

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE BENEFICE



*The Yoxmere
Fisherman*

February 2024

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4th February ~ 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.00am Yoxford Benefice Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 11th February ~ 1st Sunday before Lent

9.30am Yoxford Holy Communion
9.30am Theberton Taizé
11.00am Darsham Morning Prayer
11.00am Dunwich Holy Communion
11.00am Peasenhall Morning Prayer
3.00pm Westleton Tea & Biscuits followed by Informal Worship

Wednesday 14th February ~ Ash Wednesday

10.00am Yoxford Ashing Service and Holy Communion

Sunday 18th February ~ 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30am Yoxford family@church
9.30am Westleton Holy Communion
9.30am Theberton Morning Praise
11.00am Peasenhall Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am Middleton Morning Prayer
3.30pm Darsham Evensong

Sunday 25th February ~ 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am Yoxford Morning Prayer
9.30am Westleton Informal Worship
9.30am Theberton Holy Communion
11.00am Peasenhall Morning Worship with the Methodist Chapel
11.00am Middleton Holy Communion
11.00am Dunwich Morning Prayer
11.00am Darsham Holy Communion
3.30pm Sibton Evensong

LECTIONARY

Green

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Green

2 Kings 2.1-12
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

Purple

Genesis 9.8-17
1 Peter 3.18-22
Mark 1.9-15

Purple

Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16
Romans 4.13-25
Mark 8.31-38

Thanks to John O'Donovan for the cover photo of the sunrise over Sibton Park on 14th December. Shepherd's warning maybe, but a breathtaking sight which many noticed that morning.

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS



It occurred to me that this being a leap year it is also an Olympic year. Memories come flooding back of previous years: during the 80s we had few really significant Olympians, I think, so Daley Thompson stands large in my memories. Then, some years later, Paula Radcliffe was a sure thing for the marathon gold, until she wasn't. Stirring stuff, and enough to remind me that I had done cross-country running at school (but not very well). That year (2000?) I started running again - a few five-milers over the North Downs near Guildford - but not for long, as on one of those runs I pulled up with pain in my left knee. The knee issue lasted years and convinced me, despite orthotic inserts and all, that I wasn't built for distance running.

But eleven or twelve years ago, I spotted someone I knew wearing very weird looking running shoes with flat soles and individual toes, and that led me eventually to read *Born to Run* by Christopher McDougall (no, not Springsteen). It's a really good read, going from investigations into our human origins as persistence hunters to chronicling an ultramarathon in the Sierra Madre which pitted the best US ultra-runners against the best of the Tarahumara, the local tribe - all phenomenal runners.

This led me to try running either barefoot, or in ultra-minimalist huarache sandals, as the Tarahumara do. And this time it worked. The knee issues didn't return, I got fitter and quicker, and I even did quite well in a 10k race.

I learnt two things from these running experiences. The first was that the standard way of doing things is not always right for me, and I was sometimes a better expert on *being me* than the usual experts.

The second was that I got thinking about our physical humanness and spirituality. The Bible has nothing much to say about health and fitness, but does insist that Jesus, while fully God, was also a properly embodied man, as vulnerable to cranky knees and blisters as you or I. Our physicality is not opposed to our spirituality - it is part of it. Mind, body and spirit significantly overlap. Running can help you feel *connected* - to yourself, to the ground, and to our Creator, who made such a fabulous landscape to run through. May all your activity this year be joy-filled and injury-free! *Blessings, Tim*

LENT COURSE "THE STORY WE FIND OURSELVES IN"

This year's course will meet in **Darsham Church** each Wednesday of Lent, starting on **21st February, at 2.30pm.**

Thinking within the framework of the big story that the Bible tells, we will discuss some key themes of theology, looking at what they say, and why, and how this helps us on our Christian walk. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided!

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriages

Rebecca Clare to Nicholas Kapoor, on 16th December 2023, at St Peter's, Yoxford.

Funerals

Janet Evelyn Pearce, aged 91 years, on 29th November 2023, at St Peter's Yoxford.

Freda Holmes, aged 91 years, on 6th December 2023, at St Michael's, Peasenhall, followed by burial in the Peasenhall Cemetery.

Rosalyn Carol Garnham, aged 62 years, on 13th December 2023, at St Michael's, Peasenhall.

Deirdre Dawn Simson-Walker, aged 82 years, on 18th December 2023, at St Peter's Westleton.

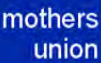

Harry Miles Martin, aged 101 years, on 4th January 2024, at All Saint's, Darsham.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

This will be on Monday February 12th (**not** the 5th) at 2pm in Westleton Village Hall Foyer.

A safe space for those who have been bereaved to be as open as you wish about your experiences, both emotional and practical, following loss.

Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied and no charge. More information from Revd Tim.

  Christian care for families worldwide
Thursday 15th February
Communion Service
Revd Tim Rogers
Westleton Church 2.30pm
All Welcome
Contact Sue Norrington 660280 or Jennifer Clough 648597 for more information

family@church
Sunday 18th February 9.30am Yoxford Church
The Fruit of the Spirit - Love

 An informal family-friendly service for the young and the not so young



Left: Christmas music in the café, Dunwich Heath

Below left: the Open the Book team visiting Yoxford School to present the Christmas story

Below right: family@church Pop-up Nativity in Yoxford Church



A plough for Plough Sunday, Theberton Church on January 7th



Reading Paul's Letters

The book of Acts continues the story straight after Luke's gospel leaves off — it begins properly with the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to the small group of Jesus' followers, and the story moves swiftly as the apostles preach and the number of converts to Christianity grows hugely. Saul, a zealous pharisee, appears in chapter 7 at the stoning of Stephen, but then reappears spectacularly in chapter 9, when he encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus and is converted. Paul, as he becomes, is the major figure in the rest of the Acts story — taking successive missionary

journeys around the Mediterranean coast. As he did this, he wrote letters to the various churches and a few individuals, expressing his hopes, ethics, and most of all his theology. Many people have treated Paul's letters as the 'real meat' of the Bible (though this does a disservice to the rest of the New Testament). His writings are the cornerstone of New Testament Theology, and it is hard to overestimate their importance.

Why did he write such theologically dense letters? Paul had been a paragon of Judaism — he knew and kept the law — food laws, festivals and all. But in the transition from Judaism to Christianity, every key area of religion needed redefining. His world had been defined by land, covenant, Torah, temple, prayer and family. But through Jesus all of these foundations had changed, and he needed to think this through, understand and explain it, so that the new Christian church could be genuinely united as one group of believers. **Land** no longer meant Israel, but God reigned over the whole world. The **temple** was no longer the focal point of worship, nor the place for meeting with God, nor the place where heaven touched earth, nor the place of atonement, because Jesus was this — and more, the Holy Spirit having come meant that now *Christians* were the temple replacement! They were supposed to be a multiplying number of points at which God spoke to the world, where grace was encountered, where heaven touched earth! And the **covenant** had been redefined wholesale. Christians now celebrated the new covenant "in Christ's blood", a relationship whereby our acceptance that he had already forgiven us enabled anyone to belong to him and find fruitfulness through him. **Torah** was upended towards a "heart-first and the laws will take care of themselves" framework; **prayer** was revived; **family** meant a widening of ties to brothers and sisters in Christ all across the world.

These were all things that needed thinking through in the early decades of Christianity: Paul's constantly active mind and deep scriptural knowledge were the place for this to happen.

When we read Paul's letters, we need to bear all this in mind. Secondly, we need to get used to the fact that his letters address issues that the recipients understand well, and we

may not. When Paul writes to Corinth we get the impression of a somewhat wild church, and he writes to address some of the places in which they have become too wild. But in other letters it is harder to see what the questions were that he is answering. This is part of the challenge.

One of our particular challenges is the charge of sexism. 1 Timothy 2:11-15 doesn't sound good. But context is important. Firstly, elsewhere Paul can't stress enough that — "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3). This doesn't sound like a man who will make women second class. His greetings and thanks at the end of letters are also inclusive. He greets Priscilla, Lydia, Claudia and Nympha at various times. Lydia is apparently the leader of a church. He entrusted the letter to the Romans to Phoebe, and doing so, he would have discussed carefully with her the contents of the letter, so that she could answer questions when she arrived.

When Paul writes to Timothy in Ephesus, then, surely there is a particular local issue, whereby women at that time were best off not leading. Something to do with the temple to Diana being nearby, perhaps?

Paul's letters are so worthwhile because they are the place where much of the heavy lifting of new theological thinking happened, and they give so much insight into how Christians, and churches should be. They are not all easy going, but they are truly wonderful.

Blessings, Tim

SAFEGUARDING COURSES

Mark Bee, Safeguarding trainer for our benefice, is running a **Basic Safeguarding Course** on Wed. 27th March at Darsham Village Hall, 10am-12.30pm. In the afternoon he will run the **Foundation Safeguarding Course** necessary for all PCC members, 2-4.30pm. On Wed. May 15th he will run the **Domestic Abuse Course** in Darsham Village Hall, 2-5pm. Mark runs these courses with honesty and compassion and leads us through step by step. They are very important to keep visitors to our churches and ourselves safe. Please let me know if you can attend. 01728 648140. *Kathryn Branch*

THE YOXMERE FISHERMAN - Guidelines for contributors

The *Yoxmere Fisherman* is published for the Yoxmere Benefice, which comprises the Church of England parishes of Darsham, Dunwich, Middleton, Peasenhall, Sibton, Theberton, Westleton and Yoxford.

Visitors may find more information at www.achurchnearyou.com

SUBMISSIONS should be sent by the 14th of the preceeding month, and preferably by email to yoxmerefisherman@gmail.com

For details of advertising please email: yoxmereadvertisers@gmail.com

VIRTUAL FISHERMAN

The current edition and a few months of previous issues can be found at <https://westleton.onesuffolk.net/church/yoxmere-fisherman/>

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk) has been working across East Suffolk and Ipswich for thirty-seven years supporting children and adults with disability-related problems, and also their family carers. We provide practical solutions to address the short- and long-term financial issues which often underly or worsen their wellbeing.



This case study illustrates the kind of support we can provide. Janice (not her real name) suffers from severe fibromyalgia and anxiety. She came to DAS for help with her Personal Independence Payment (PIP) application. Unfortunately, the standard third-year review downgraded her award, despite there being no improvement in her condition. Once notified, DAS kicked off the appeals process on Janice's behalf, and provided support during a ten-week wait for the outcome. During that period we became increasingly concerned about her increasing stress levels, particularly as this delay came on top of financial struggles. Through this difficult time DAS was able to provide urgent crisis support with grants and vouchers, as well as undertaking a wider benefits check to see if she was entitled to any other forms of financial support.

Janice's biggest concern was paying her household utility bills, and DAS was able to access the Suffolk Household Support Fund to help pay for them. We also then guided her through what she needed to do to maximise her income and benefits until her full disability payments were reinstated. Janice is now happily managing and grateful for the help provided.

If you know of someone who might benefit from our help, please contact us on 01394 387070, or email advice@daseastsuffolk.org.

Find more about us at www.das.eastsuffolk.org or on Facebook. Our address is 14 The Square, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IP5 3SL.

Graham Walker

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A women-led, global ecumenical movement)

Each year on the first Friday in March this day of prayer begins on the international dateline in Samoa. As the sun moves across the earth, Christians take part in a wave of prayer, which encircles the earth until the sun finally sets over American Samoa. Become part of this wave of prayer.



Friday 1st March, 2pm in Westleton Church

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

“I beg you, bear with us in love” is their theme.

Please join us and learn a little about their lives and hopes for the future of the world. For anyone wanting to know more about Palestine there will be an opportunity to explore the themes prepared by the women of Palestine from **11am in Westleton Church**.

A lunch will be provided. This is an informal time of reflection and you can come and go as you are able. Please contact 01728 649045 to book a place for lunch. *Joyce Burtenshaw*

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DARSHAM

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9TH JANUARY 2024

Following the resignation of Cllr Michael Simons, the PC co-opted Byron Davies as a new councillor; his portfolio will cover footpaths and assisting with speeding.

Representatives from both Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Council gave their reports. EWS (the management company) and the Highways Dept have been contacted about the flooding resulting from the overflow of the drainage ditches around the Greenside development.

Fencing around the allotment has now been completed. Planning application for solar panels at Marsh View Farm was approved.

The parish council budget for 2024/2025 was considered, and it was decided that the precept will need to be increased, for the first time in several years, by the maximum of 3%. This will cost the village as a whole about £202, an average increase of approximately 70p per household.

The next meeting will be held on February 13th at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

FILM NIGHT - *Scrapper*

British comedy drama that follows Georgie, a resourceful 12-year-old who secretly lives alone in a London suburb following the death of her mother, deceiving the social worker and making money by stealing bikes. But her estranged father arrives on the scene and reality is forced upon her. One reviewer found echoes of Paper Moon from 1973, which starred Ryan and Tatum O'Neal, in the father/daughter criminal partnership and the film's sheer sense of fun!



Doors open at 6.45pm, and film starts at 7.00. Tickets £5, available on the door or at the coffee morning at the village hall. Wine, beer, snacks and ice creams for sale. Further info from Anne on 01728 668270 or 07852 237389.

SAVE THE DATE: Darsham Horticultural Society Open Spring Show
Village Hall 6th April. Info and schedules at: www.darsham.onesuffolk.net/ under Clubs/Horticultural Society

DARSHAM 100 CLUB WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER

1st Prize: £100 Mr B. Davies 2nd Prize: £50 Mrs J. Rouse
3rd Prize: £25 Mrs V. Graveson 4th Prize: £25 Mr J. Pottinger
5th Prize: £25 Mr R. Clark

100 CLUB WINNERS FOR DECEMBER

1st Prize: £100 Mr I. Linden 2nd Prize: £50 Mrs S. Bloomfield
3rd Prize: £25 Mr M. Simmons

DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL FEBRUARY 2024

Playground Progress

Pre-planning has been submitted and we are now awaiting a response from the council.

New for this year

Writers' Group

Our group is open to all types of authors/writers, whether they have published or not. Also open to people who are thinking about writing and just want to pop along. Starting on Monday 19th February at 2.00pm (contact Russell 07496 096056).

Monthly Watercolour Classes

Suitable for all levels of ability. Starting Monday 25th March, 9.30am - 12.30pm; subsequent classes will fall on the third Monday of each month.

Step-by-step tuition, cost £25, bring your own materials; tea and coffee provided. Learn how to paint landscapes, street scenes and coastal scenes, as well as other subject matter in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Colin is a professional associate of the SAA (Supporting All Artists) www.saa.co.uk. To find out more information or to book a place contact Colin on 07528 515214 or info@colinayersart.co.uk. Website www.colinayersart.co.uk.

WHAT'S ON AT DARSHAM VILLAGE HALL - FEBRUARY 2024

Classes & Clubs

Sequence Dancing – every Tues. & Thurs. from 1pm (contact Carol 01986 784642)

Pilates – every Thurs. 9.30 to 10.30am (contact Maria 07999 848655)

Seated Exercise – every Thurs. 11am to 12pm (contact Maria 07999 848655)

Table Tennis – every Thurs. 7pm to 9pm (contact Alan Holland 01728 668451)

Yoga – every Fri. 10.30 to 11.30am (contact Debbie 07906 346545)

Carpet Bowls – Every Friday 2.30pm (contact Heather Shipp 01728 668251)

Pétanque – Every Wed. 2pm-4pm (contact Ron Clark on 07423 399406)

Crafty Club – Mon. 5th Feb. - 9.30am (contact Heather Ballantine 07860 278955)

Dash Astro – Sunday 11th Feb. (Observing) & 25th February 7pm (Meeting)

Events and Meetings

- Coffee Morning – Sat. 10th Feb. at 10am hosted by the Table Tennis group.
- Film Night – Sat. 10th Feb. – *Scrapper*, see page 11.
- Parish Council Meeting – Tues. 13th Feb. at 7pm.
- Textile Temptations – Wed. 13th Feb., 10am (contact Sally Goodacre on 07900 522577).
- Earth Dance - Nia - Soulful Sunday – Sun. 18th Feb. at 9.30am (contact Jen 07912 880319).
- Writers' Group – Mon. 19th Feb. at 2pm (see notice above).

DUNWICH

COFFEE 4 U

Our next coffee date is on Thursday 8th February and also Thursday 22nd. You can find us in the reading room behind the Museum at 10:30am until 12 noon. Hope to see you there.



Heather Cook.

NEWS FROM DUNWICH HEATH

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024!

Looking back on the last months of 2023, the rain of November continued into December here, creating challenges for the ranger team with erosion to footpaths and very squelchy patches to negotiate with machinery. January brought spectacular frosts, which was a welcome change from the rain and made the heath breathtakingly beautiful, and some stormy days turning the sea into a thrilling maelstrom.

The wildlife, luckily, doesn't seem to have suffered, the Dartford Warblers merrily perched on the heather tops when it's warm enough for them to venture up from the undergrowth. The gorse is flowering now, too, so much so that when you get out of your car on a sunny day it feels like you've entered a shampoo commercial with the heady scent of coconut! On the conservation front, our ranger Sam and his team are spending this month finishing off the more disruptive conservation work, before having to stop so as not to disturb the ground-nesting birds which will soon be into breeding season.

In terms of what's on here over February, we have a few things that would be well worth coming along to. On the 10th, we have another of our "Turbulence to Tranquillity" history talks led by our volunteer expert Richard, where you can discover the dramatic history of our little corner of Suffolk. Before that, on the evenings of the 2nd and 3rd we have two star-gazing sessions, with experts on hand from the local astronomy group, DASH Astro, to show you the wonders of the night sky. Lastly, if you're visiting over half term, we have a "Signs of Spring" trail running, a bingo-style search for clues of the coming spring.

More information is available on our website, including booking pages for the history talk and stargazing sessions. Otherwise, the heath awaits for your winter walks, and the tearoom at weekends for a cup of tea to warm up afterward!

Daniel Payne

MIDDLETON

MIDDLETON WI NEWS

At our AGM in November we decided to start the evening with wine and cheese. Two of our members, Fiona and Bev, did the planning and decorating. We were served a selection of four lovely Suffolk cheeses, French bread, crackers, fruit, nuts and chutneys. After enjoying the refreshments we held our elections: Lynda Whitbread was re-elected as our president and our committee remains the same. Lynda then read her annual report reminding us of all our activities and accomplishments of the past year.

Our December meeting was our end-of-year celebration. We enjoyed mulled wine and a buffet of delicious dishes provided by the members. While we ate we listened to Phoebe Cook, a young musician from our village, play carols on her saxophone. After supper we had the fun of a Beetle Drive organised by Shirley and Rosemary. Some of us were old hands at this and some had never tried before. It was fun and the fastest beetle builders won chocolate santas! Our members also remembered the women who have to use the Lighthouse Women's Refuge at Christmas, by collecting gifts for them to open on that day. It was nice to see a full table's worth to be transported down to Ipswich. The idea for this was proposed by Fiona and the presents transported by Bev.

In February we will not be having an evening meeting but we will enjoy a winter luncheon at the Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh.



Lynne Venn

The Friends of Middleton School invite you to battle your wits and have fun at our 2nd annual...



QUIZ NIGHT

Sat 23rd March, 7.00pm start

At Middleton Village Hall

Tables of up to six, £7 per person

Cash Bar SUPPER Raffle



To book your table contact Rebecca - curlyreynolds@gmail.com

All proceeds to Middleton School PTA

PEASENHALL

PEASENHALL ASSEMBLY HALL

The **Film Club** is back on 2nd February - keep an eye on your inbox for an announcement of which film will be shown.

The Peasenhall Picture Palace will be changing our licence this year. This will enable us to advertise the film on social media platforms as well, so hopefully will entice more people along to these great nights. As always if you have any film suggestions or feedback, please do get in touch.



MAKERS
** market **



More **Pop-up Pubs**, hopefully a quiz or two, **Makers' Market** and other events and dates will be announced soon!



If there are any fitness instructors, **Zumba** teachers or similar who would be interested in hosting a weekly class, please do get in touch.

We would also welcome any up-and-coming or experienced artists to come along and sing / play at one of our Pop-up Pub evenings.

To subscribe to our newsletter and have updates and events coming straight into your inbox, please drop us an email at: theassemblyhall19@gmail.com.

If you would like to join our small, friendly committee, or perhaps just help at events, then we would love to hear from you.

If you would like more information, please call Jane Collins (Chairman) on 07767 167968 or jane.collins23@gmail.com.



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THEBERTON

NEWS FROM THE THEBERTON LIONESSES

The Jazz night held in Westleton on 25th November was a great success: eighty-four guests contributed to the party atmosphere, enjoying first class music by **Three of a Kind and Friends**, as well as piping hot lasagne followed by tiramisu and a small jazz quiz. The raffle and busy bar resulted in a profit of £2000 shared between the East Anglia Children's Hospice and St Elizabeth Hospice. There was a cheque presentation from the charities to the committee in the Theberton Lion on 23rd January. The committee is planning to repeat this in August this year. More details to follow.



“BRING YOUR BAKES” COMPETITION – SATURDAY MAY 25TH

Bring your breads, cakes, pies and/or tarts (all shapes and sizes) to Theberton Jubilee Hall between 08.30 and 10.00am on Saturday 25th May. Judging will take place at 11.00 by Rebecca Cockett, owner of Mama Bears Cake Bar (Saxmundham and Ipswich) and the display will be open to the public from 2.00pm when we will be serving tea and refreshments in the garden prior to the prize-giving and auctioning of exhibits.

Entry will cost £1.50 per item (up to eight entries allowed on each entry form) and the forms are available from Suzi Cooper: please email thebertonlionesses@hotmail.com or phone 01728 635736 or message WhatsApp 07879 685136. Give us a ring for more details. Do join us – it will be great fun!

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 2nd March, 11.00am - 1.00pm at Theberton Village Hall.

Clothing, bric-a-brac, books, toys, raffle and refreshments.



If you have any items to donate for this event, please leave in the hall foyer during the week

leading up to it. For more details please contact Sally on 01728 832386.

ALSO – SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Quiz, Saturday 6th April, at Theberton Village Hall, 7.00pm. More details in the next *Fisherman*.

Many thanks, on behalf of Theberton Community Council.

WESTLETON

LIS YOUNG

Elisabeth Young, Lis, who for over thirty years lived in Love Lane, Westleton, died peacefully in Aldringham Court on Boxing Day, following a fall at home and subsequent hospitalisation. She will be sadly missed by all her friends at St Peter's Church, the Westleton WI and local art group, amongst many others. She shared so many of her artistic talents and craft skills with us with small hand-made gifts and presents, and timely letters and cards which always brought so much pleasure and joy. She will be especially remembered for her love for all things connected with the royal family which always brought a smile to our faces. We trust that Harvey will be comforted by our continued love and support for him at this difficult time.

Linda Ginn

WESTLETON VILLAGE HALL FEBRUARY 2024

The **Wheelbarrow/Community Market** is back in the Foyer on Saturday February 3rd, 10.00am-12.30pm. Come along to find lovely local produce, bric-a-brac, gifts, crafts and more! Refreshments will also be available. Later that evening at 7.00pm for 7.30 the **Film Club** is showing *Barbie*. Do come along - it's not what you might expect! Tickets £5, available on the door.

The **Flea Market** is returning on Sunday 11th February from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Collectables, vintage, good quality pre-loved items and affordable antiques will be on sale. Something for everyone! 50p entry, under 16s free. Light refreshments will be available in the Foyer.

Bingo is in the Foyer on Thursday 15th February, 2.30-4.00pm. All welcome, no experience or advance booking required. £5 each to play for small cash prizes, all equipment provided.

On Saturday 17th February we have **Pot Luck Supper**. Come and try some delicious and varied warming winter food, with dessert too! 6.30pm. £15 each. Tickets available from the Village Shop and Foyer when open. Entry only with valid ticket.

Carpet bowls will be back, running on the 3rd Sunday of each month (the 18th in February), 2.00-4.00pm; only £2 per person, as a drop-in rate. Refreshments will be provided in the Foyer half-way through. No experience needed – all are welcome. This will be a social and fun game.

Yoxmere Model Railway Group will be having an open day in the main hall on Wednesday 21st February. For more information, please see posters up nearer the time.

Westleton 100 Club - you have to be in it to win it, and this is your last chance to join the Westleton 100 Club for this year! It's from £1 up to £6 maximum per month. Winners every month of £50 1st prize and £25 2nd price. This fundraising helps support the church and hall in Westleton (50% each). Please contact Liz Barton for more information on 01728 648764. The deadline is Thursday 29th February.

Consultation Room: we have a pet and human registered **Physiotherapist** Emma Strachan fortnightly (variable days). Contact her to book on 07821 055404.

Reflexology is back on Saturday 24th February 9.30am-1.30pm. Contact Juliet Overton: 07930 341901 www.julietoverton.co.uk On Thursday 29th February 9.00am-4.30pm we have **Footcare** with Susan from No Bad Feet, and also Friday 1st March 9.00am-12noon. To book call her on 07497 371073.

To see our latest timetable of varied activities, events and groups, please see our **events page** on our website: www.westletonvillagehall.co.uk and join us on Facebook and Instagram. You can also pick up a copy of the monthly What's On in the Foyer, view it at the inside and outside hall notice boards, or contact Annie - Centre Manager - for more information or to go on our mailing list on 01728 648354 centremanager@westletonvillagehall.co.uk

The Foyer is open 10am-12noon every weekday for light refreshments, information and chat with our friendly volunteers. On Tuesday mornings we also have **Tech Table** in the Foyer, and Wednesday mornings the Chess and Coffee group. For more information, please contact Annie.

DECEMBER 100 CLUB WINNERS

1st prize: No 111, Brenda M Bell

2nd prize: No 178, Mr D Searle.

JANUARY 100 CLUB WINNERS

1st prize: No 22, Don Foster

2nd prize: No 82, Dilys Hall.

WESTLETON GARDENERS - OPEN TO ALL

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 20th February in Westleton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

This month's talk is by Susannah Sharman from Swann Nursery, Bromeswell who will be talking about 'Enhancing your Garden'.

£4 entry payable on the door and all are welcome. Doors open at 7.15pm and there will be time to chat and refreshments after the talk.

Save the date!

WESTLETON GARDEN TRAIL

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2024



NEW YEAR'S DAY FIREWORKS 2024

A big thank you from the Fireworks Group for a great attendance and support. Hope you all enjoyed the fireworks and bonfire. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support and also for everyone who helped with the food and drink. Thanks to Nat Bacon. Warrior Fire and Rescue. See you all January 1st 2025.

Nick Shearme, Chair of Bonfire Advisory Working Group

WESTLETON WI

And so, a brand new year with all sorts of lovely possibilities - all to be unwrapped and discovered.

But with the looking forward and anticipation there is also the sadness of remembering our friend and fellow WI member Lis Young who passed away. So many lovely memories - she will be sadly missed.

The year started very well with a talk by Jane Parry of the Peartree Centre at Halesworth. The centre offers advice and support to people with life-changing illness or long-term conditions in East Suffolk. Their services include support by

volunteers, counsellors and therapists. Their work is far reaching and includes psychological support, end-of-life care and a host of complementary therapies in a caring community. Halesworth and the rest of East Suffolk is indeed fortunate to have such an all-encompassing service and such an enthusiastic representative as Jane Parry.

Our next meeting is on 6th February with a talk by Guy Marshall, an optician, about his work in Africa.

Susanne Bennell

ASTHMA AND LUNG UK COFFEE MORNING

A very big thank you to everyone who came, donated and baked for this extremely successful and happy event.

We raised £774.20, all of which will go to Asthma and Lung UK as the chosen charity of Nicola, who is training for the London Marathon in April.

Thanks, Pam (Hargreaves) and daughter Nicola

WESTLETON WELLBEING WALKS

Guided walks available free of charge in our area.
Do join our friendly group.



Sunday 4th Feb. 11am Hogs Grove.

Meet at the Forestry England Car park in Dunwich.
2.85miles, taking 80mins. Grade 4.

Tuesday 13th Feb. 11am Dunwich, Greyfriars Wood & Dunwich Heath.

Meet at Flora Tea Rooms Dunwich.
3.3miles taking 90mins. Grade 5.

Wednesday 21st Feb. 10.30 Walking Westleton Wood.

Meet at Mill Road beyond Ralphs Mill. (What three words: stadium.furniture. fluctuate). 1.65miles taking 45mins. Grade 4.

Tuesday 5th March 10.30am Snape Reedbeds.

Meet at the Plough & Sail PH, Snape Bridge.
2.5miles taking 60mins. Grade 4.

Wednesday 20th March 10.30am Hogs Grove. As above, see how the forest changes into spring.

WESTLETON COMMON EVENTS FEBRUARY 2024

On **Saturday February 17th** there will be

a **Working Party**

10am - 12.30pm

All Welcome - tools are provided.

Bring your own tough gardening gloves.

~ Refreshments at half time ~



The first **Nature Walk** of the year will be held on

Saturday February 24th

10.30am - 12 noon (approx)

when we hope for some warmer weather!



For both these events, please meet near the main Common Noticeboard,
at the top of Mill St down a short track on the right.

WESTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

The last meeting was in November beginning with a lengthy discussion with the county and district councillors about the impact of the ongoing flooding. While the PC recognises that the amount of rain recently has been far above normal, it is also clear that more preventative work by the councils is necessary, particularly given that heavier rainfall over shorter time periods may become a more regular feature of the weather.

The responses to the 20mph speed limit survey have now been counted – 249 residents completed the survey of which 18 were not in favour of a 20mph limit, while 231 supported the reduced speed limit (92.7%). The PC will share the data with County Councillor Smith and the data from the Vehicle Activated Signs (which show the number of vehicles speeding through the village) to support a call for a speed limit change and for greater police enforcement of the limit. Many thanks to all who responded.

And another survey will soon be coming your way - please be on the lookout for a *Housing Needs* survey which Community Action Suffolk will undertake early in the New Year. The PC is working with Orwell Housing Association as it is our view that some affordable housing is now needed more than ever. Property

prices have become prohibitively expensive for young people/young families and as a result, the demographic of the village is now heavily weighted towards older people. Our concern is that if this trend continues, there will be few, if any, young people/young families in the village in the future. The plan is for Orwell Housing to build a small development of affordable housing to help Westleton be a community of people of all ages again. However, the district council needs evidence of need, hence the survey - which can be completed by residents as well as by people who have already left the village and hope to return.

I hope the information provided by these paragraphs in the *Fisherman* will provide residents with a better idea of the PC's work. We now also plan to make ourselves more accessible - starting in January, the PC will hold one surgery a month in the Village Hall when residents will be able speak to two of the parish councillors. The dates of the surgeries will be publicised in the Village Hall, on the village notice board and on the website. We hope this initiative proves popular.

Andrew Turner, Chair Westleton Parish Council

YOXFORD

JANET PEARCE

Roger, Russell and families, would like to thank everybody for their cards and messages of support, and for attending Janet's funeral. She will be sadly missed by family, friends and the community of Yoxford.

SING OUT!

Your Local Community Choir



Why not start the year by joining a choir!

We meet at St. Peter's Church, Yoxford at 7.00pm each Wednesday during term time.

We sing a wide range of songs from musicals, choral to pop.

Whether you are new to singing, have sung in a choir before or read music or not all are welcome. Especially those with a lower singing voice range!

For more information, please email: singoutyoxford@gmail.com

Website: singoutyoxford.co.uk

We hope you will come along even just to try it out!

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YOXFLOCKS MOVIE NIGHTS 2024

Yoxford Village Hall, 7.30pm

February 16th, March 15th, May 17th, June 14th, July 19th,
August 16th, September 13th, November 15th, December 13th

Film titles to follow....



YOXFORD BOWLS CLUB

cordially invites you to a

QUIZ NIGHT

at **YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL** on **SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH**
6.30pm for 7.00pm

contact **GRAHAM FARRANT** (01728 688620) to enter your team of six people
(entry fee £6.00 per head).

Nibbles / tea and coffee provided - bring your own drinks.



A NEW VENTURE AT YOXFORD ANTIQUES CENTRE (Sponsored)

A new year typically sees some change, and 2024 is no different for two businesses in Yoxford: Yoxford Antique Centre & The Ox Café, situated on the A1120 tourist route, between Yoxford and Sibton.

Yoxford Antique Centre has been run successfully for the last twelve years by Nigel and Margaret and has now been taken over by Rachael and Sharon. The Flying Goose Café which has operated in the grounds of the Antique Centre has been taken over by Damian under the new name of 'The Ox Café'. These individuals have a mutual interest and understanding of the trade and are all really looking

forward to making the businesses an ongoing success as well as helping to ensure that Yoxford and the surrounding villages continue to be a sought-after tourist destination.

With new management, The Ox Café is currently undergoing a refurbishment, will be introducing a nut-free menu, and is sourcing many of its drinks and food ingredients from local suppliers. The café is expected to be open by the end of January 2024.

Anthony Harper



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NEWS FROM YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Update following the floods since October 2023: The floods remain a key focus for the village and, at its last meeting, district and county councillors presented their update. This is included in full minutes available on the village website: <https://www.yoxford.org.uk/meetings-and-minutes/>.

In summary, both councillors confirmed that initial payments of £500 had started to be issued to affected households. Further grants, which should have been applied for, have not yet been processed. Do contact Yoxford Parish Clerk if you'd like any help. To contact the councillors:

East Suffolk District Councillor **Julia Ewart:** julia.ewart@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
Suffolk County Councillor **Richard Smith:** richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk

As a result of the significant flooding in the village, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Suffolk County Council will undertake a Section 19 investigation. Yoxford Parish Council will contribute to this. More information on the County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/storm-babet>

Parish Council Precept: Aware that Council Tax bills will rise and not wanting to add to parishioners increasing costs, Yoxford Parish Council voted to implement a 0% increase to its Precept request for 2024/5.

Winter Jobs: With near on 1000 bulbs planted around the village by the brilliant Yoxford Volunteers the next jobs have been scheduled. If you're able to join the team, please let the Parish Clerk know or just turn up at **10am** on any of the following dates: **February 10th & 11th:** litter pick & road clean; and **March 16th & 17th:** litter pick & road clean.

And, if you're able to do so, please continue to keep the pavements outside your home as clear as you can.

Planning Matters: Planning applications are available for anyone to see here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications-and-enforcement/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Speeding traffic: Further to County Councillor Richard Smith's rejection of Parish Council's request to support a review of road speed limit policy, Council remains committed to a 20mph policy for the village, but will also be exploring further what it can do to encourage drivers to take care on village roads. Measures are expensive and take time to implement but rest assured that Yoxford Parish Council is looking into best practice and best value.

Meet-up Tuesday Group: Yoxford Parish Council was delighted to learn that an application for a Winter Cost of Living Grant was approved. Over the next six months, this will support the group to continue to offer weekly meet-ups with hot drinks, cake, fruit and a monthly lunch.

Do join them if you can. Tuesdays 11.00am-12.00.

Village Hall events

February 16th: Film Night *Wonka*. Doors open 6.30pm. Bar open.

February 23rd: Pub Night 6.00-11.00pm.

Invitation to Tender for Grass Cutting

Yoxford Parish Council invites tenders for grass cutting in the 2024-25 season at four sites in the village:

- Yoxford Cemetery
- Little Street Play Area
- Mulberry Park
- Village Hall

The number of cuts for each area will need to be flexible and be reviewed in line with the impact of weather.

If you are interested in tendering, please contact the Parish Clerk for more details on:

mobile 07767 987691 or email parishclerkyoxford@gmail.com.



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COMMUNITY THERMAL IMAGING PROJECT

Helping You Keep Your Warmth In

Yoxford Parish Council has booked a thermal imaging camera for free use from **Tuesday February 6TH to Monday 4TH March 2024**.

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

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

What can you learn from a thermal imaging survey?



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

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

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

If you would like us to include your house in the survey please contact the Parish Clerk on:

07767 987691 or email **parishclerkyoxford@gmail.com**

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

Visit www.greensuffolk.org for further help & information

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Text or call Anthony on 07494 764099, or
email yoxford.smart.help@gmail.com

CRAFT FAIR AT ST MARGARET'S, LEISTON

Looking for that special Mother's Day or Easter gift? Then come along to a craft fair being held at St Margaret's Church in Leiston on **Saturday 2nd March (10.00am-2.00pm)**.



The church will be filled with stalls selling a wide variety of hand-made goods and unique gifts. There will also be a raffle for church funds and delicious home-made refreshments sold throughout the event.

Admission is free and there's plenty of parking.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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'FAMILY HISTORY FROM EDUCATION RECORDS'

Monday 19th February at 2.30pm – Dr Colin Chapman

Education was provided in the UK initially by the Christian Church, then by private benefactors, public charities, and after that by the government. Schools for boys and girls, and later for adults, were established in many villages and towns. Higher education has been available at universities since the 12th century. The army and navy provided education for both military and associated civilian personnel and their families. Special schools for the disabled and particular employment sectors, and reformatories for wayward pupils, were opened in the 19th century.

Dr Colin Chapman is a life Vice President of the Family History Federation, and Vice President of the Society of Genealogists. In this lecture he demonstrates how education records may be used to embellish and extend your family history.

The talk takes place at the Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL (behind the Library). No need to book. £1.00 for members, £3.00 for visitors. Good, free car-parking. Meeting also available on Zoom for members only.

For more information see:

<https://avsfhg.org.uk/news/view/135>



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	lisaeveleigh.yoxmereclergy@gmail.com	
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