

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

May 2024



Auctions

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THE *Monday* Sale

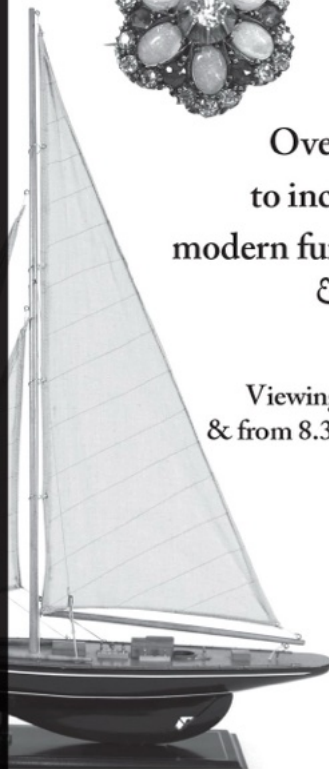


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FROM THE EDITOR

May might be just around the corner, but as Lofty & Dave will attest, it is still very cold. Let's hope it warms up soon.

On the theme of warmth, on the cover you will see Lynden's photograph of 'Fiddle Blankets', in their full colourful glory. The Debenham Project article last month detailed the therapy these specially made blankets can provide to people suffering from dementia, but the photo didn't do justice to just how colourful and detailed they can be in order to provide sensory stimulation and comfort. More about this on p55!

Also in last month's magazine the Eye Bach Choir publicised an event on 25th May. Please note that the venue for this has changed and it will now be held at Eye Town Hall rather than Eye Parish Church.

In the centre of the magazine is the advance notice of Debenham Day. The meetings held to discuss the aftermath of the flooding due to Storm Babet raised the concern that morale in the village was low and that residents needed a 'pick-me-up' after the clean up. Some residents are still not able to return to their properties and it is difficult to feel the solidarity that the village likes to provide in tricky times when people aren't even in their own homes. Hopefully, a day of music, food and entertainment can give everyone a bit of a lift, and that the weather will oblige!

Finally, a 'farewell': after 16 years we are saying good-bye to Dina Bedwell, our Parish Clerk. I hope we will continue to see her about and we wish her all the best in whatever she is moving onto in the future. Many thanks Dina for all you have done; the past few years have provided lots of challenges in Debenham, which the Parish Council have worked hard to deal with.

Happy May everyone!

Jan

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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Tuesday May 21st
(Tuesday 14th May for Business Advertising)

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As fuel and food prices increase, more people are struggling to provide for their families

Please buy an extra tin or packet to put in the box at the back of the church in Debenham

The food will be taken regularly to Eye for distribution by the Waveney Food Bank

Monday Meet-up

10am – 2pm in Dove Cottage

Refreshments 	LET'S TALK 	Meet friends
Use of microwave 	Jigsaw Puzzles 	wi-fi
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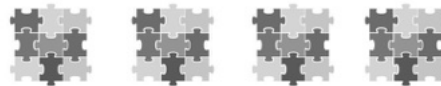


JIGSAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

Every Monday @ Dove Cottage 10-2pm

Pop in and pick up a puzzle new to you for free by swapping for one you have already completed or borrow one and bring it back when finished with.

Hosted by the Monday Meet Up Team.



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Debenham Shed



Sheds are starting everywhere! Last month we had 15 visitors from Woodbridge, Parham and Pulham St Mary, all of whom have land but no building and are particularly interested in our use of used shipping containers and second-hand steel cladding for cost-effective and environmentally beneficial construction. You can find other sheds at <https://menssheds.org.uk/find-a-shed/>, including those still in development.



Our sewing machine workshop was oversubscribed. Workshop leader Teresa gave expert advice and several peg bags were made. This month's workshop on Saturday 11 May (10am to 2pm) will be weaving in the barn and sewing craft. Please book in advance at events@debenhamshed.org.uk or telephone contacts below.

Debenham Shed is at 2 Fields Farm, Low Road (IP14 6BJ). We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm, Fridays 10am-5pm and normally the second Saturday morning of each month. Membership by the year, half-year or PAYG.

Chairman: Rob Davies 07952 556152 Treasurer: Tony Hutt 07906 614328. Visit our website at www.debenhamshed.org.uk (sign up to newsletters on the Contact page) Email info@debenhamshed.org.uk . Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DebenhamShed.

What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and sourcing materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Debenham shed is open to all adults.



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Lofty and Dave by Min Marshall



DEBENHAM AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

next meeting

Debenham & District Gardening Club

Wednesday 15 May 2024

A talk by Jim Paine

Gardening in the Shade

7.30pm at Coopersfield

Aspall Road

Non members and Friends very welcome

We would really welcome new members to the Club.

Meetings comprise a variety of talks and outings which are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at Coopersfield, Aspall Road, Debenham at 7.30pm unless there is an outing when details will be specified (no meetings August and January)

Membership fee: £20 per annum. Guests £5.00per meeting – includes refreshments. Just arrive on the evening or contact: Fiona Reid on 01728 860479 or Ann Evans on 07857680877 for further information.

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Friday	6am -1pm	2pm - 5.30pm
Saturday	6am -4.30pm (open all day)	
Sunday	6am -12.30pm	

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Forge Community Church

We meet in Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre at 10.30am every Sunday

May 2024: UNITED

Have you ever been part of a joint effort? Enjoyed the feeling of that corporate success and shared the joy of an experience with others? God calls us to be in community, but more than that, he calls us to engage in a shared purpose; to be united as followers of Jesus. He knows we can thrive if, together, we commit ourselves to his cause in the form of the local church, with the services and programmes being the vehicle for reaching others. So are we willing to unite and risk a financial and time-costly journey with God?

- 5th May – United in our mission
- 12th May – United as a family
- 19th May – United by one emotional
- 26th May – United in our love for others



Online at www.live.forgechurch.com @4pm or on catch up: <https://forgechurch.com/talks/>

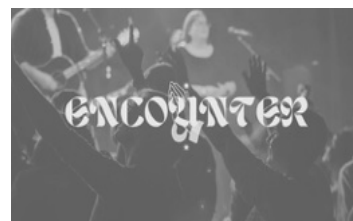
Also available on YouTube (@ForgeChurch)

We also run a full kids & youth programme each Sunday at 10.30am.
Tots Street (0-3's), Little Village (pre school), Uptown Kids (yr1-5), Transit (Yr6-8)
Motion (Yr 9-13) meet 6pm-8pm at High Suffolk Family Hub in Debenham

NB: Kids' Material is also online at www.youtube.com/@forgekids5376

Pentecost Encounter Sunday 19th May - 7.30pm

Singing and music play an important part in the life of the Forge as they provide an opportunity to connect with each other and God. Our music is contemporary and our band are young and energetic. Encounter is an evening given over to an extended time of singing/worship. Come and join us to find out more!



www.forgechurch.com · 01449 710437 · info@forgechurch.com

The Old Chapel · Forward Green · Stowmarket · IP14 5HP Facebook/Twitter/YouTube/Instagram
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Outside 'The Lion'



we are now collecting:

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Enquiries to debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com

**First Saturday
of the month**

9am - 11am
Outside 'The Lion', High Street



we are collecting:

'Tetra Pak' cartons, (squashed flat please)
pens, toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes,
corks (natural cork) and **contact lens/packaging**

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The Co-op has a collection point for batteries, tin plastic bags, plastic woppers and crisp packets etc.

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**Debenham History Society - Lecture
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Tuesday 7th May 2024

Orlando Whistlecraft - Suffolk Weather Prophet

Kevin Pulford tells of the life and work of Suffolk born, Victorian weather predictor Orlando Whistlecraft.

Tuesday 4th June 2024

Everything you Wanted to Know about Heraldry

Chris Broome provides an introduction to the fascinating world of heraldry and how it can be used to further family history research.

Tuesday 2th July 2024

Refugees: A History of the Huguenots in Britain

Gill Blanchard recounts the impact of Huguenots on British culture, life, arts, and politics, including their story of religious persecution, politics, endurance, assimilation, and integration.

Location: **The Hall, United Reformed Church,**
21 Chancery Lane Debenham Suffolk IP14 6RN

Commencing : 7.30pm unless otherwise listed

Cost: £4 per session, all welcome

**TO RECEIVE MONTHLY REMINDERS AND INFORMATION OF
DEBENHAM HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS PLEASE SIGN UP VIA
<https://thedebenhamarchive.uk>**



Mid Suffolk Healing Rooms in Debenham
The Healing Rooms meetings will be held on the
3rd Sunday of each month at URC, Chancery Lane,
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between those hours).

Contact Sarah Lander
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Heavy Metal Day. Saturday 25th May

Don't forget to save up your scrap metal for our Heavy Metal Day!

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Debenham or nearby, if you cannot deliver them on the day. Last time we raised over £2,000, as well as diverting a lot of items from waste collection.

For more information visit suffolklibraries.co.uk/sld. By donating to Suffolk Libraries you can help us fund crucial additional services that reduce social, digital and rural isolation in our communities. For details visit suffolklibraries.co.uk/donate.

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Wednesday : 1500 – 1930 pm

Saturday: 0900 am – 1300 pm

Sunday: 1200 – 1600 pm



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Email:



Strange things lurking
round the Church?

Or the eyes playing
tricks?

Thanks to Pam Harling-
Challis for being
observant!

ST MARY'S ART EXHIBITION 2024



JUNE 14/15/16

ST MARY'S CHURCH, DEBENHAM, IP14 6QN

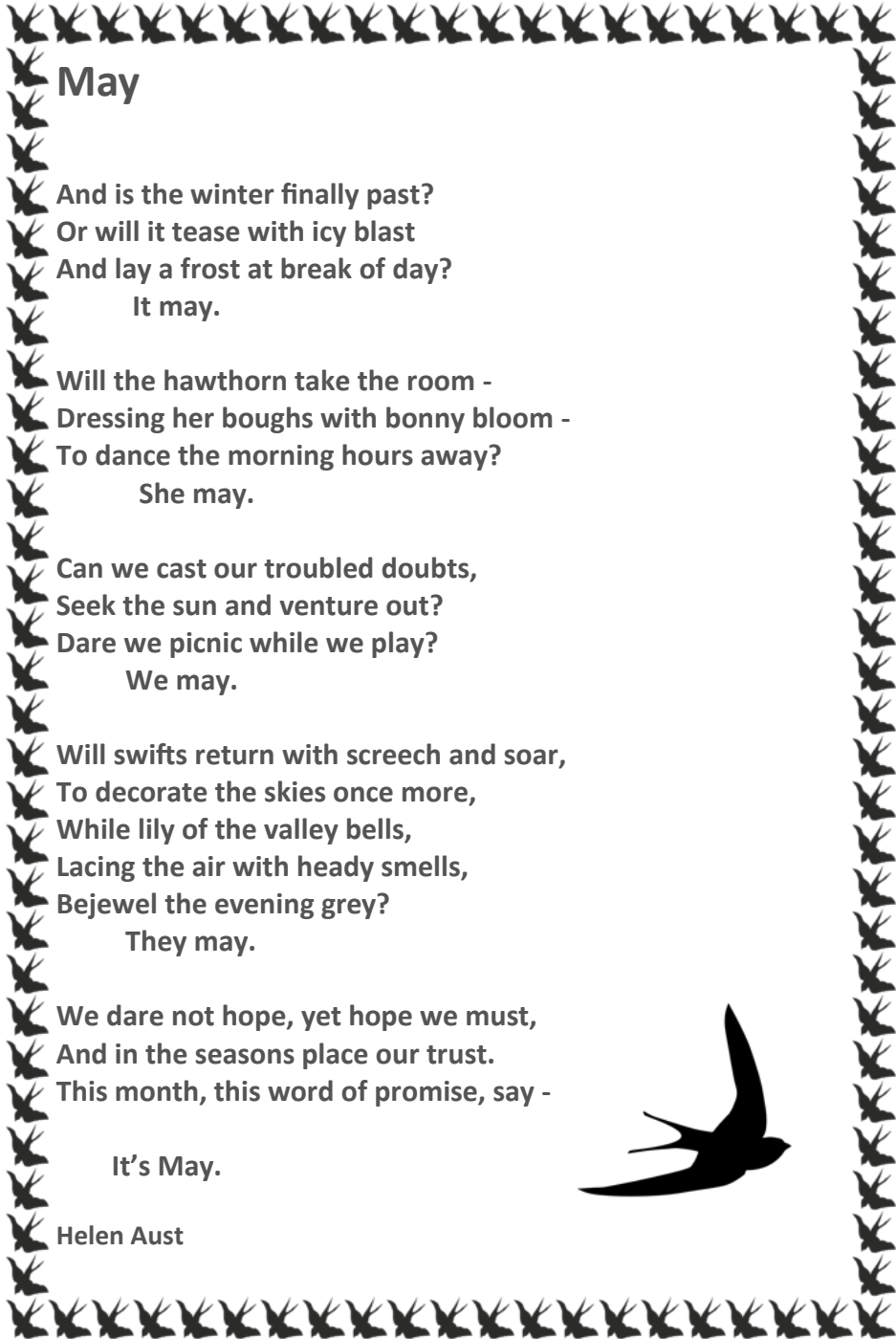
This June sees St Mary's Church in Debenham host its 47th St Mary's Art Exhibition. Starting with a party on the Friday night (sponsored by local business Aspoll Cyder), the church will once again reverberate with the sound of live music and the happy noises of artists and visitors taking in the artwork. Open to the public and free admission. This year, on the Sunday, the Art Exhibition is taking place on the same day as Debenham Open Gardens, meaning there is more reason to enjoy a day out in Debenham.

Original art, prints and greetings cards to suit all budgets. All are most welcome!

**Visitor and exhibitor information is available now on the website
www.stmarysartex.org.uk**

St Mary's Young Artists' Exhibition

**Once again, this year, we are inviting young artists (Primary or High School age) to enter a picture in this year's Art Exhibition. Full details on our website
stmarysartex.org.uk**



May

And is the winter finally past?
Or will it tease with icy blast
And lay a frost at break of day?
It may.

Will the hawthorn take the room -
Dressing her boughs with bonny bloom -
To dance the morning hours away?
She may.

Can we cast our troubled doubts,
Seek the sun and venture out?
Dare we picnic while we play?
We may.

Will swifts return with screech and soar,
To decorate the skies once more,
While lily of the valley bells,
Lacing the air with heady smells,
Bejewel the evening grey?
They may.

We dare not hope, yet hope we must,
And in the seasons place our trust.
This month, this word of promise, say -

It's May.

Helen Aust



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Debenham Open Gardens

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Refreshments served in Gracechurch Street

(see programme)

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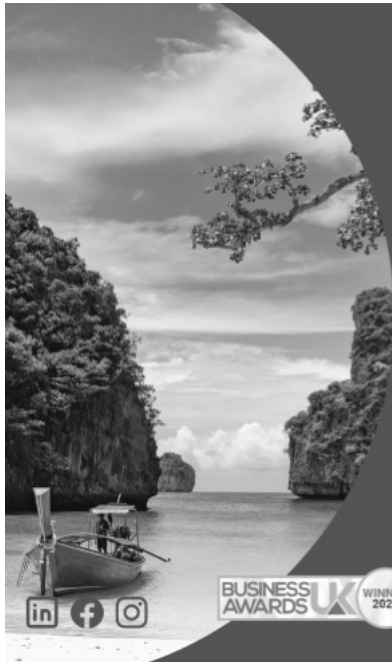
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MARIA BROWN - CONTRALTO
RICHARD EDGAR WILSON - TENOR
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25 MAY, 7.30PM
EYE TOWN HALL
EYE, SUFFOLK

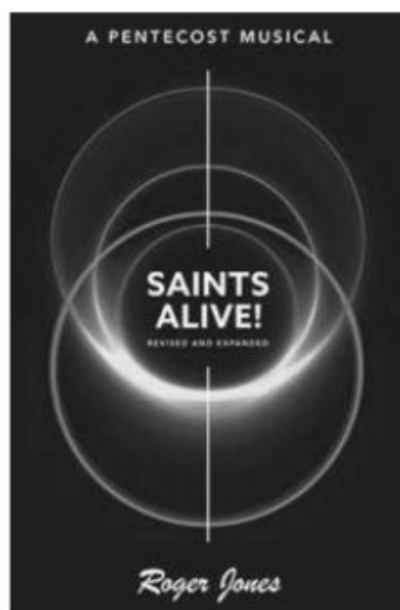
Tickets £20 each or two for £36 *
under 16s £10

* Offer available until 14th April
Bookings
eyebachchoir.co.uk/book-tickets
or from The Handyman Store, Eye
Email: tickets@eyebachchoir.co.uk

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Eye Bach Choir is a registered Charity, No: 1114939

Please note: The venue for the concert has changed and it will now be held at Eye Town Hall, not at the church as previously advertised.

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INVITES YOU TO



St Mary Magdalene, Debenham

Sunday 25th May at 7pm

Free entry, retiring collection

Saints Alive is a musical telling the story of the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost, showing the dramatic change which took place in the apostles, turning them from frightened and hopeless men to people who turned the world upside down.

It comprises 11 songs and lasts approximately 50 minutes.

Here's another way that Debenham people are helping the environment and improving lives. Please see the thank you below, for the resources dropped off to me and collected after the jumble sales held in St Mary's Church .In the past 2 years ,I've delivered hundreds of books , CDs and DVDs ,to Hollesley Bay, all from Debenham. This means that plastics are being reused, rather than thrown way and the funding the library receives goes further than it might have. If you have any books, CDs and DVDs, no longer wanted or any suitcases, holdalls or menswear, please get in touch.



Joy Walton 01728860007. joyw@btinternet.com

Dear Joy

I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know about the positive impact of donations from the Debenham community. Here at HMP Hollesley Bay Library, we rely heavily on donations to populate our shelves. The DVDs, CDs, books and also the clothing, have made a real difference to the lives of many of the men here. Getting in new material can make a monotonous day just that little bit better. The library is a central hub within the prison and most people come in at least once a week, some people more than this. They have a fantastic choice because of your donations. Thank you. Nicky. Library Manager

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AGM

WEDNESDAY 15th MAY

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Snow on the Slopes for our Easter Ski Trip

During the first week of the Easter holidays, forty five students from Debenham High School, accompanied by five staff, hit the slopes of Passo Tonale in the Italian Dolomites. This was the first time skiing was back on the trips available at the high school since before 2020.



Passo Tonale is a snow sure resort benefiting from glacier skiing, and we were especially fortunate to experience phenomenal late season snow which allowed for superb conditions to learn. For the majority of the students, this was their first time skiing and the progress they were able to make under the supportive guidance of their instructors was very impressive. After snow on the first two days on the slopes, the sun came out and we enjoyed powder conditions in the early April blue skies.

In addition to developing their skills on skis, the students also had the opportunity to soak up other aspects of Alpine culture with a visit to the huskies at the local dog sledding centre; conditions were also ideal for night skiing on our penultimate evening. Our week finished with some indulgence – Italian gelato and hot chocolate

The ski trip is a wonderful opportunity to learn (or develop) a new skill, in stunning surroundings, but it also affords students the chance to develop resilience and self-reliance. Most treasured, it provides memories to last a life-time.

Many thanks to Helen Spurling for organising the trip.







Debenham CHAMBER MUSIC

Tuesday 14th May - Prism



Fenella Humphreys* - *violin*

Music for solo violin by

Fritz Kreisler - J.S. Bach - Caroline Shaw -
Cyril Scott - Michael Small - Robert Schumann -
Claude Debussy - Mancini/Mercer - Eugene Ysaÿe

pre-concert drinks 6.30pm - concert 7pm

Tickets £8*

* Winner of 2023 BBC Music Magazine
Premier Recording Award

Saturday 8th June - Trio Dances



Fenella Humphreys - *violin*
Kasia Ziminska - *viola*
Cara Berridge - *'cello*

music for strings by

Franz Schubert
Adrian Sutton
Jean Sibelius
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

pre-concert drinks 6.30pm - concert 7pm

Tickets £10*



St. Mary's Church, Debenham

Drinks by suggested donation, all proceeds from
refreshments go to the church

*concessions available

www.debenhamchambermusic.com

Musician photos by Alejandro Tamagno, Olivia Da Costa, Matthew Johnson

Under the greenwood tree

A life affirming selection of sacred and secular choral music



Nota Bene Chamber Choir

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Conductor Janette Ruocco

3pm

Sunday May 12th 2024

St Mary Magdalene, High Street, Debenham IP14 6QN

Sacred pieces by Bruckner, Elgar, Stainer, Walton

John Rutter *Traditional Songs*

Secular pieces by Ivo Antognini & Pärt Uusberg

EJ Moeran *Songs of Springtime*

Popular songs by Conrad and Gershwin

Free admission with a retiring collection

Debenham Film Nights!

Over 75 people—including many families with children—came to our inaugural film *Wonka*, which was enjoyed by adults and children alike. The photo shows Howard Simpson introducing the film in his *Wonka* hat!

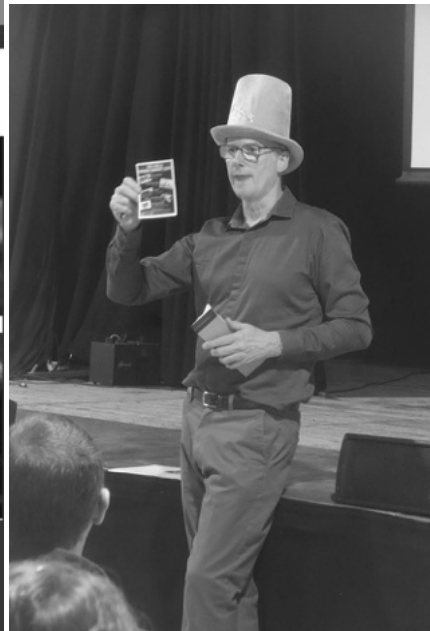


This month's film on **Saturday 11 May** is **One Life** (2023) (12A). This brand new feature film is the true story of Nicholas Winton, who helped save hundreds of Central European children from the Nazis on the eve of World War 2. It stars Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham Carter and features Jonathan Pryce, whom you may occasionally see in the Lion pub in Debenham. Admission is £5 (£15 families), doors open 7pm, film at 7.30pm.

I have a personal connection with the subject of the film: an aunt Ilse Tuteur-Wolff, who at age 15 travelled from Cologne to Britain in June 1939 with 100 other children in the Kindertransport. Later she moved to Manchester and in 1945 met and married Jonas, who had come on the last passenger boat from Germany. Her parents had survived and now lived in New York, so Ilse and Jonas moved to Schenectady in 1947 and settled there. I visited them in 2001 with my mother and daughter.

To be including on the Debenham Film Nights mailing list contact me at tony@tonyhutt.co.uk.

Tony Hutt



Debenham Angel Community Limited

An application has been made for change of use of the Angel which is being contested vigorously by DACL. We believe that this valuable community asset should remain available to the village as it has been

for hundreds of years. The owners of the Angel have submitted to the Council a Change of Use application from pub to residential use. This is despite there being another two years to run on the designation of the Angel as an Asset of Community Value. It could hardly meet that designation if it were a private house. The deadline for public comments was the 11th of April. Should you wish to refer to the application use reference number DC/24/01358. With DACL being a Community Benefit Society, registered at the Financial Conduct Authority, it's no wonder that many people within Debenham village are strongly against the change of use application. They would like to see the pub reopened and adding to local amenities.

Debenham Angel Community Limited is now also a fully paid up and engaged member of the Plunkett Foundation which supports community businesses across the UK, providing professional advice to all types of community business, at all stages of their journey – from the initial idea, to long after the business is open and trading.

We have also registered our expression of interest with the government backed Community Ownership Fund, This fund helps community groups buy or renovate assets that would otherwise be lost to the community. The fund could potentially contribute up to 80% of the capital costs of this worthwhile project. The feedback that we have received so far is that our application is a 'good fit' for round four of this application period.

The 17th of February provided a good turnout for a quiz night at the United Reform Church. It was organised by DACL, who are aiming to reopen the Debenham Angel. The local winners of the quiz were 'The late arrivals' who won a selection of chocolate buttons and the coveted Angel Trophy (An Angel mainly comprising a wood spoon with wings)!

The money raised from this event was to cover setup and administration costs. The quiz night is one of many events being arranged to raise cash for campaigning and running costs. As part of a succession of fundraising events, plans are now underway for a murder mystery night. If you would like to help with this or any other events please contact us.

To raise the profile of our aim of reopening the Angel pub a new website will also be launched shortly. This will enable us to get information in to the community quickly and raise public awareness.

Further information is available from:-

Derick Holman

01728 861803

The logo consists of the words "SAVE THE ANGEL" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "ANGEL" is significantly larger than "SAVE THE". A small white icon of an angel's head with wings is positioned above the letter "A" in "ANGEL". The entire logo is set against a solid black rectangular background.



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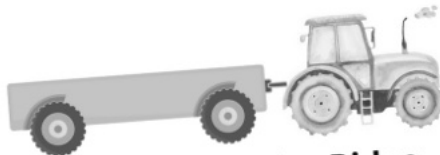
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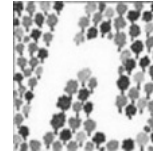
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Hoppit Wood and Lake 2025 Calendar - Submit your pictures!



After a very successful 2024 calendar which featured many photographs, past and present, of the Hoppit and Lake, we thought that we would invite submissions of photos of the lake from you for 2025.

The photos could feature wildlife at the wood, or beautiful scenes, people enjoying the spaces or maybe even the elusive kingfisher.

All submissions will be considered and we will make selections in true Countryfile style. The deadline will be 30 September to allow time to produce and print the calendar.

Please submit your photos as high quality images by email to info@hoppit.uk

We're looking forward to seeing your photos.

Note: by submitting photos you are agreeing to their use in the Hoppit Wood and Lake calendar and for publication on websites and social media. Full credit will be given. Please make sure you have permission to take any pictures containing other people. Thanks.

We are also developing a website. Although in its early stages it can be found with this simple address - www.hoppit.uk

Finally, we will be staging a special activity morning on Saturday June 22. This is to celebrate 20 years of the wood and lake and further raise the profile of our wonderful facility. Details following next month.

A new feature on our bridge for a smoother drop!



Mick and Mike, at a recent work party, reviving our paths to improve accessibility.





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Saturday 18th May

9.30am to 3pm

11 Moores Close, Debenham

inc Refreshments & Soup lunch

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All refreshments in aid of

tearfund



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SAVE THE DATE!

The Friends of Debenham Library will be holding another

HEAVY METAL DAY

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

when we will be collecting your scrap metal at Debenham Primary School.

Avoid that trip to the dump and do your bit for the planet by recycling your scrap metal – start saving it now. Money raised will be divided between Debenham Library and the Primary School

We need any unwanted, predominantly metal items, including old white goods (not fridges or freezers), kitchen utensils, pots and pans, metal furniture, cars or car parts, bikes, garden tools, pipes, wiring (even with plastic insulation), clean food and drinks cans, etc. Please keep aluminium, copper, stainless steel, lead and brass items separate if possible as they are worth more that way.

Unfortunately we will not be able to accept gas cylinders, televisions, fridges or freezers, or items that do not contain any metal.

We will invite you to deliver your metal items between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on the day to Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Debenham, where you will be directed towards skips and areas designated for different metals. Volunteers will be ready to help you offload.

If you have any large or heavy items that you can't bring to the school without help, please contact us in advance and we will try to assist.

More details will be in future editions of this magazine.

Thank you.

Howard 01728 860138 / 07710 145798

Jane 01728 860138 / 07780 605290

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DEBENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
60th Anniversary

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 13th July
12-4pm

A day of fun with games, crafts, stalls,
refreshments and an exhibition of the school
through the decades

Further information and to book a stall please
contact us at friends@debenhamhigh.co.uk

Parentkind
Member Association

The poster features a festive theme with a banner of polka-dot and white pennants at the top. Below the banner is a dark ribbon with the school name and anniversary. A large, stylized banner in the center reads 'SUMMER FETE'. Below this is a smaller ribbon with the date and time. The bottom section of the poster shows a stylized illustration of a fairground with a striped tent, a game stall, and a refreshment stand, all set against a light background with a dark ground line.

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Upcoming Events in May 2024

- Fri 3rd - Quiz night, doors open @ 7pm
- Sat 11th - Movie night - One life, doors open @ 7pm
- Wed 15th - Accordion Group - 12noon start
- Sat 18th - Ring of fire Fury vs USYK on TNT sports
- Fri 24th - Bingo, doors open @ 7pm
- Fri 31st - Open mic, doors open @ 7pm

May Bank holiday opening times - Mon 6th May 12 - 6pm
- Mon 27th May 12 - 6pm

BINGO'S BACK!
FRIDAY 24 MAY
DOORS OPEN 7PM
EYES DOWN 7.30PM
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No booking required - Bring your mates!
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FRIDAY FUNDAYS
Gracechurch St, Debenham, IP14 6BL

QUIZ NIGHT
General knowledge quiz ?
Friday 3rd May 2024
7pm for 7:30pm
£3 per person
(bring your own snacks)
Up to 6 players per team
£100 first prize
Bar open throughout
Booking essential
Debenham Sports & Leisure

May Movie Night
HOPKINS FURY BOWMAN CARRIS
ONE LIFE
SAVE ONE LIFE. SAVE THE WORLD.
Tickets £5
Book your tickets online now
SATURDAY 11TH MAY
Doors open 7pm Starts at 7:30pm
@ Debenham Community Centre, Gracechurch St, Debenham, IP14 6BL

NEW OPENING HOURS!
THE KITCHEN
Reopening on Wednesday 24th April
Wednesday 9am-2pm
Thursday 9am-2pm and 5pm- 8pm
Friday 9am-2pm and 5pm-8pm
Saturday 9am-12pm
Debenham Sports & Leisure



“Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message.” (Acts 2 :18)



Dear Friends,

In the Christian calendar we go from the hope at Easter to starting to preach the message of the Good News in May we first have Ascension Day on the 9th May and Pentecost on the 19th May it can be said that May is about an ending, and a new beginning.

Ascension Day is when we remember Christ ascending to be with his Father in Heaven, the last time he was to appear to his disciples here on earth. Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church, when the spirit was poured out on the Disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church.

As a Church, we could be said to be having endings and beginnings all the while. The Church over the centuries has gone through many changes both in worship, and the buildings in which we worship, this can be partly seen in the many denominations that we have. The Church of the past years has had to find new ways of being Church. For the Church to be vibrant and relevant it has to be prepared to change, but not to go along with secular fads, the Church needs to be relevant to every generation, and sometimes for us that has been within the Church, for many years those changes may not always seem necessary.

The challenge that each Pentecost gives us, is first to look back to that first Pentecost, to when the first Disciples were thought to be drunk, but were indeed infected by the Holy Spirit, to learn from them and to move forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. In our secular society Church is not as relevant as it once was, and our challenge is to show the world that the Church can still be relevant to them, and to us.

In his speech to the fledgling Church, at that first Pentecost Peter spoke the words of the prophet Joel:

“This is what I will do in the last days, God says “I will pour out my spirit on everyone. Your Son & Daughters will proclaim my message, your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams, yes even on my servants both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in these days, and they will proclaim my message.”

Even today these words still have relevance for us, even in our days where science seems to have all the answers, if we only let the Holy Spirit in, it will be amazing to see how much the Church will become relevant, especially to a society that thinks it has all the answers.

This Pentecost let us treat it as though it is our first, and ask God to send his Holy Spirit upon us, and see where it leads us.

Yours in Christ

Robert

URC Services December 2023

Sunday 5th May	Mr Steve Dennis (Communion service)	10:45 am
Sunday 12th May	Mrs Mary Playford	10:45 am
Sunday 19th May	Mr Keith Scarfe	10:45 am
Sunday 26th May	Mr Jim Gorlay (Asia Link)	10:45 am

All services followed by refreshments and chat

Cake Sale & pre-loved stall Tuesday 14th May from 10:00am.

Coffee morning every Tuesday 10-11:30 good tea, good coffee, tasty biscuits and great company, everyone welcome!

Cakes & Choruses Sunday 26th May, 3:00pm, come, sing and eat!

URC Points of Contact

Minister	Rev Robert Sheard	01449 678173
Secretary	Mr Laurence Kelway	01728 860473
Treasurer	Mr David Oldfield	01728 768775
Social Secretary	Jean Rodwell	01728 861065

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www.the-debenham-project.org.uk ;

Hi everyone,

As you know The Debenham Project is all about supporting those who are living with dementia to cope with the impact of the disease on their lives. Whilst there is no denying the stress, the exhaustion, the heartache, and the eventual outcome, this does not mean that there cannot be fun, laughter, friendship, enjoyment, pleasure, holidays, new experiences, and even adventures. We aim to encourage a positive attitude and not to dwell on the downsides. So often family carers and their loved ones become isolated and stop living as full a life for as long as possible. Simple things like joining a group, going out for the day, exercising, and socialising can make an enormous difference in maintaining their health and mental wellbeing as well as delaying the progression of the illness. And also knowing that when things get tough they are not alone and can share their problems with others who understand and can help. That's what the Project is here for.

And while you have a moment, this month's front cover picture might remind you of our article last time which talked about Megan and her "Fiddle Blankets". They are a delight. We know that they are great for ladies, but are they quite right for gentlemen? Asking around and thinking about it, we want to make some which are more likely to attract them - blues, greys, greens and browns - zips, buttons, poppers, and flaps. Can you help? Have you any worn out trousers, skirts, jackets that you could cut them out of? If you can help please call me.

With all my best wishes,

Lynden

01728 862003

www.the-debenham-project.org.uk

01728 862003

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL- April 2024



Planning: DC/24/01358 - The Angel Inn, 5 High Street Although this is the sixth application for change of use of this listed, six-hundred-year-old Asset of Community Value, the number of objections on the MSDC planning portal and depth of local feeling demonstrate that there is still a clear intention to preserve it and continue fighting for its retention. As a growing core service centre, Debenham needs to not just keep, but increase and diversify its amenities, so in line with Local planning policies, the Parish Council recommended the refusal of this planning application.

Debenham Annual Parish Meeting: Although the Parish Council hosts it, please note that this is not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting of the parish. This is an opportunity for local groups and organisations to provide updates on what they are doing and network. It is also the day when Community Awards are presented to our deserving local heroes, and following Storm Babet and the various floods there are certainly a few names that should be celebrated. Please make a note on your diary for Monday 13th May at 6:30 pm, Dove Cottage. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome.

Annual Accounts 2023/2024: The annual accounts have been approved. Receipts for the year stood at £179,712 and payments at £148,176. We received Community Infrastructure Levy totaling £69,494 and provided £13,206 in grants to local organisations. The Parish Council held £199,751.53 in Earmarked and General Reserves at the end of the financial year.

Our next meeting will take place on May 20th, 2024 at Dove Cottage, at 7:00pm.

Farewell

After sixteen years as your Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, the time has come to say farewell, so this is my last Parish Summary. *“My wish for you is that you continue. Continue to be who you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness”* - Maya Angelou

Mrs Dina Bedwell, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (2008 to 2024)

Debenham Parish Council

We would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Parish Clerk, Mrs Dina Bedwell. Dina has been with the Council for some 16 years and we are grateful for her efforts and support during that time, particularly during the Covid years and the flood of last October, much appreciated.

On behalf of councillors and the community we wish Dina every success for the future.

Please note the Parish Council contact tel no: 07423184529

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District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – May 2024
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512588

Out & About in the Ward:

I was hoping that the weather will change now we are moving into spring. (As I write this on 15th April it is yet to stay to dry with 50mph winds and hail). Whilst we all remain worried when it rains, especially those whose homes are now only just beginning to dry out enough to return to, it is heartening to know that people are working behind the scenes to ensure we can improve things for the long term. I recently attended a meeting put on by a resident of Debenham, Tansy Cooper, of our Debenham Green Team, to provide landowners with the opportunity to find out about grants, flooding improvement practices and speak to those bodies and specialists that are involved with flooding and farming such as Professor Peter Hobson from Anglia University, Helen Dangerfield from Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, and many more from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Advisors from Catchment Sensitive Farming and not forgetting Glen Buckingham from the NFU who chaired the event. If any other landowners would like information on this please do get in touch or contact Glen or Tansy directly for the potential to join a cluster along and around the river Deben.

On other news I wanted to re-highlight the grants available for housing assistance modification. We have a Disabled Facility Grant and a Minor Adaptation Grant which both need to be applied for. Whilst the Disability Facility Grant of up to £10,000 is means tested (unless for a disabled child) the Minor Adaptation Grant is not and can be applied for within an owner occupied or privately rented property for those living with a long term health condition to help with challenges of living at home. It has been especially useful to those who are returning home from being in hospital and the award ranges from £1,000 to £7,500. If anyone would like to know more please do get in touch with our team on 0300 1234 000 asking for the Adaptations Team or by email on adaptations@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

You can always contact me directly if this is easier.

Cabinet/Council News

Mid Suffolk in May

By the time you read this we will be into our second year since the elections. It is with joy that I feel part of the new plan agreed by full council of putting environmental and social responsibility at the heart of everything we do. We have launched the Cosy home initiative (which I would welcome your feedback on), formed new positions in cabinet, and shared roles across parties to make collaborative decisions and we champion local initiatives. We have gained money from successful bids to central government, guided and still guiding Gateway 14 into a green innovation and skills area, along with starting the health, sport and wellbeing area in Stowmarket for community to thrive. In addition we launched a community transport grant scheme to encourage more public transport in our rural areas across Mid Suffolk. All this and more we hope will begin to make a very positive impact over the years to come.

Babergh and Midsuffolk Councils were lucky to have been awarded £3.8million from Government for Energy Efficient Homes at the end of March, this will be added to the £2.25million of already committed funds to improve council homes.

Due to the elections on 2nd May our April Full Council meeting was cancelled and decisions moved to May. We will be having two meetings on Wednesday 22nd May, our Annual meeting and another following on after a short break.

Benefice Church Services
May 2024

5th May	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church
12th May	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Helmingham	Morning Prayer
19th May	8.00am	Framsden	Holy Communion
		Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Framsden	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Holy Communion
		Kenton	Morning Prayer
26th May	6.30pm	Winston	Evening Prayer
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Morning Prayer



THE BENEFICE OF
 DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM



Ministry Team

Rector Revd Susan Taylor revsusantaylor@icloud.com **01728 860222**

Readers Veda Berriman r.berriman111@btinternet.com **01728 861363**

Mark Trevitt mail@wheelertrevitt.co.uk **01473 890568**

Churchwardens

Debenham Sheila Blackwell sheila.blackwell@icloud.com 01728 861815

Betty Connors bettyconnors@outlook.com 01728 860513

Helmingham Mark Trevitt mail@wheelertrevitt.co.uk 01473 890568

Aspall Andrew Ward 01728 860343

Framsden Christine Schofield christine@cpwpost.com 01728 684076

Kenton Vic Woodgate vicwoodgate@winterbrook.co.uk 01728 861118

Pettaugh Sheila Janson s.janson@btinternet.com 01473 890883

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May Reflection by Rev Susan Taylor



I heard recently that each person is a string of DNA that would take over a century to recite. 100 years! That's a lot! The person giving me this mind-blowing information reflected that it is no wonder therefore, 'if we feel complicated at times'. Which is true. But it made me think of God and of where we might find love in that 100 years of DNA.

Our bodies comprise of trillions of cells, each of which has a nucleus that holds our DNA. DNA is made up of more than 20,000 genes, and evidently genes can be thought of as the instructions which help decide what we will look like, how our bodies will work and, according to the article I read, are even part of deciding our personalities. So, does that mean that love, an essential element in being human, is a part of our biology?

The Bible says we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made', (Psalm 139) by God, who, Psalm 139 also says, formed us in our mother's womb with care and purpose. This ancient text, written down maybe 1000 years before Jesus seems, in some ways, to echo the findings of science today. DNA, the blueprint for our physical and genetic makeup, is a sign, the indication, of God's amazing design and intention for each of us. So, my next question is: Is love only in our DNA or is love woven into the very fabric of our being in some other way? Or both?

For some people perhaps love is simply a feeling or an emotion that can come and go, depending on circumstances or personal desires. But surely love is more than an emotion. We know it is a conscious choice and we see it all around us in the thousands of acts of compassion, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and selflessness that happen every day just in our own community. We see it, also, in the beauty of the earth and in the fabric of our own amazing bodies.

Our DNA reveals to us how very interconnected we all are. All human beings and all of creation. It shows us the profound truth that we are created for community and relationship. We see this in the nature of God: for God is trinity, three persons in one: and the Trinity reflects God's deep desire for us to have meaningful connections; to experience love and belonging in our relationships and our lives. With one another and with God.

Is there, somewhere in our DNA, the biological information to explain our need, our understanding and expression of love? I think so. I think love is an essential element of human beings. But love is also an essential expression of creation. It is not just *in* us, love is around us. Our DNA shows us, I think, that we are lovingly created by God and designed to love and be in relationship with others. But God's love is also woven through all of creation, swirling around us all our lives, there for us to connect with as we share community and relationship with each other and thus with God.

family@church

Sunday 5th May

St Mary Magdalene Church, Debenham

9.30am - Breakfast

10am - Service begins



- A friendly and informal service
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God with us in Suffolk



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