

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

75p

May 2025



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FROM THE EDITOR

What an amazing month of sunshine April has been! Everywhere is now looking green and fresh as we welcome May.

This month's cover features a view that will soon be lost if the Parish Council proceed with their intention to cut the hedge in Chancery Lane down to 6 foot. The hedge has been growing for many years with minimal interference until a drastic cut in February that saw about a metre removed from its width and exposed large gaps through to the river. It is a haven for birds in the centre of the village, providing a valuable source of food. To us, living opposite, it will be a tragedy to lose a beautiful mature hedge but more so for the wildlife, particularly for birds trying to source food over the winter. For the swifts that struggled to find sufficient insects last summer, jeopardising their survival on the long flight to Africa, the continued loss of habitat will be catastrophic. We have lost several stretches of hedgerow around the village in recent years and it would be good to try to retain this one in its full glory. The recent biodiversity survey undertaken in the village determined that there is no benefit in reducing the height of this hedge. For the full report/plan of suggestions to enhance the biodiversity in the village, please see the centre pages of the magazine. Your feedback is requested. It is also National Hedgerow Week from 5th—11th May, with information about that on p.30.

There are a number of other Green related items featured this month; important as we try to combat the impact of climate change, the consequences from which in the form of Storm Babet, we are still recovering. This also reminded me of the workshops held in the village exploring future energy use and production, the report can be found here: <https://debenham.onesuffolk.net/assets/Uploads/Debeham-Community-Vision-Jan23.pdf> Happy May!

Jan

DEBENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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The Editor reserves the right to shorten or modify items without notice.
The inclusion of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute an endorsement of a product or service by either the Editor or the Debenham Parochial Church Council.

DEADLINE for June Magazine
Tuesday May 20th
(Tuesday 13th May for Business Advertising)

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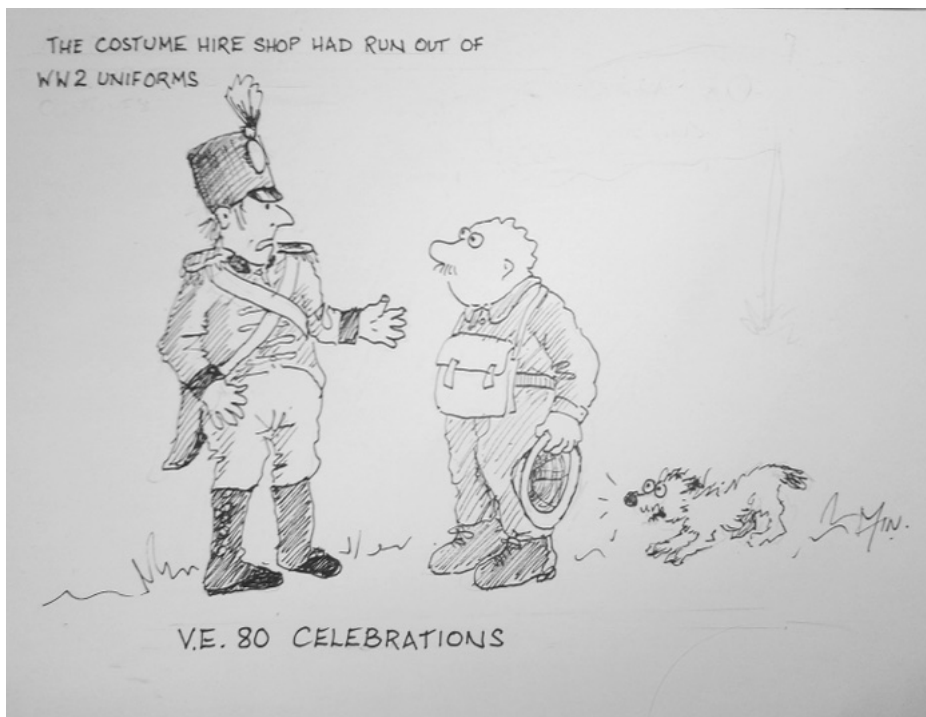
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Lofty and Dave by Min Marshall



Thursday 8 May 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe at the end of the Second World War and civic events will take place in Ipswich to commemorate and celebrate this occasion.



A service will be held at the Cenotaph in Christchurch Park at 11am, led by the Royal British Legion. The Mayor of Ipswich and the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk will both be attending, together with local councillors, and members of the public are welcome to attend to pay their respects.

Ipswich Borough Council invites residents and visitors to gather in Ipswich town centre at 7.30pm for celebrations taking place on the Cornhill. The Council has arranged musical entertainment from 1940s singer Stacy 'Kitty' Collins and from the Wattisham Military Wives Choir. A bar will be provided on site offering soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and snacks. Union Jack bunting will run from the Town Hall balcony to posts on the Cornhill to add to the setting and atmosphere.

At 9.15pm, the entertainment will come to a close with speeches by civic dignitaries to be made from the Town Hall steps and the lighting of a ceremonial beacon at 9.30pm.



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Debenham Shed



Our next Workshops are:-

- Saturday 10 May 10am-2pm: Weaving
- Friday 13 June 10am-2pm: Decoupage with John Ellam

If you are interested in attending please email crafts@debenhamshed.org.uk or one of the telephone numbers 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. Registered Charity 1212367

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 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.

DEBENHAM AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

A visit to Raveningham Hall Gardens (near Bungay)
NR14 6NS

Meet in the car park at Raveningham Hall at 1pm or contact Fiona Reid on 07799768037 or Ann Evans on 07857680877 to arrange shared transport.

Entry Fee £7.00 per person



Non-members and friends very welcome



We would welcome new members to the Garden 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.

Membership fee: £20 per annum. Guests £5.00per meeting – includes refreshments

Just arrive on the evening or contact: Fiona Reid on 07799768037 or Ann Evans on 07857680877 for further information.

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Forge Community Church

We meet in Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre every Sunday
at 9am and 11am - Kids and Youth work at 11am only

May 2025: The Games We Play

Most people loves to play games of some sort – whether sports or board games, cards or fantasy football! But when we play games within our relationships, it nearly always causes problems. What games can we play where everyone wins and what games should we avoid playing?

Week 1 – The Honour Game

Week 2 – The Blame Game

Week 3 – The Comparison Game

Week 4 – the Change Game

Online at www.live.forgechurch.com Sundays @ 4pm

Catch up: <https://forgechurch.com/talks/> Also available on

YouTube: @ForgeChurch



We also run a full kids & youth programme each Sunday at 11am

Tots Street (0-3's), Little Village (pre school), Uptown Kids (yr1-5), Transit (Yr6-8)

Motion (Yr 9-13) meets Monday evenings – for more info

tim.warnock@forgechurch.com

SPONSORED WALK AT ALTON WATERS

SATURDAY 17th MAY 2025 – 9.30am at Visitor
Centre

Join us on a scenic and rewarding journey as we walk 8 miles to raise funds for The Forge Community Church's hardship fund. Lace up your walking shoes, gather your friends and family, and embark on this meaningful adventure with us. With every step you take, you'll be making a direct impact on supporting those in need in our community. Enjoy the fresh air, the camaraderie, and the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts are making a difference. Sign up for the sponsored 8 mile walk and be a part of something truly special Meet 9.30am at the Alton Water Visitor Centre, Holbrook Rd, Stutton, Ipswich IP9 2RY (All money raised will go to the Forge Hardship Fund providing emergency support to households in Mid Suffolk who are experiencing financial distress.)



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Watching from our window, we watched a Robin take the test.

Into a rotund fir tree. Green and yellow all year round.

This resourceful creature, made this its home ground.

Into the right side, looking from our kitchen.

Through a small opening.

Constantly in with leaves grass moss and lichen.

On the fifth day, when the work seemed about done.

The Robin rested enjoying the morning sun.

Then the song began, a beautiful high pitched melody.

A message to a sought after Mate.

The successful build completed. She was prepared to wait.

Now you may think. That her Mate was not doing his part!

But when she lays her eggs. His work really starts.

For, he will work his feathers off. To keep her well fed.

Constantly gathering different foods. While she sits upon the nest.

That's just the beginning. For when the brood are born.

She and he will be on the wing, working from early dawn.

Feeding the chicks until they can fly.

Time waits for no one. Spring just passed by.

Just a soon, Summer has come. She and her mate will get no rest.

Eggs are laid. That brood was not the only one.

John Garrard



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**Debenham History Society - Lecture
Season 2024/2025**



Tuesday 13th May 2025

Lots to Talk About: the Life and Times of a Female Auctioneer

Elizabeth Talbot is a Director of TW Gaze in Diss and is a qualified Auctioneer and Valuer, with an auctions-based career spanning more than 40 years. Her presentation talks about her work and experiences, and charts the changes she has witnessed within the auction world. With a sprinkling of anecdotes and the addition of Q & A's.

Tuesday 3rd June 2025

The Military History of Orford Ness

Barry Searle's talk starts with the nearby constructions of Orford Castle, the Martello towers and the geography of this unusual site. The talk moves on to the initial government purchase of Orford Ness in 1914 to create an airfield used to support WW1 aerial warfare developments. The inter-war period saw the development of radio beacons and early radar technology. The development of bomb ballistics technologies to assist the design of gravity bombs and sighting systems. Enemy aircraft vulnerability assessment during WW2. The testing of first generation British Nuclear weapons at Orford Ness and then second generation weapons developed in association with the US. During this Cold War period a huge over the horizon radar system was built. The talk concludes with the purchase of the site by the National trust in 1993 and what visitors can expect when visiting Orford Ness today.

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Maria Marten and the Red Barn

Bryan Thurlow brings to life some of the leading characters to tell the tragic true story of Maria Marten, a poor Suffolk maiden who fell victim to the young village squire in the village of Polstead, near Hadleigh. Just three days after Maria's body had been found, William Corder was arrested leading to a very public hanging outside Bury St Edmunds gaol in 1828.

Location: The United Reformed Church, 21 Chancery Lane
Debenham Suffolk IP14 6RN
Commencing : 7.30pm (unless otherwise listed)
Cost: £4 per session for members and visitors (unless
otherwise listed)

**TO RECEIVE MONTHLY REMINDERS AND INFORMATION OF
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Friends of Debenham Library

SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

Our normal service continues, and the Friends are planning some activities for families and children during the summer holidays. More details later. Meanwhile, will any swifts take up residence in the swift boxes from 7th May onwards?

Books, DVDs, WiFi, Computers, Printing/photocopying/scanning, CDs and audiobooks, downloadable films/music/audiobooks/ebooks, free reservations. The room is available for hire outside opening hours.

School Corner, Debenham IP14 6PL (next to the Primary School). Opening hours:

Tuesday: 0930 am – 1300 pm Wednesday : 1500 – 1930 pm



Saturday: 0900 am – 1300 pm Sunday: 1200 – 1600 pm

Tel: 01728 861940 Email: debenham.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk

www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/locations-and-times/debenham-library

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**Dennington Primary School will be 150 Years Old
Let's Celebrate!**

Pupils past and present, staff, volunteers and of course everyone is invited to our celebration event at the school on Saturday 10th May from 11am – 3pm.

There will be lots to see and do including:

- An exhibition of all archive pictures, memorabilia, log-books, attendance registers and punishment records!
- A gallery of children's artwork on the theme of our village.
- A children's carousel and swing boats (free of charge for all children)
- Punch and Judy
- Mini train rides
- Maypole dancing
- Stalls
- BBQ







Thank you to all companies who have made donations through the school office. We have set up a [crowdfunding page](#) to raise money for a new library.
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/150-dennington-school>

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ST MARY'S ART EXHIBITION – VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

We need help to:-

- put up display boards on Tuesday 17th June from 6.30pm
- steward the exhibition on Friday 20th between 10.30am and 8.00pm and on Saturday 21st between 10.30am and 6.00pm and on Sunday 22nd between 11.00am and 4.00pm

The days will be divided into 1 hour slots so this doesn't need to be a huge commitment

- remove paintings ready for collection and remove display boards and help purchasers to retrieve their purchases on Sunday 18th from 4.00pm onwards

There will be a sheet for volunteers to sign in for all these tasks at the back of the Church from the beginning of May or you can email stmarysartex@gmail.com and let us know your availability.

The success of the Exhibition depends on our volunteers, please help if you can.

St Mary's Art Exhibition Committee

St Mary's Church in Debenham will host its 48th Art Exhibition in June. Everyone is welcome to join this prestigious event and be immersed in the artistic talent showcasing original art, prints and greetings cards. There will be something there to suit all budgets.

The exhibition will open on Friday evening with a party atmosphere. You will be able to mingle with the artists, wander around the artwork, enjoy beverages provided by local businesses, and be entertained by the sound of live music. The Church will be alive with the happy noises of artists and visitors enjoying the artwork.

Saturday and Sunday also offers the chance to wander quietly around the exhibition where you can be transformed into a world of creativity within the sanctuary of the beautiful 12th century church.

The whole three days is open to the public with free admission. It really is a celebration of creativity and talent and is definitely a date in the diary that must not be missed. Debenham is a welcoming and picturesque village in the heart of Suffolk.

All are most welcome!
Visitor and exhibitor information is available now on the website



**ST MARY'S
ART
EXHIBITION**

**JUNE 20/21/22
ST MARY'S
DEBENHAM**

FRI 20th: 10.30am-8.00pm
SAT 21st: 10.30am-6.00pm
SUN 22nd: 11.00am-4.00pm
(music and drinks FRI 6.00pm-8.00pm)
FREE ADMISSION!

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The St Mary's Art Exhibition Organising Committee have a real problem that needs your help. The display boards, that are only used for the week of the Exhibition to show the artwork, can no longer be stored at Anchor Storage in Kenton. As the company is closing down we are now tasked with finding a new place to store the display boards. If we cannot find a place to keep them it will mean the end of the exhibition.

We need a storage space that would be able to accommodate 40 - 50 display boards each 4ft x 8ft? Can you, or someone you know locally, help store the display boards. stmarysartex@gmail.com

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Thursday	9 to 4
Friday	9 to 4
Saturday	9 to 4

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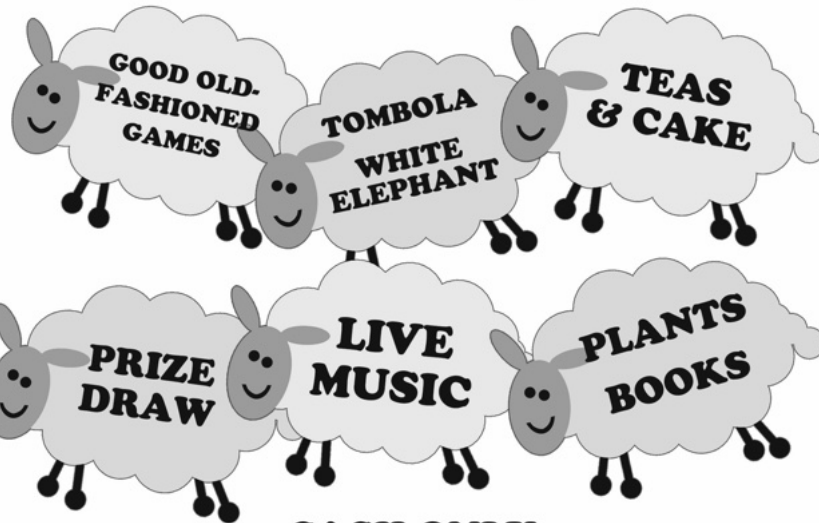
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Country Diary
Debenham, April 2025
By Yvonne Spencer

They say Suffolk is a flat county, but as I haul myself up Little London Hill I beg to differ. At the top, catching my breath, I pivot to admire the view before me. In the distance to my left nestled in the village of Debenham is the squat, square Anglo Saxon tower of St Mary Magdalene Church, with its billowing Ukraine flag symbolically waving out love and support to a country laid siege by Putin's army. Medieval pointed gable ends surround it, pronouncing its importance to pre-Reformation folks in times gone by.

In the foreground, are fields of pulses starting to gain height, defining the crop rotation plan of the landowner. To the right, in the middle distance, is the hollow gouge of a seasonally dry river bed. Crowded along its route I see the freshly verdant melange of indigenous trees that have claimed riparian rights in this ancient watercourse. This is the source of a tributary to the River Deben which flows on to Woodbridge and from there to the North Sea. It is the river that bore the tide on which the magnificent burial ship of King Raedwald sailed and was raised up to its final resting place nearby at Sutton Hoo.

The open-stripped fields typify the intensive monoculture food production in this part of East Anglia. The scene masks an ancient landscape, a hive of Iron Age activity. Here the Trinovantes, a distinguished Iron Age Celtic Tribe, had their leaders (known as Magi), elect their chief at a ceremony at the Groaning Stone, located where the main stream of the River Deben rises about a mile to the west. As I scan the view, the Spring sunshine caresses my face, a welcome solar embrace after a hard winter. In the sky the larks rejoice, rising and falling with their liquid warbling sound that is so uplifting. How could any soul not be moved by their song? In the blossom-laden hawthorn hedgerows the blue tits' high-pitched rendition of 'tsee tsee chu chu chu' adds to this glorious chorus.

Along the roadside a yellow show of daffodils, cowslips and primroses adorn this scene, an abundance of colour that never fails to uplift the spirit.

'Oh, to be in England now that April's there' – the words of Robert Browning neatly sum up my feeling of elation in this landscape.

Left: Image of the Groaning Stone, the smooth riverbed rock which is said to turn over and groan at midnight when the moon is full. Right: Early daffodils and cowslips.



SEERS GO GREEN Making changes for a positive tomorrow

The team at SEERS are committed to reducing their carbon footprint and making a positive impact on the environment. We have already begun to implement some positive green changes throughout the business.

On the road to GREEN

As early as 2023, we began to make small steps towards our 2045 goal, making positive changes with our environment in mind.

In 2023, we established an electrification programme to move as many commercial vehicles to electric battery power. We already have a number of our company cars electrified with others in the pipeline. Within this, we have also installed BEV chargers on site to enable colleagues and visitors to charge their vehicles, promoting this change in behaviour and ethos amongst our team.

In 2024, we committed to measuring our carbon footprint of business activities annually, creating a Green Team to lead such initiatives throughout the business. We began to move towards being more energy efficient by installing LED lighting throughout with PIR sensors to ensure if no-one is present, the lighting goes off, as well as rolling out a company-wide policy to ensure all electronics not in use are turned off when leaving a room, such as computers and air conditioning.

In early 2025, we finished the installation of 450 solar panels, which will produce an estimated 102,576 kWh of clean electricity per year.

We also recycle as much of our waste material as possible. For example, foam offcuts are repurposed and cardboard and plastic is baled, then collected by a local waste management company.

Net Zero by 2045

Carbon reduction is a long-term journey, which SEERS Medical are committed to tackling head-on with the aim of reaching our target.

Through partnering with the organisation, Positive Planet, we began measuring our carbon emissions in all 3 scopes last year.

As a result of the data, a carbon reduction plan was put in place, where we have committed to reaching Net Zero by 2045, 5 years ahead of the government target.

Our 2045 targets

As a result of gathering our emission data, we've set some key milestones that we want to reach, with time-bound targets and KPIs in the interim.

By 2045, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

Reduce our total market-based emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3) by at least 90%

Neutralise any residual emissions using verified carbon offsets

To track our progress towards these long-term goals, we have set some near-term targets.

By 2025, we aim to measure all scope 3 categories. This will allow us to have a more accurate picture of SEERS' carbon impact. Once we have a fuller picture, we can use this data to create further reduction strategies to help us achieve our 2045 target.

By 2026, we aim to develop and implement a Sustainable Travel Policy. The policy will

aim to promote active travel and low emission travel options where possible for our employees.

By 2028, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

Provide training and engagement for our Green Team, Leadership and the wider employee base. Our hope is that if our colleagues are more carbon literate, they will take responsibility for reducing their own carbon footprints of which up to 50% are work-related.

Implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Commit to a sustainability audit or survey. By gathering important data, this will assist us in providing accurate measurements, as well encouraging supply chain integration towards Net Zero.

By 2030, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

Reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by 42%.

Procure 100% renewable electricity.

Reduce measured scope 3 emissions by 42%.

More information can be found here <https://www.seersmedical.com/sustainability>

Justin Ambrose. Managing Director SEERS Medical Ltd

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**Debenham Green Team
Monthly Recycling stall**



Outside the 'Lion' High St
9am -11am

First Saturday of the Month

Collecting all your:

- Tetra Paks - washed and squashed
- Dental toothbrushes
- Corks
- Brita water filters
- Make up containers
- Contact lenses and packaging
- Coffee pods
- Plant pots- clean and dry



Enquiries to Debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com

**Saturday 3rd May
Green Team Stall
Outside the 'Lion'
9am-11am**



Debenham Community Nature Reserve
Find out how your garden can become part of our Community Nature Reserve.

See the biodiversity plans for the village neighbourhood plan and give your feedback.



- Information about supporting hedgehogs
- FREE** Flower seedlings for your garden
- Borrow a nature trail camera to see wildlife in your garden

email : debenhamgreenteam@gmail.com
for more information.



National Hedgerow Week

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-hedgerow-week/>

5 - 11 May 2025

“Hedgerows are the often-unsung heroes of the British countryside, yet they form the UK’s largest wildlife habitat, are a major part of our landscape and cultural heritage, and are crucial to halting biodiversity decline and tackling climate change.

Our 2025 Theme: The Future of Hedgerows

The British landscape is shaped by hundreds of thousands of miles of hedge. This National Hedgerow Week: let’s work together to secure a bright future for these crucial habitats. “



The Tree Council CEO, Sara Lom said: “This National Hedgerow Week it’s all about the future of hedgerows and the wonderful role they play, providing wildlife with a sheltered and bountiful highway network; protecting agriculture, whether livestock or crops; creating living boundaries in our towns and cities; and bringing greenery, capturing carbon, and delivering more than a little beauty to our rail lines and roadsides.”

Visit the website to find more information and online talks.



‘Start the Week Cycling’

Meet outside Dove Cottage for a social ride of **approximately 1 hour** and then return for refreshments at ‘Meet Up Monday’ in Dove Cottage.



9-10am
3rd Monday of the Month
March 17th
May 19th
June 16th
July 21st

The rides are planned by Debenham Green Team but individuals are responsible for their own safety

Bike day

Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre
Saturday 17th May 9-11am



Get your bike:

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Lounge Open
for Breakfast



Please give us your feedback on these ideas for improving biodiversity in Debenham

On Monday 17th March 2025 the village neighbourhood plan biodiversity group, (Kate Scott, Richard Blackwell and Cllr John Sweet) met with Richard Parmee the Mid Suffolk Biodiversity Officer, and Teresa Davis our local district councillor for a walk around the village.

The aim of the walk was to identify areas belonging to, or managed by Mid Suffolk or the PC and consider how to improve the biodiversity within them to create wildlife corridors in the village.

These are the plans (see centre pages) that were suggested and approved by all those on the walk as well as Cllr Kat Barlow who went on a follow up walk.

We are putting these plans out for consultation with residents. So please take a look and if you have any comments please go to the village website to fill in a feedback form. <https://debenham.onesuffolk.net/>

On the plan you can see that for some areas there is a second option that would depend on Debenham creating a community team of volunteers to maintain them. If you would be willing to be part of a group that gave up a couple of mornings a year to help weed and prune please let us know on the feedback form.



Please give us your views on these ideas for improving biodiversity in Debenham.

Feedback forms will be on the village website

Chancery Lane Hedgerow by river
Reduce width every few years. Leave height. No benefit in cutting down height

Aspall rd OP Bridge house
Leave as it is as cover is good.
Strim twice a year Clear piles
DO NOT cut both sides of river at same time.

St Mary's Church yard
Leave larger area unmown.

Bank along High St
Sew flowering lawn mix and cut every 2 months

Cut through area
Unmown with 1m strip by properties. Wildflower island
Cut path through long grass where used as path

Lock Close
Wildflower islands

Andrews close
Fruit trees and cut grass

Triangular plot Gardeners Rd
Wildflowers and fruit trees.
Leave space around edge for hedge trimming or if community team willing to help maintain it a herb garden

Top Henry St
Fruit trees- up to 7
Or cut 1m around road and path and leave island unmown

URC churchyard
Lime trees healthy- they need to have top trimmed below cables and suckers removed.
Grass area – strimmed twice a year- may be mow a path through the long grass

Chancery Lane Hedgerow by river
Reduce width every few years. Leave height. No benefit in cutting down height

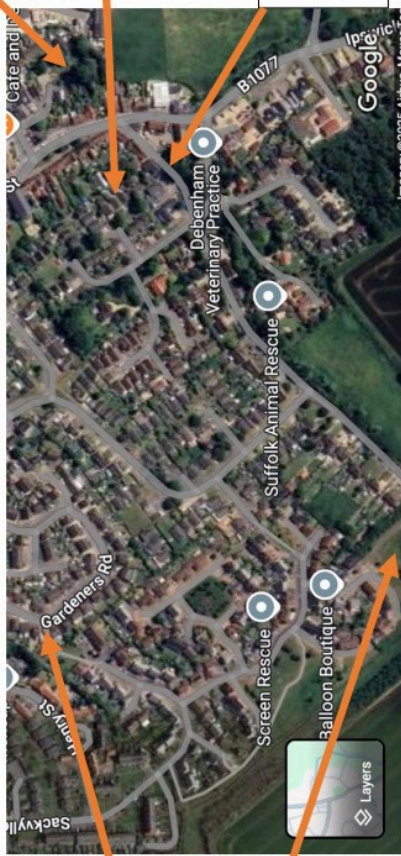
Please give us your views on these ideas for improving biodiversity in Debenham.

Feedback forms will be on the village website

Cross Green corner by bungalows
Fruit trees-

Moore's close
Create long grass islands in centre of each grass area

Cherry Tree Green
Leave at least 1m wide strip of long grass along the river



Upper Gardeners rd play area
Island beds of longer grass.
Or beds of shrubs if Community look after them

Wells way Play area
Leave mown area around play equipment.
Swathe already unmown, find out opinion of locals re increasing area unmown.

Vets along Ipswich road
Cherry trees
Wildflowers

FAIR TRADE SALE



Saturday 10th May

9.30am to 3pm

11 Moores Close, Debenham

inc Refreshments & Light Lunch

All welcome



All refreshments in aid of

tearfund

FOUR RIVERS RECOVERY PROJECT



Regenerating East Suffolk's
River Landscapes



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MAY 7PM**

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cuppa with decent biscuits!

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and Debenham Green
Team presents a talk by

**PROFESSOR PETER
HOBSON**

Find out all about the Four Rivers project
and how it will make a difference on the
River Deben.

FIND OUT MORE:

debenclimate.org



Promoting Empathy and Reading for Pleasure

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."
Atticus Fitch in "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Over this Half Term we have taken opportunities to promote empathy and reading for pleasure:

**EMPATHY
WEEK**

Empathy Week

From 10th March to 14th March the whole school focused on the idea of empathy with the theme "What's Your Spark?"

Assemblies, form activities and the House Quiz considered how different people have different things that interest them but that we should celebrate difference. The examples looked at in the assemblies and quizzes also focused on people who had overcome difficulties or experienced difficult seasons before meeting with success or making a difference. Examples of these included Helen Keller, Vidal Sassoon; Mulan; Malala, Andrea Bocelli. Students then made their own Form "What's Our Spark?" boards, which will be going on display in school.

On the Monday it was our pleasure to welcome Annie Clements and Oritha Jarrold into school to deliver workshops on neurodiversity. Annie runs a social enterprise group, which delivers training and advice to young people and adults who are neuro-diverse. You can find out more at <https://www.autismadhd.org/about> Oritha Jarrold is an Occupational Therapist who works with The Umbrella Hub of which you can find out more at <https://www.theumbrellahub.org/>

The student workshop was well attended and focused on being empathetic to difference; the staff training considered how to run an inclusive classroom and then the parent/carer workshop looked at how best to help their children to thrive. We were very appreciative of their expertise and suggestions. Over and above this, students enjoyed opportunities within their classrooms to explore further the idea of empathy and learning about other people, cultures and experiences.

Reading for Pleasure

Reading Space

This year we introduced a Reading Space which students in Key Stage Three were able to visit during the week of 3rd March. Each form group in Years 7, 8 and 9 visited the Space for one 50 minute session, specifically to just read a book.

Students either brought their own books from home or selected one from the genre tables within the room. Following their reading time, students were invited to write a reading review of their book. All of these reviews are currently displayed in the Boulder Room.



World Book Day 6th March 2025

On Thursday 6th March, Debenham High School joined other students and schools across the country to celebrate World Book Day. As well as every pupil receiving a £1 book token, there were lots of different activities going on around school throughout the day. At morning break we held a Book Swap Party in the Library. Pupils were invited to bring in a second hand book from home in good condition to swap. The party was very well attended with dozens of books swapped and drinks and snacks enjoyed!



Annual World Book Day Team Quiz

Pupils were invited to take part in our 12th Annual World Book Day Team Quiz during lunch on World Book Day. Students (in teams of three) were asked questions on popular books and authors. After intense competition Team Book Masters won the Team Quiz answering 18 questions correctly. Team The Three Musketeers were runners up answering 15 questions correctly. Congratulations to both teams and to all those who took part in the quiz.



Book in a Jar Competition

Students were invited to use their creativity and imagination to create a BOOK IN A JAR. The idea was that you fill a jar with chosen items that provide clues about a book. These could be items or characters that feature in the book, selected quotes or even a scene. We were overwhelmed with the standard of entries this year and found it very difficult to pick winners.

Our worthy winners:

Izzy Minchin



Alice in Wonderland

George Skilling



Lord of the Rings

Flossie Watkins



The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe Cont p39

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Book Mastermind

Each year Debenham High School takes part in the Suffolk Schools Book Mastermind Competition. Book Mastermind is a county wide competition, open to all pupils in Years 7-9, whose aim is to encourage and promote reading across Suffolk. The competition starts in schools in the winter, with winners from each school coming together in the summer term to compete in the County Final.



We held our in-school heats here at Debenham High School in February. Competitors were invited to choose a book to read and remember. They were each given two minutes to answer 20 questions relating to their chosen book. Competitors scored two points for every correct answer and one point for a partly correct answer. The maximum amount of points a competitor could receive is 40 points.

Amelie McCulloch in Year 8 came third, scoring 34 points out of a possible 40. Amelie answered questions on the book "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. Alice Zhu in Year 7 came second. Alice answered questions on "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. She scored 36 points out of possible 40. The winner of the Debenham High School Book Mastermind for 2025 is Archie Phaup in Year 7. Archie answered questions on "Scorpia Rising" by Anthony Horowitz and scored an amazing 38 points out of a possible 40.

Archie will go on to represent Debenham High School in the County Final of the Book Mastermind Competition in May. Archie has chosen to read "Goodnight Mr Tom" by Michelle Magorian in the Final. We wish him the very best of luck.



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VE Day



The photograph above was kindly shared by Hazel Bloomfield and is believed to have been taken to celebrate VE Day. It features Brenda and Rita Bloomfield in the centre, and on the left John Woods (holding the Union flag) and Joyce Corner. The procession was led by My Sparrow.

A procession involving the Scouts and Guides/Girls Brigade went from the Primary School to Broad Meadow,. They made lanterns from fruit cans (a luxury under rationing), pierced with holes and containing candles, tied to sticks with string, to form a lantern parade. They enjoyed a bonfire, burning tyres from Bloomfield's and Shulver's yards. A piano was borrowed from Frances Wardlaw's house by the fish & chip shop, played by 'Flea' Parker. There were Americans attending and everyone's doors were open and lights were on after such a long period of blackout.

Hazel recalled the American forces from Mendlesham and Horham who used to come into the village on bicycles for entertainment in the evenings. Sadly, this did not include black serviceman, who due to segregation were not permitted to mix in Debenham and instead went to Eye. Some villagers attended dances on the bases and enjoyed ice cream.

Many thanks to Hazel and Ruth for sharing the photo and memories. If anyone can add more memories of this occasion we would love to hear them.



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www.debenhamsportsandleisure.co.uk/music



Fri 9th May MIX UP MASH UP DISCO

7.30pm
Fancy dress encouraged for a night of music.
An event hosted by the Deb-Fest Crew
70s through to the 00s

£5
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Fri 16th May FOUR RIVERS TALK

Doors open 6.30pm for tea & biscuits
Talk starts 7pm

Hear Prof. Peter Hobson talk about the four rivers recovery project & the difference it will make to the River Deben for more info see www.debenclimate.org



Fri 16th May BINGO (IN THE SQUASH COURTS)

7.30pm eyes down

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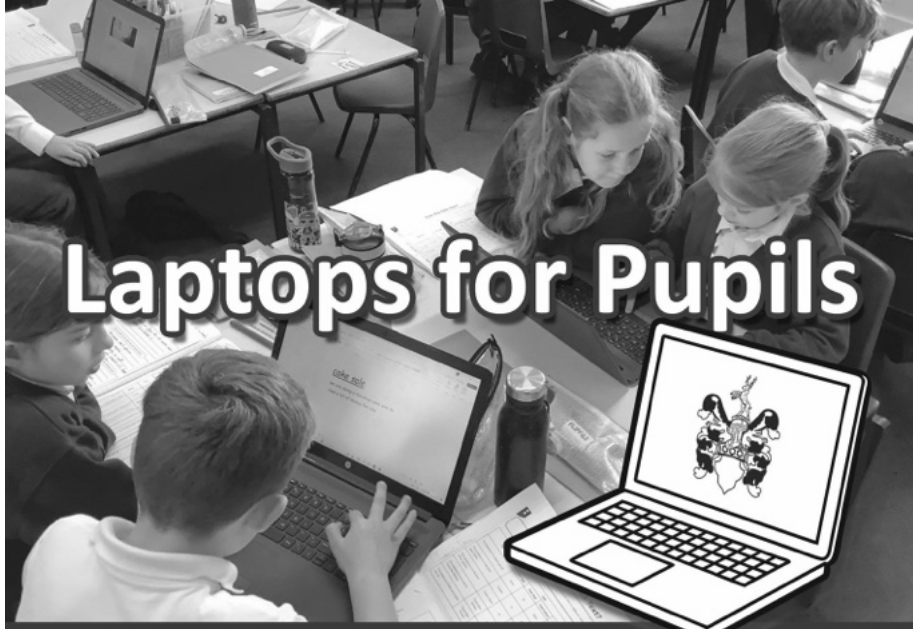


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The pupils at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Debenham are in need of more laptops and sadly funding at the moment is not as good as it could be.

So, we are asking our wonderful community to help support the pupils and school by raising funds to buy laptops.

Please, please would you make a generous donation so that there are enough laptops for a whole class.



<https://givealittle.co/c/primary-school>

we are, of course happy to receive cash - in an envelope marked Laptop Appeal and given to Rev'd Susan or our Treasurer Richard Blackwell. Rev'd Susan can be found in church on a Wednesday morning at 9.30am and on Sunday mornings!

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Patrick Spencer MP
Member of Parliament for
Central Suffolk & North Ipswich
Delivering for Debenham

As the days grow longer and summer evenings stretch before us, there's no better way to unwind than by diving into a good book.

I'm passionate about reading – especially when it comes to inspiring young people to read for enjoyment, not simply as something tied to schoolwork. A recent report from Harper Collins reveals that only one in three children genuinely enjoys reading for pleasure. That's a concerning figure and reflects a slow decline in the love of reading among our younger residents.

The advantages of recreational reading go far beyond improving literacy. Reading has a profound impact on mental health, helping to reduce stress and anxiety. It fuels creativity, ignites the imagination and builds language skills in a way that structured learning alone often cannot achieve.

As a parent to two young children, I know how special reading can be. Reading with them offers more than just educational benefit – it gives us moments to connect as a family, creating memories that stay with us. A bedtime story is a chance to relax, unwind and share something magical together.

Importantly, reading for pleasure isn't just about the precious hardback books of old. Comics, magazines and audiobooks are just as valuable – they grab children's attention and help foster a love for storytelling in all its forms. Libraries play a crucial role in this. Whether it's a classic fairytale or an anime graphic novel, there's something for everyone. And of course, a book or comic slips easily into a pocket or bag, ready to be enjoyed almost anywhere.

In light of the disruption that will be caused by the decision to bring Suffolk Libraries under Suffolk County Council control, we must not forget the enduring importance of our local libraries. Open, accessible and free at the point of use, libraries give young people, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, in fact everyone, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the joy of reading. Their role in supporting reading for pleasure cannot be overstated.

This May, I am launching a survey to better understand reading habits across our communities, and I'm keen to hear what more can be done, both locally and in Westminster, to help children develop a lifelong love of reading. You can take part here: www.patrickspencer.co.uk/mysurvey

Yours sincerely,
Patrick Spencer MP



1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

I enjoy gardening and the most enjoyable part, and the most exasperating, is planting seeds. I like to collect the seeds at the end of the season from the flowers in my garden. Unfortunately, I am not very good at labelling them, so when it comes to planting those seeds, I haven't a clue what is what. Then again that is the beauty of seed growing, you are never quite sure what you are going to get. Even when the seeds have been planted the outcome can be very unpredictable. Sometimes nothing appears, or I get a thin straggly seed which withers quickly away. Yet other times there is a marvellous revelation of God's wonder when from an insignificant brown dot of a seed comes the most colourful and beautiful flower. I must admit that for every 50 seeds I plant, water and nurture only about half will come to glory but the fun is in the expectation and hope. May is the month when many of my seeds show their true potential with some already bearing flowers, while others are just showing through. But like so many things if I don't try then I know I will get nothing.

With our church congregation numbers on the decline and the age of the congregation going up it's difficult to see what to do. But like my seeds, we must continue to spread the word about our God because if we don't there may be no-one else who sows the seeds of Christian faith in the people we meet. And who knows what will happen. That word of encouragement about our God's love which we share with another may be just the nurturing a person needs. But if we don't try then we can be sure we will get nothing!

May God's blessings surround you.

Anne Scarff (Stowmarket Elder)

URC Services

Sunday 4th May	Mr Nigel Crisp (Communion service)	10:45 am
Sunday 11th May	Mr William Glasse	10:45 am
Sunday 18th May	Mr Kevin Moore	10:45 am
Sunday 25th May	Rev. Robert Sheard	10:45 am

All services followed by refreshments and chat

Coffee morning every Tuesday 10-11:30

Please note: Coffee Morning on the 6th will be in the Hall.

Please access the hall via the side entrance.

Cake Sale 2nd Tuesday every month, starting at 10:00

Friends & Neighbours 1st Thursday every month 2:00pm
with June & Danielle Moss

Cakes & Choruses 3:00pm last Sunday of the month

Bring your friends to this really popular cake and praise celebration!

Forward notice: Please note Cake Sale in June will be on the first
Tuesday 3rd and NOT 10th.

URC Points of Contact

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

Old Age

As with everything. We all approach this time in our lives in our own individual ways.

At the beginning of our lives, time is of no importance, one lives in a cocoon, being cared for by parents if we are fortunate, who if they are responsible parents help their young by being there to advise and care for them, to 'encourage' them – important word.

As one ages you become aware of responsibility to others and also yourself.

When you reach probably over 60, the future ahead changes somewhat and you become maybe a little slower in making decisions, and do not rush headlong into the unknown.

Life is like the weather, unpredictable, when it is good, life is a 'ball' but when difficult can be a challenge and takes character to negotiate to better times.

We all need reassurance, young or old, and if you are fortunate to have family and friends to advise, and sympathise, our lives are made easier.

Everyone wants to remain independent, sometimes this may be difficult, then we may have to seek help. But if you can stay positive, and as long as you remain in reasonable health, old age should be enjoyed and accepted as another chapter in one's life.

After all, whatever 'AI' manages over the next few years, it may be difficult to elongate a human's life, certainly in any way we can imagine right now. But who knows.

Claudine shared her thoughts on ageing after being asked for a reflection by her granddaughter. Many thanks Claudine.

.....

(Claudine's reference to AI reminded me of an excellent book I read recently called 'Toward Eternity' by Anton Hur, looking at immortality through AI.

Jan)



Hi everyone,

Could you spare some time to give someone a lift to a hospital appointment? Transport has always been a concern for those living in counties like Suffolk. Of course, it isn't quite so much of a difficulty if you can drive and have a car, you are on a direct bus route to a major town, and don't have physical mobility problems. But even so its not easy when it comes to attending the many hospital, and other medically related, appointments that seem to govern our lives as we get older. Certainly, it is true that some do have family, friends, and neighbours who step in and help. But many do not and have to struggle by bus or must pay heavily for a taxi. And what if their appointment is in Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge? Which is why 8 years ago we set up our Transport Service. Our team of volunteer drivers are available if you are unable to get to any or all such appointments "under their own steam" by car or public transport. And more, they stay and can offer support for just as long as it takes, before returning you home – "no worries at all".

We have a great team of wonderfully kind drivers who, with just one or two exceptions, have always been able take everyone who has asked. They all say how much they enjoy their trips and their passengers are all so very appreciative.

Would you like to join our team and become one of our lovely drivers?
Be kind enough to offer about ½ a day per fortnight?
Yes?

Then give me a call or contact us on our website to find out more.

Finally, thank you so much to Roy and the family and friends of Sue Parratt for their very generous donations made in her memory. They will be earmarked for funding our annual Felixstowe outing and other special events. And well done to Gina (Bonny Blooms) for her "mile-a-day" in support of the Project.

With all my best wishes, Lynden Jackson

www.the-debenham-project.org.uk ; 01728 862003

Debenham Parish Council – Highlights:



DPC/25/290 Action Plan of Outstanding Matters:

Dove Cottage new Wi-Fi – Vodafone broadband installed on 8th April 2025.

Potholes in Ipswich Road – remedial work completed.

Barleyfields Footpath – work expected during Summer Holidays.

Barleyfields Soil pile has been removed.

DPC/25/294 Finance and Administration

Debenham Day 2025: Planning is in the early stages for a late summer event.

DPC/25/291 Planning to consider planning applications for recommendations to MSDC:

DC/25/01590 – Refurbishment following Flood Kiln Cottage – Support
APP/W3520/W/25/3361654 – Conversion and Extension 28 High Street -
previous decision unchanged

DPC/25/292 Planning – consultation period ended, awaiting decision by MSDC:

DC/25/01079 and DC/25/01080 – The Coach House – Support
DC/25/00466 – Debenham Bowls Club – Support
DC/25/00721 and DC/25/00730 – 1 Water Lane – Applications Withdrawn
Community Right to Bid – The Angel – Noted

DPC/25/293 Planning – Decisions to Note:

DC/24/05559 – Land North of Bakers Lane – Application Withdrawn
DC/24/05392 – Old Hall Farm Barn – Application Granted

Come and join us:

There are vacancies on the Parish Council for new Councillors. We would be very pleased to hear from parishioners, 18 years old and over, interested in joining the Parish Council.

Meetings are held on the third Monday evening of the month at Dove Cottage in the centre of the village.

Please attend to observe a meeting if you think you may be interested and contact the Parish Clerk who can provide more information.

Representing the Parish Council can be a rewarding role for anyone interested in the wellbeing and future of our village.

Next Meeting Dates:

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 12th May 2025 at 6:30pm in Dove Cottage.

Parish Council Meeting and AGM - Monday 19th May 2025 at 7pm in Dove Cottage.

Brian Mansfield, Parish Clerk.

Email: parish.clerk@debenhamparishcouncil.org

District Councillor Report: Debenham Ward – Feb 2025

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Community Information:

Firstly I hope everyone has been able to have a nice break over the Easter period.

Coming up in May there is a survey that has been issued by our Planning Officers in respect of sending out letters to neighbours of planning applications. The Planning Officers are considering that letters should be stopped as they already advertise a notice in the vicinity of the planning application. For me this presents a real problem and I would prefer we keep notifying neighbours of planning applications by letter as not all people register with our planning portal to be notified online and I feel that most people might fail to see the formal notice or that the notice gets taken down.

If you would like to let our Planning Officers know your preference (which might differ to mine altogether) please do complete the survey (it is quick) – this is the link <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/planning-consultations#community-involvement-consultation> or contact me if you need a paper copy. The more people respond the better.

As mentioned previously coming out this spring and summer following the £80m budget and capital ambition programme Mid Suffolk agreed in February:- Sports – up to £250,000 can be applied for by Parish Councils and Community groups to improve sports facilities in your area. Expression of interest forms are now available as of 28th April on this link <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/mid-suffolk-district-council-funding-1>

Local Business – We have received national funding to help local business and details of funding will be coming out soon once they have been agreed with national government over May.

Our Economic Action Plan is looking to be finalised ready for Cabinet in June. If you are a Community group, please do get in touch. My Locality Grant is now available for this financial year. It's a minimum of £250 and can help fund lots of different initiatives.

Our Debenham Green Team have joined up with The Deben Climate Centre to put on some talks over May at the Debenham Leisure Centre. Different talks around themes on the River, improving water quality and flood resistance will take place on a Friday night starting on 16th May. I would recommend everyone to come to these.

3rd May is all about Hedgehogs in the run up to Hedgehog Awareness Week on the Debenham Green Team stall on Saturday.

Drop In/Cabinet and Council Dates:

Mid Suffolk in May

My drop in surgery will not be going ahead in May as I will be volunteering at the school to help during their exam period.

The next full council meeting will be on 15th May, which is the Annual Meeting and Cabinet will be on 6th May. You can view them live. Do let me know if you have a question or concern.

My contact details are above, please do use them and you can also keep up to date by signing up/linking to our social media, just go to www.midsuffolk.gov.uk.



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Please consider giving to your local church on a regular basis.

One interesting way of being able to give to the church, either on a regular or one off basis, is to use the Parish Giving Scheme which is available on-line and is very easy to use.

The system is very secure and enables you to set up a regular (monthly / quarterly / annual) donation to Debenham church and is covered by the direct debit guarantee. If you are a UK tax-payer, then Gift Aid can be set up to automatically be added to your donation.

The website is found at: www.parishgiving.org.uk (or use below QR code)

Once you have found the web page, simply follow the below steps to donate:

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If this is your first visit to the site, you will need to register (a simple process) first.

The 'Parish Code' that is required is: **330633441**

Once registered, you can log in and complete the donation form on-line. You will get an email to confirm the details you have set up to make a regular donation.

Please consider this simple way of giving to St. Mary's, Debenham and ensuring that it can continue delivering the support and wellbeing to our wonderful community. Thank you.

Benefice Church Services

May 2025

4th May	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	family@church
11th May	8.00am	Kenton	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
		Winston	Morning Prayer
18th May	11.00am	Helmingham	Morning Prayer
		Framsden	Holy Communion
	8.00am	Aspall	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
25th May		Framsden	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Pettaugh	Holy Communion
		Kenton	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Winston	Evening Prayer
	9.30am	Debenham	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Winston	Holy Communion
		Pettaugh	Morning Prayer



THE BENEFICE OF
DEBENHAM & HELMINGHAM

Reflection by Rev Keith Rengert

At the time of writing this article, Easter is not yet with us. By the time you read this it will have been and gone – or will it? For the Church Easter is a 50 day celebration culminating with the feast of Pentecost ('Pente' meaning 50) this year on 8th June.



In the past I have been asked the question, which was the most important, Christmas or Easter and which did I prefer?

The first question is quite difficult to answer as it's a bit of a 'chicken & the egg' question. Of course, Jesus could not have died and risen if he were not born in the first place. The answer to the first question is, I suppose, that they are both important and both crucial to the churches understanding of our Christian faith, as recited weekly in one of our credal (faith) statements,

*'I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and
was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again...'*

As to the question which do I prefer, that's a tricky one to answer. I suppose, if I'm honest I prefer Christmas. After all December is 'wall to wall' feel good services with the old favourite stories of angels, shepherds, wise men and the virgin birth. It is a season of carol services by candlelight, excited children, feasting, treats and gifts, festive decorations both natural and artificial, what's not to like?

Easter on the other hand, whilst also a season of enormous hope and, yes, copious amounts of chocolate, also incorporates betrayal, lies, denial, torture and horrific death. It is difficult to generate any sense of the 'feel good factor' about any of those things. Even the celebration of Easter cannot completely gloss over what happened on Good Friday. Look at it from the disciples and Mary's point of view. That first Easter may have turned gut wrenching sorrow into unimaginable joy, but they couldn't have just forgotten the suffering they witnessed on Good Friday – could they?

I wonder what private conversations our risen Jesus must have had with his disciples and his mother especially, we shall never know.

But, it had to be this way – had God not suffered through Jesus in this way, how could we pray to him with any confidence when suffering comes our way. To quote the German Theologian Jürgen Moltmann, reflecting back on the issues survivors (on both sides) faced soon after the close of World War 2,

Cont. p62

'Shattered and broken, the survivors of my generation were then returning from the camps and hospitals to the lecture room. A theology which did not speak of God in the sight of the one who was abandoned and crucified would have had nothing to say to us then'.

(Moltmann. J. 1973 *The Crucified God* Harper Row Pub' San Francisco P.1)

The events of Holy Week and Easter, whilst ending on a positive note of astonishing proportions, remind us that God intimately understands human suffering and did not shirk it when it came his way. We have a God who in Jesus has suffered, which means that we should have no fear in approaching, maybe even confronting him when suffering comes our way.

family@church

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10.00am SERVICE START**

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Associate Priest Debenham & Helmingham Benefice
Rev'd Keith Rengert revdkeith@gmail.com

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