

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

COVERING BATTISFORD, COMBS, LITTLE
FINBOROUGH AND MOATS TYE

November 2024



CONTENTS INCLUDING:

- Christmas Church Services
- Security Advice
- Warm Wednesdays
- Oaks Meadow Update
- Cricket Club News
- Volunteering opportunities
- Parish Council Updates
- Bus Times
- Dates For Your Diary
- And Much More



****BREAKING NEWS****

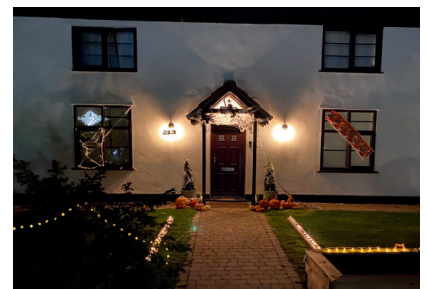
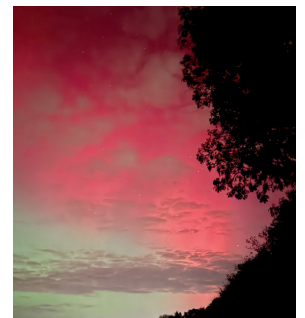
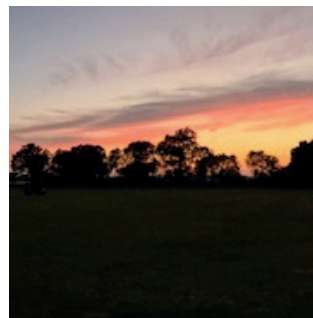
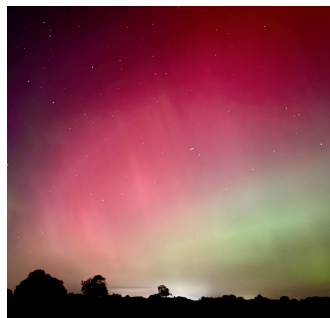
FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO TOWN!

COMBS ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
BATTISFORD ON THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER
FROM 6PM TO 9PM.

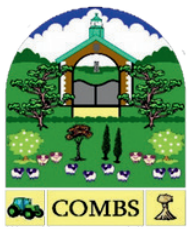
SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS

Photo Gallery

A selection of your lovely pictures, from the Northern Lights, to
harvesting and Halloween!



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



COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents of Combs

Summer – or what passed for it – has definitely gone and we find ourselves at the start of Autumn. This will be the last edition of the Newsletter for the calendar year and it would be usual for me to look back and summarise the various happenings of 2024. For your parish council though it's budgeting time and I find myself pondering the future and what it might bring.

The change of government – and I make no party political point here – has brought with it a few agenda items that could materially affect our county, our district and, indeed, our parish. First, the emphasis on renewable energy has been strengthened: we've seen permission granted for a large solar farm on the Cambridge/Suffolk border and, closer to home, the proposal to install pylons from Norwich to Tilbury seems more likely to receive assent despite many objections.

The second item is of course housing. Although new target housing numbers are yet to be finalised, we are told that there shouldn't be an immediate problem. There is already a 10-year housing land supply that would be reduced to roughly 7 years if the new target is applied. Current delivery is also exceeding the current target so there is some slack. However, the supply pump needs to be primed and you may remember I wrote about a 'Call for Sites' process in which a sizeable parcel of land within the Parish boundary is being considered as an area for possible future development.

Your councillors try at all times to be even handed. There are almost always two sides to every story and we factor these in when deciding policy. Here we are facing stated national needs for more renewable energy and increased housing supply versus local communities that do not wish to be needlessly or unduly impacted. I can state now that your council will always seek win-win solutions, accommodating national and regional needs but in ways we hope will mean minimal impact to our boundaries, our natural environment, our amenities and most importantly you, our residents.

2025 might, I think, prove to be the start of a new chapter in the life of this wonderful parish. I believe we have the team – with support from the wider community - that will navigate it with skill and with passion on behalf of us all.

And on that forward-looking note: can I wish you all a very merry Christmas and do please accept your council's best wishes for the New Year.

Tony Kitson
Chair - Combs Parish Council
Email: combsparishcouncil@gmail.com

Battisford Parish Council



October 2024

www.battisford-pc.gov.uk

clerk@battisford-pc.gov.uk

It seems only very recently that I submitted Battisford Parish Council's August update to our hard-working (and ever-patient!) Community Newsletter editor, and here we are already half way through our meteorological Autumn.....

The last three months have been relatively quiet for the Parish Council, with background 'business as usual' accounting for the majority of activity.

Thanks are extended to a small group of hardy volunteers (complete with canine assistance) who completed our second litter pick of 2024, gathering a number of sacks of discarded waste. The litter pick was again coordinated with Combs PC, so thanks to Tony Kitson and Suzanne Ottewell (in particular) for their support and organisation.

I am pleased to report that the amount of litter gathered was much less than on previous occasions- we suspect that this is down to the efforts of a number of individuals who regularly scour our hedgerows and ditches for rubbish, so many thanks if that is you. Thank you.



It has struck me many times how much happens within this parish (and doubtless many others) thanks solely to individuals who freely give their time, skills and enthusiasm to planning, organising, hosting, and clearing up after all manner of events, put on to benefit the wider community. So, please support local events and, if you are able, perhaps consider contacting some of the groups in this Newsletter to see if you may be able to get involved.

Battisford PC still has one Councillor vacancy. If you want to make a positive difference in our village and would like to influence decisions that affect your community, please contact me (or any Parish Councillor) to find out more. You need to be willing to give up some of your time and commit to attending monthly Council meetings (except August and December), usually on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings normally last around 1-2 hours. You must be 18 or over, an elector, and have been a resident or worked within 3 miles of the parish for the last year. Our existing Councillors have diverse skillsets and we would welcome enthusiastic and committed individuals to join us.

Best wishes to you all.

Jon Cook
Chairman, Battisford Parish Council

Chair@battisford-pc.gov.uk



FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



Wonderful news! I will be visiting again from 6pm to 9pm

Combs on Wednesday 11th December and Battisford on Thursday 12th December

As usual I will wave and greet everyone - collecting any letters to in my post-box. We are collecting food donations for Stowmarket Food Bank, not cash. Please have your food donation ready, or leave your donation on your doorstep or by your gate and my wonderful Elves will collect them.

If you can, the following products would be great: **Sweet:** Christmas Cakes, Iced Fruit Bars, Jelly, Custard, Trifle mix, Chocolate Log, Instant Hot Chocolate, Angel delight, Large tubs of Chocolates e.g. Celebrations & Boxes/Packets of novelty Chocolates. **Savoury:** Pringles, Tins of Salmon, Gravy granules, Nuts, Packets of Stuffing, Crisps, Twiglets, Large tinned Ham/Corned Beef, Cheese savouries, Cartons of Fruit Juice, Biscuits for Cheese, Variety packs of cereals.

Other methods of donation are:

You can send a monetary donation using the link:
<https://donate.kindlink.com>

Bank Transfer to their bank account using the details:
Barclays Bank, Payee STOWMARKET FOODBANK
Sort code 20-82-75
Account 33867331
Ref: FOODBANK



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas



Monday Teas at the Battisford Punch Bowl Community Inn

Fancy a cuppa? Come along to the Punchbowl on the second Monday of every month, from 3 pm until the talking stops. Regular and new friends have been enjoying the delicious homemade sandwiches, savouries and cakes, provided by volunteers. We welcome anyone of any age from Battisford and the surrounding villages. Donations towards the food can be made if you wish. Many thanks to the Punchbowl for providing the venue.



The selection at the October Teas

Battisford Village Hall

**BATTISFORD VILLAGE HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
DAYTIMES AND EVENINGS
7 DAYS A WEEK**

Join Us in Supporting Our Village Hall

Our village hall stands as a vital hub for local residents, providing a space for events, meetings, and activities that bring us together. To ensure this resource continues to thrive, we hold monthly meetings to discuss essential topics such as hall hire, finances, maintenance, and organizing events that benefit everyone in the area.

Our Mission

Our mission is to keep the hall running smoothly and make sure it remains a relevant and valuable asset for all residents. We believe that a strong community is built on the contributions of its members, and we are dedicated to fostering a welcoming environment where everyone feels included and valued.

Call for Volunteers

To achieve our goals, we are eagerly seeking new volunteers from the local community. Your involvement can make a significant difference, no matter your age or experience. Whether you have been a resident for a lifetime or have just moved to the area, your unique perspective and skills are exactly what we need.

Why Volunteer?

- **Make a Difference:** Your efforts will help maintain and enhance a space that serves as the heart of our community.
- **Connect with Neighbours:** Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and strengthen ties within the community.
- **Learn and Grow:** Gain new skills, share your knowledge, and take on roles that match your interests and abilities.
- **Have Fun:** Participate in and help organize events that bring joy and entertainment to our neighbours.

Warm Wednesdays are changing

Thank you to those of you who have made suggestions on how we could develop warm Wednesdays. From January, we will be starting at the earlier time of 1pm and offering a light lunch consisting of a bowl of soup, a bread roll and a slice of cake. These free, friendly and sociable gatherings are open to all during the colder months, and other than the January meeting, are on the first Wednesday of the month.

If you would like to find out more, have any suggestions, or a pastime you are passionate about and wish to share, then contact us 07731 897790 or battisfordvhmc@gmail.com

How to Get Involved

We meet once a month to discuss various aspects of the hall's operation and to plan future events. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out. We would love to hear from you and discuss how you can contribute to the ongoing success of our village hall.

Contact Us:

Feel free to get in touch with us at battisfordvhmc@gmail.com or call 01449 674852 to learn more about how you can get involved. Your participation is not only welcome but greatly appreciated.

Together, let's ensure our village hall remains a vibrant and essential resource for everyone. We look forward to hearing from you!

Clubs

Snooker Club
Yoga
Gardening Club

Facilities

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

Available for hire
Monday - Sunday

Private Parties
Weddings, Christenings &
Funerals
Clubs
Meetings
Training

Contact Us

Battisford Village Hall
Straight Road
Battisford
Suffolk
IP14 2HP

01449 674852

battisfordvhmc@gmail.com

battisfordvillagehall.co.uk

Warm Wednesdays

A free warm and sociable afternoon gathering open to all.

Autumn Programme 2pm to 5pm

6th Nov- Snooker: Take a look at the refurbished snooker room.

4th Dec- Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls and a Quiz

2025 Programme 1pm to 3pm

Join us at 1pm for soup, a bread roll and a slice of cake

8th Jan- Building your family story and their place in history; what are the basics, and help to find those ancestors.

5th Feb- Carpet Bowls: Come and have a go.

5th March - Orchard Barn- Learn about this local environmental education centre.

Battisford Village Hall, Straight Rd, Battisford IP14 2HP

To find out more or book for free soup and a roll contact

battisfordvhmc@gmail.com or 07731 897790

Battisford & District Gardening Club

We are into the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness with the clocks going back and darker evenings. But we still have our regular meetings in the Village Hall on Straight Road Battisford.

Monday November 4th How to design a border

Saturday November 30th Wreath Making, mince pies, mulled wine and raffle 10am £20, contact Caroline@wicking.me

Monday December 2nd - XMAS Quiz and social 7.30 book with denis@wicking.me so that we can get the catering sorted.

Monday February 3rd TBA

New members are always welcome. Contact denis@wicking.me if you would like to find out more.



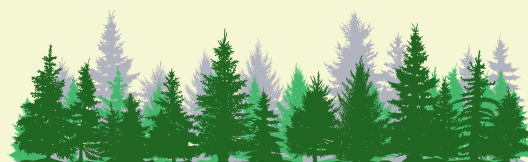
Battisford Parish Council are seeking a Tree Warden!

If you are interested in this voluntary role, for more information please contact either

Jane jdspope@googlemail.com

or

Jon chair@battisford-pc.gov.uk



Home Security

Checklist for securing your home when you leave it, including over the Christmas period

It's vital to leave your home secure whenever you leave it. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's what you should do just before you go out.

Become a creature of habit

Try to get into the habit of following your own course of action when you lock up your home. This will ensure that you don't forget anything.

Here's what the police recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

Going away?

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away:

1. If you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

More information regarding crime prevention is available on www.suffolk.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention





COMMUNITY THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT

Helping You Keep Your Warmth In

Battisford Village Hall Management Committee have booked a thermal imaging camera and will be offering free imaging between

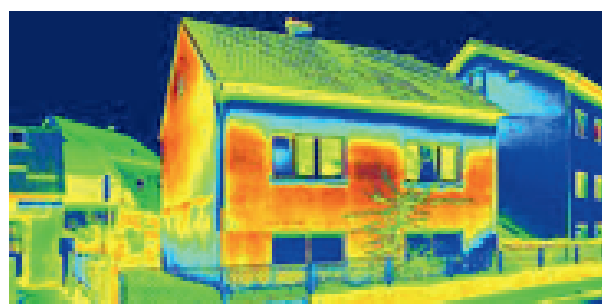
Wednesday 20th November to Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Our aim is to raise awareness about insulation and help you improve the energy efficiency of your home. This could mean:

- ❖ a reduction in fuel bills
- ❖ better health
- ❖ reducing your carbon emissions

Visit www.greensuffolk.org for further help & information

What can you learn from a thermal imaging survey?



If your house is relatively new, already has insulated cavity walls and double glazing and feels warm – you might not learn much, except to get an even warmer glow after confirming your house is well insulated!

If your house is older and seems difficult to keep warm - you might learn exactly where the heat is escaping and get some ideas about where to insulate. A thermal imaging survey might:

- ❖ identify places which might have draughts
- ❖ detect whether cavity wall insulation is patchy or missing
- ❖ detect areas with less loft insulation

If you would like us to include your house in the survey, please contact us on

battisfordvhmc@gmail.com or 07731 897790

The cameras use infra-red radiation which cannot pass through glass. This means the camera cannot see through windows, doors or walls. A thermal imaging survey will not invade your privacy as we will only see the outside surface of your house.



ST. MARY'S BATTISFORD

We have had two weddings in these last months. Emily and Issac were married on 3rd August ... a lovely and ecologically sound event with a year's collected petals for confetti! We were delighted that Rachel and Jon also chose St. Mary's for their colourful and joyous wedding on 20th September. We wish both couples a long and happy life together.

Thank you to those who gave Harvest gifts for the Food Bank which, as ever, were much appreciated.

On 29th September we attended the farewell service at the Cathedral for Bishop Mike, as he leaves to become Bishop of Exeter. As representatives of the Diocese we were required to agree to his release from his post as Suffragan Bishop....a temptation to say no, as he will be sorely missed!

Our Communion service on 10th November will be at 9.00a.m., followed by the Remembrance Service at Gate 3, Ware Road at 10.45 a. m. Everyone welcome. (We are allowed to park inside the gate on the perimeter track.)

In December: Sunday 8th at 11.15 Holy Communion

Christmas Eve, Carols by Candlelight 5.00p.m.

Christmas Day, Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.

If you wish to order a wreath from Caroline it would be useful to know by 10th Dec. (07547943160)

By the time the newsletter reaches you it will be too late to celebrate All Saints Day on 1st November, although not to remember "all men and women of goodwill" and other saintly virtues.

Too late also for All Souls Day on 2nd November, but not for making "soul cakes" which the poor might once have received in exchange for offering prayers for the dead relatives of the wealthy.

Children in the 19th Century would go "souling".....begging for confectionary singing:

"A soul, a soul, a soul-cake Please, good missus, a soul-cake, An apple, a pear, a plum or a cherry, Any good thing to make us merry."

often accompanied by a hobby-horse called a Hooden. The cakes were like a fruit-free hot cross bun (recipe on request!).

Traditionally 4th November is "Mischief Night" (particularly in the North of England) when all sorts of pranks are perpetrated.

The 5th is, of course, Bonfire Night. Until 1859 all parish churches were required to hold a service to celebrate the failure of Guy Fawkes plot and all day long bells were rung, cannons fired and beer flowed.

11th November is the date on which we particularly remember all those killed in war, it being the day in 1918 when the Armistice was signed. It is also St. Martin's Day.....Martinmas, which, in former centuries, was celebrated with great feasts and hiring fairs.

12th November is the feast day of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, while the last Sunday of the Church year (this year, 24th) is "Stir-up Sunday", time for everyone to stir the Christmas pudding mixture and make a wish.

Finally....30th is St. Andrew's Day. As well as patron saint of Scotland, he is patron of fishermen, singers and spinsters and prayed to for relief from gout and sore throats.

Christmas Celebrations at Little Finborough



Tuesday 17th December at 7pm

The popular **Carols by Candlelight** service at Little Finborough Church starts off the Christmas festivities with well-loved carols and readings to be followed by seasonal refreshments.

There will be a collection for donation to East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

Wednesday 25th December at 9am

On Christmas Day we will be celebrating with a traditional **Holy Communion** Service with more Christmas carols to prepare you for a joyous day.

Everyone is welcome to join us at these services.



Letter from Combs Rectory

As we enter November the church begins a season of remembering, we celebrate All Saints and All Souls; when we remember those who have died amongst our own families, friends and in our community. We all have our own memories and remember in different ways; it can be a difficult time or many as they remember those they have loved and lost. This year we will be having our All Souls Service on Sunday 3rd November, 6pm at St Andrew's church, Great Finborough. Everyone is very welcome at that; it is a gentle service when we focus on remembering and giving thanks for those who have died.

November also brings Remembrance Sunday, this year Sunday 10th November, where we remember those who have given their lives in the World Wars and all the subsequent conflicts for our freedom and for peace in the world. We will be holding a number of services across the benefice on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day itself:

10th November:	Remembrance Sunday	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Buxhall
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Great Finborough
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Combs
10.50am	Remembrance Service	Onehouse
3.00 pm	Act of Remembrance	Little Finborough
11th November:	Armistice Day	
10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Harleston Green

As we approach the changes and challenges of everyday life, let us remember that we do so together as a church and a community, as friends and neighbours. May we also give thanks to God that we do not approach them in our own strength, but in knowing that the ever present and loving God is there beside us and walking with us as we journey together, and as we face the changes and challenges given to us.

With blessings
Revd Sarah



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.

Next visit is 28th November
(Christmas and 2025 visits to
be confirmed)

Further details can be found
on suffolklibraries.co.uk



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We have Carpets, Vinyls, Wood and Laminate
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Wooden & metal frames, Novelty & Bunk
beds as well as a range of mattresses, toppers
and protectors to suit all budgets!



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



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

Next visits are
14th November
12th December
2025 dates to be confirmed

For further info, call the HQ on 01379 855338 or Diana on 07494 572153
or see the website www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

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.

Do you need help with:

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information or a brochure:



01449 678000



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Battisford & District Cricket Club

What a season we have had at the cricket club this year! Both our senior teams have achieved promotion and our ladies team came very close, finishing second in their league.



The Saturday team achieved promotion as champions to Division 4 of the Two Counties League



The Sunday team achieved promotion as champions to Division 4 of Suffolk Cricket League

The junior section held a number of games both home and away and their skills and confidence developed during the season. We often had over 40 children participating in coaching on a Friday night. Cricket is a great way for youngsters to keep fit, improve hand eye coordination, learn team skills etc as well as socialise. We will be holding junior coaching in the winter so if you want to introduce your child age 5-15 then please do get in touch.

There has been a great atmosphere across the club over the whole season and we have been delighted to see so many local people come along and watch the games as well as support BBQs and other events. We were thrilled to have Delia Smith and Mike Wynn -Jones judge the many offerings at the Ultimate Cricket tea which we held in early September. Mike and Delia have been involved with the club for almost 50 years and he was extremely complimentary as to the how the club house, ground and standard of cricket has improved over the years.



We are continuing with improvements over the winter which will include installing solar panels to reduce our escalating electricity bills and we have been fortunate to have received funding for this project from Combs and Battisford parish councils and the ECB. We will be holding a community event in the new year to demonstrate the benefits of renewable energy and let residents know about some initiatives being introduced by Suffolk Climate Change Action. So keep an eye out for more details in due course.

Don't forget our premises, grounds and marquees are available to hire. We are already taking bookings for next year.

We have started off our winter social events with a cheese and wine evening and more events are planned for next year, these will be advertised on our website etc. The bar will continue to be open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings and new social members are always welcome.

Finally the cricket club is run by volunteers we are always looking for help with the administrative side of things including social media; helping behind the bar on match days; and other general tidying, clearing, painting tasks. When the cricket season resumes we will be looking for a paid cleaner for approx 2hrs a week. So if you are interested in getting more involved please do get in touch. For more information please use any of the medium below

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

X @BattisfordDCC

Facebook @BattisfordAndDistrictCricketClub

Or contact Julia Stephens-Row secretary@battisfordcricket.co.uk



Oaks Meadow Update

Autumn has been kind to us. The apple trees have been scrumptiously fruitful, the tomatoes were delicious making the perfect chutney, tried and tasted! And some colourful squash too. A special mention to Ian for his recent handy brushwork skills, in particular our newly painted children's chairs. Aren't they great? The community over on the meadow has been building and we are so grateful for all the time spent clearing and maintaining what we now have. It's a great moment to stand and reflect on the blank canvas the meadow once was with a hope and dream to become what it now is becoming.

A successful Halloween event pulled together on a shoestring budget, but sometimes the simplicity holds a beauty within itself alongside the children's enthusiasm and imagination. A thank you to Asda for supporting the event with some plump marshmallows for toasting.

For now, the nights will draw in further – the last leaves will fall. AND. Everything. Starts to. Slow. Down.

But before we do. We have some hugely exciting news to share...Wild Heritage Suffolk (WHS) will be moving from Langham Walled Garden to the 'Veg Patch' on Oaks Meadow(OM). They'll be bringing a fabulous Wild Hut (a semi-open sided timber structure), raised beds and a poly tunnel. Mmhmm. WHS intend to run their 'Let it Grow' programme from the site starting in the early summer of 2025 with a view to developing activities in combination with OM and other groups in the area to support those with a need that this site and the skills of the resident organisations can reasonably meet.

While WHS and OM remain separate entities we will support each other in maintaining and developing the site with the encouragement to see the site as a single entity. Both organisations have a similar view in managing and developing the land, working with nature in a chemical-free way and incorporating where appropriate regenerative and permaculture techniques. They also see one of their primary functions as using nature and the resources of the Meadow in supporting groups and individuals to overcome personal and circumstantial challenges as well as continuing the availability of food for the community to pick their own.

On a side note. If you have any spare time at all we are always looking for additional volunteers. It can be for a single drop in or something more regular. It doesn't just need to be pulling weeds or getting muddy... but perhaps cutting grass and hedge trimming. We're also looking for help with photo's for socials, helping with events or new ideas for fundraisers. If there's anything you think you could add to this community project, we would love to hear from you!



See you soon.

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Phone: 01449 678300

Mobile 07917197611

E-mail: info@skinnerbuildingservices.co.uk



Photo Credit to Beckie Egan Photography

Welcome to Infinite Potential Fitness

We are Beth & Sam, we run a Personal Training Space at the Combs Tannery. We like to call it HQ. We offer Small Group Personal Training, Personal Training, Stowmarket Bootcamp and Hyrox Training. We love to support members on their fitness journey and help people in the local community. Everything we provide is coach lead so you never have to be unsure of a movement.

If you're looking to start or get back into fitness, please contact us as we would love to help. Welcome to all ages and abilities.

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

info@infinitepotentialfitness.com

Muddy Stilettes Best Fitness Instructors 2023 & 2024



@infinitepotential_fitness



Infinite Potential Fitness



You're fumbling your finances
And your accounts are due
It's all such a worry
What are you to do ?

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As long term residents of Combs, the owners of Maxwell Brown are well placed to advise buyers and tenants of the benefits of living in our lovely area. We provide a lettings management service for many properties in Combs & Battisford and would be delighted to speak to you if you are considering selling or letting your property, or have any other property requirements.

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The Punch Bowl Community Inn



It's been an exciting year at the Punch Bowl Community Inn, and once again, we'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2024! We thrive on the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and the loyalty of our patrons and we will never stop thanking you for that. Here's a quick look back at our recent successes and a sneak peek at what's coming up over the festive season.

August Bank Holiday Beer & Gin Festival: A Huge Success!

We're thrilled to report that our August Bank Holiday Beer & Gin Festival was a fantastic success, and it's all thanks to you. With a brilliant turnout and lots of positive feedback, the event brought the community together to enjoy great drinks, live entertainment, and the summer sunshine. A special thank you goes out to our incredible volunteers, staff, and suppliers, as well as to all the sponsors of the ales and ciders—you helped make it an unforgettable weekend.

Christmas at the Bowl

As we move into the festive season, we've got some exciting events lined up to give the whole community some holiday cheer. Be sure to mark your calendars and look out for updates both in the pub and on our social media channels!

- **Carol Singing:** Rumour has it, we'll be hosting our annual carol singing on **Wednesday, 18th December!** Get ready to warm up your vocal cords and join us for a cosy evening of festive tunes. More details to come, so keep an eye out!
- **Christmas Eve:** We'll be open for drinks only from **12pm to 8pm**, so come and enjoy a relaxed Christmas Eve with friends and family over a pint or two.
- **Christmas Day:** For those looking for a festive tipple, we'll be open for drinks only from **12pm to 4pm**. Stick the turkey in the oven and join us for a merry Christmas afternoon!
- **Boxing Day:** Show off your new toys in the Bowl! We'll be open for drinks only from **12pm to 4pm**.
- **New Year's Eve Party:** Ring in 2025 with us at our **New Year's Eve Party!** We'll be open from **8pm until late**, so get ready for a night of fun, music, and plenty of celebration. We will have our usual selection of bar snacks but no hot food available so make sure you line your stomach before you come down!
- **New Year's Day Walk with Bangers & Mash:** Start the new year off right with a **New Year's Day walk** followed by a hearty serving of **bangers and mash** at the pub. We'll be open from **12pm to 5pm**—the perfect way to kick off 2025 with some fresh air and good food!

Thank You and See You Soon!

We can't thank you enough for your ongoing support throughout the year. Whether you're a regular visitor or someone who drops by for special events, you are what makes the Punch Bowl such a special part of our community. We're looking forward to celebrating the festive season with you all and making more memories together!

Stay tuned for more updates in the pub and on our social media pages. See you soon at the Punch Bowl! 🍷

Facebook – Punch Bowl Battisford Community Inn

Instagram – the_punchbowlinn



The 4th annual Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 28th September in Battsford Village Hall.

- I am so grateful to all those who came along and had a 'cuppa' and piece of cake.
- Thank you to everyone who made such gorgeous cakes and savouries – we had a vast selection. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes, be it individuals or local businesses – we had some lovely prizes.
- The Coffee Morning wouldn't happen if it wasn't for my group of trusted helpers – before, on the day and afterwards - thank you.
- The beautiful table flowers were very kindly donated by Helen Fincham of Fincham Farm Flowers – thank you to her.
- Caroline Farrall returned for a second year with her lovely selection of cards and prints – thank you to her too.
- A very big thank you, to everyone who donated.



I am writing this article a few days after the Coffee Morning and am so pleased to say that the amount raised was over £1,450.00 with monies still trickling in. This is a massive amount to raise, the biggest yet – I am, and I know Macmillan Cancer Support will be, very grateful.

Marion Davey

Treat yourself to.. **WREATH MAKING** with bubbles!



SOLD OUT

Glass of bubble & mince pie on arrival.
Materials provided to make your own Wreath.
Suitably - Broom will be open.

Friday 29th November 2024 from 7pm
Battsford Village Hall
£25.00 per person.
Booking Essential book with Trudy on
07887 932861



Orchard Barns News

A look back at our achievements in the last 12 months

Our long-term project to reinstate the 1580s Long House as our new teaching space has made fantastic progress this year, thanks to many wonderful volunteers and professionals, and the generous donations to our Crowd Funding Campaigns. The earth floor, complete with underfloor heating, is finished, and a Masonry Stove is in place, faced with vintage and homemade Clay Lump



Blocks, and Tudor bricks and earth mortar reclaimed from the old chimney. We have even re-used the old bressemer beam, complete with the original Tudor taper marks!

Also, in that last 12 months we have:

- Worked with 81 students
- Run 14 Courses
- Delivered 750 hours of Institute of Historic Building Conservation Continuing Professional Development
- Worked in partnership with Suffolk New College, West Suffolk College, Bury Town Trust and The George Community Pub at Wickham Market.

Recently a Local Authority Heritage Officer said 'Such a wonderful range of skills and knowledge taught and on display through the site. This will be very useful going forward in encouraging custodians of our built heritage to get stuck in!'

We still have a way to go to complete our Long House, but we are very proud of our achievements this year, and a massive thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way!



To find out more about us and what we do, or to volunteer with us, take a look at our website <http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk>, call Sarah on 07766 054042 or email her at sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com

Orchard Barn, Ringshall, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2LY
Learning from the past how to build a greener future

Combs Parish Council Need You!

Do you have some general DIY skills and time available to help with repairs and maintenance in Combs and Moats Tye? This could involve repairing bin posts, varnishing benches, refurbishing notice boards, anything!



If you are able to help, or know someone who can, please get in touch with combsparrishcouncil@gmail.com



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TEL. 01359 232335

AGE UK COMBS FORD NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Age UK Combs Ford is urgently seeking dedicated volunteers to assist in our busy shop. Volunteers will engage in a variety of tasks on the shop floor, including operating the till, organising displays, and sorting and arranging stock.

All volunteers will receive comprehensive training, including online modules. If you can spare any time, please contact us by phone or email, or visit us in person to speak with a member of our team. We can also arrange a taster day for you to experience the role before making any commitments.



AGE UK COMBS FORD UNIT A COMBS LANE
COMBS FORD, STOWMARKET
IP142DA 01449 673583
9124.combsford@ageuk.org.uk

HERE ARE WHAT SOME OF OUR LOVELY VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US

"since retiring and moving to the area, started as a volunteer and made some new friends it's a friendly place and I enjoy working here" Micky (18 months)

"I have been working here since it first opened around 5 years ago. the workers are lovely and enjoying working here" Janette (5 Years)

"I enjoy the company of other staff and volunteers near to home and hours to suit my needs and made new friends" Lynn (2.5 years)

"mix with nice people, have a good laugh, no more long lonely days, come to work and fill your time working for a good cause" Babs (2years)



Do you want to advertise your company in our newsletter?

**It'll reach over 560 households locally!
For more information contact**

communitynewsletter@btinternet.com

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>



Would you like to be the Local Recorder for:

Combs

The Suffolk Local History Council runs a Local Recorders Scheme throughout Suffolk. We administer a network of volunteers to ensure that the 'present' is adequately recorded at local level for the 'future'.

A Local Recorder will note significant happenings in their parish and collect their local parish magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings. At the end of each year, they are asked to submit a short report summarising the activities of their parish. The reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and available to future researchers together with the collected items.

If you are interested, please look at the Recorders Pack by visiting www.slhc.org.uk, click on Recorders, then click on Recorders Pack in the text on the left hand side to acquaint yourself with the guidelines of the scheme. You do not need to be a historian; you do not need any qualifications other than an interest in your parish. In return you will receive a copy of the SLHC Newsletter and be invited to the annual conference specifically for Local Recorders. To volunteer to help in this important work, please contact recorders@slhc.org.uk

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There may be some left in the village who remember the roar in the skies when we had the RAF as neighbours, and there are still a few left who will recall a buccaneer crash landing on one of our farmer's fields.

Since the Apaches arrived things have not quite so noisy, but if you were out in the village on Sat 28th Sept. you may have been forgiven for thinking the planes were back, such was the roar to be heard!

We've had the privilege of hosting three funerals in the last month of people connected with the church. The first involved Charlie Oliver who, being in the equine community, was carried by horse-drawn carriage – needing only 2 horsepower in that case.

The second was one that was more audible, and the horsepower was multiplied many times over. Darryll Knock, who was born in Gt Bricet, had been linked to us since being part of the youth club in his teens during the '70's. He also had many friends and contacts in local football circles and being something of a petrol-head was better known in recent years as a keen biker. That meant when he passed away from cancer, aged only 63, that community turned out in force to provide an escort from Gateway 14 via Barking, Gt Bricet and Ringshall to the church. Over 150 bikes turned up in support. After the funeral, all the bikes provided a serenade of revving engines as the hearse pulled away.

The actual service was also quite an event with about 300 packed into the building – family friends and bikers alike. Several of the bikers wore leathers that carried a large white cross on their back. That signifies they are members of the CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) who organized the service and included a sermon by one of their number. The CMA members attend many biking events all over the country and share their faith in Christ. That is a prerequisite to joining the group. There is even a 'Bikers Bible' given to any who take an interest in Christian things and who may want to know more about Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian (or 'Christ follower')

When Darryll was diagnosed only a few months ago, his faith enabled him to meet that bombshell with the calm assurance of one who knows what lies ahead and was prepared to 'meet his maker.' So, while there was the sadness of the separation to come from the family, there was also a confidence to be found in Christ.

If you've ever wondered about these things and the meaning and rationale of life, we would love to see you at BFC. You would be more than welcome. There is more info on what we do, and when things happen, on our website.

www.battisfordfreechurch.com or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/battisfordfreechurch> which can also be a good way to message and make contact with us.

Our main service is at 10:45am Sunday Mornings.

Adrian Cooper (Secretary)



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

Further details can be found inside this newsletter

Date		Event
Every Wednesday		Snooker Club at Battisford Village Hall
Every Thursday		Yoga in Battisford Village Hall 6.30pm – 7.30 pm
Every Friday		Mobile Post Office outside the Punch Bowl
Wed 20 th Nov – Tuesday 3 rd Dec		Community Thermal Imaging Project
November		
Monday	4 th	Gardening Club – How to design a border
Sunday	10 th	St Mary's Battisford Holy Communion & Remembrance Service
Monday	11 th	Afternoon Tea at the Punch Bowl
Monday	11 th	Combs Parish Council meeting
Thursday	14 th	Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green
Tuesday	19 th	Battisford Parish Council meeting
Tuesday	26 th	Medieval England Talk at The Village Hall
Thursday	28 th	Mobile Library outside St Mary's Church Battisford
Saturday	30 th	Gardening Club – Wreath Making, mince pies & mulled wine
December		
Monday	2 nd	Gardening Club – Christmas Quiz
Wednesday	4 th	Warm Wednesday – Mince pies, sausage rolls & quiz
Sunday	8 th	St Mary's Battisford Holy Communion
Monday	9 th	Afternoon Tea at the Punch Bowl
Monday	9 th	Combs Parish Council meeting
Wednesday	11 th	Father Christmas visiting Combs (Stowmarket Foodbank)
Thursday	12 th	Father Christmas visiting Battisford (Stowmarket Foodbank)
Thursday	12 th	Rural Coffee Caravan, Combs Green
Tuesday	17 th	Carols by Candlelight at Little Finborough Church
Wednesday	18 th	Carol Singing at the Punch Bowl
Tuesday	24 th	St Mary's Battisford Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday	25 th	St Mary's Battisford Holy Communion
Wednesday	25 th	Holy Communion & Christmas Carols, Little Finborough Church
Tuesday	31 st	New Year's Eve Party at the Punch Bowl
January		
Wednesday	1 st	New Year's Day Walk with Bangers & Mash, Punch Bowl
Wednesday	8 th	Warm Wednesday – Building your family story
Monday	13 th	Afternoon Tea at the Punch Bowl
Monday	13 th	Combs Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday	21 st	Battisford Parish Council meeting
February		
Wednesday	5 th	Warm Wednesday – Carpet Bowls
Monday	10 th	Afternoon Tea at the Punch Bowl
Monday	10 th	Combs Parish Council meeting
March		
Wednesday	5 th	Warm Wednesday – Orchard Barn
Monday	10 th	Afternoon Tea at the Punch Bowl
Monday	10 th	Combs Parish Council meeting
Tuesday	21 st	Battisford Parish Council meeting

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The next Community Newsletter will be distributed in March 2025