

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

COVERING BATTISFORD, COMBS, LITTLE
FINBOROUGH AND MOATS TYE

July 2025



Suffolk Show Prize Winners

Stowmarket flower club entry for the Suffolk Show entitled “It’s Show Time”. The exhibit had to be a named musical. Kim Denny and Julie Head who live locally decided to portray “Mary Poppins”. All the exhibits in this class were amazing and we were lucky enough to come second! We were very pleased with the result.



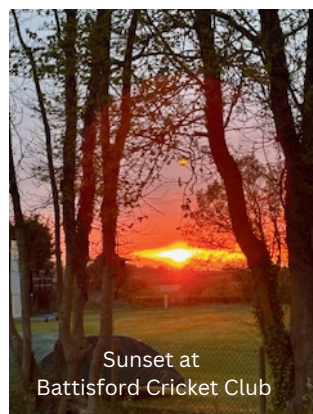
CONTENTS INCLUDING:

- Local Government Surveys
- Mobile Post Office
- Mobile Library
- Rural Coffee Caravan
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Loft Insulation Offer
- Oaks Meadow Update
- Cricket Club News
- Battisford Village Hall hire
- Parish Council Updates
- Bus Times
- Dates For Your Diary
- And Much More



March Litter Pick

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the litter pick across both Battisford & Combs. We collected an amazing amount of discarded bottles and food wrappers from our verges - look out for details of our next one on the notice boards



Sunset at
Battisford Cricket Club



A snapshot of the longest
day....



Beautiful fun in Moats Tye!

The next Community Newsletter is due out early November 2025, with a deadline of Friday 24th October for any articles.

If you have any comments, an article or photos you wish to be included in the next newsletter or are interested in advertising, please get in touch
communitynewsletter@btinternet.com

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



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
10th July; 7th August; 4th September;
2nd October and 27th November

Further details can be found on
suffolklibraries.co.uk

St Mary's Combs "Friends" Launch Event

The Friends Launch event took place on 7th of June. The concept of the "Friends of the Church" is to gather together people who are keen to support the church building as a cherished and integral part of the Village infrastructure.

Despite the storms, it was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

Thanks are due to those who made the evening such a success: All the Musicians; Roy Tricker who gave an amusing and entertaining account of the highlights of the church building itself, and to Ian Angus who spoke about the work of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

The fabulous refreshments also need a mention!

In excess of 80 people attended of which 22 enlisted as "Friends of St Mary's".
The 'Friends of St Mary's Church Combs' has truly been launched.



Let's shape the future of Suffolk **together**

How could public services work better for you?

Local government in Suffolk is changing. All county, district and borough councils are being replaced with 'unitary' councils responsible for delivering all services.

Suffolk's district and borough councils are working together on an ambitious proposal for two or three unitary councils delivering services to different parts of the county. We believe these will meet the differing needs of our diverse communities - councils that are big enough to deliver, local enough to care.

But what do **YOU** think?

We want to hear the views of residents, businesses, organisations and communities. These major changes will be shaped by your needs.

Please provide your feedback by scanning the QR code, visit: www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr, or call Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils on 0300 1234000 if you need a paper copy of the survey.

We will carefully consider all your responses before putting forward a final proposal to the government in September.



Local government in Suffolk is changing. All county, district and borough councils are being replaced with 'unitary' councils, which will be responsible for delivering all services.

Suffolk's district and borough councils are working together on an ambitious proposal for two or three unitary councils which will deliver services to different parts of the county.

We believe these will meet the differing needs of our diverse communities - councils that are big enough to deliver, local enough to care - rather than the alternative option of a single "mega-council" covering all of Suffolk, which we believe would be too large to work effectively and too remote for local residents to be heard,

Have your say

We want to hear the views of residents, businesses, organisations and communities.

Please provide your feedback via our online survey by scanning the QR code above or visiting www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr The survey is open until the 25th July 2025.

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling Mid Suffolk District Council on 0300 1234000



Oaks Meadow Project

Swings have arrived in time for those sunny summer days. As have some very hungry caterpillars on our apple trees. Thankfully they are only eating the leaves, the fruits seem to be surviving, only time will tell if we have an apple harvest this year.

Sunday August 3rd 4 – 6 pm There will be a Teddy Bears Picnic on the meadow with lots of fun, Teddy related activities, see the poster for details.

Summer holidays we will be running some bug hunting sessions with our very own Field Teacher. Pond dipping will be added once we have secured funding for the pond platform and equipment.

September we will be holding a Bingo Night to raise funds for the running costs of the meadow. As we do not have an income source this is essential to keep the meadow free and open to everyone.

Cider Making Day when the apples are ready to harvest there will be an apple press available for you to bring your apples and have them pressed ready to take home and make your own cider (or just apple juice if you prefer).

Dogs – while dogs on leads are welcome to the meadow there have been occasions recently when dogs have been off the lead and running around unsupervised. There are signs up to keep them on a lead and to pick up after them. In some circumstances neither has been observed. The reason for this rule is to protect all the wildlife and that includes the pond. Secondly, not all children are confident around dogs and can be scared if a dog runs up to them. Please help to make this a green space for everyone to enjoy.

Trustees – Ian Clark was a founding member of Oaks Meadow Project and an original Trustee. He has now decided to step down as a Trustee, but will continue to volunteer and support the project. This means that we now have a vacancy and would welcome interest from anyone who would like to know more about the position.

Email : oaksmeadow@gmail.com



Smarter. Simpler. Better. **ONE SUFFOLK.**



The Government is asking councils in Suffolk to simplify. Suffolk County Council is proposing a new single council which will be responsible for delivering both county-wide and local services .

Why this matters

A SINGLE COUNCIL MEANS:

Simpler and better services, which are easier to contact and understand
Clear accountability, no more confusion about who does what
Safer, more joined-up services
Stronger local voice for communities
Better leadership for Suffolk
Greater value for money
Keeping council tax as low as possible

MORE THAN ONE COUNCIL MEANS:

More cost to set up (up to £150 million)
Up to £3 million more expensive than our current model, YEARLY
A postcode lottery for essential services

Have your say

We're working with residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups and local councils to choose the best future for Suffolk. The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at <https://onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk/residents-survey>, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey. People can also visit any of Suffolk's 45 libraries to complete the survey online. The survey asks questions about local democracy - such as how you raise issues that need addressing, local decision making - such as how you might want to get involved and about the specifics of council reorganisation itself. The survey is open until 4 August 2025.

onesuffolkcouncil.co.uk

Learn more



Battisford Parish Council

www.battisford-pc.gov.uk
clerk@battisford-pc.gov.uk



Our first litter pick took place on Saturday 22 March and it was gratifying to welcome a record number of volunteers. Thanks are extended to all those who assisted, particularly the younger residents. The volume of litter collected was certainly less than in previous years, thanks no doubt to those individuals who litter-pick on a regular basis (thank you!). Following a request from residents, we hope to extend the next litter pick to include the Hascot Hill area.

With the annual inspection of the Village Green and play area to assist us in directing our activities, a number of volunteers spent time in late April cleaning and improving the play area apparatus and completing remedial actions. There is more work to complete, which we hope to action towards the end of the summer period- details will be circulated in due course and, once again, volunteers are always welcome.

During May we held the Annual Parish meeting that was well-supported by a number of our local groups, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting. This meeting sees the election (or re-election) of your Parish Councillors, who I am pleased to now confirm as:

- Alison Card
 - Jon Cook
 - Lucy Durrant
 - Steve Greenwood
 - Jane Pope
 - Jan Wilson
 - vacancy
- very ably supported by our Clerk, Julia Stephens-Row

We are always pleased to hear from residents, so if there's anything you wish to raise, you're very welcome to attend the monthly meetings, or contact any of us directly.

At the Annual Parish meeting, we asked attendees their views on how the Parish Council could better communicate with residents in a timely manner. This is an issue we are pursuing, looking at how other Councils communicate with their communities, and seeking inspiration from across Suffolk. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me or the Clerk to discuss (contact details below).

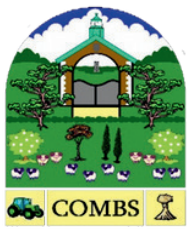
Devolution is progressing, with proposals being shaped by your County and District Councils- further information is contained within this newsletter, so please take the time to read the article and make your views known through the current public consultations.

I mentioned in my last report that the possibility of implementing 20mph limits within certain areas of Battisford and Battisford Tye had been raised at a Parish Council meeting. As promised, we investigated further with Suffolk County Highways. Following perusal of the County Council's extant policy, it quickly became apparent that neither Battisford or Battisford Tye met the criteria for 20mph limits. I would just like to register thanks to those residents who contacted us to advise of their views on the proposal.

Enjoy the Summer!

Jon Cook
Chairman, Battisford Parish Council joncook@battisford-pc.gov.uk
07592 775059

Julia Stephens-Row
Clerk, Battisford Parish Council clerk@battisford-pc.gov.uk
07864 742341



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents of Combs

A short message from me this month, touching on three subjects.

First, over the course of the next few months and into next year you'll be seeing Combs being spruced up. This is largely in part due to resident Anna James's team who have secured a £5,000 'Pride in Your Place' grant from the District Council. I shan't spoil the surprises they have in store – but I'm sure you'll be pleased.

Second, an apology. We had intended to write out to all residents with further information on the Neighbourhood Plan I mentioned back in March. We've been delayed, not least in part due to some questionable data we've been provided with. I am sorry – we will be picking it up once we're sure of our ground.

Finally, you should have received a 'Shaping Suffolk Together' card. This highlights the plans to replace the county and district councils in Suffolk with unitary authorities. Please do have your say as to what this should look like – for example, you may think that it would be beneficial if powers were not simply hoovered upward but that some be devolved down to local communities. What do you think?

With my best wishes,

Tony Kitson
Chairman, Combs Parish Council
Email: combsparishcouncil@gmail.com



A request to all walkers and runners



We have lots of lovely off road walks and pathways around our villages which are very popular especially with our furry friends and their human companions.

It's inevitable that the footpath signs get damaged over time and we would like to encourage everyone to report any damaged or missing footpath signs to Suffolk County Council. A photo would be very helpful!

It's easy to report online at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-issue>



STRETCH IN THE SUN

STRETCH IN THE SUN
Classes at Oaks Meadow in Combs this Summer.

These classes will be at 9am
Saturday June 28th
Saturday July 26th
Sunday August 31st

Classes are £6 per head, a percentage will be donated to the continued development and ongoing projects at the Meadow.

Bring a mat or enjoy the grass under your feet - Improve your flexibility, balance and coordination.

Toilet and parking available on site.

To book please Email Charlie at:
fitlife66nutrition@gmail.com or find me on Facebook @Fitlife66

New Taxibus service from Battisford and Combs into Stowmarket, Needham Market & Wattisham



TB01 Wattisham – Launches Friday 11th July!
More exciting news – our Route TB01 to Wattisham is launching Friday 11th July, running Fridays only to start with. Keep an eye out for new Taxi Bus stop signage appearing near you soon! Again, if this route sees strong uptake, we'll aim to expand its availability – so make sure to spread the word! Visit www.suffolktaxibus.com for more information



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 4-6PM

FREE ENTRY!

BRING A PICNIC AND A BEAR
AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

CAKE STALL * FACE-PAINTING
STONE PAINTING
TEDDY BEAR BISCUIT DECORATING
TEDDY TOMBOLA * LARGE PLAY AREA

OAKS MEADOW

Bildeston Rd, Little Finborough (cum Combs) IP14 2AL

DOGS STRICTLY ON LEADS PLEASE



Do you need help with:

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Companionship

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01449 678000



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Contact us below now. We would love to help.

Beth & Sam



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



Winners in 2023 & 2024

info@infinitepotentialfitness.com



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Pride in your Place - We've been Successful!

Combs has been awarded £5000 by MSDC to make the following improvements to the village we are pleased to call home:

- * Spring bulb planting in various locations around the village
- * White picket gates to enhance the entrance to the village
- * Signboard showing footpaths, benches, amenities, historic interest
- * picnic table and bench on Moats Tye / Tannery Road triangle

The gates, picnic table and signboard have all been ordered and should be installed over August / September. The bulbs will be planted in October ready to bloom in springtime!





Battisford & District Cricket Club

Battisford and District Cricket Club are very keen to recruit new players. The season doesn't end until mid September so plenty of time to get involved.

We have two senior teams and T20 side, a ladies team and this year we are running 5 junior teams. We hold coaching for juniors on a Friday night.

We were fortunate that the Saturday team and the Sunday team were both promoted last year and we are getting very good feedback about our facilities and the hospitality that we provide. Performance on the field is generally positive and our ladies team are currently sitting top of their league. Our juniors have been playing some competitive games and really enjoying themselves as demonstrated in the photos below. One of our juniors Mia Doughty-Card achieved a hat trick 3 wickets in 3 consecutive balls which is a remarkable achievement.

The weather has certainly helped in ensuring that the ground is looking exceptionally good. We hold approx 60 senior fixtures here each year and the bar is open so do pop along to watch the games. The club is also available for hire and we hold social events during the year

We have had recognition of two players by Suffolk Cricket . Performance of the month was awarded to Eloise Long by Andrew Blanchard from Suffolk Cricket for her contribution to coaching, her bowling and joint captaincy of the ladies team and taking 5 wickets in the seniors Sunday League game at Earl Stonham. Also one of our juniors Mia Doughty-Card was also awarded a performance of the month for her contribution to the Sunday side seniors game against Nowton in May. Mia who is nearly 14 took two wickets and it's fantastic that her overall participation in the game has been celebrated. For both players and coming from such a small club these achievements are very significant.

The club is all run by volunteers. Our current membership is approx 150. We are at heart, a family friendly club and we want to inspire youngsters to take up the game. Last week at junior coaching we had over 35 youngsters and their parents attending so come along and join in on the fun . The sunsets are amazing too.

For more information please use any of the methods below

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

X @BattisforDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

Or contact Julia Stephens-Row Administrator for BDCC on 07449310295



The Punch Bowl Community Inn

The Punch Bowl Inn's Legendary Beer, Cider & Gin Festival Returns This August Bank Holiday! 🎉

Hello lovely villagers! We're back with exciting news from your local – The Punch Bowl Inn – as we look ahead to our biggest weekend of the year: the Beer, Cider & Gin Festival, taking place 22nd to 25th August over the bank holiday weekend!

This is the event we look forward to all year – a celebration of community spirit, great drinks, delicious food, and fantastic live music. We're thrilled to confirm performances from the brilliant Adam Thomas and the sensational Amber Sinclair, with more acts and set times to be announced soon. 🎵

We're also unveiling our NEW street food menu, crafted to pair perfectly with our huge selection of ales, ciders and our 30-strong gin bar. From local favourites to quirky small-batch finds, there's something for every tastebud. Whether you're a beer connoisseur, cider enthusiast or a G&T aficionado, you'll be in good company.

Following the brilliant success of our May Beer Festival – which saw the smashing debut of our rum bar – we want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who made it happen. From our wonderful sponsors, volunteers, and performers, to those who simply showed up and supported us with a pint in hand – we do this for you, and we couldn't do it without you! 🍻

A special shoutout to our small team of workers and unsung volunteer warriors, who battle the daily demands of the pub without complaint – unblocking toilets, fixing dishwashers, repairing equipment and generally keeping the place ship-shape. Your grit and graft behind the scenes never goes unnoticed, and we are endlessly grateful. 🙌

We are so grateful to our anonymous donors – you know who you are – and the fabulous Afternoon Tea Gang for your fundraising efforts. Huge thanks to all the trades and volunteers involved with the toilet refurb and to Graham and Alison Card for their brilliant project management. You've truly helped keep the heart of our village pumping and brought our long-awaited upgrades to life.

As we plan for August, we'd love for you to get involved! Whether it's sponsoring a keg or volunteering behind the 'Fezi Bar', every little helps keep the magic going. Keep an eye on our socials for updates on how you can pitch in.

Times are still tough for pubs like ours – every week we hear of more beloved locals closing their doors for good. But with your ongoing support, we can make sure that doesn't happen here. This festival is about more than drinks and dancing – it's a celebration of what makes Battsford so special.

So pop the dates in your diary: 22–25 August, and get ready to raise a glass with us once again. Let's make it another one to remember.

With love and pints,
The Punch Bowl Inn, Battsford 🍻❤️

Follow us on:

Facebook: Punch Bowl Battsford Community Inn

Instagram: @the_punchbowlinn





Saturday 27th 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 613920/07957 585504

Please come along

Hadleigh Community Transport Group

462 bus to Stowmarket each Tuesday and Friday excluding bank holidays. A minibus service that runs to a time table, so no need to pre-book. Below is an extract of the timetable, more information available on their website <https://bustimes.org/operators/hadleigh-community-transport>

Departs

- Battisford Punch Bowl 1018
- Little Finborough Moat Farm 1022
- Combs, Queens Close 1024
- Combs, Bus Shelter 1025

Arrives Stowmarket Argos 1033

Departs Stowmarket

Bury Street Card Centre 1240

Arrives

- Combs, opp Bus Shelter 1248
- Combs. opp Queens Close 1250
- Little Finborough Moat Farm 1252
- Battisford Punch Bowl 1254

Bus passes accepted. Cash fares paid to the driver on boarding. Call for more info 01473 826242 or see website <https://bustimes.org/operators/hadleigh-community-transport>

St. Mary's Battisford

We have our usual two services each month, except in August when there is just a service of Holy Communion on the second Sunday.

July 6th Morning prayer (with the theme "Worship Beyond Walls" for Youth Sunday).

July 13th Holy Communion (at which we welcome Revd. Sarah Jenkins to officiate).

August 10th Holy Communion.

September 7th Morning Prayer.

September 14th Holy Communion.

A timely reminder that 21st September is United Nations Day of Peace, when prayers will be especially for peacemakers everywhere.

October 5th Morning Prayer October 12th Holy Communion on Homelessness Day.

October is also Cancer Awareness and Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Coats of Arms

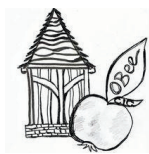
I was asked recently about the significance of the Royal Coat of Arms on the back wall of our balcony. The first Royal Coat of Arms adorned the Great Seal of Richard 1 (The Lionheart) in 1190, proudly bearing the three lions with which we are familiar today. These symbols of strength, courage and majesty also represented the resurrection in myths of the time.

The Royal Arms began to appear on monuments and tombs in churches to indicate family links (however tenuous!) with English or foreign royalty, but it was not until Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534 that they appeared prominently in a large proportion of churches. They now underlined the Monarch's position as Head of the Church of England and endorsed his authority countrywide. It was not a legal requirement, but there are records of Archdeacons, during triennial visitations, reprimanding Church Wardens for their lack of well-displayed Royal Arms.

Battisford's Coat of Arms are those of Queen Anne, as used in the second half of her reign, from 1707—1714. She bore the Stuart Arms when she came to the throne in 1702 and used them until Union with Scotland in 1707.

Whoever painted our example have misrepresented them, as they have England's and Scotland's symbols in the first and fourth quarters instead of England impaling Scotland (side by side and divided vertically). Probably a local sign-writer painted it from memory (often the same artist producing village inn signs, too.) and, to save money, superimposed the Scottish Rampant Lion on the French Fleur de Lys and vice versa to recycle the earlier Stuart Arms.....an eco-church even then!





Orchard Barns News

**We'd like to invite you to our next Permaculture Workshop at Orchard Barn:
Observe and Interact – Weed ID, Effective Weeding and Sheet Mulching**

This FREE hands-on session is about working *with* nature rather than against it.

- Identifying common weeds - which ones to keep, and which ones to eat!
- Techniques for effective weeding without over-disturbing the ecosystem.
- Sheet mulching, Orchard Barn style!



We use a tried-and-true mulching method that combines recycled materials, patience, and a bit of creative flair. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we're reusing old newspapers soaked in rainwater, layered thickly on the ground like papier-mâché, then weighed down with chippings from our on-site shingle making.

It's simple, low-tech, and it works – smothering weeds, building soil health, and locking in moisture. Come and

learn the process, help us lay a fresh section, and get ideas you can use in your own garden or community plot.

As always, we'll make time for a home grown, solar heated cuppa, a chat and a walk around to see the mulching in action. We'd love you to be part of it.

Date: Saturday 12th July

Time: 10.30-3.00

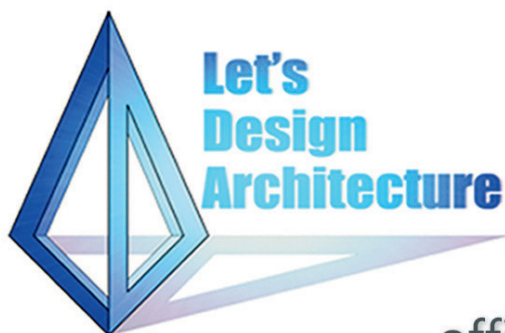
Location: Orchard Barn, Ringshall

Booking/info: sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com

**Reminder - a date for your diary: A Celebration of Orchard Life on Saturday 30th August
11.00 – 4.00.**

To find out more about us and what we do, or to volunteer with us, go to our website <http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk>, call Sarah on 07766 054042 or email her.

Orchard Barn, Ringshall, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2LY
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We have Carpets, Vinyls, Wood and Laminate
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and protectors to suit all budgets!



Pure Flooring, Combs Tannery, Tannery Road, Combs, Stowmarket, IP14 2EN

Battisford Village Hall



FUND RAISING EVENT COMING UP

For full details, please see noticeboards

Battisford Garage Sale
on Sunday 14th September – back
by popular demand!

Starting in the Autumn - Toasty
Tuesday replacing Warm
Wednesdays.

Clubs

Snooker Club
Yoga
Gardening Club
Zumba

Facilities

Indoor Bowls
Table Tennis
1 large function room
Kitchen
Outside area
Internet
Projector
Stage, Chairs & Tables
Holds 80 max capacity

Available for hire
Daytime & Evenings
Monday > Sunday

Private Parties
Weddings, Christenings &
Funerals
Clubs
Meetings
Training

Join or events
mailing list, just
send a message to
07594 667018

Battisford Village Hall
Straight Road
Battisford
Suffolk IP14 2HP

01449 674852

battisfordvhmc@gmail.com

My son and I are both struggling to find work at the moment. He's just finished university and looking for his first job, and I'm retired but need to top up my income. We've both been sending out applications for a while now, could unpaid work help us find something?

Whether you're trying to get into work for the first time or after time off, finding a job can be really challenging.

It's always a good idea to think about what skills or experience you could be missing for the kind of work you want, especially when feeling stuck after weeks or months of sending out job applications.

If you can afford to take unpaid work, it can be a good way to plug gaps in your CV and get a taste for different types of jobs. These sorts of roles usually come in the form of volunteering, work experience, or internships.

If you receive welfare benefits, you should check the Citizens Advice website or speak to an adviser before taking unpaid work. And because the rules around unpaid internships are complicated, you should get advice on being paid less than the minimum wage before applying to this type of role.

Volunteer roles are often well-defined and can expose you to specific types of work, whether you're looking for experience in an office or something more practical, like supporting people in your local community. Charities, including Citizens Advice, usually have a range of opportunities available.

Being a volunteer doesn't just give you a chance to learn and improve skills that are transferable to paid work, it can also help you gain confidence and self-esteem in a professional setting and provide structure to your day or week.

This can set you up well for job applications and interviews by showing employers you've got transferable skills, relevant experience, and are ready to enter paid work. Just like any job advert, you can find plenty of volunteering opportunities online, so it's well worth seeing what's out there if you're interested.

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



Letter from the Rector at Combs and Little Finborough

It's hard to believe that we're half way through 2025. As I write this letter we've had a week of clear blue skies, sunshine and high temperatures, but the beginning of June was cold and grey. Across the world we're seeing more and more examples of global warming or climate change. As Christians, we're called to care for the environment and here in mid-Suffolk we're doing our best to preserve not only our church buildings but also the green spaces that surround them.



All seven churches in our benefice are surrounded by churchyards 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 churchyards in the most environmentally friendly ways we can so that they are there for everyone to appreciate.

With blessings
Revd Sarah

VE Day celebrations



Battisford Parish Council and Village Hall committee combined to provide a VE Day commemoration lunch in Battisford Village Hall on Monday May 5th. About 80 people attended and everyone enjoyed the lunch, bar and ice cream van! The VE Quiz tested memory and knowledge. After the meal, we remembered those who fought and died in World War 2, some sharing memories of their own experiences or those of their relatives.



Loft Insulation Offer

Did you know that an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through its roof? Or that the Government's recommended thickness for loft insulation is 270mm? That's much higher than the recommended thickness of 25mm-50mm of the 1980s. Therefore, your home could be losing heat that you pay for through your roof instead of warming your home.

The Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer enables homeowners in Suffolk to receive a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on orders of 200mm or 370mm wide eco-friendly, itch-free thermal insulation rolls from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

Last winter, the project enabled over 5,000m² of roofs in Suffolk to be insulated. This year, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership want to double that figure.

The offer is open to anyone in Suffolk and will only close once the allocated funding has been spent. So, whether you are looking to top up your existing insulation or insulate from scratch, this offer is for you.

How to order:

Get your discount

Visit the High Loft website and fill in the short form to receive your discounted online order link or call High Loft's insulation experts on 01706 248203.

Order

Use your unique link to order your loft insulation online through the High Loft website or over the phone.

Enjoy

Sit back and enjoy your warmer, more climate-friendly home, and your lower energy bills!

Why insulate your loft?

Adding loft insulation or topping up your existing rolls is an easy way to make your home warmer and save money on your energy bills. The rolls available through this scheme are DIY-friendly:

Lightweight, itch-free, and simple to cut. Just roll out, cut to size, and install!

Made from 70% recycled materials and free from harmful chemicals.

Moisture and mould resistant, and meets British safety standards.

How to install

Check out The Energy Saving Trust's step-by-step guide to installing your insulation, as well as Check a Trade's advice.

Need help installing? Make sure the installer you choose is registered with TrustMark – you can find traders who can help on Trust a Trader.

More information available from

www.greensuffolk.org/what-we-do/projects/suffolk-loft-insulation-offer



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

Next visits are
10th July
14th August
11th September
9th October
13th November
11th 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
or call 01284 663472

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Summer and Autumn Celebrations at Little Finborough Church

Everyone is invited to join us

HYMNS & PIMM'S – Sunday 10th August at 3pm

Enjoying the quintessential English summer drink, a glass of Pimm's, and singing some favourite hymns and songs in a church and churchyard on a summer afternoon. What could be nicer?

Soft drinks will be available too. Donations will be for church funds. Refreshments will be available.

SUMMER PICNIC – Wednesday 13th August from 11am to 1.30pm

Bring a picnic and come along to play games and have fun in the church and churchyard. There will be lots to do with the theme of the Parables and Miracles of Jesus. Children must be accompanied by responsible adults. Soft drinks will be available.

AUTUMN WALK WITH SOUP LUNCH – Saturday 18th October at 11am

Two guided walks, led by members of the Battisford Walking Group, will start from the church at 11am. The shorter and longer walks cater for different preferences, but both finish at the church where you can enjoy hot soup with a bread roll, coffee, tea and cakes.

Please come equipped for the weather and walking on country footpaths which may be muddy. Dogs on leads are welcome too.



Battisford and District Gardening Club

As the sun is in the sky we are all out in our gardens, mowing, summer pruning, attending to the fruit and veg, or just basking in the heat while dodging the occasional storm. It is also an opportunity to see what other people are doing in their gardens - in the recent weeks we have had the folk of Great Finborough and Chelsworth showing off.

The Club's winter programme starts back in the Village Hall on Monday 1st September with our mini Show and AGM, and on the 6th October we have Simon White explaining how to prune properly

For all details go to our website Battisfordgardeningclub.org.uk

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An established, friendly and welcoming pre-school offering term-time childcare and education for children aged 2-4.



Based in Great Finborough, we provide a safe, caring environment where children learn through playing, having fun and interacting with others.

About Us

With exclusive use of a bright main room and garden, our highly qualified, passionate staff offer a wide range of weekly themed activities for all abilities. We pride ourselves on developing close parent-child-staff relationships and have strong connections with the local community and schools, including Great Finborough CEVC, making for fun visits out.



Please contact Delia Prior, Pre-school Leader to arrange your visit today!

Get in touch



@gfbunderfive@gmail.com

07513 140072

www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk/under-5s/

Key Contacts

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 Matthison 01449 258894

County Councillor

Kay Oakes: 07702 339971 or 07724 700695

kay.oakes@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

Dates for your diary

Further details can be found inside this newsletter

Date

Event

Every Monday

Every Wednesday

Every Thursday

Every Friday

Wednesdays & Fridays

JULY

Monday

7th

Gardening Club - Visit to Smallwood Farmhouse Garden

Thursday

10th

Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green

Thursday

10th

Mobile Library outside St Mary's Church

Saturday

12th

Permaculture Workshop at Orchard Barn

Monday

14th

Combs Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday

15th

Battisford Parish Council meeting

Friday

25th

Deadline for the Shaping Suffolk Together survey

Saturday

26th

Stretch In The Sun at Oaks Meadow

AUGUST

Sunday

3rd

Teddy Bears Picnic at Oaks Meadow

Monday

4th

Deadline for One Suffolk Survey

Thursday

7th

Mobile Library outside St Mary's Church

Sunday

10th

Hymns & Pimms at Little Finborough Church

Wednesday

13th

Summer Picnic with Activities, Little Finborough Church

Thursday

14th

Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green

Thurs - Sunday

22nd - 25th

Beer, Cider & Gin Festival, Punch Bowl

Saturday

30th

A Celebration of Orchard Life at Orchard Barn

Sunday

31st

Stretch In The Sun at Oaks Meadow

SEPTEMBER

Monday

1st

Gardening Club - Mini Fun Show & AGM

Thursday

4th

Mobile Library outside Mary's Church

Monday

8th

Combs Parish Council Meeting

Thursday

11th

Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green

Sunday

14th

Garage Sale at Battisford Village Hall

Tuesday

16th

Battisford Parish Council Meeting

Saturday

27th

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Battisford Village Hall

OCTOBER

Thursday

2nd

Mobile Library outside St Mary's Church

Monday

6th

Gardening Club - Roses with Simon White

Thursday

9th

Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green

Monday

13th

Combs Parish Council Meeting

Saturday

18th

Autumn Walk with Soup Lunch, Little Finborough Church

Tuesday

21st

Battisford Parish Council Meeting