

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

COVERING BATTISFORD, COMBS, LITTLE  
FINBOROUGH AND MOATS TYE

November 2025



## **BREAKING NEWS!**



Father Christmas is coming to town.....  
See inside for details

### CONTENTS INCLUDING:

- Christmas Events
- Mobile Post Office
- Mobile Library
- Rural Coffee Caravan
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Pride In Combs Update
- Oaks Meadow Update
- Cricket Club News
- Battisford Village Hall hire
- Parish Council Updates
- Dates For Your Diary
- And Much More



New Village Gates on Poplar Hill  
and Tannery Road



And I couldn't resist including  
this lovely photo taken in  
Battisford!

The next Community Newsletter is due out in March 2026, with a deadline of Friday 27th February for any articles.

We would love to hear from you with your comments about the newsletter or any of the articles or any suggestions for future issues.

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

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

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# FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



Wonderful news! I will be visiting again

**Combs on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – 9pm**  
**Battisford on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6pm – 9pm**

As usual I will wave & greet everyone - collecting any letters! We are collecting food donations for Stowmarket Food Bank, not cash. Please have your donations ready, or leave on your doorstep & my wonderful Elves will collect them. If you can, the following products would be extra helpful

**SWEET:** Christmas Cakes, Iced Fruit Bars, Jelly, Custard, Trifle mix, Chocolate Log, Instant Hot Chocolate, Angel delight, Large tubs of Chocolates & 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.

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 xx**







Mobile Post Office  
Outside the Punch Bowl  
Inn every Friday  
12.45—13.45

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 visit is 27<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas and 2026 dates still to be  
confirmed but further details can be  
found on

<https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries/>



But please do not leave extra boxes  
as this takes up valuable seating and  
makes the bus shelter look untidy!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to  
everyone who helped with  
the litter pick across both  
Battisford & Combs. We  
collected approx 20 bags of  
discarded bottles and food  
wrappers from our verges, as  
well as an old tyre, car  
bumper and discarded  
clothing!



The next litter pick is planned for  
March 2026 so watch out for details  
on the noticeboards and Parish  
Council websites.



## Battisford Parish Council



As I write this report in mid-October, I am minded that British Summertime ends in only a few days and 'putting back' the clocks brings the real feeling of winter. And, Christmas is only two months away.....

It has been a relatively quiet summer in the parish- our second litter pick of the year took place on Sunday 12 October and thanks are due to those who assisted. We are seeing a gratifying trend of less litter being collected, though this is possibly down to residents who litter-pick on a regular basis, so, if that's you, thank you.

On a less positive note, residents have reported to us a greatly increased amount of dog poo – both unbagged and bagged- that is evident throughout the village. Clearly, this is both highly distasteful, and a health hazard. There are a number of dog waste bins through the village, so, if you are a dog owner or walker, please: pick it, bag it, and bin it!

The Parish Council has welcomed two new Councillors- Eleanor Newman joined us in July, and, following Steve Greenwood's resignation, Ben Ince has very recently stepped into the breach! We were sorry to see Steve leave, and thank him for his enthusiasm and support.

Many residents have commented favourably on the roadside 'white gates' that have been recently installed in Combs. Several months ago, we agreed to obtain quotes for installation of white gates by our village green in the hope that motorists will recognise they are entering a 30mph limit. And slow down! We will progress this in November, and recognise the constant support of both our County Councillor (Kay Oakes) and District Councillor (Dan Pratt) in this and many other matters.

We are seeking also to undertake remedial work to, and improve, the parish cemetery gates and reinstate headstones that have become unsafe.

Clearly such improvements aren't without cost, but our budget forecasting allows for these necessary works; we aim always to achieve best value and prioritise safety issues.

In November we will survey the trees at the village green and, over the winter months, a small number will be selectively felled to ensure safety and open up the understorey to improve the general health of the area and improve biodiversity. There will be occasions when areas of the green will be closed to enable safe felling.

We are exploring more effective ways to provide information and communicate within the parish and are always open to comments, feedback and suggestions, so please feel free to make contact.

Much of our local social and physical infrastructure (Village Hall, Punch Bowl Inn, local faith groups, Gardening Club, local inclusivity initiatives) is promoted and maintained by a handful of hard-working and motivated individuals- things don't magically happen! If you can help, in any way, please reach out and help support your community.

Happy winter!

Jon Cook - Chairman  
joncook@battisford-pc.gov.uk / 07592 775059

Julia Stephens-Row - Clerk  
clerk@battisford-pc.gov.uk / 07864 742341

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

# Pride In Combs Project

## Noticed Anything New in Combs Recently?

In February Combs Parish Council was awarded £5000 to make some improvements to the village we are pleased to call home. A few local residents, Mike & Anna James, Sue Hendry and Councillors Hannah Larsen, Alan Tomlinson, Cliff Ratcliffe got together some ideas with support from Suzanne Ottewell (Parish Clerk):

- Spring Bulb Planting in various locations around the village, including around village sign, PC noticeboards, grass triangles & verges
- 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 Parish Council approved these and provided a bit of extra financial support and off we went!

We hope you are pleased with the results. Of course the bulbs won't be seen until the spring but we are hoping that these will give us all a bit of cheer after the winter.

We would like to say an extra thanks to:

Ian Clark for website support

Sara Waterer for design advice, sketches and photographs

Bill Baldry for Village Walks and photographs

Paul Hansord – advising and ordering the bulbs

Neil Moss (nestmaintenance01@gmail.com) - for planting the bulbs

Sam Cross (porch& sons.co.uk) – for installing the gates, information board and picnic table

We hope you like the results of the project. Please let tell us what you think ( and if you have more ideas to give us all "Pride in Combs"!

combsparishcouncil@gmail.com

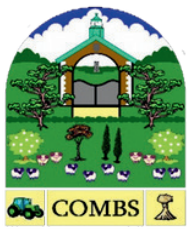


The bench is also due it's make-over very soon!



Work-in-progress





## COMBS PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents

Isn't our Parish a glorious place to live at this time of year? Well, it is when there's a bit of sunshine around to highlight the Autumn colours that seem to encompass every shade of yellow, red and their combinations in the palette. We must also thank our local landowners who have been busy cutting back hedges and clearing out ditches as they do every year, keeping the place pleasant, tidy and fresh. Their efforts also helped with our most recent litter pick as we were able to get stuck in without hindrance.

You may also have noticed a few changes in our locale. The 'Pride in Combs' team led by Anna James has installed some white gates at the entrances to Combs, a new picnic bench up by Moats Tye and a splendid map by the bus shelter at the heart of the network of pathways in the village. There'll be additions over the next year or so and the guys deserve a big 'well done and thank you'.

On a less positive note, your parish council has taken the decision to postpone work on our Neighbourhood Plan for a couple of reasons. First, the grants formerly available to support this work have been removed. The council could pay for it but only if there was a clear desire by residents to do so. Secondly, it's unclear where the Local Government Reorganisation will end up and there's no guarantee that a Neighbourhood Plan would carry the same legal force in the future as it does now. As a group we don't much like rowing back on what seemed like an excellent idea a few months back but we are where we are.

Finally and with no little sorrow we say goodbye to Hannah Larsen who has decided to step down as a councillor. We thank her for the smartness, diligence and integrity she brought to the role. Her leaving provides a further vacancy for socially minded folk to join us: if you'd like to find out more do please get in touch with our clerk Suzanne Ottewell or me.

With my best wishes,

Tony Kitson  
Chairman, Combs Parish Council





# PURE

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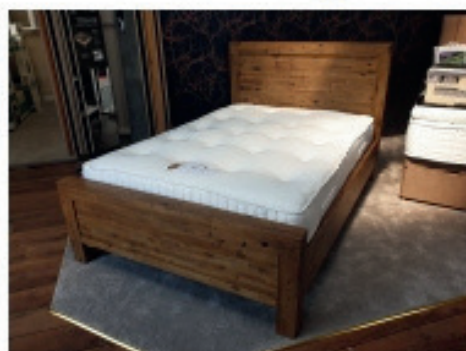
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[www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk](http://www.rewtstreesandgardens.co.uk)



## OAKS MEADOW PROJECT CIO

Bildeston Road, Little Finborough IP14 2LA

This summer has seen lots of sunshine and very little rain. The meadow was a popular destination for many children and families over the summer holidays with the playground area being well used and the green space appreciated by all. Fortunately, the rain collected from earlier in the year managed to keep the plants and mud kitchen supplied with water.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Teddy Bears Picnic, Apple Pressing Day, Bingo and the Halloween Event, a great time was had on each occasion. The funds raised will go towards the running and maintenance of the meadow.

**Bugs, Birds & Beasties** Thanks to our field teacher Julie Peeling there was a very successful bug hunt during the holidays. This is now being extended to groups of school aged children along with other educational topics such as medicinal plants, foraging and meadow crafts. Julie is busy recording the different bugs that she finds on the meadow, we already have two entries on the National Biodiversity Network map.



Do you have any BINOCULARS at home that you no longer use? If yes, please consider donating them to Oaks Meadow junior bird watchers. There are some spectacular birds flying overhead - Red Kites, Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Woodpeckers, Barn Owl & Yellow Hammers to name a few. It would be great for the children to be able to identify the different species and learn how greenspace habitats are important for them and us all.

### **AGM TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 7:30 AT THE BATTISFORD & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB**

Oaks Meadow Project CIO will be five years old in November and the Trustees will be presenting the strategy for the next five years along with the results of the recent survey.

Do join us if you can to be part of the Oaks Meadow Community. There will be seasonal refreshments after the meeting.

Website: [www.oaksmeadow.org.uk](http://www.oaksmeadow.org.uk)

Email: [oaksmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:oaksmeadow@gmail.com)

Facebook: Oaks Meadow Project



Battisford Free Church & The Punch Bowl Inn  
invites you to join us for

# Carols at the Punch Bowl

Led by a Brass Ensemble

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 7:30pm  
at The Punch Bowl Inn Bowl Road,  
Battisford Tye, Stowmarket IP14 2LQ





BATTISFORD FREE CHURCH'S

## Christmas CHILDREN'S Service

COME ALONG TO OUR CHILDREN  
CENTRED CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
FOR ALL TO ENJOY


SUNDAY **14** AT 10:45 AM  
DECEMBER




Please join us for our

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 5PM  
BATTISFORD FREE CHURCH



ALL WELCOME







**The Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September in Battisford Village Hall. We raised an amazing amount of money:**

**£2,122.08**

**Thank you to everyone who helped or supported us in making the morning such a success**

- The helpers
- The cake makers
- The local people and businesses who provided raffle prizes
- The people who came along and had a 'cuppa' (there were so many of you, it was lovely)
- The flyer postman
- Helen who provided the flowers
- The Village Hall Committee
- The people who gave monetary donations and couldn't come along
- Caroline who sold her beautiful cards

**Marion Davey, Nutberry, Straight Road, Battisford**

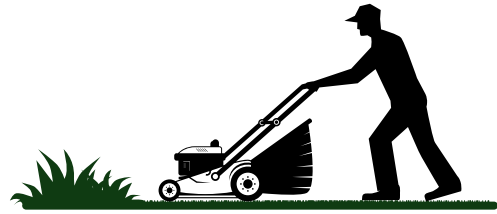
**All proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support**

## Community Self-Help Scheme

Following the success of our Pride in Combs Project, Combs Parish Council are looking for Community Volunteers to help with minor maintenance activities that Suffolk Highways are no longer able to deliver as frequently as we would like.

This includes:

- Grass cutting
- Tree pruning
- Weed clearance
- Siding out of footpaths
- Cleaning around gullies
- Sign cleaning
- Painting street furniture



The Parish Council will be responsible for ensuring there is somebody suitable trained and qualified to supervise volunteers and ensure that work is undertaken in accordance with the legal requirements of working on the highway. Suffolk County Council will provide the relevant training for 'lead' volunteers.

If you would like to get involved, especially as a 'lead' volunteer, please speak to any of the Combs Parish Councillors or email [combsparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:combsparishcouncil@gmail.com). Training will then be arranged with Suffolk County Council.

More details are available on their website

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/community-self-help-scheme>

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## Battisford & District Cricket Club

Sadly the cricket season has come to an end however this doesn't mean that activity ceases. The club is still open on Monday and Tuesday evening 5-7 and Fridays 5- the last person leaves! We will have a number of social events during the winter so please look out on our Facebook page - the first one being a race night on Saturday 29th November. All welcome and for tickets please contact Julia on the details below.

Overall the season was very positive with both the Saturday and Sunday sides who had been promoted last year maintaining a good position in their divisions. The ladies side needs huge congratulations as they won their division and certainly their side has gone from strength to strength this season. The juniors across a range of age groups have all played enthusiastically and with great camaraderie, often fielding players who were a lot younger than our opponents. See below for a few photographs of our season including the ultimate cricket tea and end of season do !

We are holding our AGM on Friday 14th November 7.30 at the cricket club so please come along if you are interested in getting involved.

During the closed season the club is having a new treatment plant installed with the majority of funding coming from Mid Suffolk District Council, alongside a contribution from Combs and Battisford Parish Councils and Mid Suffolk District Cllr Pratt and County Cllr Oakes, for which the club is very grateful.

As a small club we continue to punch above our weight with two players recognised by the Hunts Sunday league - Mia Doughty Card - aged 13 and Tom Virr aged 16 for exceptional performances in a single game and Eloise Long by Suffolk Cricket for her contribution to coaching, bowling, taking 5 wickets for the Sunday side and joint captaincy of the ladies team. This is a remarkable achievement across a season for such a small club.

We are always looking to recruit new players so if you or anyone you know are interested in getting involved next season do please get in touch.

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. We have a strong junior and senior section and we welcome social members, however this all takes time and input so if you want to come along and volunteer please do get in touch.

Finally our facilities with a great bar, kitchen and social space are available to hire - weddings, christenings, birthday parties and funeral wakes all at a competitive price.

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 - Winter & Christmas News



As the nights draw in and the fire crackles once more, we're raising a festive glass to all of you - our wonderful community - for another fantastic year at the Punch Bowl!

🍹 A HUGE thank you for another brilliant Beer Festival! Our August Beer, Cider & Gin Festival was one to remember - sunshine, music, and plenty of good cheer. We couldn't have done it without our 17 generous barrel sponsors (a wonderful mix of regulars, community members, and local businesses), our tireless volunteer bar staff, our brilliant team, reliable suppliers, talented artists, and of course, every single one of you who came along to enjoy the weekend. You made it another unforgettable celebration of what our community pub is all about!

🌸 A Little Love for Our Garden A big thank you also goes to our green fingered volunteers, who keep our lawn looking lovely and our flowers blooming beautifully. A special nod also to Clarke's Fencing for the smart new signposts.

🍴 A taste of the season – our NEW winter & Christmas menu! The kitchen's been busy cooking up something special. Our new Winter and Christmas menu is full of hearty, comforting dishes to warm you up on chilly evenings. Perfect for family get-togethers, festive meals, or a cosy night by the fire with friends.

🎵 Live music & community events We've loved seeing you all at our regular live music nights this year - we hope to keep the beat going with at least one gig a month through winter. Keep an eye on our socials and blackboard for who's playing next!

And don't miss our traditional **Christmas Carols evening on Wednesday 17th December from 7.30pm** - always a joyful night of music, mulled wine, and community spirit.

🍕 Dolly's Pizza nights The ever-popular Dolly's Pizza van will continue to visit every 3rd Monday of the month 4.30–7.30pm - perfect for an easy (and delicious!) dinner.

🌟 Christmas & New Year opening hours

Here's when we'll be open over the festive period:

Christmas Eve: 12pm-late (no food, but plenty of festive cheer and a Christmas sing-along!)

Christmas Day: 12-2pm (no food)

Boxing Day: 12-4pm (no food)

New Year's Eve: 7pm-late (Disco night – see in 2026 with a dance!)

New Year's Day: 12pm-late (sign up to the community walk - a great way to start the year right!)

As always, thank you for supporting your community pub. Every pint, meal, and smile helps keep the Punch Bowl thriving.

Here's to good company, great food, and plenty of festive fun this winter!

The Punch Bowl Team



Follow us on:

Facebook: Punch Bowl Battsford Community Inn

Instagram: @the\_punchbowlinn



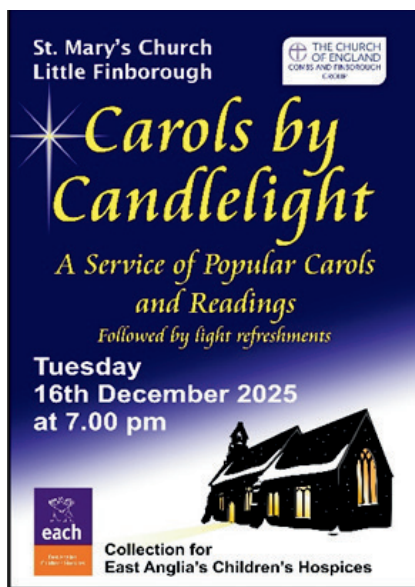
## Winter Commemorations and Celebrations at Little Finborough Church

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

**REMEMBRANCE – Sunday 9th November at 3pm** This service is to commemorate and express our gratitude for the sacrifice of those who served our country in war. Some local people gave their lives and others suffered upheavals and losses which affected them for the rest of their lives. Our service will include a two-minute silence to remember them and reflect on their sacrifice.

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – Tuesday 16th December at 7pm** The Little Finborough Carol Service is always much anticipated and to many local people it represents the start of the Christmas festivities. The service will include popular Christmas Carols and readings telling the story of Christ's coming at Christmas. Come along and get your Christmas off to a warm hearted start.

**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION– Thursday 25th December at 9am** Begin your Christmas Day in the traditional way. Join us at Little Finborough Church for Holy Communion, to sing carols and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Battisford & District Gardening Club

The Winter season of activities is well under way. In October we were taught not to worry about giving our roses a good prune; November we are due to find out about Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden.

Still to come are these Christmas events and meetings in the New Year

**29 November: Wreath Making** (fully booked but we are building a reserve list), 10 am Village Hall, Straight Road

**1 December: Xmas Quiz and social evening** 7pm at the Cricket Club, Moat's Tye

**5 January: Pruning** - the months of January and February are peak pruning season. This is the first time we have run an afternoon meeting - 12pm with soup and a roll. Venue to be confirmed

**2 February: Diamonds are Forever** - Developing gardens over time 7.40pm Village Hall, Straight Road

## St. Mary's Battisford

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Stowmarket Food Bank through our Harvest Festival Service in October, and to Claire for arranging Doreen's amazing dahlias.

The second Sunday in November (9th) is Remembrance Sunday and, as in previous years, our service of Holy Communion will move to 9.00 a.m. It will be followed by the Service of Remembrance, beginning at 10.45 a.m. at the Wear Road, Ringshall, British/American Memorial. Parking is through Gate 3 on the airfield perimeter track, as directed. The names of Battisford villagers lost in WW1 (as recorded in the Church) will be read out. We were a "Thankful Village" in 1945 as all our parishioners who went to serve their country, came home.

In December we have our usual service of Morning Prayer on 7th at 11.00a.m. and Holy Communion on 14th at 11.15a.m.

"Carols by Candlelight" will be held at 5.00 p.m. on 24th – this year Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday--- and, as ever, we will be delighted to welcome you all.

On Saturday 13th December we hold our Christmas Fair in the Punch Bowl from 9.00 a.m. and would welcome any donations of cakes, biscuits, decorations, suitable gifts, items for the draw or tombola.....or indeed, anything Christmassy!!

Caroline will have fresh wreaths for sale as usual and, if you are pre-ordering, would be grateful for numbers by 1st December (07547943160). They will be in bio-degradable Oasis again, which raises the cost slightly but is more ecologically sound....and we are an eco-church!



A visitor recently enquired why St, Mary's Battisford has but one bell, when several surrounding churches have a peal. Battisford Church has just a small bell gable (where jackdaws nest annually!) but once had a proper substantial tower. This sadly collapsed, probably in the very late eighteenth century, after which the west wall was repaired with its strange stepped buttress.....very unusual, and probably "made up as he went along" by a local craftsman. In 1553 there were three bells recorded in the tower, but, by the 1700's, one was cracked and the Bishop of Norwich (we were in his Diocese then) granted a faculty for two bells to be sold and the proceeds used in the parish.

The existing bell was cast in 1666 by John Darbie, bell founder in Ipswich and presumably survived the fall, as did the two gargoyles incorporated into the fabric of the South Porch step. We ring our solo bell slowly and respectfully for funerals and quickly (and hopefully more joyfully) for weddings, to celebrate national occasions such as V. E. Day, the Coronation and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We also join in, at a pre-arranged time, when bells are rung country-wide in celebration or commemoration. When our original bells were hung they had various functions. Summoning parishioners to services, of course, but also announcing a death in the village, different patterns revealing "man, woman or child", followed by tolling the number of years of their life. In addition the clamour of bells was widely believed to protect the village from the forces of evil. A typical bell inscription: "the sound of this bell vanquishes tempests, repels demons and summons men" and "This to ward off lightning and tis I who dissipates thunder" .... superstitions left from pagan times but embraced by Christians "just in case"!





## Orchard Barns News

After three years we have nearly completed the shingles on the roof of our new teaching space! If anyone has helped in the past with shingle making, and could give some time to get us over the finishing line, please let Sarah know.

We are always looking for new volunteers. The following activities are coming up if you would like to try something new:



- On alternate Thursday mornings there will be the opportunity to learn how to transform old tools by sharpening and resetting traditional carpenters' saws.
- In December we will be creating a new biodiversity habitat on our site to help nature recover.
- In January there will be free training in the wonderful crafts of hedge-laying and pole lathe use - both using traditional skills and hand tools.

All our activities provide a great form of exercise, and you will make new friends whilst you learn a new skill. The Dragonfly Hearth will be alight in the Long House (our beautiful newly reinstated 1580s teaching space) so we will be enjoying our tea and lunch breaks inside. Bring your own refreshments/drinking water and remember to dress appropriately!

**To find out more about us or to volunteer, go to our website <http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk>, call**

**Sarah on 07766 054042 or email her [sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com)**

**Orchard Barn, Ringshall, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2LY**

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# Battisford Village Hall



## FUND RAISING EVENT COMING UP

For full details, please see noticeboards

### Wreath Making

Friday 28th November 7pm.

Booking essential.

Call Trudy on 07887 932861

-----  
Toasty Tuesday – 3rd Tuesday of the month

Next dates

18<sup>th</sup> November

16<sup>th</sup> December

## 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

## Letter from the Rector at Combs and Little Finborough



I can't believe where this year has gone, here we are planning our Christmas services and the diary for December is looking very busy indeed with a variety of events, including Messy Christmas on 13th December at Trinity Hall in Onehouse (please see poster elsewhere in the magazine for details). I do hope you'll be able to join us at one of our carol or crib services, we have a wide choice ranging from the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at Buxhall on 21st December at 6.30pm, to Carols by Candlelight at Little Finborough also on 16th December at 7pm, to a walking Carol service around the village of Onehouse on 21st December at 4pm with lanterns! And there are many more Christmas services which are all listed elsewhere in this magazine.

Christmas is a time for families and friends to come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, there are many people who will be on their own throughout the build-up in December and at Christmas itself. Please try and keep an eye out for friends and neighbours who you know are on their own at this time and we all know that the cost of living crisis makes things especially challenging for many people. And of course, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, Revd Pauline, Revd Alison or a member of the ministry team if you, or someone you know, is in need.

The Christmas story is possibly the most well known story throughout the world, telling us about the birth of a baby who was born to save us. The well-known characters Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the three wise men and of course, the baby, Jesus, all feature in a book that reads like an advent calendar. 'The Christmas Mystery' by Jostein Gaarder is written in the form of one short chapter for every day beginning on 1st December, and follows the journey of a group of characters travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus Christ. I read it every year and never fail to get caught up in the joy of that journey back through time to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. If you do decide to read it please let me know what you think of it.

So may I finish by sending you all good wishes and blessings for a very happy Christmas and prayers for a healthy new year in 2026.

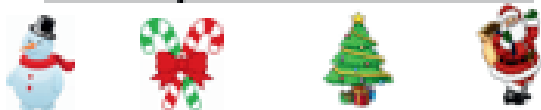
With blessings  
Revd Sarah







## Messy Christmas!!



## Trinity Hall, Onehouse

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am to 12.00pm

Crafts, Stories, Songs and Food

All ages welcome, primary age children and  
younger welcome with their parents/carers

Places must be booked by emailing

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

The Messy Church network is a registered charity (1000000) at 1000000 (200000) and is a registered charity (1000000) and is a registered charity (1000000) and is a registered charity (1000000)

## 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.

A small donation towards costs is appreciated.

There may be a tasty Christmas theme in December too.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.



## Infinite Potential Fitness

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

We support members on their fitness journey and are helping people in the local area to become fitter, healthier and happier. Want to build your confidence in yourself, find new friends and be part of a community where everything is coach lead.

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](mailto:info@infinitepotentialfitness.com)



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## Mid-Suffolk District Council Recycling



**HUMANS OF MID SUFFOLK**

# Don't bin them, recycle your old electricals

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new.

Bag up your old electricals - anything smaller than a toaster and drop them off at the new pink bins for recycling.

Scan or search 'recycle your electricals' to find all your local donation or recycling points.

recycle your electricals

Together with Mid-Suffolk District Council

### Nearest Locations:

- \* Iliffe Way car park, Stowmarket
- \* Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket
- \* Elmswell train station
- \* New Green Community Centre, Thurston
- \* Station Yard car park, Needham Market
- \* Buckshorn Lane car park, Eye

You can now recycle small broken electrical items, like coffee machines, kettles, mobile phones, tablets, and anything smaller than a 4-slice toaster in these bins.

Larger items will still need to be taken to a Suffolk Recycling Centre.



## DIGITAL copycentre

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Email: [info@digitalcopycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@digitalcopycentre.co.uk)  
37 Stowupland Street, Stowmarket, IP14 1EG

# 01449 678100



## GREAT FINBOROUGH & BUXHALL UNDER 5'S

**Ofsted**  
Good Provider

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/](http://www.greatfinborough-pc.gov.uk/under-5s/)





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

Next visits are

13<sup>th</sup> November

11<sup>th</sup> December

2026 dates haven't been confirmed yet  
but can be checked on their website

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

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CALL 07921 502501  
EMAIL: BSHARPE6@HOTMAIL.COM



# 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 Matthissen 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

## Buses

Suffolk Taxi Bus - call 01449 866899 or go to [swifttaxicabs.com](http://swifttaxicabs.com)  
Hadleigh Community Transport Group (accessible transport) - 01473 826242





# Dates for your diary

Further details can be found inside this newsletter

## Date

Every Monday  
Every Wednesday  
Every Thursday  
Every Friday  
Every 3rd Monday  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

## November

Monday 10th  
Thursday 13th  
Tuesday 14th  
Tuesday 18th  
Tuesday 18th  
Tuesday 18th  
Friday 28th  
Saturday 29  
Saturday 29th

## December

Monday 1st  
Monday 8th  
Saturday 13th  
Saturday 13th  
Sunday 14th  
Tuesday 16th  
Tuesday 16th  
Wednesday 17th  
Wednesday 17th  
Thursday 18th  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday 21st  
Sunday 21st  
Wednesday 24th  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

## January

Thursday 1st  
Monday 5th  
Monday 12th  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

## February

Monday 2nd  
Monday 9th  
Tuesday 17th

## Event

NEW ZUMBA CLASSES at Battisford Village Hall  
Snooker Club at Battisford Village Hall  
Yoga at Battisford Village Hall  
Mobile Post Office outside the Punch Bowl  
Dolly's Pizza Truck outside the Punch Bowl  
Monday Teas at the Punch Bowl  
Toasty Tuesday at the Village Hall (next date 16<sup>th</sup> Nov)

Combs Parish Council meeting  
Rural Coffee Caravan @ Combs Green  
Battisford Cricket Club AGM  
Oaks Meadow AGM  
Battisford Parish Council meeting  
Toasty Tuesday at Battisford Village Hall  
Wreath Making @ Battisford Village Hall  
Gardening Club - Wreath Making  
Battisford Cricket Club Race Night

Gardening Club Christmas Quiz & Social Evening  
Combs Parish Council meeting  
St Marys Battisford - Christmas Fair at the Punch Bowl  
Messy Christmas at Trinity Hall Onehouse  
BFC - Children's Christmas Service  
Little Finborough Church Carols by Candlelight  
Toasty Tuesday at Battisford Village Hall  
Carols at the Punch Bowl  
Santa visiting Combs residents  
Santa visiting Battisford residents  
BFC - Carols by Candlelight  
Nine Lessons & Carols at Buxall  
Walking Carol Services around Onehouse  
St Marys Battisford - Carols by Candlelight  
Little Finborough Church - Christmas Day Holy Communion

New Years Day Community Walk from the Punch Bowl  
Gardening Club - "Pruning"  
Combs Parish Council meeting  
Battisford Parish Council meeting

Gardening Club - "Diamonds are Forever"  
Combs Parish Council meeting  
Battisford Parish Council meeting