh, Shane Finbow, James Mackintosh, William Barnes and me to fundraise with a target of getting to around £70,000 to deal with roof repairs and a few other defects with the building. I am very pleased to share with you that we have already raised nearly £50,000 with tremendous support from the Parish Council and from our community, as well as a number of successful grant applications. That means that if we can raise a further £15,000 we will get very close to our target.

Very helpfully, we have been offered a donation of £7,500 from a long-running supporter of the church on condition that we can match-fund it to achieve this £15,000 target. While raising a further £7,500 is challenging, I am hopeful that, knowing that each £1 given will have a benefit of £2, we will find enough further support from friends of the church, from events and local businesses .With this in mind, we are progressing our appeal this autumn in the hope that, together, we will be able to achieve this objective. I fully appreciate that not all will be able to assist further given the many calls on limited resources. For those who are able to contribute gift-aiding donations can add 25% to each contribution. As part of our fundraising, we will be holding a number of events in the period before Christmas. Given the progress already made on our fundraising and the high risk of further damage to the roof this winter, we have just committed to doing the roof repairs this autumn while still needing to raise more funds to fully cover this commitment as well as to undertake the other refurbishment works. Once the roofing work is complete and, provided we have enough resources, we will make further improvements to what we will in future title “The Old School Room” to make it hireable by a good range of users in our community for meetings and other social events where there is a need for a smaller flexible space than our lovely Village Hall offers.

I do hope to be able to share further good news in due course on preserving this grade 2 listed historic building to continue to support the church and our community for many years ahead.

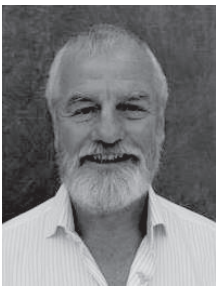
- Glynis

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
terry.lawrence@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07928 512599



Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Report for July 2026

Council on track to deliver pitch perfect response to sports needs.
Work by Mid Suffolk District Council to create a brand new, state of the art 3G community football pitch and mini athletics track was completed last week built in the grounds of Stowmarket High School and will be available to book outside school hours for community use.

'Crucial step' as key handover marks completion of 67 affordable homes.
All 67 affordable homes at Bellway's Bramford development have now been handed over to Mid Suffolk District Council after councillors picked up the keys to the final two properties, boosting the availability of much-needed high-quality affordable housing in the district.

Council steps in to tackle issues at derelict site.
Mid Suffolk District Council has stepped in to install CCTV to deter anti-social behaviour at the derelict Fisons site in Bramford – but says the owners should do more.

Questions remain unanswered: councils repeat objection to pylons project.
In a closing statement to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury examination, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have restated their objection and again called for the plan to be halted – with questions remaining unanswered over the devastating impact of the scheme for local communities, businesses, environment, heritage and landscape.

Suffolk residents can get a free proposal to replace ageing heating systems with heat pumps.
All of Suffolk's public sector organisations have come together to help residents in Suffolk replace ageing gas, oil or LPG boilers with a heat pump combining a £7,500 or £9,000 government grant, depending on current heating fuel, with group-buying savings on installation.

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Electric bikes for hire in Stowmarket. *continued from p.6*
A new solar-powered pod containing two electric bikes has been installed at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, giving residents the chance to explore the town using a different, sustainable travel option.

Councils' armed forces commitment recognised with silver award.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have received a silver award for their ongoing commitment to the armed forces community.

Councils' 'excellent' commitment to gender equality recognised
Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been officially recognised as Menopause Friendly employers – raising awareness and supporting those experiencing the symptoms of menopause.

Locality award funding.
Over the summer locality areas have been reconfigured. Simmon Lanning will no longer deal with applications. Sarah Woodcock will be our new contact. Approximately £2500 each of funding remains to be awarded by the deadline for applications submissions being the 22nd of January 2027.

Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL)
From 14th September to the end of October up to 2 AIL movement for the Bramford to Twinstead Project will take place each day (Monday to Thursday). AILs are slow moving with a police escort and may cause traffic delays. Routing is from the port of Felisxstowe on the A14 to Copdock Interchange, then A12 to junction J28 and onto A134 to the main construction compound on the A1314 via Urbis Romanae. The project involves building approximately 18km of overhead 440kv line, 11km underground, and removing approximately 27km of existing 132kv lines.

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

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County Councillors' Report for the Thredling Division

Council sets out concerns over EcoPower Suffolk solar farm plans

EcoPower Suffolk's proposed development would cover a large area of Mid Suffolk and includes solar panels, battery storage facilities and associated infrastructure. While the council recognises the importance of renewable energy in helping to meet national climate and energy goals, it believes significant concerns remain that have not yet been adequately addressed by the developer.

The council's key concerns include:

- The loss of large areas of best and most versatile agricultural land.
- The impact of construction traffic on local roads and communities.
- Effects on the landscape, countryside views and public rights of way.
- Potential impacts on wildlife, heritage assets and the natural environment.
- Flood risk and water supply issues.
- The safety, design and operation of the proposed battery energy storage facilities.
- The combined impact of this project alongside other major infrastructure and energy developments planned across the area.

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GUDGEONS PRENTICE
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Gudgeons Prentice, Buttermarket, Stowmarket IP14 1ED

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These concerns reflect a number of issues raised when the statutory consultation opened in June. At the time, Conservative councillors warned that important environmental information, including surveys on wildlife, archaeology and landscape, had not yet been published, making it difficult for residents to fully assess the proposals. They also highlighted concerns about the potential loss of almost 1,000 hectares of best and most versatile agricultural land, the suitability and safety of the proposed battery energy storage facilities, pressure on local water resources, and the cumulative impact on local communities, heritage assets, rights of way and the natural environment.

Under the Planning Act process, Suffolk County Council is a statutory consultee. Any final decision on the project will be made by the Secretary of State, not the County Council. The council's role is to assess the proposals, represent local interests and seek improvements where necessary.

Suffolk awarded £564,000 for major bus franchising study

Suffolk County Council has secured £564,000 in new Department for Transport (DfT) funding to conduct a full feasibility study into bus franchising across the county. The investment follows the high profile roll out of franchised bus services in Greater Manchester, alongside pilot studies in six other authorities. Suffolk is one of the first rural authorities to begin exploring whether greater public control over bus routes, fares and service levels could deliver better outcomes for passengers.

Scenarios to be explored include:

- A single countywide franchise - one unified system covering all Suffolk
- A joint Suffolk-Norfolk franchise - exploring efficiencies and cross-border connectivity
- Three franchises aligned to Local Government Reorganisation - reflecting the proposed administrative boundaries
- Smaller, targeted franchises - focused on key towns, corridors, or demand hotspots
- Alternative hybrid approaches - ensuring no promising model is overlooked

Franchising is increasingly viewed as a way for councils to take control of bus networks, determining where services run, how frequently they operate, and what fares are charged. Supporters say this approach ensures routes meet the needs of passengers and communities rather than prioritising commercial returns for operators. Crucially, the funding means Suffolk can carry out all research at no cost to local taxpayers. The feasibility study will include consultation with residents, bus companies, district and borough councils, businesses and other stakeholders. Details on how and when this engagement will take place will be confirmed as the project develops.

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Currently, bus services in Suffolk see the county council supplement the commercial network with supported routes, community transport schemes and demand responsive services.

Suffolk County Council plans £18.9 million investment to expand SEND support
A report considered by Cabinet on July 14 recommends allocating £18.889 million of government High Needs Capital Funding to expand local specialist provision between 2026 and 2030. The investment aims to help more children access the support they need closer to home, while reducing pressure on the SEND system and improving outcomes for families across Suffolk. This new provision would be fairly spread across west, north and south Suffolk.

Over recent years, Suffolk County Council has already delivered significant growth in SEND provision, creating around 170 places in mainstream specialist settings and a further 289 places through special school expansions and satellite provision. However, demand continues to rise. The number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has increased by 17% in the past year, from 10,292 in April 2025 to 12,018 in April 2026. The proposed investment would provide:

- 168 new specialist places in secondary schools through specialist bases linked to mainstream schools
- 80 additional places through satellite provision connected to existing special schools
- £2 million to support inclusion in mainstream schools.
- £2 million for adaptations and improvements to mainstream schools.
- £1 million to develop specialist post-16 provision across Suffolk.

The council plans to make use of existing school buildings where possible, helping new provision to be delivered more quickly and cost-effectively than building new schools. The programme will focus on areas where demand is highest, particularly for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and Communication and Interaction needs, including autism.

The report highlights that increasing local provision will help reduce the need for children to travel long distances to access education, improve placement stability, and reduce reliance on expensive independent and out-of-county placements. The council says the investment will also help create a more financially sustainable SEND system while ensuring children and young people receive the right support in the right place.

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

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

Sunday 4 October	9.30am Harvest Worship Creeting St Peter
Sunday 11 October	11.00am Harvest Worship Creeting St Mary
Sunday 18 October	11.00am Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
Sunday 25 October	11.00am Holy Communion Creeting St Mary
Sunday 1 November	9.30am Morning Worship Creeting St Peter
Sunday 8 November	9.30am Remembrance service Creeting St Mary
Sunday 8 November	10.50am Remembrance service Creeting St Peter
Sunday 15 November	11.00am Holy Communion BCP Creeting St Peter
Sunday 22 November	11.00am Morning Worship and Baptism Creeting St Mary

St Mary's Church News

Dates for your diary.

- Maree's craft sale. Maree's special craft sale will take place on Saturday 28th November. There will be refreshments and lots of beautiful gifts to buy. Start your Christmas shopping early.

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, Sunday 6th December at 4 pm.
We are very pleased to be able to welcome Anthony from Colchester Arts and his colleague back to St Mary's on Sunday 6th December at 4pm. Anthony recites the story by Charles Dickens with accompaniment. The church will be candlelit and mulled wine and refreshments served.

- Coffee mornings and soup lunches. The last coffee morning for this year before we go on to soup lunches is Thursday 1st October at 10 am in Village Hall. We then return to soup lunches for the late autumn / winter months. The first soup lunche will be on Wednesday 28th October starting at 12 noon. A donation from these events goes to the Old School Room / Vestry fund.

Baptism - Phoebe Anne Herbert. We recently welcomed Phoebe into our church family at her baptism. Phoebe enjoyed every minute, she was very interested in all that was happening and smiled beautifully. Rev Adrian Watkins took the service.

Facebook. Please check our Facebook page for church news.

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Harvest Festival - School visit. The school will be visiting the church for their harvest festival service on Friday 9th October at 9 am. At this service the children donate food items which will be added to the church's donation on their harvest festival morning and given to the food bank. Harvest festival this year is on 11th October at 11 am. Everyone very welcome, pop in and see the church beautifully decorated. **Treasurer.**

We are looking for a new treasurer/s, one or two people who could work together and help with this vital role. Please contact me if you can help.

Safeguarding. We are here if you need help or advice on agencies that give support.

As always if you wish to look round the church , please contact me, I will be very pleased to open up for you.

Glynis Clint - 01449 720740

Suffolk Historic Churches sponsored Ride and Stride Saturday, 12 September 2026

As I write this, St Mary's church is open to welcome cyclists for the annual Ride and Stride. Ben Caisey, accompanies by Anthea has already called in, they are heading for East Bergholt visiting churches along the route.

If you have sponsored Ben, thank you. Half of his fundraising comes back to us to support the Old School Room / Vestry renovations. (A report on our progress is also in the Magazine on page 4.)

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust have made a very generous donation to the Old School Room project.

- Hazel Mackintosh

Note – by 5pm 18 cyclists have visited Creeting St Mary – a record since Covid!

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.

creeting st SCARY

STOWMARKET CHRONICLE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1963

THE FRONT VIEW OF "HAUNTED" CREETING RECTORY.

CREETING RECTORY'S GHOST IS HEARD BUT NOT SEEN

WHO is the ghost of Creeting St. Mary Rectory? He is an undoubted male, perhaps a servant who treads no further than the Jacobean domestic quarters at the side of the main Victorian Gothic building. Identification is made more difficult because no one has ever see him.

"He makes a clumping sound—like an old gardener coming in," says the rector, the Rev. Maurice Clay. "Curiously, we hear him around only when there are young girls staying in the house."

Most of the old rectory was burned down in 1860, allegedly by a curate who was dissastisfied with his stipend.

Mrs. Evelyn Fleetwood, whose late husband was rector for 45 years, commented: "The ghost could not possibly be a clergyman—they are not earthbound. He certainly walks like a man, but I am sure he is quite harmless."

Commander N. M. Bird, son-in-law of Mrs. Fleetwood, said nobody was frightened of the ghost.

"The only nuisance is that he will keep leaving the kitchen door ajar," he added.

THE GIPPING GIRL

When darkness settles over the River Gipping near Needham Market, local legend warns that a strange figure may be waiting beneath the black water. Known as the Gipping Girl, she is described as a mermaid or restless water spirit who watches silently from among the reeds. Children who wandered too close to the deepest pools were said to hear her calling before cold hands pulled them below. The tale was probably created to warn youngsters about strong currents and hidden depths, yet on a misty evening, when something stirs beneath the surface, it is easy to imagine that the Gipping Girl is still there....

1645 – A Creeting Witch ?

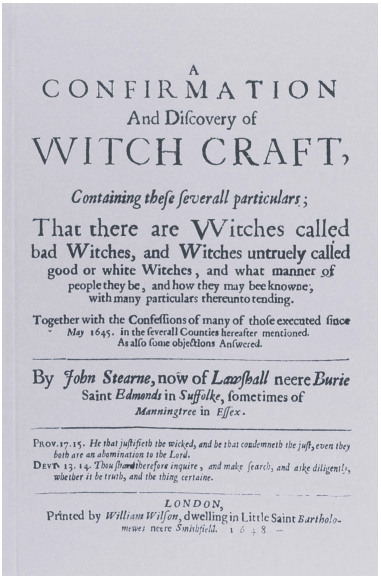
One of the scariest – and most notorious – historical events of our area is the terrifying reign of Matthew Hopkins.

Born in 1620, he is known to have been the innkeeper of the Thorn Inn in Mistley by 1640. During the English Civil War, he emerged as a self-appointed "Witchfinder General," leading an intense campaign of witch-hunting across eastern England from 1644 to 1647.

Working with his associate John Stearne, Hopkins accused numerous people—mostly women—of witchcraft and used coercive methods such as sleep deprivation, prolonged interrogation, and searching bodies for supposed "witch's marks." His activities contributed to more than 100 executions, making this one of the deadliest witch-hunting episodes in English history. Hopkins died in 1647 at the age of 27.

One of his victims was Anne Hammer, hanged at Bury St Edmunds on 27th August 1645. According to Hopkins' associate John Stearne, Anne Hammer had confessed to him that she had slept with the Devil and admitted responsibility for the death of the child of one Master Campe.

"ANNE HAMMER near Needham in Suffolk, of Creeting there (as I remember) confessed that soon after her mother's decease… there came two Imps to her, which she called Tom, Robbin and Tom-like-a-Mole, and Robbin-like-a-Dog, which she sent to kill MR CAMPE's child… MASTER CAMPE averred that a Mole to their thinking was seen in the house, going towards the room where the child lay, and that they had much ado to keep it out, nor could tell what became of it in the end… The Devil in the likeness of a Calf asked her to deny God, and Christ, and to serve him as Lord".


A
CONFIRMATION
And Discovery of
WITCH CRAFT,
Containing these severall particulars;
That there are Witches called bad Witches, and Witches untruely called good or white Witches, and what manner of people they be, and how they may bee knowne; with many particulars thereunto tending.
Together with the Confessions of many of those executed since *May* 1645. in the severall Counties hereafter mentioned. As also some objections Answered.
By *John Stearne*, now of *Lawshall* neere *Burie* Saint *Edmonds* in *Suffolke*, sometimes of *Manningtree* in *Essex*.
PROV. 17. 15. *He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are an abomination to the Lord.*
DEVT. 13. 14. *Thou shalt inquire, and make search, and aske diligently, whether it be truth, and the thing certaine.*
LONDON,
Printed by *William Wilson*, dwelling in Little Saint *Bartholomewes* neere *Smithfield*. 1648.

Creeting St Mary historian Paul Scully writes: "There is a file in the Suffolk Records Office (FB12/L1/1 *John Campe's Charity Book* (1619) [containing] records of annual monetary gifts made to Creeting individuals from Mr Campe's Charity. Interestingly the name of one recipient of 6d, in 1628 and 1629, was "Widow Hammer". [Further] years named "Anne Hamer". Could it be possible that this was one and the same person [as] Anne Hammer the witch? Could she be the one who received charity payments from Mr Campe and then was implicated in his child's death? Very thought-provoking."

Harvest: A Reminder to Think Long Term

As we travel around our towns and villages it is difficult to miss the signs of harvest. From Creeting St Mary to Great Glenham, fields that were green only a few months ago have turned golden, combines are at work, and tractors once again become a familiar sight on our country roads.

Harvest is a wonderful reminder that worthwhile things rarely happen overnight. Long before a crop is gathered, someone has prepared the ground and planted the seed. There are months of work in between, much of it unseen. There is uncertainty: the weather cannot be controlled and not every seed that is planted will flourish. Yet without that decision to plant in the first place, there can be no harvest later.

I think the same principle applies to our communities. Many of the things we value today are the result of decisions made years, sometimes generations, ago. Someone planted the trees we now enjoy. Someone established the village hall, sports club or community organisation that brings people together. Previous generations built our churches and schools and created businesses which continue to provide local jobs. Our responsibility is not simply to enjoy that inheritance, but to ask what we are planting for those who come next.

That means supporting our young people and giving them opportunities to build their futures here in Suffolk. It means looking after our villages and neighbourhoods while allowing them to grow and adapt. It means supporting local businesses and agriculture, caring for our countryside, and making sensible long-term investments in the services and infrastructure our communities will need in the years ahead.

The benefits of those choices may not always be immediately visible. In a world which increasingly expects instant results, that can be frustrating. But farmers understand better than most that planting a seed today does not produce a crop tomorrow. Some things require patience, persistence and trust in the future.

As harvest is celebrated across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich this autumn, it is an opportunity to be thankful for what previous generations planted for us. But perhaps it should prompt another question too: What can we plant today that somebody else will be grateful to harvest tomorrow?

If you need support or want to keep up with my work, you can contact me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, by telephone on 01728 726612 or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk.

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Halloween
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& Halloween Trail
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24th Oct - 1st Nov

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In store tastings from all our favourite suppliers
Fridays & Saturdays through November & December

Photos courtesy Yaelle Ridley, Juliet Davis

Page sponsored by Alder Carr Farm

Alder · Carr

A drop fell on the apple tree
Another on the roof;
A half a dozen kissed the eaves,
And made the gables laugh.

A few went out to help the brook,
That went to help the sea.
Myself conjectured, Were they pearls,
What necklaces could be!

The dust replaced in hoisted roads,
The birds jocoser sung;
The sunshine threw his hat away,
The orchards spangles hung.

- Emily Dickinson 1830-1886

The planters at the Hall have remained really colourful thanks to our band of volunteer **waterers**. Also thanks to Roots and Shoots for providing the plants.
- Chris Bingley

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photos courtesy
Juliet Davis, Chris Bingley

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Friday	14.00 – 17.00	**Saturday**	10.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 – 17.00
Sunday	11.00 – 16.00		

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Autumn Term 2026
1 Sep - 18 Dec
Autumn Half Term
26 Oct -30 Oct

A brilliant start to the term, welcoming back all of our lovely children. We love this fresh start, new year groups, new classes and teachers for some, and a whole lot of new opportunities. We have welcomed 15 new children into Ash class, who are all settling in well, making friends, learning and playing together.

We have started writing poems based on Please Mrs Butler in Chestnut class, and looking at world maps in Oak class. We're making plans for the big Year 5 & 6 trip in October to Herefordshire over the course of 5 days and 4 nights. A wonderful opportunity for the children to spend some time away from home, doing activities and making memories with their friends.

Our allotment is producing lots of courgettes and marrows at the moment, and over the summer we had some lovely sunflowers too. We'll be putting it all to bed soon ready for the winter, if anyone wants to start some seedlings for us ready for next season, that would be great! Easy, hardy growing vegetables, or flowers would be ideal.

We held our PSA AGM in the middle of September and have a new team ready to fundraise and organise for the school. The PSA have been so busy, raising money for the children, providing them with the extra bits for their school experience. Trips to Legoland, the pantomime, and Year 6 leavers hoodies to name a few! *Follow our class pages on the school website to see what we're up to across the school.*

THE VILLAGE HALL - CENTENARY QUIZ - Part Three

Welcome to the third and final part of our special quiz of 100 questions to celebrate the centenary of the village hall! In this edition we have qs 61-100.
All you have to do is send your answers to Csmvhquiz@gmail.com, or to me. There will be a draw for all the successful participants later in the year, and the winner will receive a voucher for £30.

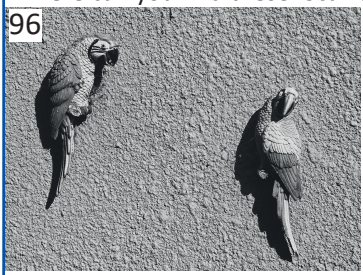
61. From which country did chilli con carne originate?
62. Whose diary had its last entry on 1st August 1944?
63. Which colour of snooker ball has the second highest points value?
64. What does Q stand for in IQ?
65. Dipsophobia is the fear of what?
66. What is Britain's largest land mammal?
67. In which museum would you see Constable's The Hay Wain?
68. The HQ of British Horse Racing is in which town?
69. Who wrote the short story The Mildenhall Treasure?
70. The Walberswick to Southwold ferry crosses which River?
71. Name the Suffolk Village which was once home to Lord Bardolph who fought at the Battle of Agincourt?
72. Freston Tower, which was built in the sixteenth century, stands on the south bank of which Suffolk River?
73. Name the largest container port in Britain?
74. Which British King built Orford Castle in the 12th century?
75. Where is the most easterly point in Britain?
76. How long does the Orwell Bridge span?
77. The UK's tallest wind turbine is located at Ness Point in Lowestoft - what is it called?
78. Where is the largest colony of grey seals in England?
79. Which Suffolk village had its sign stolen in the 1980s - only to be returned three decades later?
80. 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' was written by Jane Taylor when she lived in which Suffolk Village?
81. What year was Ipswich Town Football Club founded?
82. The first Latitude Festival was held in 2006 - which three artists headlined it?
83. Who was the last prisoner in the Tower of London?
84. Who created the fictional collie Lassie?
85. What sort of bird is a Cinnamon Norwich?
86. Other than cricket, which sport is played at Lord's?
87. Monophobia is the fear of what?
88. Who managed the England football team from 1990 to 1993?
89. Which place in Suffolk is associated with the invention of radar?
90. Which small Suffolk town is where the source of the River Deben is found?
91. In which Suffolk village would you find a hall that has been home to the Dukes of Grafton for over 300 years?

contd on p.23

contd from p.22

92. Which Suffolk village hit the headlines in the early 19th Century where The Murder in the Red Barn took place?
93. A German Zeppelin came down in a village near Saxmundham, what is its name?
94. Which small quaint village, 2 miles east of Needham Market, has had a settlement since Roman times?
95. Mockbeggars Hall (now a guest house) built in the 1600s and once home to the Bishop of London, is in which Suffolk village?

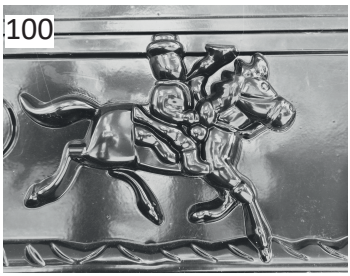
JULET'S PICTURE ROUND Part 3 - "Where have I seen that?"
Where can you find these local landmarks? (qs 96-100).

96


97

98

99

100


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Needham Market Garden Club

(Needham Market and District Horticultural Society)

Burton Room, Needham Market Community Centre, IP6 8BB

After our long hot Summer and the first good rain showers for weeks, our meeting in September had a presentation from Ian Woolnough on Cacti in Flower.

On 1st October we are having our Annual Supper at the Limes Hotel and in November Ruth Goudy will join us. We have a Winter break in December and January and launch our 2027 programme in February.

Everyone is welcome, you do not have to live in Needham Market or have any knowledge or experience of horticulture or gardening.

Meetings are held in the Burton Room at Needham Market Community Centre, IP6 8BB. Doors open at 7pm, guest speaker from 7:30pm.

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

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

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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. Check event updates see www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events

LILLEY'S WOOD / CHALKEITH RESERVE

Lilley's Wood update

Now that summer is over we will very soon be undertaking our autumn working parties. While the intense heat of the summer will have caused many plants to struggle, the light rains of recent weeks will be beginning to re-wet the soil. It will be good to be working in the wood, opening up the pathways by cutting back branches and brambles, and cutting back self-seeded trees before the paths get too muddy. We will also take the opportunity to tidy up the hedges that were laid two years ago. Despite the summer heat there should be some good autumn berries to be enjoyed by the birds and mice as they fatten up before winter. If you would like to join one of our very sociable working parties please email William on wbarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk .

Chalkeith Reserve – Needham Market

As a few of you may be aware, a new charity was formed this spring to acquire 20 acres of land between Ipwich Road and Barking Road on the south east corner of Needham Market and overlooking the old chalk pit. This land mainly consists of increasingly scarce calcareous grassland and harbours good numbers of rare plants, insects and birds. The site had been at risk of becoming overtaken by scrub with the prospective loss of these rare species from the area. Its purchase not only protects the site but also assures its continued accessibility to the public. The plan of the charity will be to improve the grassland while managing the current scrub, hedgerows and young woodland for the benefit of nature.

There will be a drop-in session at The Burton Room at Needham Market Community Centre on Friday 16th October from 5pm to 7pm where you can meet the Trustees, hear more about the history and the current flora and fauna of the site and understand how it will be managed. Refreshments will be provided. On Saturday 17th October there will be an open morning at the site from 9am to lunchtime. Please do come along to either or both. There is more information on www.chalkeithconservation.co.uk

- 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

At long last we have had some modest amounts of rain. So far around 40mm of gentle precipitation that the ground is pleased to absorb. Dig down a few inches and there is still no moisture. It will take at least another 100 mm to get the moisture well down and the field drains running to provide a flow in the ditches.

We have had one great success on the farm this year. By creating a mud wallow and closing up some areas of our cart lodges we have finally persuaded a pair of swallows to nest in our buildings. The mud provides nest building material and the closing up provides a dark and cool area that feels safe enough to risk nesting. Our swallows produced two broods successfully. All have now left for southern Africa – for such a small thing to fly 6,000 miles across seas and the Sahara desert before moving on to southern Africa is extraordinary. The year has been tough for most of our wildlife. As an example, swallows depend on flies for their own food and to feed their chicks, the flies rely on grasses and other vegetation for their food and drink and the vegetation relies on moisture in the ground to draw nourishment from the soil and retain their leaves. Our hot dry summer has meant little moisture except for plants with very deep roots. Little moisture means a shortage of green vegetation, which in turn means fewer flies and so less bird food. Hopefully next summer will be kinder to our natural world.

While we planted some hedges relatively late in the winter, we mulched them with compost and a good layer of straw. This mulch retains the moisture, feeds the roots and reflects the heat of the sun to keep the ground cool. This careful planning, supplemented by some limited watering from our bowser, has allowed most of our new hedging to survive the piercing heat of the summer sun and resist the 2 months without rain from June to August. We will have to undertake some replacement planting but are relieved that the position is not worse.

We are now starting our planning to plant a young wood of around 6 acres at the end of the farm near Hungercutt Hall. As with our hedges, we will prepare the soil with compost and mulch with compost and straw after planting to help the plants develop their roots before the spring gets to far ahead. Hopefully in a few years we will start to see a young wood emerging to provide a great habitat and a nice cool place to seek shelter from future hot summers.

- William Barnes

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citizens advice Mid Suffolk

I finished school in the summer and since then I've applied for countless jobs, but I'm not having any luck - most companies don't even bother getting back to me. It's really getting me down - what can I do to be more successful?

Navigating your first steps into the world of work can be really daunting. If you're struggling to find a job, you're not alone. Nearly one million young people aged 16 to 24 in the UK are not in education, employment or training. Clearly, there are some big structural and economic issues that are making it hard for young people to find work, but there are still things you can do.

When you're applying for a job, it's vital to do your homework. Make sure you've done your research about both the role and the employer and adjust your CV to fit the position you're applying for. Employers will usually want to know why you're interested in working for them specifically, so take some time to look into who they are and their values as an organisation. Then discuss how they align with what you're looking for in a role in your application.

Be cautious about using AI. When you're feeling the pressure to get out as many applications as possible, it can be tempting to turn to AI to help you write your CV, cover letter or application form. But employers can usually tell when you've used AI, and some may use AI detection tools when screening your application. It might put them off wanting to progress your application, so it's best to always use your own words.

If you're worried about your lack of experience, one way to make your CV stand out from the crowd is to try volunteering. Not only will you gain vital skills and work experience but also make a positive difference to people's lives. For example, volunteering in your local Citizens Advice service can give you office experience and customer service skills - you can find out more about opportunities in your area on our website.

If you're struggling financially, you should check what benefits you're able to get. If you're over 18 (or in some cases 16 or 17), not in education or training, and you have less than £16,000 in savings or other investments, you may be eligible for Universal Credit. You might also be able to get 'new style' Jobseeker's Allowance for up to six months while you look for a job. You can check what benefits you can get on the Citizens Advice website.

And lastly, job hunting can take a real toll on your mental wellbeing. Endless applications, back-to-back rejections or being ghosted entirely can all chip away at your self-esteem and affect your mental health. If you're finding it tough, there's help and support available. You can reach out to organisations like StudentMinds, try YoungMinds or get in touch with Mind - you don't have to face it alone.

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, or midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us.

Visit in person: Needham Market Community Centre on Friday morning 9am - 12.30pm

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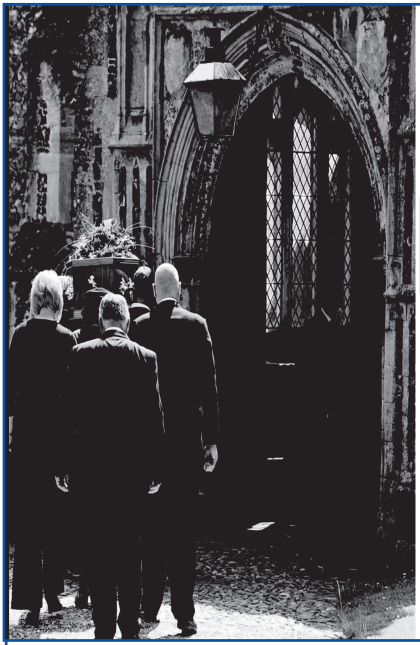

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

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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.
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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.

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Creeting St. Mary Primary School - Head Mrs. Christine Friar
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Priest-in-Charge North Bosmere Benefice which includes CSM
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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
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November - December/January edition

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