

FELSHAM + GEDDING

april 2025

# VILLAGENEWS



ISSUE 247

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### **COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Village News welcomes your feedback. Do you have any comments about what we do, what's going well, anything you'd like us to change?

### **NEWSLETTER GENERAL POLICY**

We do publish acknowledgements, articles of general interest, artistic works and similar.

We do publish factual material from recognised organisations.

We do publish to the Village Website at

<http://felsham.onesuffolk.net>

We do not publish defamatory, rude, blasphemous, racial or other inappropriate material.

We reserve the right to edit contributions to suit publication needs.

We are reliant on contributions from many sources, taken in good faith, and cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

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## Welcome to this edition of the Felsham and Gedding Village News.

**Welcome to the April Edition** Spring is well and truly here—daffodils lining the lanes, new goats born at Apple Tree Farm, and a little more light each evening. April is often a month of renewal, and this year, it's also a time to reconnect with the village groups and spaces that bring us together.

The **Village Hall AGM** will take place on **Monday, 14 April**, and the **Playing Field AGM** follows on **Tuesday, 29 April**. Both meetings are open to all, and new volunteers are warmly welcomed.

The Village Hall continues to be a vital space for clubs, celebrations, and community events. Behind every one of those moments is a small group of people working quietly in the background. Could that be you?

The **Playing Field Committee is especially in need of support**. Without more hands on deck, it will be difficult to plan and host future events. If you've enjoyed the fireworks, summer fun days, or simply having the field as a space to walk, play, and gather—please consider getting involved. A little of your time could make a big difference.

Community doesn't just happen—it's made. And it's made stronger when more of us show up, pitch in, and shape it together.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings—and out enjoying the village in full spring bloom.

Best Regards,

Corina

## The Brain Is Like a Battery – And You Might Be Running on Low Power

Welcome to April. A month of longer light, daffodils in bloom, and magnolias just beginning to stir. Everything's coming back to life outside—but how's your inner world doing?

This issue, we're turning the spotlight to the brain.

Some days, everything just feels harder than it should. Simple things take longer. Conversations feel like effort. You walk into a room and forget why. You start five things and finish none.

It's easy to dismiss it as just tiredness—or getting older. But often, it's something else entirely: your brain is overloaded.

The part of the brain that handles decisions, focus, and self-control—the **prefrontal cortex**—is powerful, but it doesn't have endless reserves. Every small demand throughout the day—What should I cook? Did I reply to that message? Where did I leave my keys?—slowly drains its energy. When that part runs low, everything feels heavier.

You might notice it in your mood—more reactive, less patient. Or in your focus—more distracted, less sharp. It's the kind of fog that doesn't lift just because you slept well.

But here's the thing: **brains, like batteries, can recharge.**

And April, with its sense of renewal, is the perfect time to start plugging back in.

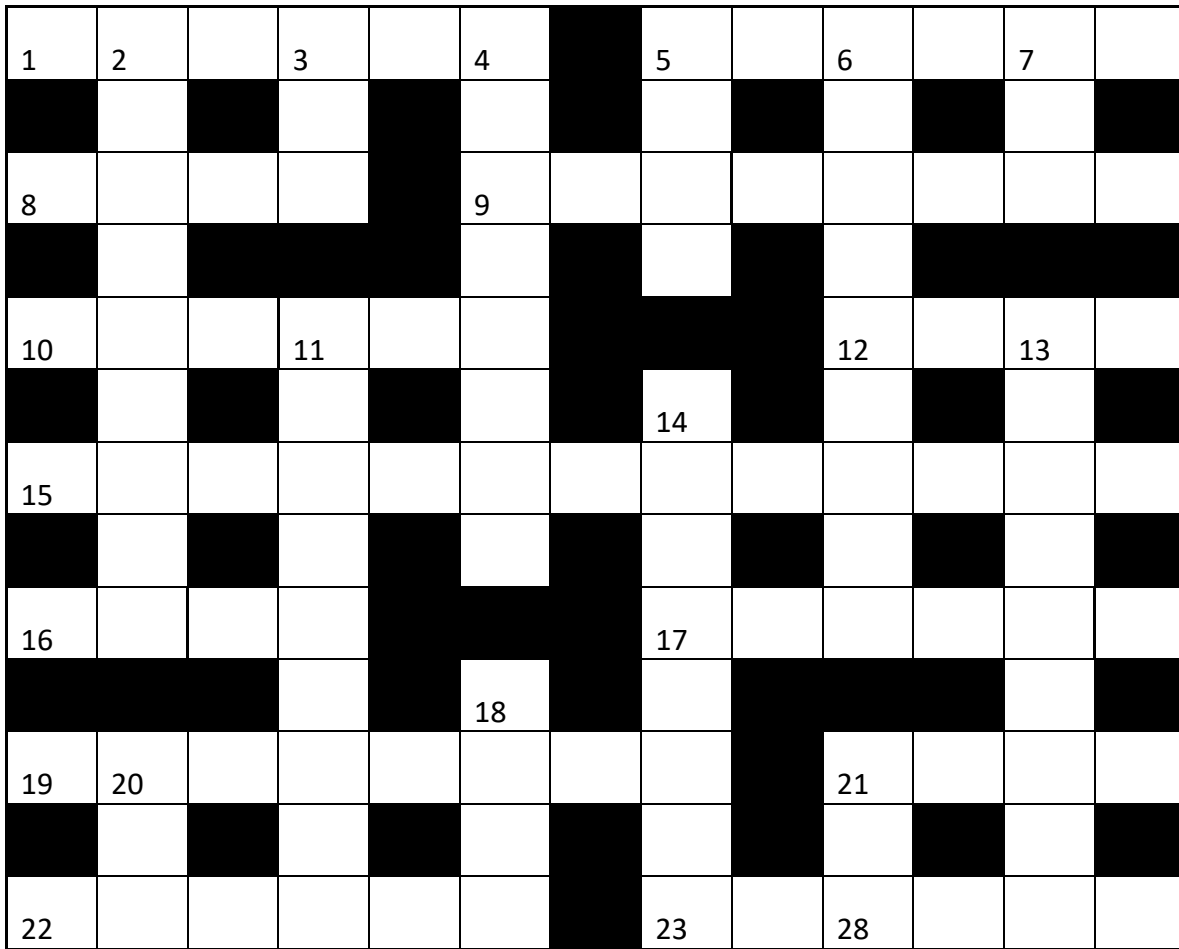
You don't need big changes. Sometimes it's about doing less, not more. Simplify routines. Reduce decisions where you can. Leave one thing unfinished. Give your brain just enough space to breathe.

**If your brain had a battery icon, what would it be showing right now?** If it's flashing red—or even just hovering on low—maybe it's time to pause, even briefly, and recharge before it runs flat.

Mental health isn't just about managing stress—it's about creating space for clarity to return.

**This month, as the world begins to wake up, give your mind a little space to do the same.** *Next month, we'll explore how your brain responds to pressure—and why it sometimes feels like your thoughts are stuck in survival mode.*

# Monthly Puzzles



## Across

- 1: Make accessible; speak more freely (4,2)
- 5: Refund of excess (6)
- 8: Give meal to (4)
- 9: Remember its Fifth (8)
- 10: Level, polished (6)
- 12: You are the dancing queen, young & sweet.. (4)
- 15: Points levels of being less good (13)
- 16: Labyrinth (4)
- 17: Money of Portugal (6)
- 19: Capital of Chile (8)
- 21: Ship; liquid holder (6)
- 23: Caught sight of (6)

## Down

- 2: Inflamed-lung illness (9)
- 3: Show agreement; Cain's land (3)
- 4: Bat in emergency (baseball) (5,3)
- 5: Wander (4)
- 6: Pompously high-flown (in speech) (9)
- 7: Foot Digit (3)
- 11: Egg dishes (9)
- 13: Living at poorest level (9)
- 14: horror, disgust (8)
- 18: Wag of the dog (4)
- 20: Champion; point winning serve (3)
- 21: Jump; beer ingredient (3)

## TRIVIA MATCHNG BOOK & AUTHOR

### Book

1: Brief History of Time

2: Little Women

3: The Tale of Peter Rabbit

4: Sense & Sensibility

5: Oliver Twist

6: Gulliver's Travels

7: Don Quixote

8: Wuthering Heights

### Author

A: Beatrix Potter

B: Jonathan Swift

C: Charles Dickens

D: Stephen Hawking

E: Emily Bronte

F: Miguel de Cervantes

G: Louisa M Alcott

H: Jane Austen

### Answers:

1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_ 5: \_\_\_\_\_ 6: \_\_\_\_\_

7: \_\_\_\_\_ 8: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chess Tournament

The Chess tournament with 5 friends just finished. Work out the order the friends played and what opening move they made in their final match.

- 1: Jess played 3 games before the player who started with the Danish Gambit.
- 2: Of Ivan and the person who started with the Queen's Gambit, one played third and the other played fifth.
- 3: The person who played second didn't begin with the King's Gambit
- 4: Chris played sometime after the player who started with the Ruy Lopez
- 5: The person who played third started with the Ruy Lopez
- 5: Ivy played fourth

		Player					Opening				
		Colin	Ivan	Jess	Chris	Ivy	Ruy Lopez	Bird's opening	King's Gambit	Queen's Gambit	Danish Gambit
Position	1st										
	2nd										
	3rd										
	4th										
	5th										
Opening	Ruy Lopez										
	Bird's opening										
	King's Gambit										
	Queen's Gambit										
	Danish Gambit										

Player	Position	Opening



I've recently found myself living alone after the breakdown of my relationship. My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?

Here are some steps you can take to ease your financial worries:

**Single Person Discount:** Since you're now living alone, you can receive a 25% discount on your council tax. Make sure to notify your local council that you're the only adult in the household. Even if the person who left has been gone for some time, you're entitled to the discount from their departure date.

**Disregarded People:** If there are people living with you who are disregarded for council tax purposes (such as full-time students, under-18s, long-term hospital patients, etc.), it can reduce the number of people considered for council tax purposes, possibly leading to a discount. You can check online for a list of who counts as disregarded.

**Second Adult Rebate:** If there's another adult living with you who is on a low income or receiving certain benefits, you could be eligible for a 'second adult rebate,' which reduces your council tax.

**Disability Reduction:** If you or anyone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted for that disability, you might be eligible to have your council tax band reduced. For example, a band C property that's been adapted for a disabled resident could be re-banded to a band B property, which would lower your bill.

**Council Tax Reduction (CTR):** If you have a low income, you can apply for a Council Tax Reduction, which may lower your bill. The council will ask about your income and circumstances to determine if you qualify. If you've reached State Pension age, different rules may apply.

**Discretionary Reduction:** In cases of severe financial hardship, your council can offer a discretionary reduction, which can reduce or even cancel your council tax. You will need to provide evidence of your situation. If you're denied this reduction, you can appeal to a valuation tribunal, which could order the council to reduce or cancel your bill.

**Seek Help:** It's essential to communicate with your local council. If you're struggling, let them know as soon as possible. You can also reach out to Citizens Advice for assistance in navigating your options.

You can check out our website for more information on disregarded people, getting a second adult rebate and how to appeal a valuation on our website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide in depth advice on this issue and much more, including debt, finances, employment, benefits and family/relationships. You can contact them by phone on 01449 676060, visit in person at Milton House, 5 Milton Road South, Stowmarket IP14 1EZ or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). Opening hours are Monday-Thursday 9.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

# Community Speed Watch

## CONCERNS FOR MOTORISTS SPEEDING THROUGH FELSHAM & GEDDING

Do you sometimes feel motorists are driving a little too fast through the village? Maybe you or your neighbour is of reduced mobility, or you have young children?

Exceeding a speed limit by 5 miles may not seem much, but when a maximum speed limit is 30 and the driver is driving at 35 or 40 mph, the stopping distance could be the difference between stopping in time or hitting someone.

A reminder of the thinking plus braking distance: -

### Stopping distances key

Thinking distance	Braking distance	 1 car length
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**Formula**  
Thinking distance + Braking distance = Stopping distance



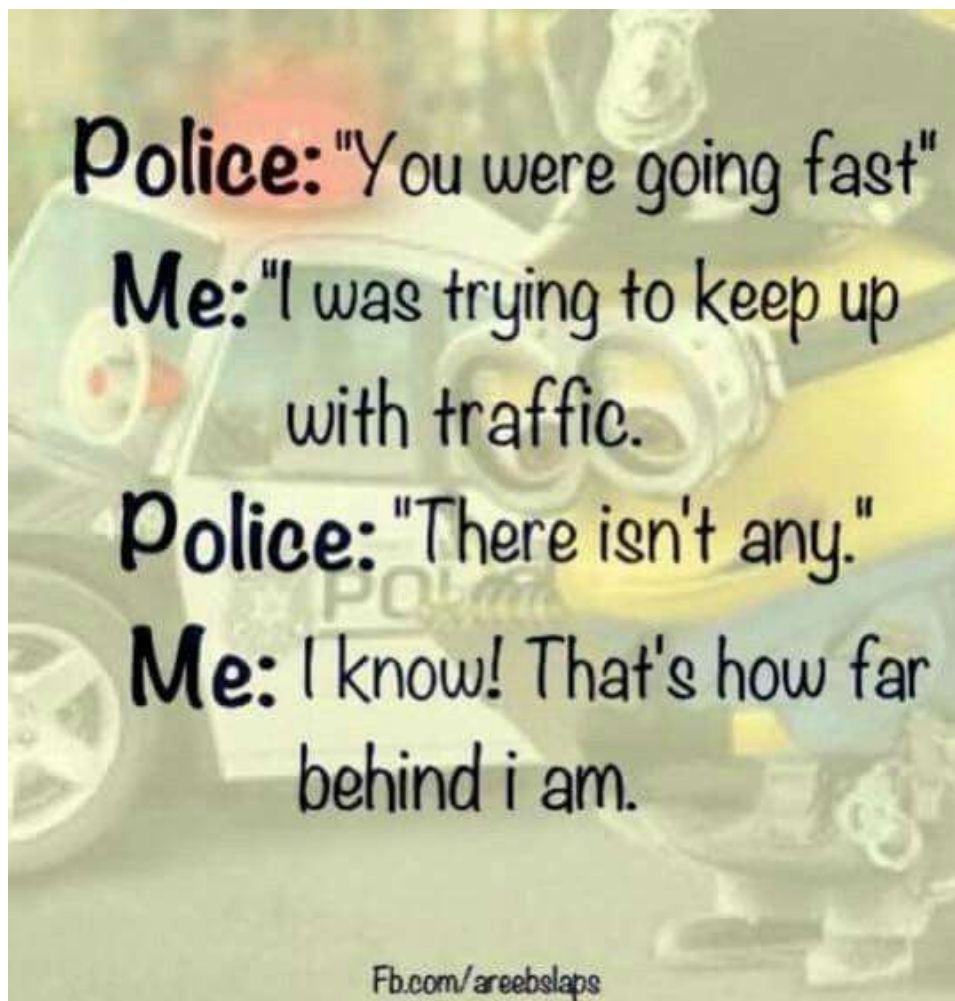
**Community Speed Watch** is a scheme to help people reduce traffic speeding through their neighbourhood. Excessive speed has an impact not only on road safety but on the quality of life for those residents who endure it.

The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. It requires a minimum of 6 volunteers, all over 18 years old. Training will be provided and volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance.

Our Parish Council would like to set a community group but they need the support of any as many volunteers as possible.

If you recognise the importance of the villages safety and would like to know more about this scheme, please contact Jason on the following email:-

[jay-jason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jay-jason@hotmail.co.uk)





# **Suffolk** Wildlife Trust

## Bradfield Woods in April

**We have lots of events in April - for more information on all the events below please go to:**

[www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/upcoming-events-bradfield-woods](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/upcoming-events-bradfield-woods)

### **Holiday club for 6 - 11 year olds**

Wednesday 9 April 2025 - 09:00 to 15:30

Outdoors, forest free play, woodland crafts and games.

Lunch included.

### **Wild families: Easter eggstravaganz**

Thursday 10 April 2025 - 10.30am-12.30pm

Join our Spring celebration, with an activity trail through the woods and spring crafts.

### **Warden walk at Bradfield Woods**

Friday 11 April 2025 - 10am - 12pm

Spend a morning exploring the woods with one of our wardens.

### **Celebrating birch course**

Saturday 19 April 2025 - 10am-3.30pm

Enjoy a fun and relaxed day finding out all about birches, making birch tar glue, experimenting with dyes and carving your own birch wood utensil to take home. Sample a selection of food and drink as well as produce your own decorative fire starters.

### **Spoon carving**

Monday 21 April 2025 - 10am-3pm

We will be working outside in our purpose-built craft area, under the trees. We will start by selecting and splitting our wood, which we will then

use to carve a teaspoon or dessert spoon(s) with knives and spoon knives. After lunch we will use shave horses and drawknives to make a larger spoon or spatula.

### **Plant ID and activities for Forest School certified course**

Friday 25 April 2025 - 10am-3pm

By the end of the course, the learner will be able to:

- Identify woodland plants and wild flowers in Spring
- Know some useful, edible and poisonous species
- Discover crafts, games and activities to build knowledge and connection.

For full event terms and conditions

visit: [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/eventinfo](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/eventinfo)

Felsham and Gedding Playing Field

# **Notice Is Hereby Given**

**Of the Walmsley Jubilee Committee (Felsham and Gedding  
Playing Field)**

**Annual General Meeting.**

**Which will take place on**

**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

**Felsham and Gedding Village Hall.**



# An appeal to the people of Felsham and Gedding

YOUR PLAYING FIELD NEEDS YOU!

We are **desperately** in need of new volunteers to join the Playing Field Committee and/or lend some of your time to run the events that we organise. We are a small and friendly bunch, who help manage among other things the annual Felsham Fair and Bonfire Night.

We have asked for help many times before but have always had a limited response. With an ever-shrinking band of loyal volunteers, **we are now getting desperate**. On bonfire night in November, we were forced to rely on the relatives and friends of committee members, who kindly helped in lieu of villagers. If these people hadn't volunteered, the event would have been cancelled.

The Playing Field's constitutional document stipulates that there **must be a certain number of committee members**. Without these, the committee will fold, and the land will revert back to private use. Essentially, **without new members**, the Playing Field's **future is in jeopardy**.

We also require a lot of volunteers to help run events. At the moment, we just don't have them.

Most of you, we're sure, care deeply about both our villages, and understand how lucky we are to have the Playing Field as well as other village assets. But none of these manage themselves and it's a great pity that we're often lacking help. Given the current crisis, the Committee has already taken the decision to **forgo this year's Felsham Fair**, and we may have to **consider postponing the bonfire night**.

You don't have to give up a lot of your time - an hour or so here and there is always appreciated. The harsh reality, though, is that if we don't get more volunteers then we can **no longer run the events**. A lack of events means a lack of income, among other problems.

Of course, communication is also key, and with the above in mind, we're pleased to announce a new initiative - **'Friends of Felsham and Gedding Playing Field'** for those who are happy to be notified when we need volunteers for work parties and events.

To **get involved and/or stay in the loop**, please contact Jamie Corney on 07894 966618, or email Jamie/Adrian King at [jamiecorney@hotmail.com](mailto:jamiecorney@hotmail.com) / [aking04@hotmail.com](mailto:aking04@hotmail.com)

Both will be happy to chat to you about how you can help. Alternatively, please consider attending our AGM on April 29<sup>th</sup> and joining the committee. We'd love to meet you!

Many thanks,

Felsham and Gedding Playing Field Committee.

## What's on this month

**Carpet Bowls & Table Tennis** - Alternating Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm...

Table Tennis is on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and Carpet Bowls, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

**Whist Drive** - every third Friday each month, 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15 for a 7:30 pm start.

**Movie Night in the Village Hall** – every third Saturday each month, 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm.

**Village Friends Lunch Club** - details available in our Diocese update.

**Six Bells, Felsham:-** Please see the regular events in the months calendar.

What else can we expect from the month of April?

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, Sunrise will be 06.31 & Sunset will be 19:31
- By Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Sunrise will be 05:36 & Sunset 20.14

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – VE Day

Victory in Europe – 80 years ago.

Exciting plans in Felsham, to enable us to jointly celebrate this important date.

## THE PLAN

### Bank Holiday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

We will have a 1940's style Village Picnic in the Village Hall and Garden. 40's style costume optional but fun. Let's all put some effort into this event.

If you or you know of anyone who may have historical information or photo's even, please liaise with Andrew Conquest on 07976 743944.

There will be a Beacon lighting, taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at Upper Green.



## **Venturing Outside the Village of Felsham & Gedding**

### **STOWMARKET**

#### **The Food Museum – Easter Holiday Activities 5<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Have you visited this interesting local museum?

#### **DAILY ACTIVITIES**

**Meet their Easter Animals @ 11:30 & 15:00** A great opportunity to hold and feed the animals, both lambs and chicks, while you learn about the museum team. - FREE ENTRY

**Easter Family Baking – 10:30 to 11:00** Make Easter Nests in the morning and Simnel Cupcakes in the afternoon. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult – BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**Easter Trails** – Purchase your Easter trail from the shop, complete Easter puzzles to receive a special chocolate treat! - Suitable for all ages.

#### **Easter Truffles Workshop – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 18:00 to 20:00**

Learn to make delicious chocolate truffles. Age 12+ - BOOKING ESSENTIAL

#### **Spring Feast – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 18:00 to 20:00**

Pop-up Spring Feast, blending the best seasonal produce sourced locally with Middle Eastern flavours. – BOOKING ESSENTIAL

### **BURY ST EDMUNDS**

Apex [www.theapex.co.uk](http://www.theapex.co.uk) 01284 758000

The Theatre Royal 01284 769505

Hunter Club for a variety of music and events. T: 01284 723101

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

**Bury Facebook & Web Sites for up-to-date information on events and places of interest:- We Love Bury St Edmunds Face Book & Bury Juice @ [www.theburyjuice.com](http://www.theburyjuice.com)**

**Lavenham Church – Great Tribute Concerts: -**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April @ 12:45 – The Rollin' Stoned & Ultimate Coldplay at 18:45**

Tickets available from [www.gigantic.com](http://www.gigantic.com)

**Lavenham Village Hall** on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Craft Market, 10 to 4 pm.

**Lavenham Village**, Farmers Market – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

**FELSHAM & GEDDING VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL CLUB  
PRESENTS A FILM EVENING  
ON**

**SATURDAY APRIL 19TH**

# **TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY**

**UK/France/Germany**

**2011**

**PG - R**

**The film show starts at 7.30 pm and the bar and hall will be open from 7pm**

**New members and guests are very welcome to join us**



# FELSHAM & GEDDING



KEEP CALM & CELEBRATE!



**LUNCH-**  
BRING YOUR  
OWN FOOD AND  
DRINK

**RAFFLE**  
PROCEEDS/  
DONATIONS TO  
THE ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION

**TEA AND  
CAKES**

**FUN AND  
GAMES**

**DRESS OF  
THE TIMES**  
(OPTIONAL)

## VE DAY<sup>©</sup>

80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 M A Y 2 0 2 5



**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY FROM 1PM  
LOYAL TOAST AT 3.30PM**



*BRING YOUR FAMILY PICNIC LUNCH  
TO THE VILLAGE HALL AND*

*GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS*

**RAFFLE PROCEEDS/DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**






**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY  
LIGHTING OF THE BEACON  
UPPER GREEN FROM 8.00PM**



*COMMUNITY SINGING - ACCOMPANIED BY OUR VERY OWN  
CHRIS CHARLESWORTH*

*BEACON LIGHTING AT 9.30PM*











Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	1	2 🔔 <b>Curry night</b> Table Tennis - F&GVH @7.30pm	3 🔔 <b>Pie night for national pie week</b> 
7	8	9 🔔 <b>Curry night</b> Carpet Bowls – F&GVH @7.30pm	10 🔔 <b>Bingo</b>  <b>BROWN BIN</b>
14 Village Hall AGM – 7pm @ VH	15	16 🔔 <b>Curry night</b> Table Tennis - F&GVH @7.30pm	17 
21 🔔 <b>Bank Holiday</b> <b>BBQ</b>	22	23 Carpet Bowls – F&GVH @7.30pm	24 <b>BROWN BIN</b>
28	29 Felsham and Gedding Playing Field Committee AGM – 7.30pm @ VH	30 🔔 <b>Curry night</b>	



Fish and Chips Van, Thursdays 5.50-6.30pm @ VH



Fresh Fish from Lowestoft, Fridays at 10.45 in the VH Car Park

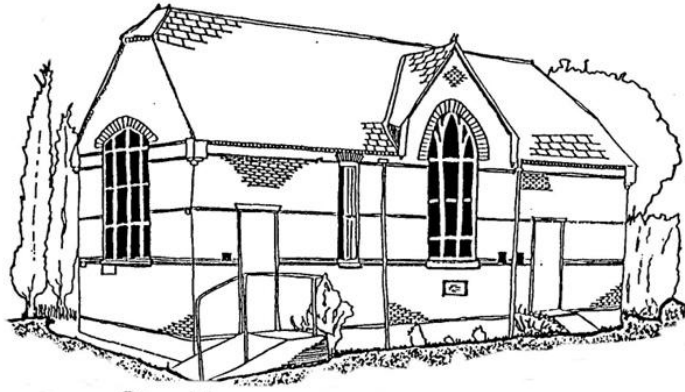
Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p>4</p> <p><b>BLACK BIN</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>  <p><b>Sunday Roast</b></p>
  <p>11</p> <p><b>BROWN BIN</b> <b>GREEN BIN</b></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>  <p><b>Sunday Roast</b></p>
  <p>18</p> <p><b>Sharing mixed Skewer Board</b> Whist – F&amp;GVH @7.15pm <b>BLACK BIN</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>F&amp;GVH Social Club film evening –Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy from 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm</p>	<p>20</p>  <p><b>Sunday Roast</b></p>
 <p>25</p> <p>Whist @7.30pm, Village Hall</p> <p><b>GREEN BIN</b> <b>BROWN BIN</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>  <p><b>Sunday Roast</b></p>



Library Van will be in Gedding @10.10, then at Felsham VH @ 11.40



**Events at the Felsham Six Bells**



## **Felsham & Gedding Village Hall**

### **Management Committee**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7PM**

ALL WELCOME

COME AND HEAR HOW THE HALL IS DOING

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

ANDREW CONQUEST CHAIRMAN 01449 737619

\*\*\*\*\*

## **VILLAGE FRIENDS**

*an over 65's friendship group*

The next meeting will be on

**Thursday 17 April**

at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

If you would like to come please contact:

Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063 [revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com)

(drivers are able to provide lifts, just let Canon Sharon know)

*Organised by the Cockfield Benefice*

## Cockfield Benefice Services and Events

Dear Friends

‘April is the cruellest month...’ T.S.Eliot begins his epic poem ‘The Wasteland’, although we will undoubtedly be rejoicing at the (hopefully) warmer weather and the land being flushed with flowers.

I am reminded of Eliot’s poem, because it is just as the earth is awakening from winter and the creation of new life that the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, on that black Good Friday. Those who had been close friends and followers of Jesus felt that their world had been torn apart. The man who had taught them, inspired them, irritated them, but most important of all - who loved them, had gone from them in such a cruel and humiliating way. But then three days later - what joy! Jesus is back with them - and he sends them out to tell everyone else the good news.

Good news is something that we rarely have in our media today. If an alien were to land on our planet and only had our newspapers and TV to learn about us then he/she/it would have a very lop-sided view of our planet. But we know that there is more to life than the misery and pain which is often shown on our TV screens. There are many signs of the beauty and goodness of life being shown by people.

Life is meant to be lived in community, we human beings are social creatures, and we are programmed to live with each other and to take care of each other. And that is also the message of the Christian church, which is here to support families and communities to thrive.

So, as we celebrate Easter in April - the cruellest of months - and we finish our Lenten fast and begin to eat chocolate again, let us also celebrate the fact that we can live together in community, serving each other as Christ serves us.

Yours in Christ

Canon Sharon

[revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com)

01284-828599, 07825 086063

Cockfield website: [www.cockfieldbenefice.com](http://www.cockfieldbenefice.com)

## Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - April 2025

Sunday 6 April Passion Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion - Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Six2seven - Felsham Village Hall
Tuesday 15 April	11am Holy Communion - Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday	Walk of witness from Gedding to Felsham, gather at Gedding Church at 9.30am, followed by: 10.30am Palm Sunday Communion - Felsham
Monday 14 April	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St Clare
Wednesday 16 April	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 17 April	2-4pm Village Friends - Felsham Village hall
Thursday 17 April Maundy Thursday	7pm Agapé Communion - Bradfield St George Village Hall (places limited - please book via Canon Sharon)
Friday 17 April Good Friday	2pm Reflections on the Cross - Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 20 April Easter Sunday	10am Easter Day Communion - Stanningfield 10am Easter Day Communion - Cockfield 10am Praise God Together at Easter - Felsham
Sunday 27 April	9.30am Holy Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George 10am Holy Communion - Gedding

A service of Celtic-style Morning Prayer is usually held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.

*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at [www.cockfieldbenefice.com](http://www.cockfieldbenefice.com).*

For any other matter contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter,  
revsharon2@gmail.com, tel: 01284 828599 or 07825 086063.



## Gedding Church News

Gedding Church is going through tough times at the moment. Over the past couple of years attendance at services has been decreasing, which means we are also getting very little income from the collection! The bank account is running very low, and although the recent letter that was sent out to ask for money for the church brought a little in, it is not enough to sustain the life of this church as it currently stands. The congregation for the monthly Sunday service is now down to 3-4 people.

After discussion, the PCC of Felsham and Gedding (as it is a joint parish), agreed to write to the Diocesan Bishop to ask for his permission to make Gedding a 'Festival Church'. This means that within the Bishop's authority we can reduce the number of services that we hold there throughout the year to 'festival times' such as Easter and Christmas or the patronal festival in the summer.

The monthly service will come to an end this June, and we would like to hold a picnic in the Churchyard to mark the start of the 'Festival Church' time for Gedding to which everyone in Gedding (and anyone from Felsham!) is invited. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions about the future of Gedding Church, as without funds to pay for insurance and maintenance it is difficult to make predictions for its future.

We shall be choosing a date in July/August to hold the picnic, and hope to do this one Sunday afternoon. We hope that many of the community will come and join us, and more details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you have any questions do please be in contact with me.

Rev Canon Sharon Potter

revsharon2@gmail.com

07825 086063

# Parish Report – March 2025

**Councillor**  
Penny Otton  
Thedwastre South

[Penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk)

07545 423847

## **Devolution and Local Government Reorganization Update**

The government has now confirmed that Suffolk and Norfolk are included in the Devolution Priority Programme, and have agreed to the request from the Suffolk County Council administration to cancel this year's local elections in May. This means that councils in Suffolk now need to work on proposals for reorganisation to submit to the government by the autumn,

Suffolk County Council has announced that it will be proposing one single unitary council for Suffolk, although district and borough councils have been clear that they would prefer two or three. All the councils need to submit their proposals to the government by 21 March 2025.

The plan is for a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk to be elected in May 2026, along with councillors for new authorities, so the timeline for these changes is very tight. The government has launched a public consultation on proposals to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk, and you can give your views on the proposals by using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/norfolk-and-suffolk-devolution>

## **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Inspection Report**

On Monday 10 February, The Home Office published a report of its recent inspection of Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service. Although the inspection found that the service was good at preventing fires, protecting the public and that it met requirements for responding to major incidents, the report

was also concerning as it several areas where the service needed to improve, including improving culture and morale, senior leaders to act as role models and show they are committed to the values of the service through their behaviour, improving communication between staff and senior leaders and making sure employees are confident raising concerns. You may have read in the press recently that the Fire Brigades Union is alleging that Suffolk County Council has made mistakes processing firefighter pay and pensions for years and has not addressed them or listened to employee concerns about the errors.

Suffolk County Council has subsequently announced additional investment of an extra £1.6 million over two years to improve the service, and this proposal will be decided at Cabinet in March. You can read the inspection report in full here: <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets-hmicfrs.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/uploads/frs-assessment-2023-25-suffolk.pdf>

### **Active Travel Fund Award**

Suffolk County Council has been awarded £3.7 million from the government to encourage cycling, walking and active travel across the county, and to make journeys more accessible. This comprises £0.9 million from the Round 5 of the Active Travel Fund, and £2.8 million from the Consolidated Active Travel Fund. The money can be spent on the following schemes: footpaths and crossing points, maintaining existing walking and cycling infrastructure, improving cycle routes and Public Rights of Way, traffic calming, and rail station access improvements. The council is currently considering suitable local projects, which will be announced in the coming months.

### **Changes to Suffolk's Library Service are Moving Back In-House**

Suffolk County Council has announced that from 1 June 2025, its libraries service will be moved back in-house. Currently the libraries are run by a local charity, Suffolk Libraries, but negotiations on the new contract have now broken down. The council made the decision to divest its libraries in

2012 and they have been run by Suffolk Libraries ever since then. The council is reassuring residents and library employees and volunteers that no front-line jobs will be cut, that libraries will remain open and there will be no reduction to opening hours. Running the library service had been financially challenging in recent years, with the council agreeing to provide an extra £720k in May 2023 for that financial year. The council is also keen to reassure Friends groups that money raised for local libraries will still be used for those libraries.

Open letter to Suffolk residents about changes to the library service: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/an-open-letter-to-suffolk-residents.pdf>

Open letter to libraries staff and volunteers on changes to the library service: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/an-open-letter-to-libraries-staff.pdf>

## **Local Transport Plan and Area Transport Plans**

At Cabinet on Tuesday 25 February, a Local Transport Plan for the county from 2025-2040. The plan is needed by law to access funding from the government for active travel and major transport schemes, and details how the council plans to prioritise walking, cycling and wheeling in town centres to reduce congestion and air pollution. It also describes the projects that will be needed to improve transport links for Suffolk, such as works at Ely and Haughley railway junctions, better public transport, and how to manage the transition from fossil fuels. Also agreed were 15 Area Transport Plans detailing the council's transport ambitions for towns around Suffolk.

**MONEY FROM NATIONAL HIGHWAYS; I asked again if SCC had received any despite several reminders but NO**

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Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

## Bus timetable

To/From Bury St. Edmunds			Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
379	Outward	Felsham Six Bells			10.38				
		Gedding Bus Stop			10.41				
		Bury Bus Station			11.07				
	Return	Bury Bus Station, Stand 5			12.55				
		Gedding Bus Stop			13.19				
		Felsham Six Bells			13.22				

## Puzzle answers

### Crossword answers

O	P	E	N	U	P		R	E	B	A	T	E
	N		O		I		O		O		O	
F	E	E	D		N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R
	U				C		E		B			
S	M	O	O	T	H				A	B	B	A
	O		M		H		G		S		R	
I	N	F	E	R	I	O	R	I	T	I	E	S
	I		L		T		U		I		A	
M	A	Z	E				E	S	C	U	D	O
				T		T	S				L	
S	A	N	T	I	A	G	O		H	A	I	L
	C		E		I		M		O		N	
V	E	S	S	E	L		E	S	P	I	E	D

### Trivia Book & Author Answers:

- 1:   D      2:   G    
 3:   A      4:   H    
 5:   C      6:   B    
 7:   F      8:   E

### LOGIC PUZZLE ANSWERS

Player	Position	Opening
Colin	Second	Bird's Opening
Ivan	Third	Ruy Lopez
Jess	First	King's Gambit
Chris	Fifth	Queen's Gambit
Ivy	Fourth	Danish Gambit

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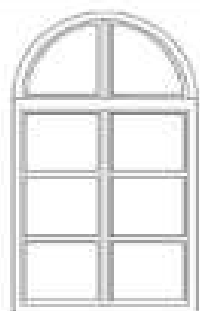
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