

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS



SEASONS GREETINGS!

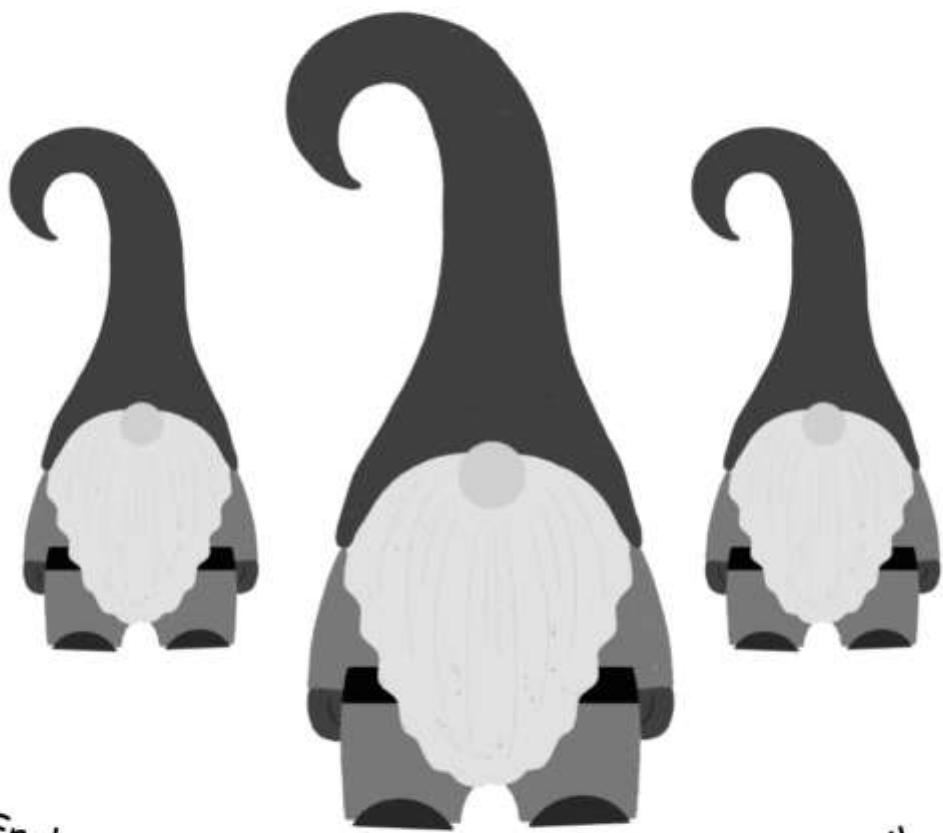


Buon Natale

Nollaig Shona

Feliz Navidad

Shchaslyvoho Rizdva



Frohe Weihnachten

Nollaig Chridheil

Nadolig Llawen

Joyeux Noel

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025/26

PALMERS BAKERY

HAUGHLEY

Established 1869 – Over 150 Years of Excellence
TRADITIONAL HIGH CLASS ARTISAN
FAMILY BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS



The White House & Haughley Village Green – affectionately known as 'The Ark', The White House has been the official Palmer Family Residence for six generations since 1892 and was built in 1527 by Roger Bell and known as Crown Hall

**FRESH BREAD & CONFECTIONERY BAKED DAILY BY CRAFTSMEN USING
LOCAL INGREDIENTS & BAKED IN ANCIENT BRICK OVENS**



01449 673286



The Village Green ~ Haughley

Largest Stockist of Tiptree Jams & Marmalades in East Anglia.

Suffolk Honey, Free Range Eggs, Groceries & Local Produce.

Freshly Made Sandwiches & Filled Rolls - Hot Drinks & Bacon Rolls

*Also at Stowmarket, Woolpit, Stanton and
Brett's Bakery Needham Market & Freshfills of Claydon*

*Seven Generations of Baking, Tradition & Service for Over 150 years
Through the Reigns of Seven Monarchs*

"MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR"





DATES FOR THE DIARY - 2025

DECEMBER

Sat 6th	Community Christmas Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 6th	*Wetherden Christmas Market	10.00am
Sat 6th	*Film Nights: "Mr Burton" Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Sun 7th	*Carol Service, St Mary's, Wetherden	6.30pm
Tues 9th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm

2026

JANUARY

Fri 2nd	*Quiz Nights, Wetherden Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 3rd	*Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 3rd	*Film Nights: "The Ballad of Wallis Island", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Sat 10th	*An Evening with Elvis" with Andy Otley - HUFC, Haughley Pavilion	7.15pm
Tues 13th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
Wed 14th	*Singing for Wellbeing, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 24th	* HATS Quiz Night, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Sun 25th	*Haughley Hoofers, taster session, Haughley Village Hall	2.30pm
Wed 28th	*Singing for Wellbeing, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 30th	*Quiz Night, Wetherden Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 31st	*Quiz Night, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm

FEBRUARY

Sat 7th	*Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 7th	*Film Nights: "The Roses", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Wed 11th	*Singing for Wellbeing, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 20th &	*HATS Panto, Goldilocks & the 3 Bears, Haughley	2.00pm & 7.30pm
Sat 21st	Village Hall	2.00pm & 7.30pm
Wed 25th	*Singing for Wellbeing, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 27th	*Quiz Night, Wetherden Village Hall	7.30pm

MARCH

Sat 28th	*Glam Rock Disco, Haughley Village Hall, more details to follow
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MAY

Sat 9th	HUFC - St Elizabeth Hospice Charity day - more details to follow
Sat 9th	Quiz Night, Haughley Village Hall, more details to follow

JUNE

Sat 20th&	Haughley Open Gardens
Sun 21st	

* See poster for further details





COMMUNITY CAFÉ



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Saturday 6th December 2025

Community Café – 3rd January 2026

‘Coffee & Chat’ at the Green Room

Mondays from 10am-12noon

***Closed 29th Dec 2025**

Dates for your diary:-

GLAM ROCK DISCO – March 28th 2026

Spring Quiz & Ploughmans Supper 9th May 2026

FILM NIGHTS - Doors 7pm for 7.30pm start

Admission £5 including refreshments

Saturday 6th December - ‘Mr Burton’ based on the true story of how the son of a miner became one of the worlds greatest actors Richard Burton, with the help of an unlikely mentor. Starring Toby Jones, Lesley Manville and Harry Lawtey.

Saturday 3rd January – ‘The Ballad of Wallis Island’ 2025 British comedy-drama starring Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden as a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan (Tim Key) on a remote Welsh island.

Saturday 7th February - ‘The Roses’ starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman as a successful couple whose picture-perfect marriage begins to fall apart. Satirical black comedy reimagining of the 1989 film ‘The War of the Roses’.

***To find out more about ‘What’s On’ at Haughley Village Hall visit our webpage at Haughley.org.uk**

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Saturday 6th December
10am-1pm



Including a special performance by
Haughley Singing for Wellbeing Group who will be
singing a selection of well known festive songs
between 11-11.30am

Join us for our Festive Community Café
with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies as well as our usual fare.
We also have a variety of stalls selling gifts for all.

COME AND JOIN US!

For more information contact :

Lindsey Philpot : 01449 675703/07765886690

Lynne Mahon : 01449 674085/07941116240



HAUGHLEY SINGING FOR WELLBEING

Beat the January blues and come and join us for an uplifting sing song:

Our next session dates are:

January 14th and 28th
February 11th and 25th

7.30 pm start in the
Village Hall Green room

Bring a drink and £5 cash per session

Wishing all our singers
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY NEW YEAR
Elaine, Isobel and Lynn



For more information contact:
Lynn: 07979832980
or email: elainelynnHSW@gmail.com

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

HAUGHLEY PARISH IN BLOOM

Autumn 2025 Parishioners Update



Just to update you.....

All the planters have now been planted with Autumn/Winter plants & Spring bulbs. We have also planted a further 1,600+ daffodil bulbs around planter areas & verges within the Parish. We are hoping for a good 'yellow' show of daffodils in the Spring! We envisage further daffodil bulbs to be planted next Autumn to reach even more areas of the Parish.

Unfortunately, one barrel planter has seen better days and therefore has been removed from its site and the Haughley Parish In Bloom programme currently. It is our intention to monitor the older wooden planters and hopefully they can at some time in the future be replaced.

We would like to thank two new volunteers Maggie & Debbie who helped us with dismantling, tidying & general maintenance of planters removing Summer plants replacing with Autumn/Winter/Spring plants & bulbs. We would like to welcome them both to the group.

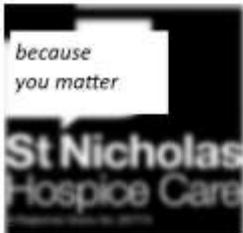
Thank you for the continued support of our Haughley Parish In Bloom volunteers, you are all so very much appreciated.

Alison & Yvonne
*Haughley Parish Councillors &
Haughley Parish In Bloom Coordinators*

Email: alison.pepper@haughleypc.co.uk &
yvonne.tricker@haughleypc.co.uk

St Mary's Church, WETHERDEN

During December we are supporting
St Nicholas Hospice & The Children's Society



The Children's
Society

There will be a collection during our
CAROL SERVICE
6.30 pm on Sunday 7 December
for
St Nicholas Hospice

The collection at our
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE,
4 pm on Sunday 21 December
will go to support the work of
The Children's Society

WETHERDEN VILLAGE HALL



There were just under 7 tables in play, at our Whist Drive held on Friday 14th November.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon a great deal, and next on the cards will be our special Christmas Whist Drive to be held on Friday 12th December at 2pm!

Why not come along???? You will be sure of a warm welcome!"

CAN YOU HELP?

Gardening help needed in Wetherden. Roughly 2 hours a week, more in spring/summer.
Phone Tony on 07784095225



REMEMBER

The copy deadline for the February 2026 issue is:

Wednesday, January 21 2026

Submit to:
The Editor, Oulton Cottage,
The Folly, Haughley
or (preferably) by email:
haughleynews@btinternet.com

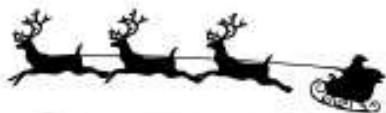
WETHERDEN

CHRISTMAS

6 DEC 2025

CHRISTMAS MARKET
AT WETHERDEN
VILLAGE HALL

LOCAL CRAFTS,
FESTIVE GIFTS &
DECORATIONS
DOORS OPEN 10AM



HAUGHLEY HOOTERS
BRASS BAND
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS/MUSIC OUTSIDE
WETHERDEN VILLAGE
HALL IN THE AFTERNOON

SANTA SEARCH
AT WETHERDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH

HELP SANTA FIND HIS
GIFTS FOLLOW CLUES
AROUND THE VILLAGE &
GET A CHOCOLATE
TREAT AT THE END.
HOT & COLD DRINKS.
CAKES & CRAFT MAKING

10AM-12PM
£1.50 PER
CHILD



HAUGHLEY HOOFERS CLOG DANCERS



Invite you to join them for a free taster session

On

SUNDAY JANUARY 25TH 2026

2.30 - 4.30pm

Haughley Village Hall

ALL WELCOME!

For further details contact:

Gill Brett

01449 673518

St Mary's Church Wetherden

Ann Cooke cordially invites you all to

A



**Coffee Morning
on
Thursday 29th January
from
10.30am to noon
at
Barleyfields, Wetherden**

There will be tea, coffee & biscuits
a bring-and-buy table, books & a raffle.
Everybody is welcome: the more the merrier.



Like us on Facebook - Wetherden Church

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride & Stride - A big thank you to those who cycled, those who sponsored participants, those who manned St Mary's Church Haughley, and thank you also to Haughley Choir who sang at four of our local churches on the day.

The money raised through the event is split between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and St Mary's Haughley.

The total amount raised was an excellent £712. *David Fleetwood (Ride & Stride Organiser for St Mary's Haughley)*

ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

At our latest meeting, we were joined by Chris Wiley, a local plantsman who founded the Sustainable Plant Store in 2022 and also coordinates Bury in Bloom. Chris shared his passion for snowdrops and he has over 1000 cultivated varieties in his personal collection.



Galanthus is the Latin name for the snowdrop and there are currently over 3000 known cultivated varieties and surprisingly they have a huge flowering period with some flowering as early as November with the later ones starting in March. Snowdrops can be planted as bulbs now or 'in the green' (in flower/with growth) in February or March. Chris shared some of his varieties with the group and the most popular one was 'Grumpy', pictured. This cultivar was discovered in a garden in Cambridge about 20 years ago. Snowdrops have had a recent resurgence in popularity with some of the rarer ones selling for hundreds of pounds per bulb!

Chris sells snowdrops as well as perennials, trees other bulbs and gifts online through his store sustainableplantstore.com and if you do fancy one of those rare cultivars then now is the time to treat yourself to an early Christmas present.

Our last meeting of the year was in November and we do not meet again until February. The Committee are busy finalising next years programme of speakers and visits. More details to follow over the winter months.

For Information
contact elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com
or Wendy on 07748442951

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H.A.T.S invites you to

**A FUN Quiz night
for all the family**



“OH NO it ISN’T”

**“Oh YES it
QUIZ”**

Saturday 24th January

at

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN 7pm for 7.30pm start

£5 per person maximum teams of 6

**To book tickets call 07746231114
or scan the QR code to book online**

Funds go to the 2026 Haughley Pantomime



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Chairman: Mr Tim Hart
Secretary: Vacant

Vice Chair : Mrs M Buttle
Email: acsargent48@gmail.com

Every year the residents of Haughley and surrounding areas come out in force to remember the fallen; this year was no exception. The branch gathered at the village post office with members of the village, Haughley and Wetherden Scouts and explorers with representatives of Haughley Youth Football club and pre-school. Scouse as he is affectionately known led the smart walk from the post office, past the revamped war memorial and into the church where we were met by Rev Andy Buttress. The two minute silence was signalled by the last post and reveille. Rev Andy gave a short meaningful sermon; notably about Douglas Bader. To engage with the children Rev Andy and some children made paper planes.

Like each year, a legion member called out each fallen soldier's name, 41 in total from the village where the beavers and scouts from the village laid a poppy to remember them followed by an extinguish of a candle.

Following the service inside the church everybody gathered around the war memorial for the laying of wreaths and prays. Afterwards 29 members of the branch went to the Stag Cafe for lunch.

On behalf of the branch and village I would like to extend my thanks to our Vice chair Mrs M Buttle for organising such a heartfelt remembrance service for 2025, our dedicated Poppy appeal collectors and organiser, Mr T Hart.

The current total for the Poppy Appeal in Haughley for 2025/2026 is £2,800, so thank you for your support.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 2025 and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Fancy becoming a member? Then contact Ashley on acsargent48@gmail.com.

All branch socials are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Maxwell room next to the post office.

Socials 2025

11th December - Branch social

*All socials are held in the Maxwell Room (next to the post office) from 7.30pm.

To view our full calendar of events go to our website:

www.britishlegion.org/branches/Haughley Or search

[Haughley Royal British Legion](http://Haughley%20Royal%20British%20Legion)

www.thehaughleywarmemorial.wordpress.com

HAUGHLEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
PRESENTS
"AN EVENING WITH ELVIS"
With Andy Otley



Saturday, January 10 2026

£5 per ticket - which can be purchased from Post Office
Bar open from 7.15pm, Bar is card only

Come and support your local football club and have
a great night out!

Ron Crascall Pavilion, Green Road, Haughley IP14 3RA

For queries contact: Colin: 07708062435



*The JUBILEE LADIES CHOIR
Present*

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come and enjoy lots of Christmas songs,
old and new
From well loved traditional to Gospel and a
Holiday Tango!

Saturday 6th December
7.30pm

Stowmarket United Reformed Church
Tickets include mulled wine and mince pie
£8 on the door (cash only please)
Festive prize draw during the interval



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL



HAUGHLEY PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION NEWS

King George's Field, Haughley charity No. 304761

Pavilion regeneration project – Some good news this month

Howdens have confirmed that we have been successful in obtaining a grant for the kitchen and they will be providing us with a new kitchen and new white goods for the kitchen (fridge freezer, cooker etc)

We have also been successful with our application for a Community Development Grant. Mid Suffolk District Council will provide the funding for us to repair the scout hut roof and replace the flooring in the scout hut, repair the function room window, fit a new main door to the pavilion and do general repairs and maintenance to the external doors and windows.

The architect has completed an initial draft design for the pavilion. See image on next page.

We are continuing to work on obtaining funding from the Mid Suffolk District Council CIL team and Sports Infrastructure Grant.

CUB Leader/s needed. Our Cub section is going to have to close after Christmas until a new leader can be found. If you know anyone that would consider stepping into this role, please do contact Richard Stacy.

December 50/50 Draw – This will be held on the 29th November 2025 at the Christmas lights switch on. First prize £100.00 Second prize £30.00 Third Prize £20.00 Fourth prize £10.00. **Christmas Raffle** – We are selling raffle tickets for the grand draw at the Christmas Tree lights switch on event on 29th November 2025. First Prize £100, other prizes will be Hampers, Vouchers, Alcohol etc. They will be available from Playing Field reps and Haughley Post Office. £1 a ticket. We are also selling mulled wine & mini mince pies at the event. Hope to see you there.

Quiz Night 31st January 2026 – see separate advertisement for details.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE - THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT US WITH NO COST TO YOU.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kinggeorgefldhaughley/>

Or go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select King George's Field, Haughley as your chosen charity.

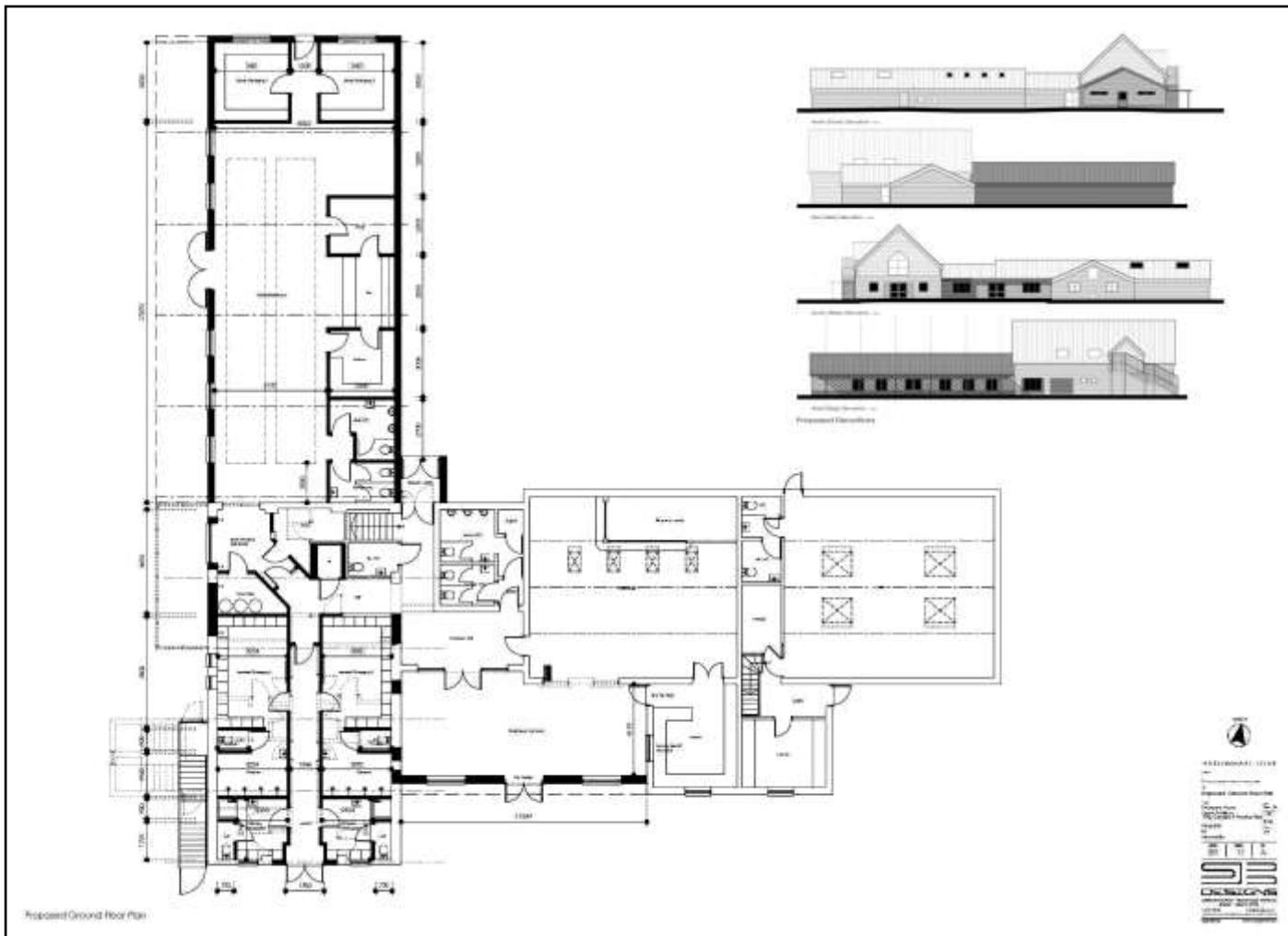
DOG MESS on the field. This is really causing a problem for matches. Dogs must be kept on a lead and poo removed. Please avoid allowing dogs to poo in the main playing areas.

Advertising board at the entrance to the Ron Crascall pavilion.

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact us via the parish clerk. Clerk@haughleypc.co.uk. The charge will be £250 a year for an A5 size advert, money raised will help the upkeep of the Pavilion, playing field and equipment.

Clubs and Regular activities at the Playing Field & Pavilion

- **Indoor Bowls Monday afternoons 2-4pm October to March**
- **Yoga – Bethany serenityyogabethany@outlook.com Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am** Upstairs function room.
- **Bingo:** Every second Tuesday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm eyes down. Upcoming dates: 9th December 2025, 13th January, 10th February, 10th March 2026.



Club Contacts

- All club contact details are in directory
- Thirza Shaw, Chairman & 50/50 Club Administrator, Email trtinker@aol.com or Thirza.shaw@haughleypc.co.uk Phone 07786375441

Dogs are welcome at the playing field. Please keep them on their leads and pick up your dog's poo.

Ron Crascall Pavilion, King George's Field, Haughley

There are three rooms for hire at the Pavilion

- Upstairs Function room
- 14m x 8m approx with 10 tables & 60 chairs
- Contact Thirza Shaw – trtinker@aol.com or 07786 375441
- Access to kitchen facilities on the Haughley Football club bar room ground floor
- Contact Ian Wilkinson 01449 773399 or Lee Forsdyke 07472902302
- Access to kitchen facilities
- Scouts Hall or folding table & chairs – Richard Stacy 01449 673311.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025

Eve Balfour House

Mid Suffolk District Council will shortly be submitting a planning application for the use of Eve Balfour House as temporary accommodation. This accommodation is intended to support residents within the Mid Suffolk district who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Homelessness applications are only accepted from individuals who meet the five statutory tests of homelessness under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). This ensures that temporary accommodation at Eve Balfour House will be provided solely to those who are legally eligible for housing assistance.

The accommodation is allocated to people on the Mid Suffolk housing register who have either become homeless or are likely to be so within the next two months. The average stay is around four months before residents move on to longer-term housing.

There have been suggestions that Eve Balfour House might be used for asylum seekers. This is not the case. Mid Suffolk District Council is not lawfully able to assist asylum seekers under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended), as they do not meet the eligibility criteria for housing assistance. Accommodation for asylum seekers is arranged nationally by the Home Office through its contractors, not by local councils.

Eve Balfour House remains the property of Mid Suffolk District Council and will be used solely to support those we owe a homeless duty.

Local Government reorganisation

The government consultation on the proposals for Suffolk and Norfolk was launched on 19th November. Everyone is invited to comment on the two proposals for Suffolk (one unitary council or three unitary councils) and you can submit your comments at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/suffolk-local-government-reorganisation>.

Locality Awards

The current round of grants, which began in April this year, will close in January. We have allocated most of our locality award grant for this year and have about £600 remaining so if any groups would like to submit an application do let us know as soon as possible. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards>.

Other funding for community projects

Details of Mid Suffolk Council's community funding can be found at:

www.midsuffolk.gov.uk – click on the 'Access community funding' button.

For advice or further information, please email the grants team at:

BMSDCgrants@aberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Customer access point

Anyone who prefers not to use the website links in this report can obtain information and help from the Mid Suffolk Customer Access Point at 54 Ipswich Street in Stowmarket. The Access Point will of course also give help and support on any other aspect of Council services.

Cllr Janet Pearson

Janet.Pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk

07928 512592

Cllr Agnes Watson

Agnes.Watson@midsuffolk.gov.uk

07599 828819



As we approach the Christmas period, our school has been filled with Christmas Carols and joyous craft making. The children have designed their own Christmas Cards for parents and carers to purchase for their families, they've been practicing for the Christmas service in church and still had time to draft their Christmas lists for the big man himself!

We would love to welcome the village, along with parents and carers, to join us in Church on Thursday 18th December, 2.30pm to join in our Christmas Service.

Children return to school after the Christmas Holidays on Tuesday 06th January. We are looking forward to hearing their wonderful festive stories!

Thank you for your support while the electrical works are taking place, we are hoping this will be completed in February.

We also thank Mr Benstock for taking such good care of our school for the Autumn Term. We are so grateful for his dedication to Crawford's Primary during this time and we are sure you will all agree he has made a positive impact on the day to day running of the school.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes, Crawford's CofE Primary School



QUIZ NIGHTS



at
Wetherden Village Hall

Friday January 2nd (in lieu of Boxing Day)

Friday January 30th

Friday 27th February

7.30pm



Teams to be a maximum of six, £2 pp
please bring your own refreshments.



Why not come along????
You will be sure of a warm welcome!!!!

To reserve a table contact:

wetherdenvillagehall@gmail.com or call/text 07528065250

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held a meeting on 18 November. Parishioners raised various concerns relating to the management of the Allotments and are being addressed. An improved means of communicating between allotment holders and the Parish Council has been introduced

The Government consultation on the proposals for Suffolk and Norfolk was launched on 19 November <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/suffolk-local-government-reorganisation>. The Development Consent Order for the planned Norwich to Tilbury pylon line has been accepted and is with the national Planning Inspectorate. Anyone wishing to make a representation needs to register with Inspectorate at:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

Registration closes on 27th November 2025. Rural support grant, Locality Awards and Other funding for community projects remain open. We are to expect a Planning Application relating to Balfour House to support residents within the Mid Suffolk district who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Cllr Janet Pearson has submitted further information for this issue.

A revised Emergency Plan for the Parish of Haughley has been drafted for use as guidance in the event of a major emergency in or near the Parish of Haughley; this was approved in principle and will be amended as additional information becomes available. Further information was received relating to the SCC Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Ancient Woodland Sites via Suffolk Tree Wardens. The new Stowupland Unauthorised Encampment Policy was considered and will be adapted for Haughley. The Council considered and agreed a range of grant funding applications.

Highways England has identified a range of roadworks to the A14 between Bury St Edmunds and Needham Market with various road closures and restrictions continuing through to the end of the year. Other road closures and roadworks were identified including some due to be completed before the end of November.

The Council considered the provision of dog poo bins, noting that there are already many bins about the Parish. A quote is being sought.

The Council received an update on activities at King George V playing field and proposals for the pavilion. Concern was expressed about the clearance of two bollards which have been removed by or for the developers, including one adjoining the playing field. Quotations are being sought for appropriate work to maintain appropriate security.

An update on the Christmas Tree event on the Green was received.

The Council agreed payments for November and considered aspects for the budget for 2026-7.

The following planning applications were considered:

DC/25/04954 and **DC/25/04940** – Following the grant a recent planning permission, a variation to a Planning Condition at 58 Old Street Haughley – supported.

DC/25/03728. Listed Building application for 55 Old Street Haughley for Repairs and alterations including retiling, replacement windows, partial render replacement, and internal alterations. Supported with observations.

DC/25/02405. Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwelling houses at Rookery Farm, Haughley Green, has been approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The Council received an update on Neighbourhood Planning and a report from the recent meeting of the Biodiversity & Wildlife Conservation Group.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 16 December 2025 at the Pavilion.

**We wish all our Parishioners
a Very Happy Christmas
and a successful New Year.**

King George V Playing Field Committee

Quiz Night

Saturday, 31st January 2026

7pm for 7.30pm start



At Haughley Pavilion

£5 per head, Max 6 people in a team



Raffle



Bar open (Please note bar is now card only)

Bring your own food/nibbles

To book a table please contact:
Thirza Shaw 07786375441 Email trtinker@aol.com

Funds in aid of King George V Playing Field, Haughley

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

In November, we were treated to an illuminating talk by local historian Barbara McElroy, on the so-called “Golden Age” of smuggling in Suffolk, 1720-1830, notably due to the introduction of tariffs on Dutch and French products such as brandy, gin, lace and tea. Thus, taxes and contraband become lucrative for government and organised crime alike! This led to a century of a cat-and-mouse game between the smugglers evading capture and government excise officers aided by the military trying to thwart them. The ships bringing in the contraband were called cutters, and the crew and associated smugglers would have specific roles such as a Spotsman, Lander, Tubsman and Butsman. Pubs such as the White Hart in Blythburgh, played a key role in these smuggling operations ranging from storing the contraband, passing on information to the smugglers and getting soldiers drunk so they were unfit to chase down the smugglers! The Hadleigh Gang was one of the largest and most notorious smuggling gangs which could number 200 strong. Barbara highlighted an interesting factor that, in order for the smugglers to evade capture and ultimately prison, they had to be aided and abetted by the local community. This included fishermen, farmers, local labourers, landed gentry and publicans, all of whom received some form of payment for their assistance, be it a bribe or otherwise. The smuggling operations had to be complex at times to outwit the excise officers who often got wind of when an illegal shipment would be coming in. This could lead to violent confrontations, resulting in serious injury and occasional deaths. The “Golden Age” came to an end when many tariffs were removed and official coastal patrols based on navy protocols were introduced during the 19th Century.

Our **next meeting** at Elmswell's Wesley Hall (IP30 9EE), 7.30pm on **11th December**, will feature renowned local actor, Bryan Thurlow, to inform and entertain us with his talk/performance entitled “Borley Rectory”, which was a gothic Victorian building, built in 1862-3 on the site of an old monastery. In 1929, national newspaper headlines declared this building to be “England’s most haunted house”, and this account of the ghostly goings-on at the Essex rectory is brought vividly to life, covering the period between 1841 and 1944. It features Reverend Smith and his wife, Mabel, as well as ghost investigator, Harry Price, who was sent to the rectory to find answers to the Smith’s paranormal problems - but was this so-called expert all he professed to be? Do join us to find out and, afterwards, enjoy some seasonal refreshments to steady your nerves!



Our first meeting of **2026** will be on **8th January**, 7.30pm in the Wesley Hall, and will feature several short talks by our members on their own researches.

May we take this opportunity of wishing everyone a **Merry Christmas** and all the very best for a happy and healthy **New Year**.



For further information about our History Group, please visit our website –www.elmswell-history.org.uk – or contact our Secretary, on 01359-242601



IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN.....



HAUGHLEY AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS



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Friday 20th Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

Saturday 21st Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

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An original script by Damian Trasler, David Lovesy and Steve Clark

Scan to Buy





1925 – 2025, 100 years of meetings, fun and friendship in the same village hall – what an achievement!

The celebrations began on the Sunday with a Thanksgiving Service in St Mary's Church, Haughley, led by our newly inducted Rector, Reverend Andy Buttress.

Our President, Julia Brook, presented a brief history to Haughley WI and 6 members gave their personal experiences and thanks for the support and friendship that they had received. Recurring themes were that the WI is not all about baking cakes, is much more enjoyable than the image ladies generally hold of it and genuinely offers friendship.



Reverend Andy gave a talk on Empowered women in the Bible and we resurrected the WI prayer not heard for 40 years. The hymns were led by the choir and organist and the congregation joined in enthusiastically particularly with 'Jerusalem', our WI anthem.



Refreshments were served afterwards and the Prosecco and WI imprinted shortbread were popular.

On the Thursday evening, many of our members dressed in 1920s costume for a Centenary meal in the Village Hall and live music from 5-piece band, Caxton Swing. The room, decorated in 1920s style, was full of lively chatter and laughter.



Our longest-standing member, Pat Burrows cut the bespoke cake designed for this special occasion. Several guests were invited after the meal to share in the music and atmosphere.



To reach the milestone of 100 years is amazing and we felt therefore that it was important to have a lasting memorial to our Centenary.

On the Saturday, Reverend Andy unveiled the Haughley WI memorial in the Village Hall garden.

The artwork was crafted by a local blacksmith from Designs on Metal, based on an idea from our President, and was a real team effort. It was inspired by a cedar of Lebanon tree, 3 of which were planted in 1760 on the motte of Haughley Castle, destroyed in battle in 1173.



The brick plinth was skilfully built by a friendly bricklayer with much support from local builder Tony Gillon.

Cake rewards were baked by Yvonne Hannan and Jane Thompson. The cedar of Lebanon is symbolic of strength, wisdom and longevity – very apt for the 100 year old Haughley WI.

STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

Monday 13th October. We welcomed several new potential members to the club for our first lecture of the season. Our guest speaker was Jonathan Vaines LRPS CPAGB AFIAP with the subject being 'Me Myself and Eye.' Jonathan's talk was original as he explored the artistic side of photography. In his own inimitable style he described his various projects mainly centred around multiple exposure and gave us a treat of colour and light. His back stories were intriguing especially the one about the Twin Towers.



Hovering by
Perry Andrews



Gold Coast by Rob Gray

Monday 27th October. Nick Akers ARPS BPE4* judged our first Open competition of the season this week and we had 2 members entering for the first time. Thanks to Nick for his detailed critiques and his indications where he felt slight amendments would help the images. The standard, as ever, was high so well done all those who entered.

For further dates and information please see our website
www.stowmarketanddistrictcameraclub.onesuffolk.net

New members are very welcomed. You do not have to be an 'Expert Photographer' all you need is a camera – any camera and a real interest in using it. Our members use DSLRs, mirrorless, compacts and bridge cameras. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email Stowmarketcc@outlook.com or visit our website.



HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS

Would like to thank all our advertisers and contributors for their continued support and wish you all a very

Happy and Prosperous New Year

Luke 2 (From The Message)

“15-16 As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.”

I enjoy birdwatching. It gets me out in the fresh air, takes me on good walks and I see lots of birds. I’m not a twitcher as I don’t chase all over the country in search of the rare and elusive. However, in October I was out birdwatching with my brother and we met up with another birdwatcher. Suddenly his mobile and my brother’s went off at the same time and lo and behold there was a sighting of a possible rare bird in Suffolk. We carried on where we were, went for lunch, and later, on our way home, we thought we would look in to see if this rare bird was visible, as it was on our route home. We didn’t have difficulty finding the place as there were lots of cars parked up and people all over the place. We parked, walked a short way up this track and there in the bush was a lovely view of a Brown Shrike. This bird is found mainly in Asia and there are only a handful of records of it in Britain & Ireland. When we left people were still coming and there must have been 30+ people when we were there. Over the next few days people rushed from all over to see this rare sight.

How can it be that one small bird can elicit so much attention?

And it came to pass that Jesus was borne and that excitement created a wonderful response from the Shepherds – After the angels had gone, they immediately said let’s go and see what had come to pass. And they went as fast as they could.

Does the birth of Christ still excite us? Let us hope that this Christmas the excitement and the wonder of Christ will light up people’s lives and they will come in numbers and in haste to see what it is all about.

May God bless you this Christmas.

Anne Scarff (Elder at Stowmarket)



WINNERS OF HAUGHLEY CHURCH'S MONTHLY £40 DRAW

Jo Sinclair

The £40 draw is held in the last week of each month.

Phone : 01449 774657 if you would like a ticket:

£15 for the whole year.

PARISH CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland
 (For more information please contact Revd Andy Buttress:
 email revandybuttress@gmail.com)

Date	Stowupland	Wetherden	Haughley
Sunday Dec. 7th	9.30am Parish Communion	6.30pm Carol Service	4pm Christingle Service
Monday Dec. 8th	11.00am Steeple View		2.00pm Mere View
Sunday Dec. 14th	4.00pm Christingle Service	11.00am Parish Communion	4.00pm Carol Service
Sunday Dec. 21st	6.30pm Carol Service	4.00pm Christingle Service	11.00am Parish Communion
Wednesday Dec. 24 th (Christmas Eve)	4.00pm Crib Service	11.30pm Midnight Communion	4.00 pm A Nativity Production
Thursday Dec. 25 th (Christmas Day)	10.00am Christmas Morning Celebration Service	10.00am Christmas Morning Celebration Service	10.00am Christmas Morning Celebration Service
Sunday Dec. 28th			11.00am Benefice Communion Service
Sunday Jan. 4th	9.30am Parish Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Sunday Praise
Sunday Jan. 11th	9.30am Worship for All	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Parish Communion
Monday Jan. 12th	11.00am Steeple View		2.00pm Mere View
Tuesday Jan. 13th			5.00pm Pizza Church
Sunday Jan. 18th	9.30am Morning Worship with URC at Holy Trinity	11.00am Worship for All	11.00am URC/ Anglican Service
Sunday Jan 25th	6.30pm Evensong	11.00am Parish Communion	9.30am BCP Said communion

A BIG WARM INVITATION AND WELCOME TO YOU ALL

ST MARY'S HAUGHLEY AND ST MARY'S WETHERDEN

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Curate: Revd Alison Roberts Tel. 01449 613037

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2082/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1938/>

My first magazine article! I hope as the months go by you will read them and at least enjoy the jokes I will include!

I am the new Rector of St Mary's in Haughley and St Mary's in Wetherden (as well as Holy Trinity in Stowupland). I am married to Dawn and we have spent most of our lives living in small towns or villages including Great Barton (just outside Bury St Edmunds). We look forward to getting stuck into village life and meeting you all as time goes by.

Please be assured I am quite 'normal' (whatever that means). I love football, supporting two teams - Ipswich not Norwich and one other – the identity of which is a secret for now! I also love walking, running (when I am fit) and Welsh-border collies.

By the way, here's the joke:

The other day I looked over my garden fence and noticed my next door neighbour kneeling on the grass with all his plants scattered around him, so I asked him what he was doing. He said he was putting all his herbs in alphabetical order. I said, 'I don't know where you find the time.' And he replied, 'It's over there next to the sage!'

'Finding the time' over the Christmas period is often a challenge. There is often so much to do. My main aim each Christmas is to keep it simple. It is so easy for me to get wrapped up in meaningless materialism or run round like a head-less chicken, so much so, that what matters most gets missed.

For me community, friends and family matter most as well as my faith. Not just the church community, of which I am obviously a part, but local people and local communities which are part of our village life. As for my faith, that, of course, matters too. Whilst nativity plays are cute for kids, us adults need to think a bit deeper. What did happen back then which changed the course of history? Did God visit us? And if he did, why was Jesus born in poverty and squalor, pain and oppression?

Even if Christmas is hard for you, with difficult memories or ongoing present-day struggles, I would encourage you to do Christmas simply, do what matters most and put a little time aside to consider what the Christian faith means to you.

You are very welcome to come to our services over Christmas whether it's a Christingle, Carol, Crib or Christmas Celebration on Christmas morning. If you are coming to the Carol Service please make sure you get there early to get a seat.

So a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year too you all. May it be a special one - in the simplest of ways.

Revd Andy Buttress

A simple Christmas prayer: God of peace, help us to live simply so others may simply live. In our busy and sometimes chaotic world, give us the faith and courage to do things differently. Amen.



With it coming up to Christmas, I want to do more shopping online, but there's been things in the news about delivery problems. I'm worried about not receiving things on time or packages being lost. What should I do if my parcel goes missing?

When you're online shopping, it's not always clear whom to contact if things go wrong.

As a customer your contract is with the seller that you bought the item from. It's the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered to you. They should chase the courier to find out what happened to your order if there's a problem.

If your parcel hasn't arrived:

- Check the delivery address you gave the seller, to make sure it's correct.
- Then contact the seller and ask where your order is.
- If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances where the delivery time was essential, and you let the seller know ahead of time.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, you can ask the seller to deliver the item to you again if the item wasn't delivered either by an agreed date, or within a reasonable time - usually within 30 days. If the new delivery fails to come within a reasonable time, you can ask the seller for a refund.

Another problem people face is when parcels get left in different places, for example outside or with a neighbour.

If your item was delivered by Royal Mail:

- And they left your package with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility if it gets lost.
- If they leave it somewhere you hadn't instructed, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund.

If the item was delivered by a courier: Check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's or courier's responsibility if your order has gone missing. However, if you did not agree to this, then it's the seller's responsibility if your order goes missing.

If you ordered something from a private seller or you're still having trouble after trying the tips above, you can find out more via the Citizens Advice website at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/>

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.



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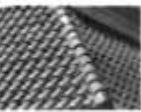
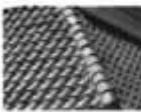
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Please note that the 'Small Ads' service has been introduced for the benefit of Haughley and Wetherden residents. Commercial advertisers may advertise in this section on payment of a fee, only if there is no advertising space available elsewhere in the Parish News.



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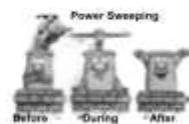
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Curate: Revd Alison Roberts Tel.
01449 613037

Haughley Ch Warden: Dr J Gibson
Wetherden Ch Wardens: Ann Cooke
& Elizabeth Elbourne

The Baptist Church Wetherden

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Secretary: J W Rushbrook:
01359-240118

United Reformed Church, Stowmarket

Secretary: Brian Hewitt,
07500734113

Ass Secretary: Mary Durrant,
01449 672608

Treasurer :Anne Scarff:
01449 774792

annescarff11356@btinternet.com

Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady, Stowmarket

Fr. Simon Leworthy 01449 612946

PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Haughley Parish Council

Chairman: Gerald Brown
Gerald.brown@haughleypc.co.uk
M: 07969 654520

Wetherden Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Duncan Perry, email
duncanper-ry@wetherdenparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Christine Mason: 07545783987
clerk@wetherdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Adrian Ramsay: 07534 933 356
WaveneyValleyOffice@parliament.uk

Mid Suffolk District Council:

Agnes Watson: 07599 828819
Agnes.Watson@midsuffolk.gov.uk,
Janet Pearson: 07928 512592
Janet.Pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk,

DOCTORS, SCHOOLS, & ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau:

01449 676060

Haughley Post Office:

01449 676789

Health Centre, Stowmarket

01449-776000

Health Centre, Woolpit :

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Health Centre, Mendlesham

(Chapel Rd):01449 767722

Bacton Manor Farm Surgery:

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Combs Ford Surgery, Stowmarket

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Haughley Crawfords VCP School

01449-673253

Stowupland High School:

01449-674827

Haughley Pre School Playgroup:

07880 738781

Anglian Water: 03457-145-145

British Gas: 0845-609-1122

UK Power Networks: 0800 31 63 105 (power cuts)

Refuse Collection: 0845 606 6067

Wetherden Street lighting:

0800 591055

HALL BOOKINGS

Haughley Village Hall:

Lyn Allum 07837 953266 or email:

lynallum@hotmail.com

Maxwell Charnley Community

Room: booking: 01449 676789

Ron Crascall Pavilion:

Thirza Shaw: trtinker@aol.com
or 07786 375441

Haughley Scout Hut:

Richard Stacy 01449 673311

Wetherden Village Hall:

Keith Watts 07528 065250

wetherdenvillagehall@gmail.com or

www.wetherdenvillagehall.com

All details correct at time of printing.
Please inform Editor of any changes ASAP.

LOCAL VOLUNTARY CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts : Carly Banthorpe 07976294616 or Richard Stacy 01449 673311.

Bellringers Haughley - practice 1st Mon evening in month

Richard Coe: 07913 588914

Bellringers Wetherden - practice Tues evening at church:

Basil Hart: 07894555348

Email: MrBHart@hotmail.com

Bowls Indoor or Outdoor Haughley

contact Peter Mead 07845068679

Indoor/carpet Bowls Wendy 07773972746

Choir Haughley - Thurs evening:

Janet Sheldrake 01449 737247

Mid Suffolk Folk Dance Group:

Ron Coxall Hall 01449 672658

Thursdays Haughley Village Hall

Thursdays 7.30 Wetherden Village

Hall, Margaret/John Doy

01473 742015

H.A.T.S. Haughley Amateur

Theatrical Society:

Alex Ball: 07746231114 or email

Haughley.pantomime@gmail.com

HUFC –Senior football contact – Lee Forsdyke 07472902302

Haughley Youth Football contact – Carly Banthorpe 07976294616

Haughley Football Club:

Ian Wilkinson 07802 647674

or Lee Forsdyke 07472 902302

Haughley History & Parish Archive:

Kieron Palmer: 07583081797

Haughley Hoofers Clog Dancers:

practice Sunday 7.30 at Village Hall,

Gill Brett: 01449-673518

Haughley IT Squad:

haughleyhitsquad@gmail.com

Haughley Parish in Bloom: (HPIB)

Alison Pepper: 07714 415148

alison.pepper@haughleypc.co.uk

Yvonne Tricker: 07415 230088

yvonne.tricker@haughleypc.co.uk

Haughley Royal British Legion:

Branch Chairman:

Tim Hart 01449 613680

Haughley Singing for Wellbeing Group

Lynn Elliston, 07979832980

Haughley and Wetherden

Twinning Association:

Chairman, Richard Standen

richardstanden@gmail.com

07760 165 889

Wetherden Baby & Toddler Group

Sarah Chukwu: 01449 674101

slchukwu37@gmail.com

1st Wetherden & Haughley Scout Group:

Group Scout Leader:

Catherine Winter 01449 781372

catherine.winter@outlook.com

Wetherden FC - Jonathan Lewis

(Manager) 01449-678234 or Trudy

Hooper (Secretary): 01842-754170

Wetherden History Group:

Pat Tuffin 01359 240396.

Wetherden Table Tennis Club:

Dawn Gibson 01359 240 259

Wetherden Tennis Club:

Sara Parker, Membership Secretary,

07515 160840

wetherdenc@gmail.com

Whist Drive - monthly, Wetherden

Village Hall:

James Rand 07972 633518

WI Haughley - 1st Wed in month,

7.00pm, in Haughley Village Hall:

Jane Thompson: 01449 677079

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN

PARISH NEWS

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Due to the nature of the Parish News we are unable to publish 'letters to the Editor' and whilst we take every care in ensuring that all the information supplied by the deadline is included, we take no responsibility for the content of articles. All adverts are placed in good faith and the H&WPN cannot be held responsible for any work carried out.

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