

EARL STONHAM RECORDER



~ SPRING 2026 ~

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
FOR EARL STONHAM

Email: Recorder@btinternet.com
Website: www.earlstonham.org.uk

EARL STONHAM RECORDER

PUBLISHED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL
ISSUE NO 265 – SPRING 2026

EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Recorder, which is as usual, appearing in both print and online (colour) versions.

I think the favourite topic of conversation when I meet other people walking their dogs is the state of the footpaths and how muddy they are. It has also been so cloudy and overcast since the New Year, so it was invigorating to be able to be out in the Sun at the weekend. I've seen a few snowdrops and daffodils when I've been out and about so hopefully in the coming weeks we'll see more signs of Spring.

Updates:

- We have approached Low Carbon for an update on the Solar Farm Development on Land adjacent to Blacksmiths Lane. To date we have not received a response but will continue to chase this. Progression on the Parish Liaison Scheme and Community Benefit Fund is contingent on knowing when construction is due to commence.
- 2 Speed Indicator Devices are now fully operational. As well as flashing oncoming traffic with their speed, the devices record data on the speed of vehicles coming towards the sign and as they depart the sign in the other direction. Since installation of the devices in August 2025 until 11 February 2026, **178,889** vehicles passed the SID outside Bishop's Cottage, travelling from Stowupland towards the A140, with **290,645** passing the SID outside Crest View from the A140 towards Stowupland. Of these 95.31% are travelling below 35 mph when they passed the SID into the 30mph speed limit. Worryingly **512** vehicles were travelling at speeds of more than **70mph** before they left the 30mph limit towards Stowupland. The corresponding number of vehicles heading towards the A140 as they departed Forward Green was 3. From 1 April we will be publishing the data from the SIDs on a quarterly basis.
- The Planning Inspectorate have commenced their Examination of National Grid's Development Consent Order. The first public meetings took place during the week of 9 February, and the process is due to last 6 months. The Parish Council has registered as an Interested Party so that we can participate fully in the examination of the application and attempt to minimise and mitigate any adverse impacts. You can keep up to date with the Examination process

through the following link: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027>

- We are shortly due to commence our refresh of our website including the move to a 'gov.uk' website domain and associated email addresses which will more readily identify the Parish Council as a local government organisation. This is a recommendation identified in our recent audit and is being encouraged by National Government.
- Following the survey of all the trees surrounding the Village Green and Allotments, the diseased tree was removed, although its stump currently remains in place. We had not realised that when these trees were planted a cage had been put round all the trees to protect them. While some were subsequently removed this tree has grown around the cage so we will be deciding whether to leave it in situ or undertake further works to have it removed. We will also be commissioning additional work identified in the tree survey to maintain all the trees in good order.
- We currently have three allotments at Broad Green that are available to rent. In the absence of any expressions of interests from residents within the Parish, we have contacted neighbouring Parish Councils to advise them of the availability of these allotments – we would rather see them in productive use than allow them to become overgrown. Priority will be given to residents of the Parish so if you have always wanted an allotment, please seize the opportunity and contact the Parish Clerk.
- The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently considering the options for Local Government Reorganisation in Suffolk following the close of the consultation. In summary the options put forward would result in either a single Unitary Authority covering all of Suffolk (with the District Councils being abolished), or three Unitary Authorities (with the County Council being abolished). In the 3-authority model Mid-Suffolk District Council would combine with part of East Suffolk District Council to form one of the three new authorities.
- A group of residents from Debenham Road and Middlewood Green (including Blacksmiths Lane) have been lobbying Suffolk County Council for a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. The Parish Council is supportive of the campaign and has agreed to contribute £300 towards the £1,200 cost of producing a detailed report on the business case for a reduction on the speed limit. Councillor Mathew Hicks has also contributed to the cost from his locality budget with residents raising the remainder of the funds. If the business case is accepted it will cost around £12,000 to take it through the process which will require significant fundraising to meet this cost.
- You will be aware that Fen Lane is currently closed due to damage to the road surface. We have been raising the problems of the condition of the road, and the lack of adequate drainage with Suffolk Highways over the last few years. Some temporary patch repairs were undertaken but the underlying drainage problem was not addressed. It has now reached the stage where the road past the junction with Mill Lane is no longer safe, hence the closure that has been

put in place. We have been told that Suffolk Highways Asset Team has commissioned a special project to undertake a full repair including resolving the drainage issue. We do not have a timescale for this work at the time of writing.

Village Events

- Carols on the Green took place on Thursday 18 December at 19.00, with refreshments provided by the WI. For the first time in many years the event had to be moved to the village hall because of the weather. Nevertheless, it was a very successful event with many people braving the weather to join in the celebration.
- The Stonham Theatre Guild's annual pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, took place on 30 and 31 January. Another wonderful production enjoyed by all who attended.
- Don't forget to check the Village Events page on the website for details of What's On, including our regular monthly quiz nights and supper evenings.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Will be held on 16 March, 18 May & 20 July and will all start at **7.00pm** in the Club Room at the Village Hall.

Mark Gillett

Chair, Earl Stonham Parish Council



ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE EARL STONHAM



There are currently allotments available so if you would be interested in one or know someone who would like to rent

one, please contact

Susan Edgar (Parish Clerk)

on **07833 242561** or by email at

parishclerk@earlstonham.org.uk

~ VILLAGE INFORMATION ~



The Recorder is published **three** times a year. Don't forget you can advertise in the Recorder which is delivered to every house in the village. The cost for a full page is £30.00 (payable in advance) and the money helps towards the cost of producing the Recorder. The advert will be included in three issues, with the option of it appearing on the website via **editor@earlstonham.org.uk**

There is an e-mail address (Recorder@btinternet.com) so if you would like to send your contributions or advertisements electronically, it helps reduce preparation time of the Recorder. Payment can be made directly to Earl Stonham Parish Council – we will send you an invoice with details.

MOBILE LIBRARY & COFFEE & CAKE FRIDAYS

Do look out on the Village Email list and website for future developments on the Mobile Library, Coffee & Cake & much more. Coffee & Cake will be held on **20 Mar, 17 Apr, 15 May, 19 Jun & 17 Jul** at the Village Hall starting at 10.30am until 12 noon. The Mobile Library Van will be there on **10 Apr, 8 May, 5 Jun, 3 & 31 Jul & 28 August** at 12.20pm.

If you would like to join the Village Email list, just send an email to Recorder@btinternet.com. It is a great way of keeping up to date with activities etc in our village.

EARL STONHAM VILLAGE FOOTPATH WALK

SATURDAY 2 MAY 2026

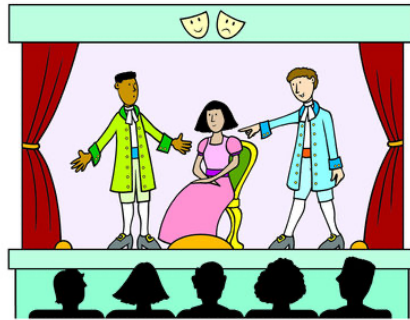


We will be walking the **GREEN** route this time finishing at the **Village Hall** for refreshments. **Parking will be in the overflow car park at the Village Hall**

Join us at the **Village Hall** for a 2.00pm departure. The walk will be led by
Tony Stevens

Dogs on leads are very welcome

Stonham Theatre Guild



I hope that everyone who came to our pantomime this year enjoyed Jack & the Beanstalk – our 20th production. We all certainly enjoyed putting on the show and as usual had some stand-out performances. The production this year was not without its challenges – from late cast changes to a lack of volunteers to help with front of house – so a very special thank you to everyone who did help out and take part. We were also concerned about low ticket sales but a last minute rally in sales meant our final audience figures were similar to last year.



We are now turning our attention to our next production and the decision on what we do next will be driven to some extent by the performers we have available. So if you have ever wanted to tread the boards or be part of a team backstage or front of house, then now is an excellent opportunity to come and have some fun.

Tony Turner
07710 018743



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EARL STONHAM VILLAGE HALL



Coffee and Cake mornings are held in the village hall on the third Friday of each month and everyone is most welcome to drop in between 10.30 and 12noon



20th March

Coffee & Cake Friday
10:30 – 12 noon



17th April

Coffee & Cake Friday
10:30 – 12 noon

15th May

Coffee & Cake Friday
10:30 – 12 noon

19th June

Coffee & Cake Friday
10:30 – 12 noon

17th July

Coffee & Cake Friday
10:30 – 12 noon



A selection of home-made treats to suit all diets is served with proper coffee and tea for a small donation to cover the hire of the hall. Any surplus funds go to the church who host the event and provide the delicious cakes.



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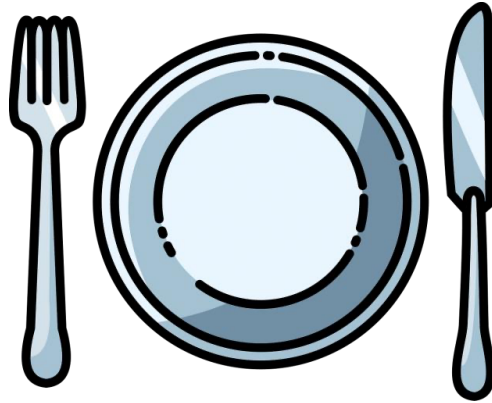
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SUPPER EVENINGS 2026

Earl Stonham Village Hall



Friday 10th April
Sausage Casserole

Saturday 9th May
Italian Chicken

Friday 12th June
BBQ

Saturday 11th July
Asian evening

Friday 14th August
Pastitso (*pasta, mincemeat, cheese*)

Everyone is welcome to attend

The bar will be open from 7pm

Tickets £12

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QUIZ NIGHT

Quiz Nights will be held
on the **2nd Monday** of each month
in Earl Stonham Village Hall at 7.30

9 March
13 April
11 May
8 June
13 July
10 August
14 September

Everyone most welcome!
£3 per person with teams of up to 6 players.
Please support the bar which will be open
from 7pm.



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MOBILE LIBRARY

The SCC mobile library visits
Earl Stonham Village hall car park every FOUR
weeks on a FRIDAY between 12.20 and 12.50.

2026

Friday 13th March
12.20 – 12.50

Friday 10th April
12.20 – 12.50

Friday 8th May
12.20 – 12.50

Friday 5th June
12.20 – 12.50

Friday 3rd & 31st July
12.20-12.50

Friday 28th August
12.20-12.50





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February 2026 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks



Council sets out plans for 2026/27 budget

The £850 million plan aims to safeguard frontline services, support the most vulnerable, and invest in Suffolk's future – despite rising costs, growing demand and shortfalls in national funding. Key themes of the draft budget include:

Savings and efficiencies: £46.5 millions of savings through service transformation and efficiencies, including a temporary reduction in employer pension contributions, made possible by the strong position of the council's pension fund.

Rising financial pressures: Increasing demand, in particular for adult and children's social care, will add £32.2 million in costs, alongside continued pressures from the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit.

Reserves: A one-off use of reserves will bridge a £5.9 million funding gap, while keeping reserves above the minimum level needed to manage financial risks.

Capital investment: The capital programme has been shortened from four years to three ahead of local government reorganisation in 2028. It continues to fund essential projects like school expansions and infrastructure upgrades, as well as new schemes, such as improvements to bus services, public rights of way, and cycling and walking infrastructure.

Our priorities are clear: protect frontline services, invest where it will make the most impact, and make the decisions needed to keep Suffolk strong, resilient and ready for the future. To support these plans, the council has proposed a 4.99% rise in Council Tax, comprising a 2.99% general increase and an extra 2% for adult care. Alongside a forecast 1% rise in the taxbase, this would generate an additional £27.4 million.

For households, this would mean Band B property: £25.90 per week, an increase of £1.23 a week. (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)

Residents expect high-quality services and care use of public money, and that is exactly what this budget delivers. Transformation and efficiency across the council will ensure every pound spent delivers value for money – for vulnerable people, for families and for our communities. Despite these challenging financial circumstances, our priorities are clear: protect frontline services, invest where it will make the most impact, and make the decisions needed to keep Suffolk strong, resilient and ready for the future.

Adam Buxton shines a light on the need for more Foster Carers in a new documentary

Over cups of tea, emptying the dishwasher, Top Trumps, a dog walk and a kick-about in the garden, Adam asks Gary and Catherine the kinds of questions people often have when first considering fostering.

Adam Buxton said: "I didn't really know very much about fostering before I spent time with Gary, Shannon and Catherine. We've got 3 children and a dog at home, and the thought of adding another child or more children into our family life blows my mind. What they do, for kids who haven't asked to be brought into care, amazes me. And Shannon's reflections as a young person who has helped her parents to foster were just incredible. I'm full of admiration and respect for them and their families."

Gary, a former logistics manager and now factory worker, his wife and two daughters have been fostering for Suffolk County Council for 12 years. They usually foster children in the short term and have also looked after a young girl with disabilities for a longer time. In response to Adam asking him why they foster, Gary gets emotional and replies tearfully that they do it to give children a childhood.

Catherine, a library book scheme co-ordinator, her husband Sean and their two children have been fostering with Norfolk County Council for six years. They originally planned to foster on a short-term basis but have become long-term foster parents instead. Among Top Trumps and Minecraft sword repairs, Adam asks Catherine why they foster. She gestures around the lounge and replies that they're giving a child a chance.

Foster Carers like Gary, Catherine and their families give children somewhere they can belong; a safe place where they can grow, learn and as Gary says in the film, have the childhood they deserve. Here in Suffolk, we need more families to foster with us. We don't need perfect families; we need families who can provide children in our care with love, patience and a sense of belonging, we would love to hear from families who want to learn more about fostering with Suffolk County Council. The 19-minute documentary can be viewed on the Foster East YouTube channel, below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6uiWmxiCRU&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.suffolk.gov.uk%2F&source_ve_path=OTY3MTQ

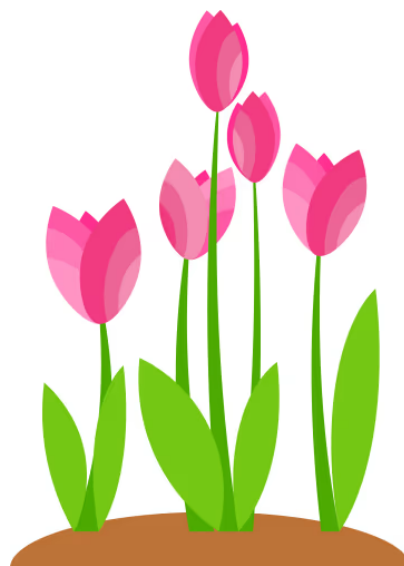
Research shows that children thrive best in family environments and more foster carers are urgently needed to make this a reality for the classroom of children who come into care in the east of England. To find out more about fostering, visit **www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk**

Savings on the cards as council seeks to cut number of most senior staff

Following the decision by the council's chief executive to leave her post at the end of March 2026, councillors are being recommended to appoint two existing executive directors into new joint chief executive roles - charged with leading the council through the challenges of delivering local government reorganisations, devolution, maintaining essential public services and financial sustainability in the next two years. As their existing

posts would not be recruited into, the number of the most senior staff would therefore reduce by one and save up to £92,000 a year. The proposal is subject to agreement by the council's Staff Appointments Committee, which will meet on 20 February. If they make an appointment, the decision then needs to be ratified by all councillors when they meet on 19 March 2026. Suffolk County Council is facing a critical time over the next two years, with local government reorganisation, devolution and its duties to provide quality services to the people of Suffolk all happening at the same time. That is why this proposal has been specifically designed to make the best use of the excellent experience and expertise we already have in the council, which can be implemented quickly and at a significantly reduced cost to the Suffolk taxpayer. I'd like to thank our chief executive once again for her hard work and dedication throughout the past eight years. Her expertise and love of Suffolk will be missed, but I am confident this proposal is absolutely right for the county council. The report highlights how the council's constitution requires it to have a designated head of paid service, charged with leading the council's employees as they deliver services to residents. Significant uncertainty in the local authority chief executive recruitment market has led to many county councils, including Leicestershire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Hampshire all making internal appointments in recent months, having advertised the roles externally. The proposal to recruit internally would save time, money on salaries and recruitment, and make use of existing, well-developed relationships with partner organisations and knowledge of Suffolk. Any appointments would be subject to councillor approval and the completion of a successful recruitment process.

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division
Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741
E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk



Preparing for Spring Patrick Spencer MP



March is always a month of quiet anticipation in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. The days begin to stretch a little longer, the first signs of new life appear in the hedgerows, and across our countryside there is a renewed sense of purpose as we prepare for spring.

For many of our local farming families, March means lambing season. It is a time of hard work, long hours, and real dedication. There is something deeply reassuring about seeing newborn lambs in the fields, a reminder of the enduring rhythms of rural life and the vital role our farms play in feeding the nation. Behind every familiar Suffolk landscape is the commitment of farmers who care for their animals and their land with skill passed down through generations.

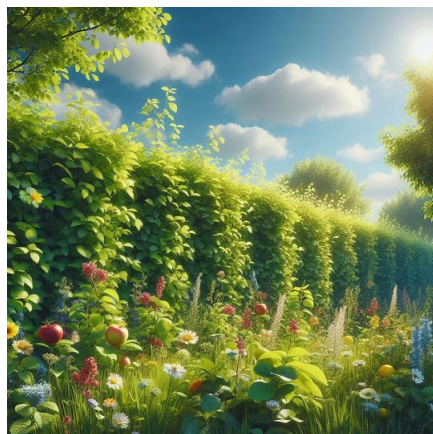
Alongside lambing comes the start of early planting. Fields that have lain dormant through winter begin to show the first signs of activity, as tractors return and preparations are made for the months ahead. Farming is not just an industry in our communities, it is part of the identity of our villages and market towns, supporting jobs, local businesses, and a way of life that many of us cherish.

March is also an important time to reflect on environmental stewardship. Our local environment, from ancient woodlands and river valleys, to the patchwork of farmland that surrounds our communities, is one of our greatest treasures. Many farmers are working closely with conservation groups and local authorities to protect wildlife habitats, improve soil health, and manage water responsibly. These efforts ensure that Suffolk remains not only productive, but beautiful and sustainable for future generations.

As we look ahead to spring, there is much we can all do to support our countryside. Visiting farm shops, buying local produce, and taking time to explore and enjoy our footpaths and open spaces are small but meaningful ways of strengthening the bond between town and country.

Our countryside is not something to be taken for granted, it is a living, working landscape shaped by our friends and neighbours who call it home. March reminds us that renewal is always just around the corner. With the arrival of spring, we can look forward with optimism to brighter days ahead for our farms, our environment, and our Suffolk communities.

As always, I am grateful to hear from residents. If you want to share your thoughts, request support, or keep up with my work, you can contact me at Patrick.Spencer.MP@Parliament.uk, by telephone on 01728 726612, or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.patrickspencer.co.uk





District Councillor Report March 2026

After another U-turn from the government the County Council elections will now take place on May 7th. Mid Suffolk will operate on a business as usual basis as far as possible, but any politically sensitive matters will not be considered during the election period. Mid Suffolk officers are well prepared for the election which will take place as normal.

An ongoing concern for residents are the Norwich to Tilbury pylon plans. At the recent public hearing Mid Suffolk councillors have again called for the plan to be halted so other options such as an undersea route or undergrounding to be considered and costed.

Planning and organising for the Better Recycling scheme has been a big operation over the last year. We are now on track for the changeover in June, and delivery of the new bins has started. We hope that this will lead to a major improvement in our recycling rate as well as making productive use of our food waste.

It is a real privilege of being a councillor to have the locality budget to help small scale local projects to strengthen our communities. I am delighted to have helped Earl Stonham Cricket Club to upgrade their facilities with an electronic scoreboard, and to have helped the Over 60's club fund their planned trip to Anglesey Abbey this year. I have been liaising with the Cut it to 40 group over the hoped for speed limit change on Debenham Road and Blacksmith's Lane and will contribute to further costs if required.

Elsewhere in the ward I am working with residents on hedge and tree planting projects and helping parishes acquire or lease council owned land for community use.

The Council has approved the 2026/27 budget which enables us to continue to make major investments to improve quality of life in the District.

- Further support for recycling education
- Cost of living support and Council Tax Support scheme
- Support for our towns and rural communities outside of Stowmarket in the wider District including for sports and leisure facilities
- Communities Infrastructure projects
- Leisure centre maintenance
- Stowmarket sports facilities - SHELF Project
- Support for Stowmarket regeneration
- Support for the Cosy Homes scheme which has been expanded to offer solar panels
- Funding for the Reach Retrofit Hub to be an advice centre for the district
- Grant funding for nature recovery and community biodiversity groups
- Support for new footpaths and cycle ways
- Completing the build of the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway
- Developing the skills offering for the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway
- Funding for disabled adaptations and the disability action plan
- Expansion of temporary accommodation to avoid homeless residents being put into bed and breakfast accommodation and save on costs going to private providers
- Support for neighbourhood plans for which Government support has been withdrawn
- Support for local food and energy production

Nicholas Hardingham

Nicholas.Hardingham@midsuffolk.gov.uk



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FROM YOUR LOCAL RECORDER

WARTIME EVACUEES

During the Second World War, major cities and industrial areas suffered relentless bombing: most children were evacuated to the relative safety of rural areas. Suffolk hosted many such evacuees and some were billeted in Earl Stonham. Gipping Rural District Council were responsible for

FORM EV 2
VISITOR'S REPORT FORM

District Gipping Ward or Parish Earl Stonham

1. Address College Road, Earl Stonham

2. Name of householder Mr. & Mrs. [unclear]

3. Number of Habitable Rooms 4 4. Number of persons ordinarily resident 4

5. Number for whom accommodation is available within the premises (numbered) but not would take 2 girls.

6. Is there any reason for declining such use? (a) children? no (b) children of any nationality? (c) others? no

7. Is the householder willing to take (1) range of unaccompanied children? no

8. If the householder able to accept both age & number for the purpose of children to be accommodated, state age, sex, & nationality, number of mattresses or blankets required.

9. Any other comments Occupants husband & wife & 3 small children

Name of Visitor [unclear]

*Note here: Age, old age or infirmity (which help required); willingness to take others if unable to take unaccompanied children; full particulars of relatives or other persons reported under private arrangements.

For use by Local Authority.

PROVISIONAL DECISION	NUMBERS ACTUALLY TAKEN
No. of unaccompanied children	(For use only if extension is notified only)
No. of unaccompanied children at 11A	No. of unaccompanied children at 11A
No. of unaccompanied children at 11B	No. of unaccompanied children at 11B
No. of adults at 11	No. of adults at 11
No. of children (not included at 11)	No. of children (not included at 11)



coordinating the local arrangements for accommodating these children and officials visited each house to assess its suitability for the purpose. They completed a Visitor's Report Form for the dwelling, recording the number of habitable rooms and the number of persons ordinarily resident there. Any other relevant factors, such as old age or infirmity, were noted so that council officials could make a decision on the number of unaccompanied children who could be accommodated.

By some accident of history, 23 of these Visitor's Report Forms have survived among old Parish Council papers. In the example shown above, a couple with two small children but no spare accommodation offered to take two girls, but the house was assessed as unsuitable. In several other instances, residents expressed a preference for girls rather than boys: presumably they were hoping for help with domestic tasks. Several houses visited were overcrowded and were deemed to be unsuitable: in three cases they were already hosting privately arranged evacuees, from Coventry, Nuneaton and London, in each instance a mother with one or more children.

John Jones
joneshines85@gmail.com

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EARL STONHAM PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following have been submitted for consideration by
the Parish Council

- Full Planning Application – Erection of Livestock (Pig Rearing) building and associated works including extended concrete pad/walls – **Rookery Farm, Fen Lane** – Application DC/25/04793
- Full Planning Application – Change of use of land to enclosed dog walking and exercise area, including associated vehicular parking – **Spong Farm, Stowmarket Road** – Application DC/25/05569
- Application for Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use or Development – Erection of rear flat roof extension and internal alterations – **Kinclaven, Wicks Lane** – Application DC/26/00175
- Householder Application – Erection of Detached Garage and Garden Shed – **April Meadow, Stearns Lane** – Application DC/26/00275

If you wish to comment on any planning application, please contact MSDC Planning Department or go to :
<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/>

You can also register to have notice of applications sent to you directly by email.

Please remember, if you wish to comment online, you MUST register on the website AND log in to ensure your comments are noted

If you send a comment to the Planning Department, please ensure you also copy it to our Parish Clerk at parishclerk@earlstonham.org.uk

EARL STONHAM VILLAGE HALL



I am sure that most of you will have heard the very sad news that Maddy Roles died before Christmas. Maddy had been on the village hall committee since 2023 but prior to that had always been very active helping at village events. She had lived with cancer for a number of years but was **always** cheerful and **always** the first to volunteer to help. She will be hugely missed by us all.

If you have been in the Club Room recently, you have probably noticed the new large screen TV. The old screen was replaced following feedback that the old one was a struggle to see – especially when used for presentations and for the monthly quiz. Apart from being significantly larger, the new one has better resolution and is easier to connect to PCs etc.

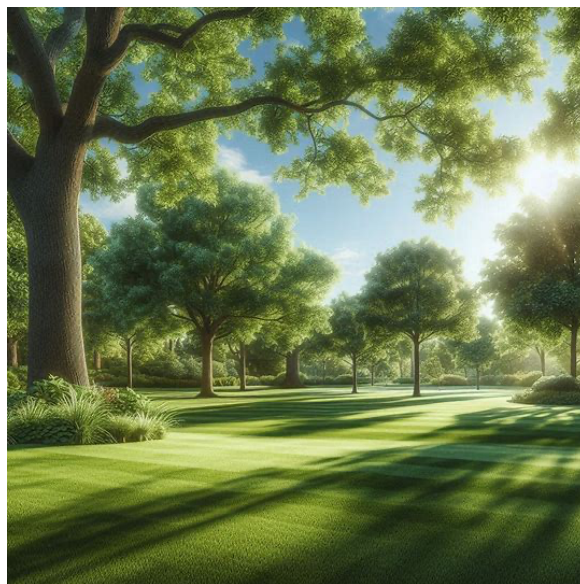
The lino on the kitchen floor has started to bubble up and is getting difficult to keep clean. In the coming weeks, we will therefore be removing it so that we can thoroughly inspect the floor underneath prior to installing industrial grade vinyl flooring. This is likely to take a couple of months before the replacement floor can be fitted but we expect the kitchen to still be usable during this period – it will just have a concrete floor!

We will be conducting our annual Spring Clean at the hall on **30th April**. As in previous years, trustees and other volunteers do a deep clean, repair damaged items and touch up damaged paintwork etc to keep the hall looking fresh for the coming year. **If you are free to help in any way with this, we would be most grateful – even if it is only for an hour or two.**

In the last few years, we have put a lot of effort into improving the area around the hall with the Jubilee Garden and taking over the old Bowls Club area. With the removal of the old Bowls Club portacabin, we will now be re-grassing that area and planting up the raised bed. This will provide a quiet, outside space for everyone to use.

The downside of course is that we now have a significant area of grass, hedges and planting to maintain in addition to the normal hall maintenance, so we are hoping to find some extra volunteer help with looking after the garden areas. If you are able to help with this, please get in touch.

Tony Turner - Chairman
Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee
07710 018743



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL?

There is a large hall with dance floor & stage. Ideal for barn dances, parties, discos or drama productions. Tables & chairs can be set up for dining or for Quizzes or Bingo evenings & there is a club room where smaller groups can gather.

Also a well-equipped kitchen with two cookers, a fridge-freezer, heated trolley, sinks and extensive working area. The hall opens out onto the adjoining recreation ground with a multicourt and small children's playground.
Perfect for picnics.

Charges for the hire of the Village Hall from April 2024:

For Earl Stonham Residents

Club Room	£ 8.00ph
Hall	£10.00ph
Hall & Club Room	£16.00ph
Over 6 Hours (All Areas)	£105.00
Over 6 Hours (Club Room)	£50.00
Over 6 Hours (Hall only)	£65.00

For Non-Residents

(Minimum hire is two hours)

Club Room	£11.00ph
Hall	£14.00ph
Hall & Club Room	£23.00ph
Over 6 Hours (All Areas)	£150.00
Over 6 Hours (Club Room)	£70.00
Over 6 Hours (Hall only)	£90.00

Please contact Deb Turner (711461) to book the hall or to enquire about the Garden Room

J. FELTON

CHIMNEY SWEEP



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Good Friday and then Easter Sunday will soon be here as we consider the death and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for us personally.

We all have hopes but also much concern about what we see and hear daily in the news We also have more personal concerns.

Once a month Christians in the village, who attend different churches, meet together to pray for issues affecting the parishes of Earl Stonham and Stonham Parva (including issues arising out of national and international affairs) and for individuals who would like prayer for a particular need. There is also ongoing prayer between meetings.

Meetings will normally be held at 2pm on the third Monday of the month in the Parish Room. However, in March we shall meet on **Monday 23rd March**. To confirm the date and venue if you would like to join us, or if you would like to request prayer for an issue or individual, please contact Maggie Podd (07939 912080) or Henry Stanford (01449 711742).

Do you need help with:

Personal Care

Medication support

Dementia care

Food preparation

Help around the house

Shopping

Specialist care (NIPPV, PEG feeding etc)

Companionship

Accessing the community and activities

Contact us for more information or a brochure:



01449 678000

01284 711845

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EARL STONHAM WI



Many thanks to all of you who came to the Carols in the Village Hall last December and donated to our Charity bucket. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send £81.50 to both The Moses Project that provide essential items for newborns and also to YANA (You Are Not Alone) that provides mental health support for the agricultural and rural community.

Our 2026 programme began with a Zoom meeting with Dr Ian Bedford talking on a Butterfly Garden in a Changing Environment. He had a wealth of experience and gave us lots of tips for encouraging butterflies and moths into our gardens (Note - an untidy garden is good for them!)

We helped to organise a celebration for the life of our wonderful Maddy on January 24th and we hope we did her proud. We miss her at our meetings - despite her illness she was always cheerful and happy to help with everything.

In February Laura Parsons came along with some of her collection of Hand Cranked Sewing Machines - she is a farmer's wife who stores them under the beds and freely admits she has no idea how many she has! She is also a Nuclear Physics teacher - a truly inspirational woman and members had great fun trying out the machines after her talk.

In March we have Mary Merheim coming to talk on Nutrition in Later Life so we are hoping to pick up some tips.

Our Mahjong Group still meets every 4th Thursday of the month in the Clubroom from 2pm to 4.30pm. We still have room for more if you want to come and give it a go. Just £3 per session which includes tea or coffee and biscuits.

Our monthly meetings are held in the Clubroom at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday in each month. We listen to the speaker first then have refreshments, followed by the business. Why not come and give us a look?

Further meetings are as follows:-

April 21st - Andrew Bingham talking on the role of a Funeral Director

May 19th - Resolution meeting when we discuss the Resolution that has gone forward to the National AGM whilst indulging in wine and nibbles!

June 9th - we are the Hostesses for the Dove Group meeting when our speaker is local girl Kate Elliott talking on her career as Head Gardener at Columbine Hall.

June 16th - My Creative Journey - aspects of fashion design by Amanda Sutherland

July 21st - The Development of Minsmere with the RSPB

For any more information please contact me as below

Lindsey Stone
07929869925 or lindseystone55@yahoo.co.uk





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EARL STONHAM TRUST REPORT



We were at the beginning of the darkness of winter in the previous report, but I can now see the start of spring (except for the snow!) coming along. The snowdrops and daffodils bring with them a new hope for longer warmer days. The Trustees will meet at the end of March

to look at who and how we can help as we move forward throughout the year.

CHANGES IN THE TRUST

I am pleased to announce that Henry Stanford will be joining us as the representative of the PCC and we are looking forward to working with him this year.

PURPOSE OF TRUST

As previously stated, the Trust is here to support members of the village at all times of the year. Winter is a hard time but with Spring other challenges arise. Hardship and need have a very personal definition, and we at the Trust are happy to consider any request for help.

Just as a reminder, the Trust was set up for the needs of those in our village. The Trust can help with grants towards hardship, education purposes or some other matters. The Trust is a registered charity, and we continue to build reserves for ongoing maintenance of the assets

If you are struggling or know anyone in the village who is, please contact us either by email to Caroline (or any of the Trustees) or by completing the form on the website. All enquiries to the Trust

are confidential and advice can be obtained from any of the Trustees.

If you would like to understand more about the Trust or how we can support you or others in the parish, please contact us and we will be happy to chat with you.

CONTACT DETAILS

Donna Taylor (Chair)

07725 73683

donna@jermyntaylorpcs.co.uk

Phil Hurt (Treasurer)

01449 711879

Caroline Shield (Secretary)

07776 141837

shieldbroad@gmail.com

Sharon Budd

01449 711243

Mark Gillett

07984 518959

Tony Turner

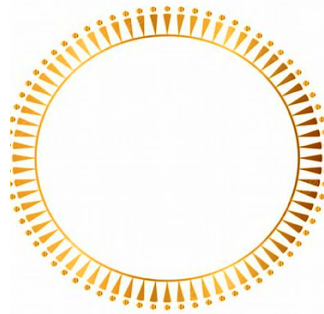
07710 018743

Henry Stanford

07768 891467



EARL STONHAM GOLDEN CIRCLE



Welcome to 2026. Our final event of 2025 was our traditional Christmas lunch, held in the Village Hall, catering by Jenny Johnson and her team. We enjoyed a three-course meal amid the Christmas decorations. At the lunch members received copies of the programme for 2026, also published in the Winter 2025 edition of the Earl Stonham Recorder.

Our speaker in January was Peter Davison whose talk was entitled 'Ups and Downs: Barnardo's Foster Children in Suffolk 1890 – 1950'. Peter gave a moving account of Dr Thomas Barnardo who was influenced by the poverty he witnessed in his home city of Dublin. No destitute child should be turned away. Walsham Le Willows was the first village in Suffolk to foster children. The main reason for children being in need, was the death of their mother in childbirth. Barnardo's is a global charity.

In February Alan Hopkins, a retired police driving training monitor, entertained us with a talk about his experiences as a Driving Instructor. Alan's motto is 'better to be late in this world than early for the next'. He was asked who is the better driver, men or women, he replied diplomatically, no difference.

In March we welcome Lynne Mortimer who talks about her year as a mayor in Ipswich and in April we hear further stories from Horry Parsons about the building of the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Tower.

If you would like to come to any of the talks listed below or join us on the coach trip to Anglesey Abbey in May, please ring Joan on 01449

711294 or by mobile 07779 928605. All the meetings are held in Earl Stonham Village Hall at 2pm and all events usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month. If you wish to become a member, the annual subscription is currently £12.50.

1 April	More stories from the Tower by Horry Parsons
6 May	Visit to Anglesey Abbey. Coach leaves at 9.30
3 June	Suffolk Women in two World Wars
1 July	Birthday Party
5 August	Barbecue at 1pm
2 September	Ukulele Band
7 October	Harvest Festival
4 November	AGM and games afternoon
2 December	Christmas Party

Vera Ivory



EARL STONHAM CRICKET CLUB



As I look out of the window it finally looks like spring could be on its way. I am sure many of you will agree, it has certainly felt like a long wet winter.

Our 2026 season kicks off on Saturday 18th April, with an away fixture at Easton and the Sunday league starts a few weeks later on May 3rd with a home game against Copdock. So it's time to start our indoor practice sessions and they start this Sunday (1st March) at Ipswich School 4.30pm - 6pm. If you are looking to play cricket and looking for a club, then please contact either Luke Edgar (Saturday captain) 07794 599402 or Stephen Lewis (Sunday captain) 07793 555235 who can give you more details about the club. We must now turn our attention to getting the ground ready which will start when the weather allows, as currently the outfield is bit of a bog.

As I mentioned in the last edition, we have finally reached our fundraising target to purchase an electronic scoreboard and it arrives at the club this week. It will therefore be in place for our first home game of the season and I can't wait. No more manual score numbers having to be changed every over as this will give us ball by ball updates and will be linked to the Play Cricket website where anyone, wherever you are, can get live scoring on your devices. I must thank all those who very kindly sponsor and donate to the club each year, your contributions made a big difference in us getting this great new addition to the ground.

With that project completed we now look to the next and that is to make the pavilion a lot more accessible to all by putting a new ramp to the left of the veranda and extending the veranda all the

way across to the far right to give more elevated seating areas. We hope to have that in place for the 2027 season if all goes well.

All our fixtures will be posted on our website in the coming weeks - earlstonhamcricketclub.org - and please feel free to come down and watch a few games, the bar is open all day for refreshments.

And finally my optimism of a successful ashes tour fell disappointingly flat but at least there is still hope of a T20 World Cup victory, for now anyway.

Simon Edgar

Vice Chairman

simonedgar11@sky.com





ST MARY'S CHURCH
EARL STONHAM with STONHAM PARVA

www.earlstonham.org.uk and click on Communities
& www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2011/

Mothering Sunday service with Holy Communion on 15th March at 11am

Palm Sunday service with Holy Communion 29th March at 11am
(Please note the clocks go forward 1 hour on Palm Sunday)

Good Friday and Easter services:

Friday 3rd April:

12 noon Good Friday walk along the Lord's Highway from Creeting
St Mary Church to Earl Stonham Church
Followed by picnic lunch in the Parish Room
2pm Good Friday service

Sunday 5th April

6am Easter morning First Light Service
11am Easter Sunday Holy Communion service

Rogation Service Sunday 10th May at **Stonham Parva** church at
3.30pm

Usual Services

From May the usual pattern of services will be Holy Communion alternating with Morning Worship at 11am on the 2nd Sunday each month (Holy Communion on 10th May) and Morning Worship at 11am on the 4th Sunday. **On 12th April there will be a shared service across the eight parishes of the Benefice at Creting St Peter at 10am and a Forest Church with spring themed activities and worship at Gosbeck at 2pm)**

When there is a 5th Sunday in a month we have one service shared across the 8 parishes. **On 31st May this will be at Stonham Parva at 10am.**

In addition to the services held in Church, a **midweek service is held in the Parish Room** on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30am (**but not in April**). In March and May the service will be Morning Worship, and in June and July, Holy Communion.

A weekly Notice sheet is available which sets out the services for that week and the following week. If you would like to receive one by email, please contact **Liz Ince at northbosmerebenefice@gmail.com** **Should you not have access to email, please telephone Liz on 01449 711365 to arrange for a copy to be posted to you.**



The Parish Room

Available to hire for meetings, rehearsals, parties with parking just outside.

£6 per hour, please contact John Jones on **07776 145689** or **joneshines85@gmail.com**

Church Contacts

If you would like a visit in hospital or at home, or need any other help, please contact one of the following:

Henry Stanford, Reader - 01449 711742

Mark Parry, Churchwarden & Lay Elder - 01449 711816

Church Noticeboard



There is now a shiny new Church Noticeboard on the Village Green so do please remember to check it for latest news on events at St Mary's Church.

MARRIAGES

2 August 2025 - Mary Galbraith & Andrew Rees

DEATHS

Christopher Nunn

9 September 2025 (Lincolnshire);

burial of ashes on Saturday 7

February

Maddy Roles

4 December 2025

Chris Henderson-Hamilton

14 December 2025 (Worcestershire)

VILLAGE INFORMATION PACK

An extremely useful information pack can be obtained by ringing Margaret Anthony on 711779 or downloaded from the website: www.earlstonham.org.uk

The **EARL STONHAM RECORDER** is published by the Parish Council. Anyone wishing to contribute may like to make a note of the following:-

	<i>Contributions to the editors by</i>	<i>Distribution by</i>
SUMMER	<i>Fri 26 Jun 2026</i>	<i>Mon 13 Jul 2026</i>
WINTER	<i>Fri 23 Oct 2026</i>	<i>Mon 16 Nov 2026</i>
SPRING	<i>Fri 26 Feb 2027</i>	<i>Mon 15 Mar 2027</i>

*Editors - Margaret Anthony
Middlewood House, Blacksmiths Lane - 711779
Deb Turner - 711461*

Distribution - Sally Baker - 711109

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION

Fri 26 June 2026 to Margaret Anthony

Middlewood House

Blacksmiths Lane - 711779

or by email to Deb Turner at Recorder@btinternet.com

**Contributions for the website can be forwarded to
webeditor@earlstonham.org.uk**

RECYCLING BINS TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Please continue to bring your empty bottles, textiles, newspaper & card (but not cardboard) to the village recycling banks as this helps to raise funds for the village – thank you!

If you see that the Recycling Bins at the Village Hall are nearly full, please call the following numbers:



Glass

Indigo Waste Management
01842 820804

Textiles/Clothing
0800 090 2321

Newspapers/Card
0300 1234 000



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Police (Non Emergency)	101
NHS (Non Emergency)	111
Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit	01473 265321
Suffolk Police HQ (Non Emergency)	01473 613500
Suffolk Police Direct	01473 613997
Suffolk Fire & Rescue (Non Emergency)	01473 588888
Environment Agency Incident Helpline	0800 80 70 60
Environment Agency Floodline	0345 988 1188
Suffolk County Council	0345 6066 067
Gas	0800 111 999
Electricity (Power Cuts & Network Emergencies)	105 08007 838 838
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
Essex & Suffolk Water	03457 820 999
Connecting Communities (Dial A Ride)	01449 614271
Suffolk Link	01449 616000

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Earl Stonham Parish Council Street Lighting Fault Line	0800 591055
Earl Stonham Recorder (Deb/Margaret)	711461/711779
Earl Stonham Trust (Donna Taylor)	07859 896640
Earl Stonham Website (Mark Gillett)	07984 518959
Parish Clerk (Susan Edgar)	07833 242561
WI (Lindsey Stone)	711602
Over 60's (Joan & Vera)	711294/710128
Village Hall Bookings (Deb Turner)	711461
Theatre Guild (Tony Turner)	711461
Cricket Club (Simon Edgar)	711572
Parish Room (John Jones)	07776 145689