



## Village Newsletter

December 2025 Issue 288

If you have any updates for the January newsletter, please send to me by the 27<sup>th</sup> December. Have a great Christmas, warm wishes, Natalie  
[Nataliebrett64@gmail.com](mailto:Nataliebrett64@gmail.com)

**Defibrillator code C159 X, located at the back of Sorrel Horse pub.**



### CHRISTMAS FOODBANK

We are fast approaching that time of year again and we will be collecting for the Christmas donation for the food bank. We will be taking boxes to the Salvation Army Food Bank, Woodbridge on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. If you can spare something we will be very grateful. It does not have to be a lot as it soon mounts up. It can be left at 'Brook Cottage' or call 01394 410331 and we will collect.

Thanking you in advance,  
*Ray and Dawn*

## **Parish Council**

### *Councillor Vacancies*

The parish council are very sad to report that Councillor Peter Widdup has decided to step down from the council after eight ½ years as a councillor. Councillors would like to express their grateful thanks to Peter for his invaluable contribution to the parish council over this time. Peter has looked after all our Highways' issues tirelessly and his calm, patience and sense of humour will be much missed.

This also leaves us with a big gap on the council as we are now down to a council of four councillors and desperately need some new recruits if we are to survive! If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Lesley on 01394 410581 or by email at [clerk@shottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shottisham-pc.gov.uk).

### *Highways*

The council have received a breakdown of the costs involved in applying to lower the speed limit in Shottisham. The initial cost would be £900 to commission a Speed Limit Report, undertaken by the Speed and Safety team. If the report is supported and approved by SCC, then a Traffic Regulation Order could be pursued at a cost of £10,00 - £12,000.

### *Playground*

The RoSPA report in September has identified several medium-risk areas in the playground which may require some maintenance work. Cll PB has volunteered to go round the playground and prioritise what needs doing so that an action plan can be put together to resolve some of these issues before the spring.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13th January at 7:00 pm** in the Trust Hall.

Full minutes from the last meeting can be found on the Shottisham Village website at:

<https://shottisham-pc.gov.uk>

Lesley Roberts, Clerk to Shottisham Parish Council [clerk@shottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shottisham-pc.gov.uk)  
01394 410581

## **Declining Coastline at Bawdsey**

You may be aware of the rapidly declining coastline at Bawdsey which is claiming the footpath in front of Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club (BHYC). BBC radio Suffolk run an article on it this month.

As a Club, members noticed the problem a short while ago and within a matter of months, the shingle is being taken by the rising tides, so fast, that part of the footpath could completely disappear over the winter period, making the area dangerous. If people wander along the beach, they could get trapped by the incoming tide. Members of BHYC, young and old have been desperately working to shore up the path with a make-do groin, to offer some protection while we gain further advice, funds and support.

So far, the club has paid for material out of the club funds, but this is obviously not sustainable. We have set up a [gofund.me](https://www.gofund.me) and within a week had many donations from Club members and local residents.

We really need all the support we can get. Any suggestions welcome.

Many thanks,

*Janette*  
*Member BHYC*

## **The Vicars Voice**

As I write this, we have just commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with various Services of Remembrance across the Benefice, which have been incredibly poignant. Now it's full steam ahead with all the preparations for the Big Day, yes, I'm talking about Christmas.

There will be cards to write, decisions about which gifts to get for our nearest and dearest. The shops have been full of Christmas paraphernalia and seasonal songs for some time already, and can you believe that the dedicated Christmas film channel has actually been running since September!! And let's not forget the pressure of commercialism from the myriads of adverts gracing our TVs.

And so, no doubt we have already made a list of shopping to get in, including those additional little treats we only have at this time of year. And I imagine that if you haven't already booked your supermarket delivery slot, you might be in danger of being disappointed. Then, perhaps one of the biggest decisions has yet to be made...who goes to who or has who for Christmas, whose turn is it this year?

This will be my first Christmas as Team Rector here in the Wilford Benefice, and although I have been vicar for the Rendlesham cluster of churches for almost 7 years, I am very much looking forward to seeing how other churches within the Benefice celebrate "The Reason for the Season".

My diary is already full of dates of Carol Services, Christmas Fayres, Markets and Coffee mornings, School Nativities to watch, and Cribs to bless. There will also be mince pies, mulled wine and Christmas meals to share. It is a busy time of year.

But, before we welcome the "main event" we enter the season of Advent, the season when we are waiting and preparing our hearts to welcome God through the gift of a small baby born in a stable. The Son of God.

Yet during Advent, we are not simply waiting for Jesus, the Baby but waiting for Jesus, the King of Kings, the light which comes into the world. One of my favourite paintings is Holman Hunts "Light of the World". It is a picture of Jesus standing at a door, waiting. There is no handle on the door, because Jesus

won't just barge into our lives, he knocks but waits until we invite him into our hearts and let him make a difference there.

Advent is a time to focus on the light that which is all that is good in the world, in others and in ourselves.

Advent offers us a chance to reflect and invite the love of God into our hearts anew, and to continue our journey to him and with him, into his perpetual light.

If you would like to take some moments out each day during this busy time, to reflect on the real meaning of the season upon us, I'd like to recommend a couple of books of short daily readings, written by the Archbishop of York.

The first book is "***Let it Slow - An advent Calendar with a difference***" Christmas is one of the most joyful times of year, and it can also be one of the most stressful. It comes laden with expectations and, for many, overshadowed by difficult memories and emotions. If every other day of the year has us running in different directions, Christmas makes us run faster still. This uplifting book offers another way to approach Christmas and to discover how its joys and promises can restore our lives.

The second book is "***Walking Backwards to Christmas***" which gives a new perspective on the Nativity story which you would have first encountered in school and church Nativity plays. The daily readings take you back into the real meaning of the childhood story simply by telling it backwards; from where you are now, to where you need to be to really understand its truth and deeper purpose.

However you take time out to prepare this Advent to welcome the Christ Child, the light that comes into the world, I would take this opportunity to wish you and yours, a very blessed, peaceful and very merry Christmas.

With love and blessings,  
Rev Mandy XX

### **December Services Shottisham Church**

*7<sup>th</sup> Dec- Family Communion 9.30am*

*14<sup>th</sup> Dec- Nativity Service 11am*

*21<sup>st</sup> Dec- Carol Service 5.30pm*

*24<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christmas in Bethlehem and Communion 9.30pm*

### **Bawdsey CEP School**

We have had some amazing sharing assemblies at Bawdsey CEP School this term. They showcase all the children have learnt and with the refreshments for the Parents and Carers beforehand, we all love these school community events. We have started participating in our school games tournaments this term to maintain our Platinum School Games sports award. At the recent football tournament one of our pupils received the award for 'sportsperson ship', along with one of our pupils competing at a national level for horse vaulting we could not be prouder. We have to the Olympic pool in London again this year to represent Suffolk and we came third Nationally. It is

not all sports though, our Year 5 and 6 have loved their trip as evacuees to Mildenhall, learning what they would have done in the war; feeding chickens, pigs, collecting wood and helping in the garden. Our year 1 and 2 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying beach school, as have the year 3 and 4 with forest school. We are all looking forward to going to watch the Magic Flute near Christmas too- which funded by the BSA (PTA) with no costs to the families. They have all enjoyed planting a wildflower area on our school field, kindly prepared by Groundworks for us. We hope you can all come to our Christmas Cracker (fair) on the 11th December starting at 3.15 pm. If you are looking at Reception class places, or Nursery places for 2-year-olds or older, in our Ofsted 'Good' rated school, please do phone for a personal tour of the school on 01394411365.

*Best wishes,*

*Katie Butler*

Headteacher - Bawdsey CEVC Primary School

## WHAT'S ON

**29 Nov** Advent retreat at the Rectory, the place by the water, with times of reflection, discussion and craft, lunch included 10-4pm

**30 Nov** James Woodrow Concert – 2.30pm, St Mary's Church Bawdsey

**30 Nov** Switch on Advent, nativity light display at the Rectory, the place by the water, drinks, food and mulled wine, 4-6pm

**3 Dec** Carol singing from Green – 6.30pm to Sorrel Horse at 7pm free mulled wine

**5 Dec** Wreath making at the Rectory, the place by the water, (suggested donation £10), 9.45 am – 12.30pm refreshments included.

**6 Dec** Glebe House Hollesley Christmas Fair 2-4pm

**13 Dec** Christmas Fayre 12-2.30pm, Trust Hall, soup, snacks, drinks, crafts, carols.

**14 Dec** Christmas Sunday Suppers 5pm – 7.30pm The Rectory, the place by the water, Buffet, Christmas Quiz and Christmas Carols.

**20 Dec** Alderton Swann 1.30- 5pm Christmas Fair To raise funds for the Hospice in memory of Mel Spurling and Andy Rankin.

Suffolk Punch Trust see [www.suffolkpunchtrust.org](http://www.suffolkpunchtrust.org) for days/times

Marsh Barn Café RSPB Reserve, Hollesley 10.00am-2.00pm daily

Mobile Post Office every Thursday 11.30am-12.30pm, Alderton Village Hall

Chair-based Exercise Class 10.30am, the Hall, ring Jane 411373

# Christmas Concert

An evening of festive tunes and carols with mulled wine and mince pies

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**at 7pm**  
**St Felix Church, Rendlesham**  
**IP12 2GG**

Featuring the  
**Raedwald Brass Ensemble**

**ADMISSION FREE**  
 with a retiring collection for the work of  
 St. Felix Church and Raedwald Ensemble



**MERRY & BRIGHT**

JOIN US FOR

# QUIZMAS

AT THE SORREL HORSE

DRINKS. FOOD. RAFFLE

**THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER**

The Quiz will start at 7.30 pm. Raffle tickets will be available on the evening for a draw at the end of the night.  
 Entry £3 per person, max. 6 people per team.  
 Booking is essential!

All proceeds will be donated to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Brian Burrows




DAY	ALDERTON	ALDEBURGH	ORFORD
Monday	8.00 to <b>14.30</b>	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30
Tuesday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to <b>13.00</b>
Thursday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to <b>13.00</b>
Friday	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to 18.30	8.00 to <b>13.00</b>

Staff training is important for our practice. On the following days, all surgery sites close from 1pm until the following day. All calls are redirected to 111

- Thursday 12 th February 2026

We offer an increasingly wide range of NHS services to our patients:

### Get up to date with your health

We offer an increasingly wide range of NHS services to our patients:

- Memory checks (if worried about dementia)
- Menopause management
- Paramedic appointments

- Same day physiotherapy for acute musculoskeletal symptoms
- Minor surgery including moles & lesions
- Steroid joint injections
- Ultrasound (by referral)
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Single skin lesion clinic
- Travel health
- Social prescriber – support for non-clinical health and wellbeing needs
- Compassionate Companion service – to support end of life choices and care
- Full contraception services (eg coils) and sexual health

**Also available at our practice are non-NHS services (charged):**

- Chiropody – foot care appointments & home visits
- Ear care – wax removal (see website)

**01394 411641**

**[peninsula.practice@nhs.net](mailto:peninsula.practice@nhs.net)**

**<https://www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk>**