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Vehicle Surgeon surges ahead

Anyone driving past the Vehicle Surgeon's site on the B1079 in Hasketon can't fail to notice how well the business is doing. What started some 40 years ago in a wooden shed has become a local go-to garage for motor repairs, servicing and MOTs.

With just 11 staff, the business has progressed to seven working bays to handle cars and light commercial vehicles. In fact, local businesses are the mainstay of the operation for which they are very grateful: when I was there, vans from Foulger's Dairy and Chapel Properties were all being attended to, in addition to a range of private cars.

As director Matt Alexander said, "we are getting busier and busier". Evidence of this can be seen in the extension currently under construction. This new-build will enable the recently arrived East Anglia

Car Sales to prep and show their cars under cover 24/7.

The two businesses should be able to benefit each other by being on adjacent premises.



Matt Alexander

Matt says that he thinks Vehicle Surgeon's continued success is based on the ethos that they treat customers' cars as they would their own with servicing and repairs' costs held down to an affordable level, even on the more complex marques like Land Rover and Jaguar. Electric vehicles have yet to make a significant appearance: owners tend to revert to the main dealers while their cars

are under warranty. But, like other small firms, Vehicle Surgeon has been facing increased costs which they have had to absorb or pass on: for example, business rates, National Insurance for employees and new licences to do basic tasks. And electricity, of course: that's why they put solar panels on the roof!

Richard Watkinson
Deputy editor



See report on page 3



August crop in Grundisburgh



Limousin cross cattle on the herbal leys and the water meadows at Burgh House Farm: see report on page 4

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Scouting and Guiding news



A 'fantastic day' for our duck race in June. The sun shone and Grundisburgh Village Green was full of people who came to watch. We had 3,000 ducks racing and an added attraction this year was the



'Golden Ducks' race with a first prize of £100! (in the photo the 'Golden Ducks' are in front).

The BBQ, refreshments, games and stalls did exceptionally well and we made the grand total of £5,340, the best ever! Thanks to all our leaders, assistants and volunteer helpers, as well as the parish council for use of the Village Green, Julia for letting the ducks go through her garden, Geoff for the microphone and music, St. Mary's Church for electricity and toilets, all companies and others who donated prizes - and of course to everyone who bought duck tickets and those who supported us on the day.



In May our archery team went to the National Finals in Hertfordshire and gained many awards. Stuart with 3 Golds and 1 Bronze, Josh with 1 Gold and 1 Bronze, Toby with 1 Gold, Dan and Owen each with 1 Bronze.

When the spring term ended all sections finished their last nights with Beavers playing Crazy Golf at Ufford, Cubs tobogganing at Ipswich Ski Centre, Scouts visiting a Blacksmith's forge, Explorers

having a BBQ at Hallowtree Scout Campsite - then everyone looked forward to the summer holidays.

At the end of July Scouts and Explorers joined with Kesgrave on summer camp for seven days in Loughborough, where they had an exciting time visiting and taking part in many attractions.

We are still asking for volunteers to help with our Beaver Section which meets on a Tuesday evening from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, we would be very grateful. The textile bin on the playing field is doing well, thanks for your support for this fundraiser.

Our AGM is on Sunday 7 September, starting at 3.30pm in the Scout Hut on the Playing Field.

Our Firework Display is on Saturday 8 November on the Playing Field, gates open 4.30pm, Display at 6pm.

Pat Ross
Grundisburgh Scouts

to gain a badge. Winter term looks like we are going to have fun also. So if your daughter is interested in joining Guides, come along for a taster session or two in September - contact Jo Saagi on 07885 265074

Alison Banham

Grundisburgh Guides

The 1st Grundisburgh Guide Unit meets on Tuesday evenings and would love to increase its numbers. We currently have eight girls.

Activities during the summer Term in District Sports Day: County Give it a Go Day; Tennis; Rafting; Archery; Monopoly Challenge around Grundisburgh; Geocaching; The Hop to it Challenge - where we have been round Ipswich and visited lots of Hares, along with other hare challenges

The Diary will continue to appear on the News website. Information to: Diary editor: Ian McIvor, diary@grunews.com

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For ages 7 to 10

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Guides
For ages 10 to 14

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!

Rangers
For ages 14 to 18

Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk

Registered charity number: exempted from registration

Burgh House Farm: our journey towards regenerative farming

Last summer we wrote an article on the planting of our new woods at Burgh House Farm (issue 272). This was the start of our journey to improve the habitat of our farm for wildlife and to regenerate our arable fields by planting herbal leys and reintroducing cattle and sheep.

Our 35 acres of ancient water meadows remain and we manage them for grazing and to encourage their unique flora and fauna.



Southern marsh orchid
Our southern marsh orchids and other wet meadow plants are flourishing and the summer grazing cattle work their magic spreading the spores of the orchids which are now abundant.

Our 65 acres of arable fields are divided into smaller fields of grazing herbal leys amounting to some 45 acres. About 10 acres are now woodland and the rest is grassland and wild flower meadow.

We have now planted 10,000 young trees, most recently a new 2,000 tree wood with oaks and mixed native species for



Limousin cross cattle

the Saxon Ship Company in Woodbridge.

We started planting herbal leys in 2023, and in 2024 the first livestock to graze these fields for generations were Becky's Charolais sheep. Now we also have Lee Byam's Limousin cross cattle on the herbal leys and the water meadows.

Herbal leys are a diverse mix of grasses, legumes and herbs. They provide excellent grazing for livestock and because some of the species are deep

Sainfoin

rooted they survive drought conditions well. The sainfoin and chicory in the mix send roots down over a metre and bring up

minerals from deep in the soil; the roots create channels for earthworms and over time will improve the ability of the soils to drain naturally. We hope that after 10 years or so we will see a marked improvement in the health of our soils with higher organic matter and more friable soil. Because we are not using pesticides on a regular basis we expect to see a recovery of soil borne microbes and fungi which will improve plant health.



Clouded Yellow butterfly

We are already seeing more

wildlife, more hares and sky larks. We have also seen recently Clouded Yellow butterflies for the first time feeding on the blue chicory flowers. They are occasional migrant visitors from Southern Europe and very welcome.

Herbal leys last for four years before they need to be terminated as part of the new regenerative farm rotation.

So in due course we will plant a wheat crop to follow the herbal leys with reduced artificial fertiliser inputs due to the fertility left by the legumes which are able to fix nitrogen in the soil.

So we are on a journey: Burgh House farm is in good heart and it is a work in progress. We have erected miles of stock fencing, new gates and water troughs in all the fields so we are back to a more traditional mixed farming system.

If you walk on our footpaths at Burgh House Farm, I hope you will enjoy the flowering fields and see the difference.

Bill Mayne
(as told to Rosemary Kneebone)

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Karen Finch RHAD FSHAA FRSA



Pub news

The **Grundisburgh Dog** has just taken delivery of new outdoor furniture to kit out their extended rear garden, now all stone-paved and with another stylish pergola, so the



rear garden is now open for business again.

There is interesting new artwork on the walls of the restaurant which is now open Wednesdays to Mondays. Alternate Fridays and Saturdays see the serving of pizzas from the wood-fired oven and street-food from the trailer on the forecourt.

The Christmas menu will soon be on the Dog's website and socials. Luke (general manager and head chef) and Amy (front of house manager) with their two young children have moved into the upstairs accommodation - we extend them a warm welcome to the village.

The **Fountain**, Tuddenham, is capitalising on its history and seems to me to bring back the

days of the traditional village pub. The pub has a fascinating connection to the Second World War: the Fountain hosted black American GIs during the time of segregation (while The Dog in Grundisburgh hosted the white American GIs).

The famous cartoonist Giles used to play here for the GIs and other customers - a framed photograph of this now hangs



in their newly refurbished 'Giles Bar' at the front of the pub. The pub is owned by husband-and-wife team Tom and Ruth Carroll who also own The Turks Head in Hasketon.

Both pubs operate as independent businesses but support one another. "A bit of



Emma Turnbull

healthy competition never hurt anyone", said Emma Turnbull, the Fountain's manager. Coming up soon:

- * 7 September - Vinyl Chief Pop-up Record shop – playing from a huge collection of records in the garden - this will be regular on the first Sunday of every month
- * a Thanksgiving dinner on 27 November – leaning into our American Heritage and celebrating our history and friends across the pond
- * a Grill Night
- * a "Shoot"-style dinner
- * a Christmas Market
- * Breakfast with Santa - and much more.

Talking of the **Turks Head**, manager Gareth Langdon, not wishing to be out-gunned by the Fountain, is planning to delight customers with a programme of live music events this autumn, including:

- * 'Big Band Nights' on 5 September and 28 November
- * Singer Peter Hepworth in one the pub's regular 3 - 5 pm 'Sunday Sessions' on 28 September
- * sea shanties in the bar on 19 October.



They also have their popular steak nights on the last Friday of every month and quiz nights are returning - teams of up to six and £10 per person (with a meal included on the break) on the third Wednesday of every month.

This is just a selection - best to contact the pub (01394 610343) for full and latest details. And their Christmas menu has just been published!

Richard Watkinson Deputy editor



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Hasketon Village Tea Party

Also our set up-team, table shifters and bunting hangers etc: Sylvia and Nigel ,



The village held a tea party this year as our summer get together, supported by kind donations from various individuals. Jake and Zack gave us a great medley of songs on piano and guitar.

There was a sumptuous tea buffet and a bouncy castle, where great fun was had in between showers. Huge thanks to our sandwich makers: Helen, Chloe, Lyn and Hillary.

Charlie , Chris and Trevor.
Delicious Pimms by Lyn !

Generous donations of scrumptious cheese straws and crisps and a large chicken from our excellent local businesses Grange Farm Shop and Sutton Hoo Chickens.

Thank you to everyone that came along and brought cake to share! A convivial time was had by all !

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SAVID marks 10 years

SAVID 'Safer Village Driving' marked its anniversary in June. Formed in 2015 by adjacent parish councils to give a bigger voice and more effective responses to the problem of rural speeding, it has celebrated ten years and now comprises nine villages.

Volunteers from Charsfield, Great Bealings, Grundisburgh, Little Bealings, Martlesham, Playford, Rushmere St Andrew, Swilland and Witnesham, Tuddenham St Martin were thanked for their activities over the years.



We know that speeding through our villages is a constant concern to many residents. Being part of SAVID has helped parish councils strengthen actions to towards improved road safety for all users with a variety of strategies reminding motorists of the safe speed to travel.

SAVID has become an invaluable forum for parish council representatives to share insights and best practice on practical issues and strategies for SID operations, Community Speedwatch and Highways concerns.

It coordinates awareness campaigns along several shared routes each year for national Road Safety Week. Over the decade it has also consulted members on Green Lanes, '20s Plenty' and played a key role in its ESC Community Partnership's Road Safety Forum.

ESC District Councillor Colin Hedgley is a founder member of SAVID and was further thanked for his concluding tenure as Treasurer. Results include securing over £10k in grants to purchase Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). As a result several villages have progressed from none or shared, to each having their own SAVID-funded device.

These remind drivers of the safe speed, but also regularly record speeds of over 50mph in 30mph routes in some of our Suffolk villages.

Separate Road Traffic Police activity in May highlighted Charsfield, Little Bealings, Martlesham, Foxhall (Rushmere) as members with significant speeding traffic. Input from residents of several villages via SAVID have helped inform councils of speeding concerns and responses.

SAVID's next community meeting is on 11th September at Martlesham Parish Room 6.30pm.

Current SAVID villages are: Charsfield, Great Bealings, Grundisburgh, Little Bealings, Martlesham, Playford, Rushmere St Andrew, Swilland and Witnesham, Tuddenham St Martin. Other Parish Councils wishing to find out more please contact: suffolksavid@gmail.com

Pauline Procter SAVID Chair

Grundisburgh Tennis Club



Sun and games at Grundisburgh Tennis Club

It has been a busy summer at Grundisburgh Tennis Club. Regular members and guests have been taking advantage of the sunshine and the lighter evenings, and our coach has been running regular coaching sessions.

There have been players on the courts most days, especially during the school holidays. We have also been enjoying some social activities during the warmer weather, with a walk and meal at The Turks Head and some welcome trips to The Dog or the local deli/ café for refreshment after tennis.

The village show offered a chance for our coach to open the courts and meet potential new members.

There was a ball machine to test even the best hitters and lots of rackets to try.

Coaching offerings for adults and youngsters will continue through the autumn and winter.

Equipment is available and the first session will always be FREE of charge!

For those who enjoy playing more competitively, now is the time to put your name forward to be part of a winter league team.

We have both men's and women's teams in the local league.

It is a great way to meet players from other clubs. Special winter membership rates are available until the start of the new season.

For details of memberships and coaching please go to:

www.grundisburghtennis.co.uk

The Grundisburgh News has found an administrator to replace the inestimable Alison Knights, who is relocating from Suffolk.

We welcome Rosemary Kneebone whose capable hands will make sure we stay on the right path! Peter Kendall, editor@grunews.com

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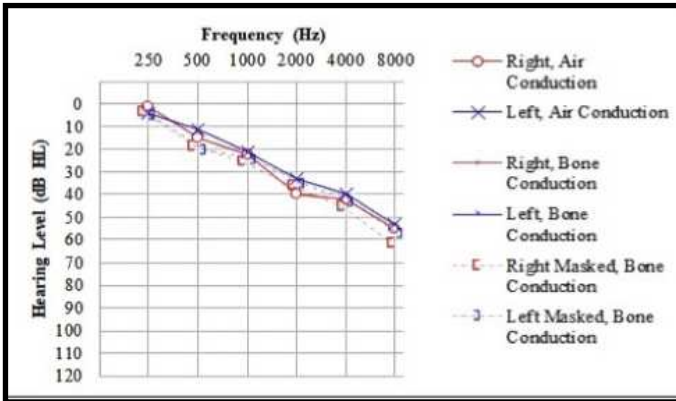
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It's all about hearing



Typical age-related profile: loss of high frequency sounds important for understanding speech.

Missing crucial parts of conversations, inability to appreciate music, turning the TV up so loud it annoys the rest of the household – these are just some of the frustrations caused by hearing impairment, says Matthew Coward, co-director of ‘All About Hearing’.

Matthew, a resident of Little Bealings, runs the business with his mother, experienced audiologist, Karen Finch. So what do they do and how can they bring relief to people with hearing impairment?

Karen Finch started her first audiology business in 1998, which she grew over a 24 year period, and later sold. Matthew joined the family business in 2007 and worked his way up, mainly on the marketing, operations, and management side, having completed a marketing degree at Cambridge Marketing College.

After a period of reflection, Karen and Matthew decided to start up another hearing care business, this time as joint owners, which launched as ‘All About Hearing’ about two years ago.

The family business has grown very quickly, with services already available from Gilmour Piper and Two Rivers Medical Centre in Ipswich, and

Woodbridge Chiropractic Clinic in Woodbridge. They also have outreach clinics in Framlingham and Woolpit, as well as providing home visits across Suffolk to those less mobile.

The principal service they provide is hearing assessments to establish the nature and extent of any hearing impairment. Where appropriate, this can then lead to the provision of a hearing device. I was astonished to learn that there are over 400 hearing aid devices on the market.

Many of these have very sophisticated functions, such as directional microphones that help focus on speech in noisy environments, automatic adjustment to different listening situations, tinnitus-masking features to reduce the impact of ringing in the ears, and rechargeability for added convenience.

Many devices have Bluetooth connectivity, so can have their settings adjusted by the user via a phone app. With Bluetooth, the hearing devices can also serve as headphones for listening to music or streaming phone calls.

Perhaps at the forefront of the technology, are the devices which incorporate AI and can analyse sound environments in real time and distinguish between speech, background noise, wind, or music.

Matthew said that over time, they can actually ‘learn’ from the wearer’s preferences, automatically prioritising the sounds that matter most in different contexts. Clever stuff indeed. Being independent, rather than tied to specific manufacturers, All About Hearing’s team of four audiologists can recommend any product on the market, depending on the requirements and budget of the patient. The team provide follow up to ensure that the patient is getting the most from the chosen device.

Some partial hearing loss

conditions can be resolved as simply as having the ears cleaned of wax, a service which All About Hearing provides. One condition that cannot usually be cured but can be made more bearable, is tinnitus. This is the constant ringing or hum which sufferers hear. It is a condition which can be caused by too much loud noise. In fact, Chris Martin of Coldplay has had it for many years, claiming that it was caused by listening to music at too high a volume in the early days of his band. Devices can be provided which produce a ‘white noise’ which masks the ringing or hum, which although still present, is smothered by the white noise.

Given the old adage that ‘prevention is better than cure’, All About Hearing also supplies a range of ear protection appropriate to different uses. Whereas a set of head cans may be suitable for a road drill operator, small filtered ear plugs would be necessary for motorcyclists or a rock band.

Qualified audiologists go through a three-year training programme as there is a lot to learn to do the job properly, and the profession is regulated by the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC). Matthew was keen to point out that all of his audiologists are rigorously trained and are registered with the HCPC.

Not everyone would succeed in working with their mother for so many years but Matthew and Karen seem to work well together. “Working with Mum is brilliant. She’s got many years of experience and I love continually learning from her.



Whilst it is a downside that all we talk about is work, we do compliment each other really well as we know each other’s strengths and weaknesses.”

Matthew has lived with his wife Natasha and two young children in Little Bealings for the past nine years. He is one of the many distributors of the Grundisburgh News, so we are grateful to him for that. Or should I say “Let’s hear it for Matthew”? (Sorry).

Richard Watkinson
Deputy editor

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Tommy Ashby

As an amateur (very!) guitar player myself, it was a privilege to interview Tommy Ashby who, like professional sportsmen, has managed to make a career out of his passion. Tommy has made a successful career as a guitarist, singer and songwriter. He has just brought out his second album and recently finished a tour as guitarist for Nina Nesbitt, the supporting artist for Snow Patrol on their tour this spring.

Tommy grew up in Innerleithen by the River Tweed in Scotland. So how did he become a professional musician, now living in Grundisburgh?



There was always music in Tommy's house when he was growing up, as his Dad played in a blues band and his sister was a singer. This musical background encouraged him to start learning the guitar at the age of 5 and through lessons at his school, he passed his music grades all the way to grade 8. Due to their similarity, Tommy also learnt the mandolin, double bass and other stringed instruments.

He completed a 'Tonmeister' degree course at Surrey University, which combines musical study with audio-engineering and sound recording. He played in various bands while he was at the university. Such was his academic interest in music production, that he then did a PhD in acoustics, so he is actually 'Dr Ashby'.

It was while he was doing his PhD that he started getting work as a 'session guitarist', i.e. being invited to play guitar and sing with other artists at gigs or even on tours. As is often the case, this started by

friends from university asking him to help with their gigs, whereafter he became noticed and was sought after by artists who weren't already friends of his. Tommy was also using spare time to write his own songs.

Being aware that the best opportunities for a nascent musical career were to be found in London, Tommy moved to London and found an

interesting variety of assignments which included playing for touring bands, TV music and even providing music for films. Some examples of these include music on:-

- Grey's Anatomy;
- The Inbetweeners movie;
- Radio 1 Live Lounge;
- Dr Who;
- Various Netflix productions.

He even briefly featured in the 2020 film 'Eurovision Song Contest' starring comic actor Will Ferrell. Ferrell plays a would-be Eurovision competitor who dreams of winning the contest and takes part in the rounds to pick the competitor for his country, Iceland. This doesn't go well and the more promising candidates (so not Ferrell) are invited to a party on a boat. However, the boat explodes at sea, leaving Ferrell as the only remaining contender. Tommy played one of the more credible artists invited to the boat party, so I think he's the only person I have met who

has been blown up in a Hollywood movie.

Tommy has recorded his own music, some of it at the legendary Abbey Road studios, made famous by the Beatles, Pink Floyd and many, many others. He has undertaken tours to numerous venues performing his own music. Additionally, he has toured with other artists as a session man, taking in countries in Europe as well as the USA.

He has just released a new album called 'Mantis', which is available to stream on Spotify and other streaming services, and also as a vinyl album, available through his website:

www.tommyashby.com/

Following the release of this album, Tommy has a forthcoming tour which will include various venues in the UK (including Ipswich on 14 November), and some in Europe including Prague, Paris and Zurich.

Some of Tommy's previous work is on YouTube as well, where he appears in some very professional looking videos performing.

This still doesn't answer how he came to be living in Grundisburgh. The answer to that one is that now he is well established, he no longer needs to be in London and his wife comes from Woodbridge. So when they decided to move out of London in 2020, somewhere near Woodbridge was an obvious choice.

His wife runs a business making wedding veils. The business uses her maiden name, trading as Hannah Cummings Embroidery. There are some stunning pictures of her work on her website: hannahcummingsembroidery.com

Now that he is a 'local' he has recently joined the

Grundisburgh-based function band 'The Uptowns' as a singer and guitarist.

So this is how the gifted guy from the Borders turned his passion for music into his career and came to be living in Grundisburgh.

Paul Whittingham

Parish Rooms coffee morning

For the past two years my wife and I, with a small team of helpers, have run a coffee morning in Grundisburgh's Parish rooms. This happens every Friday 10.30 - 12.00 and it is open to everyone. Initially, we started it with a view to providing a venue for Church members to get together for fellowship but also invited anyone from the village to join us by putting posters around the village.

We provide toasted hot cross buns, crumpets and biscuits and make no charge. Instead we rely on donations and any excess we give to the Church at the end of the year.

We also provide a quiz, a colouring picture and a puzzle each week for anyone to do as they please but the primary aim is just somewhere to get together and chat.

Our numbers have slowly increased and we now get 15 to 20 people each week with many of these from Grundisburgh.

Derek and Pat Haslam



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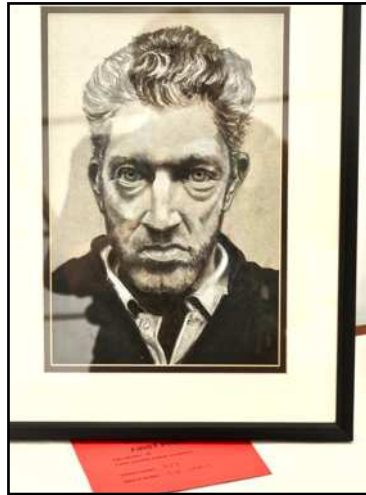
Eleanor Mills is delighted with her cup (her younger sister also won in her class)



GRUNDISBURGH VILLAGE SHOW



age Show for many, many years....We thank them!



Let's go and find some cake



Paul Whittingham thanking our generous sponsors for their welcome support

Say it with Lisa Lou flowers!

I have been a Grundisburgh resident for the last seven years, having moved from Ipswich where I was a

in Grundisburgh on their Flower Committee. My passion for flower arranging (and feedback from family and friends that



Lisa Lou with Louisa in the Suffolk Deli

member of St Margaret's Church Flower Committee.

For over 30 years I produced floral pedestals

I should open my own business) led me to enrol for a professional floristry and design qualification at Otley College.



One of my proudest moments was being invited by the then Mayor of Ipswich, Inga Lockington, to provide the floral arrangements for Sir Bobby

and large scale arrangements for church festivals from Easter, Harvest Festival to Christmas. I have also supported St Mary's Church

Robson's Homecoming Reception in May 2008, when he was granted the Freedom of Ipswich. The flowers were blue and white on that occasion of course! Recently I took the plunge

and did start my own business, Lisa Lou Flowers, on a more formal basis. Launching in Grundisburgh, the local connection with my clients and sense of community support is very important to me. I am firm believer in supporting local businesses.

I am also a Steward for Grundisburgh's Horticultural Society and regularly provide floral arrangement entries at the Village Show.

This year I won the Major General Gurdon Challenge Cup for the best specimen rose for the second year running and first prize for a floral basket.

As well as the big occasion flowers (weddings, anniversaries and the like) my unique selling point is providing local, more affordable arrangements with less carbon footprint than some

can be bought from The Suffolk Deli.

I am currently taking bookings for a Festive Christmas Wreath Making Workshop to be held on Saturday 22 November, which has generated a lot of interest.



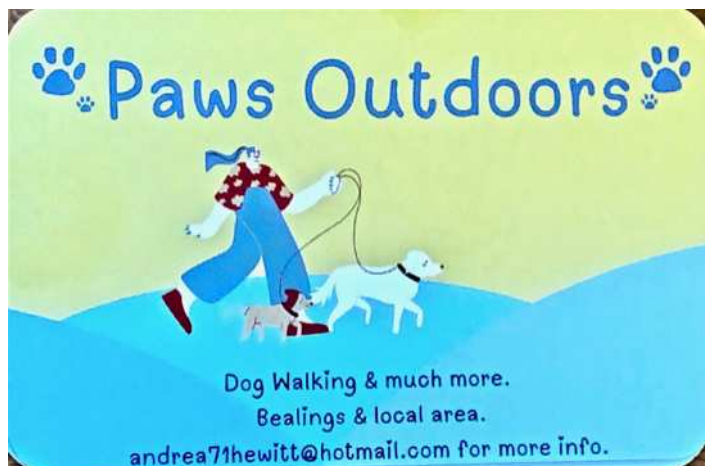
If you would like to come along and have fun in making one (no previous flower arranging experience needed) please contact me directly on 07810 882821,



of the national online florists. Beautiful 'pocket money' posy jars and quirky teacup arrangements have been hugely popular and

or email me:
lisalouflowers@gmail.com

Lisa O'Kane





Sharp eyes will have noticed that the empty land adjacent to Vehicle Surgeon in Hasketon is now filling up with rather shiny cars for sale.

Matthew Eley has recently taken possession of this plot - together with what will be an indoor area for the valeting and display of cars - all this should be up and running in a few months.

Matthew, who lives in Little Bealings, started his working life as a plumber but he is no new-comer to the motor trade: he has moved here from a site in Waldringfield where he operated for several years. He owns and runs East Anglia Car Sales Limited (EACS).

When I called to see him, he was busy searching for good vehicles to buy for stock - not by physically visiting auction houses or other traders but by searching sites on the internet, typically Motorway and Carwow, who both operate in the online car sales market.

Carwow is known for helping users buy new cars from dealerships at a discount and also for facilitating the sale of used cars by connecting sellers with dealers who bid for their

car. Motorway, on the other hand, focuses primarily on connecting sellers directly with a

network of dealers who then bid on the car.

Their core functions differ, with Carwow also involved in



new car sales and Motorway specializing in connecting sellers with dealer networks.

These sites depict hundreds of cars on the market: if Matthew sees something he likes, he will bid for it and, if successful, the car is delivered in a few days. He might buy five cars in a quiet week, nonetheless he now has more than 45 cars on site for sale.

Matthew reckons he has "a nose for bad cars" which lessens the risk of acquiring unsaleable stuff. He says that the younger generation are changing their cars more often and that keeps the business going; also there is a trend towards more sporty cars, which helps.

Of the future: he aims to grow

the business, of course, and eventually takes on more staff to complement the two he already employs. A bit of foresight: Matthew reckons that, post-petrol, hydrogen will be the fuel of the future. I think so, too. EACS is located at IP13 6HJ and can be contacted on 01473 811816, on Instagram and:

www.eastangliacarsales.co.uk

Richard Watkinson
Deputy editor

Local artist wins award

Following a number of art exhibitions since being featured in a piece in this news magazine last summer, including her first



solo art exhibition in Woodbridge in February, Taylor Beckett has created new pieces of art, two of which were shown at the Ipswich Art Society's Annual summer exhibition in Ipswich.



Her piece "Piano Man" which features a pianist she saw in St Mark's Square last year won the Ipswich Mayor's award 2025.

The piece is a drawing in chalk on black board. She was so shocked to receive the award and so happy too.

Elaine Beckett

Wanted! More local artists keen to promote their work.

We would be happy to feature artists who live/work within our area (see coverage on p1 for the villages which qualify).

We have talented writers, one of whom would interview you about your ideas, inspirations and work and produce an interesting, illustrated piece for a future issue.

If this tempts you, please get in touch with me.

Peter Kendall
editor@grunews.com

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Grundisburgh Primary School: end of summer term 2025 report

What a wonderfully busy end to term we have had here at Grundisburgh! As I sit down to write this piece, I find myself reflecting on just how much has happened in these final weeks, and I am filled with immense gratitude for our incredible staff and pupils who have made it all possible.

national measures, which is a testament not only to their own hard work and determination but also to the exceptional teaching and support they have received throughout their time with us. This achievement reflects the high standards we maintain at Grundisburgh and the commitment we have to ensuring every pupil reaches their full potential. I could not



be prouder of these pupils and the way they have approached their assessments with such maturity and confidence.

Quadkids athletics

The energy and enthusiasm that has characterised our school throughout this term has been absolutely remarkable. Every single member of our school community has contributed to making this such a special time, and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and hard work.

Our staff have gone above and beyond, as they always do, ensuring that every opportunity has been maximised and every experience has been meaningful for our pupils. I am absolutely delighted to share some truly outstanding news about our Year 6 pupils and their Key Stage 2 assessment results. These remarkable young people have outperformed all

most significant events of this term has been our 150-year celebration summer fair, which was an absolutely wonderful occasion. It was incredibly moving to welcome members of our local community into school to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

For a school to have been serving the village of Grundisburgh for 150 years is truly something special, and the fair provided the perfect opportunity to honour this rich history while looking forward to the future.

The atmosphere was fantastic, with families, former pupils, and community members all coming together to celebrate what makes our school such a special place.

The sense of pride and

community spirit was palpable throughout the day. Our sporting achievements this term have been nothing short of exceptional. Our pupils have shown tremendous skill, determination, and sportsmanship across a range of activities.

The success in Quadkids athletics has been particularly impressive, with our pupils demonstrating their athletic abilities and competitive spirit. Our tennis players have also excelled, showing great technique and teamwork, while our netball team has continued to build on their strong foundation of skills and tactics. These sporting successes reflect the importance we place on physical education and the opportunities we provide for our pupils to develop their sporting talents.



Foxborrow Farm

The Friends of Grundisburgh School have been absolutely fantastic this term, organising events that have brought our community together in the most wonderful way. The sports day picnic was a particular highlight, creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for families to come together and celebrate our pupils' sporting achievements.

The community party was equally successful, fostering those important connections between families and strengthening the bonds that make our school community so special. These events are

invaluable in creating the warm, welcoming atmosphere that characterises our school.

Our Year 5 pupils have shown incredible creativity and confidence in hosting their French café for parents. This event was a fantastic opportunity for them to demonstrate their language skills in a real-world context, communicating in French while serving authentic French foods and drinks. The pupils approached this challenge with such enthusiasm and professionalism, and it was wonderful to see them taking pride in their linguistic abilities. Events like this French café really bring learning to life and show our pupils that the skills they develop in school have practical applications beyond the classroom.

The range of trips and visits we have enjoyed this term has been truly impressive, providing our pupils with rich, hands-on learning experiences that complement their classroom learning perfectly.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils had a fantastic time at Foxborrow Farm, where they were able to connect with the natural world and learn about farm life in an engaging, interactive way. The experience provided them with wonderful opportunities to ask questions, make observations, and develop their understanding of the world around them.

Our Reception pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Easton Farm Park, which was perfectly suited to their age and interests. The hands-on experiences with animals and the opportunity to explore the farm environment provided them with memories that will last a lifetime while supporting

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their learning about living things and the natural world.

The Year 6 residential trip to Mersea was an absolutely fantastic experience for our oldest pupils. These residential experiences are so valuable in developing independence, confidence, and strong friendships. The pupils



Macbeth drama workshop

returned with wonderful stories and memories, having challenged themselves in new ways and grown as individuals. It was the perfect way for them to conclude their time at Grundisburgh Primary School.

Year 5 pupils were treated to a Macbeth drama workshop visit, which brought Shakespeare's famous play to life in an engaging and accessible way. The pupils were captivated by the performance and had the

opportunity to participate in drama activities that enhanced their understanding of the text.

These kinds of experiences are so important in developing a love of literature and drama. Our Year 3 pupils had a wonderful day at Felixstowe Beach, where they were able to explore the coastal

environment and learn about seaside habitats.

The trip provided excellent opportunities for geographical and scientific learning, while also giving the pupils the chance to enjoy the fresh sea air and beautiful coastal scenery.

As this busy term draws to a close, I want to express my heartfelt thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to making it such a success.

Our staff, pupils, families, and community members have all played their part in creating the wonderful experiences and achievements I have shared with you today.

Adam Wilson
Headteacher

Planning Issues: latest update from ESPA



The next ESPA/ East Suffolk Council Community Engagement Group (CEG) meeting will be held at the Melton offices in October.

We hope that by this time there will be a bit more clarity on the plans ahead for the reorganisation of local government i.e. 'so called devolution' to a mayoral system (Norfolk and Suffolk), and the replacement of five district authorities to either three or one unitary council covering the whole of the county of Suffolk.

This is coming and will change the way local government works. We all need to be aware and ready. ESPA believes that these changes could further isolate and disenfranchise the communities of Suffolk from the planning decisions that have huge impacts on their lives and environments.

The improved community engagement that the recently agreed CEG with ESPA and East Suffolk Council could well be compromised.

ESPA is keen to hear views from individuals in our communities and can be contacted at:

eastsuffolkplanningalliance@gmail.com

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Remembering Thomas Clarkson

As a former resident of Wilberforce Street in Ipswich I had a childhood fascination with the slave abolition activities of William and of Thomas Clarkson - plus many others (eg Benezet, Granville, Emlen, Gibbons, Dillwyn) who are still recollected in nearby street names. But it's Thomas Clarkson who has the local connection - he lived at Playford Hall for 30 years and is buried at St Mary's Church, Playford.

To commemorate the life and work of Clarkson, there was an unusual service led by Rev. Andrew Dotchin, at the church on 7 July: unusual because it included African choruses and songs in their own languages (Twi, Rhonga, isiZulu) and a candle-lit focus on the

wider implications of slavery and forced labour. Songs accompanied by arm gestures, ably demonstrated by Andrew! Around the church walls were displayed pictures and documents relating to Clarkson's life.



Rev. Andrew Dotchin

These were extra to the permanent stone memorial in the church and the famous obelisk of 1857

outside. Clarkson rode thousands of miles on horseback, collecting evidence on the slave trade, particularly in Liverpool and Bristol's ports and pubs. William Wilberforce (MP for Hull) led the anti-slavery campaign in Parliament.

The high regard in which Clarkson was held in this county is reflected in the fact that the then Earl of Bristol gave Clarkson the lease of Playford Hall in 1813 at a very modest rent "to express my respect for his character and my sense of his service to the poor Africans". It seems there is little evidence to show he

played a big part in local affairs around Playford although his wife, Catherine, gave practical help to the poor and schools in the area.

Clarkson was also a mathematician and he influenced and encouraged the young George Biddell Airy to go to university: Airy later became the Astronomer Royal (1835 - 1881) and established Greenwich as the prime meridian - hence GMT.

Richard Watkinson
Deputy editor

November Workshop on AI: what it is and how it affects us

Intelligence (AI), what it is, how it's used and how it impacts us every day.

We will also have a chance to enjoy some pre Christmas drinks and chat about how the Tech Hub can help you in 2026.

Book the event online at the website:

www.communitytechhub.org
This event is free to members and £15 to non members. If you are unsure about how to book you can contact us by emailing support@communitytechhub.org.

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the Community Tech Hub go to:

<https://www.communitytechhub.org/member-site-homepage-2>

Paul Finch
Community Tech Hub
07710 445837

<https://communitytechhub.org>

Grundisburgh Community Tech Hub is holding a workshop at the village hall on Friday 22 November at 3pm.

This is a quarterly event held to help protect our community from online fraud and scams. At every event we will keep you up to date on the latest online and telephone scams and advice on how to protect yourselves.

We also hold awareness sessions to enable you to understand how technology is changing and how this impacts you in your daily living.

November's workshop will feature a talk about Artificial

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Laughter and mayhem in GADS production of *Catching the Earlier Bus!*



From left to right:

Jo Bailey (Mrs Dixon)
John Cuff (The Major)
Amy Adams (Sally)
Charlotte Crown (Judy)
Tessa Strong (Director)
Phil Bailey (Mr Skarowitz)
Ian Frost (Mr Harris / Mr Letwin)
Karen Tatham (Mrs Kent & producer)
Stuart Hudson (sound & lighting)
Sandy Broom (Ms Tweedy)
Kate Adams (Mrs Fylde)
Adam Kearney (front of house)
Christine Frost (stage management & front of house).

Grundisburgh Amateur Dramatic Society (GADS) delighted audiences with their Spring production, 'Catching the Earlier Bus' by David Morrison. A farce with many of the classic elements of misunderstanding that one expects, it was skilfully directed by Tessa Strong.

As well as putting in strong performances, it was obvious that the actors were having lots of fun portraying the range of eccentric characters and this also contributed to an excellent evening's entertainment.

The setting for the play is a vet's practice, temporarily staffed by an East European locum whose command of English is less than fluent. A succession of owners arrive

with their various pets, brief discussions about symptoms and treatments ensue and each animal is taken into the surgery offstage. Alas, so much is 'lost in translation' that the consequences for all of them are unexpected and, in one case, fatal. Much dark humour is assured!

A secondary thread runs alongside the main action with two veterinary receptionists deep in conversation about a recent holiday romance. Of course, as this is a farce, it all unravels by the end and is a source of deep embarrassment to both.

Phil Bailey portrayed Mr Skarowitz, the locum vet, with great relish. Brusque in manner and highly unconventional in method, some of the audience might still have had a sneaking sympathy for the character as he really seemed to think he was doing what each owner asked of him.

Benjy's 'little op' did not go as Mrs Tweedy (Sandy Broom) imagined it would and she fainted in shock, remaining unattended and commendably still on the waiting room sofa for quite some time as other

owners arrived and left. Kate Adams as Mrs Fylde reacted with distress and disbelief when presented with Flopsy the Bunny turned into a pie – complete with decorative ear trimmings - because 'final vaccination' had been misinterpreted as 'final injection'!

Jo Bailey played Mrs Dixon, appalled by the outcome of treatment for her dog, Choo-Choo's constipation. Meanwhile, the mysterious Daisy, Mr Skarowitz's own pet makes a brief non-appearance; unglimped by the audience (but actually Tessa Strong) she was dragged unceremoniously across the stage in a bag by her owner.

Karen Tatham as Mrs Kent rued the day she reminisced about her deceased husband in the Scottish Highlands after his old dog Tango was transformed into a keepsake she absolutely hadn't expected.

Ian Frost skilfully played two entirely different characters, Mr Letwin and Mr Harris, the latter with a rare 'Bolivian Trumpeter' which ended up with its beak nailed shut to stop it squawking.

Finally, and incongruously, there was the completely nutty,

blimpish Major (John Cuff) who on each entry, marched around the stage with an obviously fake swan tucked under his arm. John's facial mannerisms in the part were most entertaining!

Amy Adams as Sally and Charlotte Crown as Judy carried the secondary thread very well, so engrossed in their own conversation that they seemed blithely unconcerned by the mayhem taking place around them.

Special mention should be made of the offstage sound effects including an ominous mix of sawing, drilling and microwave whirring, and also the incredible props, not least the rabbit pie and a set of whippet bagpipes which may well go down as the stuff of legend!

The director and producer (Karen Tatham), the actors and all involved in this production are to be congratulated for staging a well-paced and very funny comedy that was a joy to watch.

GADS would like to pass on a massive thank you to all who helped with getting their play onstage...it's always a big team effort. The next production will be their 2026 panto, Little Red Riding Hood, which will be directed by Darin Osborne.

Performances are on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February. Look out for more information in the next issue of the Grundisburgh News. They hope to see you there!

Noelle Hunt

Stop the Quarry at Westerfield - time to object!

Since the summer issue (276) of the Grundisburgh News Tru7 have submitted their full planning application to build an industrial sand and gravel quarry to the east of Westerfield/Witnesham.

This marks a critical stage in Stop the Quarry's campaign and means that the formal window for objections from the public is now open with a **FINAL DEADLINE OF FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**.

The campaign group is aiming for a minimum of 1500 objections and the theme of the latest round of Public Meetings is "object, object, object".

The campaign's website (<https://www.stopthequarry.info/>) gives lots of advice about how to make an objection that will carry some weight.

It includes guidance about eight key objections people may wish to draw on. They are:

- * Highway Safety
- * Westerfield Neighbourhood Plan
- * Heritage Assets and Valued Landscape

- * Suffolk Waste and Minerals Plan
- * Business Impact
- * Water and Hydrology
- * Health Risks and Ecology.

Objectors are encouraged to focus on the areas that are most relevant and concerning to themselves and write a personal letter/email.

This should be factual and objective, based on evidence and in their own words (not copied from the guide). It is encouraged and acceptable to use personal experiences e.g. how the quarry might affect asthma or mental health.

Images like this speak volumes and can be included with any



written objections. These might include any photos of HGVs being unable to pass each other or crossing white lines on the B1077.

Each person in a household can object but if the same letter of objection were submitted this would only be counted as one objection.

However, anyone can object - you don't need to live in Westerfield or Witnesham or along proposed lorry routes. There is still time to spread the word to neighbours, relatives and people in the wider community.

If you couldn't attend the Open Day held by Tru7 on 21 February you may feel that you have not been adequately consulted despite Tru7's claims (Main Appendix 3) that they have made "considerable effort to ensure the local community is aware of the forthcoming submission of the planning application and to disseminate information on the main details of the proposal".

They further claim ... "the community, its representatives and other interested parties have been given accurate information as to what is proposed and the opportunity to express any concerns". If this does not reflect your experience, state why in your objection.

The Stop The Quarry campaign group say they are "very grateful for all the support so far from surrounding villages and individuals, every objection counts and submitting a formal objection is one of the most powerful ways to show opposition".

Rosemary Kneebone

Tales from a cottage

Hiding behind a rather patched-up brick wall (which is definitely 'on the huf' as it leans into the road that runs up beside my premises) lies my little hidden cottage garden.

I know it's 'hidden' because that's what the Grundisburgh Horticultural Society calls it one weekend every year. And it's a cottage garden because that's what my house is: a two-



up, two-down country cottage, c.1840.

Today, in late June, it's hot and almost wind-less and the butterflies, hoverflies and bees are busy surveying the terrain. The buddleja isn't out yet but the cabbage whites seem to find my tubs of land-cress an acceptable substitute.

I haven't done a head-count but it's my impression there are more insects around this year than last and I hope that's the welcome start of a trend.

Being an open-air grain and sugar-beet factory, there's pressure in Suffolk for maximum productivity - from nature in general and from the soil in particular - which often provokes a conflict with insects and other wildlife.

But I'm more concerned with creating an environment around my house where I can relax with trees, bushes, plants - annual and perennial - and the creatures that enjoy them,

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e garden

too. We should eat less sugar, anyway.
My everlasting sweet peas have been slow to flower here this year, as have hollyhocks - and the buddleja - but they are now in full array.

And today, the first bloom on my mauve hibiscus has appeared. I was rather concerned about these plants as I gave them a severe pruning last year - which isn't always a good idea - but all is well, fortunately.

And the long flower-stalks on my hostas are about to burst into bloom. I find that the thick-leaved, rather glaucous, hostas are less attractive to snails and slugs than their softer, tender-leaved cousins.

Also, I paint rings of copper grease around the pots which I stand on crushed wire-netting mats to deter our gastropod friends. But nothing is entirely safe against determined snails, often to be found sleeping during the day deep in my hosta clumps. Hostas 0; Compost Bin 1.

It's been a busy weekend in the village, not least because of my neighbour's Golden Wedding Celebrations to which I was chuffed to be invited. Much merriment and carousing, including, of course, the drinking of toasts to the happy couple preceded by a loud pop and a cheer from guests.

What I suspected did prove to be the case: my garden was the target zone of unguided missiles from the necks of fiz bottles across the lane! Well, practice makes perfect and at least four corks flew high enough to clear the ivy atop my wall and to land here.

Providentially, not one cork was a direct hit on my cat resting in the garden. The Australians found a use for

cane toads (much to their later regret - the Ossies, not the toads) but I have a use for wine corks. I drill a hole in the bottom and stick them on the top of my garden canes, (preventing nasty injuries to



eyes or bare legs). You can use fircones, whelk shells or dollops of putty to do the same job but while the corks are a-popping, I prefer those!

Update: it's now late July and the sweetpeas have grown high and wide enough to form an archway over the garden path.

But it's constant maintenance - de-podding the flowers as they fade pour encourager les autres.

And the hibiscus are now in full bloom and seem to have benefitted from that severe pruning.

And so have the grape vines which I have now festooned with organza bags to stop the blackbirds getting to the ripening grapes before I do as I intend to try to make wine again this year.....
Cheers!

Cottage gardener

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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 Ford House, The Green, Grundisburgh IP13 6TA, editor@grunews.com. All issues are included on our website or via this QR code.
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New adverts for next issue to be sent by **12 November** to: Cherril Clemence, cherril.clemence@gmail.com

Paddle at your peril

Volunteer 'Citizen Scientists' are still regularly sampling the waters in our streams and rivers - all of which eventually run into the Deben at Martlesham.

The latest round of testing took place on Monday 4 August. The picture they uncovered is not a happy one with high levels of E.coli found in both the Lark and Fynn - well above the recommended safe levels for paddling in or just splashing about.

This also applies to dogs who go into the water to play or just cool off: they, too, can contract nasty infections from polluted water.

Levels of E.coli at Charsfield were also found to be above safe limits. The reasons for this degree of pollution are complex - for example, hard soil encourages run-off, poor sanitary systems in isolated areas dump raw sewage into watercourses.

The local sewage treatment works emit large concentrations of E.coli and other bacteria as these are not removed without expensive additional treatment. The actual data can be found online at www.debenclimate.org.

The Deben Climate Centre (DCC) will be taking up with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency the issues raised by the findings.

Some 35 volunteers currently make up the sampling teams in East Suffolk but we desperately need more as people are moving to new jobs or have other commitments.

The onus is not great - about three hours a month - and all equipment and consumables are provided through the good offices of East Suffolk Council (ESC) and parishes

through which the rivers run.

Following a persuasive illustrated presentation by David Findley who leads the Deben water quality at DCC and Farran Scott who coordinates the Lark and Fynn activities, the East Suffolk Community Partnership has given a grant to buy essential capital items for the samplers.

We will be asking riparian parish councils if they could help with the purchase of E.coli slides and chemicals routinely used to process the samples.

This will help to keep the monitoring process running smoothly to the benefit of everybody in our area.

If you feel you could help - even in a small way - to help improve our environment,

please contact the DCC - email zerocarbon@debenclimate.org. This programme is running in parallel with the 'Four Rivers Recovery Project' aimed at regenerating the Deben, Alde/Ore, Waveney and Blyth.

These rivers are in a poor state, like most of England's rivers.

Flooding is also a problem with rivers and floodplains unable to cope with heavy rainfall (witness Babet 2023!).

If we look after these important so-called blue-green corridors, they can help us restore the lost biodiversity and tackle the effects of climate change.

This Recovery Project is the result of a three-year agreement between ESC and the DCC and will focus on helping local action to restore degraded ecosystems, support

nature recovery and test a range of flood alleviation measures.

The effectiveness of these actions (for example, creating buffer strips, 'spongy' landscapes, tree planting and leaky dams) will be measured to show what works and what doesn't.

But to make this ambitious project work, we need a wide range of partners: if you are a landowner or a business; involved with a parish council, community group, a nature-focussed organisation or simply an individual interested in this project and you want to know more, visit:

www.debenclimate.org
Richard Watkinson
Deputy editor

