

Spring  
2024The Grundisburgh and District  
NewsServing ASHBOCKING ■ THE BEALINGS ■ BOULGE ■ BREDFIELD ■ BURGH ■ CHARSFIELD ■ CLOPTON ■ CULPHO  
DALLINGHOO ■ DEBACH ■ GRUNDISBURGH ■ HASKETON ■ OTLEY ■ PLAYFORD ■ SWILLAND ■ TUDDENHAM ■ WITNESHAM

## Baptist Chapel: a new life?

Mark Wightman, the proud new owner of the former Baptist Chapel in Grundisburgh, was inspired to acquire this remarkable building due to his lifelong passion for architecture and historic structures.

entire structure. He eagerly anticipates the challenge of transforming the space into something exceptional.

Currently, Mark is diligently working on a planning

application, which he plans to finalize and submit this spring. His vision for the site is a sustainable development that retains the building's original footprint, incorporating a bungalow and two distinctive three-bedroom houses. The chapel's

central area benefits from an abundance of natural light streaming through the exquisite arched windows, which will be preserved and fully appreciated in the open-plan layout.

Furthermore, Mark aims to restore the external façade to its former glory, diligently removing any modern additions that do not align with the Georgian architectural style.

Deeply aware of the Chapel's rich history, Mark has engaged in several discussions with its



*Aladdin (Hannah Cummings) and Jasmine (Amy Adams) on the magic carpet in the annual panto by Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society which played to packed audiences. More photos on page 20.*

former pastor, Colin Grimwood. He is acutely sensitive to the presence of relatives of those buried in the graveyard and families who have reserved plots. While most graves can be observed from Chapel Road, there is a secluded private graveyard at the rear of the chapel that remains unseen.

In consideration of this, Mark envisions transforming this hidden space into a serene Garden of Remembrance. By enhancing the landscape with carefully curated planting, adding benches for quiet contemplation, and a discreet entrance, he hopes to create a tranquil haven for peace and reflection.

Dedicated to preserving the chapel's heritage, Mark has conducted extensive research into its illustrious past. As a result, he is genuinely disheartened by the closure of

buildings of this nature. His goal is not only to preserve the structure itself but also to enhance its energy efficiency and sustainability to suit contemporary lifestyles. By blending history and modernity, Mark aims to ensure that the chapel remains a testament to its remarkable 225-year legacy

Words: Rosemary Kneebone  
Photos supplied

## An invitation to The News AGM

Friday 22 March 7.30 pm  
Grundisburgh Parish Rooms  
(opposite The Dog pub)  
Grundisburgh & District News  
Annual General meeting.  
Please join us for a glass - or  
two - of wine and let us have  
your ideas for improving our  
magazine.

## March

### Monday 4

#### **A year of Veg with Steven Medley of Roselea Nursery**

*Otley & District Gardening Club*, Otley VH 7:30 pm

Contact

issywizzy58@gmail.com

### Monday 11

#### **Council Meeting**

*Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council*

Gr PR 7:00 pm Contact

735541 or

johnnager1936@gmail.com

### Saturday 16

#### **Soup Lunch**

*iao St Elizabeth Hospice*

Burgh Church Schoolroom,

Drabbs Lane 11:30am - 1:00

### Thursday 21

#### **Nicola Coe - private view**

*Grundisburgh House Gallery*

Grundisburgh House,

Woodbridge Road,

Grundisburgh, IP13 6UD 7:00

pm - 9:00 pm Contact <http://www.nicolacoe.co.uk>

### Friday 22

#### **Workshop**

*Community Tech Hub*

Gr VH 2:45 pm Contact

events@communitytechhub.org

### Friday 22

#### **Nicola Coe - public viewing - until 26th**

*Grundisburgh House Gallery*

Grundisburgh House,

Woodbridge Road,

Grundisburgh, IP13 6UD 11:00

am - 5:00 pm Contact <http://www.nicolacoe.co.uk>

www.nicolacoe.co.uk

## April

### Monday 8

#### **No dig Gardening, Mulching and Composting with**

**Matthew Tanton-Brown**

*Otley & District Gardening Club*

*Club*

Otley VH 7:30 pm Contact

issywizzy58@gmail.com

### Thursday 25

#### **EAST Textiles, art and sculpture - to 7 May**

*Grundisburgh House Gallery*

Grundisburgh House,

Woodbridge Road,

Grundisburgh, IP13 6UD

10:00 am - 5:30 pm

## May

### Monday 6

#### **Make your own Botanical Wrap Vase with EJART Creative Studio**

*Otley & District Gardening Club*

*Club*

Otley VH 7:30 pm Contact

issywizzy58@gmail.com

### Monday 13

#### **Council Meeting**

*Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council*

Gr PR 7:00 pm Contact

735541 or

johnnager1936@gmail.com

### Thursday 16

#### **Threads - to 20 May**

*Grundisburgh House Gallery*

Grundisburgh House,

Woodbridge Road,

Grundisburgh, IP13 6UD

10:00 am - 5:30 pm

### Friday 17

#### **Workshop**

*Community Tech Hub*

Gr VH 2:45 pm. PBE. Contact

events@communitytechhub

### Sunday 19

#### **Annual plant sale**

*Otley & District Gardening Club*

*Club*

Otley VH 10:00 am Contact

issywizzy58@gmail.com

## June

### Saturday 8 & Sunday 9

#### **Hidden Gardens**

*Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society*

*Horticultural Society*

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Tickets

Gr.Green. Contact <https://www.grundisburgh.show/hidden-gardens-1>

www.grundisburgh.show/hidden-gardens-1

### Sunday 30

#### **Duck Race**

*1st Grundisburgh Scouts*

Gr VG 12:30 pm Contact 735352

## July

### Monday 8

#### **Council Meeting**

*Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council*

*Parish Council*

Gr PR 7:00 pm Contact

735541 or

johnnager1936@gmail.com

### Saturday 13

#### **The Village Show**

*Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho Horticultural Society*

*Horticultural Society*

Gr PF 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact <https://www.grundisburgh.show/support-us>

www.grundisburgh.show/support-us

## September

### Sunday 8

#### **Scout Group AGM**

*1st Grundisburgh Scouts*

Gr VH 3:00 pm Contact

735352

### Monday 9

#### **Council Meeting**

*Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council*

*Parish Council*

Gr PR 7:00 pm Contact

735541 or

johnnager1936@gmail.com

### Friday 27

#### **Workshop**

*Community Tech Hub*

Gr VH 2:45 pm Contact

events@communitytechhub.

All codes are 01473 unless given otherwise.

Brief details of events with organisation, date, name of event, venue, time and contact phone number should be sent up to a year in advance via email to: [diary@grunews.com](mailto:diary@grunews.com) or post to Nicola Hobbs, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA

Please indicate if tickets must be bought in advance.

Organisers: send info early to help other organisers avoid clashes



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## New season at Grundisburgh House Gallery

The art gallery at Grundisburgh House re-opens with an exhibition of work by Nicola Coe. This explores the idea of nature as a source of hope, and will include new works on paper centered around nests, hedgerows and seeds, with accompanying sculptures. After the preview on 21 March (7-9pm) her work will be on show until 26 March between 11am and 5pm.

The next exhibition will feature East Anglian Stitch (EAST). This well established group will be presenting a new exhibition called 'Bridging the Gap' from 25 April to 7 May. This will be showcasing what textiles can do as an art form and will be open daily from around 10.30am.

The EAST group's work covers areas of female life from the seventeenth century witch trial of Anne Leech, to early modern female writers such as Aphra Behn and Fanny Burney, a Victorian female philanthropist, female grave digger Josephine Cox, and the pioneering female artist Gwen John, female responses to space in time, and to combat climate change.



The next exhibition at the Grundisburgh House Gallery also features stitched textiles and mixed media works. This is being mounted by the Ipswich group Threads and

opens on 16 May, running until the 21st.

'Celebrating Stich' will include work in progress and work completed by members and guests of the group.

There is no charge for admission to the exhibitions. The gallery is in Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh, close to the Otley turning.

Linden Hibbert, 07779 241496

## Horticultural events in Grundisburgh

The class list for this year's Village Show is now available! Please look on our website [www.grundisburgh.show](http://www.grundisburgh.show). Printed programmes will be available mid April.

There are prizes for all 135 classes and lots of cups to be won. We are very grateful to all our class sponsors, advertisers and to HomeStyle for being our main sponsor. If you haven't entered before, give the Beginners classes a go (and you can enter other categories too).

This year's show is taking place on Saturday 13 July and will be full of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy as well as the main marquee which will be brimming with amazing exhibits.

Hidden Gardens is on 8 and 9 June. If you would like to open your garden, please contact me on [catherine@laxton-interiors.co.uk](mailto:catherine@laxton-interiors.co.uk).

This event raises money to enable the Village Show to happen and we really appreciate support from our visitors and from those who very generously open their

gardens to our visitors,

Details of our annual garden party later in the summer will be available in due course. But in the meantime we have arranged visits to some beautiful gardens. Please see our website for further details.

Catherine Laxton, Grundisburgh & Culpho Horticultural Society

## Local history talks

With the reopening of the Parish Rooms, Grundisburgh Local History Society will be continuing its series of talks there.

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears at the Red House will be the subject of the talk by Dr Christopher Hilton on 19 March. On 16 April 'We'll Meet Again - An evacuee's memories of being evacuated onto a Suffolk farm' will be given by Bryan Thurlow. The May topic (on the 21st) is Grundisburgh School, at which I will be the speaker. Talks start at 7.30pm.

Three summer visits are being organised:  
Tuesday 18 June (evening) – a visit to the Suffolk Police Museum at Martlesham Heath

Friday 5 July - a visit to Bedfield Hall (near Framlingham)

A visit to the Great War Huts is being arranged.

Geoff Caryl, 01473 738108, [geoff@caryl.co.uk](mailto:geoff@caryl.co.uk)

## Swilland Doggie events

The Moon and Mushroom Inn in Swilland is hosting a Family Easter Fun Day on 30 March. Starting at 12pm the event will be raising funds to support Suffolk Animal Rescue.

Wayne Bavin from BBC Radio Suffolk will host the event, which opens with an Easter

parade where guests are invited to enter with their dogs in their best Easter costumes.

The day also includes a fun dog show competition with classes such as Dog and Owner Look-a-Like, Puppy, and Veteran. There will be a prize-giving ceremony.

Additionally, The Moon and Mushroom Inn will serve a gourmet BBQ. Guests can enjoy activities including hooping and agility, and watch a performance by Piper, the dancing dog.

Another event being arranged at the pub is Moon Fest 2024. This takes place on Sunday 5 May from 12pm and will be raising funds in aid of a new charity, Cancer Support Suffolk.

This fun family festival hosted by Mark Murphy MBE, the event will showcase live music and dance with performances by Suffolk School of Samba and Pop Chorus, alongside more acts to be confirmed. Attendees can enjoy a selection of food and drink, explore stalls from local businesses, and engage in activities for all the family.

The Moon and Mushroom Inn's third Annual Dog Show will take place on 22 September.

Nicole Hogger

## Plants and cakes

A plant and cake sale is being held in Dallingham on Sunday 28 April. This will take place between 2pm and 4pm in the village hall (IP13 OJX). Proceeds go to the Dallingham Church repair fund.

Car boot pitches are available at £10. Enquiries to 01473 737700.

Jeremy Quinlan

# Local waterways: checking for pollution

You may remember the graphic renaming of Martlesham Creek in our local press which attracted a lot of publicity last year.



Not wholly undeserved because, while there is quite a lot of fecal pollution with E.coli bacteria in the tidal Deben, there is more in the non-tidal River Deben and in its tributaries, principally the rivers Lark and Fynn which flow through the News' area.

Local volunteers from many parishes have been sampling these waters for some months now, coordinated by the Deben Climate Centre (DCC) which is working in partnership with local parish councils and the University of Suffolk.

I decided to find out more and joined a sampling team at Great Bealings Boot Street bridge recently.

Our first samples were taken using a beaker on a long pole to reach into the centre of the River Lark's flow and

decanting a small amount into sterile glass jars, labelling them with location, time and date.

We then walked upstream to take a sample from the outfall of the Anglian Water sewage treatment works and another a few metres downstream from the outfall pipe.

The samples were incubated by a volunteer in Great Bealings with the following E.coli results:

Boot Street Bridge: 62 colonies per ml;  
Sewage Treatment Outfall : > 600 colonies per ml;  
10 metres Downstream": 110 colonies per ml.

These results are quite alarming given that the Environment Agency's "safe

bathing limit" is 9 colonies per ml.

Other volunteers did tests in the Deben itself for phosphates (which in excess leads to high weed and algal growth) and ammonia (which can kill fish and other aquatic life).

The results showed that phosphate levels were also high: with the Natural England 'healthy river' set at levels well below these figures, there is clearly some work to be done by Anglian Water to bring these numbers down.

DCC volunteers met Anglian Water in December and heard that they have committed to put in place phosphate removal equipment at some of their sewage treatment works, including Charsfield. Work has already started at Debenham, and Anglian Water hopes to have all these removal facilities operational by the end of 2024.

The Deben Climate Centre has developed a network of over 40 volunteers who sample the river on a regular basis at up to 30 locations on the Deben and its tributaries, the River Fynn and Lark.

The Centre has a couple of mini-laboratory hubs where they test for E.coli bacteria, phosphates, ammonia and nitrates. These facilities are operated by volunteers with scientific research and testing expertise.

Findings are published and are shared with stakeholders such as Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and interest groups involved with the River Deben and its catchment, much of which is in The News' area.

Plans are in hand to deliver, starting this year, a programme of professional short courses and skills development. This will include nature-positive practices in farmed landscapes, introduction to biotic

indicators of rivers and ponds, assessment and conservation management of hedgerows, carbon storage and nature-recovery measures in modified landscapes and the rewilding of small woods.

You can contact the Deben Climate Centre at [zerocarbon@debenclimate.org](mailto:zerocarbon@debenclimate.org)  
Richard Watkinson

## ESPA 2024

First off, a panel of experts (pictured right) in their fields took questions from the audience which gave rise to a spirited discussion. Journalist Michael Cole felt that local opinions are often ignored and objections not properly considered by the planning authorities; Lord Deben



argued for taxation on housebuilders to reduce incentives to build where there was no demonstrable need. That got the meeting off to a good start!

New legislation foreshadows a major shift in the way planning decisions are reached. It has been claimed that there will be better 'community engagement' (i.e. residents' voices will be







From left: Michael Cole, Chris Bally, Julian Cusak, Lord Deben, Eamonn O’Nolan, Peter Hobson

listened to and, hopefully, taken on board by the planning authorities to find mutually agreed solutions). The East Suffolk Planning Alliance meeting, attended by about 70 parish and district councillors and other representatives - many from communities in the News' area, voiced serious concerns that the whole planning process was asymmetric, with the professionals having far greater knowledge of the new laws (many of which have not been introduced yet) than that possessed by lay people, such as parish councillors and 'the man in the street'.

This puts the latter at a

considerable disadvantage when it came to commenting on - or objecting to - planning proposals in their town or village. One suggestion from the floor was that ESPA should create a fund to acquire the professional knowledge and expertise and make it available to members so that they would be better informed on the law - and how they could then deal with planners on a level playing-field basis.

This might also enable residents to prepare better arguments against a particular development in terms that the planners would understand and accept, possibly negating some

of the negative experiences of the past.

Lord Deben said that in Debenham the new Neighbourhood Plan is working because there had been a sensible dialogue with the planners. One delegate argued that it was for planners to do planning, not house developers, but that it was incumbent on us all to see the development that we want to see and that a top-down approach was not helpful.

Other issues raised included the question of flooding and the complex requirement to have biodiversity net gain with certain newly approved developments (as from last week).

This is a very new piece of legislation and we will need time to see how it will operate in practice. Overall there seemed to be general agreement that councillors and

local politicians should listen more than they do and to speak to ESC about their concerns. And similarly, Chris Bally (Chief Executive Officer, ESC) said, "developers should speak to villages" about their plans, citing also the ESC town and parish council forums as



ways of communicating up and down. Although there is already a Local Plan Working Group, there was some support for a joint ESPA/ESC working/study group.

Next steps: there was no time to draft a communique after the meeting but the ESPA steering group will now be drawing all the components of the discussion together and report back to members in the next few days.

Words Richard Watkinson  
Photos Linda Plant





# GRUNDISBURGH FILM CLUB

Our programme this last year in our new village hall, began with **Untouchables**, a “joyous triumph” with “superb performances”- The Sunday Times and The Times. Other films included



**The Dig,**



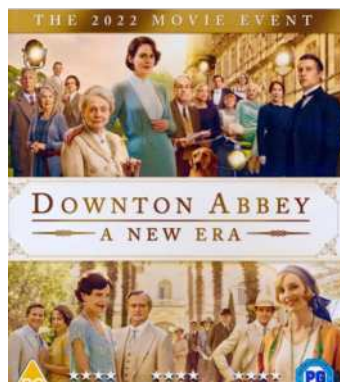
**Quartet,**



## Made in Dagenham



and, most recently: **Downton Abbey - a New Era.**



The licence we hold allows us to show any legally purchased DVD from all the major distributors and means that our membership of just £15 per member for a whole year avoids having to sell tickets and report audience numbers to the distributors for each performance.

The next film on Sunday 25 February is **Local Hero**, starring Burt Lancaster, Peter Riegert and Fulton Mackay, with the unforgettable melody *Coming Home* featuring Mark Knopfler.

We look forward to improved sound from the hall's seven hifi speakers when the extra

acoustic panels have been fitted. These have been funded in part through a generous grant from the Parish Council.

Future Sunday film shows now booked in the Main Hall for your diary are:  
March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29.

To join the club, please contact:

Peter Kendall, Secretary  
Grundisburgh Film Club  
[peter@peterkendall.com](mailto:peter@peterkendall.com)  
01473 738267

## Parish Rooms reopened



*Front, first floor elevation which David Ruse has re-bricked in great detail*

Grundisburgh's Parish Rooms are available for use again. After the flood, all the downstairs rooms have had a damp proof membrane installed, been redecorated and new carpets and lighting installed.

In the near future modern replacement chairs will be provided thanks to a donation from an organisation in Woodbridge that no longer needs them. We also hope to replace some of the older wooden tables with folding aluminium ones matching the others in the room.

The major rebuilding works to the roof and first floor are also nearly complete, so the scaffolding should be coming down soon.

These works have been quite extensive involving the replacement of a large amount of the building infrastructure, replacing and updating wood and brick components with the addition of steel reinforcement, thus extending the life of the building for many decades.

Iain Langdon, Chairman, Parish Rooms Trust  
[iain.langdon@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.langdon@btinternet.com)

## Tuddenham Road Dental Surgery

**Mr I.Paraskevopoulos BchD Msc RAAD**  
**Mr W.J.Hendriks BChD (Stell)**  
**Mr Anis Jaleel BDS (Lond) LDS, RCS (Eng)**  
**Dr Gerrit van Niekerk BChD (Stell)**

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# Calendar Boys: do you recognise anyone?



June

Grundisburgh Football Team 1963/64 Season

*This latest calendar compiled by Rosie Williams features a dozen fascinating photos from Grundisburgh's past.*

Copies are available from Williams Stores: 01473 735201



Left: A Pirate Float in the  
Carnival Procession  
Right: Crapnell's Forge  
on The Green



July

A pirate float - Carnival Procession

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# Tribute

4 July 1931 – 30 October 2023  
**Walter Eric Mutimer**

Wally was born in the village of Hemingstone, the youngest of seven children. He attended Gosbeck Primary and Winesham Schools.

He was a mischievous boy, often involved in practical jokes and although war time brought sadness for Wally it



was also exciting - watching the planes flying overhead, racing to crash sites to collect mementoes and making his own explosives. Aged 12 Wally joined the Army Cadets and at 16 he joined the Ipswich Squadron Air Training Corps. He was soon promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant. While in the ATC Wally obtained his glider pilot licence and took part in a march at Buckingham Palace for the first changing of the guard after the war.

Leaving school, Wally started an apprenticeship as a carpenter for Bannisters at Coddendam: he was granted time off work to play football for Suffolk Under 15's and also played for Coddendam Men's team. Later he played for Westerfield FC and was a lifelong supporter of Ipswich Town.

In 1951 he joined the RAF to do his National Service. He attended technical school at RAF Henlow and was then stationed at RAF Honington as

a Leading Aircraft Engineer.

After leaving the RAF, Wally served in the Royal Observer Corps at Burgh Mill. He returned to the building trade working for A J Gibbons of Crowfield, becoming General Foreman before moving to Ingram Smith as Contracts Manager.

Wally attended local dances and it was at Grundisburgh old village hall he met Bud. They married in 1957 at Grundisburgh Church and set up home at 1 Malting Lane. It was always Wally's intention to build his own home and, following the purchase of land in Meeting Lane, Wally built the bungalow during his evenings and weekends over the next four years.

He took part in many village organisations: he was a founder member of Friends of Grundisburgh School and as Chairman he helped concrete the base for the school swimming pool, helped set out and worked on the sports pavilion and various maintenance jobs on the church including repainting the church clock face. For 40 years Wally climbed through the church bells to put the flag up, a job he reluctantly gave up aged 82.

Wally enjoyed many hobbies: he played for Grundisburgh Bowls Club, becoming Captain and also played league table tennis. He originally flew model planes on a static line before moving to radio control. He built his own models, took part in flying demonstrations and taught people to fly. He ran an indoor flying club and volunteered at Martlesham Control Tower.

On his 90th birthday the family took Wally to Duxford, where he flew in a Spitfire, taking the controls and even doing a barrel roll!

Tracy, Alison, Patrick, Barry and grandchildren Daniel, Adam, Amy, Jake, Livvy,

## Where will 2024 take you?

As well as living in this beautiful area I have a great wanderlust to see the world around me. Perhaps I am inspired to see where else is as lovely as Grundisburgh – I like to think that it is.

Post Covid you may have heard of the term Revenge Travel. Revenge Travel was the term used to explain a global phenomenon that saw people taking trips and booking holidays post covid and lockdowns. I'm not that keen on the term, "revenge" seems somehow mean to me.

What people were doing was anything but mean. The travel that people were experiencing was joyful. It was an expression of love for the world around us.

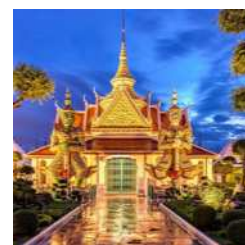


People realised, when our movement was limited, how awe inspiring the world is and what a lot there is to see. It was always thought that "revenge travel" would end. The pent up demand for holidays would wane and the travel industry would return to the place that it was before Covid and lockdowns happened. What has in fact happened is a change in people's travelling patterns. There is still a love for the

Florence and Josephine would like to thank all those who attended Wally's funeral, for the messages of support and donations made in Wally's memory.

Words and photo contributed by  
the family

bucket and spade holidays. In our busy lives there will always been a need to visit a glorious beach and a fantastic hotel simply for the need to rest and recuperate. What has



also emerged is that people are interested and brave.

The number of people enquiring about visiting Japan looking to experience the vibrancy of Tokyo and the bullet train but also the serenity of castles and temples is startling. How about Thailand? The appetite for multicentre holidays between the beaches, elephant sanctuaries and cities of Thailand is a joy to see.

I adore the evolution that the travel industry has seen over the last four years and hope that this continues. I am always glad when people take the trip, experience something new, investigate and research somewhere that they have a passion for. I am always on hand to help and to be the cheerleader behind your plans.

Sarah Mott is a local independent travel agent who works



from the log cabin in her garden in Grundisburgh. She can often be found walking her dog around the village or singing in the fabulous Upbeat! choir.

For any help or guidance for your travels please get in touch 01473 529121 or visit [www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/sarah.mott](http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/sarah.mott)

Words and photo Sarah Mott



## New Vet in Ashbocking

One of the few benefits of the COVID lock-down was the opportunity to investigate the effects of loneliness/isolation on us humans (typically living alone) and the extent to which having a pet animal at home was beneficial to our health and well-being. There's a lot of anecdotal evidence that the human-animal bond (the so-called 'Pet Effect') does bring benefits but can this be proven scientifically? Well, it's no surprise that, yes, it can.



*Emily with Quince, a puppy guide dog*

This was all clearly and convincingly explained when Dr. Emily Nightingale, the newly installed vet in Ashbocking, gave a half-hour talk on the subject to a fascinated audience (plus 10 beautifully behaved dogs) at The Moon and Mushroom in Swilland recently.

There is no doubt that feel-good hormone levels in our bodies rise measurably after we have interacted socially with, say, a dog or cat and now solid research on the subject has proven that our lives are improved on every level by having pets in our lives. Dr. Nightingale is something of an expert on the subject and she certainly practises what she preaches at her own glistening, fully equipped new veterinary surgery

By supporting the power of the human-animal bond, Dr Emily, ably assisted by qualified veterinary nurses Becks, Anna and Lesley, and their Client Care Co-ordinator Emily.

Dr Emily takes a holistic approach, believing that it's no good treating just her non-human clients: their owners have to be regarded, too. "Empowering our petparents, and giving them all the resources and support they need to be the best owners they can be, whilst providing superb levels of care to our patients is everything I've ever dreamed of doing in my professional life and is a huge privilege" Dr Emily explained.

Dr Emily grew up on the North Essex/Suffolk border and went to school in Ipswich, so it was a big step to explore her Scandinavian roots by applying to study to become a vet at Copenhagen University. After she had learnt to speak Danish, that is. Fortunately, she is half Danish herself!

She returned to the UK after seven years abroad, with a fiancée

in tow and has cared for a whole panoply of animals including cattle, alpacas, goats, sheep and pigs.

Now she has settled in Ashbocking and set up her veterinary practice where she offers excellent and compassionate care for dogs, cats, rabbits and chickens - in fact everything smaller than a Shetland pony, only a few hundred metres from home! She has up-to-date high-tech devices, including an X-ray and ultrasound machines and on-site facilities for analysing blood samples.

And what of her work-life balance? Apart from having three children and a husband, plus numerous animals, Emily finds time to paint, attend gym and has even published a children's book. She is at her happiest when she is able to make a difference for people and their pets, and that is at the heart of the Nightingale Vets ethos of compassionate veterinary care in the community.

Contact: Nightingale Vets, Ashleigh Farm, Helmingham Road, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JS tel 01473 598398  
web: [nightingalevets.co.uk](http://nightingalevets.co.uk)

Words and photos  
Richard Watkinson

## The local pub scene

The White Hart in Otley reminds us that their community lunches are still being held on the last Thursday of every month. They are subsidised by a kind benefactress and cost just £7 for two courses.



Volunteers help in the kitchen and act as waiting staff - and you would be very welcome to swell their ranks! There's no minimum age for diners - everyone from Otley and adjacent villages are welcome - the idea is to build a community of friends in the locality, particularly those new to the area. As a bonus, Glenn and his Jazzmen play from 2.30 to 4.30 - no charge but coins for the hat would be very welcome! More details of events on the pub's Facebook page or on 01473 890312.



The Turk's Head in Hasketon is back in business and will be offering their usual Sunday roasts on Mother's Day (10 March) and, following last year's successful event, will be holding another Craft Fair in the pub's grounds at Easter time. And other events are in the pipeline - more details on 01394 610343.



The Grundisburgh Dog (01473 735267) is still very much alive! Mother's Day special set menu served all day: two courses for £28 or three courses for £35. Easter weekend: open as normal on

Friday, Saturday and Sunday but closed on Monday. The monthly Sunday quizzes will also be restarting soon: see the website for details: [www.grundisburghdog.co.uk](http://www.grundisburghdog.co.uk)



# Little Bealings Community Hub and Café wins award

Mullins Dowse Architects ends year with prestigious Quality of Place Award from East Suffolk District Council: on 29 November, 2023, the Little Bealings Church Community Hub won the prestigious design award from among 12 finalists. The awards recognise the best in design and conservation in East Suffolk and the Hub project was one of many conservation projects that Mullins Dowse Architects has undertaken since its inception over 50 years ago.

The Bealings Community Hub and Café at All Saints Church received the award which is “for any built or natural environment project designed to benefit the community in which it was built”. Judges looked at community engagement with the project and the public benefits of the scheme and were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of the many volunteers who helped to steer the project for the past 7 years through myriad consultations and reviews.

Their efforts culminated in sensitive and welcome upgrades to the fabric of the Church by Stowe Builders and the installation of a hand-crafted kitchen by Heritage Coast Cabinet Makers, designed to fit quietly within the confines of the one-room 700-year old listed building.

As local district councillor Colin Hedgley said, “I am very pleased that the Little Bealings Hub won this award. A great deal of hard work went into making it a success and it is good news that the East Suffolk Awards Committee recognised the benefit to the community.”

According to Elizabeth Sinha, Director and Architect, “I submitted this project for consideration not only because of the quality of the work that was undertaken, but also because it was a labour of love for me. I grew up in the village, sang in the Church choir and have returned to raise my family here.

“Preserving and improving listed buildings - especially churches - takes particular care and attention to detail. Conservation is something that excites me and this type of project inspires us to be creative in developing appropriate solutions, both for the building and for the community. As a member of the community today, it is wonderful to see how my children and I can come and enjoy all the activities both in the church and outside too, and we love the homemade treats served at the Absolutely Divine Cafe.”

Before the project, the church was used for only one or two hours a month by a small group of parishioners and there was no local shop, pub, or post office nearby. Thanks to the vision of Reverend Celia Cook and the expertise and energy of a dedicated group of volunteers - along with the inspiration and project leadership of Mullins Dowse Architects - the Church was able to raise about £200,000 to make much needed repairs and upgrades – to the heating, the plumbing, the flooring, the fire safety system, and, of course, installing a full range kitchen to open the café to the public.

Now, the Church is on the path to a stronger financial footing and as local minister Reverend Gary Jones said, “As a Church community we are pleased with this award which recognises all

the hard work that has been put in by everybody for this wonderful facility for the whole community to be able to use.”

In addition to the talent and energy of the volunteer team and advisors, generous donations from a wide range of local and national funders, and encouragement by local residents, the support and approval of the diocese was crucial to the creation, approval, and implementation of the project.

As Archdeacon Rich recently commented, “Historically, parish churches have been at the heart of village life and the reordering of All Saints Little Bealings has been imaginatively and sympathetically carried out, creating a warm inviting space for a wide range of worship and community activities.”

Several new regular activities and events have taken place - including flower festivals, tavern evenings, Bealings Borrowers - an after-school eco group, Suffolk Constabulary meetings, Alpha Bible discussion groups, jazz and WI concerts and performances, pilates classes, local

choir practices, the Suffolk Cinema Club, even dog sniffing workshops - and the Café has drawn wide praise for its incredible menus and very tasty coffee! Services are also enhanced by the new heating system and the after-worship coffees are first rate!

Of course, there has been a lot of learning along the way and we are happy to share the lessons of both our success and challenges in order to help other churches or community assets who may be seeking to expand their mission and open their doors wider.







L to R: Jos Saunders: Youth Leader, Rev Gary Jones: Local Minister, Jonathan Stevens: Architectural Assistant, Mullins Dowse Architects, Elizabeth Sinha: Director and Architect, Mullins Dowse Architects, Rev Celia Cook: Former Priest-in-Charge, Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend: Former Project Lead, District Councillor Colin Hedgley, Andrew Stowe: Director, Stowe Builders. Sadly, unable to attend the award ceremony was Mark Pearce: Director, Heritage Coast Cabinet Makers.

To arrange a discussion, please go to [mullinsdowse.co.uk](http://mullinsdowse.co.uk) or call 01394 382544. Until then, we look forward to the reopening of the Absolutely Divine Café and seeing you at our award-winning community gathering place where there is always a warm welcome!

For more information about Little Bealings Church and any events and activities, go to <https://littlebealingschurch.onesuffolk.net>.

Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend

## Wreath making workshop raises funds

In early December, two Christmas Wreath Workshops

were held at the Bealings Village Hall to raise funds for Home-Start in Suffolk.

I am so grateful to Maggie Davis, renowned local artist, for her leadership and the more than 120 people and wonderful sponsors - Becketts Investment Management and Larking Gowen



Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors - who raised an astonishing £3,834 to benefit local Suffolk families. Thanks also to the amazing Corinne Jarvis-Fear for all the wonderful refreshments.

This year Home-Start has seen a large increase in the number of families who need help.

If you've ever thought of donating or becoming a volunteer, or if you know someone who needs help, please get in touch. The head office telephone number is 01473 621104 and the website is <https://www.homestartinsuffolk.org/>

Helen Clarkson-Fieldsend, Trustee, Home-Start Suffolk

## A big thank you

The Grundisburgh News team would like to thank the many volunteers who turn out in all weathers, come rain or shine, to distribute the 3,000 + copies of our news magazine around the 18 villages we serve.

They deserve congratulations for the way they brave the unpredictable English weather and more recently the dangers from some inconsiderate drivers on our roads. These were originally designed for slow moving carts and animals; many residents remember being caught up in Mr Foulger's cows coming down the hill for milking.

We'd particularly like to thank Eily Buffone who is reluctantly giving up her round because it's become too hazardous. Without colleagues like her we wouldn't be able to reach all our loyal readers.

Thank you Eily and all the others who make this enterprise worthwhile!

Peter Kendall, co-editor for this issue

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# Christmas concerts in red trousers

For many years a group of some 60 ladies from a choir in Grundisburgh called Upbeat! and now alongside 20+ gentlemen who form "Offbeat!" have been providing entertainment at a summer and a Christmas concert. This year was no exception.

With the accompaniment of a fine band of local musicians, an audience of 160 people on two days in December enjoyed a rousing combination of popular songs, lullabies and carols for Christmas.



We ended with 'Holiday Road of Carols'. A great time was had by all whilst raising money for a much needed cause.

For any men who enjoy singing, Offbeat! are looking for new members – no audition and you don't need to be able to read music. Why not give it a try? Just come along to Grundisburgh Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings.

Words: Jean Ellinor  
Photos: Paul Finch & Jean Ellinor

Each event raises money for a local charity and this Christmas, the choir leadership team chose Red Trousers Day founded by Paul Finch who is a member of Offbeat!

This raises awareness of bowel cancer and funds to support research into its prevention, early detection and cure, whilst having fun wearing red trousers.

Paul offered his sincere thanks to everyone who invested in a pair of reds to support the message - "if in doubt get checked out!"

The joint choir raised the roof with songs like "One Day Like This" causing high audience participation and hand clapping.

Upbeat! sang a series of wonderful renditions with songs like "Africa" which was started in a unique way,

mimicking the theatrical sounds in the original. Offbeat! had to learn some Latin to get their show off the ground with Cantate, followed by a great version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".

The audience were not allowed to be passive and were drawn to sing a range of traditional carols and with a finale where the choir on both nights was asked for an encore.





# Views wanted on getting around in Woodbridge

Public views are being sought on active travel schemes in Woodbridge - the town visited by many residents in the News' catchment area. The consultation has been launched on proposals designed to make it easier to choose more active ways of getting around the town. Suffolk County Council has secured more than £5million of funding to make Woodbridge's streets safer, better-connected and more people-friendly.

The council spoke to more than 500 people at a series of public engagement events last summer and autumn about their existing travel behaviours and suggestions for possible enhancements to active travel infrastructure in the area.

This feedback, along with analysis of local traffic data, has been used to help develop a set of proposals that cover various locations within the town which will enable people to walk, wheel and cycle and promote cleaner travel options. These include footpath improvements, shared-use paths, modal filters, and a 20mph zone. The online consultation closes on 9 April.

Detailed information about the proposals and a link to complete the survey can be found at <https://arcg.is/1vuqvz0>. Information is also on display at Woodbridge Library, and public drop-in events will be held on 29 February and 9 March, from 10am-2pm at Shire Hall, Woodbridge. Further engagement on proposals for the town centre will be undertaken over the coming months. Woodbridge Town Council. Information supplied by: Suffolk Country Council - Sustrans



## Farewell to our postie

Ben, our special Grundisburgh postman for many years, has announced he is leaving at the end of March. Many of us are sad that the village is losing such a colourful, capable and cheerful character. We are setting up a card to sign at William's Stores and you can leave a cash donation for Ben as a thank you, if you wish. We are aiming to arrange a little send-off at the Dog, probably on Sunday 7 April; details to follow.

Ben will be much missed by residents - for his efficiency, colourfulness and cheerfulness and above all for the kindnesses many residents have received way beyond his duties.

We hope to organise an informal gathering for early evening on Sunday 7 April in the garden at the back of The Dog pub. Details will be posted on GoogleGroups, on notice boards and in the window of Williams Stores.

Word and photo Peter Kendall

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# EDUCATION

## Grundisburgh School news



It has been a very busy time at Grundisburgh Primary School. One of our key aims is to ensure that our children leave school well equipped for the next stage in their education.

We were delighted that our Year 6 pupils have completed their bikeability course. This

A recent change in school is the movement of our catering to in-house, meaning that the school has direct control over its catering offer. Our school council has considered where food comes from and helped in ensuring our fresh produce comes from a local supplier.



two day course supports pupils in their understanding of road safety and provides them with the opportunity to learn how to safely bike on the roads.

Beyond this we welcomed Dr Dan Poulter into school to discuss local issues with our children. This helped our them understand how parliament works and gave them the opportunity to discuss local issues.



This term each class has had the opportunity to have a 'brunch lunch,' alongside a relative. It has been fantastic to welcome so many adults

into our school to enjoy dining with their children.

The school is now part of the IP12 partnership. This is a collection of local primary schools who are working together to deliver the best possible outcomes for their children. Already staff have worked collaboratively to share practice linked to their areas of responsibility.

As part of this group children took part in a tag rugby

tournament whereby they were mixed with children from other primary schools to develop their social skills and begin to establish some familiar faces prior to their transition to secondary school.

We are delighted to have two members of staff who are now fully trained as forest school

teachers. Every year group enjoys outdoor learning once a week as a way to enhance and enrich the curriculum offer. In the picture you can see our Year 5 children cooking popcorn on a camp fire within our school grounds.

The school choir took part in the 'Big Sing' at Snape

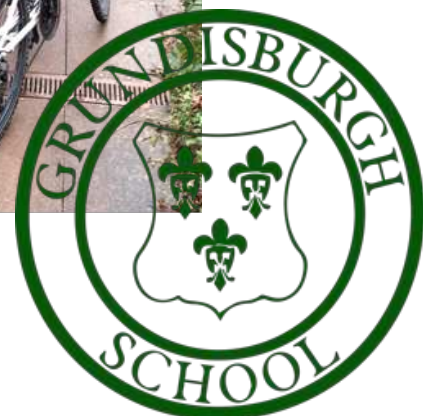
Maltins and performed alongside hundreds of other children. The event was streamed back to school so that we could share and celebrate this with our wider school community.



A group of pupils also took part in a recent dodgeball tournament at Ipswich School - another fantastic opportunity for the children to compete

competitively against others. If you are considering your child joining our school as a reception pupil or as an in-year transfer please contact the school to arrange a visit on 01473 735281 or email [admin@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk). Finally, I would invite you to visit our website at [www.grundisburghprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.grundisburghprimaryschool.co.uk) to see a short video which has been produced to give a flavour of school life.

Adam Wilson, Headteacher





# EDUCATION

## Charsfield School news

At the end of the Autumn term, we enjoyed a visit to the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich to watch the rock 'n roll pantomime of Dick Wittington and his Cat. The children had a wonderful experience, many of them never having visited a theatre or seen a pantomime before, and it was a lovely way to end the term with our friends. We are incredibly grateful to our PTA who funded this trip so all pupils could attend.



Another highlight just before Christmas, was being able to invite Debs from Lighthouse Women's Aid, who are based in Ipswich, to donate items from our Reverse Advent and money raised from the sale of our Christmas cards. The children were delighted to be able to do something to help those in need at such an important time of the year.

Moving on to 2024! We have a busy term ahead and here are just a few of the things that we've been getting up to so far.

Our youngest pupils in Rowan class have been learning about London as part of their topic Bright Lights, Big City. Over the course of the term, the children will learn what a city

is, they will find out about some of landmarks and learn about the Great Fire of London.

In science the children are learning all about the seasons and the weather. Our writing is linked to the book All Aboard the London Bus. In our DT lessons we will be learning about moving vehicles and the London taxi!

In our KS2 classes pupils are learning about what the earth is made of and the natural disasters that occur in our Geography topic: Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. We have been finding out how fossils and different rock types are made, and we have been using these to inspire our artwork.

We are designing motifs to create a repeating pattern and later in the term we will be creating sculptures from clay. In science lessons the children are exploring states of matter and finding out more about these through exciting experiments.



In our literacy lessons, pupils in Oak Class (Year 4, 5 and 6) are using the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to inspire their writing. We have invented our own sweets and written invitations (in the form of a Golden ticket) to Charlie

Bucket inviting him to Wonka's amazing Chocolate Factory. Pupils in Ash Class (Year 2 and 3) have been using the book 'The Marvellous Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty' to inspire their story writing.

This term we have resumed our Forest School sessions where the children explore, create and learn in our forest school area on site. The activities vary weekly, but the children have great fun. Activities can involve anything from: making stretchers, dens, bug hotels to building campfires to pond dipping or bug hunting. You can find out more here: <https://forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

We have a wonderful school community here at Charsfield, and our governing body is looking to recruit more governors. You don't need any experience, just an interest in supporting a thriving school community! If you'd like to find out more, please contact our school office: [office@charsfieldprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@charsfieldprimary.org.uk) We look forward to hearing from you.

We are a friendly, nurturing school that "feels like a family in its own right" (Ofsted 2023). If you are looking for schooling in the area and would like to find out more, please contact the office on the email address above or call 01473 737347. Website: [www.charsfieldprimary.org.uk](http://www.charsfieldprimary.org.uk) We are also on Facebook and Instagram.

Mrs Reeve, Head of School

## New Farm Shop

It's been four years since Suffolk New College joined forces with Suffolk Rural and we are so grateful for the support we receive from the local community.

We're delighted to announce that we have just opened a farm shop at our campus in Otley. It's open every Friday from 12 to 5pm and there is free parking in the college car park. Eventually the shop will open from Wednesday to Friday between 12 to 5pm. Everything sold in the store has been created or produced by staff, students and the onsite farm.

Products include an animal studies calendar, bird boxes, eggs, gift cards drawn by art students, plants grown by the horticultural team, poppies created by welders and a vast selection of meats. Future plans will see the opening of a floristry shop just in time for Mother's Day and the selling of fresh vegetables. Teas, fresh cakes and coffees will also be sold in an outside area.

Also new for this year, Suffolk Rural is offering birthday parties for youngsters who have an interest in farming. Available at weekends and during non-term times, prices are £150.00 for up to ten children and include egg collecting, tractor rides, animal petting and hands on farming activities.

For more information about the shop or farm parties you can call 01473 382909 or email [farm@suffolk.ac.uk](mailto:farm@suffolk.ac.uk)

Other dates for the diary include a Spring Family Farm Day on Sunday 24 March 2024 between 10am and 4pm and the annual Big Day Out will be on Saturday 11 May 2024 and also between 10am and 4pm.

[www.suffolk.ac.uk](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk)





# SCOUTING NEWS



After enjoying the Christmas holidays Grundisburgh Scout Group members were

pleased to meet their friends again at the Scout hut, looking forward to the exciting activities planned for them before the Easter break.

Beavers made 'snowman' biscuits, had experiment badge night, outdoor challenge with 'knots', creating a bird feeder, Chinese New Year, there will be a pancake night, cooks' badge, making Mother's Day crafts, 'Green Cross code', 'Nerf' shooting, den building and an Easter egg hunt.

Cubs had 'Battleships', jelly baby night, scientist badge, climbing in Ipswich, Chinese New Year, 'Escape the hut',

then Mother's Day bake off challenge, navigator badge, a hike and sleepover at Kesgrave Scout HQ, disability awareness and an Easter egg hunt.

Scouts had team building and games, 'surprise' cooking, creative model, hot dog hike, District cooking competition, First Aid skills, then route planning for an expedition challenge, Phoenix camp at Bradfield Park, pioneer badge, swimming and chips at Crown Pools, Ipswich.

Explorers had 'Battleships', visited Raedwald Explorers at Kesgrave Scout HQ, indoor archery, hot dog hike to Playford, Dave's game, pancakes, bullseye, then high fires, Phoenix camp at Bradfield Park, swimming and chips at Crown Pools.

We will be attending the Mother's Day church service on 10 March.

Our archery team is doing very

well and hopes to gain more fantastic awards at the finals in May.

We are looking forward to our Duck Race on 30 June, our

AGM on 8 September and Fireworks on 2 November.

Pat Ross, Group Secretary  
01473 735352



1st

Grundisburgh Rainbows meet on Tuesdays at Grundisburgh Village Hall from 4.15pm-5.15pm (new times).

The Rainbow unit opened at the beginning of September for girls from 4 to 7 years old. Since then we have learnt new games, built indoor tents, made Halloween and Christmas crafts and had a Christmas Promise Party when four girls made their Rainbow Promise. This term we are making bird feeders, designing our own socks and doing some baking among other Rainbow activities towards their special badges.

If you know any girls who might be interested in joining Rainbows, please contact Sharon Proctor ([Sharon.kf@icloud.com](mailto:Sharon.kf@icloud.com)) or you can register on the Girl Guiding website, <http://girlguiding.org.uk/register>



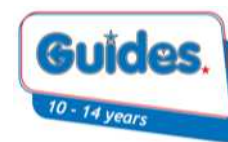
1st Grundisburgh Brownies meet on Tuesdays at Grundisburgh Village Hall from 5.15 – 6.45pm (new times).

Since September we have been working towards the 'Skills for My Future' badge. This included learning how to safely use screwdrivers and hammers, budgeting money, road safety and healthy eating when we created our own fajitas! At the beginning of December, we did a sleepover at Woodbridge Library

The girls did various activities around the library before going to bed, sleeping amongst the book shelves.

This term we have made Marshmallow Monsters, done some interior designing, creating a fully furnished room in a box, and we will be celebrating Girl Guide Thinking Day at the Seckford Guiding District Activity Afternoon at Rock Barracks.

If you know any girls between the age of 7 and 10 years old who would be interested in joining the Brownies, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can register on the Girl Guiding website, <http://girlguiding.org.uk/register> or email us at [grundisburgh.brownies@outlook.com](mailto:grundisburgh.brownies@outlook.com)



We have been busy with lots

of different activities including tobogganing and a Remembrance sleepover, with lots of Remembrance crafts and poppy cake and pizza making. We have been working on the skills builder activities and the personal activities and the girls are aiming to gain interest badges in the spring term.

We are joining with Martlesham Guides for various activities including First Aid Training and Thinking Day. Mothers Day Craft and Pyrography are some of the different activities the girls are going to try.

We meet on a Tuesday evening and if you are interested in coming to see what we are all about then contact Jo Saagi on 07885 265074.

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## Beating the scammers

Some 40 Grundisburgh residents attended a presentation on 20 November in the village hall on how to keep themselves safe online. The event was organised by resident Paul Finch, who had recognised that after local engagement with people struggling with IT issues, a lack of familiarity with computers and smartphones would leave them particularly vulnerable to online threats.

The topics were presented by Paul, Will Barber and James Mott, and covered how to be a Human Firewall, how to recognise where threats might be coming from, and how to spot email scams such as phishing, and what to do if you have been the



victim of a scam. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, with such comments as, "Reinforced what I'd been told before and made me realize I

need to always be vigilant. "Made me think about new aspects of safety" and "Really useful informative and wonderful event for the community".

At the event many people mentioned that further sessions would definitely be needed to build on the information presented. So a team comprising Paul, Will, James, Phil Bailey and Lynette Chapman have started up a new social enterprise called Community Tech Hub, which will aim to develop further workshops, online materials, support activities and individual/group training sessions.

Another workshop is planned at Grundisburgh Village Hall on the afternoon of Friday 22 March which will cover how to manage passwords securely and how to use banking apps safely. If you are interested in attending, or would like to become a supporter or funder of Community Tech Hub's work and would like to see more events and information, contact

[events@communitytechhub.org](mailto:events@communitytechhub.org)

And finally, many thanks to the Village Hall Trustees for accommodating us for these sessions, it has been a great help in getting our activities up and running!

The Tech Hub Team

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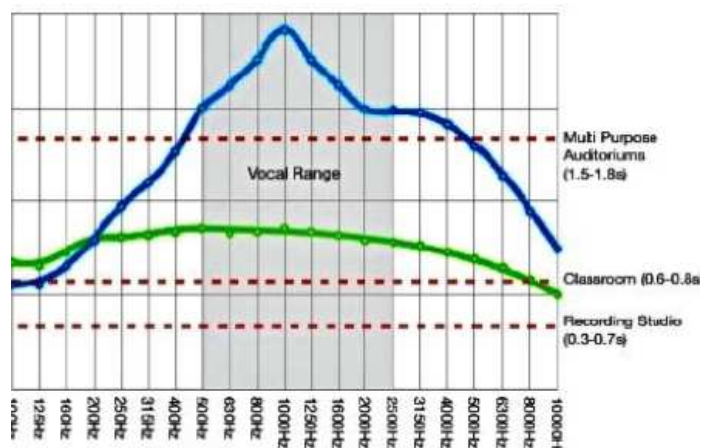
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## Sounds better!

Audiences in Grundisburgh Village Hall have been impressed by its comfort and technical resources, but not by its acoustics.

A specialist survey revealed significant echoes which are causing noticeable difficulties in hearing and understanding speech when watching films, or addressing an audience via the hall's seven hifi loudspeakers.

The blue line in the graph below shows the echoes in the vocal range which are leading to distortion and lack of clarity.

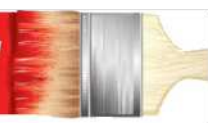


The green line is the target to aim for improvement in the acoustics; any reduction in the RT (Reverberation Time, or echo) will make it much easier to hear and understand speech in the films and presentations when using the hall's excellent audio-visual gear. The ceiling mounted projector is capable of showing high definition BluRay films and we will all benefit from any improvement in the acoustics.

The Village Hall trustees have accepted gratefully the Parish Council's offer of funding towards additional acoustic panels, and the aim is to install these in the near future. I'm happy to supply the original, detailed acoustical report to anyone interested.

Peter Kendall, Secretary, Grundisburgh Film Club,  
[peter@peterkendall.com](mailto:peter@peterkendall.com)

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# Christmas in Tuddenham

Christmas in Tuddenham was a busy affair, starting with the ever popular Lighting up the Tree at the beginning of December and culminating

night which will hopefully become an annual event.

The beautifully decorated St Martins Church was the venue for our annual Carols by Candlelight service – unfortunately Reverend Charlotte was smitten by Covid and so Archdeacon Rhiannon



with Midnight Communion and the Christmas Day Family Service at St Martins.



stepped in to take the service, getting into the spirit by wearing her sparkly dog collar!

During the month we had a craft afternoon of making angels at the village hall. We also had our first Carols at the Fountain evening which, despite a few initial problems, turned into a great

On the afternoon of Christmas Eve Carols on the Hill was

attended by over 60 residents who enjoyed singing a variety of carols and Christmas songs by the Christmas tree.



On 4 December the Fountain hosted its first Quiz night. The event was well supported and raised £405 for Northgate School pupils' hardship fund. Well done to Sarah and the team. The Fountain is hoping

to make quiz nights a monthly event.

We certainly know how to celebrate the season in Tuddenham!

Words and photos Jean Ellinor

## Plans for WI meetings

At the December meeting of Grundisburgh Burgh & Culpho WI we had an interesting and informative illustrated talk by Pat and Derick Haslam titled "Springtime in Holland".

As it was a cold, dark and miserable day, the contrast between the talk and the weather here was very marked. Lots of sunshine, picnics and cycling. We had a "tour" of Delft and of the canals and there were lots and lots of lovely flowers, especially tulips. There were many floats in a carnival which were decorated with tulip blossom, all very eye-catching. The talk cheered everyone up and we could forget about winter for a little while - it was just what we needed.

Our January meeting was a social one. Our indefatigable quiz lady, Gill Johnson, devised a "Snowman" Drive instead of a Beetle Drive which was good fun. Members had brought food to share and it was a very successful and enjoyable afternoon. At the meeting on 1 February members enjoyed a talk by Lee Hunt of Deben Travel. The meeting on 7 March at the Pavilion at 2.15pm will be a talk by Eric Punaks of Liverpool Spinners.

We meet in the Pavilion on Grundisburgh Playing Field at 2.15pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Gillian Leech

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## A personal note from the (ex) editor

Getting this issue together has not been without its problems, mainly caused by my fracturing my shoulder and having to spend over six weeks in Blue Bird Lodge, the nursing home linked to Ipswich Hospital. The care was wonderful but I am still limited in what I can manage.

Luckily my husband Peter Kendall has been able to do most of the work on this issue, and is happy to continue as editor. At the age of 86 and after some 34 years on the job, it is high time I stood back anyway. I am taking over his previous role of advertising manager

I am also grateful for the help I received from several Burgh residents, caring for me after the fall, and particularly knowing how to get the ambulance to come to take me to hospital in less than the threatened seven hours wait on a freezing cold evening.

Nicola Hobbs

## Enjoying winter at Grundisburgh Tennis Club

At Grundisburgh Tennis Club we have found reasons to stay cheerful this winter in spite of the weather. Both the men's and ladies' social tennis groups enjoyed festive meals at The Dog. There has also been plenty of tennis played with all our teams managing to find enough dry and frost-free dates to play winter league matches. Social tennis has also continued, with bad weather preventing play on only a few occasions.

As with any tarmac surface, frosts and other vagaries of the weather, can cause deterioration. After 25 years, the courts needed resurfacing. The club managed to raise enough funds for the work to take place, and we also had support from the Grundisburgh and Culpho PCC and Valencia Communities Fund. Work started on Monday, 5 February and is expected to finish by Thursday, 29 February in time for the start of the new tennis season on 1 April.

If you would like to take advantage of our newly refurbished courts, our annual adult membership fees work out at around £5 per month of play. Once you are a member, you can book available courts online. For more details go to:

[www.grundisburghtennis.co.uk](http://www.grundisburghtennis.co.uk).

Anne Lee

## Outdoor bowlers looking forward

At Grundisburgh Bowls Club. we are looking forward to a great outdoor social bowling season. With all the work that was done on the green last year, fingers crossed, we should have a decent green to play on.

We are hoping to open early April with some afternoon sunshine ! tea and a raffle. Keep a look out for flyers nearer the time. The Fun day and BBQ we held in 2023 was a great success, a little wet but this certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of everyone.

We usually play Tuesday & Thursday evenings around 6pm onwards, members are welcome to play anytime if the green isn't being worked on. Why not come and join us and have a go ?

If you are interested you can email me -

[Kevclark9@googlemail.com](mailto:Kevclark9@googlemail.com). We look forward to meeting you.

## About The News

[www.grundisburghnews.org.uk](http://www.grundisburghnews.org.uk)

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community magazine produced by volunteers. Around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes and a range of central locations in Grundisburgh and 17 other villages (as listed below the banner on the front page). Four issues a year are published.

Contributions, comments and ideas are welcomed: send to Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, [editor@grunews.com](mailto:editor@grunews.com). All issues are included on our website [www.grundisburghnews.org.uk](http://www.grundisburghnews.org.uk). Information can be supplied to us on paper or email.

Photos can be sent as JPG or PDF files.

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Adverts for next issue to be sent by 8 May to Nicola Hobbs, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, 01473 738267, [adverts@grunews.com](mailto:adverts@grunews.com).



# Grundisburgh's GADS present Aladdin to packed audiences!

Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society (GADS) performed their pantomime Aladdin to three packed-out audiences

over the first weekend in February. There were magic carpets, genies, lamps, scooters and plates flying everywhere (if you know, you know!)

Roz Byng took the helm as director and Tessa Bailey

took on the varied and important role of producer. They both did brilliantly.



Hannah Cummings for a second-year running took the lead as the title character, mischievous Aladdin, opposite Amy Adams as his beautiful Princess Jasmine. Phil Bailey

donned a dress and make up for the first time, playing the flirtatious Widow Twankey. Kate Adams did what she does best as



Aladdin's hilarious brother, Dishee Washee, whilst Darin Osborne played the power-hungry baddy, Abanazar.

Magic came in the form of the energetic Genie (Catherine Beresford) and lazy Slave of the ring (Charlotte Crown).

It was another triumph for GADS whilst still navigating the logistics of the new set up and routine.

We would like to thank all of our cast, crew and wonderful audiences who came to see us

yet again in all our glory, doing what we do best.

We are now rehearsing for our spring play which will be performed in May half term. Look out for our posters and follow us on Facebook: GADS - Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society and Instagram: @grundisburghamdram for more details.

If you would like to get involved with GADS either



on or off stage, we would love to have you - contact us via one of our socials.

Charlotte Crown



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