

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS



IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN.....



HAUGHLEY AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS



GOLDLILOCKS & the 3 BEARS



at

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL

Friday 20th Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

Saturday 21st Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

TICKETS £7.50 or 4 for £25

available from **Haughley Post Office**

or call **07746231114** or scan the QR code to buy online

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

Scan to Buy



FEBRUARY 2026

PALMERS BAKERY

HAUGHLEY

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



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



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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*



DATES FOR THE DIARY - 2026

FEBRUARY

Sat 7th	*Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 7th	*Film Nights: "The Roses", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Tues 10th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	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
Sat 21st	*Vigil for World Peace, St Mary's Wetherden	2.00pm
Wed 25th	*Singing for Wellbeing, Haughley Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 27th	*Quiz Night, Wetherden Village Hall	7.30pm

MARCH

Sat 7th	*Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 7th	*Film Nights: "The Time of Their Lives", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Tues 10th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
Sat 14th	Parish Litter Pick	
Sat 28th	*Glam Rock Disco, Haughley Village Hall,	7.00pm

APRIL

Sat 4th	*Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 7th	*Film Nights: "The Choral", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Tues 14th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm

MAY

Sat 9th	HUFC - St Elizabeth Hospice Charity day - more details to follow	
Sat 9th	Spring Quiz & Ploughman's supper, Haughley Village Hall,	7.00pm
Tues 12th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
Sat 16th	Parish Litter Pick	
Sat 30th &	Woolpit Steam	9.00am
Sun 31st	Woolpit Steam	9.00am

JUNE

Tues 9th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
Sat 20th &	*Haughley Open Gardens (more details to follow)	

JULY

Tues 14th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
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SEPTEMBER

Sat 26th	Parish Litter Pick
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* See poster for further details



GALLOWSFIELD WOOD UPDATE

Gallowsfield Wood has just had the first major harvest since it was planted by Suffolk County Council in 1987. It was intended to provide a recreational and educational facility, but also with the ability to produce a commercial crop and income periodically to help pay for its upkeep. It was thinned in 2008 and ownership was acquired, for a nominal sum, by Haughley Parish Council in 2012. Previous thinning operations, the last in 2018, were completed by the contractor, Matthew Allen Forestry, who also has recently completed this more substantial harvest and thinning operation. A portion of the proceeds from the harvesting will come to Haughley Parish Council as the owners of the Wood.

The work has been conducted under the requirements of a Felling Licence granted by the Forestry Commission in July 2025. The licence expires in 2030. The licence requires the operations to be conducted "in a manner that reflects good forestry practice". The trees that have been felled have all been coppiced, and the stumps, or "coppice stools", will be left to re-grow. The harvesting part of the operations was mainly Sweet Chestnut, which had reached a commercial value, and Elm. Both of these species will re-generate naturally now that the Wood is much lighter. It is expected that they will grow quickly, and we can expect to see a greater profusion of wildflowers. The "brash" (branch debris) that has been left will also provide good habitat for invertebrates that will attract birds. Please also note that the central arboretum area, which provides a collection of the native trees of East Anglia, has not been included in this winter's work.

I must admit that the current state of the Wood and the difference from the way it looked last summer is shocking. There are now large open areas; the A14 is more conspicuous and noisier, as the dampening effect of the Elm trees has gone. The removal of the Sweet Chestnut will benefit the remaining Oak trees, but means that the Travelodge can now be seen through the hedge. This is all the more noticeable because the trees are bare and the Rides have been widened and are muddy. The removal of the Elm trees at the foot of the "mound" has created a wide open area that has changed the character of that part of the Wood. It has also opened up the original field boundary with a new space for a Ride between it and the western edge of the plantation.

Over the years since the Wood has been in Haughley's ownership, there have been periodic working party activities, but during the last 3 years or so, a group of volunteers from around Haughley have been working in the Woods on a regular basis, about fortnightly, in the autumn and winter months. We have focused on keeping the Rides as open as possible, as some people had said that it was getting too enclosed and as a result they didn't feel safe. We created some small glades to let more light into the woodland floor. Our work will now need to focus on other activities, protecting the coppice stools, creating dead hedges with the brash, repairing the muddy rides etc.

If you would like to be involved in helping Gallowsfield Wood recover as soon as possible please join our group. Our next sessions will be on 22nd January and 5th February. We will also hold a working session on 17th February during half-term. All sessions start at 10am. There is every reason to believe the Wood will look really good in a few months with new growth to coppice stools and the understory. We'd love you to join us.

David Evans
Chair, Gallowsfield Wood Group

dial.farmhouse@btinternet.com

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CAFÉ



**10am – 12 noon
Saturday
7th February 2026**

Join us for freshly ground coffee, a selection of teas or hot chocolate, cold drinks and delicious homemade cakes and savories.

Browse the stalls selling a variety of handmade items.

PLEASE COME ALONG - EVERYONE WELCOME

St Mary's Church, WETHERDEN

A BIG THANK YOU



**The
Children's
Society**

to everyone who attended the Christmas services supporting
St Nicholas Hospice & The Children's Society

The collection during our
CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 7 December
raised £275 for **St Nicholas Hospice**

The collection during our
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE on Sunday 21 December raised £180 to support the work of
The Children's Society

2025 REPORT FROM THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HAUGHLEY, WETHERDEN AND STOWUPLAND

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to raise £1575 for the Children's Society through activities over the Christmas period. This is the most our Benefice has ever raised! The details are:

£ 255	November Coffee Morning
£ 385	Christingle Services
£ 768	Collections from Home Boxes
£ 147	Sale of Christmas Cards
£ 20	Single Donations

Across the country many children today face abuse, exploitation or mental health problems and they don't know where to turn for help and support. At the Children's Society we provide a range of support for children and their families who are struggling. We challenge the government to deliver policies that will protect children. The Society works tirelessly to enable all children, regardless of nationality or faith, to enjoy their childhood. The Society stands alongside vulnerable young people, helping them to a future they can look forward to.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Society or would like to support its activities, perhaps by having a home box, even a handful of small change, (the cost of a cup of coffee) every week can make a difference, then please do get in touch with me.

On behalf of all the children who were helped last year by the Society to get their lives back on track and from all those who will be helped in 2026 a very, very big "Thank You".

I add my own heartfelt thanks to all of you in the benefice who have so generously supported the Society.

Elizabeth Elbourne
Hon. Local Secretary of the Children's Society
Tel: 01359 245118 E mail: lizhel44@gmail.com

WETHERDEN VILLAGE HALL



There were just under 8 tables in play at our Whist Drive held on Friday 9th January.

Everyone seemed to enjoy our first Whist Drive of the New Year a great deal, and our next Whist Drive is on the cards for Friday 13th February at 2pm.

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH WETHERDEN

Ann Cooke cordially invites you all to a



COFFEE MORNING

On
Thursday 29th January
From
10.30 to noon
At
Barleyfields, Wetherden

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

 Like us on Facebook - Wetherden Church

Councillor Surgery

Meet your councillors

District Councillors

Janet Pearson and Agnes Watson

County Councillors

Keith Welham and Andrew Stringer

Saturday February 28th
at
Stowupland Village Hall meeting room
10 am to 12 pm

Please come and talk to us about
any issues concerning you in our area

No appointment necessary



ST MARY'S CHURCH WETHERDEN VIGIL FOR WORLD PEACE

**ST MARY'S CHURCH WETHERDEN IS HOLDING
A VIGIL FOR WORLD PEACE IN THE CHURCH
ON
SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025
between 2.00PM and 4.00PM.**

The vigil is not a formal service. It is an opportunity to sit quietly for as long or as short a period as you like, to reflect on areas of the world where there is war, and to hope for peace and reconciliation.

You can if you would like to light a candle as a symbol of peace.
Everyone, regardless of nationality or faith, is welcome.



Last year was particularly memorable as we celebrated 100 years of Haughley WI with a Church Service, Centenary meal and music, and the dedication of a bespoke Centenary memorial, representing the cedars of Lebanon planted in 1760 on the castle motte. (Featured in the December/January edition).

Then came our AGM, during which we reviewed the year's activities and saw significant changes to the Committee.

It is with sadness that I am stepping down as President and from the Committee this year for health reasons.

My aim has been to build on the successes of previous years while developing further our work with the wider community and I firmly believe that together we have achieved this. I am especially pleased with Haughley Evergreens which has received so much positive feedback and our Centenary Celebrations which have been a fitting tribute to members past and present.

I am not the only one stepping down, the Committee is also losing Marian Adams, Pat Burrows, Veronica Partis and Sarah Swinge, and I should like to thank them all for the time and commitment they have given to Haughley WI, some over many years. Two new members have stepped forward, Chris Robinson and Caroline Lambert.

The Programme Team is working on the Programme for the year and we should be ready to share the highlights in next month's Parish News. We will continue with monthly speakers and our popular Lunch Club, held in nearby pubs and it is hoped that we can have some other outings too.

The New Year is the opportunity to try something new so if you would like to join our friendly group please contact the new President and Membership Secretary Jane Thompson on 01449 677079.

Julia Brook



ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB - FEBRUARY 2026

We are blooming excited to resume our meetings now that 2026 is underway and we have arranged a varied and hopefully interesting programme for the year ahead.

Our speakers programme for the first part of this year is:

- February 17th – Tim Fuller ‘Gardening with Grasses’
- March 17th – Caroline Holmes ‘A Royal Country Estate – Sandringham’
- April 21st – Chris Wiley ‘Hellebores’
- May 19th – Ian Bedford ‘Insects, Six of the Best’
- June 16th – Jim Paine ‘Trees for all Seasons’

Meetings start at 7.30pm in Wesley Chapel, School Road.

We are also planning a day trip over the summer to Beth Chatto’s beautiful garden in Essex, more details to follow.

Whether you are an experienced home gardener or just starting out there is always something new to learn or ideas to take home to your own garden. Non-members are always welcome and you may make some new friends. There is a small fee for non-members of £5 for each meeting, but membership for the year is a bargain at just £20 for all ten meetings.

We look forward to welcoming you in February and cultivating another year of shared garden inspiration together.

For Information contact :

elmswellgadmin@btinternet.com or Wendy: 07748 442951.



REMEMBER

The copy deadline for the March 2026 issue is:

Wednesday, February 18 2026

Submit to:

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

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Haughley Parish Council held a meeting on Tuesday 20 January.

The Council noted the updated **Action Log**. Concern was expressed to the Council about **dog poo on the Playing Field**, suggesting that additional poo bins may be beneficial. There are already a lot of poo bins around the Parish, including at the Playing Field, but this is being considered further. A request to all people with dogs – **please clear up your dog poo** using an appropriate bag and either place the bag and poo in one of the many bins provided or put it in the waste bin at your home.

County Councillor Andrew Stringer provided a written report, including Protecting Suffolk's Rivers, the proposed revision of the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan for Suffolk, a review of the SEND progress, new funding for buses and sustainable travel, Warm Homes in Suffolk and Helping Older Drivers Stay Safe, with additional comments on various items. **District Councillor Janet Pearson** also presented a written report and commented further thereon.

The Chairman referred to discussion held with the Planning Advisor to the Council and provided an update on the proposed revision to the **Haughley Neighbourhood Plan**. The **Biodiversity and Wildlife Group** had held a meeting, during which the felling, thinning and coppicing in **Gallowsfield Wood** was considered. It is understood that a separate report is being submitted to the H&WPN. Planning for maintenance of the **Fishponds Green wildflower meadow** following its transfer in due course was considered. Conservation work has been carried out at **The Cricket** with further work is being scheduled.

The Council was advised of the provisional programme for **Twinning Visit** by the corresponding group in France to Haughley and Wetherden 1st and 3rd May 2026. Further details to follow.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the **Adjoining Parishes Liaison Group** held in Stowupland. The agenda included updates on and sharing information on Neighbourhood Plans, traffic issues, potential grant funding, policy and procedures relating to unauthorised encampments and emergency planning.

We were informed about a **fallen a tree across the cycle path**; we inspected the area the following day, noting that the tree had been sufficiently cleared for the cycle path to be useable. **Thanks to the unidentified person who carried out the essential work**. The cycle path and adjoining areas are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but of course we try to help our Parishioners.

We considered an email received about HGVs and other vehicles being too large to use **Plashwood Road**. The County Council have been aware of this type of problem for quite a number of years, but this proves difficult to control effectively. Local traffic, including some large vehicles, legitimately use the road, whilst others use the road as a short cut, as with other roads through our Parishes (Haughley and Wetherden). We have made representation to the County Council through our County Councillor. Restricting the use of roads by certain vehicles is beyond our remit.

The Council received **financial information** and approved payments for January. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Precept Application for the next financial year.

The Council considered an application to Determine if Prior Approval is Required for a proposed Larger Home Extension at **24 Denny Avenue, Haughley (DC/25/05502)**. It was agreed not to submit an objection to the District Council as the Local Planning Authority.

The Council noted that MSDC had refused the applications **DC/25/05250 and DC/25/05249 for Old Bells Farm, Wassicks Lane Haughley Green**. The application to vary an existing planning permission at **58 Old Street Haughley (DC/25/04954 and DC/25/04940)** had been granted.

Playing Fields Update – the Council received an update on progress on current proposals for the pavilion. It is proposed to install (provide a replacement) bollard to inhibit unauthorised vehicular access onto the Playing Field. **A Policy and Procedure for Unauthorised Encampments in Haughley** was approved.

It was agreed to arrange **Parish Litter Picks for Saturdays 14 March, 16 May and 26 September**. The Council considered the format for the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, both to be held in May. The Council noted receipt of correspondence.

The next **Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17 February 2026** at 7.00pm in the Ron Crascall Pavilion.



Chairman: Mr Tim Hart
Secretary: Vacant

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

Do you know of a veteran in the Haughley area who needs our help? We provide lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families. If so please get in touch via our website or via the email above.

Branch socials are held every **SECOND Thursday** of the month 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

www.thehaughleywarmemorial.wordpress.com

HAUGHLEY PLAYING FIELD AND PAVILION NEWS
King George's Field, Haughley charity No. 304761

New Year, New activity – We are pleased to welcome **Tuesday evening Yoga classes** with Claudia from Yogadia. <https://www.yogadia.co.uk/> There are two classes to choose from on Tuesday evening. You can book through the website or Email claudia@yogadia.co.uk or call 07710 198580.

We still have Wednesday morning classes with Bethany from Serenity Yoga

Playing 50/50 renewal time – Thank you to the existing members that have already renewed their numbers for 2026. If anyone would like a number for our quarterly draws held in March, June, September and December please get in touch. £10 a year and half the money goes in the prize pot.

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. Sadly, this is an ongoing issue.

Bollards again! We will be placing a bollard on the Playing Field side of the access through to the footpath to replace the one that was removed. This will help manage security of vehicle access to the Playing Field.

Pavilion regeneration project – Following on from obtaining the Community Development Grant funding work will start next month on replacing the pavilion window in the function room and fitting new flooring to the scout room.

We are also in communication with Howden's regarding next steps for the Kitchen refit.

The Sports Infrastructure Grant application for the bowls club extension has been updated and will be submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council imminently. We are continuing to have discussion with Football Foundation, supported by the Football Club, to try and obtain funding towards upgrading the changing rooms.

Key focus for next few months will be to look at the best solution for the hot water and heating with a view to move towards a more energy efficient and sustainable solution, along with trying to obtain a CIL funding from Mid Suffolk District Council and or other grant funding for the work.

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.

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.
- **Yoga – Claudia** Claudia@yogadia.com Tuesdays 6.15pm Gentle 7.30pm Dynamic upstairs function room.
- **Bingo Every second Tuesday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm eyes down.**
Upcoming dates: 10th February, 10th March 2026, 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July.

Club Contacts

- **Beavers, Cubs & Scouts** Carly Banthorpe 07976294616 or Richard Stacy 01449 673311.
- **HUFC –Senior football** contact – Lee Forsdyke 07472902302
- **Haughley Youth Football** contact – Carly Banthorpe 07976294616
- **Bowls Indoor or Outdoor** - contact Peter Mead 07845068679 Indoor/ carpet Bowls Wendy 07773972746

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 ground floor

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 - JANUARY 2026

New grant funding

A new Gateway 14 Community Benefit Fund has been launched to support community groups to deliver activities that make a meaningful difference in their area. The fund will run for three years, with £30,000 available each year.

Organisations based within a five-mile radius of Gateway 14 can apply for up to £5,000 to cover either revenue or capital costs, with these grants able to fund up to 100% of total project expenditure. Applications can be submitted via <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>.

Norwich to Tilbury power lines

The drop in surgery with officers will continue although now on a monthly basis. The meeting time is 11am to midday as a drop in session and this will repeat monthly on Thursdays for a while. If the surgery sessions are helpful, officers will look to continue to offer them throughout the examination and beyond but the regularity of sessions may change depending on officer availability. Questions can be emailed in advance to:

planningpink@aberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk but this is not essential.

The next session will be on Thursday 12th February at 11am via Teams and you can join using this link:

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 342 374 307 126 43

Passcode: fd3iJ2FW

Rural support grant

This grant is still open for applications. There are two parts to the grant, one providing funding for upgrade of shopfronts in villages and the other offering support for communities who want to try and save threatened village facilities, such as shops and pubs - with the aim of operating them as social enterprises. For more information go to <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/community-funding>.

Locality Awards

Our locality award grants for this year are now fully taken up. The next round of grants will begin in April this year.

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

Nearly New Sale

FREE
ENTRY

Save the date!

Saturday 7th March 2026

The Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH



**Follow us on Facebook
for updates & further
information.**

Any questions?

Please email
elmswell.nns@gmail.com



@nearlynewsale

**Toys, Books, Baby Equipment,
School Uniform & Clothes 0-9 years,
plus much more!**

ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

Our **December's** talk/performance by actor Bryan Thurlow was the dramatic story of **Borley Rectory, England's Most Haunted House**.



Ghost Hunter,
Harry Price

With just a very few props, Bryan brought this mid-century story to life about this imposing building on the Suffolk/Essex border with its various and, frankly, eccentric characters. It was 1927 when Reverend and Mrs Smith moved into the rectory and the first instances of a very modern haunting began. Shortly after moving in, Mrs Smith found a young woman's skull in a cupboard, and this discovery was said to have been the trigger for supernatural activity within the house. Shortly afterwards, a whole host of paranormal events were said to have occurred; strange lights appeared, unexplained footsteps moved within the house, and the ghostly apparition of a horse-drawn carriage was seen nearby. However, it was subsequently surmised that maybe such pranks were perpetrated by mischievous maids (amongst others!), exaggerated by the nervous disposition of fragile ladies, and encouraged by unscrupulous charlatans such as Harry Price and his spiritualist friends who tried to rid the rectory of its ghostly goings-on. Sadly, the building itself is no more, but that hasn't stopped local youngsters and other thrill-seekers and ghost-hunters from visiting the village to this day on the hunt for ghouls and all things ghostly!

To calm our collective nerves, warming seasonal refreshments were served, which went down very well with our large appreciative audience.

Due to adverse wintry weather, our January meeting had to be cancelled but, fortunately, we managed to re-jig our programme and, therefore, those planned talks have merely been postponed to **12th February**.

So, we again look forward to hearing three short talks on (1) Growing up on the **Ickworth Estate**, (2) General History of **Postcards** (with a selection of Elmswell postcards to view), and (3) Memories of 1950-60s **Woolpit**. See you there then – **7.30pm** at the **Wesley Hall**, IP30 9FB – but, should there be any doubt as to whether this will go ahead for any reason, please contact us before setting out.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank all those involved in helping me put up and decorating the Village Christmas tree and also for taking it down.

This includes: Roger A, Mel, Colin, Graham, Roger T, Kevin, Pip, Arthur
Thanks guys, I couldn't have done it without you! **Dave Walker**

I bought a doll for my child recently. I thought it was manufactured by a well-known brand, but I suspect it might be counterfeit. How can I be sure and what are my rights?

You're right to seek advice about this issue, because counterfeit goods aren't only illegal, they can be dangerous.

Fake children's toys, including dolls, often don't meet safety standards and can pose choking hazards - poor manufacturing can mean small parts are easily detachable.

Counterfeit goods are fake products designed to mimic the authentic ones sold by genuine brands. Sometimes it's easy to spot a knock-off, other times it can be harder to tell.

It's not just toys and games - things like clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices can also be counterfeit.

Things to watch out for include strangely low prices from well-known brands and signs of poor quality - like missing security seals, bad or non-existent packaging, blurry logos and poor stitching. You may also spot some spelling mistakes in the advert or on the packaging.

Looking at photos from official sellers can help when making comparisons, and it's important to only buy products from reputable sellers.

If you have purchased a counterfeit item, there are some steps you can take to try and get your money back. You're legally entitled to a full refund on fake goods within 30 days of your purchase.

If it's been over 30 days since you paid, but less than six months, the seller can provide you with a real version of the item first. If they can't, then they're legally required to give you a full refund. If you paid more than six months ago, you're only entitled to a part-refund based on how much you've used the item and how long you've had it.

Sometimes sellers might refuse to refund you, and argue the items were obviously fake because they were very cheap, but they're breaking the law by selling them and your legal rights still apply.

If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme'. If you paid by credit card and the item cost less than £100, you can ask to use the same scheme.

If you paid by credit card and the item cost between £100 and £30,000, tell your credit card company you want to make a 'section 75' claim to get your money back. To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back, contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. You can also report a seller to Trading Standards, which investigates criminal activity.

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.

ST MARY'S HAUGHLEY AND ST MARY'S WETHERDEN

Rector: Revd Andy Buttress Tel. 07749265571

Curate: Revd Alison Roberts Tel. 01449 613037

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

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

I went for a walk the other day with a local farmer in a field somewhere between Wetherden and Haughley. Bizarrely, I saw a lot of rabbits hopping backwards. 'That's strange', I said to the farmer. 'What's going on?' And the farmer replied, 'Oh, that's a receding hare-line!'

In some ways, the Church of England, nationally, has been a receding hairline for several decades. Numbers have been dwindling and there have been fewer bums on seats (or pews) on Sundays. Reasons for that include there being lots of other things to do on Sunday mornings, services are often perceived as irrelevant or boring and going to church has become less of a routine for many people.

It might, therefore, be a surprise to some folks to learn that Church of England attendance in Suffolk actually went up by 6% in 2023/4 (latest available figures) – well above the national average.

For my birthday one of my sons bought me the book *Dear England: Lessons in Leadership* by Gareth Southgate. When Gareth took over the England Football Manager's job, the team were a bit of a receding hare-line. He realised it would take time to turn it around and make the country proud again. Whether he managed that by getting to semi-finals and a final of the major tournaments but not actually winning any of them, is for you to decide. A year later, of course, the women showed the men how to do it (again) – but that's another story! What Gareth did do, undoubtedly, was improve the structure, environment and record of the men's national team.

He did this by establishing values he believed in and creating a positive culture where everyone felt safe to be themselves, where there was a real sense of purpose and the team enjoyed being together. Creating a good culture – simply defined as 'the way we do things around here' – is so important. Church, for me, is less about counting heads anyway and far more about providing a space and a culture which enhances well-being, builds community and gives opportunity for people to explore faith in Jesus.

Establishing positive culture, building community and exploring faith is something we will be developing at St Mary's Haughley and St Mary's Wetherden in 2026. You are welcome to become a part of it.

Oh yes, and it's not long until Easter! Lent - that forty day period of preparation before Easter – will soon be here. If you would like to join a Lent lunch or a Lent study group or know more about what is coming up over the Easter period do contact me or Alison and we will give you more information.

All the best,

Revd Andy Buttress

PRAYER: God, I am here. If you are there, please help me and let me sense your presence with me today and in the weeks to come. Amen.

PARISH CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

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

<u>Date</u>	Stowupland	Wetherden	Haughley
Sunday 1st	9.30am Parish Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Sunday Praise
Sunday 8th	9.30am Worship for All	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Parish Communion
Monday 9th	11.00am Service at Steeple View		2.00pm Service at Mere View
Sunday 15th	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Worship for All	11.00am URC/ Anglican Service
Wednesday 18th		7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service	
Saturday 21st		2.00 – 4.00pm Vigil for World Peace (marking the anniversary of Russian invasion of Ukraine)	
Sunday 22nd	6.30pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Parish Communion	9.30am BCP Said Communion
Tuesday 24th		9.00pm Compline (Night Prayer)	

**WINNERS OF HAUGHLEY CHURCH'S
MONTHLY £40 DRAW**
Winners for November and December
Peter and Paula Shave
And Angie Wells

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.



COMMUNITY CAFÉ



7th February 2026

**'Coffee & Chat' at the Green Room
Mondays from 19am - 12 noon**

Dates for your diary:-

GLAM ROCK DISCO – 28th March 2026

***See Separate ad for details**

**Spring Quiz & Ploughman's Supper
9th May 2026**

FILM NIGHTS - Doors 7pm for 7.30pm start

Admission £5 including refreshments

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'.

Saturday 7th March – 'The Time of their Lives' starring Joan Collins, Pauline Collins and Franco Nero. Determined to gate-crash her ex-lovers funeral on glamorous French hideaway Ile de Re, former Hollywood siren Helen (Joan Collins) escapes her London retirement home with the help of repressed English housewife Priscilla (Pauline Collins)

Saturday 4th April – 'The Choral' starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. As World War 1 rages on, Dr Henry Guthrie takes over a British Choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together.

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

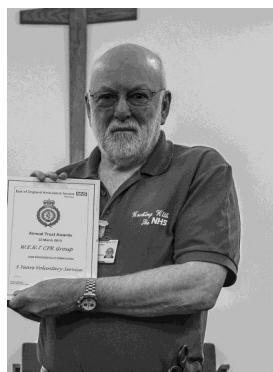
HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL
IS HOLDING A
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7pm - 11pm

Tickets £10 includes nibbles
Fancy Dress Encouraged - Dig out
your platforms and flares!

Licensed Bar (Cash or Card payment accepted) and Raffle

Tickets available from Lynne Mahon 07941 116240 or
Haughley Post Office from 2nd March 2026

TRIBUTE TO TONY FRANCE, R.I.P.



It is with great sadness that we report the passing away of Tony France at the end of November after a short illness, and his well-attended funeral took place just before Christmas.

Although Tony was born in London, he moved to Haughley as a boy, living there until he moved away for work, before "retiring" to Norton. He was instrumental in setting up the W.E.N.T (Woolpit, Elmswell, Norton & Tostock) Community First Responder Group (a voluntary arm of the Ambulance Service) in 2007, with the excellent guiding hand of Dr West at the Woolpit Health Centre.

Many people will remember Tony in this role, and he continued to lead the Group for ten years, with his energetic "can do" approach to life being both infectious and an inspiration. He also led a programme for the installation of Defibrillators in all local villages, the first one being at Elmswell's Co-op. Tony and his colleagues would have visited many village groups and local events to provide training in CPR (resuscitation) and information about the Responders.

Our thoughts and sincere condolences are extended to his wife, Jenny, and family who would like to thank everyone for their sympathetic words and numerous kind offers of help at this sad time.

Nick & Stella Chamberlin (former Treasurer & Secretary of the local CFR Group)

HAUGHLEY PLAYING FIELD 50/50 CLUB

The Final Prize Draw of 2025

4.45pm, 29th November 2024 at the
Christmas Lights Switch on Event
Witnessed by Andrew Stringer, County Councillor



First Prize won by Yvonne Hannan

Second Prize won by Gerald Brown

Third Prize won by Pip Faiers

Fourth Prize won by M Edwards

CONGRATULATIONS to all our Winners!

It is renewal time. All existing members have been contacted for renewal. If you are interested in having a number, we have a few to offer to new subscribers in 2026.

Annual subscription for a number and automatic entry into four draws remains at £10.

For more information please contact:

Thirza Shaw, Administrator,
Haughley Playing Field 50/50 Club

Email: Thirza.shaw@haughleypc.co.uk, Text: 07786375441

HAUGHLEY OPEN GARDENS

JUNE 20TH & 21ST 2026

Would you be interested in opening your garden to the public on these dates?

Here are some of the many reasons you may want to open your garden:

- Showing your flowers, trees, vegetable plot, or lawn
- Displaying a water feature, such as a pond
- Demonstrating ways to encourage wildlife
- The garden may have historical interest
- You may have statues, garden ornaments or artwork
- You may have animals to view: fish, chickens etc.
- You may want to sell plants or garden produce



Please contact Josephine.Gibson@talk21.com, or phone 01449 774657 if you are interested in taking part!



We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sarah Lankester as our new Head Teacher!

You may have seen Mrs Lankester each morning on our school gates welcoming the children into school. We are all delighted to have her on board and the school has already made some wonderful, positive changes.

Our premises work begins to draw to a close, we are so very grateful for the patience of our neighbours. Thank you very much, and we look forward to having a new lighting system and fire alarm system in place.

The children will be enjoying a half term this month, and we look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Monday 23rd February**.

Best Wishes,

Crawford's CofE Primary School

Greetings

Jane Goodall , born 1934 - 2025

Dame Jane Goodall was an anthropologist best known for her expertise on chimpanzees. She learned they share the same key traits with humans, using tools, having complex emotions and forming long lasting social bonds, passing on skills and knowledge across the generations.

She believed that all living beings should cherish all living things and have a deep love for the Earth, and every action we do, no matter how small, makes a difference .

So Jane Goodall writes “what kind of difference do you want to make? What you do makes a difference and you must decide what kind of difference you want to make”.

The quote isn’t whether we will make a difference. It’s just asks what kind of difference we want to make .

In Micah it says ”be fair and just and merciful and walk humbly with your God.”

So in this month of February I would ask you to make a difference. Just be aware of what kind of difference you would like to make.

A very happy February to you all
Jan Webb, (Elder Stowmarket URC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GWEN MULLEY, WETHERDEN
10/03/1934 - 20/09/2025

The family of Gwen would like to express our most sincere belated thanks for all the messages, cards and support we have received since the loss of Mum last September.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the funeral, it was such a comfort for us to see so many people in Church.

Special thanks to Revd Katherine Valentine for conducting a beautiful service and to Elizabeth, Pat, Ann and Revd Andy for their help, kind guidance and support during a difficult time.

Many thanks to the Village Hall committee for allowing us to use the hall for refreshments after the service.

Gwen was just a few months old when she moved into the village with her parents, she remained in the village that she loved, for the rest of her life.

We are so very grateful to the many people from the village who have helped and supported us in numerous ways over the last few months and special mention to Daphne and Mervyn.

Wetherden is indeed a special place to live. Thank you to you all.



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE 2026 IMBOLC / CANDLEMAS AT ORCHARD BARN

As part of our continuing **Connecting People and Nature** programme, we're warmly inviting you to join us at Orchard Barn to mark the early-spring festival of **Imbolc / Candlemas** — a time traditionally associated with the first stirrings of life after winter, with light returning and growth quietly beginning beneath the surface.

**Saturday 7th February, 2–4pm
Orchard Barn, Ringshall, IP14 2LY**

By early February the snowdrops beneath our Ashmead's Kernel apple tree are usually in full bloom, and the orchard begins to show the smallest but unmistakable signs that nature is waking from deep sleep. We'll begin the afternoon outside in the old orchard, taking time to observe the trees, the ground and the wider landscape, noticing what has changed — and what is quietly preparing to emerge.

From there we'll gather in the new **Education Room**, where we'll share reflections on this threshold moment in the year. Through **poetry, stories, songs and music**, we'll explore our own experiences of winter turning towards spring. You're very welcome to bring something to share if you wish — or to bring nothing at all and simply enjoy what we create together as a group.

There will also be space to gently explore **intentions for the year ahead** — not as resolutions or targets, but as quiet pointers for how we might want to move, grow or pay attention over the coming months.

The afternoon will be **semi-structured and informal**, allowing time for conversation, listening and stillness as well as shared activity. We'll end by gathering in the **Long House** for hot drinks and light refreshments before heading home.

LOOKING AHEAD: ORCHARD SKILLS IN FEBRUARY

Alongside the Imbolc celebration, we're also planning two informal, hands-on orchard sessions later in February:

- **An apple tree pruning session**, offering practical guidance on why and how we prune, and what we're aiming for in the long term health of the trees.
- **A gentle introduction to grafting**, where participants can watch Ben demonstrate the art of grafting an apple variety onto new rootstock. This will be a demonstration rather than a practical workshop, aimed at demystifying the process and sharing knowledge.

Dates for both of these sessions are still to be confirmed and will be shared directly with those who register an interest.

HOW TO TAKE PART

If you'd like to attend:

- **the Imbolc / Candlemas celebration,**
- **the pruning session, and/or**
- **the grafting demonstration,**

please email us to let us know which events you're interested in. We'll confirm details and dates by email once they're finalised.

Contact details:
sarah.orchardbarn@gmail.com
www.orchardbarn.org.uk

As with all our Connecting People and Nature activities, everyone is welcome — whether you come for the first time, return regularly, or simply want to see what Orchard Barn is all about. We'd love to share this turning point in the year with you.

STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB



Geranium by
Colin Hardy

8th December. We welcomed Mike Lloyd to judge our second Open competition of the season. The standard was extremely high, giving Mike the unenviable task of selecting winners in the black and white and colour print category, together with a winner from the PDI section. He gave us detailed critiques for which we give our thanks.

Well done to everybody for such a wide range of subjects and particularly well done to those scoring 20s, Glenda Taylor, Paula Irvine (2) and Roy Fidler (2).

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.



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Deadline for the March 2026 issue is

Wednesday February 18 2026

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- Fisher Price Learn with Me Zebra Walker. £10.00. Good Condition. 07817 108925

All small ads, max 20 words, should be sent to:

Email: haughleynews@btinternet.com

or

Anne Ardley, Oulton Cottage,
The Folly, Haughley IP143NS

The following Terms and Conditions apply to all ads in this section: The Parish News takes no responsibility for the quality, safety, condition or true value of the items placed in the Small Ads Section. The Parish News Editors maintain the power of veto on the suitability of the Adverts. Ads will be placed on a first come first served basis and held chronologically for space in the magazine.

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.



HAUGHLEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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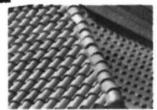
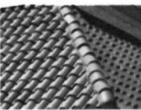
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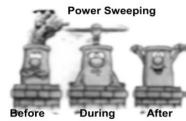
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See our Wetherden Baby & Toddlers Facebook page for more information.

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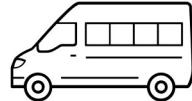
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07749265571

www.achurchnearyou.com
Curate: Revd Alison Roberts Tel.
01449 613037

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

The Baptist Church Wetherden

Minister: Hugh Davis:
email pastorhughdavis@gmail.com
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 :
01359-240298

Health Centre, Mendlesham
(Chapel Rd):01449 767722

Bacton Manor Farm Surgery:
01449-781777

Combs Ford Surgery, Stowmarket
01449-678333

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

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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