

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

COVERING BATTISFORD, COMBS, LITTLE  
FINBOROUGH AND MOATS TYE

July 2026



## Our beautiful summer sky



### CONTENTS INCLUDING:

- Rural Coffee Caravan
- Mobile Library
- Mobile Post Office
- New waste collection
- Oaks Meadow Update
- Cricket Club News
- Battisford Village Hall hire
- Parish Council Updates
- Dates For Your Diary
- And Much More



The next Community Newsletter is due out in November 2026, with a deadline of Friday 23rd October for any articles, including Christmas events

We would love to hear your comments on the newsletter or suggestions for future editions.

If you have any comments, an article or photos you wish to be included or are interested in advertising your business, please get in touch

EMAIL: [COMMUNITYNEWSLETTER @BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:COMMUNITYNEWSLETTER@BTINTERNET.COM)

## Battisford Village Hall Solar Project

We are pleased to announce that Battisford Village Hall is now generating electricity! We have also had an emergency power supply battery system fitted, which will provide the Village Hall with a backup energy supply if there is a power cut. The installation was completed in early June in time to make the most of the summer sunshine!

Funding for the project was provided by Mid Suffolk District Council from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund and from a Community Development Grant. We would like to thank the grant teams for their excellent advice and efficiency. We would also like to thank all those who signed in support of the grant application.

If you would like to find out more about the project, or have ideas and thoughts you would like to share, please contact us at [battisfordvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:battisfordvhmc@gmail.com)

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WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE MORNING**



**Saturday 26th September**

**10:00am - 12:30pm**

**Battisford Village Hall - IP14 2HP**

**Donations of Cakes/Savouries are needed**

**Thank you**



**Contact: Marion Davey**

**Nutberry, Straight Road, Battisford  
Tel: 01449 613920 or 07957 585504**



**Please come along**

**All in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**



Would you like to help with the newsletter? We welcome volunteers for a range of tasks, including generating ideas, compiling articles, editing, managing advertisers, and organising printing and distribution. No prior experience is required—just an interest in the local community.

For more information, please contact [communitynewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:communitynewsletter@btinternet.com)

## Meet Tony

I'm Tony, an Independent Celebrant based in Battsford, specialising in Weddings, Renewal of Vows and Commitment Ceremonies. I trained with the Academy of Modern Celebrancy, a leading provider of celebrant training in the UK and Europe.

Before becoming a celebrant, I worked as an accountant for over 30 years. This no longer felt like the place where my heart belonged, so I started a chapter where I step fully into the work I love.

My wife and I chose to have an independent celebrant-led wedding ourselves, and the experience had a huge impact on me. Hearing our story told so personally, and seeing our guests feel truly involved, made me realise how powerful and memorable a ceremony can be. It inspired me to create that same experience for other couples.

My hobbies include amateur dramatics and singing. As an actor, director, producer and performer, I understand how to hold a room, tell a story and create emotional connection, skills that naturally shape the ceremonies I deliver.

I love creating unique, personal ceremonies from scratch because no two love stories are ever the same. I take time to really get to know each couple, their journey, humour, values, quirks and hopes for the future, so it feels authentic and completely theirs.

Planning a ceremony can feel overwhelming, especially for couples who don't connect with traditional formats. I guide calmly and clearly, helping couples feel heard, supported and confident throughout the process.

My mantra is: "Your story, your day, your way." Whether the vision is classic, modern, themed, spiritual, intimate or alternative, I'll create a ceremony that reflects the couple, without rules or expectations.

As an independent celebrant, I offer complete freedom of location, wording, structure and style, alongside reassurance, organisation and calm support on the day itself.

I hope you find my website informative, my services, who I am and how I work. If you'd like to know more, please feel free to get in touch via [www.tscelebrancy.co.uk](http://www.tscelebrancy.co.uk).

Tony  
TS Celebrancy



**If you're interested in contributing an article about your job, hobby, or any other interest for our next newsletter, please email [communitynewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:communitynewsletter@btinternet.com).**



## Battisford & District Cricket Club

It's great to see cricket being played and lots of youngsters coming along to training on Friday evenings. There is still time to come along and join in for the remainder of the season. We have senior men's and women and girls teams and junior teams too. It's great to see the community come down to watch when games are taking place and the venue and facilities are also available to hire. It's certainly got a big area to run around in.

We were very pleased to host our local businesses who have advertising boards around the ground if your business would like to advertise then please do get in touch it's only £200 for 2 seasons.

The club relies on volunteers and are always looking for people to help for example to staff the bar, particularly when games are taking place; to help with the juniors coaching and scoring etc when games are being held; and social media and other admin functions such as organising fixtures and fundraising. So if you have an hour or two to spare please do get in touch.

Finally you may have seen the coverage in the local media about the need to raise funds to replace the roller which at over 80 years old decided to break beyond repair in the middle of the square. New rollers are over £40,000 so we are settling for a reconditioned roller for about £10,000. Still a lot of money to raise. So far we have been very lucky to receive £1,000 from Combs Parish Council; £500 from Battisford Parish Council and £1,000 from District Cllr Dan Pratt for which we are extremely grateful. However we still have a long way to go and any donations large or small would be greatly appreciated.



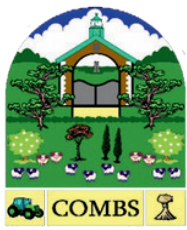
### Contact details

<https://battisforddistrict.play-cricket.com/>

X @BattisforDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

Or contact Julia Stephens-Row Administrator for BDCC on 07449310295



## Combs Parish Council Update

Dear Residents

I write this in the midst of our second heatwave so far in 2026. Weather-related records seem to be being broken every year, yet our infrastructure and housing wasn't designed for the extremes we are seeing. I think we'll all have to learn to cope with the challenges that this pattern is bringing with it.

I'm pleased to be able to report some visible and useful progress in the parish. First, road users will see that we've installed signage warning of the possibility of pedestrians in the road either side of Oaks Meadow. This stretch has no pavement and we hope that drivers will be reminded to drive attentively.

In addition, we were pleased to be able to fulfil Oaks Meadow's request to purchase three picnic tables for them. These were delivered on 16th June and include a smaller table for children and one that has been built to accommodate wheelchair access.

Over the coming months we'll be replacing some of our notice boards thanks to a generous grant secured for us by our former county councillor Kay Oakes. We will also be approaching (preferably) local contractors to obtain expressions of interest for extending the cemetery car park and improving the entrance to the church yard. If any readers are interested in undertaking this work, or know someone who might be, please do get in touch.

Lastly, you may recall that last year we touched on the subject of devising a Neighbourhood Plan but stepped back as the grants previously available to help fund the work had been discontinued. Well they may – may - have returned. We've reaffirmed our interest and will let you know what reply we obtain.

With best wishes

Tony Kitson

Chair, Combs Parish Council  
([cllr.t.kitson@combsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.t.kitson@combsparishcouncil.gov.uk))

## St Marys Battisford

As usual, our service pattern for July is Morning Prayer at 11.00am on 5th and Holy Communion at 11.15am on 12th, joining with Ringshall at 9.00am on 26th.



Just one service in August, Communion on 9th and then back to normal for 8th and 13th September and 4th and 11th October.

Morning prayer again at 11.00am on 1st November (All Souls Day) but Communion at 9.30am on 8th before the Service of Remembrance at the R.A.F./U.S.A.F. Memorial at Wear Rd Ringshall at 10.45 am.

St. Mary's, Battisford, is registered with "Caring for God's Acre," a conservation charity for Burial Grounds across the U.K. (of which there are 25,000 ) of all faiths and denominations. These range from "small medieval churchyards to huge Victorian city cemeteries, spanning many different cultures, religions and centuries." Such spaces appeal not only to wildlife- conservation enthusiasts, but also to local historians, encapsulating as they do clues to the varied stages of a community's history and reflections of social changes. It was Pope Gregory the Great (590 AD) who recommended churchyards as burial places, so that worshippers walking past graves to services, would remember the dead in their prayers. James I ( who played Real Tennis and golf) decreed, in 1619, in his "Book of Sports." that traditional churchyard games were to be encouraged. These included quoits, ninepins (but not "bowling"), wrestling, archery, dancing, Maypoles, fives using the church wall, "leaping, vaulting or other such harmless recreations." Everyone, however, must attend Divine Service first! Games were played on the north side of the church, leaving the south side for burials. Moots and markets are recorded in some churchyards, miracle plays and sacred dramas were performed in others and the formerly pagan Morris Dancers were permitted, though no longer relating in dance (at least not openly!) the fertility cult rituals of the past. All changed in the later 1600's. The Puritans banned any games or " idle frolics" and in 1643 King James' book was publicly burned by order of Parliament. The earliest known user of the term "God's Acre "was Revd. William Leigh at a funeral in Cheshire in 1605...."God's Acre, wherein do rest and are sown the bodies of God's saints till the joyful spring of their resurrection."( Cor.15 35-44).



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[www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk](http://www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk)



## Infinite Potential Fitness

We are your local private training space providing Small Group Personal Training, Hyrox and Bootcamp.

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**Beth & Sam**

📍 HQ, The Glovers Building, Combs Tannery, Tannery Road, Combs, Stowmarket IP14 2EN



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## OAKS MEADOW PROJECT CIO

Bildeston Road, Little Finborough, Stowmarket IP14 2LA

The Trustees would like to thank Combs Parish Council for donating three picnic tables to the meadow. These are in place ready for all those summer picnics.

There has been a lot of fun and learning with the Nature Explorers who enjoyed pond dipping, bug hunting, bird watching and nature crafts. The programme for the summer is: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June; Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July; Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July; Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August; and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August all at 11:00 – 1:00pm. Please book in advance at [oaksmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:oaksmeadow@gmail.com)  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6:30-8:30pm is a special evening of moths and bats.



### FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**BINGO** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Poplar Hill  
£10 per ticket includes a soup and roll supper, with a selection of cakes for afters and a book of bingo tickets. Bring your own drinks and nibbles to enjoy during the evening.

**APPLE PRESSING DAY** – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm  
Bring your apples from home to have them turned into apple juice. Don't forget to bring containers for the juice afterwards.

**HALLOWEEN EVENT** – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 5:00 – 7:00pm  
Dress to impress at a Halloween party. A spooky storyteller will have tales to tell.  
Free entry for all. Donations for food and drinks are appreciated.

All events will be announced on our Facebook page: Oaks Meadow Project.  
On the website: [www.oaksmeadow.org.uk](http://www.oaksmeadow.org.uk)  
By email to the Oaks Meadow Community. Email: [oaksmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:oaksmeadow@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the list.

We could always do with extra hands on a Friday morning with the Volunteer Group. Just turn up at 10:30, there will always be a choice of jobs that need doing!

Desiree Shelley  
Chair of Trustees



## Battisford Parish Council

[www.battisford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.battisford-pc.gov.uk)

The May meeting of Battisford Parish Council included both the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting. The former is an opportunity for residents and local organisations to receive the Chair's annual report, put forward views about the discharge of the responsibilities of the Council, and challenge any aspect of our work or financial management. It is also an opportunity for the Parish Council to receive reports from local organisations and groups, to better understand their challenges. Thanks to those who attended and submitted their annual updates.

The event also included the Annual Parish Council meeting where, amongst other mandatory items, Councillors elect the Chair and Vice-chair and complete formal declarations for their continuance in office. Thanks are extended to Jan Wilson, who stepped down from the Council after joining in 2020.

We do have a Councillor vacancy, so please feel free to contact me or the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

We are running the event differently next year, having the two annual meetings on separate dates to free up more time for the Annual Parish Meeting. We also hope to increase attendance by including items of interest to parishioners. If you have any suggestions for such items, please make contact.

We are conscious that one of the main issues for the Parish Council is the re-fresh or replacement of play equipment at the Village Green. Some of the equipment has a limited lifespan, requiring replacement within 2-3 years. We have asked some residents to support a working group that will, through community engagement over the next few months, explore issues such as; which equipment will be decommissioned, demand for new/replacement equipment, fund raising opportunities, and available grant funding. We are keen for a couple more residents to join the working party, so please contact the Parish Clerk if you can contribute (if it helps, the group meets at the Punchbowl.....).

Still with the play area, we are seeking a volunteer to help carry out regular inspections of the play equipment, reporting any issues to the Parish Clerk, carrying out small repairs and other simple maintenance. Training to undertake this role will be provided. To find out more please email the current volunteer Denis Wicking on [denis@wicking.me](mailto:denis@wicking.me) or phone 07796 336578

At our June meeting we agreed to explore the possibility of running a Community Speedwatch initiative. Although we are still at an early stage, a coordinator and volunteers would be sought to scope and run the scheme. Any proposals would be examined and approved by Suffolk Constabulary, with matters such as appropriate training, hi-viz clothing, and 'safe areas' for volunteers resolved. A formal process would be followed should a vehicle exceed the speed limit, which would be followed through by the police. Please contact the Parish Clerk should you have any comment or interest.

As reported in the last newsletter, a number of Cemetery headstones failed the annual test and were made safe. Whilst it is the responsibility of the owner of the memorial to reinstate the headstone, on this occasion the Parish Council completed the action. Thanks to those who assisted in this work.

The next few weeks will see the installation of two additional benches at the Village Green. Thanks are extended to those who provided the benches.

Jon Cook

Chair, Battisford Parish Council [joncook@battisford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:joncook@battisford-pc.gov.uk)



### **Mobile Post Office**

Outside the Punch Bowl  
Inn every Friday  
13.45—14.45

It provides all the  
facilities of a general  
post office



### **Ipswich Mobile Library**

Outside St Mary's Church, Church Rd,  
Battisford @ 11.35—11.55

every 4th Thursday

The next visits are

9<sup>th</sup> July

6<sup>th</sup> August

3<sup>rd</sup> September

1<sup>st</sup> October

29<sup>th</sup> October

Further details can be found on  
<https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries/>

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## Letter from the Rector at Combs and Little Finborough



It's hard to believe that we're almost half way through 2026.

As I write this letter the beginning of June has been wet and grey. Thinking back to the extreme heat we experienced last year and even in the last week of May this year, I think there's no doubt that global warming or climate change is definitely with us.

All seven churches in our benefice are surrounded by church yards which we have the privilege of continuing to care for. To that end it's important to be aware of the detrimental effects of climate change and to do all we can to protect those environments. We have introduced a number of initiatives across the benefice such as a dedicated wild flower area at Harleston to encourage pollinators to visit, and a designated wildlife area at Onehouse which we always leave unmanaged and includes wood piles and areas of bracken to encourage the natural world.

At Shelland bird boxes have been installed and the hedges aren't cut until the birds have finished nesting, we've also planted trees in the church yard. And Little Finborough has been awarded the A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award because of the progress it has made in becoming more environmentally aware and is now working towards a Silver award. These are just a few of the initiatives we've introduced.

Throughout the year we also have a number of services that celebrate the countryside such as Plough Sunday in January when we celebrate the work of our farming communities and bless the plough, Rogation Sunday held in May when we ask for God's blessing on the crops and then of course Harvest Festivals in September when we give thanks for the safe gathering in of the harvest.

So, despite the continual changes to our climate, we will carry on maintaining our church yards in the most environmentally friendly ways we can so that they are there for everyone to appreciate.

With blessings  
Revd Sarah

**Strawberry Fayre**

**Saturday, 11th July 2026,  
2pm to 4pm**  
**Rectory garden,  
135 Poplar Hill, Combs Ford**

Strawberry cream teas, cakes,  
raffle, tombola, games,  
plant and book sale

Entertainment throughout the afternoon  
from musical duo 'Jane and Jill'

Proceeds for St. Mary's Church, Combs



Combs Green IP14 2NP  
from 10am – 12 noon  
on the 2nd Thursday of each  
month

Next visits are  
9<sup>th</sup> July  
13<sup>th</sup> August  
10<sup>th</sup> September  
8<sup>th</sup> October  
12<sup>th</sup> November  
10<sup>th</sup> December

At the Rural Coffee Caravan we know that isolation doesn't have to mean loneliness. To ward off loneliness people of all ages need connection. We would like to offer you the opportunity for a catch up with your neighbours! Simply come for some company and we'll put the kettle on for you, providing free tea, coffee, biscuits or cake, and plenty of cheer. Or come and chat with us to see if there are any concerns we might be able to help you find answers to. We have access to a raft of information on local activities, services and organisations to help you stay happy, healthy, independent at home, and more connected to others in your area. All Welcome! We look forward to seeing you.

For further info, visit our website  
[www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](http://www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)  
or call 01284 663472

## Battisford & District Gardening Club



The Summer is heating up and gardens will either need care to avoid dying in drought or constant trimming as they grow so fast.

We have our last meeting in July before a break for August and return in September for the start of our Autumn/Winter schedule. All meetings are held in the Battisford Village Hall and start at 7.30pm, unless stated otherwise.

### **Final Summer talk**

6 July : Ruth Goudy : How to plan a beautiful border.

### **Autumn Winter**

7 Sept : The Fascination of Fungi. Tony Brown.

5 Oct : AGM and Japanese Gardens talk by Neil Dickinson.

2 Nov : Hellebores talk by popular local Chris Wiley.

28 Nov : Wreath making at 10am start. email [caroline@wicking.me](mailto:caroline@wicking.me) for booking

7 Dec : Christmas Quiz. Cricket Club. 7pm start

For more details see the website [battisfordgardeningclub.org.uk](http://battisfordgardeningclub.org.uk), or drop me a message [denis@wicking.me](mailto:denis@wicking.me)

Happy gardening  
Denis

# Battisford Village Hall



Battisford Village Hall  
Straight Road  
Battisford  
Suffolk IP14 2HP

01449 674852

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

## Monday Teas

### at the Punch Bowl Inn Battisford

Everyone is welcome to come along on the second Monday of every month to enjoy hot drinks and delicious savoury and sweet home-made treats. We meet from 3.00 p.m. until around 4.00 p.m. No need to book, just come along.

A small donation towards costs is optional. We look forward to welcoming you soon.



## Clubs

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**07594 667018**

## Summer at The Punch Bowl Inn Battisford

What a fantastic start to the summer we've had at The Punch Bowl! First, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support your community pub. Whether you're volunteering time, popping in for a pint, attending events or simply spreading the word, you're helping to keep this wonderful place thriving.

🌸 A Blooming Marvellous Welcome 🌸

If you've visited recently, you'll have noticed how lovely the front of the pub is looking. A massive thank you goes to Alison Card, whose hard work and dedication to the flower displays has created such a beautiful welcome for customers and visitors alike.

We'd also like to thank John Phillips for his incredibly generous donation of brand-new benches. Together, the flowers and seating have transformed our outdoor space and really set us up for a busy summer season. We couldn't be more grateful.

🍷 August Bank Holiday Beer Festival 🍷

Our next big event is just around the corner and we can't wait! Join us over the August Bank Holiday weekend for another fantastic Beer Festival packed with great drinks, delicious food and brilliant entertainment.

🎵 Live music every day

🍔 Street food menu

🍷 A fantastic range of ales and ciders

🍸 Gins, cocktails and festival specials

🎉 Great company and a brilliant community atmosphere

Whether you're a real ale enthusiast, a cocktail lover or simply fancy spending a few lazy days with friends and family, there'll be something for everyone.

🚩 Volunteers Needed!

Events like this simply couldn't happen without our wonderful volunteers. We're looking for people to help behind the festival bar and with collecting glasses throughout the weekend. Even a couple of hours of your time can make a huge difference and it's a fantastic way to be part of the action.

If you'd like to get involved, please pop into the pub and register your interest.

🍷 Sponsor a Barrel (or a Cocktail!)

We're also looking for festival sponsors. For £80, you can sponsor a beer barrel, cider, gin or cocktail offering. Whether you're a local business, a regular customer or simply someone who loves what The Punch Bowl stands for, we'd love your support.

💙 Staff News 💙

This summer we're saying goodbye (for now!) to our wonderful Bar Supervisor, Yaz, who is heading off to Camp America for an exciting summer adventure. Yaz has been a huge part of The Punch Bowl team and we're going to miss her smiling face, hard work and enthusiasm over the coming months. We're incredibly proud of her and can't wait to hear all about her adventures when she returns.

We'd also like to say a huge congratulations to Evie, who has secured a position as a Trainee Nurse. We're absolutely delighted for her and know she'll be amazing in her new role. Everyone at The Punch Bowl wishes her every success.

🍷 Thank You 🍷

The Punch Bowl continues to be powered by its community, and every success we enjoy is thanks to the people who support it. Here's to a fantastic summer, a brilliant Beer Festival and many more great memories together. We look forward to seeing you all at the bar soon!

The Punch Bowl Team

# Warmer Homes, Stronger Communities



REACH is Mid Suffolk District Council's new service supporting residents and communities to make homes and buildings warmer, more energy-efficient, and cheaper to run. We provide independent, trusted advice, guidance, and signposting – tailored to you.

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### Support with funding and signposting

- Information on grants and schemes
- Help understanding what you may be eligible for and referrals onto services

## Get in touch with us to find out more:



[REACH.team@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:REACH.team@midsuffolk.gov.uk)



0300 123 4000 then option 7

Look out for REACH at events across Mid Suffolk – we'll be visiting communities throughout the year.



**01449 774900**  
[www.stowmarketbathrooms.co.uk](http://www.stowmarketbathrooms.co.uk)



## New Trade Showroom is Open to All

“In 2025, we made the decision to replace our trade counter with a new showroom featuring a more basic, low cost bathroom range to complement our existing displays.

We will continue to stock a wide choice of plumbing spares as part of our ongoing commitment to provide essential products and support.”  
*Sean Plaskitt, Showroom Manager*

## Fully Independent Bathroom and Kitchen Specialists

**Please come and visit us**  
**We are open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm**  
**3 Mill Street, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5BJ**

## Events for Little Finborough Church

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the amazing success of the PLANT SALE in May. The number of people attending was exciting and we were delighted with the success as both a social and fund-raising event. The dedication of all who grew the plants and donated them to be sold, those who made the refreshments, prepared for the sale, cleared up afterwards or helped in any way at all is much appreciated.

The social activities at the church are having a summer break, so no special events are planned for July and August.

Our next events will be in September, with AFTERNOON TEAS on 19th September. This will be followed by our traditional HARVEST FESTIVAL on 20th September, where we will celebrate and give thanks to God for his bounty and recognise the dedication of all those who work so hard on farms and in gardens to provide our food. Please come along to support our communities and church.

Please keep your eyes open for more details of these events.

Our regular summer church services will continue. Holy Communion is on the first Sunday of each month at 9am, and is a lovely way to start a summer Sunday. Evensong, on the third Sunday at 6pm, is the perfect end to a summer's day.

Everyone is invited to join us; you will be most welcome!

Have a super summer!



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**Zumba with  
Grace**



**Battisford Village Hall**

Monday 6:30-7:30pm

Class cost £6

Pay on door, no need to book

Everyone is welcome

Suitable for all!

Email: [dancer.graceh@gmail.com](mailto:dancer.graceh@gmail.com)  
Text or Call: 07368493998



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## Free Events At Battisford Village Hall

Knitting & Crochet Group. First Tuesday of the month. 10am to midday.  
Toasty Tuesdays; restart in October on the 3rd Tuesday of the month 1pm to 3pm.

Keep an eye out on the Village noticeboards for new events.

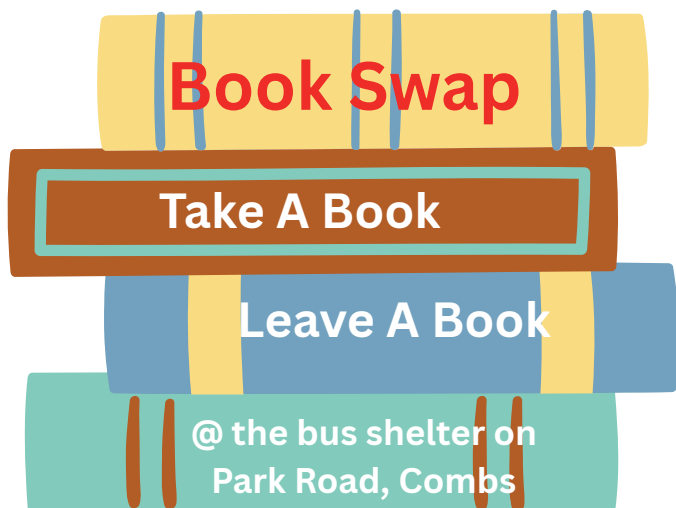
Have you got an idea for a group or an event you would like to run at Battisford Village Hall? We are trialing Community Tuesdays which are two hour slots at the Village Hall on Tuesdays for community events of your choice. These events will be run by you, (the residents of Combs, Battisford, Moats Tye and Little Finborough) and will be for local people to attend free of charge.

Sessions can be weekly, monthly or even just a one off. Some ideas include toddler groups, crafting groups, boardgaming or dance sessions. The Village Hall has its own carpet bowls and table tennis equipment that groups could make use of. Any ideas will be considered, as long as they meet the criteria below:

- Be free to attend for anyone from Combs, Battisford, Moats Tye or Little Finborough (There will be an opportunity for those attending to give a voluntary contribution to the Village Hall if they wish);
- Comply with all Village Hall Policies, licences and insurance requirements;
- Not be of a political, religious or contentious nature;
- Not be motivated by personal financial gain;
- Events will be held at the discretion of the Village Hall Management Committee and their decision will be final.

If you have an idea for an event you would like to run, please contact us at [battisfordvhmc@gmail.com](mailto:battisfordvhmc@gmail.com) or message 07731 897790

**We hope you're enjoying our book swap. Please avoid leaving additional boxes, as they occupy valuable seating space.**



## Nature-based Traditional Skills at Orchard Barn

Orchard Barn is a small community project rooted in gardening, nature connection and environmental education. Over the last 18 years volunteers have helped restore the historic barn, reinstate a 1580 timber frame long house, and create spaces in the old orchard for people to learn, grow and make together.

This July we warmly invite local people to come and get involved.

On Saturday 18th July we are holding:

- Orchard volunteer working party, 10am–1pm

Help care for the orchard and wildlife spaces in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

OR

- Nettle String Workshop, 10.30am–12.30pm

Learn how to transform foraged nettles into surprisingly soft and beautiful cordage using ancient techniques. No experience needed and families welcome.

To book or find out more:

Drop in 10-12 any Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning. Orchard Barn is on Bildeston Road, Ringshall, IP14 2LY (nearer Mill Road, Battisford)

[sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com)

[www.orchardbarn.org.uk](http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk)

# B. SHARPE PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

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## Mid Suffolk District Council - New Waste Collection Bins

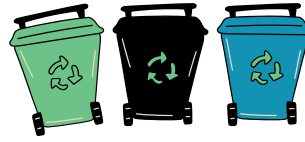
Households are now provided with four collection services as standard:

a weekly food waste collection,

a three-weekly refuse (general rubbish)

a three-weekly paper and card collection

a three-weekly recycling collection for glass, plastics, metal, & cartons



### The following items can now be put into the blue-lidded recycling bin:

glass bottles and jars

cartons (Tetra Pak), such as milk and drink cartons

plastic carrier bags

plastic wrappings, including those used around multipacks

plastic films, for example, those found on the top of fruit punnets and meat trays

food bags, such as ones used for cereal, pasta, mixed salad, frozen chips and veg

bubble wrap

### The green-lidded bin is for paper and card

Collecting paper and card separately from items like glass and plastics prevents damage and contamination. This separation allows for more effective recycling and higher resale value. Food-contaminated card, such as the cardboard disc inside the box of a shop-bought pizza, should be disposed of in the general rubbish bin.

### Food caddies

You should have received two food waste caddies.

The smaller caddy is to store your food waste inside the home. The food waste can then be transferred to the larger caddy, kept outside and used for collection.

Whilst you don't have to line the caddy, doing so will keep the caddy cleaner and will be easier to transfer the food waste to the larger caddy. Compostable liners can be purchased from supermarkets. Alternatively, you can use:

- other carrier or plastic bags and liners
- food bags (e.g. an old bread bag)
- or wrap food in newspaper or kitchen roll

You must not use black rubbish bags.

#### Accepted

Leftovers

Veg & fruit peelings and cores

Egg shells

Coffee grounds and teabags

Meat & fish inc bones (cooked or uncooked)

Out of date or mouldy food

Wet or dry pet food



#### Not Accepted

Any packaging

Oil or any liquid fat

Milk and other liquids



Collection dates and more information can be found on  
[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/changes-to-bin-collections](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/changes-to-bin-collections)

# CHIMNEY SWEEP

## ECO SWEEP CHIMNEY SERVICES

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## Rural Domestic Services

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SHOPPING - HOME HELP

For more information please call  
Sacha on 07786 932583

## Key Contacts

### Buses

Suffolk Taxi Bus - call 01449 866899  
or go to [swifttaxicabs.com](http://swifttaxicabs.com)

Hadleigh Community Transport Group  
(accessible transport) - 01473 826242

### Parish Council Chairmen

Battisford - Jon Cook 07592 775059

Combs - Tony Kitson 07711 380597

Lt Finborough - Paul Marriage 01449 612815

### District Councillors

Battisford - Dan Pratt 01473 658398

Combs - John Matthissen 01449 258894

### County Councillor

Matt Bentley

[matt.bentley@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:matt.bentley@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Doctors' Surgeries

Bildeston Health Centre 01449 720254

Combs Ford Surgery 01449 678333

Needham Market Practice 01449 720666

Stowmarket Violet Hill 01449 776000

### Advice

Citizens Advice 0800 144 8848

Samaritans 116 123

Age UK 0800 678 1602

MIND 0300 123 3393

**111 (NHS 111)** – A non-emergency medical advice line for situations that require urgent guidance but are not life-threatening.

### 101 – The non-emergency police number

Call 101 to report crimes that are not in progress, suspicious activity, or to contact your local police for advice. This helps keep 999 lines free for genuine emergencies

# PURE

## FLOORING - BEDS - HOME

Have you visited our showroom yet?

Come and visit us at Combs Tannery and see what we have to offer.

We have an extensive range of carpets, vinyl & luxury vinyl tiles. Unable to make it? Don't worry, we can also come to you, with our at home estimating and planning service.



NEW FOR 2026!!

We are increasing our home and giftware selection! Throughout the year we will be adding locally sourced crafts and gifts, to compliment our existing collection of scented candles, DCUK ducks and natural blankets

Need a new bed or mattress?

We are extending our mattress and bed collection with names like Julian Bowen and Durabeds.

High sleepers, Divans, Ottoman bases, Wooden and metal frames, we can offer them all.



To book an appointment call us on: 01449 257077  
Combs Tannery, Tannery Road, Combs, IP14 2EN  
Email; [sales@pureflooring.co.uk](mailto:sales@pureflooring.co.uk)



## Dates for your diary

Further details can be found inside this newsletter

### Event

Date		Event
Every Monday		Zumba Classes at Battsiford Village Hall
Every Wednesday		Snooker Club at Battsiford Village Hall
Every Thursday		Yoga at Battsiford Village Hall
Every Friday		Mobile Post Office outside the Punch Bowl
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday		Combs Parish Council meeting (except August)
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday		Battsiford Parish Council meeting (except August)
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday		Dolly's Pizza Truck outside the Punch Bowl
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday		Monday Teas at the Punch Bowl
Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday		Knitting & Crochet Group at Battsiford Village Hall
<b>July</b>		
Monday 6th		Gardening Club - How To Plan A Beautiful Border
Thursday 9th		Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green
Thursday 9th		Mobile Library
Saturday 11th		Strawberry Fayre, in the Rectory garden, 135 Poplar Hill
Friday 17th		Nature Explorers at Oaks Meadow
Saturday 18th		Orchard Barn volunteer working party
Saturday 18th		Orchard Barn - Nettle string workshop
Sunday 26th		Nature Explorers at Oaks Meadow
<b>August</b>		
Thursday 6th		Mobile Library
Friday 7th		Nature Explorers at Oaks Meadow
Thursday 13th		Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green
Sunday 16th		Nature Explorers at Oaks Meadow
Bank Holiday Weekend		Beer Festival @ The Punch Bowl Inn
<b>Sept</b>		
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Mobile Library
Monday 7th		Gardening Club - The Fascination of Fungi
Thursday 10th		Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green
Saturday 12th		Moths & Bats evening at Oaks Meadow
Saturday 19th		Afternoon Tea at Little Finborough Church
Sunday 20th		Harvest Festival at Little Finborough Church
Sunday 20th		Apple Pressing at Oaks Meadow
Saturday 26th		Bingo at St Mary's Church Hall, Poplar Hill (Oaks Meadow)
Saturday 26th		Macmillan Coffee Morning at Battsiford Village Hall
<b>Oct</b>		
Thursday 1st		Mobile Library
Monday 5th		Gardening Club AGM & Japanese Gardens talk
Thursday 8th		Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Deadline for contributions to next newsletter
Wednesday 28th		Halloween Event at Oaks Meadow
<b>Nov</b>		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Gardening Club - Hellebores talk by Chris Wiley
Thursday 12th		Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green
Saturday 28th		Gardening Club - Wreath Making