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The Grundisburgh and District News

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The Gables (formerly Williams Stores) in Grundisburgh proved very popular - there was standing room only - when Giles and Sarah-Jane Miller held their opening night on Saturday 23 November.

On view was Sarah-Jane's shop and coffee area as well as the large space which will become a studio for Giles. Shelves displayed all sorts of edible and decorative goodies as well as an example of the abstract wall hanging which Giles designs for modern buildings.

Text and photo: Editor



FOGS (Friends of Grundisburgh School): winners of the annual village quiz). See p2 for GADS news.

HypnoCat: the symbol of household electrical recycling!

Don't be alarmed if you are confronted by a pink cat with blue eyes staring out of your mobile or computer next year. It's not the latest twist in cyber warfare but a not-too-gentle reminder that soon you should be able to recycle your old, broken or redundant electrical and electronic items through an experimental kerbside collection scheme throughout East Suffolk.

This is part of a nationwide drive funded by the recycling campaigner Material Focus to hack into the estimated 100,000 tonnes of electricals just thrown away each year in the UK.

East Suffolk has plans to start kerbside collections of small electrical items in the north of the district and to gradually

extend them to all areas by May 2025. Householders will be able to leave small items on top of their wheelie bins on their usual collection days: these items will be collected by the refuse crew and taken away for recycling or given to a local repair shed before selling them to raise money for charity. The finer details of the scheme will be made clear in leaflets nearer the time.

Electrical and electronic items contain much plastic and many valuable minerals, including gold, copper, mercury, cadmium, cobalt, nickel and lithium - all of which can be salvaged and reused, thereby helping to create a more sustainable future - and reduce our dependence on imported raw materials.

Richard Watkinson



The News wishes all its readers, contributors, advertisers and distributors
a very happy Christmas and successful new year!

December

Friday 6

Christmas Concert

Upbeat! Ladies Choir and Offbeat! Men's choir

Gr VH PBE 7:30 pm Contact
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Saturday 7

Christmas Concert

Upbeat! Ladies Choir and Offbeat! Men's choir

Gr VH 2:00 pm Contact
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Saturday 7

Christmas Concert

Upbeat! Ladies Choir and Offbeat! Men's choir

Gr VH 7:30 pm Contact
www.upbeatladieschoir.co.uk

January

Friday 31

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

GADS panto

Gr VH 7:30 pm Contact
ianfrost68@gmail.com

February

Saturday 1

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

GADS panto

Gr VH 2:00 pm Contact
ianfrost68@gmail.com

Saturday 1

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

GADS panto

Gr VH 7:30 pm Contact
ianfrost68@gmail.com

Sunday 2

Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

GADS panto

Gr VH 2:00 pm Contact
ianfrost68@gmail.com

Key to abbreviations:

BSR - Burgh School Room

Gr - Grundisburgh

iao - In Aid Of

Pav - Pavilion

PBE - pre-booking essential

P/VH - Parish/Village hall

PF - Playing field

PR - Parish Room

VG - Village green

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

or

Peter Kendall, 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

Grundisburgh actors (GADS) present 'Robin Hood and The Babes in the Wood'

As the evenings draw in and hats and scarves are made ready for chilly winter walks, GADS members are busy getting ready for their latest

once and for all! Boooooooo!! Will Robin win the day? Does the Sheriff get his hands on the money he craves? Is there such a thing as a rabbit ballet?

You'll have to get a ticket to find out!

Performances take place on Friday 31 January at 7.30pm, Saturday 1 February at 2pm and 7.30pm, and Sunday 2 February at 2pm.

By the time you read this, we will have had our second quiz

night at the hall. It was a great success last year so we're hoping that it's gone just as well this year.

A big thank you to Charlotte Crown and Sandy Broom for organising it again.

If anybody would like to get involved with our friendly group, please come and see us at Grundisburgh Village Hall on a Wednesday night or contact me at ianfrost68@gmail.com for information.

Ian Frost



Rehearsals in progress

panto offering, 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood' by Ben Crocker.

Robin and his band of merry men and women are helping those in need by taking from the rich to give to the poor - thus stopping the evil Sheriff of Nottingham from getting his hands on his precious taxes! Hooraaaaay!!

Meanwhile, the Sheriff has his own niece and nephew in his sights as they stand to inherit their deceased fathers' estate, so he concocts a plan to capture the babes and also to rid himself of Robin Hood

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Hort Soc annual report

Twelve months ago, I became Chair of the Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho Horticultural Society. We have now completed the last of this year's events and the team is very pleased with how they went.



The Village Show in July was arguably our best ever. This was due to a conscious effort to add more attractions for families on the field. In addition to the bouncy castle, car boot sale and the like, we had such diverse activities as axe throwing and a fire engine from Woodbridge Fire Station. Huge thanks particularly to Chris

Shemmings and Julia Bentley and their teams for arranging much of this.

The marquee was packed with over 800 individual entries across dozens of competitive classes. No small task to judge all of these. Many thanks to the Uptowns for entertaining a lively audience at the Saturday night dance.

An innovation this year was to have an Art Exhibition on the Sunday. Again, this was attended enthusiastically by exhibitors and viewers alike. We will be repeating this next year.

The Garden Party in August sold out some time in advance, thanks to Catherine and Bryan Laxton for hosting this, and thanks to Catherine for organising a number of trips to celebrated gardens.

Hidden Gardens this year included some fabulous gardens and although attendance was down a little (hit with a combination of poor weather forecast, road closures and similar events nearby), we had very positive feedback from the public.

None of these activities would be possible without the veritable army of volunteers who give their time. So, many, many thanks to all the volunteers.



For our committee, the most important thing is to provide really enjoyable events for the public. The next most important objective is to generate some surplus funds which enables the Society to make donations to local worthy causes and charities.

This year we had a larger surplus than usual so we are making some immediate donations, but using the balance to establish a community fund. Firstly the donations:

several men in the village with sailing expertise are engaged in volunteering for a charity called the Woolverstone Project. This charity provides sailing for the disabled. The boats are designed to be able to accommodate disabled people and use a joystick



instead of a tiller to steer. The charity operates at Alton Water and has a very pressing need for a set of new life jackets. Our Society has donated the funds necessary to purchase 10 of these, enhancing the safety of the disabled sailors.

A second express donation is being made to a Grundisburgh family who have a young son with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The donation is to enable the purchase of a mechanised wheelchair. We hope that the acquisition of this chair will assist them all in the challenging situation they face.

In addition to these express donations, we are making available some funds which can be applied for by local groups or persons for worthy causes. So if an organisation needs a new piece of kit for something (like the life jacket example mentioned above), they are welcome to apply. We are not looking to help with general running expenses but apart from that, we are open to requests while the surplus funds remain unused.

If you wish to apply for some funding through this community fund, please contact me at paul.whittingham123@gmail.com

Paul Whittingham

(See P9 for further details of the Woolverstone Project)



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THE CONSTANT GARDENER

Escape to the Country? Ben Pike (aka The Constant Gardener) has done it for real.



Seeking to get away from the hustle of life in north London and, like his parents (who had a home in Easton), chose Suffolk in which to live and bring up his family. Now

based in Charsfield, Ben conceives, designs and implements plans for gardens in collaboration with his clients.

Ben does not want to create solely hard designs with little reference to nature. He said "my approach is holistic, not scientific - I obsess about naturalness. Although I accept there is often a need for hard materials in a garden, planting is king!".

And you can see that by looking at his youtube video where he walks through Lowbarn, his parents' Easton garden. This holds enduring



significance for him after his mother died in 2005 and where he has planted a tree in memory of his stillborn daughter, Juno. He also demonstrates an ingenious use for Gaffer Tape!



In 2007 Ben set up The Constant Gardener, spending nearly ten years developing his skills before moving to Suffolk in 2016 to start his family. Ben advocates low impact and sustainable gardening to increase biodiversity while using sustainable materials in a wild, nature-friendly environment.

One of Ben's key missions is to bring young people into the world of gardening and he is currently working with a primary school in Woodbridge to create a dedicated garden area (christened "Kyson Meadow") where children and teachers can indulge themselves in learning about the plants and wildlife which surround them.

Other clients of Ben have gardens in Ufford, Aldeburgh, Bromeswell as well as Woodbridge: some of these are depicted on Ben's website www.theconstantgardener.org.uk. He can be reached on 07791 145854 or ben@theconstantgardener.org.uk

Words Richard Watkinson,
Photos supplied

Ben's mum was a passionate gardener and it rubbed off on him to such an extent that he trained to become a gardener when she died.

Ben was trained by St John Stephen, "The Hanging Gardener of Babylon", who focussed his attention on methodically learning about plants while developing his innate instinct for gardening.



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In the summer we bid a sad farewell to the Dog Deli, now moved to Woodbridge, but we gave an enthusiastic welcome to Louisa Flavell with her new venture, the Suffolk Deli, which opened at the start of October on the same premises in Grundisburgh.

Launch day was well-attended, when visitors to the new Deli were warmly welcomed by Louisa, Marj Reeve and Amber Cavanagh and given the



Marj and Amber

chance to find out more about what will be on offer. There are exciting plans, including to sell products which are locally sourced as far as possible but not too expensive, making them accessible to all.

Louisa is keeping some of the established favourites

which customers have enjoyed previously but is also introducing new ranges and suppliers. Her mission is to inspire people, including children, with different ideas for how they can use the various items on sale. The rationale is that if you love something, you'll come back



for more! Equally, Louisa doesn't want stock to just sit on the shelves untouched.

Among the innovations will be weekend tastings and 'easy to make' recipe cards with take-away bags of ingredients for people to prepare a main meal at home or perhaps to make nibbles and hors d'oeuvres. For those without the time, there will be chilled meals available to buy and salads too, everything freshly prepared in the Deli kitchen.

Two new suppliers will provide bread. They are both Suffolk bakeries: Palmers of Haughley which was established two hundred years ago and a small micro-bakery, Acre Bakery, who will provide an artisan sourdough collection point at The Suffolk Deli on Tuesdays and Fridays. Orders for the Acre Bakery should be done directly on their website.

In the longer term, Louisa hopes to further develop other features of the Deli including the coffee shop and wine/food tasting events. Hampers are available all year round, but as a special thank you to the village for the warm welcome, the team has decided that they'd like to offer all locals 10% off Christmas

Hamper orders made before 12 December. Orders can be taken in the shop or via email/instagram.

The coffee shop walls currently feature the work of local artist, Corinne Peacock, whose vibrant and colourful designs really enhance the warm ambience inside. All pictures are on sale and it is hoped to showcase the work of

other local artists later too.

Louisa's most recent business venture has been setting up and running Martha's Barn at Otley Hall, a popular café and events venue, but it's all a long way from where she started her



Louisa and Marj

career. After completing a degree in antiques auctioneering, she worked for Christies in South Kensington. Other roles followed, both in the UK and overseas, but Louisa describes herself as entrepreneurial and more recently developed a determination to work for

herself so that she can do things the way she wants to.

With two children, a dog called Humphrey and a cat called Horance, Louisa looks forward to living in the flat above the shop and being fully committed to making this new business a success.

The Deli is open from Monday 8.30am-1pm, Tuesday to Saturday from 8.30am – 3pm; to ensure viability, Louisa especially asks customers to shop there on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please try to pop in then if you can. But whenever you go, you'll be assured of a friendly welcome from Louisa, Marj and Amber and will find lots of tempting food and drinks to try!

hello@thesuffolkdeli.com
@thesuffolkdeli

Words Noelle Hunt
Photos supplied

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New quarry planned at Westerfield

A quarry is planned for which a full application is to be put forward, as we understand it, before the end of the year or early next. At the moment a scoping assessment is being taken to identify the impact assessment of the scheme.

Land has been allocated alongside Fynn Valley Golf club covering just under 16 hectares, as I understand it, where a processing plant will be set up to allow the gravel and sand etc. to be processed and taken away by lorries to their destination.

The extent of the dig may, we understand, be to 6 metres in depth. This will raise questions regarding the water table and flooding and of course the knock-on effect to nature.

If approved, the scheme's life is estimated to be some 16 years with an average of 126



lorry loads per day.

The destination of the lorries seems certain to be the contract supplies for Sizewell C. These lorries are likely to be passing through our villages at a rate of 15 an hour.

Judging from the experience of the residents of Little Bealings and Kesgrave the noise level will be high. The Sinks Valley Environmental Protection Group have reported over 7,000 complaints concerning:

Daily suffering from loud percussive and/or continuous noises.

Areas of houses and gardens made uninhabitable during operation hours.

Dust clouds impacting breathing and covering property with debris.

Deterioration of residents' physical and mental health through stress.

Loss of property value and a blight on sales opportunities.

The villages that are likely to be affected directly include: **Westerfield, Witnesham, Tuddenham, Swilland, Ashbocking, Otley, Burgh, Grundisburgh** and possibly others.

The route has not as yet been made clear at this time but it is likely to include the B1077 and B1078, roads which suffer badly already with damage by large vehicles and flooding.

The roads just won't be able to cope, resulting in diversions down even smaller roads, probably through Swilland, Tuddenham and Grundisburgh and maybe even Ashbocking through to Otley.

However, we understand that TRU (Tippers R Us) will have an open day where you can come along and ask questions and view their plans etc. We understand this will take place at Westerfield Village Hall in January, the day to be confirmed.

The Facebook pages for all the villages will continue to update you on progress and meetings etc. along with details of where you can contact people for offering help and suggestions. This is a major village collective, if you do not have access to Facebook we will keep you up to date as much as we can through the In Touch and other media sources.

All other parishes potentially affected are now onboard and working with Westerfield, Tuddenham, Witnesham and Swilland to make sure that the full impact of the scheme is fully understood.

There are now also various committees concentrating on all the aspects such as health, pollution, environmental, roads, light etc.

Adapted with permission from an original article by Steve Henley

Image from Tippers R Us website



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ESPA alert

East Suffolk Planning Alliance Alert to residents and some bad news for Westerfield and Tuddenham.

The Parish Councils have just been notified of a new Planning Application to build a quarry with permanent onsite processing of sand and gravel.

Location: Land at Westerfield Road, Westerfield, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9HZ.

Proposal: EIA Scoping Request for the Extraction and Processing of Sand and Gravel, Recycling of Inert Materials, and Associated Infrastructure.

Applicant: Tippers R Us

Agent: Stephen M Daw Ltd

This is a plan for a quarry operation with onsite processing to extract 1,700,000 tonnes of sand and gravel over 16 years! The presence of the industrial on-site processing is as big an issue if not more so than the actual quarry. Processing this close to residential areas is not appropriate. Dangerous pollution and terrible noise will shatter the countryside atmosphere. Not only that, they are planning to import 50,000 tonnes into the area for processing; The preparation of the Local Plan produced a strategy for protecting our country atmosphere and our quiet lanes and then they propose this!

Text from ESPA alert

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Farm shop at Otley College

The farm shop at Suffolk Rural College is celebrating its first anniversary, the new venture being set up in November 2023. A part-time member of staff has been employed and there are plans to expand the operation. One year on, Sarah Jay, a Projects Co-Ordinator at Suffolk Rural, reflects on the last twelve months of business. "It's gone very well: the college has recruited a member of staff (Alison) who is at the shop three days a week (Wednesday to Friday 12-5pm) and she has taken the project under her wing and developed it".

All produce is produced by staff and students from either the Otley campus or the main one in Ipswich. Sarah explains: "They have created products for us to sell. We have beehives on site and have developed 'Suffolk Rural' honey; we have welded items

made by learners; and greetings cards using images from art and photography from students. And we have ceramic items, wild seeds, fresh eggs and meat - everyone is working together to make this a success. Students are heavily involved and this gives them a great insight into the world of business. In terms of the future, Sarah continued:

"We will have a calendar created from images taken around college and we are planning on selling Christmas wreaths. Long term, we want to develop the floristry side and sell bouquets at key times of the year, like Valentines and Mother's Day. We hope to create a little shop selling



coffees, teas and cakes – and we are keen to showcase students' artwork. In the distant future, we want to put on craft classes for the general public – and we would like to thank the local community for all their support to date." In other news, the college has been involved in a partnership with Benton End (now part of

the National Garden Museum) to form a garden at the front of the college; the college also has an Iris collection made up of Benton End varieties. For more information about the college and its courses visit www.suffolk.ac.uk

Text and image: Suffolk Rural College



ESPA, the East Suffolk Planning Alliance goes from strength to strength.

It now has 56 affiliated town/parish councils and anticipates more as the new government's plans for mass development become clearer. ESPA recently spoke on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme. The interview was with Nick Robinson. Although edited, lots of great points were raised and it got ESPA's name out there, another step in the right direction.

ESPA is now formally engaged with East Suffolk Council on vital planning issues and questions that affect all of us. They have agreed a Community Engagement Group (CEG) forum with East Suffolk Council enabling our local government and ESPA members to meet and identify,

share and discuss important planning issues.

The CEG sets out to foster better mutual understanding of (a) local government strategic planning and decision making; (b) planning procedures by the communities that are affected; (c) how everyone can be fully engaged during discussions and conclusions to implement those decisions.

It all sounds rather bureaucratic but ESPA will seek to demystify the planning processes so that our (informed) voices can be not just heard, but listened to!

There is a perception that once a developer has received outline planning permission, they can often proceed with impunity, e.g. removing ancient hedgerows; changing

the number of promised affordable homes in the scheme and ignoring designated routes on to the construction site.

One of the major questions is: will ESC Planning enforcement be strengthened to better oversee and ensure



best practice and adherence to agreed planning conditions with developers? Let's hope, with the help of ESPA, the answer is "Yes".

Words Richard Watkinson

Rural support on call

Serendipity: *the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.*

And it was serendipitous that on Remembrance Sunday I was walking to the Cenotaph



alongside a lady whom I hadn't met before and who, I discovered, plays an interesting role in our rural area. She is Linda Preston (above) and is part of the Rural and Agricultural Chaplaincy Team of 'Lightwave', part of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, headquartered at St Nicholas

Centre, Cutler Street, Ipswich. Her job is to help members of the agricultural community who find themselves isolated, lonely or are in some form of distress and would like someone to talk to as Lightwave groups are heavily involved in combating isolation. The leader of the team locally is Graham Miles (below) and you are invited to contact him if



you are in the farming or agricultural community and would like support, prayer or a safe space to talk. His email is Graham.Miles.Lightwave@gmail.com or tel 07413 683368. Graham Miles

Active chaplain comes to Fynn Valley

Somebody else with rural roots is the recently-appointed interim rector of Kesgrave, Little Bealings and Playford, the Revd. Canon Andrew Dotchin.

I have known Andrew for some years as he is, amongst other things, the Chaplain to the Ipswich branch of the Merchant Navy Association of which I'm a member.

He is sometimes described as the 'Chaplain to anything with a badge' serving in that role also to Suffolk Police, Mission to Seafarers, Air and Sea Cadets and the Royal British Legion.

Andrew is a down-to-earth (should that be down-to-sea?) character who nonetheless gets the spiritual side of his ministry across effectively.

He's a born and bred East Anglian, spending his early years in the fenland town of March, then at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook from 1967 to 1974 where he was confirmed by Bishop Leslie Brown.

Moving to South Africa, when his father took up a post in the South African Navy, he

worked in industrial chemistry before answering a call to ordination which happened exactly 40 years ago (on 16 December).

Back in the UK, at the end of 2000, he was part of the Blyth Valley Team Ministry living at Holton St Peter until 2003 when he moved to Whitton.

Twelve years later Andrew was made vicar of St John the Baptist with St Edmund in



Felixstowe and also Rural Dean of the Colneys.

He moved to his current post at the beginning of October. He can be contacted on email: revdotchin@gmail.com or on 07814 949828.

His experience of both village and church life in the Blyth Valley and a suburban parish in Ipswich should serve the Benefice well in his 'John the Baptist' guise as he helps them decide whoever their future vicar will be - when he retires in two years time.

Richard Watkinson
photo by Andrew Beale

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Grundisburgh WI news

In June we had a garden party held at the playing field pavilion; the committee provided a tasty selection of savouries and sweets which were much enjoyed and appreciated by the members. In July we had a cream tea in the garden at Williams' store which was very lovely especially as the sun shone and helped to make it an occasion to remember.

Sally Sibley from Sutton Hoo



came to talk to us in August about Mrs Pretty. She was the owner of Sutton Hoo and was instrumental in getting the 'dig' started. She approached Basil Brown, an amateur archaeologist from Ipswich, with a view to start excavating the largest of the mounds on her land. Mrs Pretty gave Basil much support especially after the British Museum became involved.

After much effort the 'dig' revealed a seventh century Saxon burial ship containing the remains of King Raedwald of East Anglia. Mrs Pretty decided to give all the artefacts which were discovered to the British

Museum for safe keeping and the originals are still there.

During the war the site was protected and covered over so that it would not be visible from the sky.

This interesting talk was very much enjoyed.

We had a talk in October by Mark Cresswell about the Woolverstone Project. Mark has been a sailing instructor for some 30 years and became involved with the project in 1995.

The Woolverstone Project, Sailing for Disability, was founded in 1993 and became a charity in 1995. It provides sailing opportunities for disabled people by giving them the chance to sail and experience the freedom and the joy of being on open water. Tuition can also be provided.

There are two centres, one at Woodbridge and the other at Oulton Broad. There are several different sorts of craft, all specially adapted; there is a wheelyboat which can take a wheelchair and which can cater for one person up to and including groups of eight. All groups are accompanied by a qualified sailor.

It was a very interesting and informative talk and much enjoyed.

Gillian Leech

Hallo Cards



Grange Farm Shop and the Charity Christmas Card Shop in Hudsons in the Thoroughfare Woodbridge, will again be stocking the ever-popular Hallo Cards, designed by Grundisburgh artist Carrie Herries in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

To date, Hallo Cards have raised over £5,500 for EACH. Please help them to raise even more this Christmas.

The entire range is still available on our website as well www.hallocards.co.uk where you can also purchase from our huge range of all year round designs by Carrie Herries - along with prints.

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The end of nearly seven decades serving the village!



The WI party at Williams Stores in 2022. Can you spot Rosie and Claire Williams?

While "Open All Hours" was the name of a beloved BBC sitcom starring Ronnie Barker, it could just as easily have been the description applied to Williams Stores during its heyday under Ray and Joyce Williams.

The shop at The Gables on The Green in Grundisburgh closed in October, bringing to an end 68 years of service to the village and its environs. So how did it all begin?

There had actually been a shop at The Gables since the building was extended in 1841. The first shop keeper was a Mr Braham who opened that year, selling groceries and drapery products hence the name of the Williams' coffee shop -The Old Drapery.

In the 1950s, the Williams family were living in Waldringfield, where Joyce Williams was the deputy Head Teacher of the school, a job

she did while bringing up her first three daughters, Claire, Julie and Diana. In later years, while living in Grundisburgh, Joyce was often called upon to be a supply teacher.

Ray Williams had a background as an electrical engineer but wanted to run a business. He found available premises - Commerce House - in Grundisburgh, a little way up the hill from The Green in the direction of Ipswich, near the current delicatessen.

He rented the shop from a Mrs Felgate, who lived in the rest of the building. The access road to Grundisburgh Village Hall - Felgate Way - is named after her. Mrs Felgate died and the Williams bought Commerce House in 1961, moving the family there from their house in Waldringfield where Rosie the fourth daughter was born. For Joyce Williams, this was 'coming home' as she was born in

Grundisburgh at the last off-licence in the village, called The Barley Mow, in Barley Mow Lane, now called Maltings Lane.

Ray and Joyce diversified the shop's range of services and products, which included bicycles, repairing electrical equipment (using Ray's electrical skills) and eventually, the sale of television sets.

Ray was able to erect aerials and repair TV sets, as well as selling and renting them out.

Through this activity, the Williams sisters believe they were the first family in the village to have a colour television instead of black and white.

Mr Williams had long aspired to buy The Gables on The Green. While he and Joyce were at Commerce House, the Gables shop was known as Savages, although by then it was run by the Nicholls family.

Ray's dream came true in 1968 when they bought The Gables and moved the shop and the family there. As well as being a larger and more prominent shop, it was a great house in which to raise a large family, having seven bedrooms, a huge garden and a variety of outbuildings.

Joyce and Ray changed the purpose of Savages, as well as renaming it Williams Stores, by stopping most of the groceries and bringing in the bicycle and TV businesses



Joyce and Ray in the midst of plenty

which had been successful at Commerce House. They also sold domestic fuels, school uniforms, gardening tools and equipment, haberdashery and many other lines.

When video cassette recorders became widespread, Joyce and Ray started a video rental

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business in the shop. Sunday mornings were very busy with people returning the previous night's video. Rosie says that there would often be five of them serving on a Sunday morning to deal with long queues in the shop. This really was the 'open all hours' period for the store, operating seven days a week including Sunday mornings.

"Mum and Dad never really took holidays, as the shop never closed for more than the odd day" recalls Rosie.

In addition to family members, the shop employed various people throughout the years, including the long serving Dulcie Kuczerenko. Dulcie was initially engaged to look after the girls while Mum and Dad were busy in the shop but she later worked in the shop itself for many years.



Such was the variety of items sold in the shop that people would go in for one thing and come out with another. Possibly the best example of this is the former vicar, Reverend Norman Davies, remarking "You could go in for a

can of coke and come out with a television".

During their lifetimes, the Williams family have seen other businesses on The Green, including a butchers, a fish and chip shop, a greengrocers, riding stables and a forge. They recall that what is now



Ray and Joyce in front of Williams Stores

Old Forge Stores was a cake shop for many years.

The Coach House (opposite The Dog) sold slightly unusual clothes, incense and other lifestyle products. The owner had two monkeys which once escaped and climbed the trees in the garden of what is now the home of our editor!

Ray Williams suffered declining health and stopped working in the shop in 2000. When he died three years later aged 77, Joyce decided to carry on and managed to keep serving her customers until 2016. She died the following year.

Since her death, the shop has been run mainly by Rosie and, when time permitted, by Claire. They opened the Old Drapery coffee shop in 2017 but later put the building up for sale.

So finally, in October 2024, the era of Williams Stores in the heart of Grundisburgh came to an end.

Many of our readers will have used the shop over the years and would no doubt wish to join in thanking the Williams family for their nearly 70 years of service to the community. Finally, the

stars) would like me to pass on their enormous gratitude for the dozens of cards they have received thanking them for the years of service and wishing them well for the future.

They would also like to pass on their best wishes to the new owners of The Gables, Giles and Sara-Jane Miller and to wish them well with their new venture.

Words: Paul Whittingham
Photos: Williams family and editor

The Gables

Giles Miller confirms that the building will revert to its original name when it became a shop 183 years ago: it will now again be The Gables, with the studio at the left hand side and the shop on the right.

Williams sisters (not the tennis

Editor

A MESSAGE TO ALL TELEVISION VIEWERS!

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Water monitors wade into action to sample quality

If you see someone in waders in the middle of the River Fynn or Lark or Deben with a net on the end of a long pole, don't worry, he or she probably isn't dredging for Roman coins or abandoned supermarket trolleys. More likely they are a so-called 'citizen scientist' surveying the local tributaries of the Deben to identify the numbers of invertebrate species that can indicate changes in the quality of the water.

These 'canaries of our rivers', which include mayfly and caddisfly larvae as well as freshwater shrimps, are very sensitive to pollution and, by monitoring their numbers over time, we can see if there is any increase (or otherwise) in pollutant levels.



This is in addition to the regular monthly sampling of the Deben's tributaries, checking for E.coli and other nasties in the water, the results of which are online at www.woodbridgeclimateactioncentre.org

The nature of pollution has changed - foul emissions from dark satanic mills and slaughter-houses have been replaced by more subtle but nonetheless lethal impacts from treated (or untreated)



sewage and agricultural run-offs. The sites where we take these riverfly censuses are carefully selected to make sure they are freely accessible

and safe year-round and are sensibly located in relation to other sites. Once selected, the sites are registered with the Riverfly Partnership and with the Environment Agency. Site-specific data are uploaded to www.riverflies.org which is freely available to everyone.

Here are the results from the sampling we did on 4 November:

Ecoli the results are broadly in line with previous trends. We did not find any serious pollution in the tidal section this month and elsewhere the high readings are mostly coming from Sewage Treatment Works' (STW) outfalls. There are a couple of exceptions in downstream and upstream sections on the River Fynn and around Debenham. Both may be due to low flow. On the River Fynn, we sampled for the first time at Henley, just below the Anglian Water STW and found high Ecoli.

Phosphate - the phosphate results outside the Anglian Water (AW) STWs are generally under 1.0 ppm with many close to the 0.1 ppm healthy river level. The exceptions here are the Rivers Lark and Fynn which continue to have high phosphate readings - this may be due to low river flow and/or the presence of small sewage treatment works which have not had any investment for some years.

There is growing evidence that, where AW has invested in and installed a phosphate stripping plant, that the phosphate levels have tumbled in recent months and are within the new permit levels due to come into force in January 2025. A chart showing the AW STWs' phosphate trend is shown below. The outlier is Rendlesham where phosphate levels have climbed back to those seen at the start of 2024; this plant looks unlikely to meet its permit level by the end of 2024, so we are requesting an explanation from Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.

Anglian Water STW	Environment Agency Permit at January 2025	Phosphate as P in April 2024	Phosphate as P in November 2024
Debenham	0.5 mg/ litre	1.65 mg/ litre	0.29 mg/ litre
Earl Soham	0.9 mg/ litre	Not known	Not known
Charsfield	4.0 mg/litre	4.76 mg/litre	0.44 mg/ litre
Easton	No permit maximum	3.19 mg/ litre	5.58 mg/ litre
Wickham Market	1.0 mg/ litre	7.04 mg/ litre	0.59 mg/ litre
Rendlesham	1.0 mg/ litre	6.36 mg/ litre	7.17 mg/ litre
Martlesham Creek	No permit maximum	3.05 mg/ litre	2.80 mg/ litre

You will see that at STWs such as Easton and Martlesham Creek that there are to be no maximum permitted phosphate emissions. The whole of the Lark and Fynn catchment has also been excluded from the new maximum permitted levels too. We are going to take both these cases up with the Environment Agency and AW again.

Richard Watkinson

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Anglian Water installs first-time sewerage systems in Little Bealings

A £1 million investment scheme by Anglian Water’s @one Alliance is set to provide homes in Little Bealings with new sewerage systems which will give residents the opportunity to connect to mains sewerage for the first time.

The project will see almost 2km of brand-new sewer pipes and a new pumping station installed this month and is expected to be completed in autumn 2024.

This scheme forms part of the company’s biggest ever programme of investment. Anglian Water cleans, supplies and treats a billion litres of water a day, and its pipes laid end to end would stretch around the world three times – so keeping

everything running smoothly is a huge challenge the company faces. This year, the water company is investing £874 million in pipes, treatment centres, customer service and the environment.



Chloe Bailey Customer Co-ordinator for the project said: “We’re delighted to be able to deliver this project for the residents of Little Bealings. This will not only enable them to simplify their wastewater disposal, but it will also protect the area from flooding and pollution in the future.

We’d like to thank everyone for their patience while our teams are working in the area.”

Text and images: Anglian Water



Grundisburgh Primary School enjoying the great outdoors



We have had an incredibly busy and successful start to the academic year at

Grundisburgh Primary School. The children in year 6, who are now at high school achieved some outstanding results with

part in six taster sessions at the end of the Summer Term, meaning that a smooth transition to full time education was achieved.

Our wrap-around care which runs, on site and daily, from 08:00 – 18:00 is proving very popular with parents



their outcomes being significantly above national expectations in reading, writing and maths.

Our new reception class of 25 pupils have settled in well into their first term of school. The children benefited by taking

appreciating the flexibility this offers them in extending the school day for their children. Beyond this a number of children have enjoyed taking part in the following extra-curricular activities: piano

lessons, nimble nippers, coding club, football club, netball and gymnastics.

Our community links with St Marys church again provided another opportunity to enable parents to celebrate with us.

We held a Harvest festival celebration within the church



and furthermore the church has visited school to lead several assemblies. We also hosted our Community Christmas Fayre on 17 November which was a huge success.

We are very thankful for all who supported this event by attending or purchasing raffle tickets.

We have continued to provide our pupils with a range of sporting experiences this half term we have competed in both boys and girls football tournaments against several other schools. Furthermore, we have taken part in a dodgeball tournament. A number of our year 6 children have recently completed their play leader training and will be leading

play sessions for our younger children at lunchtimes. We have also received the 'Equal Access School Award 2024,' in recognition of our commitment to offering equal opportunities for all to access sport.

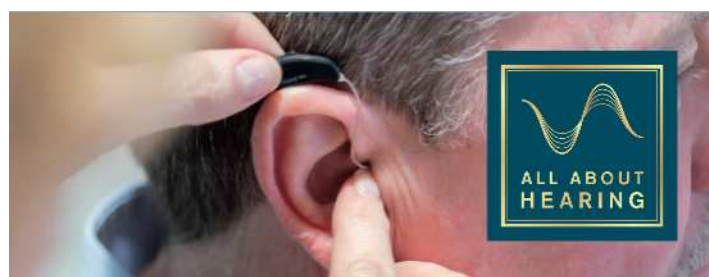
We continue to enrich our curriculum offer by giving children the opportunity to take part in visits and welcoming visitors into school to further develop pupil's learning. Year 6 Police Community Support Officer came to discuss online safety. Our year 5 pupils visited West Stow Anglo Saxon Village to



learn about Anglo Saxon life. Children in year 2 welcomed Suffolk Fire Service into school to make links to their Fire of London learning in History. Children in Key Stage two attended a visit to the Thomas Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich to have a question and answer session with author Ele Fountain.

We have hosted an open afternoon and evening for pupils who will be starting school in September 2025. If you were unable to attend I would be more than happy to accommodate a visit to our school, please phone the school on 01473735281 or email: admin@grundisburgh.suffolk.sch.uk

Mr Adam Wilson
Headteacher



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Sad news YMCA

The YMCA Childcare centre in Grundisburgh will close permanently on Friday 20 December 2024.

In a statement, YMCA said: "We explored every option to keep the service running but the financial difficulties the facility is faced with leave us with no alternative. We really understand how upsetting this is for our families and we have been proud to be part of this fantastic community.

But sadly, after exploring all options of delivery, we can no longer remain open. Our priority now is to support parents and children with the transition to alternative childcare."

There are, of course, other facilities in the area but it is disappointing that the future of the unit at Grundisburgh is again in doubt.

Richard Watkinson

NB

The YMCA website:
<https://ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk/what-we-do/family-youth-work/childcare/childcare-contact-us/>

has not at the time of writing been updated with this news.

Editor

Charsfield Primary

This term, our children have been writing stories using various texts - including twists on fairy tales such as Little Red Reading Hood, Licked, (a short story about a son who plays a trick on his dad at a very important dinner), and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

We have also been learning about what it was like to be a child in the past, role-playing what a Victorian school was like (we had to stand up when an adult entered the classroom! **) and making up our own Victorian classroom rules.

Further back in history, pupils in KS2 have been learning about ancient civilisations with a focus on ancient Egypt and ancient Greece. We have acted out making a mummy and discovering Tutankhamun's tomb.

We are also learning about life in ancient Egypt and Greece and how it still has an impact today: pupils researched an area of life in ancient Greece and presented their findings to the class. We are going to visit the Sainsbury Centre at the UEA to study the statues and statuettes, in preparation for our own art project in school.

Pupils in KS2 have also participated in sporting events this term, including football (mixed and girls) and the cross-country event, with pupils from other local

schools. We have been very proud of their efforts and the team spirit they have shown during these events. All pupils this term will be taking swimming lessons.

This is something that we do every year as we believe being able to swim and have confidence in the water is an important life skill that



every child should experience. We love outdoor learning too, and the children are looking forward to their forest school lessons in our onsite forest school in the Spring and Summer term.

Helping families

Recently we held a Harvest Service at the church, led by Rev. Gary Best. Parents and relatives came along to join us and enjoyed tea or coffee and chat.

Although we are a small school, our families were very generous with their donations for the harvest service – we are delighted to be supporting

FIND this year which helps local families in need. On the Friday before half term, we held a Reading Café for parents and family members to share stories and books with their child. This was well-attended and a lovely way to end the half term. Pupils are currently rehearsing songs for their Nativity play in December.

If you're looking for schooling in the area, we are a very friendly, child-centred school where we promote the values of perseverance, friendship, creativity, responsibility, courage and compassion. "Charsfield is a friendly and caring school. It feels like a family in its own right. Pupils play well together. They are kind and thoughtful towards one another." (Ofsted February 2023).

For more information, please call the school office on 01473 737347, office@charsfieldprimary.org.uk Also, see our social media (Instagram and Facebook) for more up-to-date information about us. We are planning to host activities for pre-school aged children throughout the year and will advertise these via our social media.

Amie Reeve, Head of School

** so did I at school - dep.ed.

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Life in Grundisburgh nearly 100 years ago: Keith Burch remembers

Part 3: Farming

The third in a series of 98 year old Keith Burch's fascinating memories from the early part of the twentieth century in Grundisburgh.

The farm workers lived in the row of cottages near the farm, and would get up at 6 and start work at 7am, working through until 3pm with an hour off for dinner. They would come back later to lovingly look after the horses, Suffolk Punches, feeding and grooming them in



the stables. They were very attached to them.

Our farm had two Suffolk Punches for the ploughing etc. and if it was heavier work, like the binder/drill, a third horse, not a Suffolk Punch, was brought in to ease the load.

Former workers carved their initials in the brickwork of the stables and barns, going back to the 1870's.

Harvest

They had what was called a Harvest Holiday. In readiness for the cutting of the corn, boys would cut ash sticks with a knob on the end to cull the rabbits as they tried to escape the binder and hit them with the sticks to kill them. There were strict rules on how many you could take home for the pot, so they had to be handed in and then shared out afterwards.

Shrocking was the Suffolk dialect. What is commonly known as a sheaf was pronounced *shoof* for a single, and *shooves* plural. The *shooves* took a certain time to dry depending on whether they were wheat or oats, and also the state of the weather. Oats took longer - three Sundays before being carted away. They were picked up one at a time, on two carts. They were stacked with the grain on.

When it was time for threshing, Mr. Cotton's *Thrawshing* (threshing) machine arrived. One man stood on top of the feeder and cut the *Bins* (the name given to the length of the wheat stalk which was long, about three feet, originally used to tie the *Shoof* together), knocking the grain out.

It was a dangerous job. The machine was about ten feet

long, oblong and wooden, with a steam-driven drum of metal blades, going very fast in the centre. The corn went in one end and the straw in the other. It separated the wheat from the chaff, which was used mixed with animal feed (nothing was wasted), and with ground corn. Corn was then put into sacks. Men from other farms would join them to build the corn stacks.

Strawstacks.

Haystacks were made from cut grass. The strawstacks had to be thatched to make them waterproof, and it was like the thatch on houses, but thinner, and were neatly trimmed round the edges. The last load on the wagon from the field was decorated.

One shock, the last one, was left in the centre of the field to indicate to gleaners that they couldn't move in. The sheep were sometimes put in to eat the grass amongst the stubble, and chickens to pick at the grains. When the shock was removed the gleaners could glean what was left. Grain was used for making bread.

Recorded and illustrated by Carrie Herries

Suffolk Rural College

The farm shop at Suffolk Rural College is celebrating its first anniversary, the new venture being set up in November 2023. A part-time member of staff has been employed and there are plans to expand the operation. One year on, Sarah Jay, a Projects Co-Ordinator at Suffolk Rural, reflects on the last twelve months of

bbusiness. "It's gone very well: the college has recruited a member of staff (Alison) who is at the shop three days a week (Wednesday to Friday 12-5pm) and she has taken the project under her wing and developed it.

All produce is produced by staff and students from either the Otley campus or the main one in Ipswich. Sarah explains: "They have created products for us to sell. We have beehives on site and have developed 'Suffolk Rural' honey; we have welded items made by learners; and greetings cards using images from art and photography learners. And we have ceramic items, wild seeds, fresh eggs and meat - everyone is working together to make this a success. Students are heavily involved and this gives them a great insight into the world of business.

In terms of the future, Sarah continued: "We will have a calendar created from images

taken around college and we are planning on selling Christmas wreaths. Long term, we want to develop the floristry side and sell bouquets at crucial times of the year, like Valentines and Mother's Day. We hope to create a little coffee shop selling coffees, teas and cakes - and we are keen to showcase students' artwork. In the distant future, we want to put on craft classes for the general public - and we would like to thank the local community for





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Going with a bang!

'Fantastic Fireworks' - our Display was amazing with over £2,000 pounds worth of rockets shooting up into the night sky, thank goodness it was a lovely evening and no rain this year!

We had over 1,000 people come to watch the display, they also enjoyed a great BBQ, Hot



drinks, Glowsticks sale, waffle stall, and licensed bar. Grateful thanks go to Grundisburgh Football Club for rearranging their matches and having the bar open, and to all the Leaders, Assistants and



Volunteers who helped make this a 'Fantastic' event with a profit of £7,123 which is our best yet!

An urgent request - we are looking for Volunteers for our Beaver Colony, the children are aged 6 to 8 years. It is a lovely, happy group and if we are unable to find people to help the young Beavers then it will mean the Colony will have to close. Please contact us if you are interested in this role.

Many thanks to you all for coming to our AGM in September, although we had to wait for all the Bikers to go through the Village!

Beavers have a Night Hike, Badge night and games, Camp Fire and songs, then a sleepover before finishing for Christmas holiday. Cubs have Part 2 of the Pioneer badge, Night Hike with Scouts, Christmas carol campfire and Christmas party. Scouts are on Night Hike with Cubs, archery training, Christmas campfire and cooking, ten pin bowling.

Explorers have a Supermarket Sweep challenge camp at Hallowtree, Christmas Carols, cooking and games, Hallowtree Christmas Party Camp.

We attended the Remembrance Service at St. Mary's Church with all our members standing proudly on parade and Scout Group Flags being displayed.

Michael Cambridge is very much in our thoughts after sadly passing away in July. Michael was a kind, helpful, lovely man who liked talking with Scout Group members and volunteering at our events. We send our heartfelt condolences to Michael's wife Felicity and the family.

Pat Ross
Grundisburgh Scouts
01473 735352



Sprucing up Grundisburgh 3

Congratulations to Chris Dow and his team of volunteers for their efforts in sprucing up Lyttleton Meadow and its neighbouring bus shelter! Watch out for session 4 in the new year.

photos: Chris Dow



Alison Cook, Tom Green, Sarah Jay & Liz Foord-Roper all their support to date.

In other news, the college has been involved in a partnership with Benton End (now part of the National Garden Museum) to form a garden at the front of the college; the college also has an Iris collection made up of Benton End varieties. For more information about the college and its courses you can visit www.suffolk.ac.uk

text and image: Suffolk Rural College



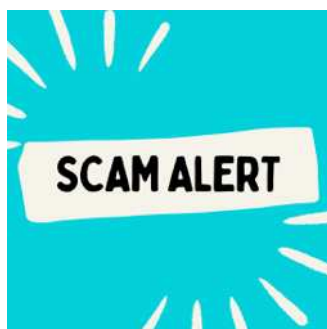
Protecting Grundisburgh against scams and fraud



Grundisburgh Community Tech Hub is a group set up to help protect the community of Grundisburgh from the growing number of online and telephone scams, and prevent more people being impacted by online fraud.

Online scams are costing up to £10 billion per year worldwide, with criminals using technology to convince victims to unwittingly handover access to their bank

accounts, stealing people's identities to open fake accounts and persuade people to transfer large sums of money to the fraudsters.



This causes stress, anxiety and on many occasions serious financial hardship. The Tech Hub posts regularly to help people in the community avoid these threats. The posts are on its website www.communitytechhub.org and alert residents about

potential scams, ways to protect yourself against these and gives general advice on keeping yourself safe online.

Every Monday villagers can access support at the Tech Hub's drop in advice sessions at the Grundisburgh Deli from 10 to 11.30am. Whether you are worried about a scam or have a technical problem with your phone, computer or tablet, the Community Tech Hub team will be there to help you. Each member of the team has been DBS checked.

The Community Tech Hub is the first organisation of its kind in Suffolk to offer a annual subscription for a package of support. The subscription includes four quarterly workshops and briefing

sessions about digital safety, access to in home support for technical issues or help with scams and additional advice emails sent weekly on helping to protect yourself online. The cost is £50 per year for a single person or £70 for a couple.

Speaking about the annual subscription, one of the founding members of the Tech Hub Team, Paul Finch, said "We want to be able to provide the whole village with support to protect themselves against online fraud.

This cost effective package will enable so many more people to understand their vulnerabilities when it comes to online activity and give



them the tools to help protect themselves. We are also able to offer support to individuals who are not able to afford the annual membership by trying to gain more external

funding and accepting donations at the Drop in sessions from non members of the subscription service". To join the subscription service, please go to www.communitytechhub.org

Community Tech Hub Drop In sessions take place every Monday 10-11.30am at The Suffolk Deli, Grundisburgh. For up to date information on online scams – check the news section on www.communitytechhub.org

The Tech Hub is part of the Funding Agreement with East Suffolk Council.

Paul Finch

You're never too old for Jazz

With a combined age of well over 300 years, you might think the four members of the Jazz Expressions Trad Jazz band would be ready to hang up their instruments. But band

Jazz. They were in great demand right up to the pandemic, but then everything stopped...

Now they are back together, singing and playing some great music from the 20s, 30s and 40s, on trumpet, clarinet, banjo and – more surprisingly – sousaphone! (see picture if you're not sure what that is).



You can hear them on the last Thursday of

leader Glenn Hurst says they are all still really keen to play together.

every month at the White Hart pub in Otley, where the jazz is hot and dancing is definitely encouraged.

All four have long and distinguished careers as professional musicians, playing Big Band, Swing and

Admission is free and, after the November date on Thursday 28, the sessions re-start in the New Year on Thursday 30 January.

You can join their mailing list and get more info on www.glennhurstmusic.net These could well be "the oldest swingers in town".

Jill Streatfeild

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Autumn leaves us smiling at Grundisburgh Tennis Club

It's a lovely season for tennis when the temperatures are more mellow and there is still time to get fitter before the Christmas festivities begin. To celebrate this special time, we are offering half price winter memberships and some great coaching opportunities.

Nick Frost is the head tennis coach at Grundisburgh Tennis Club. He is an RPT (*Registro Profesional de Tenis*) and LTA accredited coach with over 20 years' experience of coaching junior and adult players in a variety of settings.

The new junior programme began on Saturday 14 September, but it is not too late to come along and join in.

The junior programme will be following the LTA guidelines and sessions will be aimed at getting children on to a tennis court and enjoying tennis.

To make this as easy as possible all equipment will be provided and the first session will always be free of charge!

10am - 10.45am **Red**

(5-7 years)

10.45am - 11.30am **Orange**

(8-9 years)

11.30am - 12.15pm **Junior**
(10-14 years)

For adults there is coaching on Saturday mornings from 9am to 10am and the first adult session will also be free. These sessions are for all levels and Nick will speak with you to assess your coaching needs. Our courts can be hired by non-members using the online booking system.

We hope to see you on the courts soon.



For details of memberships and coaching please go to:
www.grundisburghtennis.co.uk

Goodbye and thank you

After more than 30 years Julia and Rik Middleton have stepped back from distributing GruNews; before that Julia was a proof reader for us when the News was a "cut and paste job" by Deborah Pynn!

Editor

Advertising rates

For the first time in more than 15 years the News has made a slight increase to its advertising rates - our only source of income. This is to cover the rising cost of printing.

Editor

All we need is:

Someone to deliver to the few houses down Charity Lane to Otley Bottom. It probably needs to be done by car as many of the houses are either isolated or down long drives or both!

Editor

About The News

www.grundisburghnews.org.uk

Grundisburgh & District News is a free community magazine produced by volunteers. Around 3,000 copies are distributed to homes, 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 Editor, Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, editor@grunews.com. Information can be supplied to us on paper or email. All issues are available to read on our website: www.grundisburghnews.org.uk.

Photos can be sent to the editor as JPGs (but please **not** embedded in Word documents) or as prints. If prints are to be returned, please include an addressed envelope.

Editor: Peter Kendall, 01473 738267, editor@grunews.com

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Next issue: No 275 Spring 2025

Copy date: **Wednesday 29 January**

Publication date: **Friday 21 February**

ADVERTISING

1/16 page (w.44mm x h.66mm or w.92mm x h.33mm) £20

1/8 page (w.92mm x h. 66mm) £55

1/4 page (w.92mm x h.136mm or w.190 x h.66mm) £120

There are two ways to advertise in the News.

Either: book a run of 4 and receive a discount of 10% if paid within 30 days of invoice date.

Or: book a single advert. Invoices will be sent for both around the publication date. All advertisers will receive a copy of The News in which their advert first appears. Local organisations advertising fundraising events are charged at half the normal rate. A small charge is made for originating artwork.

New adverts (as JPGs) for next issue to be sent by

Wednesday 29 January to Cherril Clemence:

cherril.clemence@gmail.com.

Riding for the Disabled Association



manege The facility has a dozen horses, each of which has required extensive training before being able to take up their special duties. The horses have to display an even temperament and the training is aimed at keeping them calm despite being used by a range of riders of very mixed abilities.

funding a centre of this kind, even with many unpaid volunteers, is expensive. The centre has attracted a number of generous sponsors, as well as undertaking fund raising events.

There are also horse sharing schemes where members of the public can subscribe to use the centre's horses for a monthly fee at times when they are not being used for the disabled.

In a typical year, the centre enables over 150

disabled people to enjoy the horses, with about 130 people who are regular or repeat users.

An operation on this scale requires a lot of assistance and while the facility has a few employees, it relies heavily on the support of its volunteers, of whom there are more than a hundred. Without these volunteers being so generous with their time, the facility would not be viable.



If you want to learn more about the very impressive work of the Woodbridge & District RDA, take a few minutes to view their website on rdawoodbridge.org.uk.

Words: Paul Whittingham
Photos supplied: Woodbridge RDA



unfulfilled dream for many people with physical or mental disabilities. So what is the RDA and what do they do? Although there are hundreds of RDA facilities around the country, the one now based near

Whether it's watching the racing at Newmarket or pony trekking on a west country holiday, many people take delight from equine sports and activities.

Clopton has been going for about 35 years.

It moved to the current site in 2017, with a formal opening by Princess Anne.

Without the RDA, the Riding for the Disabled Association, horse riding might remain an

The site itself is very impressive, including a large covered arena and an outside

