HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026/27

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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

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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

"MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR"

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2026

DECEMBER

Sat 5th	*Wetherden at Christmas - see poster for details	10.00am
Sat 5th	*Christmas Community Café, Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 5th	*Film Nights - "Project Hail Mary," Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Sun 6th	Haughley Hoofers Taster Session, Wetherden Village Hall	4.00pm
Tues 8th	Bingo, Haughley Pavilion	7.00pm
Sat 12th	*Christmas Fair, St Mary's, Haughley	10.00am
Sat 12th	*Family Nativity Café, Wetherden Baptist Church	10.00am
Sun 13th	* Carol Service, St Mary's Haughley	6.30pm
Sun 13th	Haughley Hoofers Taster Session, Wetherden Village Hall	4.00pm
Thurs 24th	*Christmas Eve Fun Nativity, St Mary's, Haughley	4.00pm

2027

JANUARY

Sat 9th	*Community Café - Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 9th	*Film Nights - "Glenrothan", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Sat 9th	*HUFC "An Evening with Elvis" with Andy Otley	7.00pm
Sat 30th	*Quiz Night, Haughley Pavillion	7.00pm

FEBRUARY

Sat 6th	*Community Café - Haughley Village Hall	10.00am
Sat 6th	*Film Nights - "I Swear", Haughley Village Hall	7.00pm
Fri 19th & Sat 20th	*HATS Panto, "The Camel Lot", Haughley Village Hall	2.00pm & 7.30pm

- See poster for further details



BEING PREPARED: EMERGENCY & RESILIENCE PLANNING IN HAUGHLEY

Don't panic, Mr Mainwaring! As Dad's Army taught us, the best answer to uncertain times is calm, practical preparation. Haughley Parish Council is working with local groups to help our village cope well with whatever comes along, and we'd like you to be part of it.

Why now?

- Over the past year many of us have seen or heard about disruption here and abroad, including:
- Severe weather such as flooding, drought, high winds, snow and ice, and wildfires
- Power cuts and interruptions to the water supply
- Failures in telephone, internet and computer systems

Most of these events are short-lived and manageable, especially when communities are ready for them.

Who does what?

- **The Government** looks after the national picture. It advises every household to keep at least **three days' supply of food and water**.
- **Suffolk's County and District Councils** run a Joint Emergency Planning Unit. It holds equipment for emergencies anywhere in the county and gives guidance to town and parish councils.
- **Haughley Parish Council** has had an Emergency Plan for many years. The plan has had a major update this year and will keep changing as we learn more. It will be available at www.haughleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

How you can help

Councils can't do it all. Most of what makes a community resilient comes from neighbours looking out for each other. The Parish Council, the Eco-Church group and others are leading the way, and we'd welcome your support with:

- **Street champions or a buddy system** to help people prepare and to pass on information
- **A register of volunteers.** Any personal details will be held in line with GDPR.
- **A list of useful equipment** that could be shared if normal supplies of power, water, fuel or communications fail, such as:
    * Generators
    * Chainsaws
    * Water carriers
    * Camping gas rings and gas
    * Gas space heaters

Other suggestions for the list are very welcome.

What's next?

More articles will follow in future issues of the Haughley and Wetherden Parish News and on the Parish Council website.

Get involved

If you have ideas, equipment or time to offer, please contact the **Clerk to Haughley Parish Council**. We'd be pleased to hear from **you.**

Clerk@haughleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS EVE FUN NATIVITY

Thursday 24th December 4p.m.



HAUGHLEY CHURCH

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council held a meeting on Tuesday 17th November 2026

Neighbourhood Planning. Nick Woolley introduced himself and aspects of preparing Master Plans. Nick has specialised in this subject for many years including providing advice to the Princes Foundation, now the Kings Foundation, Parliament and major insurance companies. We are very fortunate to have someone with such knowledge living in this Parish.

County Councillor Andrew Stringer provided a written report. It seems the County Council is giving up trying to resolve certain highway issues such as drainage. The Council may hold a county wide referendum on housing people seeking asylum**.** A debrief on the Dunwich Heath wildfire identified the need for appropriate PPE and the benefitted from volunteer Raynet operators. **District Councillor Dr Agnes Watson** referred to a written report and responded Councillor questions.

The Chairman attended briefings by SALC on planning and the JEPU on County Emergency Preparation and Resilience, resulting in a revision of the Haughley Emergency Plan - to be posted on the Haughley PC website. The Parish Council was represented at the act of Remembrance at Haughley Church and also on Remembrance Day on The Green. There is an ongoing road closure in Station Road to allow developers to connect services. The Parish Council was represented at the Community Climate Conversation at Haughley Church.

Finance. The Council considered finance matters and authorised November payments. They considered draft proposals for the Council budget for 2027-28 and allocations for the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council received initial costings to upgrade fencing at the Allotments.

The Council received an update on a **proposed footpath through parts of Haughley Green.** Arrangements for the **Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Event** were approved. The Council received notes on the recent meeting of the **Gallowsfield Wood** working party and agreed to the proposed purchase of a grass cutter and hand equipment. There had been a successful work party at The Cricket clearing scrubs to improve access along footpaths.

Planning Applications. The Council noted the following planning applications; DC/26/04729 **Rookery Farm Haughley Green -** a non-material amendment relating to DC/26/01837. DC/26/04725 **Beam Ends Station Road** - replacement and repairs of deteriorated timber windows at a Grade II listed property. DC/26/04608 **Balfour House 20 Eve Balfour Way** - non-material amendment to DC/25/05123 to reconfigure parking spaces, etc. DC/26/04645 **Juniper Lodge 4 Fishponds Way** - notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area. DC/26/04392 **34 Old Street Haughley** - Listed Building Consent to replace rotten wooden windows. DC/26/04034 **Land East of Bacton Road –** revised application for one dwellinghouse, etc. DC/26/04804 **55 Old Street Haughley** - Listed Building Consent to replace window in bad condition in a Grade II listed building.

The Council noted DC/26/03839 and DC/26/03840 **- Bridge Farm, Haughley New Street,** Installation of an air source heat pump. GRANTED. DC/26/04540 **Land on the North side of, Station Road -** Discharge of certain Conditions to DC/23/05721 - IDENTIFIED CONDITIONS APPROVED.

DC/26/04499 **- Outside Lynville, Haughley Green.** Development by a Statutory undertaker - Erection of a 9m pole. PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED.
DC/26/04378 **- Folly House The Folly Haughley.** Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area MSDC RAISE NO OBJECTION.

Playing Fields Update. Quotes are being obtained to repair the skate park. It is hoped that the Planning Application to upgrade the Pavillion will be approved to enable the proposed work to commence.

Emergency Planning – The revised version of the Emergency Plan was approved and will be published on the Parish Council website. The Council will be seeking to repair/replace various way marking signs around the Parish. The Councill will consider proposals to enhance **w**ebsite security.

Water Quality testing on parts of River Gipping including parts of Wetherden Stream in Haughley have improved to some degree following recent rain but remain at high levels. The Council considered correspondence received, including vehicle activated signs in Haughley Green, the skate park, dog fouling in church yard, bus shelter, remains of metal sign post proud of surface near Co-Op, the area by the bridge at Fishponds – these matters are being actively pursued.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Tuesday 15 December 2026

WE WISH ALL OUR PARISHIONERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.



Whats on at your Village Hall

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAFE
Saturday 5th December 2026

(See separate ad for details)

***January's Community Café will be held on Saturday 9th January**

'Coffee & Chat' at the Green Room
Mondays from 10am - 12noon
***There will be no Coffee & Chat on December 28 or January 4**

****

FILM NIGHTS - Doors 7pm for 7.30pm start

Admission £5 including refreshments

Saturday 5th December – 'Project Hail Mary' starring Ryan Gosling as a science teacher who wakes up on a spaceship light years from home with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. As his memory returns, he begins to uncover his mission: solve the riddle of the mysterious substance causing the sun to die out. He must call on his scientific knowledge and unorthodox ideas to save the Earth from extinction … but an unexpected friendship means he may not have to do it alone.

Saturday 9th January – 'Glenrothan' starring Brian Cox and Alan Cumming. Two brothers, one legacy, lots of spirit. After almost 40 yrs in Chicago, Donal (Cumming) reluctantly returns to the Scottish Highlands to make amends with his estranged older brother, Sandy (Cox). Sandy needs Donal to take over the family business – the Glen Nairn whisky distillery and secure the family's legacy.

Saturday 6th February – "I Swear' starring Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake, Shirley Henderson and Peter Mullan. I Swear is the powerful true-life story of Tourette Syndrome campaigner John Davidson. In a funny and moving account of his experiences, the story follows John throughout his adolescence and early adulthood and explores what was a little known and entirely misunderstood condition in 1980's Britain.

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

Wetherden at Christmas

Saturday 5th December 2026



Santa Search

Starting at the Baptist Chapel
10am – 12pm

Children follow clues around the village and get a chocolate gift at the end.

Price £2



Christmas Market at the Village Hall

Selling local crafts and gifts from **10am – 3pm**



The Maypole Pub

Selling festive drinks from **10am**



WETHERDEN VILLAGE HALL

We were worried, as our monthly Whist Drive was set to be held on Friday 13th November. However, we found there was nothing to fear as we had just over 9 tables in play!

The afternoon seemed to suit everyone a great deal, and on a seasonal note, our Special Christmas Whist Drive is well and truly on the cards for Friday 11th December at 2pm

Why not be ahead of the pack, and come along???? You will be sure of a warm welcome!

****

In addition, we held a Charity Whist Drive on Friday 30th October 2026 . Eleven tables were in play, and a total of £264 was raised for East Anglian Children's Hospice

St Mary's Church Wetherden

Elizabeth cordially invites you all to

A



Coffee Morning

on

Thursday 28th 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



HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CAFÉ

10am – 12 noon Saturday January 9 2027

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

King George V Playing Field Committee

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 30th January 2027

7pm for 7.30pm start



At Haughley Pavilion



£6 per head, Max 6 people in a team

Raffle

Bar open (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

Haughley Playing Field and Pavilion News

King George's Field, Haughley charity No. 304761

Christmas 50/50 (normally December) will be drawn at the **Christmas Lights Switch on Event 28th November 2026.** We will be happy to take cash renewals of numbers for 2027 draws or sign-up new members. We will also sell mulled wine The Lights switch on event on 28th November, please come along and support this village event and your local charities and groups.

Quiz night 30th Jan 2027. More details in separate advert, so gather your fellow quizzers and book a space.

General news the football season is well underway providing lots of grass roots football to watch at both senior and junior levels. The Bowls club are working with school to provide carpet bowls for PE lessons. They will also do some sessions with the Beavers and Cubs again to introduce bowls to youth groups as part of the longer-term plans to set up a youth bowls section. Thank you to our district councillors for a locality grant to help with running costs while we get this established. Behind the scenes we are sourcing quotes for the skate ramps and play equipment repairs.

There will soon be INPOST parcel boxes at the scout end of the Pavilion. These are being installed as I write.

Pavilion regeneration project

We are still awaiting result of the planning application. There is one the last outstanding query has been resolved.

We are delighted to announce our application for the Sports Infrastructure Grant has been successful, Mid Suffolk District Council have awarded us a £250,000.00 grant.

We are now in the process of finalising the District CIL application of £100,000.00 to support this funding to enable the first phase to commence early next year. This will be the extension to the of the Bowls Club.

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 p.a. for an A5 size advert, proceeds help 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:**
- **8th Dec 2026, 12th January 2027, 9th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May.**

Club Contacts: Can be found in the Directory

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
Access to kitchen facilities
Scouts Hall or folding table & chairs – Richard Stacy 01449 673311.

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Would you like to play Petanque?

We are starting a pétanque club and league which will be open to all, members and non-members of the Association. Over the winter months, we will begin informally with a view to starting seriously in the spring.

Find out more at https://www.hawta.co.uk/petanque

If you are interested in joining in with the Twinning, there is still time to come with us on our trip to France in May 2027 but you need to act soon!
Remember, you don't have to speak French to take part!

Julia Brook

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT - NOVEMBER 2026

30K fund helps growing projects take root

Community groups across Mid Suffolk can apply for grants of up to £30,000 to create or expand local food-growing projects.

The Community Growing Fund is designed to support communities looking to establish new growing spaces or enhance existing sites where there is a clear local need.

Grants of between £5,001 and £30,000 are available for the purchase of land and the development of projects such as community gardens, orchards and other food-growing spaces.Part of the council's broader Food and Drink Action Plan, the fund aims to increase access to locally grown food, strengthen food security and encourage more sustainable food systems.

Mid Suffolk District Council Funding - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Helping low-income families get support

Targeted support for the districts' lowest income households unlocked almost £300k in unclaimed benefits for families across Babergh and Mid Suffolk last year. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' cost of living teams contacted hundreds of households identified through data as being most at risk of financial hardship. Working alongside partner organisations, the team helped many residents claim benefits and financial support they were entitled to. Households were targeted for help using the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) – a tool which combines data from multiple sources to build a picture of households' financial situations

REACH van on the road

A new service to help residents access information and support to make their homes warmer, more energy efficient and cheaper to run has hit the road in Mid Suffolk.

The Retrofit Energy Advice for Communities and Households scheme, known as the REACH programme, offers residents clear, impartial guidance on home energy efficiency, alongside information on available grants, funding opportunities and other support schemes where appropriate.

The EV REACH van carries a range of practical resources and is staffed by dedicated energy advice officers who can offer one-to-one support, helping residents navigate available options and better understand the energy efficiency improvements that may be suitable for their home and circumstances.

Details on where to find the van, and how to access support, are available on the Mid Suffolk website:

REACH Service - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Vape shop shut down after discovery of illegal tobacco

A shop in Stowmarket has been forced to close for three months after a joint operation discovered illegal and potentially harmful vapes and tobacco – including goods with a street value of almost £16,000 stashed under a concrete floor.

A successful joint operation between Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Trading Standards and Suffolk Police has today seen a closure order served on Diamond Vapes in Ipswich Street, Stowmarket.

Youth council holds induction day for students

Members from the new Mid Suffolk Youth Council headed to Endeavour House for an induction day ahead of their first official meeting in November. They represented five secondary schools across Mid Suffolk with potentially others joining.

During the day, the youth councillors were guided through a series of discussions and workshops, helping them to gain a better understanding of the services provided by each tier of council in Suffolk, while also getting them thinking about what they want to achieve in the future. They then voted on the youth council's official motto - *'Your voice. Your future*'.

Useful links and funding

Locality Awards - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

Pride in your Place Grants applications are now open. Funding opportunities and support - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

My bin hasn't been emptied - Babergh District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk

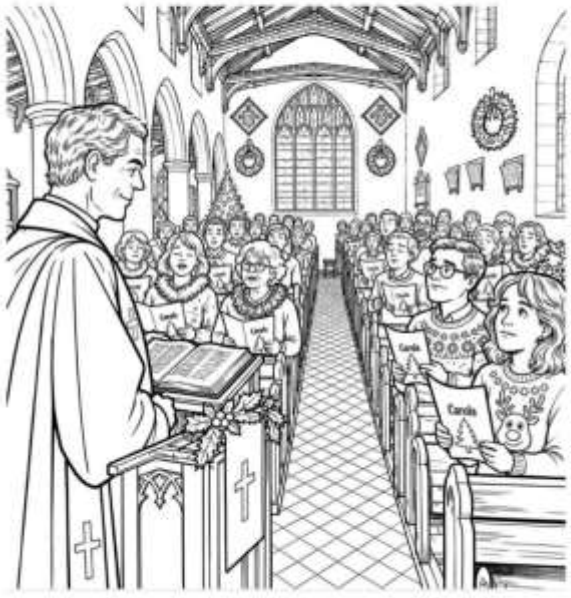
Stowmarket Innovation Gateway Skills Courses: Workshops & Skills Programmes | Stowmarket Innovation Gateway | Suffolk

Cllr Janet Pearson
Janet.Pearson@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07928 512592

Cllr Agnes Watson
Agnes.Watson@midsuffolk.gov.uk
07599 828819

ST MARY'S, HAUGHLEY

Are holding a Traditional



CAROL SERVICE

On
Sunday
13th December
at
6:30 p.m.

With the Church Choir

Chairman: Mr Tim Hart **Vice Chair :** Mrs M Buttle
Secretary: Vacant **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 Alan Turing and the enigma code. To engage with the children Rev Andy came up with a code which needing deciphering.

Like each year, legion member Damien 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 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 2026, our dedicated Poppy appeal collectors and organiser, Mr T Hart.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 2026 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.

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

ARMISTICE DAY IN HAUGHLEY

The morning of the 11th November 2026 at 10.45am saw the village begin to come to life as approximately 100-120 people began to assemble to pay their respects.

Our thanks go out once again to the Palmer family for the display of silhouettes on the green which add such an atmosphere to the event. As usual we were joined by children from Haughley Crawford's School and also a nursery from Ipswich who have taken Mr Palmer's soldiers to their hearts and they also laid poppies.

Rev. Alison took the service with Mr Hart and Mr Brown saying the exhortation and kohemia respectively and a poem was read by Mrs Buttle. The siren also is very important, although extremely loud and something else that is also very rare. We are so lucky here in Haughley in the fact that our village comes together on such occasions and may that long continue.

LEST WE FORGET



Haughley WI has had a busy few months....

Back in September we had an enlightening talk on exploring our Mental Health and how to do "My Whole Self MOT". It covered many aspects including: Reflecting on current mental and physical feelings, examining thoughts and identifying unhelpful patterns, evaluating how full your stress levels are, whether your coping strategies are working, and adjusting habits and recognizing that mental health is part of a broader life experience – needless to say we all learned a lot!!



Our October meeting was open to all - "An Audience with the King"! This was a very entertaining talk by Mike Farley, who is one of Britain's leading King Henry VIII impersonators. With his imposing figure, booming voice, wicked humour and musical skills it's little wonder he is in such high demand with TV and Radio nationwide. He kept us all entertained with his tales of royal life and it was like being transported back to Tudor times!!

This month some of our ladies also went on a tour of the Yum Yum Tree Fudge factory in Woolpit. What a brilliant time we had! We were shown around their site – with the process of getting the natural ingredients, the art of making the fudge, cutting and then packaging it. They had an amazing range of flavours including some very unusual ones such as lavender, rhubarb, lemon chilli and toffee apple. The best sellers are Salted Caramel, Irish Cream and Chocolate! We all spent a fortune stocking up for Christmas in their fabulous little shop!! We then went on to The Bull at Woolpit for lunch – the food was delicious and we all had a great time – plenty of chatting and lots of laughter! Our monthly lunch club visits are always very popular with our ladies....



In November we will be holding our AGM. This is the time when we choose our hard working committee and our President. These are the ladies who arrange our meetings, all our outings and make sure that our WI runs smoothly. It will also be our 101st Birthday – so there will definitely be plenty of cake and bubbles!!

Then in December we will have our Christmas Party with our very own Secret Santa, mulled wine and mince pies with plenty of Christmas fun! We are hoping to be joined by Ukulele Band of Felixstowe – who are a lively group and they kept us thoroughly entertained last Christmas! Who knew a ukelele band could be so much fun.....



Ladies – you are always welcome to come along as a guest to any of our monthly meetings.

Please check out our Facebook page for more information or call Jane on 07815 143490.

Mandy Watson

HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL
CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAFÉ

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
10AM - 1PM



Mulled Wine and Mince Pies as well as our usual fare. We also have a variety of stalls selling gifts for all.

Haughley Singing for Wellbeing Group will be joining us again to sing a selection of well-known and festive songs from 11am-11.30am

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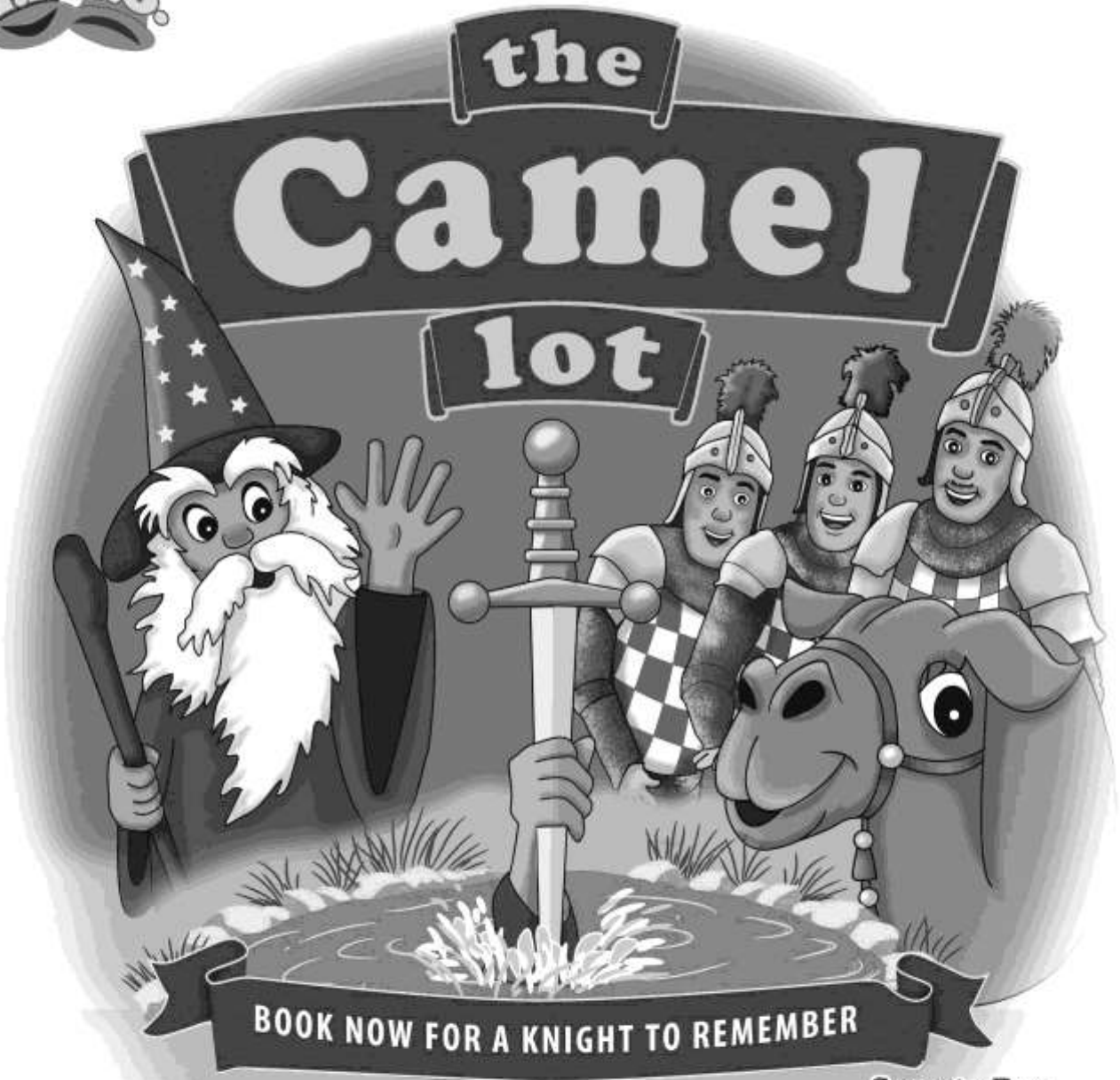
To be followed by the draw for Haughley Christmas Raffle

Join us for our Festive Community Café!

IT'S PANTO TIME AGAIN.....

HAUGHLEY AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



at HAUGHLEY VILLAGE HALL

Friday 19th Feb 2pm & 7.30pm
Saturday 20th Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

TICKETS £7.50 or 4 for £25

Scan to Buy

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

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/

Out of ten?

What has your year been like? Out of ten? Be honest – is it a nine, six or a three? I hope that your year has been filled with more happy things than sad (an eight rather than a two), but the reality is that might not have been the case.

Christmas is upon us. Celebrating the coming of the light of Jesus Christ into this rather dark world should be a reason to be happy. It's a ray of light; a beacon of hope. But actually the Christmas story is littered with sadness, anxiety and pain. A teenage girl pregnant outside of marriage in a culture where this was not acceptable. Family tensions. A journey of seventy miles on a mule. No room anywhere for the birth accept an unhygienic outhouse. A birth miles from family and friends – feeling alone. A jealous, despotic ruler and death threats. Migration to another country.

Just think about it. The Christmas story better identifies with those who are sad not happy, struggling with life, not finding it easy.

So, I really want to welcome you to our Christmas services this year (see the adjacent list) whether you are happy or sad. I hope you will find in our churches love and laughter, peace and purpose – a sense of God with you.

And may we, the Ministry Team (Myself, Rev. Alison Roberts, Dawn Buttress, Kevin Stanford, Jo Ling and Andrew King – see photo), as well as the Church Wardens (Josephine Gibson at Haughley & Ann Cooke and Tish Prescott at Wetherden), wish you all a meaningful Christmas and a happy New Year.



Andy
Revd Andy

PRAYER: However I feel, help me God to know that because of Jesus' coming to earth I am known, loved and not alone. Amen

HAUGHLEY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

PRESENTS

"AN EVENING WITH ELVIS"

With Andy Otley



Saturday, January 9th 2027

£5 per ticket

Tickets available now from Post Office

Bar open from 7.00pm,

Bar is card only

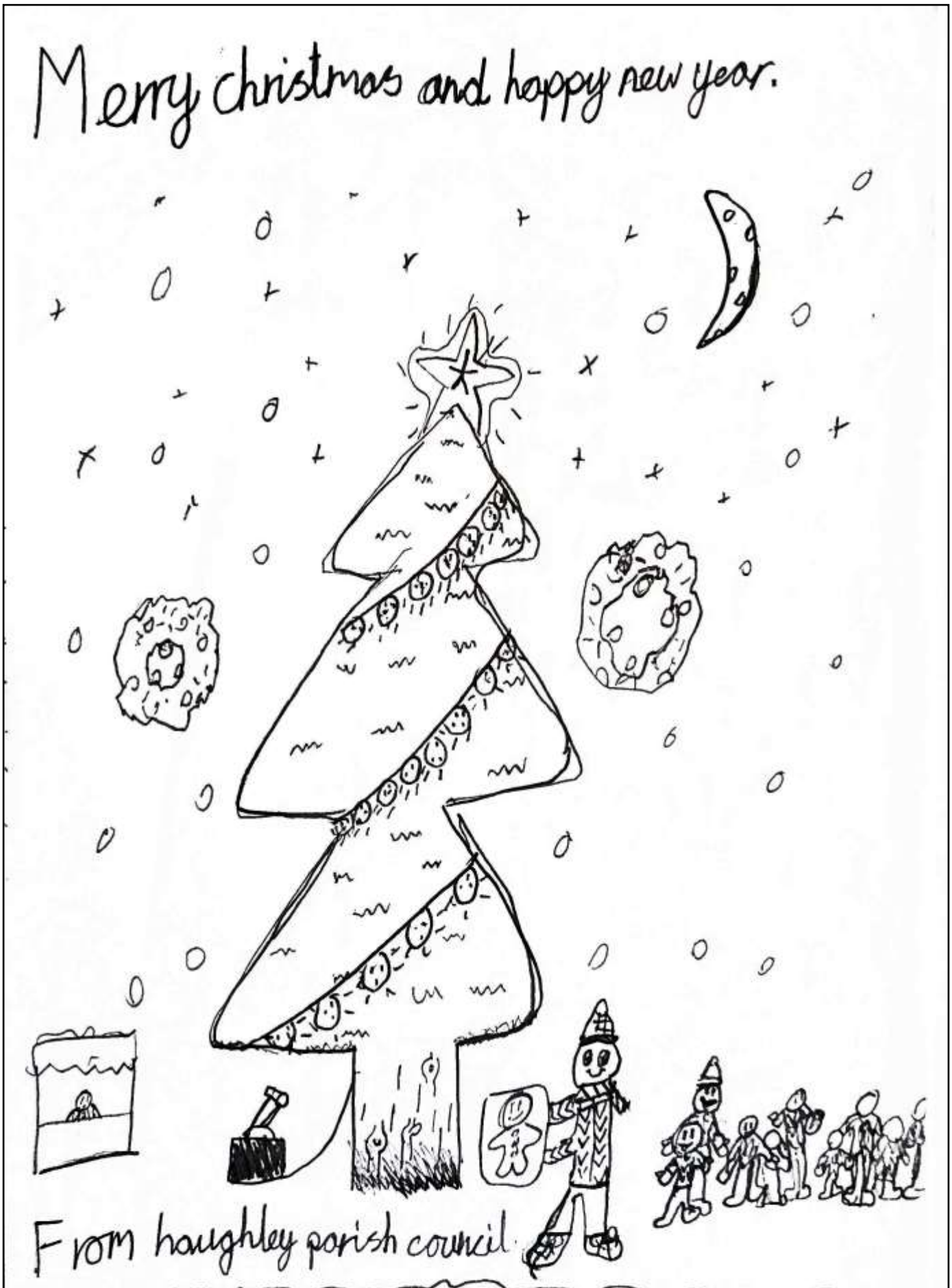
Come and support your local football club and have a great night out!

Ron Crascall Pavilion, Green Road, Haughley IP14 3RA

For queries contact:

Colin: 07708062435

colin.drewery@btinternet.com



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all on behalf of the Haughley Parish Council, and with a big thank you to Samson Faiers, Class 4 at Crawford's CofE Primary School, for the lovely artwork

CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2026

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

Date	Stowupland	Wetherden	Haughley
Wednesday 2nd	10am Morning Prayer & Praise		
Sunday 6th	4pm Christingle Service	6.30pm Carol Service	11am Communion Service
Tuesday 8th			5pm Pizza Church
Wednesday 9th			10am Morning Prayer & Praise
Sunday 13th	9.30am Communion Service	4pm Christingle Service	6.30pm Carole Service
Monday 14th	11.00am Service at Steeple View		2.00pm Service at Mere View
Wednesday 16th		10am Morning Prayer & Praise	
Sunday 20th	6.30pm Carol Service with Brass Band	11am Communion Service	4pm Christingle Service
Thursday 24th – Christmas Eve	4pm Crib Service	11.30pm Midnight Communion Service	4pm Nativity Production
Friday 25th – Christmas Day	10am Christmas Celebration Communion	10am Celebration of Christmas Day	10am Celebration of Christmas Day
Sunday 27th		Benefice Communion	

Morning Prayer & Praise – an informal 30-minute service on a Wednesday with refreshments

Sunday Praise – an informal service of up to 45 minutes with refreshments for all the family

Evening Service – a varied format which may include Celtic, Ecological or Pilgrimage themes

Communion Service – a service of worship, teaching and the celebration Jesus' death and resurrection

Morning Worship - a service of worship, teaching and prayer

Forest Church – a service for all the family, outdoors and in.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2027

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

Date	**Stowupland**	**Wetherden**	**Haughley**
Sunday 3rd	9.30am Communion Service 3.30pm Messy Church	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Sunday Praise
Wednesday 6th	10.00am Morning Prayer and Praise Epiphany Service		
Sunday 10th	9.30am Sunday Praise	11.00am Morning Worship: Celtic Service 3.30pm Forest Church	11.00am Communion Service
Monday 11th	11.00am Service at Steepleview		2.00pm Service at Mere View
Tuesday 12th			5.00pm Pizza Church
Wednesday 13th			10.00am Morning Prayer and Praise
Sunday 17th	9.30am Morning Worship with URC	11.00am Sunday Praise	11.00am Joint Service with URC
Wednesday 20th		10.00am Morning Prayer and Praise	
Sunday 24th	4.00pm Evening Service	11.00am Communion Service	9.30am BC Communion
Wednesday 27th			10.00am Midweek Communion-at the Vicarage
Sunday 31st	11am Benefice Communion		

WINNER OF HAUGHLEY CHURCH'S MONTHLY £40 DRAW

Jim McMillan

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.

Woolpit HEALTH CENTRE

Health Centre & Pharmacy opening times during the festive period are as follows:

	Health Centre	**Pharmacy**
CHRISTMAS EVE	8am – 6:30pm	8:30am – 7pm
CHRISTMAS DAY	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**
BOXING DAY	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**
Sunday 27th	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**
Monday 28th	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**
Tuesday 29th	8am – 6:30pm	8:30am – 7pm
Wednesday 30th	8am – 6:30pm	8:30am – 6:30pm
NEW YEARS EVE	8am - 6:30pm	8:30am – 7pm
NEW YEARS DAY	**CLOSED**	**CLOSED**
Saturday 2nd Jan	**CLOSED**	8am -11am
Monday 4th Jan	8am – 6:30pm	8:30am – 6:30pm

Please call NHS 111 for out of hours assistance.

Christmas Repeat Prescription Reminder

To help ensure you have enough medication over the Christmas and New Year period, we kindly ask all patients to order their repeat prescriptions well in advance of the Christmas bank holidays. Please allow at least **one week before our Christmas closure period** for your prescription to be processed and medication prepared.

Ordering early will help us ensure medication availability and provide sufficient time for prescriptions to be authorised, dispensed and collected before the holiday period.

From all the staff at Woolpit Health Centre we wish our patients a very merry Christmas and a healthy new year.

HAUGHLEY VH VILLAGE HALL

Could you be a friend to Haughley Village Hall?

Haughley Village Hall management committee are looking for people who are happy to give up some of their time to help with events such as the monthly Community Café and Film nights, annual Quiz nights and other community events.

If you are interested in becoming a friend, please contact:
Lynne Mahon 07941116240

SMALL ADS

Deadline for the February 2027 issue is Wednesday January 20 2027

- Large high back wooden arm chair, needs some attention - FREE - 07519164931

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.

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HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS

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Happy and Prosperous New Year

Take control of your finances this festive season

Christmas and the New Year can be an expensive time of year, and it can be tempting to rely on credit cards or borrow money to cover the extra costs. However, with a little planning and some careful budgeting, there are steps you can take to keep spending under control and avoid getting into debt.

Start by setting a realistic budget.

Think about who you need to buy presents for, any additional festive expenses and, most importantly, how much you can genuinely afford to spend. Try to stick to your budget and keep all receipts or ask for gift receipts, so you can return items if you need to.
Remember that household bills can also increase during the winter months, particularly with higher heating costs and more time spent indoors. For example, the UK Ofgem Energy Price Cap is expected to rise in January. Make sure you take these additional expenses into account when planning your spending.

If you're already struggling with debt, don't ignore it.

Ignoring bills, letters or requests for payment can make things worse. Contact the organisations you owe money to as soon as possible. They may be able to offer more manageable repayment arrangements or agree to smaller payments.
It's important to prioritise essential debts first, including rent or mortgage arrears, council tax and energy bills. These are known as priority debts because the consequences of not paying them can be particularly serious.
For other debts, such as credit cards and personal loans, gather together details of everything you owe, work out a realistic budget and contact your creditors to discuss an affordable repayment plan. Taking that first step can feel daunting, but it's an important move towards getting your finances back on track.

Remember, help is available.

If you're finding things difficult financially over Christmas or in the months that follow, try not to panic or feel that you have to manage everything on your own.
Whether you need help with budgeting, managing debt, paying household bills or finding out what financial support you're entitled to, Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is here to help.
Taking that first step towards getting advice can make all the difference. We're here to help you find a way forward.

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.

STOWMARKET AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

Monday 12th October. What a great night at our recent club meeting.

If you ever wondered how to sort and store your photos and then be able to find them easily, then this evening's presentation would have been of great benefit.

Our guest this evening was Mark Stothard MA BA (Hons) FdA APRS NPS. Mark is an expert in Lightroom software. He gave us a detailed overview on how to store and tag your images for easy location, saving time and frustration, using filters and search criteria. Mark also discussed how you can edit your images easily, all under one area.

Thank you Mark for a very enjoyable evening.

Monday 26th October. Something different for this evening's competition. We held our first Open competition of the season, which was Themed. Architecture was the subject in the Print and PDI categories. Some fantastic images, judged by Mr Nick Ackers APRS BPE4. After some positive and helpful comments, Nick awarded marks in the print monochrome and colour categories and awarded marks in the PDI section also. In the Monochrome Print category, top scorer with 20 points was Geoff Walker. In the colour prints, 20 points awarded to Keith Hyland. Two top scorers in the PDI category – Eddie Yates 20 points and also awarded 20 points was Keith Hyland. Well done to all members.



Milan Cathedral by Keith Hyland



London City Scape by Geoff Walker

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.



REMEMBER

The copy deadline for the February issue is:

Wednesday, January 20 2027

Submit to: The Editor,

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

THE ORCHARD BARN



The longest night, the warmest welcome

As the days grow shorter and the old orchard settles into winter, there's a very good reason to gather together at Orchard Barn.

What an extraordinary year it's been! Volunteers of all ages have helped us care for the land, restore an old building, learn traditional skills and create beautiful things from materials grown or gathered right here. There is much to celebrate, and even more to be thankful for.

On **Friday 18 December, from 11.30am**, we're opening the doors of our lovingly reinstated **Long House** and inviting you to join us for tea, cake and merriment as we celebrate the approaching **Winter Solstice** — the shortest day and longest night of the year.

For thousands of years, people have gathered at this turning point in the seasons, welcoming the promise of returning light. What better place to do so than in a building brought back to life by hundreds of helping hands?

Whether you've volunteered with us, visited before or are simply curious about Orchard Barn, we'd love you to come along.

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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: lynnallum@hotmail.com
Maxwell Charnley Community Room: booking: 01449 676789
Ron Crascall Pavilion:
Chairman & 50/50 Club Administrator: Thirza Shaw: trtinker@aol.com or 07786 375441 or Thirza.shaw@haughleypc.co.uk
Haughley Scout Hut:
Richard Stacy 01449 673311

Wetherden Village Hall:
Keith Watts 07528 065250
wetherdenvillagehall@gmail.com or
www.wetherdenvillagehall.com

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 – Chairman, Shaun Wright: 07710 604548

Haughley Youth Football contact – Carly Banthorpe 07976294616

Haughley Football Club:
Ian Wilkinson 07802 647674

Haughley History & Parish Archive:
Kieron Palmer: 07583081797

Haughley Hoofers Clog Dancers:
Gill Brett: 01449-673518

Haughley IT Squad:
haughleyhitsquad@gmail.com

Haughley Parish in Bloom:(HPIB)
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

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
wetherdentc@gmail.com

Whist Drive - monthly, Wetherden Village Hall:
James Rand 07549824735

WI Haughley - 1st Wed in month, 7.00pm, in Haughley Village Hall:
Jane Thompson: 01449 677079

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN PARISH NEWS

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David Bryant on:
01449 774657 or email
dlbryant@btinternet.com.

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.

WETHERDEN
BABY & TODDLER GROUP



We are a friendly group who meet on
Thursday mornings 9.30-11am
during term time at
Wetherden Baptist Church.

We have free play, craft activities, Bible stories, singing time and refreshments.

We ask for a donation of £1 per family per session to cover costs.

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



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