DENSTON HAWKEDON POSLINGFORD STANSFIELD STRADISHALL
ASSINGTON GREEN CLARE COWLINGE THURSTON END and WICKHAMBROOK

PARISH PUMP

No 399 parish.pump@gmail.com September 2026



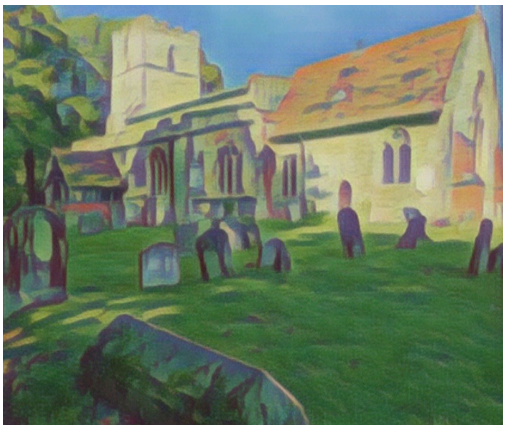


STRADFEST

Stradishall church celebrates music and singing with local boys and girls and our great singer AVA

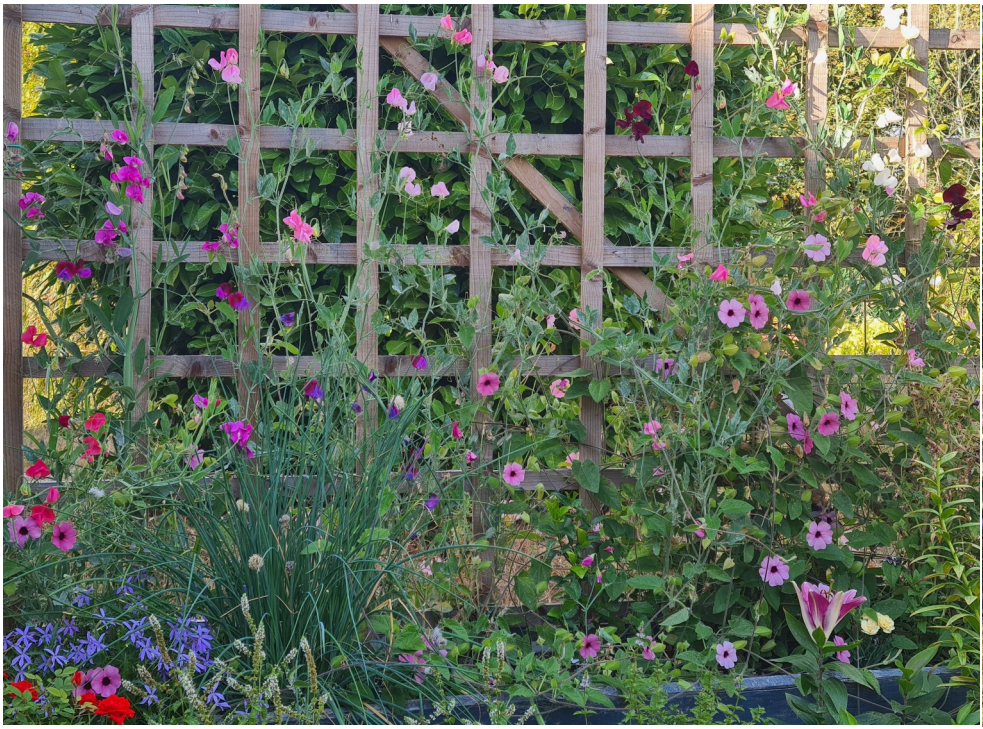
September 21st

(See page 8)



Brilliant graphics from Kathy







Although we still have nobody to deliver at Highpoint estate, we have arranged that copies can be collected at the Stradishall Post Office, the Fuel Station and Café 66

Parish Pump Editorial team

Peter Thompson: Editor:
Jon Pyzer: Assistant Editor (Administration)
Jenny Andrews: Assistant Editor (Information Technology)
Nathan Thomas: (Treasurer)
Carol Thompson: (Proof Reader)
Printers: Red Side Up
Delivery:
A great team of West Suffolk residents
Contact Details:
Email: parish.pump@gmail.com

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The ethos of the magazine is to give people and organisations in West Suffolk the opportunity to showcase what they have been doing in the community in the month of publication, which may be of interest and amusement. It also gives local businesses the platform to advertise their companies and where appropriate introduce readers to what they offer. Their adverts fund our magazine which is free to all of our contributors and the public. The weakness of our team is that we are limited in numbers, and some of us have to face the fact that our functions are limited by the passage of time .We need new people carry out the duties of the team, to allow us to continue the service we provide. Thank you.

We are an apolitical publication.

St Mary's Church Hawkedon
September services:
Morning communion with hymns
Sunday 13th September, Harvest Festival
Sunday 27th September.
Best wishes,
Heather



Someone told us this and I just had to put it

LIBERTY AND SYMPATHY WHERE ARE YOU!?

The Department of Homeland Security (ICE) plans to buy thousands of the gloves capable of zapping suspects with painful 380-volt shocks in a no-bid contract worth up to $20 million, according to federal government purchasing records first unearthed by the Associated Press.

Statue of Liberty inscription
Its most iconic passage reads:
"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Suffolk skies at their beautiful best



Stansfield Cricket Club

TE	PLAYING	HOME/AWAY	START TIME
Sunday 6th September	Rain Men	Home	1.30pm
Sunday 13th September			
Sunday 20th September			
Sunday 27th September			

Club Annual Subcription: £40 payable by 28th June 2026
Match Fees: £5

All Saints Stansfield Church BBQ



We are glad to report that the BBQ made £2164 profit for the church and everyone had an enjoyable time.
The main organisers wish to express their thanks to everyone who helped in its success.



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Do you love dancing?

Why not try Scottish country dancing.

It's great fun, excellent exercise and you don't need a partner!
If you'd like to give it a try, come and join our friendly group of dancers who meet
each Monday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at

Great Bradley Village Hall

Beginners are very welcome
If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact:
Diane Fraser
cambridge.rscds@gmail.com

or have a chat with Helen Smith 01440 783278
or Pauline Broad 01440 783215

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Great Bradley has been Scottish Country Dancing since January 2001, so quite a long time!
Inevitably during this time for various reasons our numbers have reduced and we would love to encourage more people to come and enjoy it too. **We meet on a Monday in Great Bradley Village Hall** between 2pm and 4pm. We have a break in the middle for tea and biscuits and a catch up – most important. Our teacher is **Diane Fraser**. **The cost is £5 per session.** We have been delighted to welcome more members since we advertised in the Parish Pump earlier in the year and would love to welcome more. Please consider coming to a session to see what you think. It's great fun and you don't need a partner, we mix around for each dance which, again, makes it very sociable.
We start again in September having had a break during July and August. Many thanks Peter **Helen**

Denston Village Hall 100 Club Quiz night
Now hosted by
Gary and Heather Carre-Skinner
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History Society information for September

There is no report for this month .Do any readers know what this stone commemorates? It is at the back door of the Methodist Chapel in Wickhambrook and



was pointed out to History Society members on a recent walk. The text isn't very clear but by application of a technique



developed in Stradishall churchyard it becomes clearer. The words ***ministers*** and ***circuit*** are the most clear .What are the others? **Dorothy Anderson**



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The next great film in Stansfield

Stansfield Tea Towel Amnesty



After a long summer of successful events at Stansfield Village Hall our supply of lovely donated tea towels is running low. If you have kindly taken our tea towels home to wash please can we ask you to check your linen basket for forgotten village hall laundry. All returns gratefully received. Please get in touch to arrange convenient delivery/or collection. Thank you.
friends@stansfieldvillage.org.uk or 01284 789

Please note that Stradishall PCC's secretary and the editor of the Parish Pump are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary on September 10th

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THE MEMBERS TAKE OVER

Once a year the members of **Wickhambrook WI** take over the monthly meeting in order to give their hard-working committee a break! For the August meeting a game of "**Call My Bluff**" was organised based on the former television panel game. Two teams, The **Jam Tarts** and **The Cookies** were each given a word to define three ways. The opposing team then had to decide which was the true definition and who was calling the Bluff. With words such as Diaspyga, Pintle, Caruncles and Glabella, members were hard pressed to work out the correct meanings. After 10 rounds the result was a resounding win for the Cookies!









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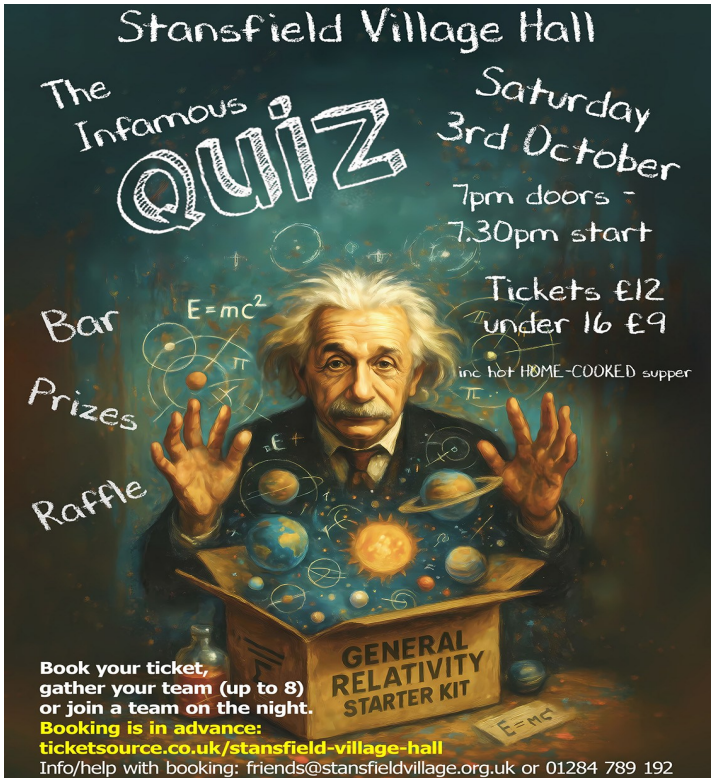
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Tel: 01440 820 675

Email: stefan@bzalexander.co.uk



Parish Pump: some up and coming changes

Microsoft are withdrawing their support for 'Publisher' the software we have been using for many years to produce the magazine. We have searched for an alternative and it is not easy but we have come up with an alternative called **'Affinity'** which is extremely complex. This may mean that there may be a few glitches that inevitably occur. We ask you all to bear with us on this matter. We need to start before October. Many thanks for your understanding. **Peter**



The 'New Curate's' Chronicles – September 2026 (Autumn leaves)



Claude Monet painted the famous Poplars series in 1891 and 1892. The series contains 24 paintings that depict a group of trees that lined the Epte River in France.

In this first painting **(Poplars Autumn, 1891**), the leaves are full of warm yellows, oranges, and reds. The sky is light and tinted with yellow. The greens along the shore are rich and dark and act as a point of contrast for the surrounding warm colours.

But, Monet was not satisfied with just one autumn painting.

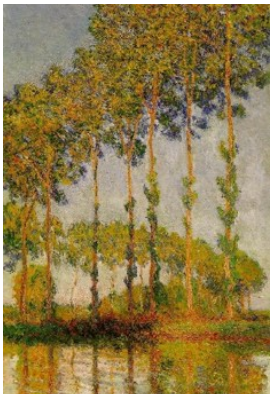


In this second artwork (Poplars, Row in Autumn 1891) he emphasizes the natural environment, showcasing the stunning seasonal change in a subtly different way.

Upon viewing this second painting, one is immediately struck by the vibrant hues of autumn. A row of tall poplar trees dominates the composition, their slender trunks rising majestically toward the sky. The leaves exhibit a splendid array of yellows, oranges, and greens, testifying to the changing seasons.

Beneath the poplars lies the mirror-like surface of a body of water, which serves to reflect the striking colours of the trees and the diffuse light of the autumn sky. In the background, the sky is painted in a subtle grey, allowing the colours of the trees to stand out prominently.

Autumn is a season marked by change, harvest, and preparation for the coming winter. It is a time of transformation in nature, where the beauty of the changing leaves and the gathering of the harvest serve as metaphors for spiritual growth, reflection, and the cycles of life. The Bible often uses the imagery of seasons, including autumn, to convey deeper spiritual truths about life, change, and God's provision.



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

This Old Testament verse reminds us that our lives are also full of seasons, each life with subtle individualities like the Monet paintings. Autumn, with its transition from the vibrancy of summer to the stillness of winter, symbolizes the natural cycles of change and transition, encouraging us to embrace every stage in our lives with faith and to accept that each season of life has its divine purpose, irrespective of our understanding.

The changes we experience will be deeply personal to each of us but we all have the assurance of God's love for us. When you wake to a season that feels unfamiliar—whether it's a new job, a shift in family life, or a time of waiting—remember that the same God who led you here will also lead you through.

My very best wishes to you all,

Revd Sarah Smith
Curate

For Everyone's information

The **Revd Sarah Smith** was ordained Deacon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 27th June 2026. Sarah has lived in Suffolk for more than 30 years, and has now (mostly) retired from teaching.

Sarah will be serving the Stour Valley Benefice as a non-stipendiary Deacon and will, God willing, be ordained a Priest in June 2027.

Our existing curate (The Revd Dr Karen Smith) has completed her Curacy but continues to serve the Stour Valley Benefice whilst she seeks her own permanent Benefice.

Monthly rainfall mm 2025/2026 (Please note the change in units: inches to mm)

2025	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nick Burton- Stradishall	55	31.5	11	22	20.5	23	39	25	47	60	118	41
Tina Lee- Stradishall	45	32	9	25	19	27	30	33	46	63	101	46
Sam Slater- Stansfield	46	30	5	23	21	20	54	24	41	54	99	45
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	64	35	13	25	26	29	59	26	48	59	114	43
Jay Gridley-Hundon	59	26	11	21	26	29	22	25	38	77	122	54
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	73	33	8	21	30	32	32	20.5	43	58.5	98	52
Elaine Plumpton - Great Saxham	63	42	6	23	17	38	51	26	60	58	119	49

2026	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nick Burton- Stradishall	91	71	18	3	7.5	49	3					
Tina Lee- Stradishall	81	65	14	6	8	48	2.4					
Sam Slater- Stansfield	100	57	20	3	11	54	2					
Rod Taylor- Stansfield	96	84	25	4	12	45	1.5					
Jay Gridley-Hundon	116	105	28	5	13	54	1					
Victoria Pakenham -Fenstead End	90	65.5	24	3	11	48	2					
Elaine Plumpton- Great Saxham	94	82	22	9	9	71	0					
Robin Stokes - Barrow	84	93	31	13	8	58	2					

Martin in the parched Fringe but enjoying it.

Have you ever flown into Spain and marvelled how the earth beneath the plane is so parched and arid? So it was returning from the Edinburgh Festival by train. The further south we travelled the more parched the landscape. In Edinburgh we had worn sweaters, put on autumn clothes and saw raindrops on our windows when we got up in the morning. What a contrast to our East Anglian lives of recent months.
Scotland does not seem so far away and even there they have been feeling the effects of Climate Change, though from our host's windows we could see lush green fields and no hint of autumn in the trees. Schools have already gone back in the middle of August there, and the very tenor of life seems just that little bit different. On the LNER train they had really run out of Scotch Whisky by one o clock in the afternoon !
But the City of Edinburgh was in full festival mode. So many international theatre and dance companies, orchestras and performances. Alongside hundreds upon hundreds of offerings in the parallel Fringe Festival and a whole lot more going on in the related Film, Book and other festivals too. We kept bumping into friends from the south all clutching tickets to various performances. It is a real whirligig of cultural activity, of thronged streets, overflowing pubs and queues for food of all sorts. Above all it is a happy place to be, friendly people despite the squash and the scramble for tickets.

Should you wish to dip your toe into this amazing fest then I would advise planning well ahead. Get on the internet to see what is coming to this fascinating city and when, then book



accommodation (it is priced high during the three week period the festival lasts) and study a map of the city so you know where you are walking to and from and remember it is hilly too. I think being there for three weeks would be far too exhausting physically and on your savings but a few days can be immensely rewarding.

The evening I most enjoyed was the concert performance of Don Giovanni at the Usher Hall. But we caught other things too such as the performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony taken at breathtaking speed by the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, far too fast for me as it happens. This orchestra has already played this programme at the Proms so you can catch this switchback performance on BBC Catch-up and see if you agree. We also saw a production of Angels in America in Dutch ! And that was a roller coaster of a quite different kidney !

And so we seem to be winding down slowly to a period of normal life. A time of getting out the rain proof jackets, observing the shorter time before night begins to fall. I recently even saw my first advertisement to book early for a Christmas meal ! All this while the experts tell us to expect more blistering heat.

You may have seen the recent Eclipse, in Scotland we saw only cloud. One cannot do everything and sometimes it is better we don't even try. A gentle walk and watching the fields turn almost unnatural colours can help us to slow down and contemplate what is coming to us in these forthcoming months.
Martin Kinna

Old Cowboy joke

An old cowboy sat down in the café and ordered a cup of coffee. As he sat sipping his coffee, a young woman sat down next to him. She turned to the cowboy and asked, "Are you a real cowboy?" He replied, "Well, I've spent my whole life breaking colts, working cows, going to rodeos, fixing fences, pulling calves, baling hay, doctoring calves, cleaning my barn, fixing flats, working on tractors and feeding my dogs, so I guess I am a cowboy." She said, "I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about women. When I shower, I think about women. When I watch TV, I think about women. I even think about women when I eat. It seems that everything makes me think about women." The two sat sipping in silence.

A little while later, a man sat down on the other side of the old cowboy and asked, "Are you a real cowboy?" He replied, "I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian."

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Stradishall church door lock

Does anyone have any idea how old this door lock is or anything of significance about it**?**





Wickhambrook Parish Council News




© Images by Mike Lavelle

The summer has been busy, with both Estates and Parish Council meeting in July, and also an Extraordinary meeting for planning, which considered an amended application submitted by Denbury Homes for Land off Bunters Road. You can find the parish council's response to this in the minutes of the meeting.

You can also find draft minutes of our recent meetings here:

Estates Committee – July 2nd Parish Council meeting – July 29th

Key decisions and actions from the July parish council meeting included:

Consideration of two planning applications: **DC/26/1029/TCA** and **DC/26/1024/HH**

A review of the specification for the grounds contract for 2027-28 – we're keeping the wildlife areas which were introduced this year. Reviewing charges for clubs using Six Acres (no change on ground rent - £35)

The meeting also considered an update on Road Safety (previously circulated as **WPC.26.07.02**) which included the draft report from Suffolk County Council (Appendix B to the report) and, having considered the points raised at public forum, asked the clerk to draft a formal response to Suffolk County Council. Thank you to everyone who came along to the August parish volunteer morning. We had a strong team of nine including two youngsters, and were able to clean the village sign, which now looks so much brighter, and trim back some low hanging branches in the cemetery!

Our next parish volunteer morning is on Wednesday 2nd September, when we plan to trim back some of the low hanging branches over footpaths 25 and 26 which bound Six Acres. We meet at 10:30 at the Chapel of Rest on Cemetery Road – please do get in touch with me if you would like to come along or find out more about our parish volunteer opportunities.

Our next meetings will be:

Estates Committee – 3rd September;
and
Parish Council meeting – 24th September (we'll be finding out more about Good Neighbour Schemes at this meeting)



Parish Council Meetings are open to the public so why not come along? We hope that you will find it interesting and we would like to increase our community engagement. This helps to ensure that the decisions that are reached have the support of local residents. You never know, you may wish to get more involved – there are lots of ways to contribute, from attending meetings and asking questions, to joining in with volunteer events, becoming a lay member on our Estates Committee, or becoming a Councillor! We currently have three vacancies for parish councillors which we would really like to fill! If you would like to find out more, please do call me or one of our councillors, or come along to one of our meetings. If you would like to be considered as a councillor, please take a look at the website, and complete and return a co-option application and eligibility form to me. We look forward to hearing from you! If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider at a future meeting, please do get in touch with me.



Do feel free to forward this message on to neighbours, friends and family in the parish and ask them to get in touch with me at clerk@wickhambrook-pc.gov.uk if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Wishing you all the best **Hilary Workman Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council**



"LOST TREASURES FOUND"

A talk by

HELEN GEAKE

Helen, a former lead presenter on Channel 4's Time Team and currently Finds Liaison Officer for Norfolk, will bring her unrivalled expertise to Hawkedon to talk about archaeological finds by members of the public. There will also be display by Hawkedon resident Olly Wilkins of his finds from the fields around the village.

HAWKEDON VILLAGE HALL

Friday 2nd October 7-00pm. Doors open 6-15pm

£12-00 to include a welcome drink

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Chipley Abbey Farm by Portia Brown
Quite understandably Portia apologises she just has too much work . So we must wait till next month

Puzzle Time

Puzzle 16



O = *Correct letter in the wrong position*
● = *Correct letter in the correct position*

[NB – the scoring layout does not indicate the position of the letter in the word ie ● O does not necessarily correspond to the first and second letter of the word.]

SWING O
SPINE ● O
STONE
RANGE O O
SPOOF ●
FINAL ● O O

_ _ _ _ _ ?

What's the weather forecast?

A ***Delphic's Quest*** prize pen will be awarded to a randomly drawn correct entry each month. To enter, please submit your answer to **delphicsquest@gmail.com** (feedback also welcome.) The closing date for submissions is 16th September 2026.

Answer to Puzzle 15: Room 101 [George Orwell's 1984]
[The answers were: Breathing, Play, Elbow, Sun, Strong, Spare, Twin, Head, Board and these can all be followed by Room – (Grandma's Room from Roald Dahl's - George's Marvelous Medicine was also accepted)]

Congratulations to **Kerry Rogers** of **Hawkedon** who wins the August pen!



Yours to win for free!



STRADFEST

Stradishall church celebrates music and singing with local boys and girls and our great singer AVA

A day of music and church art at Stradishall Church. It will be a time of joy. Local children will be singing, together with our rising star AVA LEE who will be performing some gorgeous songs. Drawings by the children of the church's ancient features will be judged. There may even be prizes for the talent that is demonstrated! Richard and Jon will be puzzling everyone with their quirky questions. Of course, there will be nibbles and soft drinks from our local supporters. Bells may be rung and the organ played. It is all in aid of raising funds for repairing our beautiful church We must stop the rain leaking through the South Aisle roof! You can drop in at any time that suits you. Please come and join us - you will be so welcome.



Doors will be open at 1pm on Monday the 21st of September.

Cost £5 each + Donations

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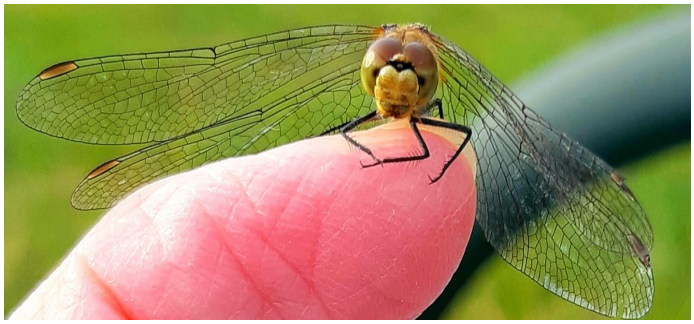
Isobel Taylor collects Best in Show prize at Stansfield Fun Day



A lovely community-driven event…
It was lovely to see so many families having fun…a welcome revival of the much-loved egg and spoon race… encouraging all ages to have a go at arts and crafts…
…..These were all comments from some of the 100 or so who attended the third Stansfield Fun Day held in mid August. Stansfield parish Councillors and the village Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers organised the event which included not one, but two free-to-enter tombolas (one for children and one for adults), with prizes generously given by village residents;



some guessing games; a BBQ by the very professional three Amigos team from Assington Green; a café heaving with lots of home-made donated cakes; and an ice cream van on site. In contrast to the many more commercial, large fete-type events, this event was instigated by the Parish Council as a low-cost fun summer get together. Entries and the café were free with only a modest £2 charge made for the BBQ, however cash donations totalling almost £400 were received on the day.
The Challenge Shield for Best in Show presented by the Chairman of Stansfield Parish Council, was won by an entry in the colouring competition from Isobel Taylor aged 7. Isobel's mother lived and worked in Stansfield for several years and they returned specially for this event.
Reserve BIS went to a stunning black and white photograph of a dragonfly on the tip of Sylvia Brown's finger. Sylvia, who lives and works in Stansfield, also ran the popular cup cake decorating workshop.
Judges Heather and Alison who are both art teachers, gave a special award to Olivia Ager (7) for contributing the most entries into the arts and crafts table competitions.



STANSFIELD Parish Council
Working with our local community

Egg and Spoon races were hotly contested with three classes. Chloe took the adults gold medal, Hattie (3) the gold for younger children, and Ezra (9) gold for the older children. Ezra also took gold for the Obstacle Race…with fun obstacles kindly loaned by the Chambers family.
Welly Wanging was again the most popular event with a very large entry from all age groups. The longest throw was a massive 31m from Mark.
Organisers are hoping that a Fun Day can be held next year on Saturday 17th July, subject to village hall availability.





Summer Fun in Stansfield

Competitions

All competitions are for any age and may be split if sufficient entries.

Entries to be delivered to the Village Hall on the day 12-1-30pm

Entries are welcomed in advance, please phone 07827 128511 or hand to any parish councillor. *Please mark each entry with the competition class number, full name, age if under 18,and contact email or number.*

Competition Classes

Judging 2pm

1. Photograph of flowers or wildlife in Stansfield.
2. Drawing, story or poem about Stansfield wildlife.
3. Best coloured-in drawing from this leaflet
4. Flower arrangement in a mug
5. Best basket of home grown produce
6. Best decorated plate of flowers, fruits, vegetables
7. Best decorated cake(s) or biscuits.
8. Best iced cupcake on the day*

**A cupcake workshop will be run from 12.30 till 1.30 and all necessary cakes and icing will be provided.*

Stansfield Games and Races

(weather permitting)
Entries taken on the day
Prize giving 2.45pm
Obstacle Races 12.30 – 2pm
Welly Wanging 12.30 -2pm
Egg and Spoon Races 2.15pm





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Wickhambrook & District Garden Club visit to Houghton Hall

Our visit to Houghton Hall on Thursday 6th of August was a horticultural delight!
The Walled Garden covers five acres and is



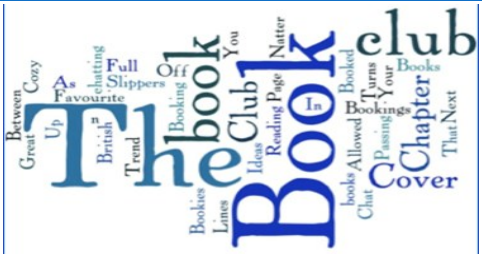
divided, with carefully cut yew hedges, into rooms, each one so different from the last. The long herbaceous border spans the length of the garden, with cool whites, purples and mauves giving way to hot yellows, oranges and reds. We learnt from a chance encounter with the **Head Gardener** that it is watered three times a week, and other areas of the garden every five days - very labour intensive!



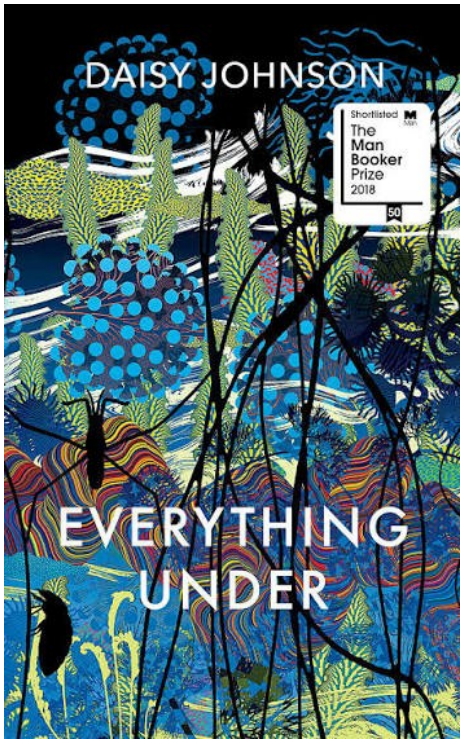
"Rooms" in the Walled Garden include an area with a large slate cross set out on the ground, a remarkable fire and water fountain, and a beautiful room with curved hedges and large central stone fountain, based on the design of a ceiling in the main house. The dahlia border is home to many varieties. Throughout are statues, both traditional and modern, many by **Lynn Chadwick.**



Prime Minister **Robert Walpole** built Houghton House in 1772, and in the estate church we found the graves of many of the Walpole family. In the extensive parkland, a herd of **white deer** roam freely.
It is definitely worth a mention that the Stable block has a very good restaurant.
Ruth



Book Club Review: Everything Under by **Daisy Johnson**
Daisy Johnson's *Everything Under*, which was shortlisted for the 2018 Booker Prize, turned out to be one of



the more divisive books our group has tackled in a while.
A couple of members liked its ambition and the poetic writing, but most felt it bit off way more than it could chew and confused the reader in the process. About half the club did not even finish this debut novel due to its irritating style or lack of clear narrative.
The story centres on Gretel, a lexicographer who has been estranged from her mother, Sarah, for years. When she finds out Sarah has dementia, Gretel goes looking for her and starts piecing together their messy shared history.
As a child, Gretel lived with Sarah on a narrowboat, where they developed their own private language, and were haunted by tales of a mysterious creature called the Bonak. Woven in are the stories of Marcus, a runaway whom Sarah takes in, and Fiona, whose life gets tangled up with theirs. Slowly the fragments come together, and hey presto one has a modern reworking of the Oedipus myth — although that flew over the heads of some of us.
Nobody doubted Johnson's ambition in her first novel. She throws in psychological realism, myth, magical realism, dementia, an invented language, and questions around gender identity. It's bold, without doubt. But for most of us, that ambition became the novel's greatest weakness.
The biggest complaint was that the book tries to tackle too many big themes without properly developing any of them. Dementia, poverty, motherhood, mythology and language fight for space alongside gender, sexuality, memory and folklore. Instead of working together, these multiple strands only served to distract and confuse the reader.
The structure did not help. Johnson jumps around in time with shifting narrative voices, expecting the reader to put the puzzle together, which causes frustration. People lost track of what was happening, and the writing style itself put others off so much they gave up. One member called it "lazy, self-indulgent and arrogant."
The mix of straight realism and magical realism grated. The Bonak and the dreamy bits never quite gelled with the gritty stuff about poverty and dementia. Even though the Oedipus angle was a clever idea on paper, the plot started feeling forced to fit the myth.
Some of us also were not convinced by how gender identity was handled. Fiona's and Marcus's trans experiences felt underdeveloped and more like tools to serve the book's themes than real, lived characters.
That said, it wasn't all bad. Sarah emerged as the character who resonated most strongly. Her decline into dementia was regarded as the book's most authentic and emotionally affecting achievement. Members with personal or professional experience of dementia found these sections painfully recognisable and deeply moving.
Some also praised Johnson's lyrical, atmospheric prose. One member liked how the writing flowed like the river itself, blurring memory, identity, and place.
In the end, *Everything Under* split the group pretty unevenly. A small handful respected its originality and literary boldness, but most found it overly complicated and disappointing . It received one of the lowest ratings our club has ever awarded.

Editorial note
This article has been kindly written by Richard Evans
Anne Dennis is not available for two months so there will be no Book Club article in October

Problem page

with Carol Reay-Glover



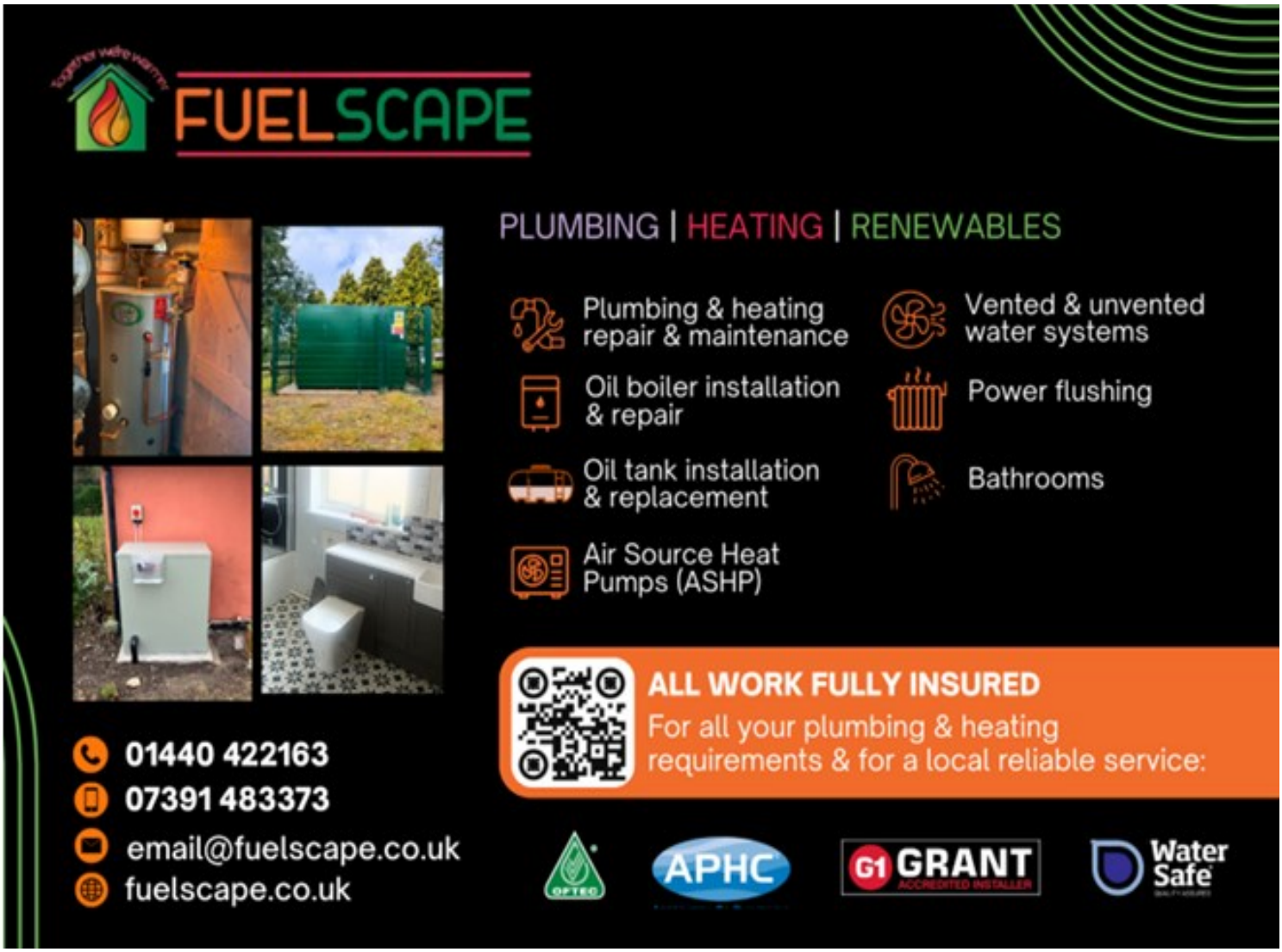
CAROL is a trained counsellor living locally who can offer advice on personal problems, such as relationships, divorce, child issues, employment, depression - or general worries. Email her in complete confidence at carolreay1@icloud.com

Dear Carol,

I have two kids and they both play footie.
My boy is 12 and my girl is 10.
Anyway, they argue all the time about which is better – boys' or girls' football.
It's building up to be an obsession.
My girl goes on about the Lionesses winnings and my lad goes on that it's really a boys' game and tries to tell her girls aren't as good.
I don't know. Except I wish they'd stop fighting all the blessed time.
Do I just let them get on with it?
How can I stop them being so at each other all the time?

F

Dear F,
Any parent with two children close in age will I am sure tell you that siblings fight and will empathise with your plight. The phrase sibling rivalry is there for a good reason. Your children seem only to fight about football, or perhaps they use football as the way to play out their rivalry.
So firstly, you can see this squabbling as natural. It is very positive they both have a keen interest in playing sport.
I do know how annoying it is too. And you say it's building into an obsession. So time to act.
I wondered if, to counter the obsessiveness creeping in, there might be an opportunity here for you to be able to introduce talk about sexual equality and get them interested in the wider topic. You could ask them to do a bit of research into which sports men and women play equally and ask your daughter to put across the men's facts and your son, the women's. You can also find ways to encourage them to support one another perhaps with rewards for whoever makes the best effort. If you can't beat them, join them is the thinking here. Maybe hold competitions (if they are naturally competitive) on these topics. You can probably think of many more. A quiz on men's and women's sports? It's not only toddlers who can be distracted into better behaviour I guess.
In the end the goal (pun intended) is to help them be able to see that both games can and do live happily side by side and that one is not better than the other.
Good luck F, **Carol**



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Wickhambrook & District Garden Club Summer Show 11th of July 2026

Another year and another amazing flower show. This year was not a great year for gardeners, but we still managed to have an impressive display of vegetables, plants and flowers.
We had 74 classes across horticultural, craft and cookery, including a special class "Scarecrow" that was open to adults, children and clubs/organisations.
Last year we reintroduced the "Cottage Garden" class which is open to Wickhambrook, Stradishall and Denston. It was met with a great response. This year the **"Cottage Garden"** trophy was awarded to Kathy Cordy of Wickhambrook.
This year we have introduced a **Young Gardener Award** (**Hellen Long Trophy**) for anyone 18 and under getting most points in the Horticultural section of the show. This year's **Young Gardener** was Theo Wilkinson aged 6.
We have also introduced an award for The Best in Show according to the public, which was met with a great response. This year's **Best in Show** was A Collection of Herbaceous Flowers and was awarded to Sally Welsh.
We had 46 exhibitors entering total of 223 items which made for a great display.
The Garden Club Committee worked very hard to encourage young gardeners. We have distributed over 200 packets of sunflowers for a **tallest Sunflower** class, which was grown by Alessia Poole and measured 236 cm. We also visited The Cubs and made Vegetable Monsters and Paper Flowers. Unfortunately, our efforts were discouraging with only 7 children entering. That does not mean that we will stop trying. I would love to encourage parents and grandparents to plant the love of nature and gardening in our younger generation.
Cup winners from this year's Flower show are: **Banksian Medal**-Sally Welsh, **Badmondisfield Cup**- Kathy Cordy, **Elizabeth Rolf Cup**- Alison Wilkinson, **William Aitken Challenge Cup**- Deirdre Smith, **Mapey Rose Bowl** -Kathy Cordy, **Family Cup**- Wilkinson Family, **Genesis Green Cup**- Kathy Cordy, **WI Shield**- Amanda Lavelle, **Crystal fruit Bowl**- Matthew Lawfield, **Ivy Hicks Trophy**- Theo Wilkinson, **Underwood Cup**- Meraly Wade and **Victory Cup**- Theo Wilkinson.
I often hear that it's always the same names on the trophies, but unless **YOU** enter there won't be new ones.
Our Garden Club is not restricted just to Wickhambrook, but also surrounding villages and neither is the show. I would love to encourage growers, bakers and crafters from Wickhambrook and District to join our efforts in producing an even better Show next year.
You can contact us via Facebook at Wickhambrook and District Garden Club or **wanddgc@gmail.com** **Polly Puxley-Pituch Show Secretary**









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People of Poslingford □□ Scarecrows, Smiles, and a Touch of Traffic Calming

Straw, hi-vis jackets, hard hats, chef's whites — and a whole lot of imagination — brought Poslingford churchyard bursting back to life, as our much-loved Scarecrow Event returned to gently slow the traffic and brighten our days. Visitors to the village are greeted by a wonderful array of cheerful scarecrows, all crafted around this year's creative theme: "Occupations". From chefs, farmers to builders, showed the talent and fun spirit of our community. But it wasn't just about the scarecrows! The event also brought out incredible generosity, with donations gathered for our Community Pantry. These were handed over to our wonderful Vicar, who will ensure every contribution reaches those who need it most.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who took part, helped organise, or supported this year's celebration. Once again, Poslingford has shown just what can happen when creativity, kindness, and community spirit come together — and it's a truly wonderful sight









	PARISH COUNCILS - WHO'S WHO in YOUR VILLAGE?		
PC	**Chair**	**Vice Chair**	**Clerks**
Denston	**Jeff Fellows jefffellows.crown@gmail.com 01440 820 310**	**N/A**	**Jeff Fellows**
Hawkedon/ Thurston End	**Rotating**	**Rotating**	**David Jarrold dmj1800@icloud.com**
Poslingford	**Martin England martin.england@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 01787 278413**	**Marc Allison marc.allison@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 07958337282**	Abbie Lea **clerk@poslingford-pc.gov.uk 07814246204**
Stansfield/ Assington Green	**Rex Barnes rexstansfieldsoc@gmail.com 07778 058425 www.stansfield.onesuffolk.net**	**Andrew Pallett andrew.pallett.spc@btinternet.com 01284 789434**	**Abbie Lea** clerk@stansfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk.
Stradishall	**Ian Hutchinson** clerk@stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk 07970717116	**Ed Hollingsworth https://stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk/**	**Joanne Kirk clerk@stradishallparishcouncil.gov.uk 07880686069**
Clare	**Rob Eyre rob.eyre@clare-suffolk.co.uk 01787 277 559**	**Paul Bishop paul.bishop@clare-suffolk.co.uk,**	**Davina Neale clerk@clare-suffolk.co.uk**
Cowlinge	**Linda Aston lindaaston555@gmail.com**	**Jane Nesham**	**John Barnett 01440 783 903**
Wickhambrook	**Mike Lavelle https://wickhambrook-pc.gov.uk/people/mike-lavelle/**	**Vacancy**	**Hilary Workman 07508 039 810 https://wickhambrook-pc.gov.uk/people/hilary-workman/**

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STANSFIELD COMPASSES QUIZ DONATES TO LOCAL CHARITIES

As the prize for winning the February quiz at the Compasses pub, Old Goat Brewery in Stansfield , the winners **Anya, Pat and Neil,** chose Stansfield Good Neighbours and Stansfield Bloomers to receive the cash that has been collected via publican/ brewer Roy Elder and quiz masters **Helen and Marc Allison**.

The quiz is a fun evening held at the Old Goat / Compasses on the third Thursday of each month.

It is a light- hearted evening and is only £1 per person to join in, which all goes to charity.

Marc and Helen do a great job presenting the quiz, with a varied range of questions with subjects known to most ages.

So if you fancy an enjoyable evening in congenial surroundings please come along.

The next quiz night is Thursday 20th Aug, " Eyes Down " at 7.30pm **Patricia Whelan. (Stansfield resident)**

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When a Court Order Is Ignored: The Serious Consequences

Court orders are not suggestions. Once a court has made an order, those involved in the proceedings are required to comply with it. Failing to do so can have serious consequences, including, in appropriate cases, imprisonment.

A recent family law example illustrates the point. In financial proceedings following a marriage breakdown, a husband was asked to provide financial disclosure in the proceedings so that the court (and his soon to be ex-wife) could properly understand his assets, income and financial circumstances. He failed to provide the disclosure voluntarily. The court subsequently made an order requiring him to provide the information and documentation within a specified period.

Despite that order, he still failed to comply.

The matter has now progressed to an application for contempt of court. If the court finds that he deliberately breached the order without a reasonable excuse, it has a range of powers available to it, including imposing a fine, confiscating assets or making an order committing him to prison. The Family Procedure Rules expressly provide for imprisonment as a possible punishment for contempt. It is important to stress that imprisonment is not automatic. A contempt application is a serious legal process, and the court must be satisfied to the criminal standard—beyond reasonable doubt—that the relevant facts constituting contempt have been proved. The person accused is entitled to legal representation and a reasonable opportunity to obtain legal advice.

There is, however, some small, good news for anyone facing such proceedings: legal aid is available for civil contempt proceedings because there is a risk of imprisonment, and the Legal Aid Agency confirms that this funding is non-means-tested. Probably just as well as in almost all cases, someone who is in contempt of court will be ordered to pay the costs of the party who has had to apply to the court to alert the court as to the disregard for the court order.

The lesson is straightforward: if a court orders you to provide information or documents, do not simply ignore the order. If there is a genuine difficulty complying, seek legal advice immediately and ask the court for appropriate directions or an extension. Ignoring an order can turn an ordinary family dispute into a very serious matter, with the possibility of a prison sentence.

Mary

West Suffolk District Councillors

West Suffolk District Councillor for Denston, Stansfield, Hawkedon, Brockley, Wickhambrook, Stradishall, Clare, Hundon, Cavendish, Stoke by Clare, Kedington and others Bobby Bennett
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West Suffolk District Councillor for Whepstead Wickhambrook Denston, Stansfield, Brockley, and Hawkedon
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Cllr Marion Rushbrook
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Cllr Karen Richardson
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Jeff's wine

When at the Stansfield BBQ recently I was impressed by the desserts on offer and the large number of people who immediately formed a long queue to sample them.

Dessert wines are produced around the world but in the making follow the same principles. The berries are left on the vine and so the sugar content increases. After being picked, (look for Vendage Tardive (late Harvest) the fermentation is begun but is stopped before all the sugar has turned into alcohol. This determines the level of sweetness in the wine.

The most famous Dessert Wine is Chateau d'Yquem in Sauternes, SE of Bordeaux. The vintage wine from this is only made when the grapes have developed the Noble Rot. This occurs when mists accumulate over the vines where a fresh water river coincides with the Garonne. This means moisture laden mornings and warmth and sunshine later. This also means harvesting can be erratic.



That said, d'Yquem wines are unique and can last decades. However the surrounding areas of Cadillac, Loupiac and Barsac produce wines of a similar type.

There are also such wines from the Loire Valley. Denoted VT look for bottles from Bonnezeaux, Layon and Vouvray.

In SW France wines from Juracon, Monbazillac and Sainte-Croix-de-Mont also qualify.Further afield Italy has Vin Santo (Holy Wine) from Tuscany. The sweetness can vary considerably so experimenting may be the way forward with this one.

Germany produces its Eis Wein.

Hungary is also on the list with its famous Tokaji. The village of Tokaj is the only area allowed to use that title.

The wine is fermented in puttonyos and the sweetness of the wine is designated as follows,

3 puttonyos would have 60g/litre of sugar in the wine

6 puttonyos would have150g/litre of sugar in the wine.

Australia has it's famous "Stickies" of which de Bortoli is one of the well known producers.USA produces dessert wines which have "late Harvest" on the label

South Africa produces Vin de Constance from KLein Constanta.

Majestic have Royal Tokaji in stock with a 50c/l bottle of 5P'yos £29 and a 6P'yos £51.

Their Definition Sauternes is £25 for a standard bottle

Waitrose have a 5P Tokaji £16.75.

The Monbazillac comes in a 50c/l size £9.50

The following are all 37.5c/l bottles,

Ch. Liot, Sauternes. £15.5

Vin Santo. £19.25

Vin Santo. £25

Roquefort Cheese and Cream Desserts are ideally suited to these wines. **Best, Jeff**

Stradishall church - a brief update

- After almost completing the refurbishment of the church interior it was decided to start the recovery process of the church yards
- The grass area between the grave stones was the first target because Adrian Lee who had mown the grass for some years retired late last year.
- Fortunately I had a similar mower to Ady's but it needed a repair. This was done and we now have the means of cutting the grass.
- The rewilding principle was used before the mower was available. Now the front and north end yards are getting under control with the middle one left wild except for mowed access tracks to the few remaining graves.
- Two lots of major hedge lopping were professionally carried out on the large laurel bushes that were dominating much of the area, so that some of the graves could be accessed.
- Interestingly a number of hidden graves were uncovered and in the front churchyard some dates were 'accessed'. The oldest one found so far is **1507**. **THAT IS MORE THAN 500YEARS OLD!! THIS WAS BEFORE HENRY THE EIGHTH WAS KING**



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The Bansfield Benefice

The Bansfield Benefice is the collective name for the Parishes of Cowlinge, Denston, Lidgate, Ousden, Stansfield, Stradishall and Wickhambrook in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom.

Services for September 2026 DRAFT

https://www.bansfieldbenefice.org.uk/services/

Date	Time	Church	Details
06 Sep	10:00 am	Stansfield (Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity I HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [DO] Liturgical colour: Proper 18
13 Sep	10:00 am	Cowlinge (Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity I HC)	Celebrant: Revd Barbara Sherlock Organist: [] Liturgical colour: Proper 19
17 Sep	07:00 pm	Ousden (Evening Prayer I St Barnabas chapel)	Celebrant: Trevor Harris Organist: [-] Liturgical colour: Proper 19
20 Sep	10:00 am	Lidgate (Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity I HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [KI] Liturgical colour: Proper 20
27 Sep	10:00 am	Denston (Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity I HC)	Celebrant: Revd Eve Bell Organist: [DO] Liturgical colour: Proper 21

Year A

*The season of Creation runs from 1st September until 4th October
https://seasonofcreation.org/



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At Care UK's Kentford Manor, every resident is supported to live their life the way they choose. Our experienced team takes pride in offering quality residential, nursing, dementia and respite care. John, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the care home's dedicated colleagues and training help him to live life to the full. '



The activities team does a very good job: John moved into a Care UK care home from an independent living facility that lacked community. "If I didn't see anyone walking by, I wouldn't see anyone all day," he says. "Here, I see people all day long, and the activities team does a very good job." The activities in each Care UK care home are tailored to its individual residents. "As soon as I tell the activities team my interests, they look at how they can organise things", John says. He enjoys activities that keep him busy and challenge him mentally, like crosswords and quizzes. **"I watch Lingo, and because I said I enjoy it, the team bought me the game."** One team member is even teaching him Italian. "We laugh about going to Italy to speak Italian." Because John's eyesight is deteriorating, the team makes special visits to his room each day to tell him what activities are on.

Nurturing interests: John has gardened since he was 13, having learned from his father at their allotment during the war. Now, at 91, the team encourages him to keep busy as head of the Gardening Club. Here, he's made a name for himself, winning the home's tallest sunflower competition with a 9ft 6in flower. "It was incredible!" he says. Each Care UK garden is designed for older people to enjoy as independently as possible. John thinks the raised beds are "brilliant". "I can't bend down, so I wouldn't be able to do anything without them," he says. Team members also offer John extra help to get around the garden**. "The team bring things to me and take me to the garden centre to buy what I need," he says. "They are very good indeed. I'm quite content here."**

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For more information about Kentford Manor call **Maria Hristova** | Senior Marketing Executive - Central 07824623627 | maria.hristova@careuk.com | careuk.com

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