

Fynn - Lark News

MARCH 2025



SUFFOLK AND ITS VILLAGES

This month's main contribution happens to be from Great Bealings, but it is a contribution which, with variations, could come from so many other Suffolk villages, including any of those villages served by this Magazine. Great Bealings is far from being alone in drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan to protect what is special about it. It is far from being alone in trying to do what it can to avoid suburban creep. It is far from alone in trying to preserve its rural identity, an identity which has its roots deep in the farming history of our county. Those who live in that one village are far from alone in wishing to preserve something special about their rural character and history. That is why, in an increasingly urbanised world, there are still many people who prefer living closer to the natural world, amidst rural landscapes, in rural villages. Those who dismiss people who care about such things as "Nimbies" do so at the risk of mobilising significant opposition. People who live in the country care about the

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

country, as the recent demonstrations by farmers on their very large and numerous tractors have shown. So – in that spirit – please read the following article as the voice of one village, representing many others.

GREAT BEALINGS – STILL A VILLAGE IN A LANDSCAPE

During times of turbulence and change, it is good to be able to take a few minutes to reflect on the peace and tranquillity of the place that nearly 300 of us call home. A place where not much happens; the annual Ceremony of Remembrance at the war memorial is the only public event to take place actually in the village other than in the church. (We are, however, fortunate in being able to share with Little Bealings a variety of other activities which take place either in Bealings Village Hall or the Angela Cobbold Hall.)

The preamble to the Neighbourhood Plan, which was drawn up in 2017, describes Great Bealings as an ‘oasis of calm surrounded by ever increasing development.’ The strapline to the Plan, ‘A Village in a Landscape’ remains apt. Our immediate surroundings have changed very little. Our designation as being part of the Countryside has protected us from any new residential development beyond extensions to or replacements of existing buildings.

A comparison of the Census data from the 2011 and 2021 shows that we have slightly fewer people living in the village (293 down from 310) The number of retirees has increased by about 4% but the most notable change is the increase in the number of people working from home, which now accounts for nearly half of the 165 or so who are economically active, well over double the 22% reported a decade earlier.

We are generally very fortunate with 88% of residents having good health and 87% owning their own homes. Only 2% don’t own a car or van.

Traffic is often a cause for concern in many towns and villages. Hall Farm Road now has a 30-mph speed limit and until fairly recently, an active Speedwatch team. The Parish Council recognises that speeding traffic through the village is an important issue for many people and one that is being kept under review. However, without volunteers who are prepared to give up their time to monitor traffic, there is little that can be done to slow traffic other than on refuse collection days when the recycling vehicles do a brilliant job of bringing traffic to a halt! (Many thanks for all they do, both intentionally and as traffic calming measures).

Moving slightly further afield, we share the beautiful Fynn Valley and ancient rolling farmland with many other villages to the west and northwest, notably, the Culpho and Westerfield Rolling Farmland. (See appendix H of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan which can be accessed via the East Suffolk home page). Current proposals for a quarry in Witnesham, to the north of Westerfield are a potential threat to this landscape and are causing a considerable degree of local concern because of the real fear that people living to the north of Ipswich and, possibly, further afield, could face at least 16 years of industrial activity in a rural river valley, with a considerable number of HGV lorry movements a day anticipated. At the date of writing, no planning application has been received. Members of the public will have 30 days in which to make comments, whether in favour of or against the scheme. An action group has been set up to ensure that everyone who might be affected by the proposals is aware of the situation. If anyone wishes to know more and obtain up to date information they can e-mail: contact@stopthequarry.info or go to the Westerfield or Tuddenham Facebook page.

CONTENTS

NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST	<i>PAGE 3</i>
GREAT BEALINGS	<i>PAGE 17</i>
LITTLE BEALINGS	<i>PAGE 23</i>
PLAYFORD	<i>PAGE 37</i>
CULPHO	<i>PAGE 45</i>

NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST

FINANCING THIS MAGAZINE

Thank you to those kind supporters who have come forward to support us with donations and Standing orders, and even new advertisements.

We have had one minor problem with access. Please note that our account is classed as a business account, and that some banks seem not to like THE in front of Fynn-Lark News, as the designated Payee. Not that we are in the business of money-laundering, but some systems can be a bit finicky.

NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL MP

There have been no adverse responses to our suggestion that we may from time to time carry communications from our local MP with news of developments that could be of interest to readers. We include the first (edited) communication and hope it will be of interest. In our view, keeping open the channel to those who make the big decisions is constructive. It is, after all, just a broadening of the perspective which sees us carrying all the news from our Parish Councils. We do even reciprocate, and send a copy of this Magazine to the Constituency Office. Hopefully, mutual understanding will be all the better for that.

HISTORY CORNER

A RECENT POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE FYNN-LARK VALLEY

With the publication of a brief communication from our present MP, it seems appropriate to look back on how we, in the Fynn-Lark Valley, have been

politically represented in recent years. We have been subject to various boundary changes, meaning that we have moved from being part of the Suffolk Coastal Constituency to being in the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich Constituency. The full significance of this move may not have been fully grasped. No longer are we, in political terms, exclusively linked to those beautiful coastal areas which we all so enjoy visiting. Only part of us is now a rural constituency – the other half being Ipswich and urban. That engages us, and our MP, in a whole new set of considerations and challenges, both rural and urban.

The parliamentary constituency of Suffolk Coastal, to which we no longer belong, was created for the 1983 general election from eastern parts of the abolished county constituencies of Eye, and Sudbury and Woodbridge, including the towns of Felixstowe and Woodbridge. Its initial boundaries were the same as those of the District of Suffolk Coastal. Interestingly enough, that constituency, until the Reform Act of 1832, reflected the economic decline of East Anglia, in that it included three Rotten Boroughs – boroughs whose declined status was not reflected in their parliamentary representation – Aldeburgh, Dunwich and Orford. Just imagine now, those places, for all their charm, being able to justify having their own MP.

The Suffolk Coastal seat was held from its creation until the 2010 election by the Conservative John Gummer, who had previously represented the former seat of Eye from 1979. He was the Secretary of



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State for the Environment for four years during the second Major ministry and before that was for four years the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He stood down in 2010 and was elevated to the House of Lords as Lord Deben, his title, in itself, showing his local roots. The MP between 2010 and 2024 was Conservative Thérèse Coffey,^[5] who served in the Sunak ministry as the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. She also served in subsequent administrations.

The Conservatives lost this seat in the 2024 general election, with Labour's Jenny Riddell-Carpenter being voted in as the MP. Familiar though these names may be, they have not been our recent MPs



Lord Deben



Lord Framlingham



Dr Dan Poulter

We, in these parts, are now part of the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency, formed for the 1997 election, primarily made up of rural farming communities and retirement properties, including Kesgrave, but with three urban Ipswich wards, giving the constituency a significant mix. The rural, mainly conservative vote is still in the majority, and electing a Conservative MP in the person of, firstly, Sir Michael Lord, (1997-2010), knighted in 2001 (Baron Framlingham), who had held the predecessor seat of Central Suffolk, and then, after the 2010 election, Dr Dan Poulter, who retained the seat at the three subsequent elections. Dan Poulter announced his defection to Labour in April 2024, and did not seek re-election. Following the 2024 election, the MP has been Patrick Spencer for the Conservative Party – the man now sending us occasional newsletters.

Those men and women who represent us in Parliament may not always enjoy the esteem that once they did. Good men and women are tarred with the same brush as those who deviate from standards expected of MPs, but these are people continue to make the decisions which, for better or worse, affect us all so – so it is best to stay informed! Two of our MPs have also taken titles, upon ennoblement, which reflect a certain love of the areas they serve.

NATURE NOTES

THE END OF WINTER AND THE BEGINNING OF SPRING

'A PHEASANT'S TALE' by Sir Vyvor Byrde

So far, so good. I've found a cosy three-walled protection place, away from the frosts and winds – and the noise of the guns. One "wall" has a lot of glassy stuff, so I've had a few exchanges with the creatures inside – humans – but not the ones who carry guns. They make kind faces at me through the glass. The guns are silent now, and I'm still around. Cunning, eh? I'm getting on a bit, and I know now what those bangs mean – the end – I've seen too many of my mates and girlfriends finish up as a mess of feathers, so what do I do now? Just lie low and keep my feet on the ground, on terra firma (I'm a slightly superior pheasant academic – smidgin of Latin, you know!). I know it's still dangerous – all those sniffing, yapping dogs – but here, I can hide away from it all.

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I watch and hear my friends, startled into flight, trying to escape up and away from it all, and then – bang, bang - they're dead - brought down. How many of my friends will I ever see again? For now, I'm alone, a bit of a fatalist, but I've lived long enough to know that quieter times are around the corner. Warmer, greener, safer times.

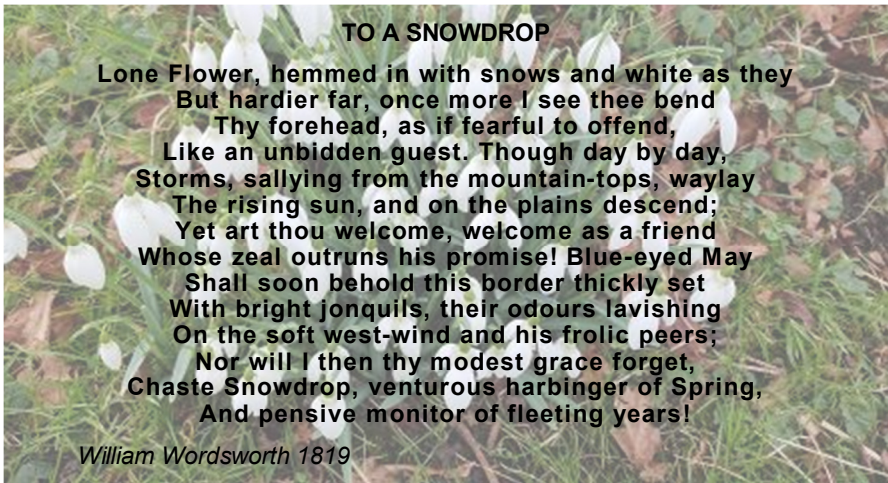
It's not just us pheasants that have it tough and rough. We're surrounded by carnage. A day or two ago there I was, scratching around in my little patch in the wood, and I came across the remains of dear old Barney Owl – beautiful white feathers scattered all over the place. Just one foot. Where was the rest of him? I shed a tear. Barney and I never shared food, or even fought over it - but we did have a bit of a bond – we both like to do a bit of preening, all our lovely plumage – OK, “feathers” is more common. But life must go on. Carpe Diem, as I say often and motivationally to those of us who are left. They

give me a bit of a glassy look, and wander off to find something else to eat. Life's still tough. Anon.

SNOWDROPS – AGAIN – BUT THEY DO COME UP EVERY YEAR AND LAUNCH US INTO SPRING.

Snowdrops may look fragile and dainty, but their appearance belies their toughness. They are one of the only flowers that thrive in winter. As we walk through the woodlands or a meadow, with the winter snows melting, we spot the snowdrops popping up and saying hello. To see them is to know that spring is on the way. William Wordsworth will have seen them before he saw his even more famous daffodils.

In his introduction to the poem he notes that that this little flower, popping up while the snow is still around, symbolizes humble strength. Its brief appearance also reminds us that, yet another year has passed. Nature's predictable cycles are thus both comforting and a bit sad. "To a Snowdrop" ultimately praises nature's persistence while also acknowledging that beauty and life are fleeting.



Patrick Spencer MP

Member of Parliament for
Central Suffolk & North Ipswich

DELIVERING FOR FYNN VALLEY & CARLFORD



Since the New Year, my team and I have continued to work hard to address the issues that matter most to residents in our rural areas, with healthcare and agriculture at the forefront of discussions. In early January, I walked part of the route of National Grid's proposed Norwich to Tilbury pylon line that threatens to cut through their picturesque landscape. The project, if allowed to proceed in its current form, would not only scar the natural beauty of this historic village but also raise potential concerns about operational safety for military helicopters flying from RAF Wattisham.

I also enjoyed spending time with Nick Corke of Hour Community in Framlingham, whose work providing transport for medical appointments and tackling isolation in Framlingham and the surrounding villages exemplifies the best of grassroots initiatives. I remain fully committed to supporting and promoting these essential services, ensuring that the voluntary sector continues to thrive and meet the diverse needs of our constituency.

Having spoken with many local farmers and food producers who are concerned at potential changes to the Family Farm Tax, I also met with Graham Miles, the Bishop's Agricultural Chaplain. We discussed the current challenges across the agricultural sector, with supply chain issues, labour shortages, and fluctuating market conditions adding further strain on our hardworking farmers. We also discussed the importance of improving access to mental health resources

tailored for those in the farming community, as isolation and financial pressure continue to take a toll. Agriculture is the backbone of our local economy, providing employment and sustaining rural livelihoods and I will continue to do all that I can to support our incredibly hardworking farmers

Finally, I was pleased to meet with the dedicated team of volunteers at Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau whose vital services benefit residents from across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. Their support for vulnerable individuals, including guidance on financial and legal matters, is a lifeline for many, and I look forward to continued collaboration with their dedicated team.

Over the coming year, I will continue to hold regular surgeries across Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, providing a platform for residents to share concerns and receive support with individual problems. If you would like to book an appointment, please contact my office via patrick.spencer.mp@parliament.uk I am always keen to hear from you. Whether it's concerns about GP services, rural challenges, or local support, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email, phone, or my website. You can keep up to date with the work I am doing for you by subscribing to my newsletter:

www.patrickspencer.co.uk/newsletter

Yours sincerely,

**Patrick Spencer MP,
Member of Parliament for Central
Suffolk and North Ipswich**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VILLAGE EVENTS

You will have seen elsewhere in the FLN, the poster for the annual Plant Sale on Saturday 26th April from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. It is a wonderful social event with a wonderful atmosphere. Well worth visiting, even if you only come for a cuppa and a natter. If you can provide plants or help on the day even better.



Later in the year is the Village Fete. It will be held on Sunday 31st August from Noon until 4.00 p.m. in the Village Hall and John Belstead Playing Fields. It is a traditional family affair with something for everyone.

We would love as many people as possible to join our band of volunteers. Meetings which will be open to everyone who is interested, are to be held in June/July to finalise the arrangements for the event.

In addition to raising money for the Village Hall and Playing Field, we are hoping to encourage other local charities to have their own stalls, free of charge so that they can promote their organisations and raise money for the people they support.

For more information, please contact Sue on
chairman@greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk.



HUGELY POPULAR QUIZ NIGHT RETURNS TO HELP SUPPORT DEAF PEOPLE

A local hearing care company is back with another one of its popular charity quiz nights, to help raise funds for people living with deafness or severe hearing impairment. All About Hearing, a family-run business with two hearing care clinics in Ipswich, is holding the event this March in aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a charity that provides life-changing support to those with hearing loss.

The charity quiz night is organised for **Sunday 16th March 2025 at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, with a start time of 7.00 p.m.** Teams can include between 4 – 6 members and entry is £6 per person.

On the night there will be a bar, big screen, and plenty of prizes to be won, thanks to the generous support from local businesses. Funds raised will go directly to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, helping to train highly skilled assistance dogs that alert deaf individuals to important sounds, providing them with greater independence and confidence.

For details of how to book, please visit www.allabouthearing.co.uk/quiz
Further Information: Matthew Coward (Director) - 07793273213
matthewcoward@allabouthearing.co.uk - www.allabouthearing.co.uk

BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL – MARCH 2025

TUESDAY PILATES Mar: 11th, 18th, 25th	09:30 - 10:30	Caroline Boggon 07850683196
TUESDAY BALLROOM DANCING Mar: 4th, 11th, 25th	18:00 – 20:00	Teresa Jay: 07929 310480
WEDNESDAY DANCE CLASS Mar: 5th, 12th, 19th, 25th	09:30 – 12:30	Debbie Watkins-Jones: 07711 161522
WEDNESDAY CARPET BOWLS Mar: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	14:00 – 16:00	Kathy Price: 01473 621419
FRIDAY DANCE CLASS Mar: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	09:30 - 12:15	Debbie Watkins-Jones: 07711 161522
FRIDAY PILATES Mar: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	12:30 - 15:15	Kelly Steventon: 07919 377855
SATURDAY YOGA Mar: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th	10:00 - 11:15	Caroline Boggon 07850683196

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SNOOKER ROOM

The snooker table has just been re-felted and looks fantastic:. It is only £15.00 for up to 4 hours and can be booked via:bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com or mobile: 07769 195132

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BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL



PACKED HOUSE FOR CHRIS MASON'S QUIZ NIGHT

We had a packed Hall on Valentine's Night full of quiz lovers.

Chris Mason the quizmaster entered the hall looking like the champion brain teaser he is, he pummeled his audience with 9 testing rounds before delivering the knockout in round 10 - The Picture Round.... moans all round as the crowd tried to rack their brains and guess who were these childhood pictures of. Surely the young blonde boy with the angelic face couldn't be Donald Trump could he?



Teams were neck and neck until the picture round and congratulations to the winners who stormed ahead at the end. The evening ended with the raffle and we'd like to thank all those who donated prizes, the profit on the evening was over £500 all going towards the new blinds - a fabulous result.

Overall, the evening was a great success with a number of new faces joining in and we all look forward to the next one later in the year.

The next Pop Up Pub will be on May 16th so put a note in your diary now

The Hall is now fully operational and new bookings have been scheduled, please see our Bealings Village Hall Events page for dates and times.

The Trustees have now decided to concentrate all fundraising efforts on revitalising the interior, starting with replacing the curtains with new blinds, followed by repainting.

If you would like to book the Hall for your special event or like to take part in those already scheduled, please contact Margaret Wilson our bookings secretary :

bookings.vh.bealings@btinternet.com
or mobile: 07769 195132

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Suffolk Mobile Library Van
will park at
Bealings Village Hall car park
13th March 13:45 - 14:30

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 3rd March

Little Bealings Annual Parish Meeting will be held in
Bealings Village Hall starting at 19:00
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Leah also offers adult classes on Tuesday evenings.



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

GREAT BEALINGS

RECTOR

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

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Mrs Dee Knights, Dunure, 39 Avocet Lane, Martlesham Heath, IP5 3SF Ips 624240
clerk@greatbealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Bridget Tanno, 2 Rosery Cottages, Lower Street, Great Bealings 0797025778

ST MARY'S

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Mid-winter is not a great time for moving forward. The grim succession of drab, dreary cold, damp days is conducive to retreating indoors and let the world pass by outside. It is, however, the time of year when plans have to be made, if activities are to burst forth later in the year. The life of a church goes on, transcending the seasons, but responding to them in different ways. The services reflect the church calendar, but the building itself is subject to different transitions, conditions which demand on-going attention, not only the maintenance, but also how the church may adapt to different times and circumstances. There may not be many outward signs of change, but that doesn't mean we've all been hibernating.

LOOKING BACK

We are grateful to Rev Peter Wintgens for taking our Candlemas Service on 2nd February. There was a good turn-out of 16 participating in a service reflecting the emergence of light from wintry darkness.

REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

There are no new developments to report. The wheels of change turn slowly! But the intentions remain solid and focused. We do now have the architect's drawings to consider, as the starting point for seeking permissions and funding.

CHURCHYARD

Over-wintering, but the grass is still green. The snowdrops are peeping out. The soggy remains of the old bonfire

have gone up in smoke. Do wander round, trying to pick up the first signs and sounds of spring.

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 2ND MARCH

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

Sunday 16th February

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer. (Anthony Sheppard)

Do check up on the Woodbridge website for other possible services.

Parish Office: this is the hub of activity and communications for the United Benefice. Linda is our Parish Administrator. The Rector too, can be contacted through this office.

Tel: 01394 388820 – and Linda's office hours are: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9am to 12.30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 9.00 a.m.

St Mary's House, 11 Market Hill, Woodbridge IP12 4LP.

Norman Porter. Churchwarden
nhp@rillcott.co.uk

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTS

Nothing to report this month. The January gloom has not been mitigated by any floodlight worthy events.

If you would like the lights to shine forth for personal celebrations or commemorations please drop a note in to Norman Porter, Rill Cottage, Kiln Lane with payment, explaining why you would like the church floodlit, so that it can be



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**FRIENDS OF GREAT
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Church, Woodbridge)

**MOVING TOWARD OUR BEALINGS
PLANT SALE**

– SATURDAY 26th April - 10 - 12

Our major involvement at present is in supplying help in as many forms as possible to Caroline Saunders, who is already working hard, organising this year's Plant Sale. The proceeds of the Sale are divided between the two Bealings churches. If you enjoy plants, gardening, and all the social interaction that can come from such shared interests, do please contact Caroline.

Examples of possible help: growing plants and seedlings ready for sale on the day; help with refreshments; baking cakes for sale on the day; home-made produce (jams, pickles, marmalade); home-grown seasonal fruit/veg -e.g. rhubarb; help with setting up (Friday pm), and taking down, help with traffic management; with publicity; and, of course, turning up on the day to buy plants. No bric-a-brac this year!

Caroline will be delighted to hear from you:

**Caroline Saunders, Grotto Farm, Great
Bealings, IP13 6NW – 01394 387681 -
07789713576 –
caroline_saunders@hotmail.co.uk**

*Final details about the sale and the
associated Raffle will be published in
the next issue of this Magazine.*

THE BEALINGS

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Plant Sale

10AM
-12PM

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littlebealingspc@btinternet.com

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Toni Cornish

lbpcsecretary@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Here we are, Christmas 'been and gone,' Epiphany observed, and decorations all stored back in the loft and so we look forward to the next event in our church calendar - Lent.

But before we get to Lent, we have Pancake Day. Yes, this special day also known as Shrove Tuesday signifies 47 days before Easter. As a moveable feast determined by Easter it can occur as early as February 3rd to as late as March 9th.

So hopefully you are reading this before the 4th March and here are some little-known facts about this day.

It is also known as Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras. It is the last feasting day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It comes from a time when any remaining rich foods were eaten on the day before Lent to use them up. The ingredients for pancakes can be seen to symbolise four points of significance at this time of year:

Eggs – Creation

Flour – The staff of life

Salt – Wholesomeness

Milk – Purity

In the UK, pancake races formed an important part of the Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The most famous pancake race takes place at Olney in Buckinghamshire. According to tradition, in 1445 a woman of Olney heard the shriving bell while she was making pancakes and ran to the church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan. Shriving Bell – rung on Shrove Tuesday to call people to church to confess their sins before Lent.

If your children are having pancakes, do they know the rhyme:

Mix a pancake

Stir a pancake

Pop it in a pan

Fry the pancake

Toss the pancake

Catch it if you can.

Enjoy your pancakes !

MOTHERING SUNDAY - 30TH MARCH

As this is the 5th Sunday of the month there will no service at Little Bealings or Playford, so please attend one of the many services at All Saints Kesgrave. Please see website for details.

At All Saints we will be preparing for Lent and Easter with a number of 'firsts.'

A Lent course within the Benefice will be linking with other churches in the Deanery to consider and discuss the movie 'The King's Speech.'

This movie will be shown at 2 .00 p.m. on Monday 3rd March and again at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4th March (pancakes at half time) in All Saints Kesgrave.

During Lent there will be two weekly study sessions using the book 'Finding a Voice.' Each session will include a video clip of the movie and time for discussion arising from the questions it raises. All sessions will be completed within an hour and are 'standalone' so that you do not have to attend all.

See website for details.

During Holy week, services at Little Bealings will be:

Sunday 13th April 10.00 a.m.
Liturgy of the Psalms

Wednesday 16th April 7.00 p.m.
Agapé meal

Good Friday 18th April 2.00 p.m.
At the foot of the Cross

Easter Sunday 20th April
3.00 p.m. Afternoon Tea
4.00 p.m. Songs of Praise

The PCC would like to bring the following to your attention:

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years the church requires parishioners to re-establish their link to the church by completing an electoral roll form. For All Saints Little Bealings this needs to be done by 16th March 2025. The Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held on 31st March where all attending Parishioners can elect the Churchwardens and for those on the church roll to elect PCC members to fill any vacancies.

FUNDS

All Saints have met all their obligations over the last two years but as always, money is 'tight.' There is a need to repair the building to meet the concerns raised in the Quinquennial Inspection report and the donated organ is beyond economical repair. Supporters of the church do much to keep costs down by carrying out many of the tasks but sometimes we need a specialist 'resource.'

Lime mortar rendering or glazing of the windows is not something we feel able to undertake and no one currently has an unwanted organ at home to donate. Whatever you can do to help resolve these matters would be most welcome.

The café provides much needed revenue stream, and the PCC are very grateful to all those who help support this successful venture.

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

We are grateful to those that have recently sponsored the church floodlights,

most recently Joan Moon for Australia Day on Jan 26th. Please get in touch (lbpcctreasurer@gmail.com) if you would like the church lit up to mark any occasion (suggested donation £10).

SERVICES FOR MARCH

9th March – 10.00 a.m. Morning Prayers
23rd March – 10.00 a.m. Family Communion

30th March – Mothering Sunday – please visit All Saints Kesgrave

Every Wednesday morning there is a 10.00 a.m. Morning prayer meeting, 10.30 a.m. Fynn Valley Walk meeting outside the church with the Café open 10.45 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

You are sure of a warm welcome. Come and join us.

ACH NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD....

Thanks to a grant from Little Bealings Parish Council, the floor in the Hall can now be sanded and resealed. The work will take place during the week following Easter, 22nd - 24th April, The Hall will be closed during that week to allow the work to be completed.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Once again, thanks to everyone who came, helped set up, serve and clear for the lunch on 4th February. The next lunch is on Shrove Tuesday 4th March and will be 'Purely Pancakes'.... both sweet and savory. The following lunch on Tuesday 1st April will be 'Fish and Chips' ...dessert to be decided!

Bookings for Lunch
pandvcarr55@gmail.com 01473 620213

'WARM WELCOMES'

This government/ local authority, initiative continues this month...offering a warm space and refreshments.

Every Monday
Knit and Natter 1.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Every Friday
Social Evening 7.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.

Friday 14th March
Coffee Morning and Foot Clinic
10.00 a.m.-12noon

Sunday 16th March
Time for Tea 3-5.00 p.m.

Thanks again to everyone who helps to make the Angela Cobbold Hall a warm and welcoming community space.

KNIT AND NATTER

As the pictures show, we not only Knit and Natter. Some do various other crafts, too. There are some very clever folks at our 'Knit and Natter'. Please don't let this put you off as we also have some that are learning to knit and learning to crochet, too. There is always someone willing to help if you are a beginner. Come and give us a look. We are a warm room welcome hub until the middle of March so please come and warm yourself with a hot drink and a hot toasted tea cake. We have some fabulously tasty refreshments to be enjoyed by us all. Our conversations are interesting, informative and amusing. Often TV programmes can be caught up with and suggestions about where the

storyline is going. I find these discussions really fascinating. I just sit listening sometimes, as I haven't been watching the programme.



Do come and join us. You don't have to come every week or stay the whole time just drop in when you can. You will be made very welcome. Every Monday 1.30 till 4.00 p.m. except for bank Holidays.

Yvette Robinson

LITTLE BEALINGS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN

BEALINGS VILLAGE HALL

(not The Angela Cobbold Hall)

at 7.00 p.m.

on Monday 3 March 2025

UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR IAN RANSOME

(CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL)

Parishioners of Little Bealings are invited to attend and take part in the meeting. The parish meeting may by law discuss all parish affairs and local parish electors may pass resolutions about them.

Ian Ransome

Chairman of the Council

website: littlebealingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Angela Cobbold Hall, Little Bealings

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EVENTS

MARCH

Monday 3rd
(& every Monday)

1.30 - 4.00 p.m. **KNIT & NATTER**

Tuesday 4th

12.30 p.m.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

To book, please email
pandvcarr55@gmail.com
or ring 01473 620213

Thursday 5th
(& every Thursday)

10.30 - 11.30 a.m. **TAP DANCING**

Friday 7th

7.30 p.m.

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Friday 14th

10.00 - 12 noon

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Friday 14th

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Sunday 16th

3.00 - 5.00 p.m.

'TIME FOR TEA'

Wednesday 26th

7.30 p.m.

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APRIL

Tuesday 1st

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WORD FROM THE STUDY

I don't know about you, but the older I get, the faster time seems to go! I saw an advert on social media, and it said "Only 37 more Mondays and I will be back again" – it was a photo of Father Christmas! I know time waits for no-one, but really??

Although the weather has been cold and wet, we are already now seeing signs that spring is not far away, the crocuses and the daffodils are slowly coming out of their winter slumber. As human-beings, we tend to feel the same – when it's cold and dark, we just want to stay indoors and long for the good weather.

Looking and longing for the opportunity to get out to do those gardening jobs, those DIY jobs we were putting off, and perhaps even managing to get some time walking or doing things that make us feel good.

As I write this, we are starting the count-down in Church towards the season of Lent. A time in the Church's year when, if you like, we do a spring-clean of ourselves; it's known in the Church as a Penitential Season. People often say, "I'm going to give this or that up for Lent," because that makes us do some sort of sacrifice.

For me, it is not so much about giving up, but about taking on. This year during Lent, as a Benefice, we are showing the film "The King's Speech" based on King George VI who had a terrible stammer and struggled to find his voice. Throughout Lent, we will be looking, as Christians, to find our voice. There will be an opportunity to see the film on Zoom on Monday nights, and in person in the Church Hall in Kesgrave on Wednesdays at 7pm. We will be using a book to follow this; if you would like to be part of it, then please see our website for further details, or contact myself.

I think this is a very good thing that we are looking at, as Christians, we need our voice to be heard in a world which is continually trying to drown out the Christian message.

The Bishop in America, in her speech at Donald Trump's inauguration "Please Mr President, take care of all your people." I don't see anything offensive in that, yet the backlash was staggering. We are very fortunate in our country that we live

in a relatively free world, but to keep that freedom and to keep the values that we treasure so much, we need to find out voice, speaking up for those who are marginalised, those who live in fear, and yes, sadly, in 2025 those that require food banks.

We will, in Holy Week, be doing services every day in one of our Churches. We are very blessed in our Benefice; we have two wonderful Churches which are well cared for, well maintained, and still hold regular services, where we are able to, we open our Churches as much as we can, an opportunity for people to come and spend time in quiet; this is a valuable asset to our community.

Our Churches need the help and support of the local community, so whether you are a Church-goer or not, but feel you would like to help the Church in any way, either by helping to maintain the grounds, or help in any other way, we will be most grateful.

The Church stands as a beacon of hope in what sometimes feels like a dark world, help us keep that hope alive; let us be that light for people every day, not just a photograph which looks lovely in the sunset. Churches are living buildings, with real hope.

I went past a Church the other day and it had scaffolding going around the tower with the words above it "Danger, workforce at work." The Church I would like to see would have the words above them "Men, women, children, and God our creator at work at work in our community.

Every blessing.

Reverend Gary Jones

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revgaryjones1985@gmail.com

07714 614095

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

lps 738468

PCC SECRETARY

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

07787535398

eileen@luxfarm.co.uk



Just after Christmas, despite the murky weather, these brave souls donned their coats and boots for a walk followed by refreshments and a quiz at Playford Village Hall.

Vacancy: Clerk to Playford Parish Council

Playford Parish Council are seeking an enthusiastic, community-minded person to serve as Clerk to the Parish Council. The successful candidate will assist in the organisation and running of Council business and form an integral part of the Council's efforts on behalf of the community in Playford.

The role will be part-time and largely flexible in terms of working pattern and location, with the exception of attendance at Parish Council meetings, which occur every two months. The role is for an average of ten hours per week and pay will be in line with National Association of Local Councils guidelines. Expenses will be reimbursed.

The ideal candidate would have experience of working as a Clerk or in local government, but comprehensive training will be provided if needed. We are looking for someone who is organised, rigorous and keen to take the initiative within their role while working collaboratively with councillors and parishioners. The role would ideally commence in March, allowing for a period of hand-over with the existing Clerk.

Please get in touch with Ben Evans (benevanshfp@gmail.com) to request full details or for any informal discussions.

ST MARY'S

After the joy of Christmas, we are now battling through the cold months of winter but happy to see the first signs of Spring in our churchyard. The snowdrops have looked wonderful, and the daffodils are lining themselves up to takeover when the snowdrops retreat for another year. Do have a walk up to the church to enjoy the show. It's always open!

As Treasurer as well as churchwarden, January is the time when I add up the numbers for the previous year and ensure we've made our contribution to the running costs of our parish. Due to the generous support of our community we managed to pay our full Parish Share of just over £10,000 for 2024, a remarkable achievement for a village of less than 300 inhabitants. Thank you for whatever way you helped support our church in 2024.

Our aim at Playford Church is to grow our involvement in the village and not simply be the old building at the top of the hill. I'm pleased with the progress we've made and optimistic about our plans. Our coffee mornings have been a great way for locals who don't usually visit to engage with us, and we have the next one on 29th March between 10am and noon. Cake, coffee, chat and a raffle will be the order of the day.

We are hosting a quiz afternoon on Sunday 2nd March in Playford Village Hall at 4pm. When I perform disastrously at a quiz, I console myself that I never stood a chance because the quizmaster is either much younger or much older than myself, so I was simply the wrong generation to get the answers. Our quiz will be multi-generational so get a team together of varying ages. Rope the kids and grandparents in and come along. We're serving a sweet and savoury cream tea so everyone can have some fun and then go home and not have to worry about dinner. See the advert for full details.

On Sunday, March 9th between 3:30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. our Emerge Lightwave partners are hosting a Pancake Party at Playford Village Hall that will feature--you guessed it -- pancakes, pancake-based games and some craft work thrown in for good measure. We'll be bombarding social media, the village noticeboards and letterboxes with more details soon.

Finally, in March we will be having our regular Sunday services on 2nd and 16th March at 10.00 a.m. We put the heating on a couple of hours before to keep you as warm as we can. Come in from the cold and be part of it all!

Jon Fieldsend
Churchwarden - Playford Church
jon@fieldsend.co.uk
07713164349

CHURCH LIGHTS

In loving memory of a dear friend, Felicity Anne Devereux

1 January 1950 – 22 February 2024, of Torridon, Spring Meadow: Owner and resident from May 2005 to February 2024. Forever at peace.

From Hilary Legard. Love also from Diana Taylor and Cecilia Kadzombe

PLAYFORD WI

We were delighted to welcome several visitors to our February meeting when we discussed the 2025 WI Resolutions long list. As ever, everyone shared their own points of view and experience which enabled us to enjoy insightful discussions on 4 different topics including the need for wider first aid training in using defibrillators; and promoting a circular economy for clothing and fabrics. Having cast our individual votes, we wait to hear the national results and will debate the shortlisted campaign/s further; later in the year.

At our March 4th meeting we will enjoy a creative session of 'Messy Pour' led by Yvonne, and on April 1st we will be treated to a demonstration by professional Chocolatier Sarah-Jane. Please note a change to the meeting start time - we will begin earlier - at 7.00 p.m. - at Playford Village Hall. Visitors welcome - please contact Emma at playfordwi@gmail.com

BINKY AND CO

Binky was quite sad that the pantomime season was over as he really enjoyed the panto. He especially approved of the booing and hissing of the "baddie" whether it be the Sheriff of Nottingham or the wicked stepmother. Binky loved joining in. In fact, Binky had always fancied himself as a thespian as he believed his voice had the right timbre and gravitas. (In fact, it was weak and pathetic).

He was determined to appear in one next year but realised he may be required to attend an audition and give a reading. However, he was buoyed up by attending the last GADS panto in Grundisburgh and decided they could do with a boost, and he was the man to provide it. (They didn't and he wasn't) ...but if I stop there, then there will be no story.

So, Binky applied. He did a great deal of preparation for the big day settling on Shakespeare and the great speech from Henry the Fifth. As far as singing went his tenor singing voice was similar to a young lad whose voice had broken early at primary school level and rose as far as a bass, warbling as a parched prisoner in a desert prison, but hopefully he would not be asked to sing.

The big day came for his audition and reading with the GADS leaders. "Now Binky" said the first of the panel of three

which included a director, an actor and a voice coach. "I will have to stop you there" said Binky "That is not my stage name." The panel looked stunned. They had never had anyone with a stage name before, "Really?" asked one panel member "Pray, please tell, we are so enthralled by your very presence" said one member who was a veteran of over thirty productions. "My stage name is Roc Hammer" said Binky proudly. The director fell of his chair. "Well," he said, "That's OK by us- now we would like you to sing us a song of your choosing." "Ah" said Binky "I don't sing." "Well, what do you do I wonder, perhaps you could read these lines from 'To Kill a Mockingbird'?"

"Ah" said Binky (Roc) "I would prefer to recite from Shakespeare" "Well we would prefer you to recite something we have chosen" said the director chappie. "I don't see why," said Binky. "Well, it's because I'm the director" said the very frustrated director "And what I say goes."

Binky flounced out. And he wasn't acting. He had a rethink. He thought he would try another village and Smotheringfield operatic and dramatic society (SODS) sounded promising. So, he applied and the response came very quickly with a date for the audition. He attended with high hopes. He started by telling them his stage name. The chairman of the society, Mrs Cynthia Calthorp-Jope-Smythe (she had been married three times but insisted on continuing with the three surnames for inheritance purposes only) laughed out loud "Oh how silly" she said" but we will have you anyway".

So, Binky went home rejoicing knowing he was now a member of the SillySODS.

BATTLE OF THE GENERATIONS

QUIZ

NIGHT

Sunday, 2nd March 2025

4-6PM Playford Village Hall

Test your knowledge across the ages! Two rounds each of Gen X, Gen Z, Baby Boomer, and Gen Alpha questions.

Bring the kids, rope in the parents, and see which generation comes out on top!

Sweet and savoury cream teas, plus hot and cold drinks, will be available—plus, some great prizes to be won in our raffle!

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07889907615 or email helencarlsonfieldsend@gmail.com

ALL WELCOME

9th March 2025

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Playford Village Hall

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CULPHO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Living as we do in an enduring rural setting farming is very much part of the landscape. Farmers face many challenges which are beyond their control which they generally graciously accept as part of the job.

Recently there has been much media coverage surrounding tax changes which will have a major impact on the succession planning of the farming industry. For many years I have been a volunteer for a charity named Farm Community Network (FCN) providing support

FCN has a similar remit as the well-known Samaritans. FCN operates a free 365day 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. telephone helpline .03000111999 This helpline is available to all the agricultural sectors including the allied industries. Volunteers all who have an agricultural background will answer the calls (no answer phone, pre recorded messages or annoying music!) The trained volunteer will listen to the caller and take appropriate action depending on the urgency of the situation.

This recent government announcement regarding succession joins the list of many other issues such as isolation, financial, the distress of animal diseases such as TB, Bird Flu and Blue Tongue, affecting the farmers well-being etc. which FCN has case workers to walk with and support individuals and families to hopefully conclude in a positive result. Farmers are a resilient breed and despite being ultra passionate they are also very vulnerable and deserve our support.

CULPHO MUSIC

The musical programme organised by Culpho Music in St Botolph's starts on Saturday March 22nd with the local group Shingle Street at 7.00 p.m. Tickets and more information from Chris Pearce contactable on cmp0601@hotmail.com / 07925251802. Chris has already organised several future events for 2025, please speak to her or visit www.culphomusic.uk.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

March 23rd	Evensong	@ 3.00 p.m.
March 26th	Holy Communion	@ 9.30 a.m.

Richard Garnham



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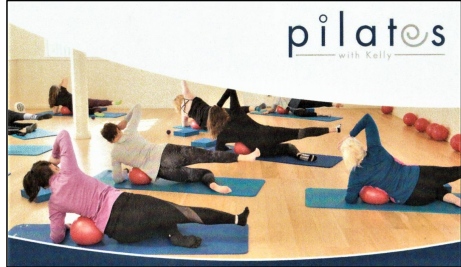
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APRIL 2025 NEWS

Contributions for the April 2025 News to be submitted by:

5.00 p.m. Tuesday, 18th March

The news will be ready for distribution by **Saturday, 29th March.**

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

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